

## **Lecture 21**

# **SIMPLE SENTENCE**

# ***PLAN***

## ***1. Constituent structure***

***a) notional parts of the sentence***

***b) expanded and unexpanded sentences***

***c) complete and  
incomplete (elliptical)  
sentences***

***d) semantic  
classification of simple  
sentences***

## ***2. Paradigmatic structure***

***a) derivational procedures***

***b) clausalization and  
phrasalization***

***c) predicative functions***

# ***1. Constituent structure.***

**the finite verb + the  
subject = the basic  
predicative meaning  
of the sentence**

**= predicative line of the  
sentence**

# **sentences are divided into:**

- 1) *monopredicative* - one predicative line, i.e. ***simple***,
- 2) *polypredicative* = two or more predicative lines, i.e. ***composite*** and ***semi-composite***.

# ***a) notional parts of the sentence***



***simple sentence*** = a system of  
function-expressing positions  
reflecting certain element of  
situation.

*Each position = the member of the  
sentence.*

*They are arranged in a hierarchy ☐  
each of them modifying the  
others.*

# Hierarchy of members:

## 1) principal (main):

- the subject
- the predicate,

☐ modify each other

the subject is the “person”  
modifier of the predicate,

the predicate is the “process”  
modifier of the subject;

they are **interdependent.**

## 2) secondary:

- the object – a substance modifier of the predicate;
- the attribute – a quality modifier of substantive parts, either the subject or the object;
  - the apposition – a special kind of an attribute, a substance modifier of the subject;

- the adverbial modifier – a quality modifier of the predicate;
- the parenthesis (parenthetical enclosure) - a detached speaker-bound modifier either of one of the nominative parts of the sentence or of the sentence in general: *To be sure, Morris had treaded her badly.*      *He probably won't be able to make it today.*

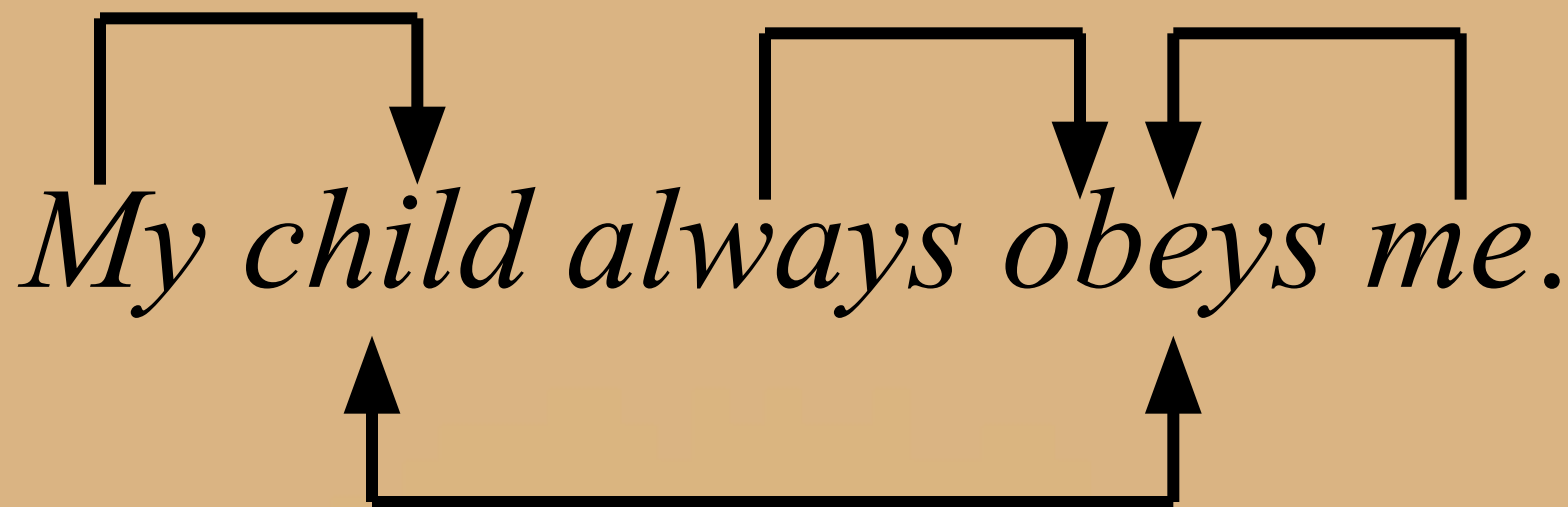
- the address (addressing enclosure) – a modifier of the destination of the whole sentence;
- the interjection (interjectional enclosure) – an emotional modifier.

nominative parts of the sentence are syntagmatically connected,

the relations between them can be represented in a **linear** as well as in a **hierarchical** way

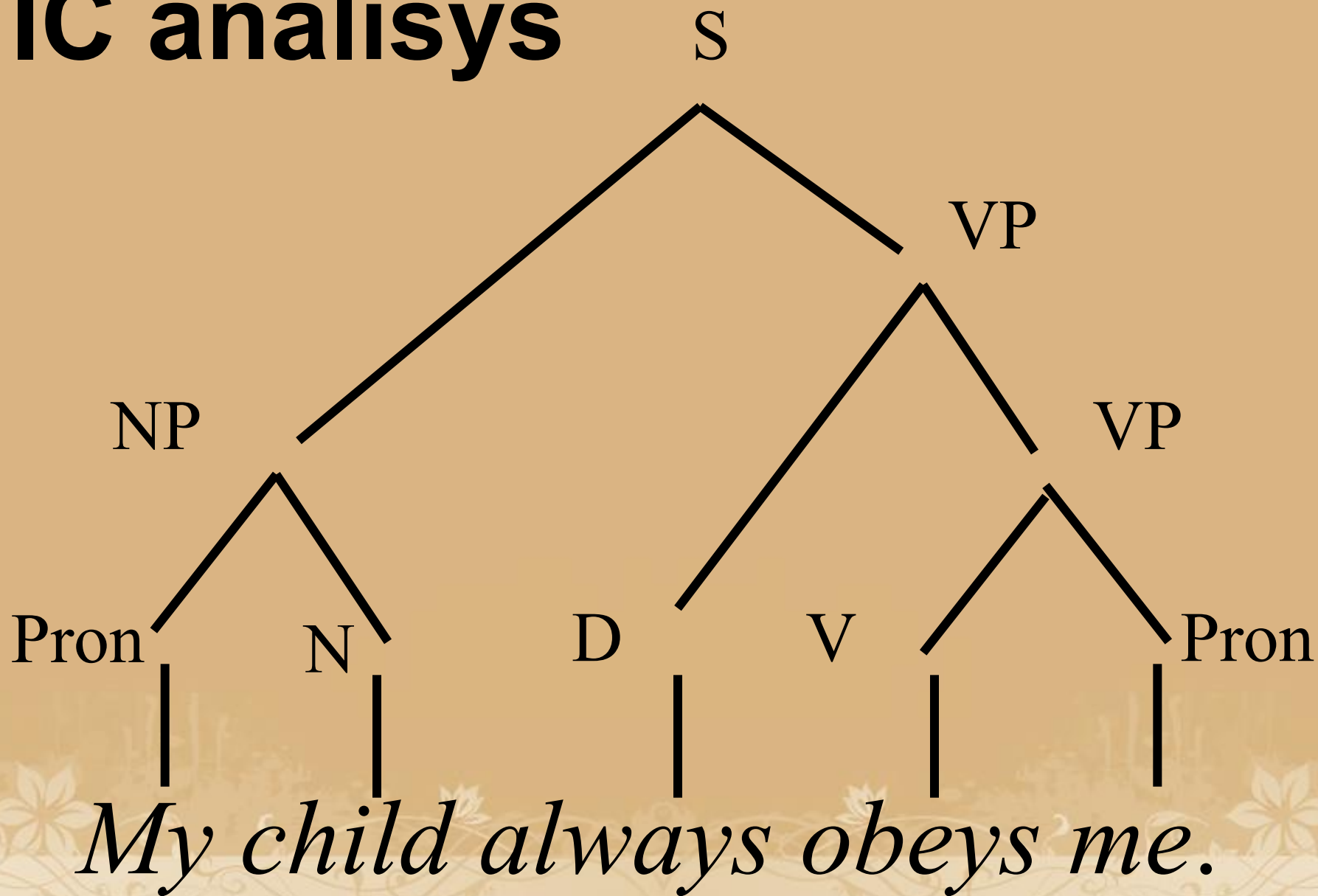


# linear analysys





# IC analysys



***b) expanded and  
unexpanded  
sentences***

# *Sentence parts*

*obligatory*

*optional*

- *may or may not be actually represented in the sentence.*
- *This is determined by the valency of the verb-predicate*

the category of “elementary sentence”

= a sentence in which all  
the positions are  
obligatory

(the principal parts +  
complementive modifiers).

# Simple sentences can be:

- **unexpanded** = *elementary sentence*, includes only obligatory nominative parts;
- **expanded** - includes some optional parts, i.e. *supplementive modifiers*, which do not change the simple sentence into a composite or semi-composite sentence.

- *'He gave me the book'*

- **unexpanded** - all the nominative parts of this sentence are required by the obligatory valency of the verb *to give*;

- cf.: *\*He gave...; He gave me...* - semantically and structurally deficient.

- ‘*He gave me a **very interesting** book*’

- **expanded** - includes the attribute-supplement *very interesting*;

- is reducible to the elementary unexpanded sentence



***c) complete and  
incomplete  
(elliptical)  
sentences***



**the subject and  
the predicate**

**+**

**the subordinate  
secondary parts**

□ the **axes** of the sentence:

- the subject group (**the subject axis**)
- the predicate group (**the predicate axis**).

- Sentence with both axes present □ **complete sentences** (“two-member sentences” or “two-axis sentences”).
- Sentence with one of the axes present □ **incomplete sentences**, (“one-member sentence”, “one-axis sentence”) e.g.: *What a nice day!*

□ **free one-axis sent.** – the zero axis can be easily restored from the context.

**Elliptical sentences:** e.g.: *Who is there? – Your brother.*

□ **fixed one-axis sent.** - the absent axis cannot be easily and accurately restored.

## Examples of **fixed** one-axis sentences:

- emotionally colored name-callings,  
e.g.: *Brute!*;
- psychologically tense descriptions,  
e.g.: *Night. Silence. No one in sight*  
(so-called nominative sentences);

- various emphatic constructions,  
e.g.: *To ask a question like this!*  
*What a joy!;*
- some conversational formulas,  
e.g.: *Thank you! Nice meeting you!;* etc.

# **BUT!**

- **negation** and **affirmation**  
**formulas** (*Yes; No; All right*),
  - **vocative sentences** (*Ladies and gentlemen! Dear friends!*),
  - **greeting** and **parting** **formulas**  
(*Hello! Good-bye!*)
- ☐ belong to the periphery of the category of the sentence



**+ exclamations of interjectional type**, like *My God! For heaven's sake! Gosh!*, etc.,

= “pseudo-sentences”, or  
“non-communicative utterances”

□ render no situational nomination, predication or informative perspective of any kind

***d) semantic  
classification of  
simple  
sentences***



The semantic classification  
of simple sentences is  
based on *principal parts*  
*semantics*.

A. On the basis of **subject categorial meaning**, sentences are divided into

1) **impersonal**, e.g.: *It drizzles;*  
*There is no use crying over spilt milk;*

a) **factual**, e.g.: *It drizzles;*

b) **perceptual**, e.g. *It looks like rain. It smells of hay here.*

## **2) personal;**

### **a) human**

- **definite**, e.g.: *I know it;*
- **indefinite**, e.g.: *One never knows such things for sure.*

## ***b) non-human.***

- ***animate***, e.g.: *A cat entered the room;*
- ***inanimate***, e.g.: *The wind opened the door.*

**B.** On the basis of **predicate**  
**categorial meaning**, sentences  
are divided into

1) **process featuring** (“**verbal**”)

a) **actional**, e.g.: *I play ball*;

b) **statal**, e.g.: *I enjoy your party*;

2) **substance featuring**  
(“**nominal**”);

a) **factual**, e.g.: *She is clever;*

b) **perceptiional**, e.g.: *She  
seems to be clever.*

# C. subdivisions of simple sentences based on the structure of the predicate:

## predicates:

- **simple** (*I read*)
- **compound**,



- **compound**,
  - **compound nominal predicates** with pure and specifying link verbs (*She looked beautiful*).



# – **compound verbal predicates**

- ✓ CV modal Pr (*You can prove it*)
- ✓ CV aspect Pr (*She started crying*)
- ✓ Mixed types

**D. On the basis of *subject-object relations*, simple sentences are divided into**

**1) subjective, e.g.: *He is a writer*;**

**2) objective, e.g.: *He is writing a book*;**

**3) neutral or potentially objective, e.g.: *He is writing*.**

## ***2. Paradigmatic structure.***

Traditionally, the sentence was studied only syntagmatically.

**F. de Saussure:** paradigmatics is quite natural for morphology, while syntax should be studied primarily as the linear connections of words.

Regular paradigmatic  
description of syntax  
started in the middle of  
**the 20th century**  
**(N.Chomsky's**  
transformational grammar  
theory).

# various sentence patterns

- various functional meanings

They make up syntactic categories = the oppositions of paradigmatically correlated sentence patterns.

Study of these oppositions

- distinguish formal  
marks and individual  
grammatical meanings of  
paradigmatically opposed  
sentence patterns.



# ***a) derivational procedures***

syntactic derivation starts with

**the kernel sentence**

= **the elementary sentence**

(the principal parts +  
complementive modifiers)

e.g.: *Mary put the book on the  
table.*

*Derivation of a sentence*  
= *several*  
*transformational steps*

# **transformational steps**

1) morphological arrangement of the sentence parts (word forms within categories)

- changes of the finite form of the verb

e.g.: *Mary put the book on the table* □

*Mary **would have put** the book on the table.*

2) the use of functional words  
(functional expansion), which  
transform syntactic constructions

e.g.: *Mary put the book on the table.* □

***Did Mary put the book on the table?***

*He understood my question.* □ *He  
seemed to understand my question.*

3) the process of substitution, (the use of personal, demonstrative and indefinite pronouns and of various substitutive half-notional words),

e.g.: *Mary put the book on the table.* □

*Mary put **it** on the table.*

*I want another pen, please.* □ *I want another **one**, please.*

4) deletion, i.e. elimination of some elements in various contextual conditions,

e.g.: *Put the book on the table!* ☐

*On the table!*



5) the process of positional arrangement, (changes of the word order)

e.g.: *Mary put the book on the table.* ☐ *On the table Mary put the book.*

*We must go.* ☐ *Must we go?*

6) the process of intonational arrangement, i.e. application of various functional tones and accents,

e.g.: *Mary put the book on the table.*

□ *Mary put the book on the table? (!)*

These steps may be employed  
either alone or in combination  
with each other;

*e.g. Where did Mary put the book?*

□ the                      kernel                      sentence

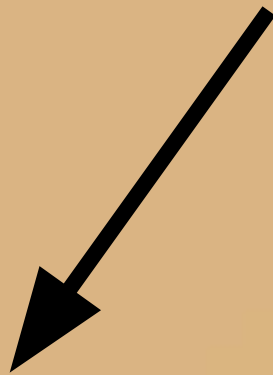
*Mary put the book on the table,*

# Types of derivational relations in the paradigmatic system of sentences:

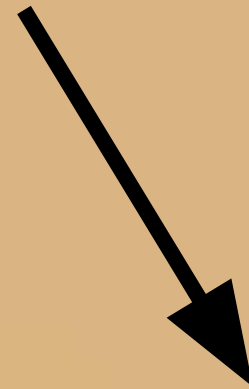
- **constructional relations** - the formation of more complex syntactic structures out of simpler ones,
- **predicative relations** - expression of the predicative semantics of the sentence.

***b) clausalization  
and  
phrasalization***

**kernel sentences  
transforms**



**clauses**



**phrases**

- **clausalization** = the transformation of a base sentence into a clause in the process of the subordinative or coordinative combination of sentences.



- use of conjunctive words;
- the change of the word order;
- the change of intonational arrangement, deletion, substitution and other derivational procedures may be involved.

**Cf.: The team won.**

**+ It caused a sensation.**

☐ *The team won and it caused a sensation;  
When the team won, it caused a sensation.*

- **phrasalization** = the transformation of a base sentence into a phrase in the process of building the syntactic constructions of various degrees of complexity.

# types of phrasalization:

- *nominalization*, i.e. the transformation of a sentence into a nominal phrase;

► complete nominalization

the kernel sentence □ a  
regular noun phrase

- NO predicative semantics,  
e.g.: *The team won.* □ *the team's  
victory; The weather changed.* □  
*the change of the weather;*

► partial nominalization

the sentence □ a

semi-predicative gerundial or  
infinitive phrase

□ part of its predicative  
semantics is lost,

e.g.: *the team's winning; for the team  
to win; the weather changing.*

# ***c) predicative functions***



a kernel sentence  
undergoes  
transformations  
connected with the  
expression of predicative  
syntactic semantics

Predicative functions, expressed by primary sentence patterns, can be subdivided into

**1. lower** - include the expression of such morphological categories as tense and aspect; they have “factual”, “truth-stating” semantic character.

2. higher, “evaluative”; they are expressed by syntactic categorial oppositions, they make up the following syntactic categories:

# **1) the category of communicative purpose:**

- **the first sub-category - question is opposed to statement,**  
*cf.: Mary put the book on the table. –  
Did Mary put the book on the table?;*
- **the second sub-category - statement is opposed to inducement,**  
*e.g.: Mary put the book on the table. –  
Mary, put the book on the table;*

**2) the category of existence quality  
(affirmation and negation) -**

affirmation is opposed to negation,  
cf.: *Mary put the book on the table.* –  
*Mary didn't put the book on the table;*

**3) the category of realization -**

unreality is opposed to reality, cf.:  
*Mary put the book on the table.* – *Mary*  
*would have put the book on the table...;*

4) **the category of probability** -  
probability is opposed to fact, cf.:  
*Mary put the book on the table.* –  
*Mary might put he book on the table;*

5) **the category of modal identity** -  
modal identity is opposed to fact,  
cf.: *Mary put the book on the table.* –  
*Mary happened to put the book on the*  
*table;*



6) **the category of subjective modality**,

- modal subject-action relation is opposed to fact,

cf.: *Mary put the book on the table.* – *Mary must put the book on the table;*

7) **the category of subject-action**

**relations**, - specified actual subject-action relation is opposed to fact,

cf.: *Mary put the book on the table.* – *Mary tried to put the book on the table;*



8) **the category of phase** - phase of action is opposed to fact,  
cf.: *Mary put the book on the table.* –  
*Mary started putting her book on the table*  
*(though I asked her not to);*

9) **the category of subject-object relations** - passive action is opposed to active action,  
cf.: *Mary put the book on the table.* –  
*The book was put on the table by Mary;*

**10) the category of informative perspective** - specialized, reverse actual division is opposed to non-specialized, direct actual division,  
cf.: *Mary put the book on the table. – It was Mary who put the book on the table;*

**11) the category of (emotional) intensity** - emphasis (emotiveness) is opposed to emotional neutrality,  
cf.: *Mary put the book on the table. – Mary did put the book on the table!*

The total volume of the  
strong members of  
predicative oppositions  
actually represented in a  
sentence = its  
**predicative load.**

- The kernel sentence, which is characterized in oppositional terms as non-interrogative, non-imperative, non-negative, non-modal-identifying, etc., = predicatively “**non-loaded**” (has a “zero predicative load”);

- sentences with the most  
typical predicative loads of  
one or two positive feature  
expressed = **lightly loaded**;

- sentences with predicative semantics of more than two positive predicative features (normally, no more than six) are **heavily loaded**.



*Why on earth has Mary failed to put  
my book back on the table?!*

- expressing positive predicative semantics of interrogations, subject-action relations and intensity;
- its predicative load is **heavy**.