

Simple Sentences and Finiteness

- **The clause and the simple sentence**
 - A **clause** is a sentence with a predicate, typically centered around a verb.
 - A **simple sentence** is a sentence that contains just one clause.
 - A little initiative goes a long way towards a better workout.
 - Childreach has hitched its Wagon to a Hollywood star vehicle in no uncertain terms.
 - The priceless publicity boost from the movie landed in the charity's lap two years ago. [*The Times-Picayune* and *Parade*]

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- A clause has a subject and a predicate
 - **Predicate** in this sense comprises the verb + modifiers and phrases selected by the verb
 - A simple sentence has just one predicate.
- An **independent sentence or clause** can stand alone, without being attached to another clause
 - An independent clause in many languages must contain a finite verb.
 - **Finite verbs** are marked for grammatical categories associated with verbs: tense, aspect, person-number agreement.

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– Independent clauses in other languages:

- Na bànjal-ya na ana-na lai nyungga (Kambera)
3SG:SU-put-3SG:OBJ the child-3SG at I
'He left his child with me.'
- Dytyna spyt'. (Ukrainian)
child sleep:PRES:3SG
'The child is asleep.'
- Ape yu ati o de. (Ndyuka)
there your heart FUT be
'Your heart will be there.'

– Some languages allow independent clauses consisting of a subject and predicate with no verb:

- Al-bet da nadif katir (Chadian Arabic)
DEF-house this:M:SG clean very
'This house is very clean.'

- **Finiteness and auxiliaries**

– A finite verb can be a **main verb** or an **auxiliary** ('helping verb').

- An auxiliary always co-occurs with a main verb.
 - Kim hasn't read this book but Bill has [elliptical]
- In English only one verb per clause can be finite.
 - John doesn't like coffee.
 - *John doesn't likes coffee.
 - *John doesn't liked coffee.

– A main verb typically has more semantic content than an auxiliary.

- 'Auxiliaries are words that express the tense, aspect, mood, voice, or polarity of the verb with which they are associated' (Schachter 1985).
- In some languages both the main verb and the auxiliary carry the grammatical category information (Warlpiri).

- Modal auxiliaries
 - Express permission, necessity, ability, etc.
 - English modals don't take 3:SG marker -s
 - *Kim *mays* come over tonight.
 - English modals do show past/non-past distinction:
 - *Can/could, may/might, shall/should, will/would, must*
 - Modals precede the bare uninflected form of the verb.
- Aspectual auxiliaries: *have, be*
 - Main verb uses: *Kim is happy, I had a cold*
 - Aspectual auxiliary uses:
 - Progressive: Lee is singing.
 - » *Be* preceding the present participle
 - Perfect: Mary has left.
 - » *Have* preceding the past participle
- Main verb appears at the end of a string of auxiliaries:
 - Jack **may have been working** late.

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- Cross-linguistic variation
 - Many Indo-European languages + Basque use the equivalent of 'have' and 'be' as auxiliaries.
 - Some languages express aspect with inflections on the main verb and not auxiliaries
 - Yaharika nu-tikuwa-**ni** (Bare)
now 1SG-lie-PROGRESSIVE
'I am lying down now.'
 - i-tfkua-**na**
3SG-lie.down-PERFECT
'He has lain down already.'
 - Some languages have auxiliaries not found in English
 - Bi dukuwun-ma duku-ca-w (Evenki)
I letter-OBJ write-PAST-1SG
'I wrote a letter.'
 - Bi dukuwun-ma ∂-∂-w duku-ra
I letter-OBJ NEG.AUX-PAST-1SG write-PARTICIPLE
'I didn't write a letter.'

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- **Non-finite verbs**

- Some languages only have finite verbs (Mohawk, Nahuatl, Nunggubuy, Ainu)
- Non-finite verbs are generally not marked for grammatical categories
- **Infinitives**
 - Not particularly common
 - Some languages have special inflections
 - French *-er, -ir, -re*
 - In English, we have to identify an infinitive by its distribution
 - Modals require a following (bare) infinitive
 - *to* is an infinitive marker
 - The verb *be* has a special infinitive form (*be*)
 - » I want **to be** in Paris.
 - » He might **be** in Paris

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- Welsh sometimes uses an infinitive where English uses a finite verb
 - Meddylodd Aled [i Marir weld y gêm]
thought:3SG Aled to Mair see:INFINITIVE the game
'Aled thought [that Mair had seen the game].'
- French sometimes uses a finite verb where English uses an infinitive:
 - Je veux [que Jean parte].
I want that Jean leave:3SG:SJT
'I want [Jean to leave].'

- **Participles**

- The present participle in English
 - Kim was **laughing** loudly.
Kim kept on **laughing**.
Laughing loudly, Kim rushed into the room
I found Kim **laughing** in the corner
 - Not all *-ing* forms are present participles
 - » This very **boring** film (*this very sleeping child)
 - » Their **singing** was beautiful.

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- The past participle in English

- » Have you **eaten** the cake?
- » Kim has **had** flu.
- Many irregularities: *eaten, known, forgotten*
- Regular verbs use the past tense form: *worked, left*
 - » Distribution test must distinguish them:
 - » Kim has ___ (that) already. PAST PARTICIPLE
 - Kim ___ (that) quite recently. PAST TENSE
- As in some other European languages, the past participle is also used in passives:
 - » This book was **written** last year
- Participles aren't always used in conjunction with a finite verb:
 - » the woman just **arriving**
 - » The slide **seen** on the screen now

- Cross-linguistic variation

- Many languages have several more participles
 - » Lezgian has past tense and future tense participles:
 - » A xwanaxwadiz qe za koncertd-a **ja-da-j**
 that friend today I concert-in play-FUT-PARTICIPLE
 daldam xutax-iz k'an-zawa
 drum take.away-1SG want-IMP
 'That friend wants to take away the drum that I will play today at the concert.'
- Finnish sometimes has embedded clauses with only a participle, no finite verb:
 - » Huomaan [pojan osanneen suome].
 realize:1SG boy:GEN know:PAST.PARTICIPLE Finnish
 'I realize [that the boy knew Finnish].
- Wakiman has a finite verb class with only around 35 members, but participles are a genuinely open class of verbs.

Introduction to Complex Sentences

- **Definitions and examples**
 - **Coordinating conjunctions** can **conjoin** main clauses (not called ‘complex sentences’)
 - The Rhode Island-based charity is one of the world’s biggest non-sectarian children’s aid organizations, **and** Ndugu is a 6-year-old named Abdallah Mtulu. [*The Times-Picayune*]
 - Complex sentences have one **main clause** and (at least) one **subordinate clause**.
 - When you are ready to add to the weight you are lifting, never go above a 3 percent to 5 percent increase in any given week.
 - Childreach officials say they are satisfied with their disclosures.
 - In her lifetime Woolf was considered to have come from a family of great beauties. [*The Times-Picayune*]

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- Subordinate clauses are embedded within another clause.
- Technically the whole sentence is the main clause, but it is customary to refer to just the non-embedded parts as the main clause.
- **Not all embedded clauses are possible independent clauses.**
- **Not all main clauses are possible independent clauses.**
 - Sometimes the verb in the main clause selects an embedded clause.
 - John expects that Mary will leave.
 - Sometimes the main clause is missing a subject:
 - For you to act so hastily was unexpected. (sentential or clausal subjects)

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- **The main clause does not have to precede the subordinate clause(s).**
 - As the incursion was happening, Iraqi officials denied that American forces were in the city. [*New York Times*, 4/5/03]
- **Each sentence has just one main clause, but a potentially infinite number of embedded clauses**
 - I believe that John expected Bill to arrive before his parents returned home after they took their trip to Italy.
 - **Recursion** is found in all human languages.
- **‘Main clause’ does not equate to ‘main verb’**
 - All clauses (except for those with no verbal predicate) have a main verb and maybe auxiliaries.

- **Distinguishing English main and subordinate clauses**
 - **All main clauses contain a finite verb; embedded clauses may contain a finite verb too, but not all do.**
 - We just wanted to let them know we are here. [*New York Times*, 4/5/03]
 - **Only embedded clauses can have a complementizer.**
 - It is no surprise **that** scholars are sensitive about outsiders trespassing on their turf. [*The Times-Picayune*]
 - **For** John to leave early would upset Mary.
 - I wonder **whether** Jack will come.

- **In English complementizers can't introduce main clauses**

- ***Whether** it will rain today.
- ***That** my friend claimed Ceri liked chips.

- **However, languages with complementizers in main clauses are widespread.**

- **Aya** Ali ketab darad? (Persian)
Whether Ali books has
'Does Ali have any books?'
- **Qu'**elle est bavarde (French)
that she is talkative
'What a chatterbox she is'

[Examples from Radford 1988]

- **Only main clauses have subject/auxiliary inversion to form yes/no questions.**

- As the incursion was happening, **did Iraqi officials** deny that American forces were in the city?
- *As the incursion was happening, Iraqi officials denied that **were American forces** in the city?

- However, it is possible to get inversion in embedded quotative clauses:

- Ceri asked, could they be a little quieter.

- **Only main clauses have tag questions.**

- As the incursion was happening, Iraqi officials denied that American forces were in the city, **didn't they?**
- *As the incursion was happening, Iraqi officials denied that American forces were in the city, **weren't they?**

Cross-Linguistic Variation in Clause Type

- **Languages without infinitival clauses**

- Modern Greek

- o Sokratis theli [i Afrodhiti na ton filisi]
the Socrates want:3SG the Aphrodite SJTV him kiss:3SG
'Socrates wants Aphrodite to kiss him.'
 - i Maria prospathise [na diavasi ena vivlio]
the Mary tried:3SG SJTV read:3SG one book
'Mary tried to read a book.'

- Mohawk

- ^-ha-ate'ny^t^-' [ne ayako-yéshu-']
FUT-M:SG:SU-try-PUNC PRT F:SG:OBJ-laugh-PUNC
'He will try for her to laugh.' (i.e. 'He will try to get her to laugh.')

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- **Inflected infinitival clauses**

- European Portuguese

- Inflected infinitive where English uses ordinary infinitive.
 - Será difícil [eles aprovar-**em** a proposta].
be:FUTURE difficult they approve:INFIN-3PL the proposal
'It will be difficult for them to approve the proposal.'

- Middle Welsh

- Inflected infinitive in independent clause, understood as past.
 - A'e **dyuot** ynteu yr llys
and-3MSG come:INFIN he to-the court
'And he came to the court.'

- Halfway between infinitives and finite verbs

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- **Serial verbs**

- Verbs strung together in a sequence in which no verb is subordinate to any other.

- Chinese (Li & Thompson 1981)

- Zhang-san shang-lou shui-jiao
go.upstairs sleep
'Zhangsan goes upstairs to sleep'

- Serial verbs are all finite:

- Bare

- nu-takasã nu-dúmaka
1SG-deceived 1SG-sleep
'I pretended (that) I was asleep.'

- In Bare no words can intervene between the verbs, but in some languages, the object can occur between two serial verbs:

- Yoruba

- ó mú ìwé wá
3SG took book came
'He brought the book.'

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- The two finite verbs must have the same subject.

- Subordination in Bare:

- [mientre-ke nu-nakúda-ka] i-mare-d'a kubati
while-SEQUENTIAL 1SG-go-SEQUENTIAL 3SG:M-steal-ASPECT fish
'While I was coming in, he stole the fish.'

- There is only one marker of negation

- Bare serial verb construction

- hena nihiwawaka nu-tsereka nu-yaka-u abi
NEG 1SG: go 1SG-speak 1SG-parent-F with
I am not going to talk to my mother

- Bare subordination construction

- hena-ka ini-hisa hena in-hiwawaka
NEG-DECLARATIVE 2PL-want NEG 2PL-go
'If you do not want, do not go.'

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- The serial verbs can't be marked independently for tense, aspect, mood, etc.

- Bare serial construction

- Nuni hena nu-kiate-d'áwaka nu-yuwahada-**ka**
I NEG 1SG-fear-ASPECT 1SG-walk-SEQUENTIAL
'I'm not afraid of walking.'

- Bare subordination construction

- Nu-khuruna hnumiye ibeuku nu-yada-**ka**
1SG-roll 1SG:hammock when 1SG-see-SEQUENTIAL
sepultura tibuku nu-duma-**ka**
tomb over 1SG-sleep-SEQUENTIAL
'I rolled my hammock when I saw that I had slept over a tomb.'

Relative Clauses

- **Examples and definitions**

- A type of embedded clause which modifies a HEAD NOUN.
 - There are many **exercisers** who get hurt trying to do this.
 - The **Woolf** that Marcus knows and loves is funny, witty and clever. [*Times-Picayune*]
- All languages have relative clauses
- The function of the embedded clause is to restrict the possible set of entities referred to by the head noun to just the subset the speaker wants to talk about..
- English relative clauses begin with a relative pronoun (*who*, *which*) or the relative particle *that*. Non-subject relative clauses can omit this.

- English relative clauses contain a gap in the RELATIVIZED POSITION which refers to the head noun.:
 - __ get hurt trying to do this. (many exercisers)
 - Marcus knows and loves __. (the Woolf)
- English allows relativization out of almost any NP position
- A whole PP or NP properly containing a possessor or prepositional object relative pronoun can occur in initial position ('pied piping')
 - That's just some teacher **whose notes** Kim borrowed __.
 - Instead, sponsors' monthly donations are pooled and distributed to help communities **in which** the sponsored children live ____.
[Times-Picayune]
- English allows the preposition to be 'stranded', but not the possessed noun:
 - Instead, sponsors' monthly donations are pooled and distributed to help communities **which** the sponsored children live **in**.
 - *That's just some teacher **that** Kim borrowed __'s notes.

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• Cross-linguistic variation in relative clauses

- The relative clause can either precede or follow the head noun
 - ri-**rukil-way** [ri x-qa-tij] (Cakchiquel)
the-food-tortilla that ASP-1PL:SU-cook
'the food [that we cooked ____]'
 - [wo hen xihuan de] nei ge **pengyou** (Mandarin Chinese)
I very like PRT that CLASS friend
'that friend [that I like ____ very much]'
- German uses both strategies:
 - Der Mann, der __ im Zug sass
the man who in:the train sat
'the man [who __ was on the train]'
 - Der im Zug sitzende Mann
the in:the train sitting man
'the man who was on the train'

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– Some languages allow ‘internally-headed’ relative clauses:

- Bambara

- tye ye so san
man PAST horse buy
‘The man bought the horse.’
- tye ye [ne ye so min ye] san
man PAST I PAST horse which see buy
‘The man bought the horse which I saw.’

– Many languages don’t allow a gap, instead require a pronoun or full noun phrase.

- Hausa

- wuqad [da ya kashe ta da ita]
knife REL he killed her with it
‘the knife that he killed her with ____.’