

**Indian Institute of Technology of Technology Madras  
Presents**

**NPTEL  
National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning**

**Introduction to modern linguistics**

**Lecture-28**

**Syntax: An Introduction Cont...**

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Yesterday we looked after how, how linguistic Theory works around acquisition of language that is I language and how it how and what constitutes part of what we know as knowledge of language today we are going to look at.

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**Study in Linguistics**

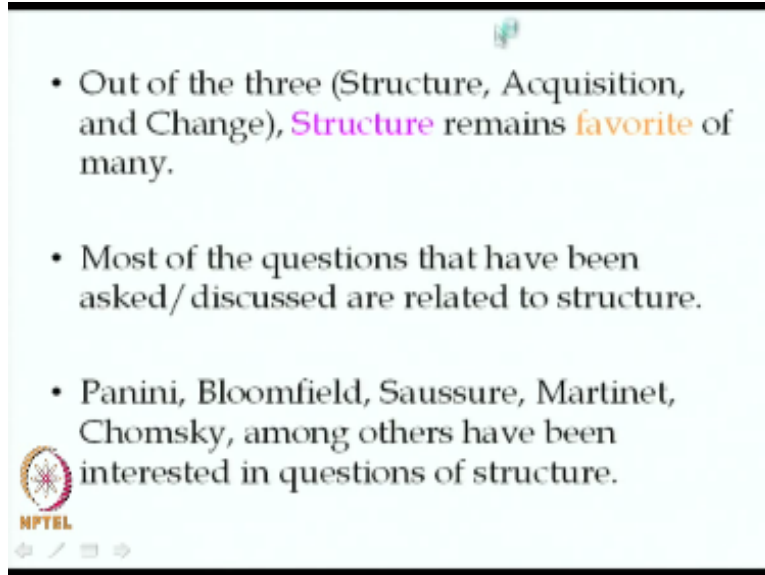
- There have been three main areas in the systematic study of language.
  - Most of the core questions in the scientific domain of linguistics are in these three areas alone:
    - Structure
    - Acquisition
    - Change

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The components of a sentence in little bit more details so in this study of in the study of language there are three main areas and most of the significant questions or even less significant questions of scientific nature have been asked in these areas and these are the areas

of structure acquisition and change and like. I have mentioned it to you we are looking at structure is that okay, clear.

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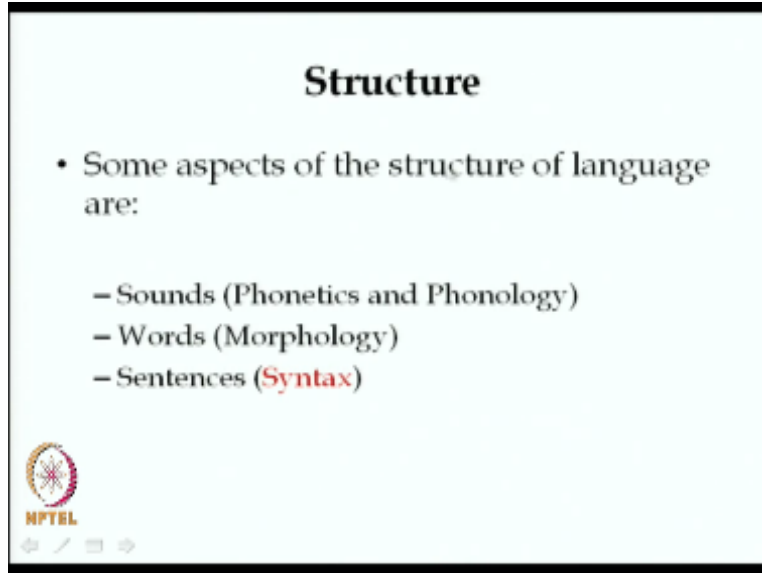


- Out of the three (Structure, Acquisition, and Change), **Structure** remains **favorite** of many.
- Most of the questions that have been asked/discussed are related to structure.
- Panini, Bloomfield, Saussure, Martinet, Chomsky, among others have been interested in questions of structure.

Out of the three the reason why we are talking about linguistic structure or the structure of a sentence is same structure has been favorite area for many people most of the questions as I mentioned to you most of the interesting questions have been asked in linguistics that are related to a structure that is answer to those questions we get from the study of a structure of language have you heard these names that that you see on your screen finally Bloomfield Ferdinand de Saussure Martin a Chomsky . I discussed yesterday how about other names have you heard these names how many of them why is he famous basically codified Sanskrit language actually you are right.

That his study is about Sanskrit but when he studies Sanskrit he talks about the structure of language and that structure is applicable to language in general that is there is a difference between language and Sanskrit there is a difference between language in Hindi and language and English when we say Hindi Sanskrit English Tamil, Telugu these are examples, of language these are called a language and talking about language is about the structure of language so Panini in study of Sanskrit actually talks about structure of language at the level of words and I will show you more at the level.

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So these are the three different areas in this structure of language so paninis panini has studied all three of them and has talked about stretch has talked about composite discussion of language anybody remembers his famous contribution one famous book that is synonymous with panini know the name of that book is anybody the last minute Ashton hi Astrid hi and this word itself means eight chapters and in eight chapters alone this book is not more than 20 pages 25 pages in these 25 pages eight chapters he has only written rules.

What we can now say equations or algorithms and that describes language at the level of sounds words and sentences this is why I have put panini there the panini Ferdinand de Saussure Bloomfield philosophers like martini and linguist Chomsky these are the people who help who have studied structure of language and panini has studied at all three levels but Chomsky and others have studied language only at the level of sentence however there are contributions of money of studies of sound patterns of English and other others and its implications for structure of word and morphology as well. Which is morphology okay so let us look at sentence.

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## Sentence

- I - Language
  - Chomsky - Ideal native speaker and hearer
  - Takes a chunk (sentence) and idealizes it.

• **The door is open.**

- E-Language
  - Semantics
  - Discourse



Now in little bit more details , so like we discussed panini let me tell you one more important thing about chomskyan linguistics when Chomsky talks about eye language he talks about his a object of a study is a sentence and he talks about ideal mate speaker anybody knows about this ideal native speaker No an ideal native speaker for it for a Chomsky is it first of all it does not exist in real world the ideal idiom speaker is who speaks a language if we talk we talk about English the person.

Who speaks English and speaks nice sentences like sentences like this the door is open this is a pen this is a phone these kinds of sentences he speaks therefore the heat therefore we say an ideal native speaker takes a chunk as a sentence and idealizes it however in real world we do not speak idealized sentences and I will show you what I mean by that this is an ideal sentence and an example of an ideal sentence what does this sentence mean what are they sentence mean the door is open a state of an object tell me a simpler meaning what it means this is a this is a door right what is it right now closed.

When the two sides of it are apart from one another that is what probably you mean the state of object and we say it is open for chomskyan linguistics the important thing is to study the components of sentences which is part of high language when we bring a language into which is that is particularly discourse it this sentence may have different meanings what kind of meanings do you think this sentence can have do you want me to give.

You context for that or can you give me a couple of different meanings of this sentence there is an opportunity introduced and in that example the tour is being used as a metaphor for opportunity right let us talk about physical reality this is closed like now someone knocks at it right and you say the door is open what does it mean in that context you can you can come right you are inside the door like now you are inside and someone tells you the door is open what does that mean it could mean go and close.

The door it could also mean right you just get out right when the person entered to the door and is standing near the door and then you say the door is open then it means please close it before you enter it still remained open this is called interpretations and this is part of discourse what I am trying to tell you with this example is such things are not part of I languish such things are not part of what we are going to discuss this structure of language and this is why probably it is sometimes called monotonous.

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**Components of Sentence**

- **I like pizza.**
  - Subject
  - Predicate
- **Grammatical Relations:**
  - Subject      Object                      Verb
- **Order of Words**
  - SOV (Subject Object Verb)
  - SVO (Subject Verb Object)
  - VSO (Verb Subject Object)

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Let us say what is it that we are going to going to talk about and see how this could be interesting as part of a sentence. I have picked up a very small one I the sentence is, I like pizza and again a simple sentence everybody understands the meaning of this if I then if, I ask you what ask you about different components of the sentence like ,I like and pizza can you tell me a little bit about the different components of sentence.

What is I in the sentence subject and like the world very nice and pizza object right how do you know how do I know I is a subject in other words the question that I am asking is how do we know about subject how do we figure out that a particular component of a sentence is a subject that is implied by the work on something that is implied by dog so someone some component which tells us about doing some action is it subject right in the previous sentence.

The door is open what is the subject no III I am not trying to prove that you are wrong I am only trying to give you a different example in the previous sentence the door is open what is the subject probably the door as a matter of fact it is difficult question for you to answer but let us take the door as the subject is the door doing anything right so then how can we put this thing as a defining characteristic of subject when we are saying two contradictory features defining subject doing something you are not doing something both can we make a component subject do you see the contradiction.

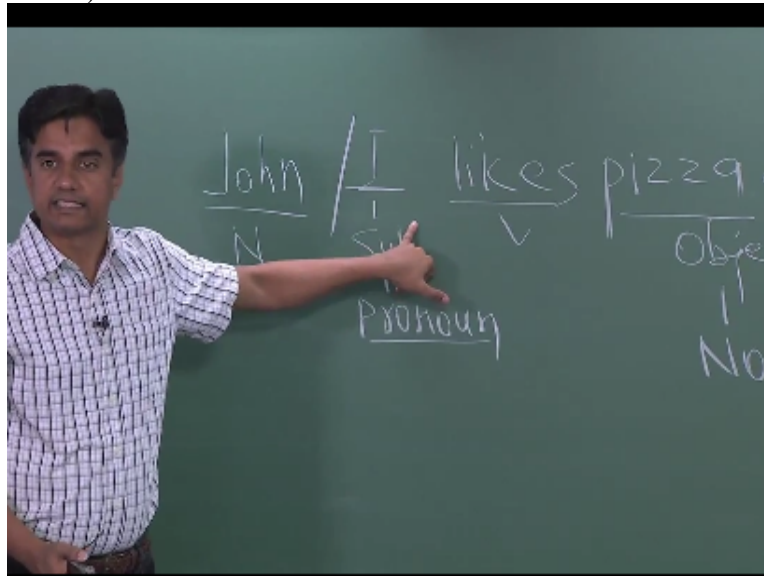
We are going to talk about that but as part of your answer you are right I is the subject of the sentence like is the verb and pizza is the object before we go to subject object and work I have put these two words subject and predicate have you heard in this word predicate and if that means renegade means okay ,let me please tell me the dictionary meaning of it first predicate anybody all right I think that is a difficult question to us is it difficult to give a dictionary meaning of predicate it is difficult because, I am also not going to give it to you that is correct if we leave the subject out.

If we have figured out what is the subject of a sentence then everything else is the predicate to which essentially means that predicate includes work and everything associated with the world point number one and which also means if you look at it harder the subject is not part of predicate that is if there is a relationship between subject and the work that relationship is additionally imposed that is not natural relationship between the two what I mean by that I am going to let us describe that to you in a moment but in order to get these two points it is important to at least take a look at these two terms subject and predicate.

At this point clear that how the distinction how understanding the distinction between subject and predicate helps us understand that subject is an important component of a sentence but then it is not part of the predicate and everything else is part of predicate besides subject yet this

thing subject/object and when these are called grammatical relations in a sentence okay the America like my grammatical relations I mean the following when I say okay.

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Let us say, I like pizza this I said subject but this is pronoun also right am I right this is a war and this is an object but this is a noun – right. so and by pronoun what is the definition of a pronoun anybody any word that replaces a noun or any word that can come in place of now so can we say the pronoun is also a type of now right so it is a convenient way to make a distinction between a noun in a pronoun but eventually at the end of the day they are also nouns and they a different kind of a noun of course but they are now because a noun can very well come in this place.

When we say John likes pizza right now this is it no when it is a noun and this one is a now these are these are their categorical features that is by themselves their nouns and grammatical relations are important in a sentence these nouns or pronouns receive grammatical relations only in a sentence yep at this point the grammatical relations are not important outside sentence that is there is nothing about this same this noun which makes it a subject it is simply the place in this in this sentence that makes this a subject or the place of this noun in this sentence which makes it a subject.

Which makes it an object yet this that that is what is the meaning of grammatical relations they take the example of normal life we individually we are human beings right but when do when

do relations become important we know about human relations right mother father brother sister that becomes really relevant when we are looking at group family Society right individually people are individual humans similarly these individual components of a sentence may be independently nouns verbs nouns pronouns adjectives such are their categorical features.

In a sentence they receive grammatical relations like subject object and what making sense moving on talking about the structure of structure of a sentence it crossed the world across the languages of the world ,once again how many languages are there in the world any idea which means what I understand very little mathematics ooh five digit means or 10,000 definitely not more than 10,000 anybody close to that .I think I have mentioned this before okay that that makes it even more interesting do.

You know the total number of languages is spoken in India somewhere 1,700 hey I take this as 1700 actually some records mentioned that it is 1652 but nobody knows the exact number why not 53 why 52 nobody knows the exact number and a rough estimate tells us around 5500 languages are spoken all over the world which means more than or roughly one-third of them are a spoken in India out of all those languages these are the three different structures three common patterns that you find in some languages you find order number one.

Which is subject object and work in some languages you find order number two which is object sorry subject verb and object what is the difference between these two these two orders the first two go ahead please tell me , the difference between order number one and order number two, right so it is about the position of a word, so languages differ from one another depending upon the position of a word in a sentence somebody said you speak Telugu what is the order of the word were in a Telugu sentence subject-object general what is the order of a verb in English sentence like .

I like pizza right and then the third order is where subject and object which means depending upon the position of a verb in a sentence whether the word is the final constituent of a sentence whether verb is medium component of a sentence or a verb is an initial component of a sentence there are three types of languages.



In the world in other words all the languages of the world can be divided into three these three major categories which we say were final languages were medium languages and were initial languages like those things all right very important very nice question ,when we have three components probably we can have more than three permutations three combinations that is not available in language more than these permutations or combinations are not available in the languages of the world.

I am not trying to avoid the question all other orders that you find are called scrambling okay, it is also possible to come up with a sentence in Telugu or for that matter in Hindi which begins with a verb okay ,that does not make Hindi or Telugu our initial language no not only poetic Liberty in normal conversation also we can use a sentence which can begin with the work can you think of a sentence which begins with the world in a normal conversation, I know Hindi I can give you him the example.

You are you understand Hindi. I can say the same things like katana mania do not go it is a good sentence Sunan hey Tommy what is the position of evolved in these two sentences the initial one right which does not make Hindi our Benicia language okay. I can put a verb in the middle of the sentence as well in a language like Hindi Telugu or Tamil I do not know Tommy like therefore I cannot give you an example of it but you know Telugu can you think of a say sentence in Telugu where work comes in the middle now with the help of my example of Hindi sorry lowering.

The middle sentence means what I went to cinema and Weller is went so you see but that is not the normal order of a Telugu sentence what will be the normal order of a sentence that is that uh can I get an example from Malayalam also please the same ,same, same sentence I went to cinema right I went to cinema please give us the sentence first you are saying right which means the work is the final component of the sentence now is the sentence possible with verb in the middle of it we can say that we do not say that that is not a normal order right.

What I am trying to see is whether that is an acceptable order or not it may not be well acceptable in this example, but you can very well come up with some other example where a were in the middle of a sentence is acceptable the point that I am trying to make is that does not make Hindi ,Telugu , Malayalam or medial language or were venetian language similarly other than these three combinations are not possible and Sanskrit may have examples, where a

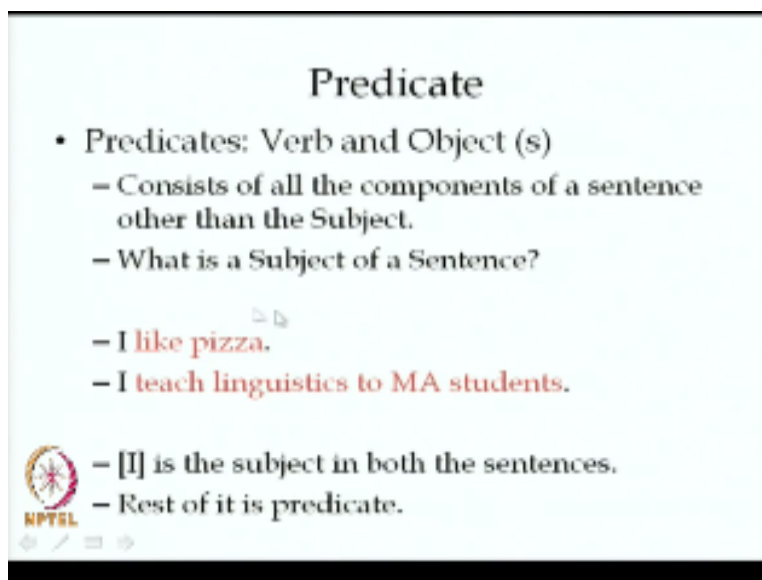
sentence begins with the word but then Sanskrit is not a verb initial language and such possibilities of combinations.

In a real sentence in a language like Hindi Telugu Malayalam or Sanskrit this is called this is a special feature of language which is called as scrambling yet scrambling simply means putting words at different places these are called default order these are called default order when we make this order anything different that is called scrambling and that is a feature of all the languages of the world some languages are very rigid some languages do not allow scrambling that easily others allow more frequently like all South Asian languages from Kashmiri to Malayalam and Gujarati to Manipuri.

They allow scrambling very easy a language like English on the other hand which is very well in Indian language too does not allow it scrambling that much we cannot say, I cinema went in a normal order or in a in a scrambled order as well we cannot say that went to cinema people say where you understand what you want it to say .I went to cinema or something else but scrambling in a language like English is not that easy there are regions for that and we will talk about those regions some other time there are the orders of words.


In a sentence square there are three things that I want you to understand from this slide first about a sentence subject and predicate orders ,order of words in a sentence and then about grammatical relations clear.

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**Predicate**

- **Predicates: Verb and Object (s)**
  - Consists of all the components of a sentence other than the Subject.
  - What is a Subject of a Sentence?
  - I like pizza.
  - I teach linguistics to MA students.

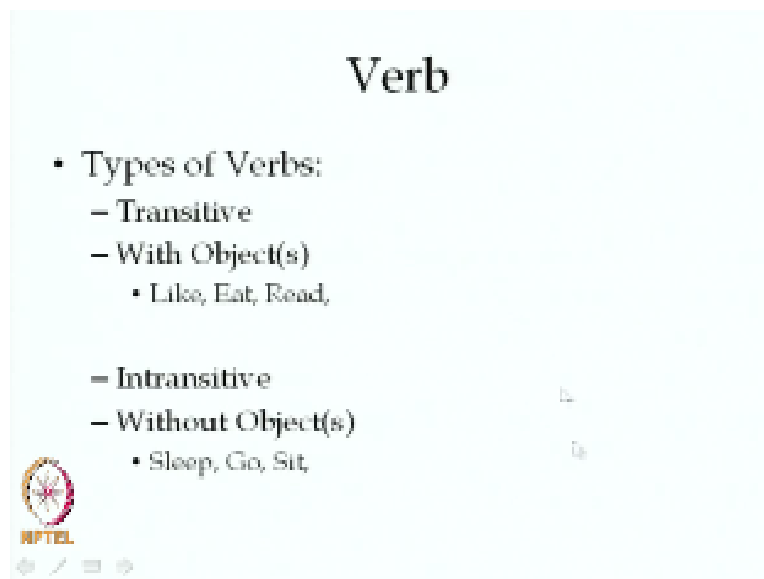
 - [I] is the subject in both the sentences.  
- Rest of it is predicate.

Now we have looked at this part this thing we discussed there predicate consists of everything else in a sentence which leaves us with a question what is a subject we try to look at that as well that what makes a noun like John the subject of this sentence is an important question that we need to answer we will we will develop or evolve answer to this question what is a subject of a sentence throughout our discussants at this point. I want to mention it to you that it is not an easy question to answer as you can see it is okay, to say sometimes the agent of the action.

In the sentence is the subject of the sentence that is one probable definition of subject of subject in a sentence but that is that does not hold too long okay so we will keep looking at these things similarly what makes pizza an object of this object of this verb and object in this sentence is purely related to its position okay we will talk about that as well so in these two sentences that you see on his screen.


I like pizza and I teach linguistics to MA students everything in red that you see is a predicate and I happens to be the subject ah okay so let us let us look at the next one.

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## Verb

- Types of Verbs:
  - Transitive
    - With Object(s)
      - Like, Eat, Read,
  - Intransitive
    - Without Object(s)
      - Sleep, Go, Sit,



Before we look at other components of the sentence let me talk to you about Vowels how do we define you for anybody let me begin with a very simple question you sir how do we define your work what is about within action where we J word that talks about some action in a sentence is

that what you want to say yeah okay, very nice anything else anybody wants to say about that that is the that is the physical description of a world.

In inside a sentence what is the role of a world very nice so if we look at these sentence John likes a pizza in this sentence John and pizzas do not make a sentence right and individually they do they are not either subject or they are not object they're subject they announce they become a subject or an object around war so war is a very significant component of a sentence in other words sometimes verbs are said to be powerhouse of a sentence that is everything else revolves around war there are two types of words in general in all the languages of the world and these two types are as you can see here transitive verbs and intransitive verbs.

I have tried to define it little bit can I ask you what these two words mean again transitive and intransitive and I am particularly asking you about the dictionary meaning because I want to draw your attention to a very simple point that some words in the study of a structure of language like predicate intransitive transitive are difficult to describe through dictionary means okay so a transitive verb means what please transitions shores transition such as please elaborate on transition.

You do not need very nice do you understand what is saying it is very nice description of it that a transitive verb necessarily requires an object and when we say necessarily requires an object that necessary requirement is about completion of the sentence a transitive verb which requires an object in the absence of the of such object does not give us a complete sentence like this one if we drop the object from this sentence like John likes pizza or I like pizza if I simply say I like this does not give you a complete meaning.

When I stop at this point. I like probably you are waiting for me to complete it or if I do not then you can very well ask this question like what didn't understand what you were what you are trying to say at the same time intransitive works are not do in ternary works do not need objects and which means again without objects they are complete when, I when we say ice I am sleeping the you do not ask any further question you understand this sentence right but so that that is okay but how do.

We know that a were like sleep will not need an object or a worm like eat or read or light will need an object this also has a relevance for teaching this teaching any language and when you

can say I slept last night do we understand this great runs great answer simple test if you can ask the question what with the word tick any work and if you can ask a question and that is a meaningful question then it sent it is a transitive or in other words if the question is meaningful probably you are going to get an answer also.

And the answer to that question will make it will become the object of that work okay, so you can ask this question ask a question here. I like , pizza I like what right answer to this question pizza dosa or anything else is the object of that that work if a worm does not allow a question with what just with what it does not matter whether you can really make a question for that word or not no other question word is important if the work does not allow.

You a question with what then it is an intransitive work again if the work does not allow you a question with what probably you do not get an answer either so go what not a good question therefore you are not expecting any answer either which helps you conclude maybe this is an intransitive or so what are we doing with this question what basically what are we doing with this question what we are trying to figure out whether we whether the world needs an object or not and only one question word.

Which is what helps us figure this out that makes us find out about these about verbs whether a verb is transitive or intransitive amazing this test works for 99% of time sometimes it may not I can, I however that does not mean this is not a good test if it works for 99% of time it is good but it is important for us to know that it does not work everywhere. I can give you one example; I do not have it on the screen. I can give you one example of the world meet in English meet transitive or intransitive transitive or intransitive transitive.

Why so even if we use sentences like why do not we meet it is nothing but a form of object and verb again sorry object in the subject again it can be both yes anybody else anything No but suppose if it is a transitive work like how do I know it is a transitive verb this disk does not work but then it does not answer the question what so if it is we are not contesting whether it can be both or not taking it as an example of a transitive work our test does not work here but it is it this definitely can be a transitive verb.

We can say I met with a doctor, I cannot say I met when I say ,I met this is not a complete sentence see now I want to relate this to what I was discussing with you yesterday which is

knowledge of language when this particular aspect of language big is part of knowledge of language that is for native speakers they do not look at this question to make to make it certain that this is a transitive or intransitive work.

It is clear in their mind that this is a transitive or this is an intransitive or some something else is intransitive when they say I met when someone tells the a native speaker of English I met they immediately know that the sentence is not complete say it say it more and then we know that that is not an intransitive that is not an intransitive work it is a transitive work but this test does not work that is all I wanted to say that is does not work so sometimes objects may be of different nature.

That is all it means so not all those objects have to come out of the question what however now more than 99% of the time it works there are there are a few more examples we can talk about them later okay.

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The slide is titled "Object" in a large, dark font. Below the title, there is a bullet point "• Types of Objects". Under this, there are two sub-sections: "- Direct Object" and "- Indirect Object". Each sub-section has two bullet points. The "Direct Object" section includes "• Close to Verb" and "• I teach linguistics to MA students." The "Indirect Object" section includes "• Away from the Verb." and "• I teach linguistics to MA students." In the bottom left corner, there is a small circular logo with a star and the text "NPTEL" below it. At the very bottom of the slide, there are small navigation icons.

Before, I go to the real structure of a sentence to show you phrase structure this is one more important thing to talk about which is part of the predicate so we looked at the work there of two types transitive verbs intransitive verbs and verbs our central element of a sentence it is also called power house all other elements you develop around it great nice.

So let us talk about objects as well objects are as we have just seen objects are anyway a component that defines work that defines type of a world if they if we have an object it is a

transitive verb if we do not have an object it is an intransitive verb therefore objects being part of predicate and clothes really related to work is no surprise for us that we have just seen but they can be of different types and the two types that are very commonly known are called direct objects and indirect objects.

So can you tell me something about direct object or indirect objects again besides what's written on the screen how do we know about an object whether an object is in direct object or indirect object and again the dictionary meaning of these two words direct and indirect does not help us much it is its configurationally relation to the world and only the way these objects are related to him to a war is what tells us about whether though whether an object is direct object or the indirect object the direct object follows the world.

So does an indirect object but you added the word immediately the direct object immediately follows the world great example and so in the okay hold on so I is this distinction clear what you see on the screen in a sentence . I teach linguistics to MA students linguistics is direct object and to MA students is indirect object right that is just a broad distinction but, I am glad you asked this you raise this question we can say I teach ma students linguistics in that sentence . I teach ma students linguistics we still have MA students as indirect object and linguistics as direct object.

What that answers the question what exactly the direct object will be the answer to the question what I am sorry you were saying add something to the day by sure it could be your right it could be an answer to whom if you can ask this question for a subject sorry for a verb for example if I say I like pizza this sentence is good enough with a direct object this sentence does not need an indirect object, so when I say I eat a pizza the question to whom is not relevant therefore this sentence is good enough with a direct object when a sentence needs both at a time direct object and indirect object.

That is whenever needs both that type of work has a different name and that name is what are the names that you have seen so far what are the types of words you have seen so far intransitive transitive and this type of work is called die transitive so transitive verb is a word when it needs one object die transitive is the one when it meets two so a world like teach is it is type of a die transitive or it needs two objects at a time. So when I say, I will teach linguistics to a native speaker of English.

This is an incomplete sentence the same way, I like is an incomplete sentence we need to say teach linguistics there is something missing this may not be intuitively available to us that is this distinction may not be intuitively available to someone who does not English Nate who does not speak English natively you understand ,what I am saying for lot of us who speak English as a Second Language.

I teach linguistics can be a good sentence therefore it may be difficult for us to find what is the incompleteness about this sentence so if we are unable to derive incompleteness about that sentence that is because we are not the native speakers of English okay , however this sentence will remain incomplete if you do not put in direct object the order of direct object any indirect object is important but when it.

When they change their position they do not change their grammatical relations and the answer and what you said about answer to the question what is the actual meaning of what I mean when I have put here close to her and away from the wall so the object that is an answer to the question what is the object that is close to the wall again it has one more meaning close to the world or away from the world that. I will show.

You when I talk about configurationally relationship between these components for the syntax of it any other question that you may have about these things no in that case we will stop here and we talk about configurationally relationship of elements in a sentence tomorrow thank you.

### **Online Video Editing /Post Production**

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