



Noun Clauses

Their functions



Nouns

- This category includes...
 - common nouns,
 - proper nouns,
 - pronouns.



Functions of nouns

- Nouns function as...
 - subjects,
 - objects,
 - complements.



Nouns as subjects

- Nouns function as subjects in subject-verb combinations.
 - My **car** is in the shop.
 - **Abraham Lincoln** was elected President of the United States twice.
 - **That** happened many years ago.



Nouns as objects

- Nouns function as objects of...
 - ...verbs (I will pass that **test**.)
 - ...prepositions (We listened carefully to **her**.)
 - ...infinitives (They plan to visit **Paris**.)
 - ...gerunds (Changing the **law** is seldom easy.)
 - ...participles (Knowing **that**, we chose to stay.)
 - ...verbals (They want us to buy the **cake**.)



Nouns as complements

- Nouns function as complements...
 - ...of subjects (She is a **nurse**.)
 - ...of objects of verbs (They call him **Harry**.)



Noun clauses as objects of verbs (SVO)



DEP and its function...(1a)

- Do you know where they went?
 - DEP?
 - Observation?
 - DEP Function?
 - DEP identity?



DEP and its function...(1b)

- *Do you know where they went?*
 - **DEP:** *where they went*
 - **observation:** The action of the verb *Do...know* points directly at the DEP.
 - **DEP function:** object of the verb *Do...know*
 - **DEP identity:** noun clause



DEP and its function...(1c)

- *He explained, in English, that Bobby had the opportunity to make a big change. (Grisham, 2010, p. 241)*
- DEP?
 - Observation?
 - DEP Function?
 - DEP identity?

DEP and its function...(1d)

- *He explained, in English, that Bobby had the opportunity to make a big change.* (Grisham, 2010, p. 241)
 - **DEP:** *that Bobby had the opportunity to make a big change*
 - **observation:** The action of the verb *explained* points directly at the DEP.
 - **DEP function:** object of the verb *explained*
 - **DEP identity:** noun clause



DEP and its function...(1e)

- *I now ask if that has happened.*
(Grisham, 2010, p. 57)
- DEP?
 - Observation?
 - DEP Function?
 - DEP identity?

DEP and its function...(1f)

- *I now ask if that has happened.* (Grisham, 2010, p. 57)
 - **DEP:** *if that has happened*
 - **observation:** The action of the verb *ask* points directly at the DEP.
 - **DEP function:** object of the verb *ask*
 - **DEP identity:** noun clause

Subordinators:

| I know... | I don't know... |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| ... what happened. | ... if we can finish |
| ... where they live. | ... whether she will like it. |
| ... who knows that. | ... why they did it. |
| ... that they know. | |
| ... whom they called. | |
| ... how they know. | |
| ... when they found out. | |
| ... which course I need. | |



What do you notice?

- *And you believe he's telling the truth?*
(Grisham, 2010, p. 197)
- *Mr. Hogan said that the jury would learn that the Duffy marriage had not been a happy one.* (Grisham, 2010, p. 65)
- *Theo did not know if he'd been followed, or if the stairwell was one of Omar's smoking places.* (Grisham, 2010, p. 194)



Noun clauses as complements of subjects



DEP and its function...(2a)

- *That is not where they live.*
 - DEP?
 - Observation?
 - DEP Function?
 - DEP identity?



DEP and its function...(2b)

- *That is not where they live.*
 - **DEP:** *where they live*
 - **observation:** DEP identifies the subject *That*.
 - **DEP function:** complement of the subject *That*
 - **DEP identity:** noun clause



DEP and its function...(2c)

- *That's what the bank said.* (Grisham, 2010, p. 211)
 - DEP?
 - Observation?
 - DEP Function?
 - DEP identity?



DEP and its function...(2d)

- *That's what the bank said.* (Grisham, 2010, p. 211).
 - **DEP:** *what the bank said*
 - **observation:** DEP identifies the subject *That*.
 - **DEP function:** complement of the subject *That*
 - **DEP identity:** noun clause



Noun clauses as objects of infinitives



DEP and its function...(4a)

- *Everyone wanted to know where they went.*
 - DEP?
 - Observation?
 - DEP Function?
 - DEP identity?

DEP and its function...(4b)

- *Everyone wanted to know where they went.*
 - **DEP:** *where they went*
 - **observation:** The action of the infinitive *to know* points directly at the DEP.
 - **DEP function:** object of the infinitive *to know*
 - **DEP identity:** noun clause



DEP and its function...(4c)

- *I'd like to know what this witness allegedly saw.* (Grisham, 2010, p. 196)
- DEP?
 - Observation?
 - DEP Function?
 - DEP identity?

DEP and its function...(4d)

- *I'd like to know what this witness allegedly saw.* (Grisham, 2010, p. 196)
 - **DEP:** *what this witness allegedly saw*
 - **Observation:** The action of the infinitive *to know* points directly at the DEP.
 - **DEP Function:** object of the infinitive *to know*
 - **DEP identity:** noun clause



DEP and its function...(4e)

- *Duffy refused to admit that he had been desperate.* (Grisham, 2010, p. 213)
- DEP?
 - Observation?
 - DEP Function?
 - DEP identity?

DEP and its function...(4f)

- *Duffy refused to admit that he had been desperate.* (Grisham, 2010, p. 213)
 - **DEP:** *that he had been desperate*
 - **Observation:** The action of the infinitive *to admit* points directly at the DEP.
 - **DEP Function:** object of the infinitive *to admit*
 - **DEP identity:** noun clause



Noun clauses as objects of prepositions



DEP and its function...(3a)

- *They talked about where they went.*
 - DEP?
 - Observation?
 - DEP Function?
 - DEP identity?



DEP and its function...(3b)

- *They talked about where they went.*
 - **DEP:** *where they went*
 - **observation:** DEP combines with the preposition *about* to form one unit.
 - **DEP function:** object of the preposition *about*
 - **DEP identity:** noun clause



DEP and its function...(3c)

- *He pointed to a spot in some trees in a dogleg on the sixth fairway, and spoke rapidly about what he had seen. (Grisham, 2010, p. 123)*
- DEP?
 - Observation?
 - DEP Function?
 - DEP identity?

DEP and its function...(3d)

- *He pointed to a spot in some trees in a dogleg on the sixth fairway, and spoke rapidly about what he had seen.* (Grisham, 2010, p. 123)
 - **DEP:** *what he had seen*
 - **observation:** DEP combines with the preposition *about* to form one unit.
 - **DEP function:** object of the preposition *about*
 - **DEP identity:** noun clause



Noun clauses as objects of gerunds



DEP and its function...(5a)

- *Knowing where they went is essential.*
 - DEP?
 - Observation?
 - DEP Function?
 - DEP identity?



DEP and its function...(5b)

- *Knowing where they went is essential.*
 - **DEP:** *where they went*
 - **observation:** The action of the gerund *Knowing* points directly at the DEP.
 - **DEP function:** object of the gerund *Knowing*
 - **DEP identity:** noun clause



DEP and its function...(6)

- *Knowing where they went is essential.*
 - DEP?
 - Observation?
 - DEP Function?
 - DEP identity?

DEP and its function...(6)

- *Knowing where they went is essential.*
 - **DEP:** *where they went*
 - **observation:** The action of the gerund *Knowing* points directly at the DEP.
 - **DEP function:** object of the gerund *Knowing*
 - **DEP identity:** noun clause

References

- Grisham, J. (2010). *Theodore Boone: Kid lawyer*. New York: Puffin Books.



Overview

- Nouns (common nouns, proper nouns, pronouns) fulfill grammatical functions in clauses.
- Noun clauses function in sentences as nouns do.
- So, as nouns fulfill grammatical functions in sentences, noun clauses do too.
- **Reminder:** In terms of dependent clauses, function always reveals identity.