

LIN 311 Syntax Recitation

Feb. 8, 2019

Parts of Speech/ Word Class/ Syntactic Categories

1. Name as many syntactic categories that you know as possible.
2. What do the following sentences tell you about the categories of the highlighted words?:
 - a. The **man** loved peanut butter cookies.
 - b. The **puppy** loved peanut butter cookies.
 - c. The **king** loved peanut butter cookies.
 - d. * The **green** loved peanut butter cookies.
 - e. * The **in** loved peanut butter cookies.

Traditionally, a noun is a person, place or a thing; a verb is an action, state or state of being.

What's the problem of this way of determining parts of speech?

Nootka

(1) Mamu:k-ma qu:ʔas-ʔi.
working-PRES man-DEF
‘The man is working.’

(2) Qu:ʔas-ma mamu:k-ʔi.
man-PRES working-DEF
‘The working one is a man’

- a. Is qu:ʔ a noun or verb in (1)?
- b. Is Mamu:k a noun or verb in (1)?
- c. Is qu:ʔ a noun or verb in (2)?
- d. Is Mamu:k a noun or verb in (2)?
- e. What criteria did you use to tell what is a noun in Nootka and what is a verb?
- f. How does this data support the idea that there are no semantic criteria involved in determining the part of speech?

Q: If we don't determine parts of speech based on meaning, how can we tell what categories the words belong to (noun, verb, etc.)?

Distribution

- Can you name some **distributional criteria (*morphological distribution & syntactic distribution*)** for determining a word as **Noun/ Verb/ Adj./ Adv/ Prepositions in English?**

1. Identify the **main parts of speech** (Nouns, Verbs, Adjectives/Adverbs, and Prepositions) in the following sentences.
 - a. The od rusty pot-belly stove has been replaced.
 - b. The horse raced past the barn fell.
 - c. The destruction of the city bothered the Mongols.
 - d. The large evil leathery alligator complained to his aging keeper about his extremely unattractive description.
 - e. The yinkish dripner blorked quastofically into the nindin with the pidibs.

Q: If a word X satisfy a distributional criteria of being an adjective, can we conclude that word X is an adjective?

If we consider suffixes *-ian* mark adjectives (e.g., (a)), can we claim the word ending in *-ian* in (b) is an adjective?

If not, which category does the word in (b) belong to? How can we account for the fact that the word in (b) ends in *-ian*?

- a. The **Canadian** government uses a parliamentary system of democracy.
- b. The **Canadian** bought himself a barbeque.

Open Class and Closed Class

Lexical Categories and Functional Categories

- Match the definition on the left with the term on the right.

1. Parts of speech that allow new members or coinages.

2. Parts of speech that provide content of the sentences.

3. Parts of speech that provide grammatical information of the sentences.

4. Parts of speech that does not allow new members or coinages.

A. Lexical Categories

B. Open Class

C. Closed Class

D. Functional Categories

Open Class and Closed Class

Lexical Categories and Functional Categories

- Match the definition and the term on the left with the categories on the right

1. **Open Class:** Parts of speech that allow new members or coinages.

2. **Lexical Categories:** Parts of speech that provide content of the sentences.

3. **Functional Categories:** Parts of speech that provide grammatical information of the sentences.

4. **Closed Class:** Parts of speech that does not allow new members or coinages.

a) Noun (not including pronouns and anaphors), Verb, Adjective, Adverb

b) Determiner, Preposition, Conjunction, Complementizer, Tense marker, Negation, and pronoun and anaphor subcategories of Noun

c) Noun (including pronouns), Verb, Adjective, Adverb.

d) Determiner, Preposition, Conjunction, Complementizer, Tense marker, Negation

1. For every word in this paragraph identify its part of speech, and mark whether each part of speech is a lexical or functional part, and whether the part of speech is open or closed.

Alice was beginning to get very tired of sitting by her sister on the bank, and of having nothing to do: once or twice she had peeped into the book her sister was reading, but it had no pictures or conversations in it, 'and what is the use of a book,' thought Alice 'without pictures or conversations?'

(Alice's Adventures in Wonderland, by Lewis Carroll, 1865)

Verbs

1. Name two words that belong to Intransitive / Transitive/ Ditransitive verbs.
2. For every verb in these two paragraphs, identify whether it is intransitive, transitive, or ditransitive.

*Next **came** the guests, mostly Kings and Queens, and among them Alice **recognized** the White Rabbit: it was **talking** in a hurried nervous manner, **smiling** at everything that was **said**, and **went** by without **noticing** her.*

*Alice did not at all **like** the tone of this remark, and **thought** it would be as well to **introduce** some other subject of conversation.*

Nouns

What do you know about the subcategories of English Nouns?
Try to give a definition and two examples of each subcategory.

- Singular vs. Plural
- Count vs. Mass
- Pronoun vs. Lexical Noun
- Proper vs. Common

For each of the nouns, identify which subcategory it belongs to.

Singular vs. Plural; Count vs. Mass; Pronoun vs. Lexical Noun; Proper vs. Common

1. New York
2. milk
3. language
4. herself
5. cats
6. sincerity
7. Syntax