

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

	Property	Type	Indicates
1a.	Modification by degree	Internal Syn	Adj
1b.	Modification by Det/Adj	Internal Syn	Noun
2.	Inflection for number	Morph	Noun
3.	Comparative form	Morph	Adj
4.	Can be subject of clause	External Syn	Noun

- | | | |
|-----|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1a. | a very foolish man | * a very fool |
| 1b. | an utter fool | * an utter foolish |
| 2. | fools | * foolishes |
| 3. | more foolish | * a more fool |
| | dumber | * a dummier |
| 4. | Fools thrive | * 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**.

Examples

Determines properties of entire phrase	Category (distribution), Verb agreement of NPs, subcategorization
Determines properties of dependents	Adjective agreement with head Noun, Preposition selection for complements
Obligatory in phrase	Noun Phrases must have Nouns

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.