TYPES OF SYNTACTIC RELATIONS IN A SENTENCE

Jizzakh branch of the National University of
Uzbekistan named after Mirzo Ulugbek
The faculty of Psychology, department of Foreign languages
Phylology and foreign languages
Teshaboyeva Nafisa Zubaydulla qizi
Student of group 301-21: **Sattorova Munisa Xolmurod qizi**

Abstract: *Syntactic relations refer to relations between words and phrases in which the structure of a sentence is visible. Understanding these relations is quite an important thing in constructing grammatically correct and meaningful sentences. This article will discuss types of syntactic relations in the English language, such as subject-predicate, object relations, modifier relations, complement relations, coordination, and subordination. All these syntactic relations contribute to the meaning of a sentence and clarity, hence enabling speakers and writers to express complicated ideas with ease. The article also looks at how recognition and usage of such relations may bring improvement in language comprehension and communication skills.*

Key Words: *Syntactic relations, subject-predicate, object relations, modifier relations, complement relations, coordination, subordination, sentence structure, independent clauses, dependent clauses.*

Introduction

The backbone of sentence structure is syntactic relations. These define how words and phrases are put together and connected to make up meaning. In accomplishing sentence construction, the need to understand syntactic relations cannot be overemphasized, since such relations explain roles played by words or phrases in a sentence. These include, among others, subject-predicate relations, object relations, and modifiers. Based on the recognition of these relationships,

speakers or writers may construct sentences which are more harmonious and meaningful.

Subject-Predicate Relation

The most basic syntactical relations in any sentence is the subject-predicate relation. The subject of a sentence is usually defined as that noun or noun phrase which acts or described by the predicate. It includes the verb and it describes what the subject does or state the subject is in.

For example:

The dog (subject) barked loudly (predicate).

In this case, "the dog" is the subject that carries out an action of barking; the "barked loudly" is a predicate, or explaining what the dog was doing.

Object Relations

Objects in a sentence are indispensable, for it is on them that the action of the verb occurs. Objects come in two categories: direct objects and indirect objects.

Direct Object: A direct object is either the noun or noun phrase which receives the action directly from the verb.

For example,

She read the book.

In this sentence, "the book" is the direct object because it is the thing that was read.

Indirect Object: Traditionally an indirect object is a noun or noun phrase that usually answers the question "to whom" or "for whom" the action is performed.

For example,

He gave her the gift.

Here, "her" is the indirect object as the gift was given to her.

Modifier Relations

Modifiers are the words or phrases that provide more information about other elements in the sentence. Some of the most common modifiers are adjectives

and adverbs. Adjectives modify nouns or pronouns whereas adverbs modify verbs, adjectives, or other adverbs.

Adjective Modifier:

For example,

The red car is parked outside.

In this sentence, the modifier "red" modifies the noun "car," telling more about the color of the car.

Adverb Modifier:

Example,

She ran quickly to catch the bus.

In this sentence, the word "quickly" is an adverb modifying the verb "ran," describing the way in which she ran.

Sometimes modifiers are phrases or clauses and involve more complexity in sentences.

Complement Relations

A complement is added information that completes the sense of a sentence. There are two main types of complements: subject complements and object complements.

Subject Complement: Normally, this follows a linking verb; it further identifies or explains the subject. It may be a noun, pronoun, or adjective.

Example:

She is a teacher.

Here, "a teacher" is the complement of the subject, as it further describes the subject "she".

Object Complement This is a complement that renames or tells us more about the direct object.

Example:

They elected her president.

In the above sentence, "president" is an object complement-a noun or pronoun that re-names, more specifically identifies, the direct object "her."

Coordination Relations

In compound sentences, coordination is used to combine two or more independent clauses of equal importance. Coordination is created using the coordinating conjunctions for, and, nor, but, or, yet, and so-known by the mnemonic FANBOYS.

For example:

He went to the store, and she went to the park.

In this example, the two independent clauses "He went to the store" and "she went to the park" are combined using the coordinating conjunction "and."

Subordination Relations

Subordination joins an independent clause (main clause) with one or more dependent clauses. Unlike main clauses, dependent clauses cannot function as complete sentences because they don't express a complete thought. They depend on the independent clause to complete the meaning. Dependent clauses usually begin with a subordinating conjunction like because, although, if, and when.

Example:

She stayed home because it was raining.

In the sentence above, "because it was raining" is a dependent clause that doesn't stand on its own and is connected with the major independent clause "She stayed home" through the subordinating conjunction "because."

Conclusion

Syntactic relations are essential to the way in which words and phrases combine in the development of sentences that make sense. Whether it's relating subjects and predicates, linking objects and verbs, or adding descriptive modifiers, these are the kinds of relationships that define the way ideas are expressed. Understanding syntactic relations allows one to reach an improved level of sentence construction; thus, engaging higher and more precise sentences. In this regard, recognition and employment of various types of syntactic relations lead to better acquisition in mastering the sentence structure, resulting in development of one's writing and speaking capabilities.

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