

Exercises – Introduction to morphosyntax

In English plural nouns are formed with the suffix –s. The suffix has three allomorphs. Provide examples and explain their distribution, i.e. explain where the three allomorphs occur.

Explain the difference between ‘open’ and ‘closed’ word classes and provide examples for each class. Answer in full sentences.

Use the constituent tests we discussed in class to demonstrate that *near the university* is a constituent in the following sentence: *Jack lives near the university*.

Indicate the head, the mother node, and (at least) two sister nodes of the following phrase: a book about London.

The following examples illustrate the two different uses of modal verbs. How do linguists refer to these two uses? What do they express?

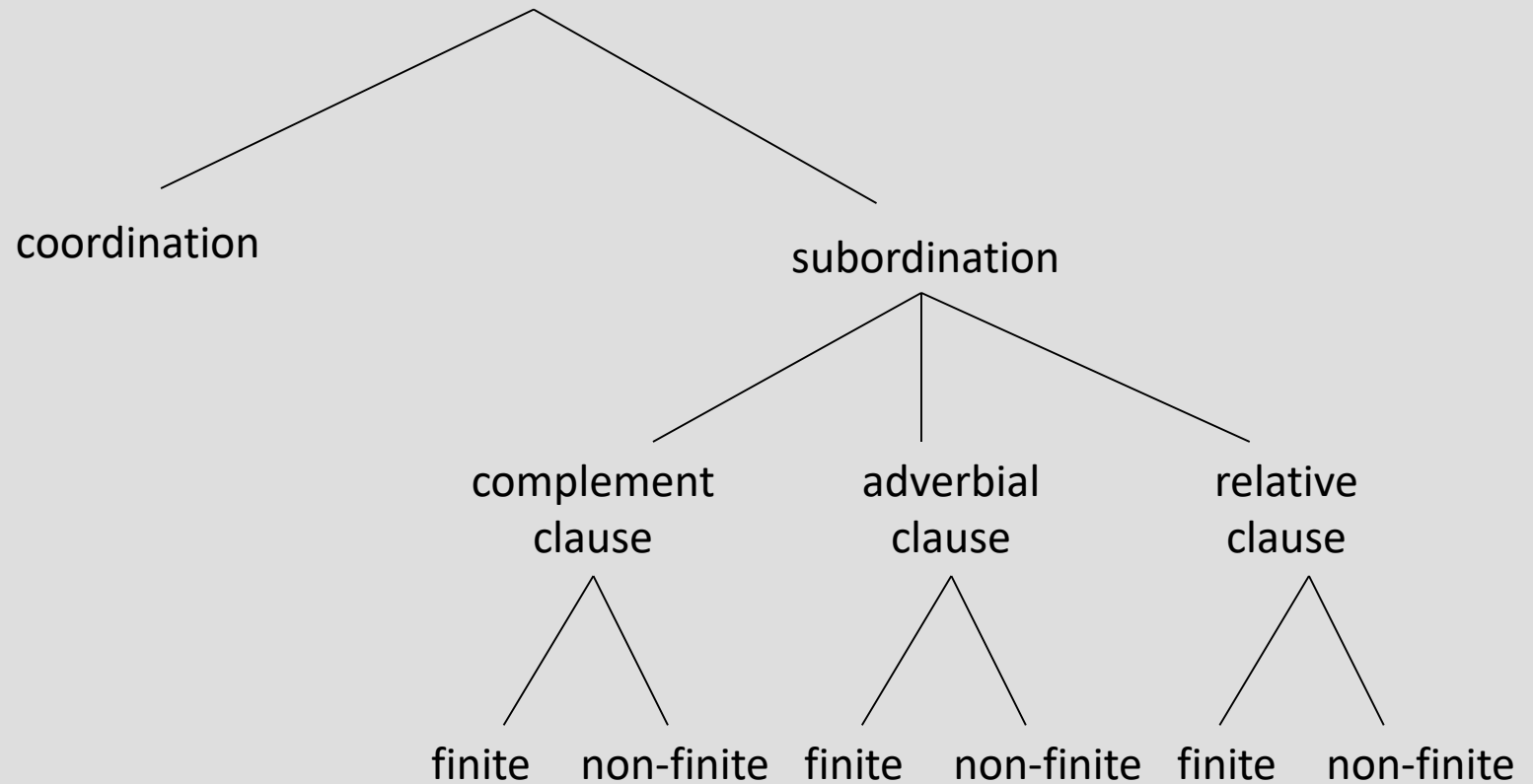
- (i) I cannot come to the party.
- (ii) That can't be right.

Adverbs can have different syntactic functions. What are these functions? Provide examples.

Clause combinations

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Complex sentences



Finiteness

Finite SUB-clauses

- (1) I wanted that you leave.
- (2) Jack opened the door so that he was able to see him.
- (3) The man who talked to Sue is my friend Jim.

Non-finite SUB-clauses

- (4) I want [you] to leave the room.
- (5) Jack opened the door to see him.
- (6) The man talking to Sue is my friend Jim.

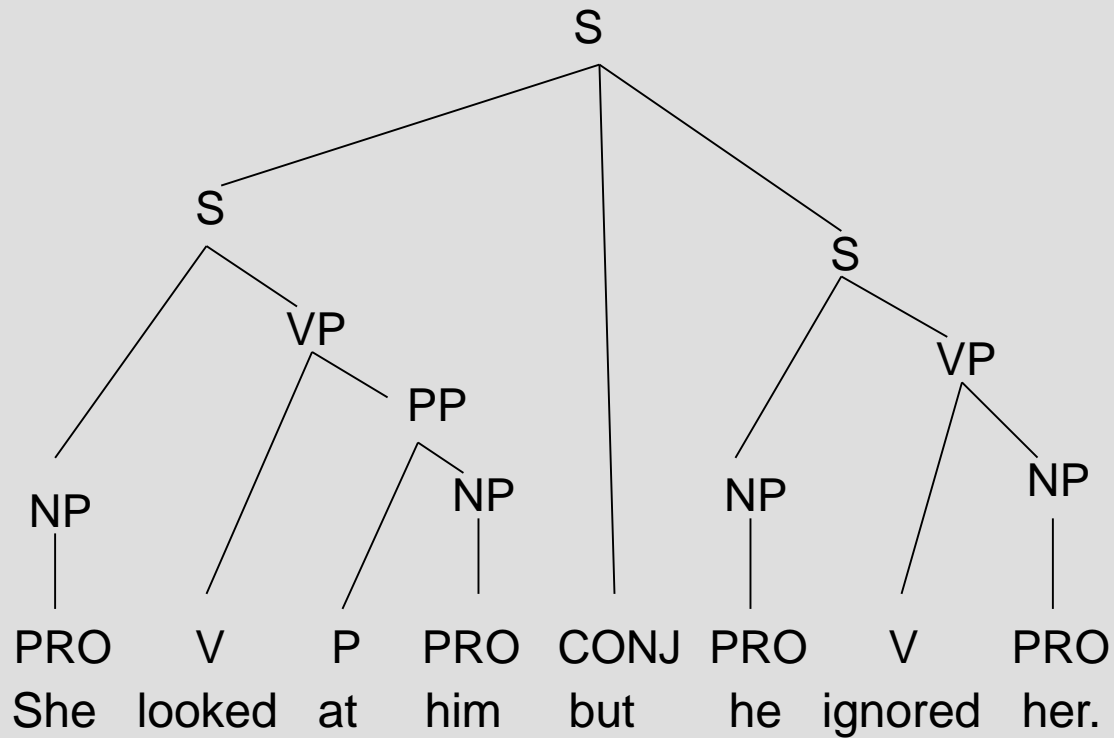
Examples

(1) Tim bought a notebook that looks really stylish, but I think he should not have bought it before he has a new job.

-> **Tim bought a notebook**
that looks really stylish,
but I think
he should not have bought it
before he has a new job.

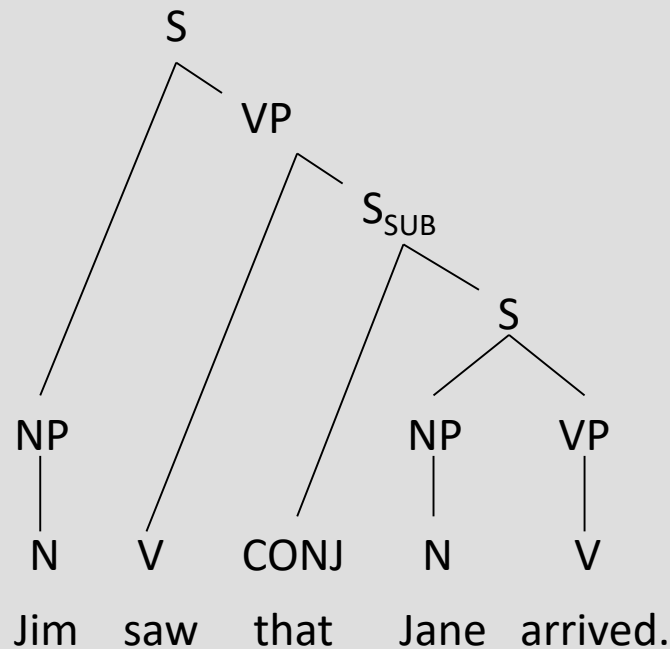
-> Although I believe
he said the truth,
the story
he told us
cannot be right
if John was in Jena last night.

Coordinate clause



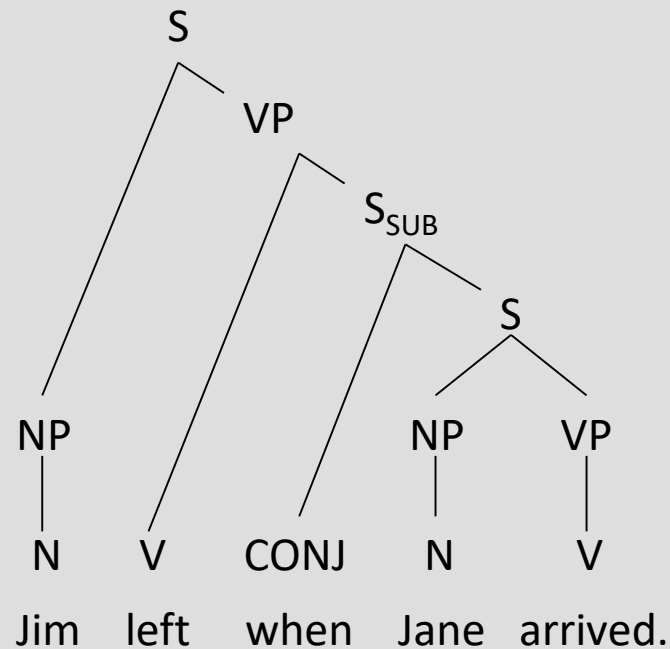
Complement clauses

- (1) He knows that the exam will not be easy.
(2) That I passed the exam surprised my teacher.



Adverbial clauses

- (1) I lent her my savings because she was short of money.
- (2) When the weather improves we are going on holiday.
- (3) If you follow the instructions carefully nobody will hurt you.



Relative clauses

Restrictive vs. non-restrictive relative clauses

- (1) She met my brother who lives in Berlin.
- (2) She met my brother, who lives in Berlin.

Sentential relative clauses

- (3) He bought a new car, which he now deeply regrets.
- (4) They moved to Berlin, which I find amazing.

Appositive clauses

- (5) It don't like the idea that we will win the game.
- (6) His hypothesis that English is more complex than German is difficult to test.

Relative clauses

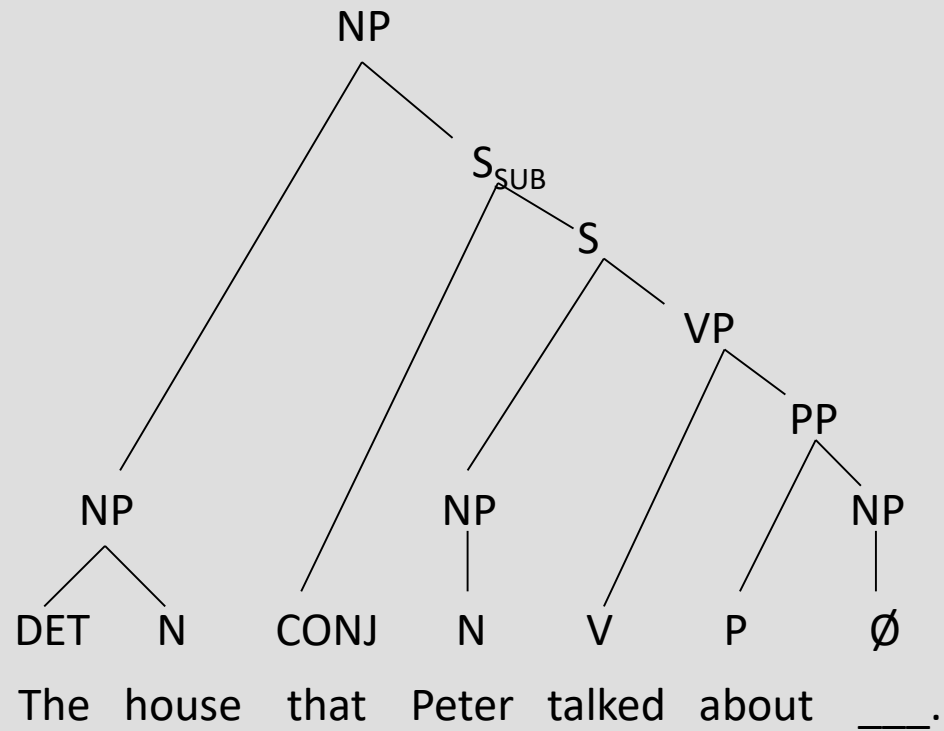
External syntax

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|--|-----------------------------------|
| (1) The guy <u>who we saw</u> is called Peter. | [subject-modifying RC] |
| (2) I know the guy <u>who you are talking about</u> . | [direct object-modifying RC] |
| (3) He gave the guy <u>who talked to us</u> a dollar. | [indirect object-modifying RC] |
| (4) That is the guy <u>who got drunk last night</u> . | [subject complement-modifying RC] |
| (5) He slept in the hotel <u>that I recommended</u> . | [adjunct-modifying RC] |

Internal syntax

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| (1) the dog [that slept] | [subject-extracting RC] |
| (2) the dog [that I fed] | [direct object-extracting RC] |
| (3) the dog [that I gave food] | [indirect object-extracting RC] |
| (4) the dog [I played with] | [prepositional-object extracting RC] |
| (5) the dog [whose owner I hate] | [possessor-extracting RC] |

Relative clauses



Complex sentences

- (1) She fell asleep while watching television.
- (2) I couldn't believe that we had lost the game.
- (3) My friend Jack, who I know from high school, has become a teacher.
- (4) I want you to give me the book Peter talked about.
- (5) Since the arrival of the British team they tried to impress their hosts.
- (6) I believe we cannot convince them to do the job.
- (7) The man I met is 8 feet tall, which is taller than you are.
- (8) Although she didn't feel well, we went to work.
- (9) I could convince him to help us.
- (10) The book written by John Locke had an great impact on western science.