

FUNCTIONAL GRAMMAR–

Chapter two

THE SKELETON OF THE MESSAGE

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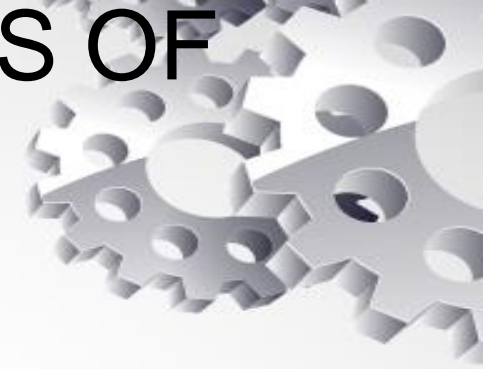


CHAPTER two OUTLINE

- Syntactic elements and structures of the clause
- Subject and Predicator
- Direct, Indirect, and Prepositional Objects
- Subject and Object Complements
- Adjuncts



SYNTACTIC ELEMENTS AND STRUCTURES OF THE CLAUSE



Example:

A crash involving four vehicles caused delays on the A14 yesterday.

(Cambridge News, 20 April, 2016)

A clause describes an event/situation/state.

SYNTACTIC ELEMENTS AND STRUCTURES OF THE CLAUSE



Subject and Predicator

Subject	Predicator
1 The plane	landed
2 Tom	disappeared suddenly after the concert

Figure 2.1 Subject (S) and Predicator (P).

Object and Complement

S	P	O
3 The students	carried	backpacks
4 Jo	is	a student
S	P	C

Figure 2.2 Object (O) and Complement (C).

BASIC SYNTACTIC STRUCTURES OF THE CLAUSE

S-P	Tom disappeared
S-P-Od	We hired a car
S-P-Oi-Od	I have sent them an invitation
S-P-Cs	My brother is a physiotherapist
S-P-A	He works in London
S-P-Od-Co	They appointed James First Secretary
S-P-Od-C _{loc}	I put the casserole in the microwave

SUBJECT AND PREDICATOR

The Subject (S)

Semantic and cognitive features

Jones kicked the ball into the net. (Agent)

The ball was kicked into the net. (Affected in a passive clause)

Lightning struck the oak tree. (Force)

His secretary has been given too much work. (Recipient in a passive clause.)



SUBJECT AND PREDICATOR



The Subject (S)

Realisations of the Subject:

- Nominal groups, e.g. *That man is crazy; The handicapped are given special facilities in public areas.*
- Finite and Non-finite clauses, e.g. *That we've gotten to this point is astonishing to me; To take such a risk is rather foolish.*
- Anticipatory It + end-placed subject, e.g. *It was impossible for everyone to escape.*
- Dummy It, e.g. *It's nearly three o'clock; It's raining.*
- Unstressed There, e.g. *There was only one letter delivered today.*

SUBJECT AND PREDICATOR



The Predicate (P)

Semantically, the predicate encodes the following main types of 'processes':

- Material processes of 'doing' with verbs like *make*, *catch*, *go*;
- Mental processes of 'experiencing' with cognitive verbs of perception (*see*), cognition (*know*), affectivity, (*like*) and desideration (*hope*)
- Relational processes of 'being' with verbs such as *be* and *belong*.

DIRECT, INDIRECT, AND PREPOSITIONAL OBJECTS

The Direct Object (Od): Realisations

- Nominal group, e.g. We hired a caravan.
- Anticipatory it, e.g. I find it strange that she left
- Finite clause, e.g. You know (that) I am right.
- Non-finite clause, e.g. They enjoy travelling by train.

DIRECT, INDIRECT, AND PREPOSITIONAL OBJECTS

The Indirect Object (Oi): Syntactic and semantic features

Examples:

- 0. I am writing *him* a letter.
- 1. I am writing a letter to *him*.
- 2. I am writing a letter for *him*.

<i>Recipient as Subject in passive clause</i>	<i>Beneficiary as Subject</i>
<i>I</i> have been lent a few CDs.	*You'll be bought a drink.
<i>The injured man</i> was given oxygen.	*We were got the tickets.
<i>The students</i> are being taught maths by Sammy Karanja.	He was left a note.

Figure 2.8 Recipient as Subject and Beneficiary as Subject.

DIRECT, INDIRECT, AND PREPOSITIONAL OBJECTS

The Prepositional Object (PO): Syntactic and

Examples:
semantic features

1. I looked after their cat.
2. You can rely on Jane in an emergency.

Stranding the preposition:

Non-stranded and stranded	Stranded only
The transport on which they rely The transport they rely on	The matter I looked into *The matter into which I looked
The friends for whom we care The friends we care for	The house they broke into *The house into which they broke

SUBJECT AND OBJECT COMPLEMENTS



The Complement of the Subject (Cs):

- Attributive Complements (S-P-Cs); E.g. *She was ambitious.*
- Identifying Complements (S-P-Cs); E.g. *Her name was Betina.*

The Complement of the Object (Co):

You (S) are making (P) me (Od) angry (Co)

Dye your hair *blue* (AdjG)/*whatever colour you like* (finite nominal clause)

ADJUNCTS

- Circumstantial Adjuncts: information concerning time, place, manner, means, etc.
- Stance Adjuncts: information concerning the speaker's attitude on the content of the
- Connective Adjuncts: are not elements but connectors of the clause structure

