

Clause types

(based on material by Manfred Krifka)

Clause types

Literature: König & Siemund, “Speech act distinctions in grammar”

- Introduction
- speech act classification
- types of main clauses
- declarative clauses
- negation
- interrogative clauses
- imperative clauses
- types of embedded clauses

Type of sentence usage

- We do not just talk to express facts; it is possible to perform actions by using language, so-called **illocutionary acts**.
(Austin 1962, *How to do things with words*; Searle 1968, *Speech Acts*)
- *Explicitly performative speech acts* express the type of speech act with a verb
I (hereby) open the meeting.
I (hereby) order you to take out the garbage.
I (hereby) promise to take out the garbage.
I (hereby) declare that I will run for office
- To be distinguished from pure speech act reports
*I (*hereby) opened the meeting.*
I ordered you to take out the garbage.
I promised to take out the garbage.

Classification of speech acts according to Searle

- Searle distinguishes five classes of speech acts
 1. assertives = speech acts that commit a speaker to the truth of the expressed proposition
 2. directives = speech acts that are to cause the hearer to take a particular action, e.g. requests, commands and advice
 3. commissives = speech acts that commit a speaker to some future action, e.g. promises and oaths
 4. expressives = speech acts that expresses on the speaker's attitudes and emotions towards the proposition, e.g. congratulations, excuses and thanks
 5. declarations = speech acts that change the reality in accord with the proposition of the declaration, e.g. baptisms, pronouncing someone guilty or pronouncing someone husband and wife?

The three basic clause types

- languages frequently distinguish three types of clauses grammatically:
 1. Statements: **declarative** clauses
John takes out the garbage SVO
 2. Questions: **interrogative** clauses
Does John take out the garbage? Aux-SVO
Who brings out the garbage Wh-fronting
 3. Commands, requests: **imperative** clauses
Take out the garbage! VO, no subject

The three basic clause types

- Basic clause types do not distinguish more subtle contrasts, like question vs. request
- clause types are not restricted to their prototypical illocutionary force
 - declaratives: can be used for explicitly performative acts
I hereby declare you wife and husband.
 - interrogatives: rhetorical questions
Did he ever take out the garbage?
 - imperatives: questions
Tell me, did John take out the garbage?

Imperfect match speech acts / clause types

Speech act types

Clause types

assertives

directives

a) questions

b) requests

commissives

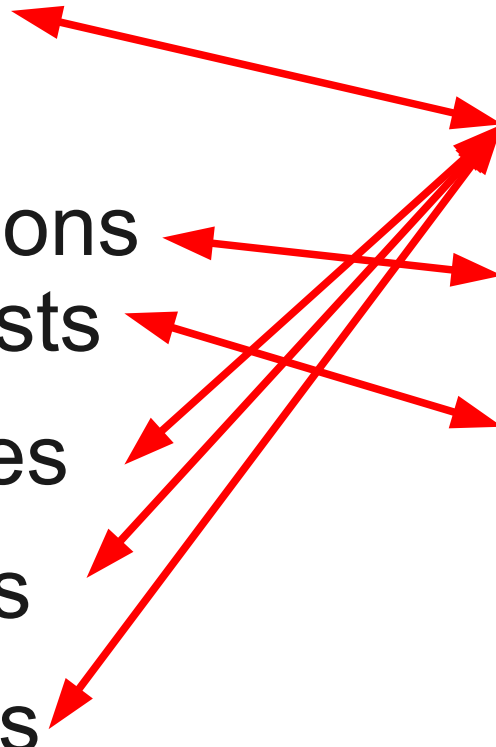
expressives

declarations

declaratives

interrogatives

imperatives



Grammaticalized distinctions in various languages

- Greenlandic: inflection

Greenlandic Eskimo

a. Iga-voq

cook-DEC.3.SG

'He cooks.'

b. Iga-va

cook-INT.3.SG

'Does he cook?'

c. Iga-git / -guk

cook-IMP.2.SG / -IMP.2/3.SG

'Cook (something) / it!'

- Nama (Khoisan): particle

Nama Hottentot

a. Declarative: NP + DEC + PredP (DEC = *ke, km*)

b. Interrogative: NP_a + (INT) + PredP (INT = *kxa*)

c. Imperative: NP_a + PredP + (IMP) (IMP = *re*)

Grammaticalized distinctions in various languages

- Korean:
agglutination,
interaction with
honorification

Speech Level		Sentence Type			
		Declarative	Interrogative	Imperative	Adhortative
High	Formal	<i>(su)pnita</i>	<i>(su)pnikka</i>	<i>(u)psio</i>	<i>(u)psita</i>
	Polite	<i>(e)yo</i>	<i>(e)yo</i>	<i>(e)yo</i>	<i>(e)yo</i>
Mid	Blunt	<i>so</i>	<i>so</i>	<i>so</i>	<i>so</i>
	Familiar	<i>ney</i>	<i>na</i>	<i>key</i>	<i>sey</i>
Low	Intimate	<i>e</i>	<i>e</i>	<i>e</i>	<i>e</i>
	Plain	<i>ta</i>	<i>(nu)nya</i>	<i>la</i>	<i>ca</i>

Grammaticalized distinctions in various languages

- in many languages, declarative mood is basic

Shona

- a. ndi-nó-tàür-à
1.SG-PRES-speak-DEC
'I speak.'
- b. ndi-nó-tàür-à hèré?
1.SG-PRES-speak-DEC INT
'Do I speak?'

Japanese

- a. Sakana-o tabe-ro/-te (kudasai)!
fish-ACC eat-IMP
'Eat the fish!'
- b. Sakana-o tabe-ru.
fish-ACC eat-PRES.DEC
'I eat fish.'
- c. Sakana-o tabe-ru-ka?
fish-ACC eat-PRES.DEC-INT
'Do you eat fish?'

How is this in English, German, ... ?

Embedded clauses and clause types

- many languages distinguish clause types in embedded clauses
- English: different subordinators:
 - embedded declaratives: *that*
John knows that Bill took out the garbage.
 - embedded interrogatives: *if, whether, wh-*
John knows whether/if Bill/who took out the garbage
 - embedded imperatives: infinitive marker *to*
John asked Bill to take out the garbage
- Greenlandic: verbal inflection
neri-sutit ‘that you eat’
neri-guit ‘whether you eat’

Declarative clauses

- declarative clauses are typically used for assertive speech acts, but have many different usages
- additional markings:
 - strength of the declaration: particles, question tags
You are quite happy, aren't you?
 - Evidentiality

Negation: symmetric/asymmetric

- in some languages, negation can be combined with most clause types in a modular way; so-called **symmetric negation**

- example: German

Peter kommt heute. / Peter kommt heute nicht.

Peter kam gestern. / Peter kam gestern nicht.

Kommst du? / Kommst du nicht?

Komm bitte! / Komm bitte nicht!

- some languages have **asymmetric negation**

- example: Finnish, negative verb

tule-n 'I am coming' *e-n tule* 'I am not coming.'

tul-i-n 'I came' *e-n tulut* 'I did not come.'

- example: Burmese, negation replaces tense/aspect morpheme

θwa-dé 'he came/is coming'

'he doesn't/didn't come'

θwa-mé 'he will come'

ma-θwa-bu

'he will not come'

θwa-bí 'he has come'

'he has not come'

Negation: symmetric/asymmetric

- [WALS map](#)

Expressions of negation

- negation particle: German

*Anna kommt **nicht***

- negative verb: Finish

ne du-da bla ne yi-da bla du

1SG thresh-PRT rice 1SG NEG-PRT rice thresh

- negative verbal morphology: Yukhagir

*met numö-ge **el-jaqa-te-je***

1SG house-LOC NEG-reach-FUT-INTR.1SG

'I will not reach the house.'

- double negation: French

Je ne vois pas la lune. 'I do not see the moon.'

- negative determiner: German

*Ich aß **kein** Fleisch.*

Expressions of negation

- [WALS map](#)

Negation and indefinite pronouns

- In many languages, indefinite pronouns have special forms under negation
- Russian: predicate negation+negative indefinite (“negative concord”)
Nikto ne prishel. Ja ne videla nichego.
nobody NEG came I NEG saw nothing
'Nobody came' 'I haven't seen anybody'
- English: predicate negation + negative polarity item (NPI)
John didn't see anybody.
- German: negative indefinite does not co-occur with predicate negation
*Niemand ist (*nicht) gekommen.*
- German dialects like Bavarian: negative concord
Gesdan han e neamd ned gseng
Yesterday have I nobody not seen (“Yesterday I didn't see anybody”)
- negative existential construction: Nelemwa (Oceanic, New Caledonia)
Kia agu i uya
not.exist person 3SG arrive
'Nobody came.'

Negation and indefinite pronouns

- [WALS map](#)
- note that the German/Dutch type is typologically quite rare

Questions

- Three types of questions:
 - Yes-no questions
Will Mary meet that person tomorrow?
 - Constituent questions
Who will meet that person tomorrow?
Whom will meet Mary tomorrow?
When will Mary meet that man?
 - multiple questions
Who will meet whom when?
 - Alternative questions
Will Mary or John meet that man tomorrow?

Constituent questions

- Function of constituent questions
Whom will Mary meet tomorrow?
'For what person x does it hold: Mary will meet x tomorrow?'
- wh-pronoun represents a variable the value of which is being asked for
- case/agreement signals syntactic function
- type (in/animate etc.) signals semantic sort

Position of question pronouns

- possible syntactic positions
 - “in situ”: Japanese
Mariko-san wa nani o tabemashita ka?
Mariko-Sir TOP what ACC eat.PAST Q
also possible in German in echo questions
Du hast was gesagt?
 - clause initial (English, German)
 - in multiple questions:
 - only one wh-phrase fronted: English: *Who will eat what?*
 - all wh-phrases fronted: Romanian, slavic languages:
Cine ce t-a spus
who what you-have told
 - movement into focus position, for instance

(5) Basque (Saltarelli et al. 1988: 6)

<i>aita-k</i>	<i>Mikel</i>	<i>nola</i>	<i>erama-n</i>	<i>du</i>	<i>etxe-ra</i>
father-SG.ERG	Michael	how	carry-PERF	3ABS.3ERG.PRES	house.SG.ALLAT
'How has father carried Mikel home?'					

Position of question pronouns

- [WALS map](#)
- [correlation with word order](#)

Types of interrogative pronouns

- some languages have only one interrogative pronoun
- many languages make animate/inanimate distinction (*who vs. what*)

Types of interrogative pronouns

- German:

<i>wer/wem/wen/wessen</i>	PERSON		
<i>was/wessen</i>	THING		
<i>weshalb</i>	REASON		
<i>weswegen</i>	REASON		
<i>wessentwegen</i>	REASON		
<i>(um) wessentwillen</i>	REASON		
<i>wann</i>	TIME		
<i>welch-</i>	SELECTION		
<i>warum</i>	REASON		
<i>wie</i>	MANNER	<i>wobei</i>	<i>woraus</i>
<i>wieso</i>	REASON	<i>wodurch</i>	<i>worin</i>
<i>inwieweit</i>	EXTENT, EXPLANATION (?)	<i>wofür</i>	<i>worüber</i>
<i>inwiefern</i>	EXTENT, EXPLANATION (?)	<i>wogegen</i>	<i>worum</i>
<i>wieviel</i>	QUANTITY	<i>wohinter</i>	<i>worunter</i>
<i>wievielt-</i>	RANK	<i>womit</i>	<i>wovon</i>
<i>wo</i>	PLACE	<i>wonach</i>	<i>wovor</i>
<i>woher</i>	PLACE FROM	<i>woran</i>	<i>wozu</i>
<i>wohin</i>	PLACE TO	<i>worauf(hin)</i>	<i>wozwischen</i>

Types of interrogative pronouns

- Tamil

<i>yār</i>	‘who’	<i>eḍu</i>	‘what/which (singular)’
<i>yārudeiya</i>	‘whose’	<i>eḍunadeiya</i>	‘of what/which’
<i>yārukku</i>	‘for who’	<i>eḍukku</i>	‘for what/which’
<i>yārei</i>	‘whom’	<i>eḍei</i>	‘what/which (object)’
<i>yārudan</i>	‘with whom’	<i>eḍanudan</i>	‘with what/which’
<i>eval</i>	‘who (masculine)’		
<i>evan</i>	‘who (feminine)’		
<i>evar</i>	‘who (honorific)’		
<i>evai</i>	‘what/which (plural)’		
<i>enna</i>	‘what’		

Formal properties of interrogative pronouns

- in indo-european languages, interr. pronouns are regular (English: wh-)
- similar regularities in other languages:
 - Apalai (Caribbean): *o-*
 - Kilvila (Austronesian): *a-*
 - Tamil: *e-*
 - Thai: *-ay*
- There are also languages without obvious regularities:
 - Wardaman (Australian):
 - Yinggiya *'who'*
 - ngamanda *'what'*
 - gua *'where'*
 - nyangurlang *'when'*
 - gungarma *'how'/'how many'*

Interrogative pronouns and indefinites

- in many languages, there is a close relationship between interrogative and indefinite pronouns
- example: German
 - identity of form
 - Er hat gestern in dem leeren Gebäude wen gesehen.*
 - Sie hat was interessantes herausgefunden.*
 - Er hat das Messer wo hingelegt.*
- Korean: no fronting of interr. phrases, thus genuine ambiguity
 - Mary-k nwues-ul masi-ess-ni?*
 - Mary-NOM what/something-ACC drink-PRET-Q
 - 'Did Mary drink anything?'/ 'What did Mary drink?'

Interrogative pronouns and indefinites

- Derivation of indefinites from interrogatives: German
Es wird schon irgendwer da sein.
Wir werden das irgendwie schaffen.
- Example: Nivkh (Paleo-Siberian)
sid 'what' *sid-lu* 'something'
an 'who' *an-lu* 'somebody'
rain 'where' *rain-lu* 'somewhere'
rad 'which' *rad-lu* 'some'
- this pattern is quite common; indefinite is always more complex in such systems

Interrogative pronouns and indefinites

- [WALS map](#)

Markings of yes-no questions

- Intonation usually rising
- interrogative particle
 - clause final: *-ka* in Japanese
 - clause initial: *ci* in Yiddish, *est-ce que* in French
- Question tags: *He went to New York, didn't he?*
non-obligatory, always sentence final, can be sensitive to polarity of the question, as in English, cf. *He didn't go to NY, did he?*
- disjunctive structures, for instance in Chinese:

<i>ta zai jia bu zai jia?</i>	<i>ni hui bu hui da-zi?</i>
3SG at home NEG at home	2SG know.how NEG know.how type
'Is he home'	'Do you know how to type?'
- question marking as part of verbal inflection: Greenlandic
takuvoq 'He sees.' *takua?* 'Does he see?'

Markings of yes-no questions

- [WALS map](#)
- note that marking via word order, though common in Europe, is otherwise rare
- [position of polar question particle](#)

Imperatives

- Express orders, requests, wishes:
Give me that book!
Please take more cake.
Take care!
- Typically directed towards addressee of utterance (2nd person); category of imperative also includes:
 - Hortative: *Let's go!* (directed towards 1st person)
 - Optative: *May he be well.* (directed towards 3rd person)

Marking of imperatives

- Special imperative marking on the verb, for instance Limbu, Tibteto-Burman, Nepal

a. *Ips-∅-ε?!
sleep-2 SG-IMP
'Sleep!'*

b. *Ips-amm-ε?!
sleep-2 PL-IMP
'Sleep!'*

- fusion with person maker, eg. Evenki (Tungusiaon, Siberia)
Purta-va-s min-du bu:-kel
knife-ACC.DEF-2SG.POSS 1SG-DAT give-2SGIMP
- imperatives are expressed by bare verb stem, eg. German
- Special imparative stems (suppletion):
German: *nehm-en/nimm*, *geb-en/gib*

Imperative marking in Evenki (Tungusian)

- Full marking for all persons

1.sg	<i>baka-cta</i>	'let me find'
2.sg	<i>baka-kal</i>	'find'
3.sg	<i>baka-gin</i>	'let him/her find'
1.pl.excl	<i>baka-cta-vun/baka vvun</i>	'let us find'
1.pl.incl	<i>baka-gat</i>	'let us find'
2.pl	<i>baka-kallu</i>	'(you pl) find'
3.pl	<i>baka-ktyn</i>	'let them find'

Morphological marking of imperatives

- [WALS map](#)

Prohibitives

- Negative imperatives are not just negations of orders, but orders not to do something (probitives)
Komme nicht! \neq I do not order you to come.
= I order you not to come.
- Marking strategies:
 - Simple negation (cf. German)
 - Special negation
 - English *Don't be stupid!* (**Aren't stupid!*)
 - Evenki: *Tala e-ke girku-ra*
there NEG.AUX2.SG.IMP go-PART
 - Finnish: *Al-kää tul-ko*
NEG-2PL.IMP come-IMP
 - Special imperative form with negation: Spanish
Canta! 'Sing!' (sg) *Cantad* 'Sing!' (pl)
No cantes 'Don't sing!', *No Cantéis!* 'Don't sing!'

Marking of prohibitives

- [WALS map](#)

Exclamatives

- Don't serve to convey a proposition (the expressed proposition is usually presupposed), but to express emotional attitudes of the speaker about a proposition
 - What a naughty dog he is!*
 - What an amazing game that was!*
 - How well everyone played!*
- In many languages syntactically related to interrogatives
- Frequently syntactic form subordinate questions, but special intonational contour
- Sometimes specific particles:
 - Boy, that's interesting.*
 - Ist das aber interessant!*