

English Syntax

- Books Recommended (you can choose one of them)
 - (i) Hilda Koopman, Dominique Sportiche, Edward Stabler. *An Introduction to Syntactic Analysis and Theory* (Online manuscript available)
(<http://www.linguistics.ucla.edu/people/stabler/isat.pdf>)
 - This manuscript includes several typos. You need to be careful when you read it.
 - You can study the following books (ii) and (iii) instead of (i).
 - (ii) Radford, Andrew. (2006) *Minimalist Syntax Revisited*. (on-line version available)
 - (iii) Haegeman, L. (1994) *Government and Binding Theory*. Blackwell.
- **Important Syntactic Terms**
 - Inflectional morphology: inflectional morphemes in English
 - Word-level categories: D, N, V, P, Adj, T, C, etc.
 - Phrasal categories: DP, NP, VP, PP, AP, TP, CP, etc.
 - Constituent
 - Constituency tests: Movement, Substitution, Ellipsis, Coordination
 - Structural Ambiguity
 - X-bar Theory
 - Head, Adjunct, Complement, Specifier
 - Subcategorization (or C-selection)
 - Selectional Restrictions
 - Arguments, Predicates, Argument Structure
 - Thematic roles (Theta-roles): Agent, Theme, etc.
 - Finite and non-finite clauses: finite and non-finite verbs
 - Null (or silent) constituents: PRO, null D, null C, null T, etc.
 - Affix Hopping
 - Deep structure (= underlying structure) vs. Surface structure
 - V-to-T movement
 - T-to-C movement
 - DP movement: Passive construction, raising construction
 - EPP (Extended Projection Principle)
 - Expletive Subject

- Control and PRO
- C-command
- Binding Theory (Principle A, Principle B, Principle C)
 - Anaphor, Pronoun, R-expression

● Some basic things you must know

✧ You should be able to explain the (un)grammaticality of sentences in terms of syntactic rules or restrictions:

◆ For instance,

(1) **Mary put the book.*

(2) **The discussion of the match was more animated than the one of the riots.*

(3) **Seem that John likes Mary.*

(4) **Bill thinks that Mary likes himself.*

(5) **They heard his criticism of each other.*

✧ You should know how to **draw a tree diagram** that illustrate the structure of a phrase/sentence

◆ For example, the sentence below is ambiguous; it has two different meanings because the bracketed VP can have two different structures. Can you draw the two trees for the VP?

(6) *James* [_{VP} *watched the boy with binoculars*].

◆ For instance, can you draw the trees for the following sentences?

(7) *For John to ignore Mary's advice will be foolish.*

(8) [*To abandon the investigation*] *would be regrettable.*

✧ You should know how **a sentence is derived** from the underlying structure (i.e., how to capture the syntactic relationships among sentences).

◆ For instance, discuss D-structure, S-structure and the various movement rules that determine the following sentences.

(9) *She has rudely interrupted the speech.*

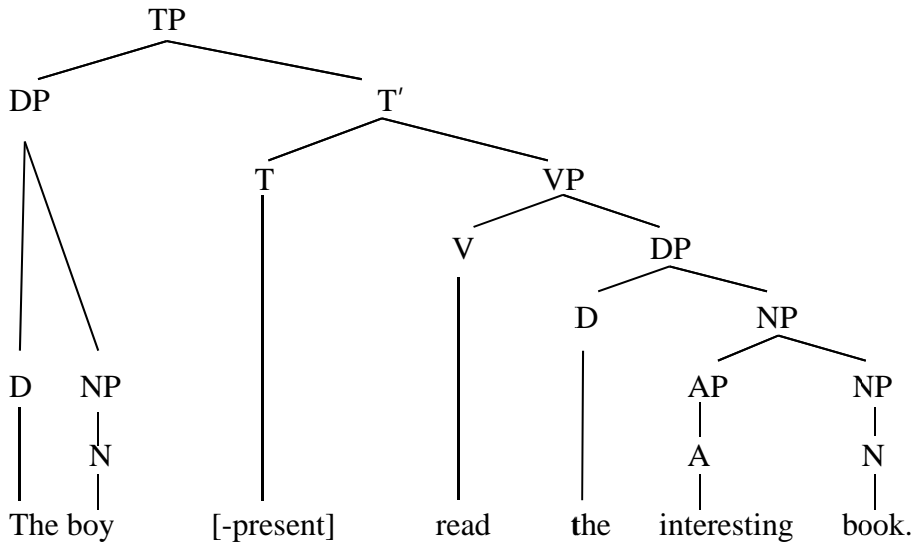
(10) *Will you take the exam?*

(11) *What did you study?*

(12) *This window was broken by the student.*

(13) *John seems to be sick.*

✧ TREE DIAGRAMS (sample)



[Simplified trees]

