

An Introductory English Grammar

Norman C. Stageberg (1981)

Second Year

Name of the Course: Syntax

The eighth lecture : Basic Sentence Patterns

Second Semester 2018-2019

Department of English

College of Education for Humanities –University of Anbar

Dr. Hutheifa Yousif Turki

Functions

To begin with, it is important to know that each position in the pattern sentence has a dual role.

- 1. Each position is the habitat of a particular part of speech. For example, in the sentence:**

The boy gobbled the hamburger. (N1 Trv N2)

the N1 and N2 positions are characteristically inhabited by nouns. They can be replaced by hundreds of other nouns.

Basic Sentence Patterns

❖ The TrV is characteristically inhabited by verbs of the kind that are followed by noun-object.

2. The second role of each position is to signal the grammatical meaning of its occupant. This also leads to the function of this occupant.

Basic Sentence Patterns

❖ Different functions can be identified in these patterns:

1. Subject of verb
2. Verb or predicator
3. Subjective complement
4. Direct object
5. Indirect object
6. Objective complement

7. Object of preposition

8. Complement of noun

9. Complement of adjective

10. Modifier

11. Connector

Three modes of classification

❖ **It is useful to examine the three major modes of classification**

- 1. Classification by Function: in this classification, specific positions in specific patterns signal specific function.**

Example: the boy gobbled the hamburger.

The position of hamburger signals the function of the direct object.

Three modes of classification

- ❖ Classification by Form: in this classification, we classify words by word-form alone.**
- ❖ Classification by Position: in classification by position, it is the part of speech, not the function, that is associated with positions.**

Three modes of classification

❖ there are four positions:

1. **Nominal:** it is the position that should be occupied by noun.
2. **Verbal:** it is the position that should be occupied by verb.
3. **Adjectival:** it is the position that should be occupied by adjective.
4. **Adverbial:** it is the position that should be occupied by adverb.

Examples:

The shouting boys will play tense.

The word shouting can be classified by form as verb, by position as adjectival, and by function as modifier