

LIN200: Lecture 5 Handout (Syntax)

1 Identifying Grammatical Categories

The best way to identify the grammatical category of a word is to follow the motto: “if it walks like a duck and quacks like a duck, it’s probably a duck.”

Grammatical categories used in syntax: Nouns, Verbs, Adjectives, Adverbs, Determiners, Complementizers, Conjunctions, Prepositions

1.1 Nouns

Morphological Criteria	Syntactic Criteria
- Plural morpheme <i>-s</i> - A bunch of derivational affixes: <i>-ment</i> , <i>-ness</i> , <i>-ity</i> , <i>-ation</i> , <i>-ist</i> , <i>-ery</i> , <i>-ee</i> , <i>-ship</i> , more...	[DET ___ VERB] After adjectives and prepositions

1.2 Verbs

Morphological Criteria	Syntactic Criteria
- 3rd person, singular agreement morpheme <i>-s</i> - past tense morpheme <i>-ed</i> - progressive aspect marker <i>-ing</i> - perfect aspect marker <i>-en</i> - Derivational affixes: <i>-ate</i> , <i>-ize</i> , <i>-ify</i>	[(DET) NOUN ___] after or before adverbs

1.3 Adjectives

Morphological Criteria	Syntactic Criteria
- comparative morpheme <i>-er</i> - superlative morpheme <i>-est</i> - Derivational affixes: <i>-ing</i> , <i>ive</i> , <i>-al</i> , <i>-ate</i> , <i>-ish</i> , <i>-some</i> , <i>-y</i> , more...	[DET ___ NOUN] after <i>be</i> and after adverbs

1.4 Adverbs

Morphological Criteria	Syntactic Criteria
- often end with <i>-ly</i>	[DET NOUN VERB ___]

1.5 Determiners

Morphological Criteria	Syntactic Criteria
- Articles (<i>a, the</i>) - Demonstratives (<i>this, that, these, those</i>) - Quantifiers: - Numerals: more...	[--- (ADJ) NOUN]

1.6 Complementizers

Morphological Criteria	Syntactic Criteria
- <i>that, if, whether, for</i> , null complementizer	[NOUN VERB --- NOUN VERB]

1.7 Conjunctions

Morphological Criteria	Syntactic Criteria
- <i>and, or, but</i> , more...	[NOUN + NOUN] [VERB + VERB] ...

1.8 Prepositions

Morphological Criteria	Syntactic Criteria
- <i>to, from, under, over with, by</i> more... ...	[DET NOUN VERB DET NOUN --- DET NOUN]

Jabberwocky

'Twas brillig, and the **slithy toves**
 Did gyre and gimble in the wabe;
 All mimsy were the borogoves,
 And the **mome raths outgrabe**.

“Beware the **Jabberwock**, my son!
 The jaws that bite! The claws that catch!
 Beware the J Jub bird, and shun
 The **frumious Bandersnatch**!

He took his **vorpals** sword in hand:
 Long time the manxome foe he sought—
 So rested he by the Tumtum tree,
 And stood awhile in thought.

2 Generative Rules

Syntax has three core properties:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Syntactic phrases and some (not all) generative rules that describe them

Phrase	Rules
Noun Phrase	$NP \rightarrow (DET) (ADJ) N (PP)$
Verb Phrase	$VP \rightarrow V (NP) (PP)$ $VP \rightarrow V (COMP) S$
Adjective Phrase	$AdjP \rightarrow (DEG) ADJ$
Adverb Phrase	$AdvP \rightarrow (DEG) ADV$
Prepositional Phrase	$PP \rightarrow P NP$
Sentence	$S \rightarrow NP VP$

Some trees

“The cat chased the raccoon”

“That very small dog on the porch quietly slept”