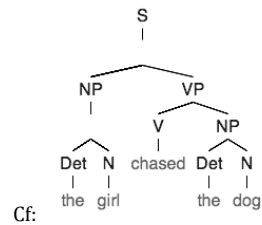


The Syntax of Greek and Latin 3: Government, concord and subjects

1 Dependency

- In phrase structure, heads not distinguished from complements/adjuncts



Cf:

- In dependency model, heads are distinguished: arrows show relationships

The girl chased the dog

- Problem: can't explain all relationships e.g. coordination

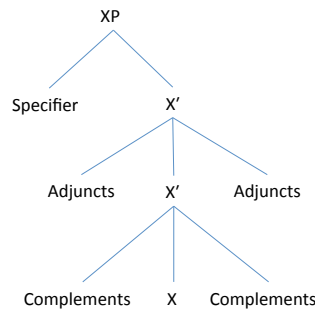
2 X-bar theory: distinguishing complements and adjuncts

- Complements and adjuncts are distinguished in rules of word order

Jerry put the money in the bank on Tuesday

??Jerry put the money on Tuesday in the bank

- Governed complements are generally closer to the head than agreeing adjuncts



3 Government and concord

- Government:** specific lexical class governs morphosyntactic feature
 - Typically between heads and complements
- Concord or agreement:** relation between words that share a morphosyntactic feature
 - Typically between head and adjunct

- Problem 1: 'semantic' agreement

- la ragazza e sua madre sono partite

- Bill and Mary were there

- Problem 2: 'direction' of concord does not always match dependency

- le ragazze sono partite

- Problem 3: prepositions

- *veni ad urbem*

I came to the city

- *proficisci ab urbe*

to set out from the city

- *Roma proficisci*

to set out from Rome

- *domum veni*

I came home

- *in urbem veni*

I came into the city

- *in urbem remansi*

I remained in the city

- *sub terram ire*

to go beneath the earth

- *sub terra habitare*

to live beneath the earth

- Historical explanation

4 Subjects are special

- Assumption: every sentence has a subject, even if there's nothing audible/visible (**overt**) in the N slot.
- Some languages allow the subject to be covert in any sentence = **pro-drop** (= 'pronoun dropping')
- We can imagine an invisible (covert) pronoun '**pro**' in the N slot

Latin: *ea Marcum amat* 'pro' *Marcum amat*

- English is a non-pro-drop language

English: *She loves Marcus* * 'pro' *Loves Marcus*

- Subjects are compulsory even with 0-place predicates/impersonal verbs:

English: * *Is raining* vs. **It** *is raining*

Latin: *ningit*

- Obligatory *It* in English doesn't = an argument (subject of weather verbs has no referent in real world).
- Compulsory verb morphology in Latin must agree in person and number with a (covert) subject
- Dummy or **expletive** subjects satisfy compulsory subject rule
- In some constructions subject must obligatorily be covert, even in non-pro-drop languages like English:

Caesar_i conatus est [SUB]_i pontes reficere]

Caesar_i tried [SUB]_i to rebuild the bridges]

**Caesar conatus est [Pompeium pontes reficere]*

* Caesar tried [Pompey to rebuild the bridges]

**Caesar_i conatus est [se_i pontes reficere]*

* Caesar_i tried [himself_i to rebuild the bridges]

- A subject always agrees with the verb in the following predicate if it is finite
- No other grammatical function is similarly involved in verbal agreement
- The case of the object is determined by the individual verb (*amo* + acc. vs. *utor* + abl. vs. *impero* + dat.)
- ... but the case of the subject depends only on whether the verb is finite (nom.) or non-finite (acc.)
- Verbs govern their objects and assign a case, so objects are complements
- But case of subject doesn't depend on the individual verb, but on whether it's finite (nom.) or not (acc.) ...
- ... and finite verbs and subjects agree in person and number ...
- ... suggesting subjects are not complements of verbs, but specifiers

5 Copular sentences

- Copula verb *esse* or εἶναι is omissible in sentences like:

sumum ius [sc. est] summa iniuria

The extreme law is the greatest injustice (Cicero)

nemo malus felix

No wicked man is happy (Juvenal)

- The copula verb is an optional device for allowing expression of verbal categories (e.g. tense, mood) and agreement that cannot be carried by the true predicate (here NP and AdjP, but also PP):

fortuna caeca (est) Fortune is blind

usus magister (est) optimus Experience is the best teacher

Caecilius (est) in horto Caecilius is in the garden

- If the verb has independent semantic content (*uideri, nasci, creari, fieri* etc.) the true predicate is the verb, and the AdjP/NP/PP must be a subject complement:
 - *nemo [nascitur diues]* No one is born rich