

# The Word-Group Theory

Lecture 9

# Lecture outline

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- Syntactic relations.
- The definition and general characteristics.
- Classification of word-groups.



# The syntactic notions

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□ **Syntactic relations:** the syntagmatic (linear) relations between the syntactic units.

1) Coordination and subordination (traditionally);

2) + predication;

3) + accumulation (Burlakova et al.).

Barkhudarov: on the basis of equality/inequality of the syntactic function of the whole group and its IC (immediate constituents)



# The syntactic relations

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## Coordination (independence):

- word group, sentence, text;
  - the syntactic function of the whole group **coincides** with the syntactic function of every IC: *pens and pencils were purchased* (*pens were purchased, pencils were purchased*);
  - symmetric and asymmetric (pens and pencils, ladies and gentlemen);
  - copulative (you and me), disjunctive (you or me), adversative (strict but just), causative-consecutive (He didn't come, because...).
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# The syntactic relations

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## Subordination (dependence, difference linguistic rank):

- word-group and sentence;
- the syntactic function of the whole coincides with the function of one of ICs: A tall boy came in (A boy came in, \* Tall came in);
- adverbial (to run slowly), objective (to help a friend); attributive (a new house) (Burlakova, the functions in a sentences);
- the head and the adjunct.



# Syntactic relations

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## Predication (interdependence):

- ✓ the syntactic function of the whole group is different from the syntactic function of every IC: **The boy reads well** (\*the boy well, \* reads well);
- ✓ primary (the subject and the predicate): men worked;
- ✓ secondary (non-finite forms of the verb and nominal elements): his reading, for me to know, the boy running, I saw him run;
- ✓ Burlakova: the term is not very good (in not consistent with coordination and subordination; **interdependence – the relation b/w the IC**).



# Syntactic relations

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## Accumulative

- ✓ The relations b/w the constituents can be identified only with regard to the word which is not the part of the word combination: (write) his friend a letter; these important (decisions);
- ✓ the positions of the components are fixed (\*important these);
- ✓ **and** cannot be used (\*these and important; not coordinate).



# The word-group. The definition.

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- the basic unit of syntax (as well as the sentence);
- 2 components minimum;
- grammatical structure.

No generally accepted definition; negative approach (sth the word-group is not or does not have);

✓ Non-communicative (vs. the sentence).





# The views on word-groups

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- Broad (every syntactically organized group, the relations do not matter);
- Narrow (two notional words).

## General characteristics:

- ✓ As a naming unit it differs from a compound word: two constituents = two denotates (a blackbird, a black bird);
- ✓ A dependent syntactic unit; non-communicative, no intonation.



# The broad view: syntagmatic groupings (by Blokh)

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- **Notional words (notional phrases):** denote complex phenomena and their properties in their interconnection (a caring mother);
- **Notional word + functional word (formative combinations):** equivalent to separate words in terms of their nominative function, can be expanded (in a box = in an old box);
- **Functional words:** used as connectors or specifiers of notional elements of various status: up to, must be able.

Burlakova supports the broad view.

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# The notional phrases (classification)

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- **Equipotent** (words are related on equal rank);
- **Dominational** (words are syntactically unequal).
  
- Equipotent syndetic and asyndetic (prose and poetry vs. dark, gloomy);
  
- Equipotent coordinative (quick and careless) and cumulative (agreed, but reluctantly; quick – and careless): equal formally, not in terms of domination.



# Domination connection (Blok)

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- The principal (dominating) – kernel, kernel element, head word – and the subordinate constituents (adjunct, adjunct-word, expansion).
- Domination consecutive (a careful observer);
- Domination cumulative (an observer, seemingly careful).



# Dominational connection (Blok)

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- **Dominational bilateral (reciprocal, two-way):** predicative (complete and incomplete) – the train arrived, the arrival of the train, the pupil understanding his mistakes.
- **Dominational mono-lateral (completive):** the syntactic status of the whole element is determined by the nature of the head-word.



# Dominational connection (Blok)

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- **Dominational completive connection:** objective and qualifying.
- **Objective:** direct non-prepositional (saw me), indirect non-prepositional (show me), indirect prepositional (sympathised with the child).
- **Qualifying:** attributive (the woman of strong character; a beautiful ring); adverbial primary (verb+ adverbial modifier = receive with surprise); adverbial secondary (non-verbal kernel + adverbial modifier+ strikingly alike).



# The narrow view (Barkhudarov)

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- Word-group (phrase) is a group of **syntactically related notional words**, which is the component of a sentence, but **does not constitute a sentence** on its own.
- According to syntactic relations: **subordinate** (ready to go, politically active, cold water), **co-ordinate** (pens and pencils, strict but just), **predicative** (for you to go).
- According to the number of types of relations expresses: elementary (three black dogs – subordination); compound (red and blue pencils – coordination and subordination).



# The subordinate phrase

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- ✓ Syntactically unequal;
- ✓ The head and the adjunct.

Types:

- ✓ **The word class to which the head belongs:** noun phrases (wonderful weather), verb phrases (run fast), adverb phrases (extremely quickly), pronoun phrases (nothing interesting).





# The subordinate phrase: types

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## ICs represented with a word or a word phrase:

- ✓ simple (cold water);
- ✓ with the expanded head (saw him there, three black dogs);
- ✓ with the expanded adjunct (politically active youth);
- ✓ with the expanded head and adjunct (the reception of the delegation by the President of the republic).



# The subordinate phrase: types

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ICs separated / non-separated from each other:

- ✓ Continuous: nicely dressed;
- ✓ Discontinuous: Slowly, Mr Johnson got out of the chair; Of the threat she said nothing.



# Noun Phrases

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## The place of the adjunct:

- ✓ Noun phrases with pre-posed adjuncts: cold water, her shoulders, thirty-five minutes, slanting stroke, quoted material, Paul's room, consonant change.
- ✓ Noun phrases with post-posed adjuncts: the roof of the house, the people present, every creature alive, a man hard to please, desire to come, my life as an artist.



# Verb Phrases

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## According to the class of the verb:

- ✓ Verb phrases with transitive head;
- ✓ Verb phrases with the intransitive head;
- ✓ Verb phrases with the transitive or intransitive verb head.

## The adjuncts are divided accordingly:

- ✓ Extensions (can be used with any head – transitive or intransitive);
- ✓ Complements (the distribution is limited, with the verb of a particular class only).



# Verb phrases

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Adjuncts (complements):

✓ **object complements (transitive head):**

**prepositional and non-prepositional** (wait for John, insist on doing vs. says not to worry, read a book, turn the page).

**!!! Prepositional complements vs. extensions !!!**

the preposition is determined by the verb vs. the preposition does not depend on the verb

He believes in God vs. He lives in Chicago.

**!!! Non-preposition complements vs. extensions !!!**

I came to speak with you vs. I wanted to speak with you

Extension can be substituted for 'in order to'

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# Verb phrases

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## Adjuncts (complements):

- ✓ **qualifying complements** (intransitive head): rise slowly: seemed quite the best plan, died an old man, look severe, become proficient in.



# Verb phrases

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According to the number and type of adjuncts:

- ✓ simple (see a boy, walk slowly);
  - ✓ verb phrases with two extensions: He ran hastily downstairs;
  - ✓ verb phrases with an extension and a compliments: I watched her closely;
  - ✓ verb phrases with two non-prepositional object complements: gave Tom a book;
  - ✓ verb phrases with a propositional and non-prepositional object complements: explained the whole affair to Mr Jones;
  - ✓ verb phrases with an object complement and a qualifying complement: consider it a privilege.
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# Other types of phrases

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## Adjective phrases:

Politically active; rich in possible modulations; larger units than the sentence; loudest of all.

## Adverb phrases:

Awfully quickly, rather sharply, high in the air.

## Pronoun phrases:

Some of the workers, nothing to do, something personal.





# Coordinate phrases

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According to the means used to connect the constituents:

- ✓ **Syndetic (with the conjunction):** simple syndetic phrases (with the continuous conjunction) – *and, but, yet, or, rather, than, as well as* – and correlative syndetic phrases (with the discontinuous conjunction): *both ... and, either ... or, neither ... not, from ... to.*

Harsh and loud, precious but remote, structural rather than historical.

Either a gerund or a participle, neither reading nor writing.



# Coordinate phrases

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According to the means used to connect the constituents:

- ✓ Asyndetic: copulative (the co-ordinate conjunction can be used) and appositive (conjunction cannot be used).
- ✓ Hot, dusty, tired...
- ✓ Bill, the dean's boy; you young people; the young man Edgar.



# Predicative phrases

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- ✓ The combinations of the subject and the predicate are not included; The head is only **NON-FINITE!**
- ✓ Infinitive predicative phrases (for John to go, for her daughter to look at her);
- ✓ Gerund predicative phrases (John's going, John being late);
- ✓ Absolute predicative phrases: all things considered; (with) his voice trembling.
  
- ✓ Other opinions: predicative phrases of two times: primary (the boy runs) and secondary (the boy's running).



# Conclusion

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- The word-group is a combination of at least two notional words (?) which do not constitute the sentence but are syntactically connected.
- The type of syntagmatic relations: coordinate, subordinate, predicative.
- The internal structure (simple, expanded – to read and translate the text, extended – a very beautiful flower).
- Subordinate word-groups: the head and the adjunct; noun, verb, adjective, adverb, pronoun phrases.

