

1 Identify the syntactic function of the underlined element in each of the following sentences.

a. Alice was getting very tired.

Subject predicative

b. She was sitting beside her sister on the bank.

Verbal

c. Her sister was reading a book.

Direct object

d. Once or twice she had peeped into the book.

Adverbial

e. The book had no pictures or conversation.

Direct object

f. The hot day made her very sleepy.

Object predicative

g. Suddenly a White Rabbit with pink eyes ran close by her.

Subject

h. At the time it all seemed quite natural.

Subject predicative

i. If you drink much from a bottle marked 'poison', it is almost certain to disagree with you, sooner or later.

Adverbial (adjunct)

j. However, this bottle was not marked 'poison'.

Adverbial (conjunct)

k. She generally gave herself very good advice.

Indirect object

l. There's no use in crying like that!

Anticipatory subject (this term is used when the real subject comes later in the sentence – see further 8.2)

- 2 Analyse the following sentences and explain the difference in form and meaning between the members of each pair.

- a. 1 The plane left early.  
2 The early plane left.

The clause structure of sentence (1) is Subject-Verbal-Adverbial, whereas the clause structure of sentence (2) is Subject-Verbal. The adverb “early” functions as Adverbial in sentence (1). In sentence (2) “early” is an adjective that functions as a premodifier in the noun phrase that functions as Subject. Sentence (1) focuses on the time the plane left. Sentence (2) focuses on the fact that the plane departed.

- b. 1 Sandra was a vegetarian.  
2 Sandra married a vegetarian.

The difference lies in the elements that function as Verbals, namely the verbs “was” (linking verb) and “married”. The clause elements in sentence (1) are Subject-Verbal-Subject predicative. In sentence (2) the clause elements are Subject-Verbal-Direct object. In other words, the noun phrase “a vegetarian” functions as Subject predicative in sentence (1) and Direct object in sentence (2). This means that “a vegetarian” is a description of Sandra in sentence (1) and a description of the person she married in sentence (2).

- c. 1 They found Mma Ramotswe a rather colourful woman.  
2 They found Mma Ramotswe a rather colourful outfit.

In these sentences there is a lexical difference between the nouns “woman” and “outfit”. The most likely interpretation of sentence (1) is that their impression of Mma Ramotswe was that she was a rather colourful woman, in which case the clause structure is Subject-Verbal-Direct object-Object predicative. Sentence (2) means that they helped Mma Ramotswe to find something to wear. The sentence structure of sentence (2) is Subject-Verbal-Indirect object-Direct object. Sentence (1) could have the same clause structure as sentence (2) if the meaning is that Mma Ramotswe was looking for a worker, housemaid, girlfriend or the like, and they found one for her.

- d. 1 The road was open by then.  
2 The road was opened by the Mayor.

In sentence (1) the adjective “open” describes the Subject and functions as Subject predicative. The prepositional phrase “by then” functions as Adverbial. In sentence (2) the verb “open” in the past tense functions as lexical verb in the verb phrase that functions as Verbal. The Verbal in sentence (2) describes an action, followed by a prepositional phrase that functions as Adverbial and reveals the agent of the action.

- e. 1 These people are now running the country.  
2 These people are now running around the country.

On the surface the difference between the sentences is the preposition “around” in sentence (2). The verb “run” is a transitive verb in sentence (1), which gives the clause pattern S-V-dO. In sentence (2) the verb “run” is intransitive, and the clause pattern of sentence (2) is S-V-A. Sentence (1) means that these people are now governing the country, whereas sentence (2) can refer to these people that are now taking part in marathon races or the like at different places around the country.

- 3 Read the following text and answer the questions below:

An unfinished self-portrait by the Dutch master Rembrandt has been discovered under another painting using advanced scientific techniques. No detail is visible in the face, but experts say it matches a reproductive print from 1633 that has an inscription saying it is by Rembrandt. X-ray scanning was used to detect the pigments in hidden layers of paint. A leading expert on Rembrandt said he was convinced of its authenticity based on similarities in painting style. The unfinished self-portrait was discovered under another panel said to be by the master – “Old Man with a Beard”.

- a. Identify the phrase that functions as verbal in the first sentence (line 1-2).  
*has been discovered*
- b. Analyse the underlined sentence in line 2.  
*Subject (No detail) – Verbal (is) – Subject predicative (visible) – Adverbial (in the face).*
- c. What is the syntactic function of the underlined clause in line 4?  
*Adverbial*
- d. Analyse the underlined part of line 6.  
*Subject (The unfinished self-portrait) – Verbal (was discovered) – Adverbial (under another panel).*

- 4 Use the Corpus of Contemporary American English at <http://corpus.byu.edu/> to find answers to the following questions. (See instructions for how to use the corpus at the end of Chapter 1.)

- a. Look up the word *told*. Among the first 25-30 hits, find two sentences where *told* is followed by an indirect object, and two where *been told* has a subject that refers to the recipient of the message.

For instance:

*I told him (iO) I was having lunch with her.*

*My wife told me (iO) to never be afraid of leaving on my own.*

*We'd been told to look very closely at the undersides of the branches.*

*He had been told that he was technically the most gifted surgeon the hospital staff had ever seen.*

- b. Search for *told a \**. Among the phrases listed for this pattern, are there any where *a \** does not seem to represent an indirect object? If so, which ones?

For instance *told a lie, told a joke, told a tale*. Also phrases such as *told a little ... , told a long ... , told a good ... , told a sad ... , etc.*

- c. Search for *keeping*. Study closely the first 20 hits. What are the grammatical patterns *keeping* occurs in? (Compare your findings to the examples in section 4.3.4.)

For instance:

*S-V-dO (keeping a small commission)*

*S-V-dO-A (keeping them there)*

*S-V-sP (keeping warm)*

*S-V-do-oP (keeping the country safe)*

- d. Look at the two expressions *subject to* and *object of*. Which one is more common in COCA? How would you translate the two expressions into Norwegian based on the first 10 examples of each in the corpus?

The expression *subject to* is more common.

Examples of translations of *subject to*:

utsatt for, rammet av, under forutsetning av, ...

Examples of translations of *object of*:

Hensikt med, mål for, årsak til ...