

**Language and Mind**  
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**Module - 06**  
**Lecture - 30**  
**Sentence Movement**

Today we will look at one more aspect of Sentence for us to see the underlying pattern of the formation of sentences. We are looking at underlying patterns; in underlying patterns that come out and that are helpful in understanding of making a sentence. What are the parts of sentences and processes involved in it? In a particular thing, we want to look at - Movement.

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## Questions

- What is movement/displacement?
- What is the evidence that movement takes place in natural languages?
- What are motivations for movement?

I will explain this to you what we mean by movement. So, some of the questions that we want to raise are: What is movement? What is the evidence that movement takes place in natural languages? What are motivations for movement? We will try to answer these questions in a short period of time.

So, we begin with - What is movement? We often find that some elements get displaced from one position to the other; and again for us to see this point, the understanding of phrasal structure will be of...our understanding of phrasal structure will help us understand the notion of displacement or movement in natural languages. And we can

display, we can demonstrate this phenomenon of movement in a particular way, in a nice way, for us to understand the underlying pattern.

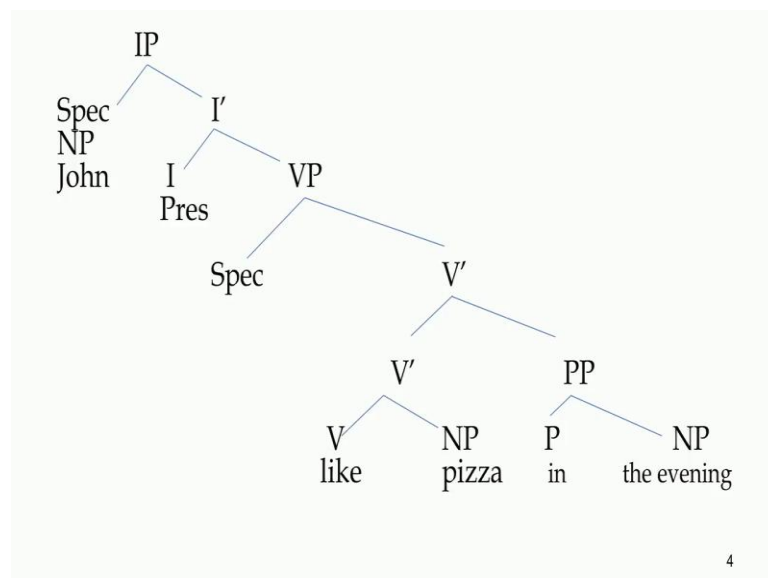
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## Movement/Displacement

- An element in one place moves to another
- A logical evidence for such a situation is required.

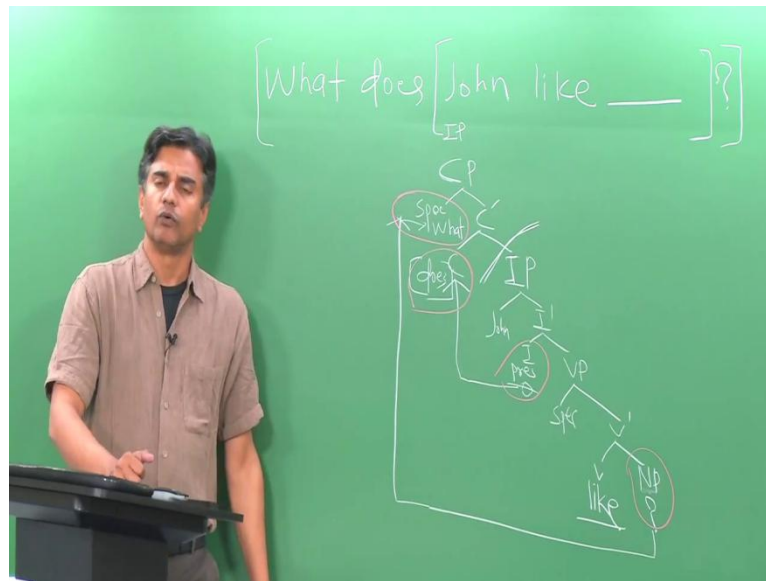
So, an element in one place moves to another - is the fundamental definition of movement.

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And what are such elements and what are the positions? So for example, look at this sentence once again - John likes pizza in the evening. Let us take an example, let us take an example of an interrogative sentence.

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And we can have a sentence like... We are leaving the part of the adjunct for the purpose of simplicity for us to understand displacement. We have a sentence, affirmative sentence - what does John... We have a sentence - John likes pizza. We have an affirmative sentence - John likes pizza. How it is represented? You can see that on the screen and you have seen that several times before, in the phrasal structure. Now I want to draw your attention to the interrogative counter part of the sentence, and we want to see the relationship between the two, which will help us understand displacement, finally.

We are looking at the interrogative counter part of the sentence that you see on the screen. What do we find in this thing is, the object of the sentence structure which was 'pizza' in the other case, has been questioned. And we are saying - What does John like? The sentence was - John likes pizza. Now we are questioning 'pizza' in the sentence - What does John like? How do we understand this sentence, and how do we represent the sentence in the phrasal structure which...and such a representation is going to help us understand the displacement of some elements in a sentence. So, how do we represent this sentence? Please keep in mind that this was our IP and when we have this, it is certainly beyond IP.

So how does this work? Where does this go in the structure that we have seen so far? The structure of IP does not help us explain this sentence, because we see some of the

elements outside IP. So, this is how it works. So, let me do this thing first and then I will explain this to you. We introduce the notion of another phrase which is called complementizer, and we call it as CP. If you look at the pattern of this phrase, it is maintaining the integrity of...it is maintaining similarity in terms of all other phrases that you have seen. It will have a specifier; it is going to have a head, and it is going to have a complement.

So, the IP becomes the complement of C. Then we have the whole sentence that you have on the screen where you have 'John' here, and then we have V bar, specifier, and we have V, and then NP here. This is the verb – 'like'. And this was an inflection which has tense in it. So, this is going to be present tense. That is not an important part right now.

What we want to see that this is a transitive verb, it has an object, and this object is not available here. Therefore we can say, this object NP has been questioned. And we see that this has moved out of its place, and it has gone to some other place. Because it is not there in this structure, it is not available under IP. In the IP in this sentence, we only have 'John likes'. As a matter of fact, it is not even 'John likes'. It is – 'John like'.

So, this verb, this one... rather this IP is also stripped out of its tense. So, in the bigger sentence - What does John like, the IP does not even contain its tense. It has also moved to some other place. And we see that it has moved... tense has moved here, and the NP that questions the object is 'What', which is here; both of them are outside IP. And therefore, we have introduced the notion of CP to show that the displaced elements have moved to a different position, which is certainly beyond IP. So, what we say first is, this tense has moved to this place. And therefore, we get something like 'does', because tense occurs in a head position. So, it has moved again to another head position, which is C.

Then we see that tense is an abstract category in a sentence. In a normal, declarative sentence of present tense, verbs host them. So, we have a sentence - John likes pizza; the verb 'like' hosts tense; being abstract, they do not get represented on their own. They need a lexical item for their manifestation. When this gets stripped out of this IP, it needs something to host it; and cut the long story short, it comes in form of... the element 'do' comes to host it, and then we find it in the C position, which is another head. And this

NP gets to another position which can host another NP, which is in turn the specifier of the CP. See, this NP... this NP is represented here, and this thing comes here.

So we have identified the elements that appear to have moved out of their original positions. At the same time, we have found the places where they could have possibly moved. Finding the elements that has moved was easy; finding the place where they could have moved was little bit difficult, because knowing the fact that these elements have moved out of IP, we need it to create more positions to capture this phenomenon of movement outside its domain, outside the domain of a sentence; and then we say that an interrogative sentence is bigger than an IP. It is a CP where the whole IP is the complement of another C. And then, this notion gets captured.

What is the motivation for this movement? The motivation for the movement is language internal. In English, all the interrogative sentences demonstrate displacement. This is called NP movement or WH movement, where this NP when questioned, comes in the form of a question word, and this is how it gives represented. So, the motivation is language internal, and the places are outside IP, and we clearly see an example of displacement. Now please know that this displacement takes place as part of the structure of sentence, and this displacement is a pattern, and this displacement happens at a conceptual level which is also known as mental representation.

Now, human mind has a way to figure out this, this movement, and represent this movement in order to understand the sentence. Thus we know the...now we know the notion of movement. We know the motivation underlying this movement and the places to which these things could have potentially moved.

All English questions require displacement. In some cases, it might only have displacement of an inflectional category - tense. So, for example, if we have a Yes-No type of a question and where we say questions like - Did you eat? - we are only displacing the tense which is an inflectional item. In the WH type of question which is also called content type of question, we have displacement of the whole NP, and thus we see one more pattern underlying the structure of sentence.

Thank you.