

SYNTAX

The term “**syntax**” is from the Ancient Greek **syntaxis** which means “**arrangement**” or “**setting out together**”

1/ Definition:

- **Syntax is a branch of grammar dealing with the structures of sentences.**
- **Syntax is the study of how words are combined to form sentences in a language.**

2/ Syntactic categories:

Words can be group into 2 syntactic categories

- **Lexical categories:** Nouns, Verbs, Adjectives, Adverbs, Prepositions.
- **Non-lexical categories:** Determiners (a/an, the, my, your, this, that, some...), Auxiliaries, Conjunctions, Degree words (so, very, too, almost, quite...)

3/ Grammatical categories:

- **Person: First, Second, Third**
- **Number: Singular, Plural**
- **Gender: Masculine, Feminine, Neutral, Animate, Inanimate**
- **Case: Nominative (Subject), Accusative (Object), Dative (Indirect object), **Genitive/Possessive**, Locative, Ablative (direction from), Allative (direction toward), Instrumental.**
- **Tenses: Present, Past, Future**
- **Aspects: Complete (perfect), Incomplete (progressive)**
- **Moods: Indicative, Imperative, Subjunctive.**
- **Voice: Active, Passive**

4/ Grammaticality:

-Grammaticality is not based on what is taught in school, but on the rules acquired or constructed unconsciously as children.

e.g:

-Grammatical judgments do not depend on whether the sentence is meaningful or not.

e.g: Colorless green ideas sleep furiously.

A verb crumpled the milk.

-Grammaticality does not depend on the truth of sentences.

e.g: Those fathers have been pregnant for three months.

You all have had 10 marks for the mid-term test.

=>a sentence is grammatical if native speakers judge it to be a possible or acceptable sentence of their language.

=> **Grammatical (well-formed)** sentences are those that are in accord with the rules and principles of the syntax of a particular language.

e.g: The teacher is reading a book.

=> **Ungrammatical (ill-formed)** sentences violate one or more syntactic rules or principles.

e.g: * Teacher the book a reading is.

Vietnamese word order.

Vd: Em đi chơi.

Em! Đi chơi.

Em! Đi chơi?

Đi chơi, em?

Chơi đi em.

Chơi em đi.

TRẬT TỰ TỪ TIẾNG VIỆT

1. Sao nó bảo không đến?
2. Sao bảo nó không đến?
3. Sao không đến bảo nó?
4. Sao nó không bảo đến?
5. Sao? Đến bảo nó không?
6. Sao? Bảo nó đến không?
7. Nó đến, sao không bảo?
8. Nó đến, không bảo sao?
9. Nó đến, bảo không sao?
10. Nó bảo sao không đến?
11. Nó đến, bảo sao không?
12. Nó bảo đến không sao?

13. Nó bảo không đến sao?
14. Nó không bảo, sao đến?
15. Nó không bảo đến sao?
16. Nó không đến bảo sao?
17. Bảo nó sao không đến?
18. Bảo nó: Đến không sao?
19. Bảo sao nó không đến?
20. Bảo nó đến, sao không?
21. Bảo nó không đến sao?
22. Bảo không, sao nó đến?
23. Bảo! Sao, nó đến không?

PHRASES

1/ Definition:

A phrase is any group of words which is **grammatically equivalent to a single word** and which **does not have its own subject and predicate**.

2/ The elements of a phrase:

+ **Head**: The Head is the element at the lowest level reserved for the word around which the phrase is built.

+ **Specifiers** (τροπή): **Determiners (the), Auxiliaries (will), Degree words (very, quite, almost), Intensifiers** (a word, especially an adjective or an adverb, for example so or very, that makes the meaning of another word stronger)

=> Semantically, specifiers help to make more precise the meaning of the head.

=> Syntactically, specifiers typically mark a phrase boundary.

+ **Complements**: provide information about entities and locations whose existence is implied by the meaning of the head

e.g1: the **book** about the war

(*the*: **determiner**; *book*: **head**; *about the war*: **complement**)

=> More examples and clearer explanation by drawing circles and lines

e.g 2: a very beautiful girl.

e.g 3: have been being built.

3/ Types of phrases:

3.1. Noun Phrase (NP)

The functional formula: *(Pre modifier) – Head – (Post modifier)*

	<i>Det.</i>	<i>Intens.</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>Complement</i>
E.g:	The	old	car	in the drive

The head: the central part; obligatory

Pre modifier and Post modifier: optionally occur

3.2. Verb Phrase (VP)

The functional formula:

(Auxiliary) – Head – (Object/Complement) – (Modifier)

E.g: He does not eat vegetables regularly

3.3 Adjective Phrase (AdjP)

The functional formula: *(Deg.) – Head - (Complement)*

E.g: quite unaware of any wrong doing

3.4 Adverb Phrase (AdvP)

The functional formula: (*Deg.*) – *Head*

E.g: very carefully

3.5 Preposition Phrase (PP)

The formal version: *Preposition* – *Noun Phrase*

E.g: in the house

3.6 Verbal Phrases

a/ Participles (V-ing, V-ed): function as pre modifiers or post modifiers

b/ Gerund: functions in the range of NPs

c/ Infinitive: is used as noun or modifier

=> Practice exercises (Phrases)

Phrase Structure Rules (see Syntactic rules: PS rule)

Eg: 1/ an important part in the history of social development.

⇒ Determiner (an) + Intensifier (important) + **HEAD** (part) + Modifier (in the history) + Complement (of social development)

⇒ **NP**

2/ have ever followed instructions for knitting something.

⇒ Auxiliary (have) + Modifier (ever) + **HEAD** (followed) + Object (instructions) + Complement (for knitting something)

⇒ **VP**

3/ quite familiar with a lot of arguments.

⇒ Degree (quite) + **HEAD** (familiar) + Complement (with a lot of arguments)

⇒ **AdjP**

4/ very well

⇒ Degree (very) + **HEAD** (well)

⇒ **AdvP**

5/ by the riverside

⇒ Preposition (by) + Determiner (the) + Noun (riverside)

⇒ **Prep.P**

EXERCISE

Identify the functional formulae of the following phrases. Determine which type of phrase each of them is.

1. have ever followed instructions for knitting something.
2. an important part in the history of social development.
3. offer a selection of small group walking holidays.
4. some delightful hidden corners of Europe
5. quite familiar with a lot of arguments.
6. after two days without sleep.
7. a pressing problem especially in the rush hours.
8. many of these symbols of whole words.
9. disillusionment with the parents.
10. had obtained his professional qualifications in the field of advertising.
11. very useful in his new life.
12. an allowance from a government agency.

13. will organize a photography competition for young people.
14. will go on a trip for two to the rainforest in Borneo.
15. an Australian highschool student aged between 12 and 18.
16. Australia's amazing wild life_ its birds, snakes, animals or insects.
17. Australia's dramatic landscapes_ its open spaces, rainforests, rivers and beautiful cities.
18. must be accompanied by the \$5 entrance fee.
19. must include your names, date of birth, an email address and a daytime contact phone number.
20. can print the form and send us the photograph by post.
21. the latest news, both international and local, with Aaron Willis every day between 6:00 and 6:30 in the evening.
22. a new manager in the shop and some unexpected events in each 30-minute programme.

23. a team of snow builders, architects and artists from all over the world.

24. this well-known comedy about two workmen delivering a long piece of wood to a house.

25. a fast-moving adult story about a Sanfrancisco policeman in danger.

26. the lively seaside town of Cains and relaxation in the sun.

CLAUSES

1. Definition: A clause is a group of words that contains (at least) a Subject and a finite verb.

Clauses can stand by themselves or they can be dependent on other structures.

2. Types of clauses:

2.1. Independent: An independent clause contains a **Subject** and a **verb** and **expresses a complete thought**. It can **stand alone as a sentence** by itself. An independent clause is formed with

subject + verb (+ complement)

e.g: Students normally spend four years in university.

2.2. Dependent: A dependent clause begins with a **subordinator** such as **when, while, if, that** or **who** etc. A dependent clause **does not express a complete thought** and **cannot stand alone as a sentence** by itself. A dependent clause is formed with

subordinator + subject + verb (+ complement)

e.g: ... although students normally spend four years in university.

Dependent clauses consist of the following three kinds:

=> **Dependent Noun Clauses:** function as Nouns

=> **Dependent Adjective Clauses:** function as adjectives

=> **Dependent Adverb Clauses:** function as adverbs

=> **Practice exercises (Clauses & Sentences)**

CLAUSES

1/ What kinds of clauses are the followings? Why do you know?

2/Analyze them into main parts (Subject, Verb, Object, Complement, Adv. Modifier, etc...)

1/ Jet lag affects most long-distance travelers.

2/ Which is simply the urge to sleep at inappropriate times.

3/ During long journeys, through several time zones, the body's inner clock is disrupted.

4/ For some reasons, travel from West to East causes greater jet lag than travel from East to West.

5/ Also, changes in work schedules can cause jet lag.

6/ When hospital nurses change from a day shift to a night shift for example,

7/ Although there is no sure way to prevent jet lag,

8/ There are some ways to minimize it.

9/ Because jet lag is caused at least partially by lost of sleep not just a change in the time of sleep.

10/ A traveler should plan to arrive at his or her destination as late as possible.

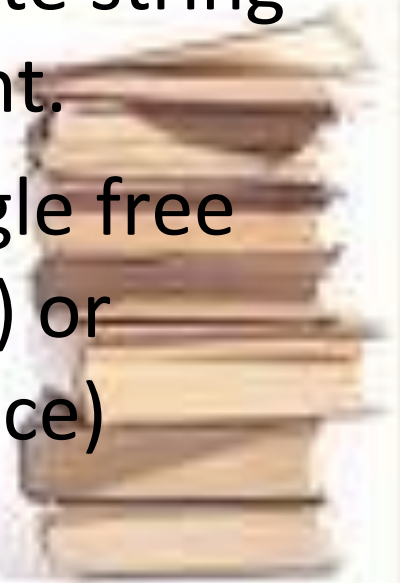
11/ Upon arriving he or she should immediately go to bed.

12/ Then the traveler should start to live in the new time frame immediately.

SENTENCES

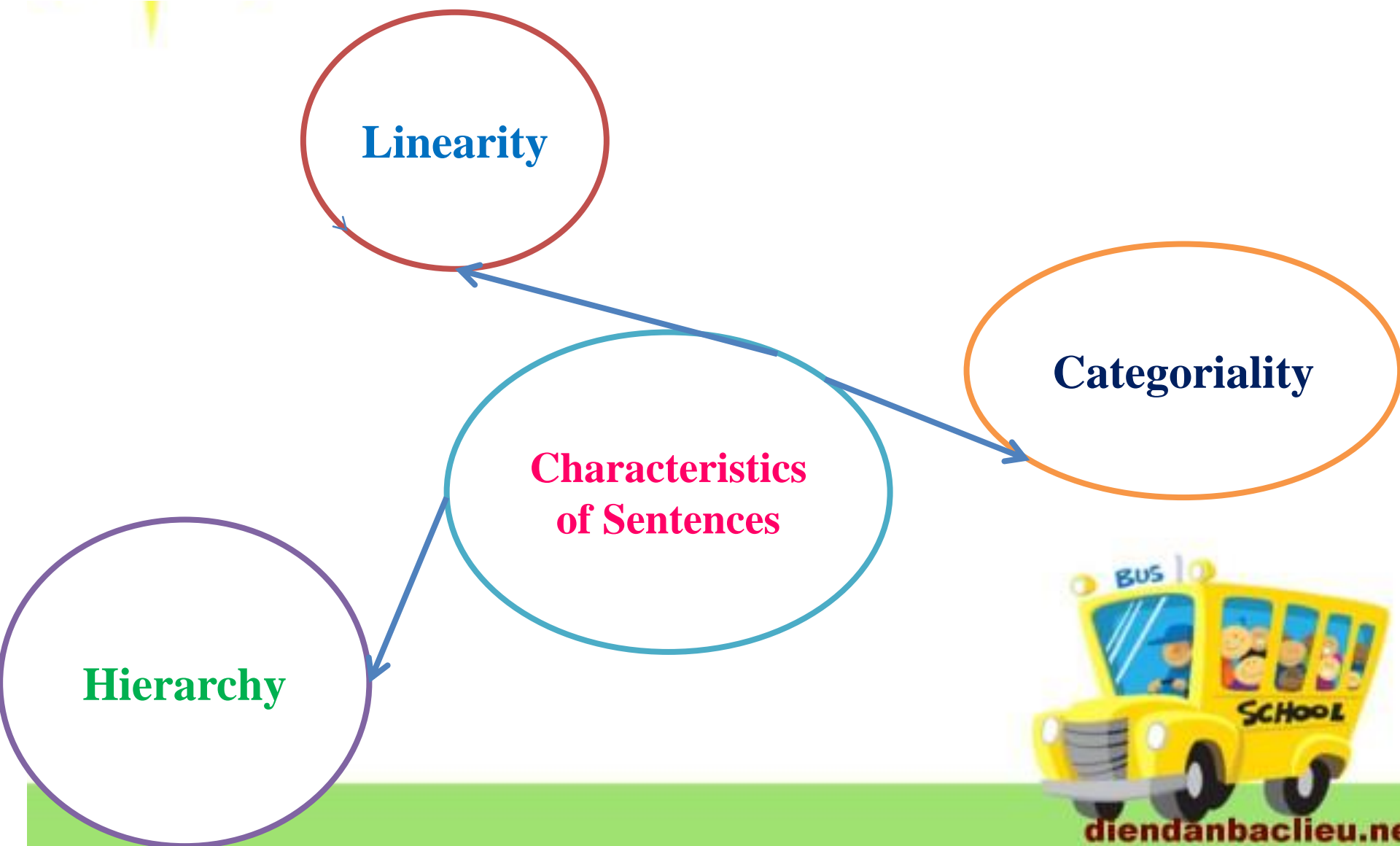
I. Definition of sentence:

- A sentence is the largest unit of grammatical description.
- A sentence is a grammatically complete string of words expressing a complete thought.
- Sentences can be understood as a single free utterance, minimum (simple sentence) or expanded (compound, complex sentence)





II. Characteristics of sentences



1. Linearity

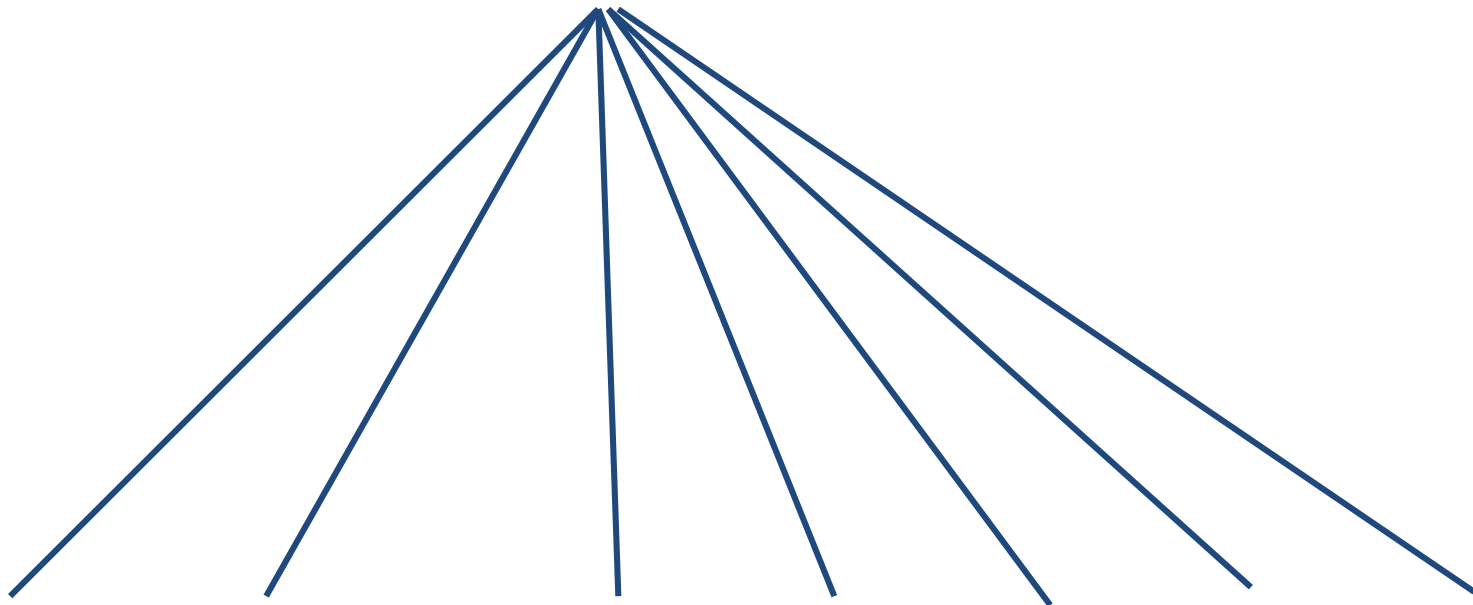
-Sentences are produced and received in a linear sequence.

Types	Example
1.1. S V	The birds fly
1.2. S V O	She bought a car
1.3. S V C	Tuan is a doctor
1.4. S V A	Mai is in the school
1.5. S V O C	I consider him my best friend
1.6. S V O A	John writes the words on the board
1.7. S V O.i O.d	She gives me expensive presents

2. Hierarchy

In sentences, lesser elements are parts of larger wholes, which are in turn parts of other larger wholes.

The government expelled the officers from Thailand



The government expelled the officers from Thailand

Diagram 1

VP:	Verb Phrase
P:	Phrase
Det:	Determiner
PP:	Prepositional phrase
Prep:	Preposition

S:	Sentence
N:	Noun
NP:	Noun Phrase
V:	Verb

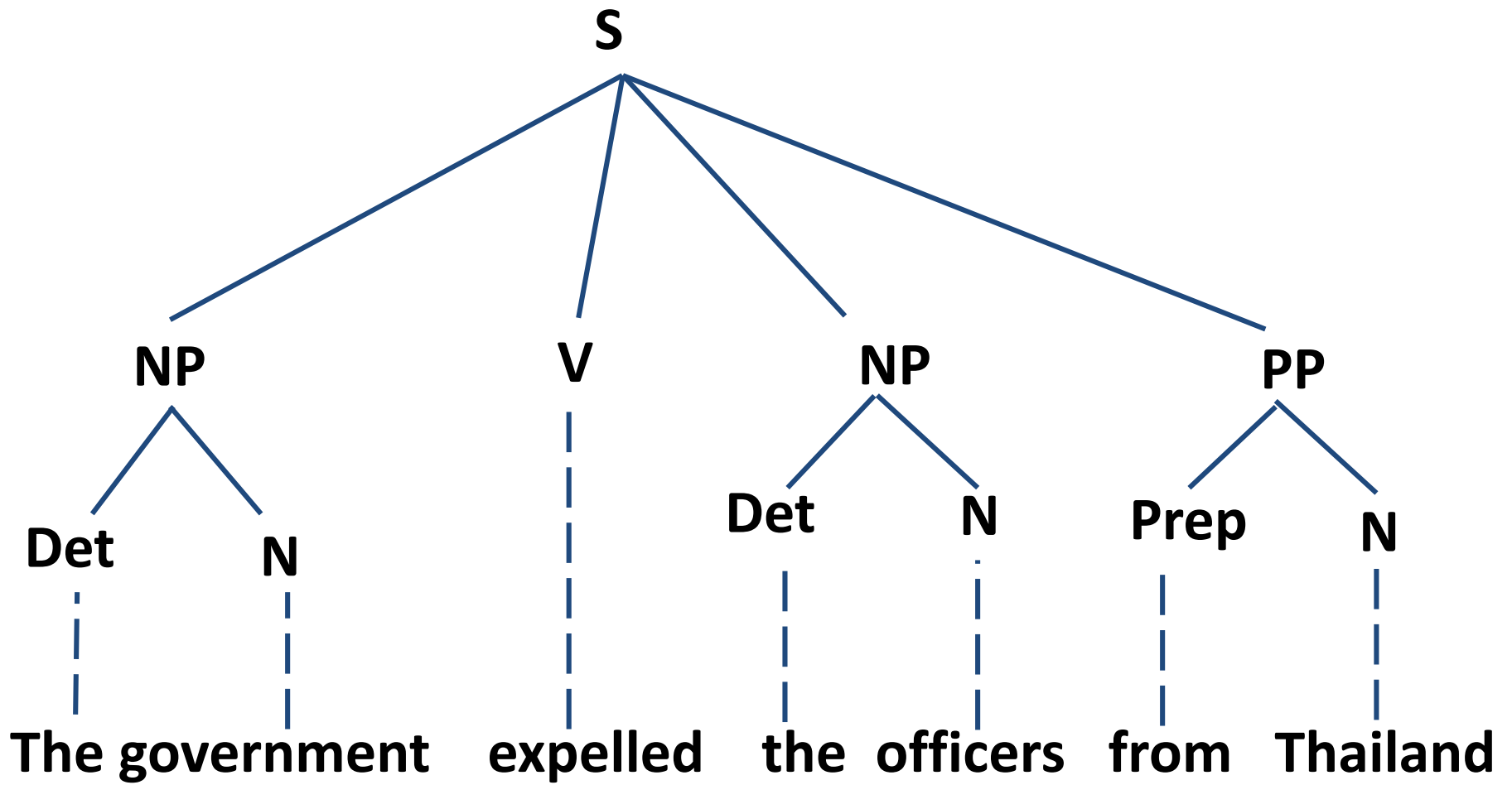


Diagram 2

VP:	Verb Phrase
Prep:	Prepositions
Det:	Determiner
PP:	Prepositional phrase

N:	Noun
NP:	Noun Phrase
V:	Verb

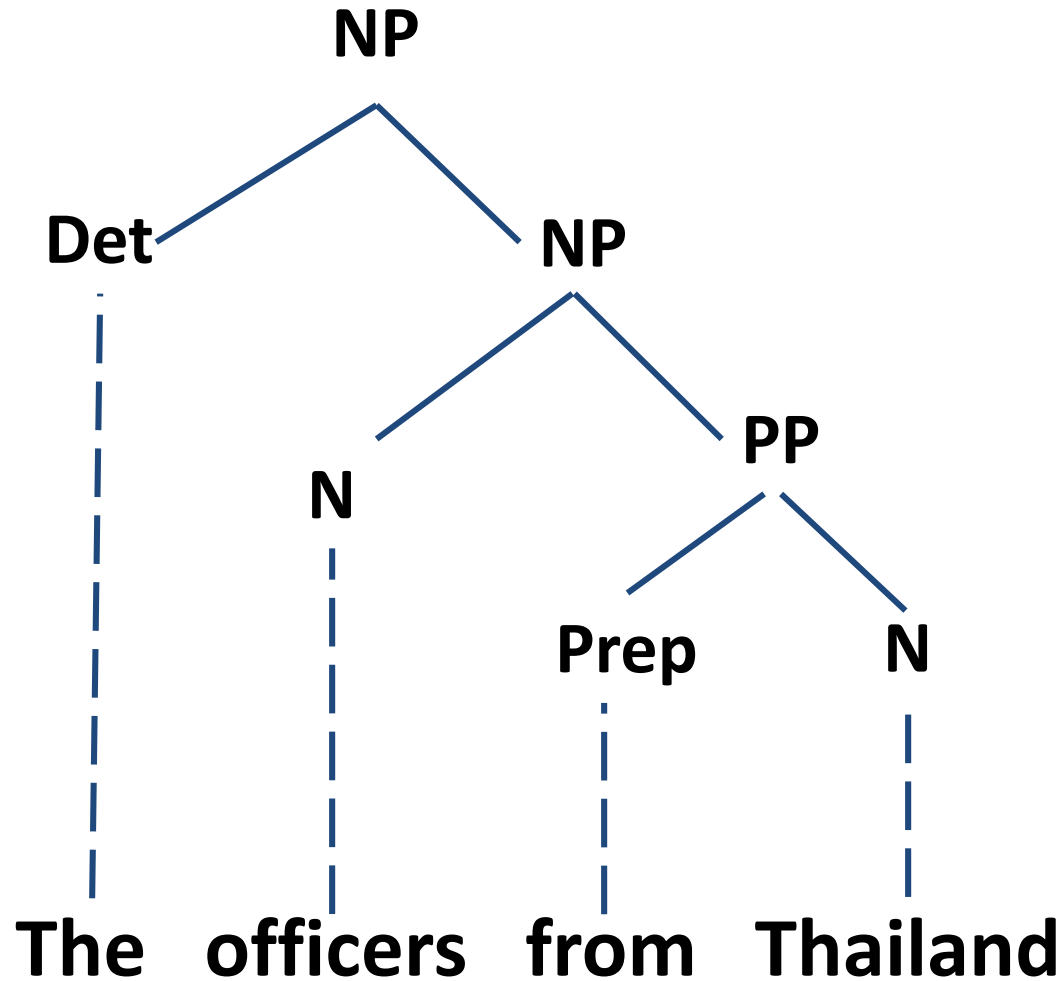


Diagram 3

VP:	Verb Phrase
Det:	Determiner
V:	Verb
Prep:	Preposition

N:	Noun
NP:	Noun Phrase
PP:	Prepositional phrase
V:	Verb

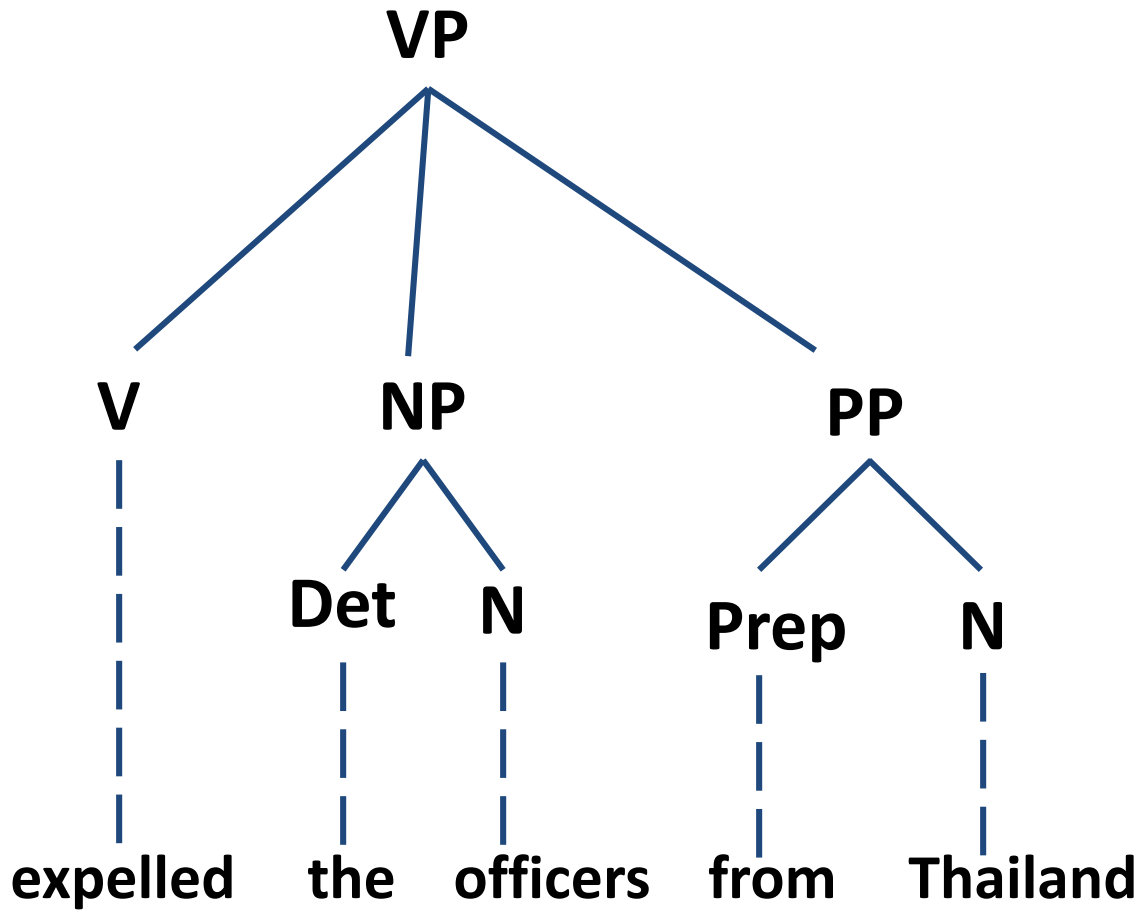


Diagram 4

VP:	Verb Phrase
Det:	Determiner
Prep:	Prepositions
PP:	Prepositional phrase

N:	Noun
NP:	Noun Phrase
V:	Verb

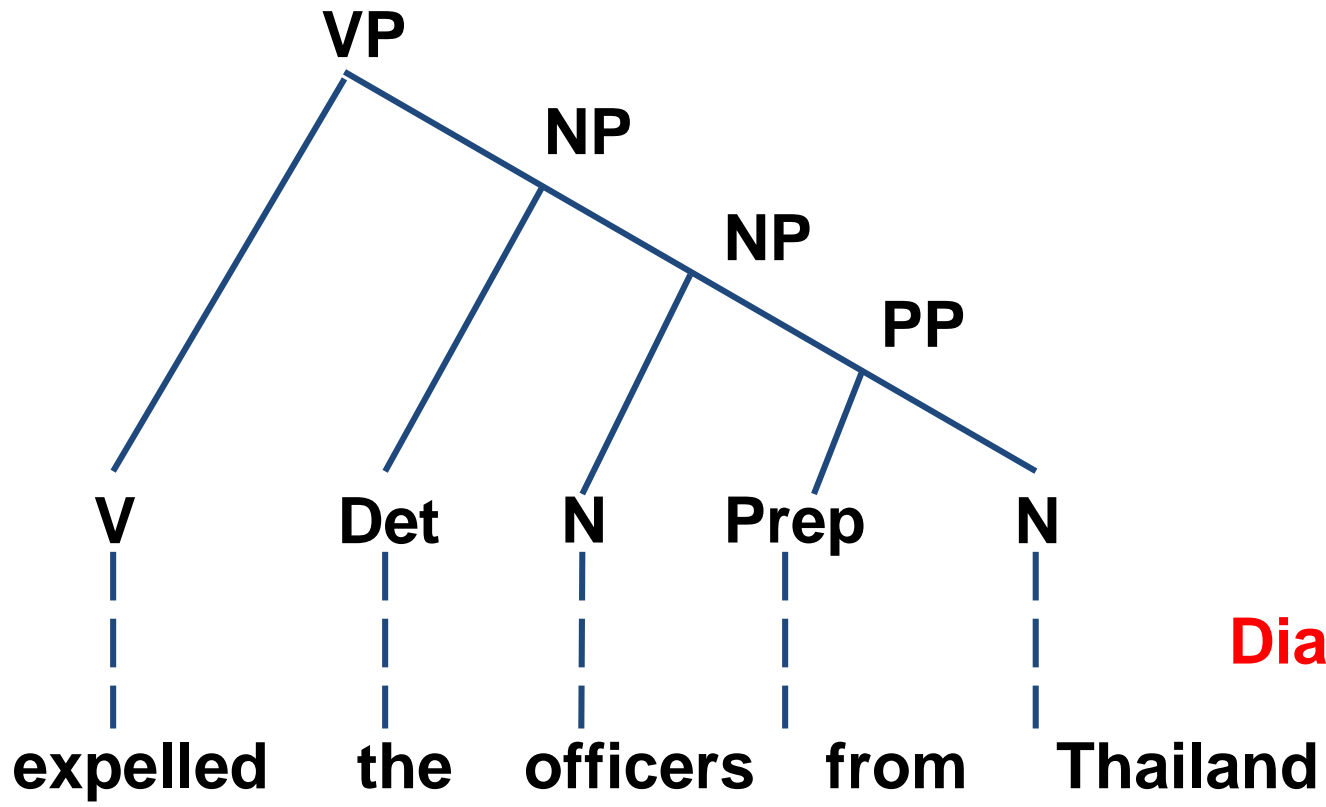


Diagram 5

Note that: not all constituents following a verb are necessarily part of the verb phrase.

VP:	Verb Phrase
Det:	Determiner
Prep:	Preposition
N:	Noun

NP:	Noun Phrase
V:	Verb
S:	Sentence
PP:	Prepositional phrase

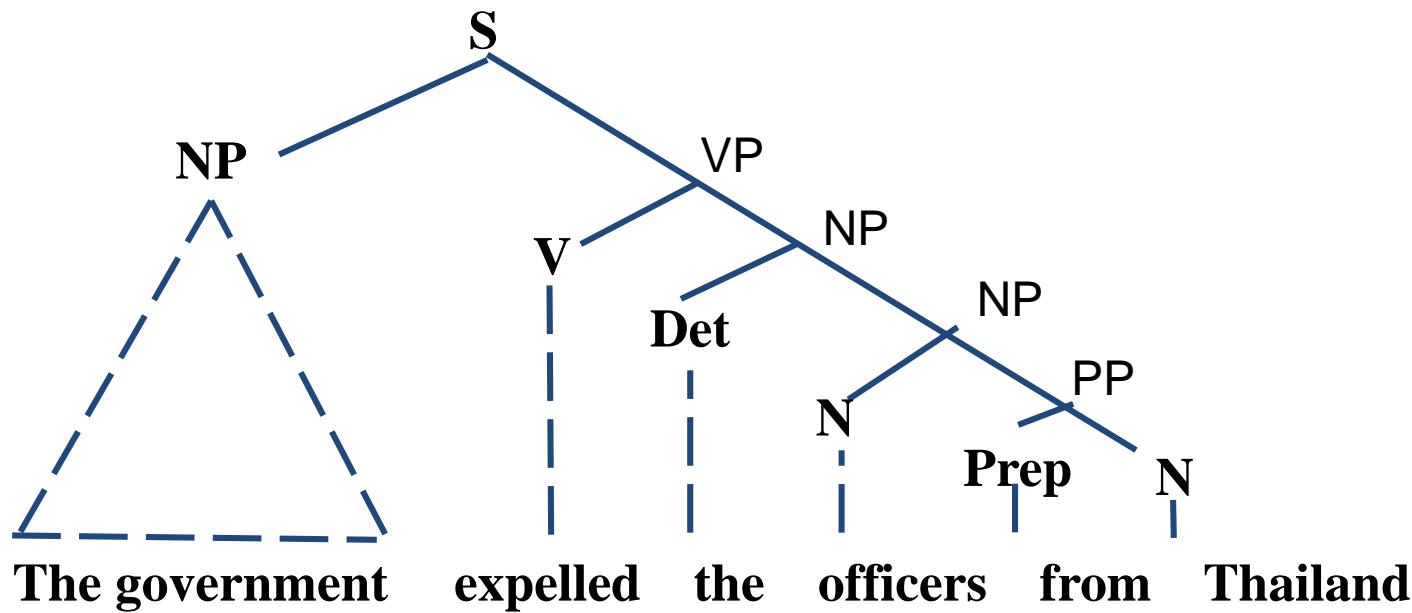


Diagram 6

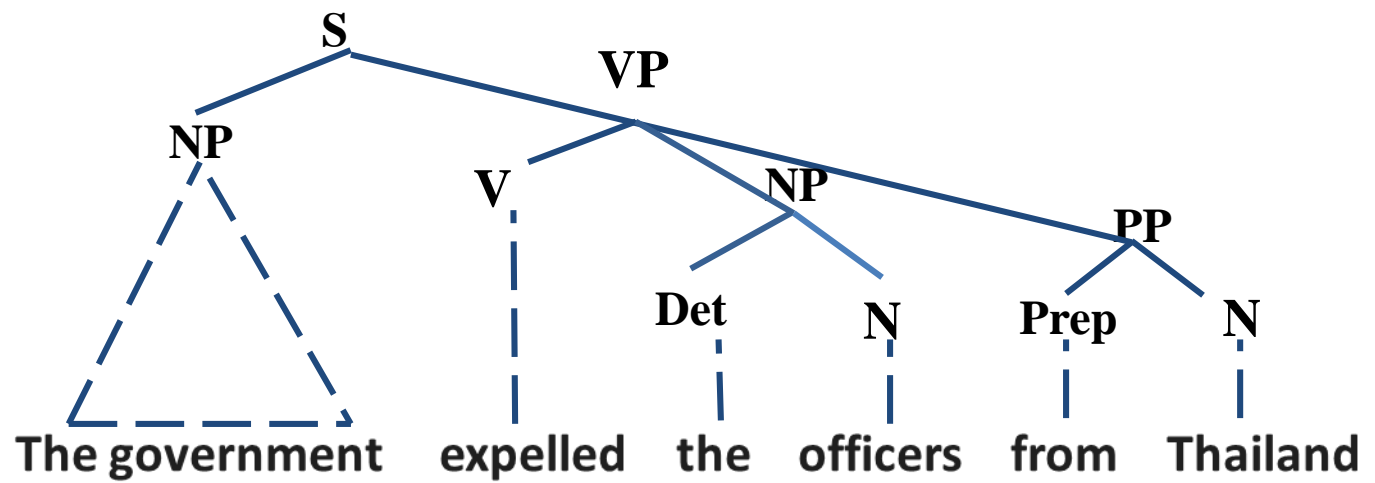
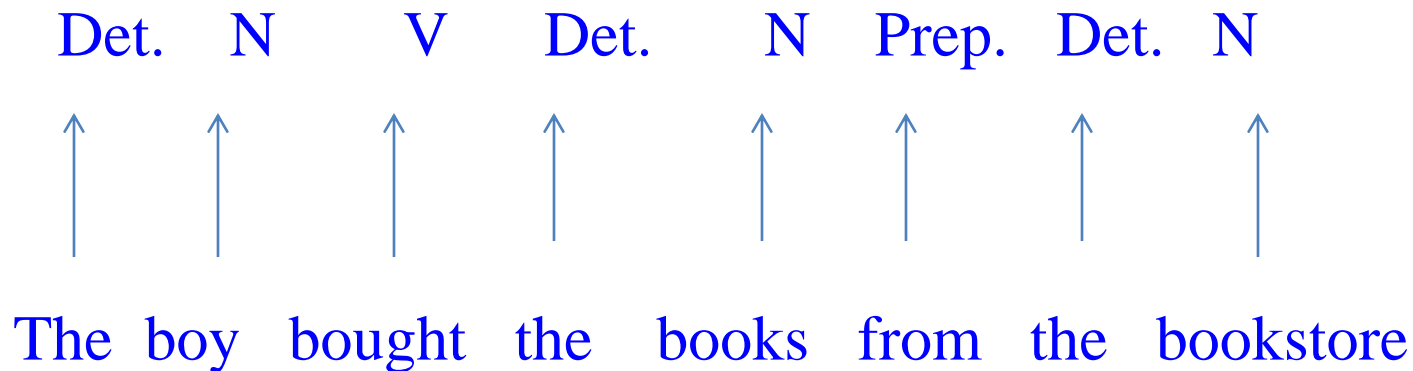


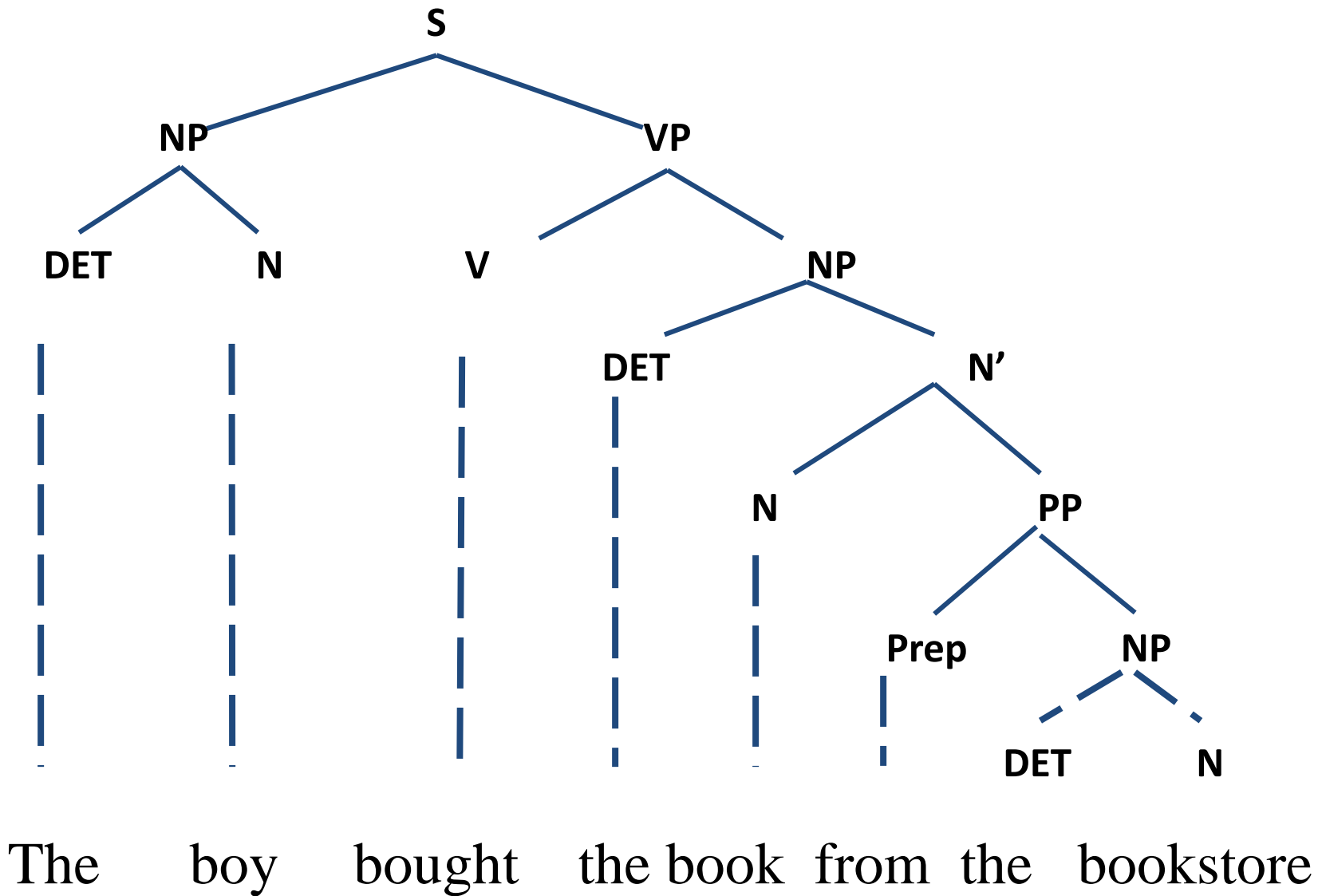
Diagram 7

3. Categoriality

Sentences are made up of parts which belong to the set of distinct categories, each with its special characteristics.

Example: The boy bought the books from the bookstore





III. Classification of sentences

☛ In traditional grammar, sentences are classified into different types in two ways :

☛  According to the purposes of utterance :

Types of sentences	Purposes
Declarative sentence	informing, declaring the fact ,opinion...
Interrogative sentence	asking question or requesting information
Imperative sentence	telling someone to do something
Exclamative sentence	expressing emotion or excitement



According to the structures

Types of sentence	Features
Simple sentence	contains only one clause (independent clause)
Compound sentence	contains two or more independent clauses coordinated with each other
Complex sentence	consists of one independent clause subordinated by one or more dependent clause
Compound-complex sentence	a combination of a compound and a complex sentence.

SENTENCES

Determine the elements of the sentences in terms of its linearity.

1/ Nuclear accidents can happen.

2/ Nuclear power plants must have strict safety controls.

3/ Solar heating systems are economical to operate.

4/ The cost of installation is very high.

5/ Energy needs are not going to decrease.

6/ Energy sources are not going to increase.

7/ Burning fossil fuel causes serious damage to our planet.

8/ We need to develop other sources of energy.

9/ Ecologists know that burning fossil fuels causes holes in the ozone layer.

10/ People continue to do it.

=> See sentence structure analysis folder for more types of sentences

- 11/ Poorer nations especially will continue this harmful practice.
- 12/ They don't have the money to develop "clean" energy sources.
- 13/ All nations of the world must take action.
- 14/ Our children and grandchildren will suffer the consequences.
- 15/ There will be a special exhibition of photographs in City Halls between Monday and Friday.
- 16/ He has travelled all around the world showing us amazing scenery, animals and different ways of living.
- 17/ People came in large numbers to Jukkasjärvi to see the Arctic Hall.
- 18/ The temperature inside the hotel changes according to the temperature outside.
- 19/ It is possible to take a train from the airport to the ICEHOTEL.
- 20/ You can make a reservation now for one of next year's tour.