

## 7.8 Clause elements syntactically defined:

1. A **subject** is normally a noun phrase or a clause with nominal function. It occurs before the verb phrase in declarative clauses, and immediately after the operator in questions; moreover, it should have number and person concord with the verb phrase.

2. An **object**, like a subject, is a noun phrase or clause with nominal function. It normally follows the subject and the verb phrase and by the passive transformation, it assumes the status of subject.

3. An **indirect object** precedes the **direct object**, and is semantically equivalent to a prepositional phrase.

4. A **complement** is a noun phrase, an adjective phrase, or a clause with nominal function, having a co-referential relation with the subject (or object). It follows the subject, verb phrase, and object, if there happens to be one. A complement does not become subject through the passive transformation.

5. An **adverbial** is an adverb phrase, adverbial clause, noun phrase, or prepositional phrase. It is generally mobile, i.e. is capable of occurring in more than one position in the clause; it is generally optional, i.e. may be added to or removed from a sentence without affecting its acceptability.

## 7.9 Clause elements semantically considered:

1. **Agentive**: It is the semantic role of a subject; it indicates the animate that instigates or causes the happening denoted by the verb, as in:

1. **John** opened the letter.

**2.Affected:**It is the most typical function of the direct object.It indicates the participant(animate or inanimate)that does not cause the happening denoted by the verb,but is directly involved in some other way,as in:

1.Many MPs criticised the **Prime Minister**.

**3.Recipient:**It is the most typical function of the indirect object,which is an animate participant passively implicated by the happening or state,as in:

1.I've found **you** a place.

**4.Current Attribute:**It designates the role of the subject complement,as in:

1.He's **my brother**.(N or NP)

2.He seems **unhappy**.(Adj.)

**5.Resulting Attribute:**It indicates the role of the subject complement as one resulting from the event described by the verb,as in:

1.He became **restless**.

2.He turned **traitor**.

**N.B.**The role of the object complement is that of attribute of the object,either a current or resulting attribute,as in:

1a.I ate the meat **cold**.(Co=Current Attribute)

b.I prefer coffee **black**.(Co=Current Attribute)

2a. They elected him **President**. (Co=Resulting Attribute)

b. He painted the wall **blue**. (Co=Resulting Attribute)

### 7.10 Agentive & Instrumental subjects:

In addition to its agentive role, the subject may have an instrumental role as well; notice that in:

1. The **avalanche** destroyed several houses.

The subject **avalanche** has an instrumental role because it is inanimate.

It is different from the subject **John** in:

2. **John** opened the letter.

In this sentence, **John** is animate.

N.B. The subject may also have an affected role, as in:

1. **Jack** fell down. (Jack: Saffected)

2. The **pencil** was lying on the table. (The pencil: Saffected)

Ex: 1. The **door** opened. (The door: Saffected)

2. **John** opened the door. (John: Sagentive)

3. The **key** opened the door. (The key: Sinstrumental)

4. The **flowers** have died. (The flowers: Saffected )

5. The **frost** has killed the flowers. (The frost: Sinstrumental)

6. The **road** became narrower. (The road: Saffected)

7. **They** narrowed the road. (They: Sagentive)

8. I got angry. (I: Saffected)

9. His manner angered me. (His manner: Sinstrumental)

10. My dog was walking. (My dog: Sagentive)

11. I was walking my dog. (I: Sagentive)



**7.11 Recipient subject:** The subject may have a recipient role with verbs such as: **have, own, possess, benefit** (from), as in:

1. I **have** a car.

The perceptual verbs **see** and **hear** also require a recipient subject, as in:

1. I **saw** a bird there.

2. I **heard** a noise.

Verbs indicating a mental state may also require a recipient subject, as in:

1. I **thought** you were mistaken. (I: Srecipient)

2. I **liked** the play. (I: Srecipient)

**7.12 Locative, temporal and eventive subjects:** The subject may have the function of designating **place** or **time**:

1. **This path** is swarming with ants. (This path: Slocative)

2. **The bus** holds forty people. (The bus: Slocative)

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3. **Tomorrow** is my birthday. (Tomorrow: Stemporal)

4. **The winter of 1970** was exceptionally mild. (The winter of 1970: Stemporal)

5. **The concert** is on Thursday. (The concert: Seventive)

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7.13 Empty "It" subject: A subject may lack semantic content, and consist of the meaningless 'prop' word *it*, used especially with climatic predications:

1. It's raining.

2. It's snowing.

3. It's getting dark.

4. It's noisy in here.

7.14 **Locative** and **effected** object: A **locative** object is that which indicates a location (i.e. a place), as in:

1. The horse jumped **the fence**. (the fence: Olocative)

An **effected** object is one that refers to something which exists only by virtue of the activity indicated by the verb:

1. Baird invented **television**. (television: Oeffected)

2. I'm writing **a letter**. (a letter: Oeffected)

7.15 **Verbal noun** as effected object: The noun may take the form of the verb and acts as a verbal noun, especially when preceded by such verbs

as: **do, make, have, take, give, etc.**, as in:

1. He did little **work** that day. (work: Oeffected)
2. He made several **attempts** to contact me. (attempts: Oeffected)
3. The prisoner made no **comment**. (comment: Oeffected)
4. He's having a **bath**. (a bath: Oeffected)
5. He took a **rest**. (a rest: Oeffected)
6. He gave a **jump**. (a jump: Oeffected)

**7.16** Affected indirect object: Note that when a verb such as: give, pay, or owe. etc. has an effected object as direct object, the indirect object must then be "affected", as in:

1. I paid **her** a visit. (her: Oaffected & a visit: Oeffected)
2. I gave **the door** a couple of kicks. (the door: Oaffected & a couple of kicks: Oeffected)

**N.B.** We are supposed to be familiar with these abbreviations:

- |                  |                |
|------------------|----------------|
| 1. Sagentive     | 7. Orecipient  |
| 2. Sinstrumental | 8. Olocative   |
| 3. Saffected     | 9. Otemporal   |
| 4. Srecipient    | 10. Oeventive  |
| 5. Oaffected     | 11. Ccurrent   |
| 6. Oeffected     | 12. Cresulting |

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### 7.18 Concord: Subject-Verb Concord

The most important type of concord in English is concord of number between subject and verb, as in:

1. The window **is** open. (Ssg+Vsg: concord in number)
2. The windows **are** open. (Spl+Vpl: concord in number)

N.B. A subject could be a clause which counts as singular, as in:

1. **How they got there** doesn't concern me.
2. **To treat them as hostages** is criminal.

A subject could be a prepositional phrase which counts as singular, as in:

3. **After the exams** is the time to relax.

On the other hand, nominal relative clauses may have plural as well as singular concord, as shown below:

4. **What were once human dwellings** are now nothing but piles of rubble.

N.B. Singular nouns ending with the -s of the plural inflection such as **measles, billiards, mathematics**, etc. require a verb in the singular or conversely plural nouns lacking the inflection like **cattle, people, clergy**, etc. require a verb in the plural, as in:

1. **Measles** is sometimes serious.
2. Our **people** are complaining.

Plural words and phrases count as singular if they are used as names, titles, quotations, etc. as in: