

Noun phrases

<http://www-rohan.sdsu.edu/~gawron/syntax>

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Diagnostic properties

Subjecthood *An amazing feast* greeted him upon his arrival.

Wh-cleft What greeted John saw was *an amazing feast* .

Object of PP I gave thanks for *an amazing feast*.

Variety: Left hand side

- 1 John
- 2 John's book
- 3 The book/every book/all books/ most books
- 4 All the books/both the books
- 5 More men/three more men/ as many as three more men
- 6 more men than women/fewer men than women/as many men as women/
- 7 three times as many men as women/as many as three times as many men as women
- 8 such a book/so impressive a book/too great a book

Variety: Right hand side

- 1 John's gift to Mary
- 2 The billionaire's gift of 1 million dollars to the university
- 3 The capital of Spain/a picture of Marty/a credit to his people
- 4 The idea [_S that people can overcome their baser instincts]
- 5 The suggestion [_S that our mayor might be guilty of grand larceny]
- 6 The instincts [_S that people can overcome]
- 7 * The instincts [_S that people can overcome their impulses]

Adjective phrases

Examples

- (i) John bought a red car.
- (ii) John bought an extremely red car.
- (iii) ? John bought an extreme red car.
- (iv) ? John bought an extreme car.
- (v) John bought a large expensive red car.

Diagnostic properties

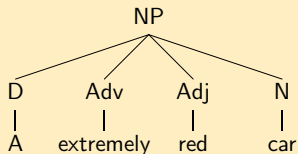
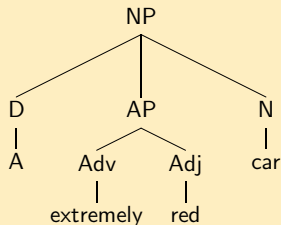
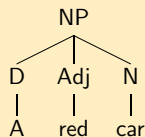
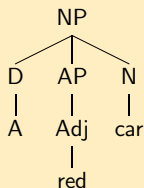
Subjecthood *An extremely red car* honked at him.

Wh-cleft What honked at him was *an extremely red car* .

Object of PP I looked at *an extremely red car*.

Noun phrase rules

Trees



NP → (D)(AP)N

AP → (Adv) Adj

NP → (D)(Adv) (Adj) N

Complex determiners

Examples

All the
at least three
a good deal more than five
a career-high 70

All the fine young men
At least three polliwogs.
John has written a good deal more than five
books.
Barry Bonds hit a career-high 70 home runs.

Noun complements

Noun phrases

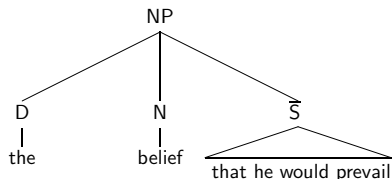
- a. The *belief* that he would prevail
- b. The *claim* that he would prevail
- c. The *fact* that he would prevail

Sentences

- a. John believed that he would prevail.
- b. John claimed that he would prevail.

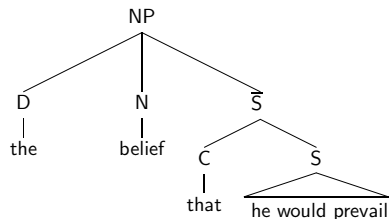
Tests

- Subjecthood The belief that he would prevail kept John going.
- Wh-cleft What kept John going was *the belief that he would prevail*
- Object of PP John clung to *the belief that he would prevail*.



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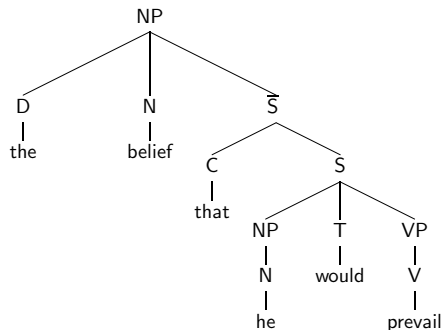


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Relative clauses

- Relative clause [NP The attack [S that the Allies launched]] was a complete success.
- Complement clause [NP The claim [S that the Allies launched an attack]] was widely disbelieved.
- Disallowed [NP The attack [S that the Allies launched an attack]] was a complete success.

Relative clause constraint

A relative clause contains an NP gap:

[NP The attack [S that the Allies launched [NP e]]] was a complete success.

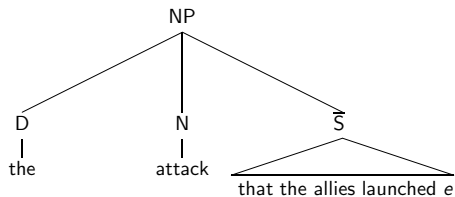
Other examples

Relative clause variety

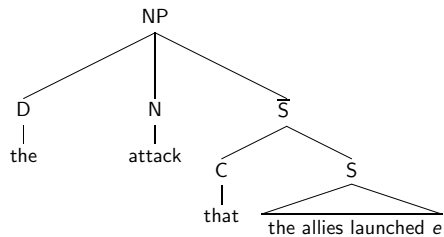
Rel pro	Gap	
<i>that</i>	OBJ	[_{NP} The attack [\bar{S} that [_S the allies launched [_{NP} e]]]]
<i>which</i>	OBJ	[_{NP} The attack [\bar{S} which [_S the allies launched [_{NP} e]]]]
∅	OBJ	[_{NP} The attack [\bar{S} ∅ [_S the allies launched [_{NP} e]]]]
<i>who</i>	SUBJ	[_{NP} The general [\bar{S} who [_S [_{NP} e] launched the attack]]]
∅	POBJ	[_{NP} The general [\bar{S} whom [_S we reported to [_{NP} e]]]]
<i>whom</i>	OBL	[_{NP} The general [\bar{S} [_{PP} to whom] [_S we reported [_{PP} e]]]]

Pied piping Relative clauses in which there is a relative pronoun that does not equal the gap exhibit pied piping. The gap filler contains more syntactic material than just the relative pronoun, and the gap corresponds to the gap filler not the relative pronoun, but the relative pronoun still refers to the head noun.

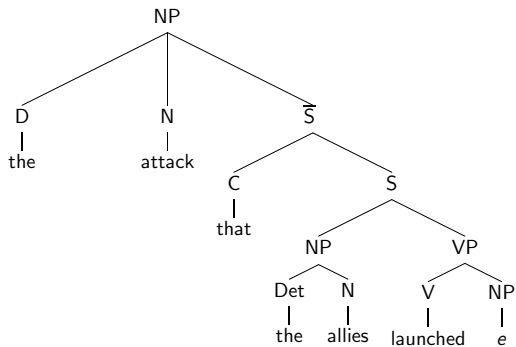
Trees



Trees



Trees



More pied piping

Ross (1967)

the reports $[\bar{S} [_{NP} \text{ which }] [_{S} \text{ the government prescribes the height of the letters on the covers of } [_{NP} e]]]]$

the reports $[\bar{S} [_{PP} \text{ of which }] [_{S} \text{ the government prescribes the height of the letters on the covers } [_{PP} e]]]]$

the reports $[\bar{S} [_{NP} \text{ the covers of which }] [_{S} \text{ the government prescribes the height of the letters on } [_{NP} e]]]]$

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Relative clauses versus Complement clauses

Relative clauses

Contain a gap

Adjuncts (any noun)

Preceded by relpro

Pied piping rel pro \neq gap

Noun Complement clauses

Full clauses (like verb complement clauses)

Complements

Preceded by complementizer

Possessors/Subjects

	Nominalization: Verbal subject → Nominal possessor
S	John believed [_S that he would prevail].
NP	John's belief [_S that he would prevail]
	Subject
S	* John believed [_S that he would prevail] kept him going.
NP	John's belief [_S that he would prevail] kept him going.
	Yes-No question
S	Did John believe [_S that he would prevail]?
NP	* Did John's belief [_S that he would prevail]?

English nominalization

Spielberg lavishly produced the movie.

↓	N	For Spielberg to lavishly produce the movie
↓	o	Spielberg lavishly producing the movie
↓	m	Spielberg's lavishly producing the movie
↓	i	Speilberg's lavish producing of the movie
↓	n	Spielberg's lavish production of the movie
↓	a	Spielberg's lavish movie production
	l	

- * Spielberg's lavish producing the movie
- * Speilberg's lavishly producing of the movie
- * Speilberg's lavish production the movie

Kinds of English nominalization

-ing	Spielberg's making the movie is a real advantage.
for-to	For Spielberg to make the movie would be a great triumph.
-tion	Spielberg's objection to the movie ...
-al	Spielberg's refusal to compromise ...
-ment	Spielberg's abandonment of narrative convention ...
-ure	Spielberg's failure to realize this vision ...
∅	Spielberg's move to LA
←`	Spielberg's progress in this regard ...

English stress-shift nominalizations (Raffelsiefen 1993): *address, abstract, conflict, decrease, export, misprint, survey, protest, remake* (and a host of two-syllable *re-* verbs: *refill, redo, reprint, reread*, but NOT if the *re-* prefix is Latinate: *reward, reform, report, resign, retort, except record?*)

Noun to verb

Malouf (1998), p 31, citing Quirk et al. (1985)

- a. Brown's painting(s) of his daughter hang(s) in the town mueum.
- b. Brown's deft painting of his daughter is a delight to watch.
- c. Brown's deftly painting his daughter is a delight to watch
- d. I dislike Brown (deftly) painting his daughter.
- e. Brown is (deftly) painting his daughter. / Brown might be painting his daughter.

Five properties

- ① Finite verb (takes modal test): e only
- ② Direct case subject: d,e
- ③ Adverb modifier: c,d,e
- ④ Direct case object: c,d,e
- ⑤ Morphological verb form: b, c, d, e (no plural)

Finite	→	D.case	→	D.case	→	Adv.	→	Verb
Verb		subj		obj		mdfr		form

Verbalization hierarchy Croft (1991)

If a verbal form inflects for tense-aspect-modality like a predicated verb [= finite verb], then it will take subject and object dependents like a predicated verb. If verbal form takes a subject dependent like a predicated verb, then it will take an object dependent like a predicated verb.

p. 83

Finite	→ D.case	→ D.case
Verb	subj	obj

Implicational hierarchy

- 1 The hierarchy of nouniness properties on the previous slide

Finite → D.case → D.case
Verb subj obj

is called an **implicational hierarchy**.

- 2 Ross (1973)b is another example of such a hierarchy which arranges NPs on a scale from most prototypical to least prototypical based on a variety somewhat different tests, ranging from expletives (*it, there*) through idiom chunks (*kicked **the bucket***) to ordinary proper names.
- 3 Implicational hierarchies play a role in stating many linguistic generalizations:

Obj agreement → *Subj agreement*

Implicational hierarchies & universals

Implicational universals

If a language has voiced obstruent phonemes, then it has voiceless obstruent phonemes.
voiced obstruents → voiceless obstruents

If a language has voiceless sonorant consonants it has voiced sonorant consonants.
voiceless sonorants → voiced sonorants

If a language has fricative, then it has stops.

If a language has affricates, then it also has stops and fricatives.
affricates → fricatives → stops

- 1 Ross (1973)a, Ross (1973)b: Original work identifying variability on the concept of an NP category
- 2 Sankoff and Cedergren (1976): Foundational work in establishing dimensionality in linguistic variation using a statistical method called *multidimensional scaling*.
- 3 Malouf (1998): develops a theory of mixed categories (form can mix noun and and verb properties) which captures the above implicational hierarchy; applied to English as well to “noun incorporating” languages like Greenlandic Eskimo.

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