Words and heads

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Relation of phrases to words

1. We defined Noun Phrases as phrases that could be substituted for Nouns in constructions.
2. Certain questions open:
   1. How do you determine the Nouns, Verbs, etcetera, to begin with?
   2. Why should the distributional properties of a phrase correspond to those of a single word?
# Parts of speech: example

## Noun versus Adj: English

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Property</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Indicates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1a. Modification by degree</td>
<td>Internal Syn</td>
<td>Adj</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1b. Modification by Det/Adj</td>
<td>Internal Syn</td>
<td>Noun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Inflection for number</td>
<td>Morph</td>
<td>Noun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Comparative form</td>
<td>Morph</td>
<td>Adj</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Can be subject of clause</td>
<td>External Syn</td>
<td>Noun</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1a. a very foolish man
1b. an utter fool
2. fools
3. more foolish
dumber
4. Fools thrive

* a very fool
* an utter foolish
* foolishes
* a more fool
* a dummier
* foolish thrive
Method in a new language

1. Identify word classes with language-specific tests (for example nouns may not always inflect for plurality: Souther Barasono)

2. Look for prototypical members of each class found (members exhibiting all the properties of the class)

3. Assign name to class
   a. includes terms for concrete objects (dogs, house, tree)
   b. includes terms for volitional actions (run, dance, eat)
Heads/dependents

**Head principle**

Phrases have head words. A phrase’s head word determines its distributional properties. A phrase may have phrases inside it. These are its dependents.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Head principle</th>
<th>Examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Determines properties of entire phrase</td>
<td>Category (distribution), Verb agreement of NPs, subcategorization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Determines properties of dependents</td>
<td>Adjective agreement with head Noun, Preposition selection for complements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obligatory in phrase</td>
<td>Noun Phrases must have Nouns</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Preposition selection

a. John dotes on/*for Mary.
b. Fred applied for/*at the job.
c. Alice relied on/*to her assistant.
d. We won’t speak of that.
e. He threw the ball at/*on Mary.
f. He poured the soup on/*at Mary.
g. I am fond of applesauce.
h. Fred is angry at the Democrats.
i. Meg’s disappointment with Henri is evident.
Verb agreement/Adjective Concord

Agreement with something outside phrase

a. [The boys] are hungry.
b. * [The boys] is hungry.

Agreement with something inside phrase (Mersthami): Concord

a. lopa [fo-beli lalepu] kuntu
   walked pl-men old-pl slowly
b. * lopa [fo-beli lale] kuntu
   walked pl-men old slowly

c. * lopa [fo-beli lalepu] kuntu-pu
   walked pl-men old-pl slowly-pl
Phrases must have heads

Ellipsis

a. Those bagels look great. I’ll have [two $\emptyset$].
The mayor has been being observed by me, and
[the town crier $\emptyset$ by you.]

Special constructions

b. [The poor $\emptyset$] are with us always.
* [The poor $\emptyset$] is with us always.
* [The broken $\emptyset$] are in the repair shop.