# Understanding the Semantic Tree

“The connection is **indispensable** for the expression of thought. Without the connec­tion, we would not be in a position to express a single continuous thought and we would only be capable of producing a succession of isolated images and ideas, with nothing link­ing them together.”

*Preamble, The Connection,* (Tesnière, 2015)

“Structural connections establish **dependency** relations between words. In principle, each connection unites a **superior** term and an **inferior** term. The superior term is called the **governor**, and the inferior term the **subordinate**.

A word can be both subordinate to a superior word and governor of an inferior word.

The set of words of a sentence constitutes a veritable **hierarchy**.”

*Preamble, Hierarchy of Connections,* (Tesnière, 2015)

**“Understanding** a language involves trans­forming linear order to structural order.”

*Preamble, Structural and linear order,* (Tesnière, 2015)

# Bibliography

Tesnière, L. (2015). *Elements of Structural Syntax.* Amsterdam / Philadelphia: John Benjamins Publishing Company.