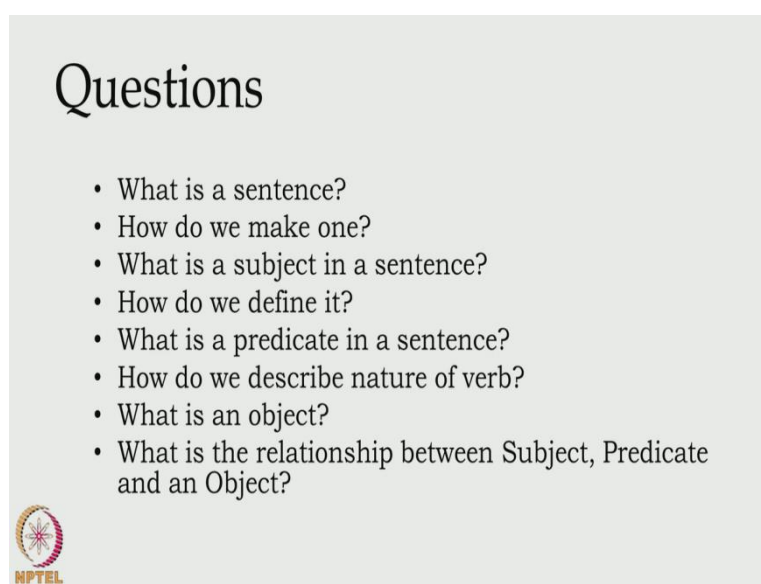


Applied Linguistics
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Lecture 12
Subject and Verbs in a Sentence


We started looking at sentences, which is syntax and we will continue looking at some of the components of a sentence. We have addressed some of the questions like what is a sentence made of?

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Questions

- What is a sentence?
- How do we make one?
- What is a subject in a sentence?
- How do we define it?
- What is a predicate in a sentence?
- How do we describe nature of verb?
- What is an object?
- What is the relationship between Subject, Predicate and an Object?



What is important part in a sentence and how do we make one, right. We have tried to answer those questions in some sense, but here are some more questions that are going to be interesting for us to understand, such as what is the subject in a sentence? We have we have talked about this thing briefly, what is the subject?

“Professor- Student conversation starts”

If someone asks you what is the subject, what will be the answer?

Sentence minus predicate.

Loudly.

Sentence minus predicate.

“Professor – student conversation ends”.

“Sentence minus predicate” that is a nice mathematical theorem, but does not help much understanding the idea of a subject. That is all alright, it is okay. Which in a way tells us this proposition that subject is different from predicate, subject is not part of the predicate therefore, it has a different status compared to every other element which are part of predicate is something, is one thing about a subject.

In other words, predicate contains objects and verbs okay and other elements. So, if we are talking about 3 elements like subject, verb and object, we know with this with this description that subject is different from verb and predicate, it has a different status, right?

“Professor- Student conversation starts”

So how do we define it? How do we define it in a more precise way?

A word which is in agreement with the verb.

That sounds better, a noun or a word, more precisely we can say noun we are going to call it something else, which is a noun phrase little later ones we talk about phrases, so we can say word or a noun that agrees with the verb and we have already seen what agreement means.

Sir, but in the sentence “Seema ne seb khaya”.

Haha.

In this, we will take “Seema” as subject.

No, that is a semantic subject.

That is a semantic subject.

Here we are talking about the grammatical.

We are talking about both; we are talking about both and the way to put both together...

There “seb” agreement will...

“Professor – student conversation ends”.

Of course, “seb” is an agreement with. So the reason why I gave you the sentence “Seema ne seb khaye” or “Raju ne chai banayi” one of the reasons why I wanted you to take a look at that sentence is, when we talk about subject, many a times we do not look at 2 parts of

subjects, one is semantic content of a subject and the other is grammatical component of the subject.

By now, you have seen independence of syntax, right. By now you have seen a sentence which is, the all that you need to make a sentence is its grammatical component. Even if a sentence does not make much sense like “Colorless green ideas sleep furiously” “A dog was reading a newspaper in the library in the night” right. These things these sentences do not make any sense, and still they are grammatical sentences.

The fact that syntax is independent of meaning okay makes us think little bit harder at a point that there are 2 parts of subject; one is its semantic content, so a word which is semantically a subject is called a logical subject okay. So in a sentence like “Raju ne chai banayi”, “Raju” is still a logical subject, but grammatically speaking the subject is the noun that agrees with the verb, which happens to be “chai” in this sentence.

If you put all these things together, you can see that in many languages of the world many a times rather 99% of time or maybe little less or little more, both logical subject and grammatical subject are in one word therefore, we do not need to separate them to see 2 parts. However, in some cases you can categorically see logical subject is something else and grammatical subject is something else.

“Professor- Student conversation starts”

Sir, what will be the predicate in this sentence?

What will be the predicate in the sentence, you tell me.

(())(05:54)

The will be, I mean that is that is that is a great question, what will be the predicate? What your question is is logical subject part of the predicate or not?

Yes.

“Professor – student conversation ends”.

Or if “chai” is if we leave logical subject out, is the grammatical subject part of the predicate. That is what your question is hinted at. And we have seen that subjects are out of out of predicate, right? So that is a conception question, in order to answer this question we need to look at some other some other stuff, okay.

The reason I am not giving you straight answer to this question that this is the noun which is out of the predicate and other one is inside the predicate, there is a reason for that. The reason is, the whole notion of subject is a conception notion, still there is no going back on the point that subjects are outside the predicate, subjects have higher status than components of predicate that at a conception level still holds okay.

And that is part of principles. Also, what is part of principle is there must be a subject in a sentence that is, without a subject we do not have a sentence, okay. Therefore, we see sentences like “go home” is there a subject here? Is there a subject here? No. Then how does it follow the principle? We have we have, I thought we did, but let me repeat it again.

Principle of language says that there cannot be a sentence without a subject and you understand the meaning of principle? The meaning of principle is, this cannot be violated. Every sentence of every language must follow that. So I am telling you such a strong rule that cannot be violated that is in every language, every sentence must have a subject. And then I am giving you counter example also.

We have a sentence in English “go home”, if this is a grammatical sentence, is this grammatical sentence? And this is the meaning of grammaticality, if it is a grammatical sentence, then it must be following principles of language. In other words, it must have subject.

“Professor- Student conversation starts”

So what is the subject of this sentence?

You.

You.

“You”. Why are we not saying “you” then?

Automatically implies.

Imply, right? We understand that it is automatically implied. In all the languages of the world, when it comes to imperative sentences like these “go home”, we do not need the subject overtly present. In other words, we do not need the physical presence of the word which becomes a subject. Can anybody guess or does anyone know why? This guess is not a big guess, you can still say.

Body language.

No, body language no.

Implication.

(Prof nodded the head as no) think little harder. What I am saying is, this is the point where I can really extract some serious thinking from you. Think about Hindi, how do we say that in Hindi “go home”?

“Ghar jao”

“Ghar jao”

Is there a subject here?

No.

“No” that is, overtly there is no subject. How do we say that in Tamil?

(())(10:08)

Is there a subject there? No. Malayalam?

(())(())(23:10)

How do we say, loudly?

(())(10:16)

Is there a subject there?

No.

“Professor – student conversation ends”.

No. If you know any other languages, just try it there, there is no subject. That is, when I say no subject, no overt presence of a subject. But you would agree that in all the languages English, Hindi, Tamil, Malayalam that we have seen right now, in all of them the implied subject is you, is that true? The answer to this question is “Principle of economy”. If it is “you”, then what is the point of saying that?

When we say go home, right. We mean, if I am talking to him and I am telling him go home, I do not mean you go home, right? This is why the subject of an imperative sentence is going to be second person. And if the second person is subject employed in every language, , languages do not feel the need to express it overtly and they tend to suppress it.

The lexical suppression that is not keeping subject overtly present in the language does not mean deleting the place of subject; we can still retrieve the subject as “you”. As long as we retrieve it, dropping is not at all a problem. Now keep that in mind, dropping does not mean no presence. Conceptually it is present, so when we say no sentence without a subject, we are talking about conceptual present of subject.

We are not talking about, in a written sentence subject must be there, is this point clear, right? Now look at it once again um before I go to predicate and talk little bit about that, let me tell you one more point about this, about subjects. In languages like Hindi, Tamil, Malayalam, we can drop subjects in other places too. Suppose I want to say “I am eating an ice cream”.

“Professor – student conversation starts”.

Okay “I am clicking an ice cream”, how do we say that in Hindi?

“Mai ice cream kah raha hu”

Can I also say “Ice cream kha raha hu”?

Yes.

Someone asks me this question; in the question also one does not need to give the subject. “What are you eating?” How do you say that?

“Tum” is not needed.

Is not, “tum” is not needed, we can say “Kya kha rahe ho?” And the answer could be “Ice cream kha raha hu”. Is this making sense to everybody?

Yes.

Now Tamil.

(())(13:27)

Do I need to say “I”? And in the question “what are you eating?” Do I need to say “you” that is “aap” or “tum”? (Students nodded in negative) How about Malayalam?

(())(13:42)

Do I need “you” in the question?

No.

In the answer, do I need “I”? No.

“Professor – student conversation ends”.

See this thing, to talk about principles or parametric variations, I I do not need to know the language. That is one, the other thing is the fact that there is no subject in these sentences, right? “kya kha rahe ho” or “ice cream kha raha hu” does not mean these sentences do not have subjects. When I say “ice cream kha raha hu”, right, it clearly means what? “mai” right?

When I am asking “kya kha rahe ho”, it clearly means only one thing, which is “tum” get it? If these things are retrievable, if we can retrieve these things from the sentence, then there is no need to put it or we can we can present the same thing in the following way. As long as things are retrievable, languages allow dropping them, again it is part of principle of economy, which means, the universal principle which is, subject must be in a sentence.

And principle of economy, as long as they are retrievable, there is no need to keep them overtly present, there is no tension between these 2 rules. Get this get this point? And in the places where we see absence of subject does not really again contradict the people of language that is there are sentences which do not have subjects. So, languages must follow universal principle and to whatever extent possible, they must principle of economy.

At the same time, each one of them definitely respects language internal rules, right. Now take the same example in English, if I want to ask you “what are you eating?” Can I say “what are eating?” Can I say that? No. This results into ungrammaticality because of the absence of “you”. Again, just because “you” is not retrievable from the context, the overt presence of “you” is required in English.

Which enforces us which is language internal rule that a subject must be present in English overtly, okay. English follow this rule verbatim, our languages allow dropping categorically that is dropping of subjects categorically, clearly, vividly, see this thing. All we need to

understand from this is there is no tension in, tension between language internal rules, universal principles and following principles of economy, clear? Okay.

I started this thing with your question which part of that is predicate? I want to keep, I have talked about many things and I think I have clarified some parts of it, but I want to keep rest of it for the level when we talk about the actual conceptual culture of sentence right, then you will see the subject is projected way high in the conceptual structure, okay.

Please remind me that time, I will I will remember to show it to you. Very soon in couple of days, I am going to come to conceptual structure. In the conceptual structure, subject is way high, which is just to capture the idea that subject is outside the predicate, right. Given the introductory nature of your class, probably we will not go into too much of details.

But keeping this question in mind, I will definitely show you that in that conceptual framework, there are different proposals where one proposal is no no no no subjects are still part of predicate, what happens actually it is it is just one of the proposals. What happens actually is once the sentences are projected outside, subjects move to the front to the higher level; actually they are part of predicate.

The people who propose such a position, they have these things in mind that how can we outrightly postulate a subject which is way too high and outside the predicate? These are the problems, understand my question? So they become the basis of postulating subjects and everything within predicate. Now if we just keep talking about these things in a abstraction that subjects are also part of predicate.

In some cases, subjects may not be part of predicate. In some theoretical frameworks, subjects are outside and in some theoretical frameworks, subjects are inside, they would not make sense, they will make sense when we have discussed that therefore, I am leaving this thing. But keep in mind, conceptually there is a difference between the position of subject and position of everything else in predicate, clear? Alright.

“Professor- Student conversation starts”

Any other question?

Sir, do all the languages in the world have the concept of predicate?

“Does all the languages of the world have concept of predicate”, Yes. We just like we cannot have a sentence without a subject, we cannot have a sentence without a predicate, which simply means what is part of what are the essentials parts of predicate? There are certain parts of predicate that are essential, okay out of which one which is extremely essential is a verb, okay verb therefore, you do not have a sentence without a verb also okay.

So, since every language of the world has a sentence, so what follows from there that there must be predicate in every language of the world, clear? Okay.

The fact that English is verb final most um...

English is verb medial.

Most Indian languages are verb final; does that have anything to do with the dropping of subject? Their grammar allows dropping subject?

No, that does not have... See, why some languages are verb medial and why some languages are verb final are parametric. What your question is, the whole phenomena of dropping of subject dependent on verb being final? No. What it is dependent on is rich morphology that is, rich projections rich agreement features. Now what I mean by rich features is, when you say “Tum kaha ja rahe ho?” right.

You at the look at the last verb part, just the verb part okay. How do we put the whole thing in English?

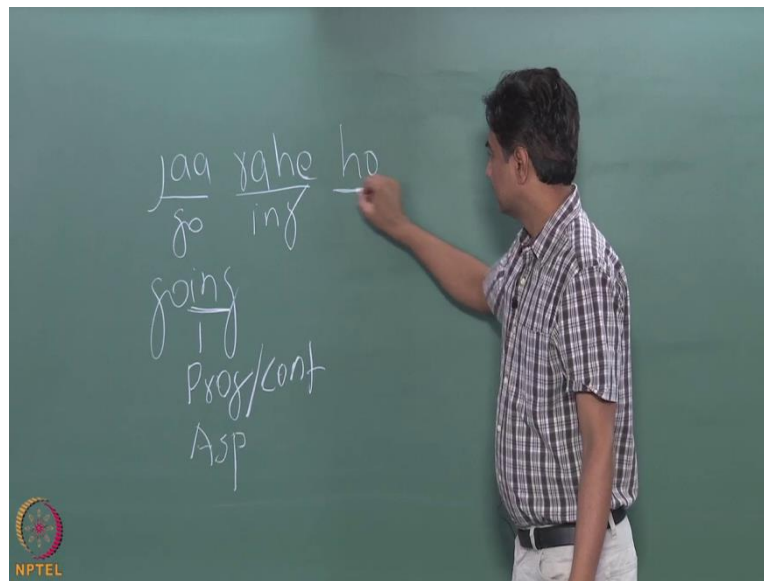
“Going” that’s it.

“Going”, which happens to be just one word, right.

“Professor – student conversation ends”.

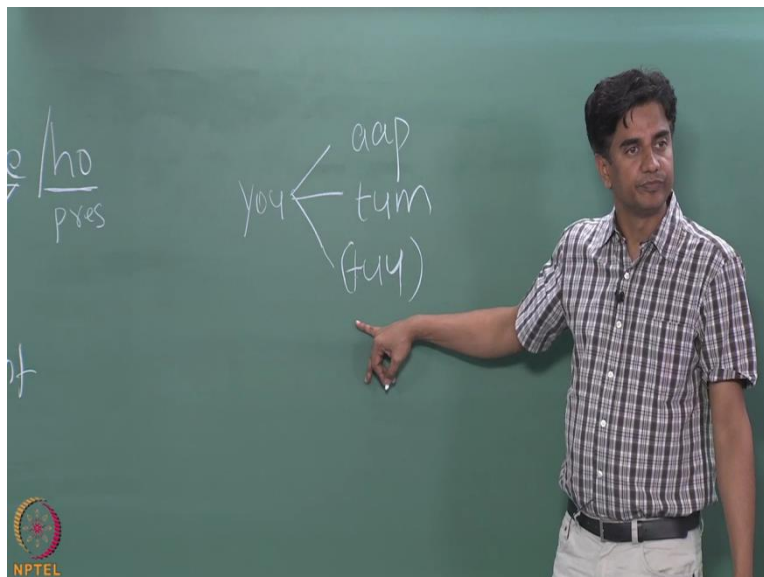
So at this level I can tell you, by looking at it you can say, this is richer than this, still it is not very clear. What we actually mean is, the “ing” marker okay, which is actually progressive or continuous aspect marker, serious thing, is actually a separate word in a language like Hindi, see this thing. This is go, this is “ing”, now what is this?

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This is in a way tense marker, right? This tells us about present tense, okay. Besides this telling you about tense marking, this talks about something else also, which is the presence of this is correlated with the presence of this pronoun. Equivalent to “you” in a language like Hindi, and I am sure that this distinction exists in other languages too, we have several things, heard this thing? Am I right?

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Then there is something else that is not that much in use, but still exists, okay. Now this pronoun which is still equivalent to “you” is not here, if you have this as the marker, right. Suppose I want to say “aap” here, is the sentence good? Yes? No. In some form of the Hindi,

some people can say, yes it is good, okay, some people could speak this way, yes it is good, but not really warranted.

“Professor – student conversation starts”.

Why it is good? Please ask me this question, why for some people it is good, I will talk to you about this little later we have not reached that point. What is the marker for “aap” the final marker? If I want to keep “aap” here, what should I have here?

“hain”

“hain”

“Hain” see this thing. The fact that this should be “hain” at least tells you that this is the marker for something else. If I want to say this one “tu”, what is the marker here?

“hai”.

“Tu jar aha hai.” can I say “Tu ja rahe hain?”

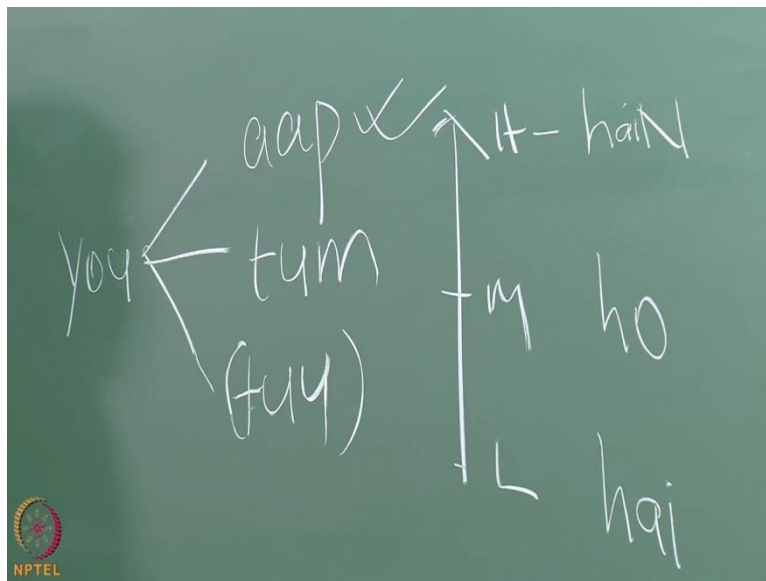
No.

“Professor – student conversation ends”.

Can I say “Tu ja rahe ho?” No. See this thing, what I am trying to tell you is besides marking tense, this also helps you retrieve the pronoun, okay. This is the meaning of rich projections, rich morphology. Therefore, it is possible to drop these things because I can retrieve this thing on the basis of this, right. The marker helps me retrieve the subject therefore, we can drop it. Not the final or medial position of verb, clear? Okay.

Since we mentioned, can you give me a moment, I will quickly finish the question that came up that in some variety of Hindi, “Aap ja rahe ho” could be acceptable, the reason for that is very simple. See, this is in the hierarchy, this is high, this is mid and this is low okay in the hierarchy of formality, so there is a reason why we have 3 variants, right.

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So what we can do is and for all of them there are different markers, am I right? There are different markers, so what happens actually and again, when I show you the conceptual tree that is conceptual representation of a sentence, some of these things will become clearer. What happens is, a pronoun that is higher in the hierarchy can agree with something that is lower, right.

But something that is lower in the hierarchy cannot agree with what is higher. Therefore, you never say “Tum ja rahe hain”, but “Aap ja rahe ho” is possibly allowed in some variety of Hindi. Is it making sense so far? We are still talking about subjects and its agreement features. And I think the answer to your question should be clear now that the verb final status of the verb has very little to do with this.

Do with why Hindi and some other languages of South Asian subcontinent allow dropping of subject? Rich morphology, rich projection is responsible for that, okay. Now, so one the question, how do we define a subject? We cannot have just one sentence definition; we will have to talk about lots of things at least that is at least this should be clear to you from clear to you so far.

What is the predicate in a sentence? Predicate in a sentence as you have seen, minus subject everything else is predicate, which means verbs are part of predicate and what is also clear from examples like these is all the markers that you see whether it is the question of tense marker or special markers for specific pronoun aspect marker, all of them and why and how verbs control agreement.

All this information is inbuilt, encoded and manifested on verb alone. Is that true? Do you see that? Therefore, verbs are called Powerhouse in a sentence. If I have already used this word, this is what I meant. Because it controls everything, it is called the central aspect of a sentence, it is a very powerful thing in a sentence, it controls everything, okay.

Among many other things that is interplay of functional categories that is tense, aspect, number, person, gender, agreement, all those things are either manifested, stored or projected in and around verb, okay. These are parts of universal principle; in every language you are going to see that. Whether some features are projected or not, may be part of individual languages that is, Hindi projects more than English does.

This may be maybe language internal phenomena, but whatever it does at the verb is a specific principle of language, okay. Now, among many things that predicate control is nature of its objects. I think I had asked you this question last time maybe not, what is the relationship between verb and its object? I did not, okay. So by now we know 3 things, now let us drop predicate for a moment, we have talked enough about it.

And whatever we are going to talk now also applies to the discussion on predicate. So let us talk about verb and objects, have you heard this word object? Yes, no, yes. Object in connection with sentences, everyone about that object in connection with sentences?

“Professor- Student conversation starts”

Yes, no. You need to tell me something.

Yes.

Yes, what is an object like we have spent enough time on subjects and now I think we have a fairly good sense of what subjects do, what subjects are and why subjects are the way they are, we have really good sense of it. What are objects in a sentence and how do we know whether we need an object or not. About subjects, we have a principle that subjects are required end of the story.

So we do not need to figure out anything, but that is that principle does not apply to objects, see this thing.

“Professor- Student conversation starts”

If I say, “I was sleeping”, is it a good sentence?

Yes.

“Professor – student conversation ends”.


I was sleeping, right. I can say it in more context and make it more relevant, I can say “when you called, I was sleeping” right. Does this sentence have an object? It has a verb, it has a subject, it does not have an object. And like this, there could be plenty of sentences in every language which does not have an object, which is to say that objects are not required part of a sentence.

Whether you are going to see in object in a sentence or not depends on verb. How do we figure that out? Okay, that is the next question we are going to address. This is what I mean by, how do we describe nature of verb? And what is an object? These are the 2 questions that will be answered in that and also it will partially answer the question about relationship between subject, predicate and an object.

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Questions

- What is a sentence?
- How do we make one?
- What is a subject in a sentence?
- How do we define it?
- What is a predicate in a sentence?
- How do we describe nature of verb?
- What is an object?
- What is the relationship between Subject, Predicate and an Object?




Where we have already seen the relationship between subject and its predicate, we are we are going to see the relationship between verb and object, okay alright.

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Components of a Sentence

- Lexical Category
 - Nouns, Verbs, Adjectives, Prepositions
- Functional Category
 - Number, Person, Gender, Tense, Aspect, Agreement
- Subject
- Predicate
 - Verb and everything other than subject
 - Objects



So you have seen these things, right? We have we have lexical categories in sentences which simply means words and their categories could be either nouns, verbs, adjectives, prepositions, I have discussed the prepositions with you, right? Now we understand what a proposition is okay. Without about subjects and predicates, we are going to be looking at objects.

So, when we talk about the nature of verb, the reason why we need to talk about nature of verb is because it determines the number of object it requires. Only by looking at the nature of verb, you can tell whether this verb needs an object or not, okay. So if a if a sentence like, what was the sentence that I gave you? “I was sleeping”, if this sentence does not have an object, then not having an object follows from the nature of the verb sleep, okay.

“Professor- Student conversation starts”

So what we mean by nature of verb is, have you heard these words “intransitive, transitive” what do they mean? “Intransitive”, if I ask you the literal meaning of the word intransitive.

Does not change.

Does not change.

(())(37:04) maybe transition.

“Professor – student conversation ends”.

Transition is different from transitive, okay. They may sound similar, but different but nonetheless nice effort. Let us understand these terms in its grammatical meaning, okay. Let us forget about its literal meaning, let us understand in terms of their grammatical implications. Whenever we say a verb is transitive, we mean the verb is going to have one object, okay.

Intransitive verb will have no object. And at the same time we would mention, there is another type of verb which is called ditransitive, which simply means if transitive has one object, ditransitive have two objects. Intransitive, we do not have a word called Zero transitive or something, intransitive means no object. It should be straightforward, no issues, still this does not help us enough, right?

This describes the nature of the verb that is transitive, intransitive or ditransitive that is 0 intransitive 0, transitive one, ditransitive 2. But then how do I know which verb is intransitive and which verb is transitive. I will decide the number of objects if I know a verb is intransitive or transitive or ditransitive, but then let me first say the question, how do I know a verb is transitive or intransitive?

One answer could be, if the verb has 2 objects, then it is ditransitive, if it has one object then it is transitive and if it has no objects, then it is intransitive, but that does not help us either. We are we are talking about, so this helps us if you have a sentence, if you do not have a sentence, then how does this help? See the see the problem, we know the description, but this does not still help much.

So, if I give you a sentence “I was sleeping”, then you know there is no object and this much of information would be helpful and you can see, what is the verb here? “Sleep” so the verb “sleep” is an intransitive verb, but that we can deduct from a sentence. If I just give you a verb and ask you to tell me whether it is a transitive or intransitive, how would you know? There is no way to find out.

But that is not apparent, what we mean is that is not apparent. We need to know just little thing. Keep in mind, it is different from gender, what did I tell you about gender? Gender of a word is arbitrarily assigned. A chair is feminine; there is no intrinsic rule, which tells us chair must be feminine okay that is arbitrarily assigned. But this is not arbitrary; there is a pattern in it. The pattern is very simple, let us look at these sentences.


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Verbs and Objects

- Sleep John was sleeping.
- Go Bill was going **home**.
- Come Mary was coming **from school**.
- Sit Chris was sitting **in a chair**.
- Dance Nancy was dancing.

- Eat Bob was eating **pizza**.
- Read Chirs was reading **a novel**.
- Write Liza was wring **a letter**.

- Give Tony gave a **pen to his daughter**.
- Teach Nancy was teaching **Japanese English**.

5

So the first set of verbs that you see, they are examples of intransitive verbs, okay. They are in examples of intransitive verbs “sleep, go, come, sit, dance”, these are just couple of examples few examples; languages are full of such example. If you come up with a sentence with these verbs, you do not have an object. Can you see, can you read these sentences? “John was sleeping” no object.

“Go” “Bill was going home”. You see a noun after the verb go right, which is home but it is not an object of this verb, which even complicates the problem. This is why I have highlighted these words in red, they are not objects. But the first sentence is at least simpler that there is no object. In the second one, we have something and still we are saying that is not an object. The level of complexity is just higher, how do I know? Right.

third one, “Mary was coming from school” we have noun “school”, we have something more than a noun, we have a preposition and a noun, we will talk about those phrases in a moment, not in a moment, some other time. But the verb “come” is an intransitive verb, what follows the verb “coming” is not an object of the verb, okay. “Chris was sitting in a chair” the verb sit is intransitive verb “in a chair” just like “from school” is not an object.

“Nancy was dancing” you do not see any object there that is a clear intransitive verb, get it? In the second set, the verbs like eat, read and write these are examples of transitive verbs. You can read them, you see the objects in blue, and they are the required part of a sentence. If you just say, “Bob was eating”, the idea is this sentence is not complete as long as this object is not present, okay.

“Chris was reading a novel” we must not say “Chris was reading” we have to say “Chris was reading a novel” or whatever the person was reading. That part is the object of the verb and then “Lisa was writing a letter” see this thing? These are the objects of transitive verb. And last 2 examples are examples of ditransitive verbs where you have 2 objects. Again, a sentence is not complete without both the objects.

So we can say “Tony gave a pen to his daughter”, “pen” is also an object, “to his daughter” is also another object, both the objects must be present in the sentence for the sentence to be complete. “Nancy was teaching Japanese, English” what does this mean? What does this sentence mean? She was teaching English to Japanese people, right? Look at this; we can say the same sentence in 2 different ways.

We can say, “Nancy was teaching Japanese, English”. We can say “Nancy was teaching English to Japanese”, see this thing, but both must be there. Therefore, the verbs like teach and give are called ditransitive verbs. Now these are just examples of what I have told you, I have still not told you how do I know whether a verb requires an object or not?

You can say, because we are not native speakers of English, you need to check this thing only with the native speaker. Because we are not native speakers of English, a sentence like “Bob was eating” to us it sounds alright, right? This is why we do not depend on the judgment about a sentence who is not a native speaker, okay. We can say “Chris was reading” fine. “Lisa was writing” that is also fine.

Now, I am not trying to say our English is bad, I am also not trying to say we do not understand how language works, the reason why in our English these sentences are good without their objects because of this reason again. In languages, we not only drop subjects, but we can also drop objects. In our languages, we can drop objects in the context okay so if we have a verb “khana” which is a transitive work, then we can drop objects, right.

Because the objects are retrievable from the context. Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Marathi, Gujarati allows dropping of objects also. If a sentence without object in English is good to us that is the influence of our native languages on English, where English does not allow dropping of objects. So if you are asking a speaker of English from India, these sentences are good to them.

If you ask these sentences to a native speaker of English, they will be able to tell you that this sentence is incomplete. When you say “Bob was eating” the sentence is incomplete, they will

they will still be waiting for the object “Bob was eating” what do you mean? Okay. Then the sentence sounds incomplete because of the lack of object, alright.

Now, to wind it up and we will we will discuss this thing very briefly when we meet next time with the other topics. We only need to ask a question, we only need to question the verb with “what”. If you if you can question the verb with “what” and you have a legitimate question, then you will get an answer too. If the question is not legitimate, then there is no question of getting an answer.

As long as you can question the verb, keep in mind only with “what” question the verb with “what”, then that is a transitive verb. I can question eat with “what” or not? Eat you just used you do not even need to get a complete sentence “what did you eat?” You can simply say “eat what?” right? Does this sound like a good question?

If it is a good question, then you will get answer too “eat pizza” “eat ice cream” then we know that this verb is transitive and it will need an object, okay. “Read what?” That is a good question, “Write what?”. If we look at intransitive verbs, can we question for the verb “sleep” with the same question? “Sleep what?”

And this is why I am telling you, please do not use other questions “where, where, how” none of them, just what “sleep what, go what, sit what, dance what” okay. If if the question is not legitimate, there is no possibility of getting an answer and therefore the verb is an intransitive verb which in turn means no object, okay. The question about ditransitive verb is, you will still need the same question “what”.

But there is no way to figure out whether the verb is ditransitive. As long as you can figure it is a transitive verb, it is good enough, okay. Ditransitive verbs to non-natives we have to find out specifically. Keep this in mind, I have given you a diagnostic test, this test is not part of either principles or parameters. This is a diagnostic test and is not 100% foolproof, it works only to a great extent in let us say, 99% of the cases.

Still, one person of the case does not work with this diagnostic test and this is not the right time to show you that 1%. At one point I will show you where this those not work and you will be able to see. Again, you know those verbs where this rule does not work, There is nothing new that I am telling you.

You already know, that is our mind knows what is a transitive, what is an intransitive verb, which sentences is going to need an object, which sentence is not going to need an object. Our mind also knows which I am going to tell you now is a verb is transitive or intransitive, so this transitive or intransitive nature of a verb does not change or does not vary from language to language.

If “go” is intransitive in English, it is going to stay intransitive in all the languages of the world. That does not change that does not vary from language to language and this we that is human mind knows very well. We stop here; I think you will have classes.

“Professor- Student conversation starts”

Any quick questions?

How do we make out ditransitive?

See, ditransitive verbs are an extension of transitive verbs. So as long as you can figure out that “teach” it also transitive, you can question “teach what?” right. As long as you can figure out it is transitive that is good enough, whether it is ditransitive or not, this diagnostic does not work there.

How we would know about it?

“Professor- Student conversation ends”

There is no diagnostic for that, you have to depend on native intuition for that, okay. But you can definitely say this is also a transitive, okay. But the 1% cases where I said it does not work, some of the verbs that look like transitive are not transitive really, okay. You can still question them with “what”, but they are not transitive.

Therefore, I said in 1% of the cases they do not work, with that 1%, I did not mean ditransitive verbs, okay more lately. Thank you.