

SEMINAR 1 – SENTENCE AND SENTENCE STRUCTURE (SGEL 2.2 – 2.5; LEG – 1.1 – 1. 21; Chalker – ex. 2,3,4)

sentence (subject and predicate) - sentence elements (S, V, O, A, C) - types of verbs (transitive, intransitive, copular) - 7 basic sentence patterns) - phrases - clause

SENTENCE

“A sentence is a grammatically complete unit.”

Q1: Consider the following stretches of language. Are they sentences?

- e.g. a) Are playing football in the garden. (compare: *Hrají fotbal na zahradě.*)
 b) Rained. (compare: *Pršelo.*)
 c) The boys.

Q2: What's missing in each one?

→ to make a sentence in English, we need two constituents:

the subject

the predicate (= what is said about the subject, i.e. all the words in a sentence except the subject)

SENTENCE (CLAUSE) ELEMENTS

English grammar, unlike Czech, recognizes as clause elements only those which operate on the level of the sentence structure, whether they are obligatory or optional – i.e. *subject, verb, object, complement and adverbial*. Czech grammatical tradition also includes the modifying (= rozvíjející, expanding) elements. In English these modifiers are not regarded as clause elements.

Q3: Consider the following sentence and try to answer the questions:

e.g. *The beautiful young woman in the bright red dress is my best friend's cousin.*

- 1. What is the subject?*
- 2. How many sentence elements are there?*

- c) **copular** or **linking** – are followed by a subject complement or an adverbial
- the complement to the subject - tells us something about the subject

e.g. John is clever. / Mike is an architect. / Your dinner seems ready. (SVC)

He was at home. (SVA)

most common copular verbs: *be, seem, appear, sound, feel, taste, smell*
+ **verbs indicating a change:** *become, go, grow, get, prove, turn*

!Some verbs can be used both transitively and intransitively:

Compare: open The door opened. (SV) v. Someone opened the door. (SVO)

answer

close

SENTENCE PATTERNS

- a simple sentence consists of a single independent clause
- the clause may contain a few sentence elements
- out of the sentence elements we can make **7 basic sentence patterns (types)**
- subject and verb are obligatory!

1. **SV** My head aches. / They laughed.
2. **SVC** My brother has become an architect.
3. **SVO** My sister enjoyed her holiday.
4. **SVOO** The firm gave Sam an expensive watch.
5. **SVOC** They made Sam chairman. (= complement to the object, the verb is transitive)
6. **SVA** The bank opens at 9.
7. **SVOA** You can put the dish on the table.

- intransitive verbs occur in type SV
- transitive verbs occur in type SVO, SVOO, SVOC, SVOA
- copular verbs occur in types SVC, SVA

IN THE STUDY OF GRAMMAR THERE ARE TWO MAIN ISSUES: **FUNCTION AND FORM.**

In English grammar the sentence is described as having five levels with different units: **sentences** which consist of one or more **clauses**, which consist of one or more **phrases**, which consist of one or more **words**, which consist of one or more **morphemes**

So far we have analyzed parts of sentences in terms of their **function** (=sent. elements)

Speaking about **form**, we will identify various **phrases** in a sentence:

A phrase – a word or more words built around **the head word**

- a) **noun phrase** – **My watch** has disappeared.
- b) **verb phrase** - My watch **has disappeared**.
- c) **adjective phrase** – She was **a bit doubtful**.
- d) **adverb phrase** – She answered **quite rapidly**.
- e) **prepositional phrase** – The keys were **on the desk**.

SENTENCE V. CLAUSE

In English **a sentence is an independent unit, a clause is a unit within a sentence**. In Czech we do not make this distinction.

The **simple sentence** consists of one clause. e.g. *I was late for school.*

The **multiple sentence** consists of two or more clauses. We distinguish two types:

- a) **compound** sentence – two or more main, syntactically independent clauses

e.g. *I was late for school today but the teacher wasn't angry with me.*

- b) **complex** sentence – one of the clauses is **superordinate**, the other (or others) is / are dependent, i.e. **subordinate**

e.g. *Although she needed the money, she didn't accept my offer.*

Compare the sentences:

- a) Jane realized her mistake and apologized at once.
- b) When Jane realized her mistake, she apologized at once.