

LING2005 Syntax I

Tutorial: Phrases I

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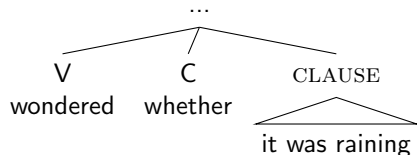
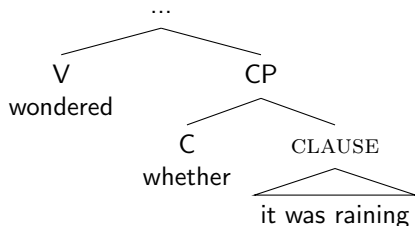


- Given (1) sentence, (2) test strings \rightarrow construct constituency tests \nrightarrow grammaticality judgment
- Given (1) sentence, (2) suggested trees \rightarrow find appropriate test strings \rightarrow construct constituency tests \nrightarrow grammaticality judgment
 - If “suggested trees” are not provided, propose possible trees
- Given (1) sentence, (2) test strings, (3) grammaticality judgment already obtained \rightarrow whether the test strings are constituents
- Given (1) sentence, (2) test strings, (3) grammaticality judgment already obtained, (4) suggested trees \rightarrow whether the test strings are constituents \rightarrow the correct tree
 - If “whether the string being tested is a constituent” is provided, skip the intermediate step
- This means there’s no need for you to perform grammaticality judgment at any stage!
 - Grammaticality judgment already obtained: from native speakers



(1) John wondered whether it was raining.

- In our discussion, it has been claimed that “that/if/whether/for + CLAUSE” is a constituent called CP. How would you argue for the constituency of “whether + CLAUSE”, i.e. Structure A (but not Structure B)? Use constituency tests (pseudo-cleft and coordination) to support your argument.





(1) John wondered whether it was raining.

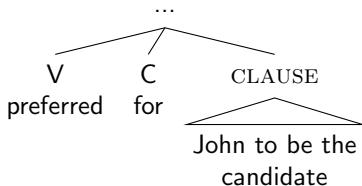
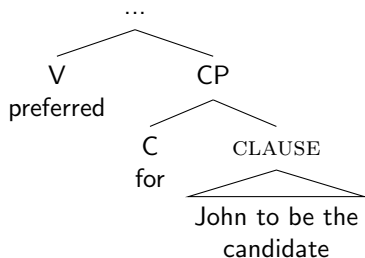
To differentiate the two structures, one can apply constituency test to find out whether “whether it was raining” is a constituent. If it is a constituent, Structure A is preferred because “whether it was raining” is a constituent in Structure A but not in Structure B. Otherwise, Structure B is preferred.

- Pseudo-cleft: What John wondered is whether it was raining.
- Coordination: John wondered whether it was raining and if they will stay home.



(2) They preferred for John to be the candidate.

- During the lecture, it was suggested that “for” is a complementizer. How would you show which structure below is better supported? Use constituency tests (topicalization, clefting, pseudo-cleft and coordination) to support your argument.





(2) They preferred for John to be the candidate.

- To distinguish between Structure A and B, one can check whether “for John to be the candidate” is a constituent. If “for John to be the candidate” is a constituent, the result supports Structure A because “for John to be the candidate” is a constituent in Structure A but not Structure B. Otherwise, Structure B is favored.
- ❶ Topicalization: Many believe that they preferred for John to be the candidate. For John to be the candidate, they (really) preferred.
- ❷ Clefting: It is for John to be the candidate that they preferred.
- ❸ Pseudo-cleft: What they preferred is for John to be the candidate.
- ❹ Coordination: They preferred for John to be the candidate and for Mary to be the examiner.



(3a) They said that Bill would play the piano.

(3b) They said Bill would play the piano.

- Consider the synonymous sentences in (3). So far we have been assuming that “that” is important in determining the clause type of the complement clause. However, some subordinate clauses may not be preceded with “that”. How can we account for the fact that the subordinate clause can have no complementizer “that”?



(3a) They said that Bill would play the piano.

(3b) They said Bill would play the piano.

- Possibility #1: one can assume that the verb “say” can select clauses with (i) a CP embedded clause and (ii) an embedded clause without CP.
- Possibility #2: “say” always selects a CP embedded clause. The C head can be “that” or an empty/silent C head.



- One can question whether it may be possible to analyze the complementizer “that” simply as the determiner “that”. However, according to Radford (1997: p. 57), there are good reasons for us to differentiate determiner “that” from complementizer “that”. Discuss how the following sentences support the claim.
- ① a. Nobody else knows about that/this/the accident.
b. *I’m sure that/*this/*the you are right.
- ② a. Nobody can blame you for that mistake. / Nobody can blame you for that.
b. I’m sure that you are right. / *I’m sure that.



- A determiner is followed by a noun or noun phrase; a complementizer is followed by a clause.
- “that” in (1a) is a determiner and can be substituted by other determiners like “this” and “this”. In contrast, “that” in (1b) cannot be substituted in the same way. If “that” in (1a) and (1b) is the same category, it is unexpected why the substitution fails in (1b). This suggests that the two “that” are of two different categories.
- The determiner “that” in (2) shows that it can be followed by a noun (e.g. (2a)) or nothing (e.g. (2b)). In contrast, the complementizer “that” must be followed by a clause. If “that” in (2a) and (2b) is the same category, it is unexpected why the complementizer “that” has to be followed by the clause. Again, the contrast suggests that the two “that” are of two different categories.



- Assignment 1 due on Oct 14
- Please scan the QR code and complete the attendance form
- Attendance does not count towards your final grades
- You are more than welcome to leave your comments, feedback, or whatever you'd like us to know, in the attendance form, which I regularly check out