CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-51786-7 - The Structure of Language: An Introduction to Grammatical Analysis
Emma L. Pavey
Frontmatter
More information

The Structure of Language

An Introduction to Grammatical Analysis

Most of the time we communicate using language without considering the complex activity we are undertaking, forming words and sentences in a split second. This book introduces the analysis of language structure, combining both description and theory within a single, practical text. It begins by examining words and parts of words, and then looks at how words work together to form sentences that communicate meaning. Sentence patterns across languages are also studied, looking at the similarities and the differences we find in how languages communicate meaning. The book also discusses how context can affect how we structure our sentences: the context of a particular language and its structures, the context of old and new information for us and our addressee(s), and the context of our culture.

EMMA L. PAVEY is Assistant Professor of Linguistics at the Canada Institute of Linguistics at Trinity Western University.

© in this web service Cambridge University Press www.cambridge.org

CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-51786-7 - The Structure of Language: An Introduction to Grammatical Analysis
Emma L. Pavey
Frontmatter
More information

The Structure of Language

An Introduction to Grammatical Analysis

EMMA L. PAVEY

Trinity Western University, British Columbia

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

© in this web service Cambridge University Press www.cambridge.org

CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-51786-7 - The Structure of Language: An Introduction to Grammatical Analysis
Emma L. Pavey
Frontmatter
More information

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS
Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore,
São Paulo, Delhi, Dubai, Tokyo, Mexico City

Cambridge University Press
The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 8RU, UK

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

www.cambridge.org
Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9780521736657

© Emma L. Pavey 2010

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception
and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements,
no reproduction of any part may take place without the written
permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 2010

Printed in the United Kingdom at the University Press, Cambridge

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloguing in Publication data
Pavey, Emma.
The structure of language : an introduction to grammatical analysis / Emma L. Pavey.
p. cm.
Includes bibliographical references and index.
ISBN 978-0-521-51786-7 (hardback) – ISBN 978-0-521-73665-7 (pbk.)
1. Grammar, Comparative and general. 2. Semantics. I. Title.
P201.P38 2010
415 – dc22 2010017273

ISBN 978-0-521-51786-7 Hardback
ISBN 978-0-521-73665-7 Paperback

Additional resources for this publication at www.cambridge.org/pavey

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or
accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to
in this publication, and does not guarantee that any content on such
websites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.

© in this web service Cambridge University Press www.cambridge.org

CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-51786-7 - The Structure of Language: An Introduction to Grammatical Analysis
Emma L. Pavey
Frontmatter
More information

For goodness' sake

© in this web service Cambridge University Press www.cambridge.org

CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-51786-7 - The Structure of Language: An Introduction to Grammatical Analysis
Emma L. Pavey
Frontmatter
More information

Contents

List of figures *page* ix
List of tables xii
Acknowledgements xiii
Notes for instructors and readers xiv
List of abbreviations xv

1 Introduction 1
1 Language for communication 2
2 The structure of language – a preview 4

2 The structure of words 8
1 What is a word? 8
2 Parts of words 9
3 How to find morphemes 12
4 The function of added morphemes 19
5 Morphological processes 25
6 Clitics 36
Exercises 39

3 The structure of sentences 46
1 Introduction to syntactic structure 46
2 Operators 61
3 Head-marking constructions 79
Exercises 83

4 The structure of meaning 93
1 Predicate classes 93
2 Semantic representations and roles 107
3 Macroroles 118
Exercises 126

5 Integrating language structure 137
1 How semantic roles are syntactically marked 137
2 Grammatical relations 141
3 Valence-changing constructions 155
Exercises 170

© in this web service Cambridge University Press www.cambridge.org

CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-51786-7 - The Structure of Language: An Introduction to Grammatical Analysis
Emma L. Pavey
Frontmatter
More information

6 The structure of phrases 180
1 Noun phrase syntactic structure 180
2 Noun phrase operators 187
3 Adpositional phrases 198
4 Adjuncts 206
Exercises 209

7 Complex structures 219
1 Complex construction levels and types 219
2 Complex constructions 227
3 Serial verb constructions 236
4 Syntactic and semantic relations between clauses 245
5 Relative clauses 247
Exercises 257

8 The structure of information 271
1 Information structure terms and concepts 271
2 The morpho-syntactic marking of information structure 277
3 Questions and commands 289
Exercises 299

9 Language structure in context 310
1 Language, cognition and communication 310
2 Typology 311
3 Language families 319
4 Language, culture and thought 320
5 Language change and language contact 329
Exercises 334

List of languages 337
Glossary 350
Notes 370
References 383
Index 398

© in this web service Cambridge University Press www.cambridge.org

CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-51786-7 - The Structure of Language: An Introduction to Grammatical Analysis
Emma L. Pavey
Frontmatter
More information

Figures

3.1 Universal semantic elements *page* 53
3.2 Universal syntactic elements 54
3.3 Syntactic elements of sentence 25 54
3.4 Constituent representation of sentence 25 56
3.5 Constituent representation of sentence 29 (b) 57
3.6 Constituent representations of non-verbal predicates 59
3.7 Constituent representation of specificational sentence 38 (b) 60
3.8 Syntactic core and periphery templates for English. Original © Robert D. Van Valin, Jr 2005, reproduced with permission. 61
3.9 The scope of core and clausal negation 63
3.10 Syntactic representation. Original © Robert D. Van Valin, Jr 2005, reproduced with permission. 76
3.11 Example syntactic representations for English sentences 76
3.12 Syntactic representation of 77 (a) and (b) 77
3.13 Constituent representation for head-marking sentence 82 (a) 81
3.14 Constituent representation of head-marking in Ch'orti' 81
4.1 Illustration of state predicate **love**′ 95
4.2 Illustration of activity predicate **dance**′ 96
4.3 Illustration of achievement predicate **pop**′ 97
4.4 Illustration of accomplishment predicates **melt**′ and **recover**′ 98
4.5 Illustration of semelfactive predicate **clap**′ 99
4.6 Picture of activity predicate semantic representations 111
4.7 Representation of adjunct 117
4.8 Representation of locative predicate 124
5.1 Nominative-accusative system 149
5.2 Ergative-absolutive system 150
5.3 Constituent representation of English active and passive sentences 157
5.4 Constituent representation of Japanese active and passive sentences 158
5.5 English noun incorporation construction 166
5.6 ASL sign for 'fall' 167
6.1 The structure of noun phrases, adpositional phrases and clauses 181
6.2 Constituent representation of *a good book* 181

© in this web service Cambridge University Press www.cambridge.org

CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-51786-7 - The Structure of Language: An Introduction to Grammatical Analysis
Emma L. Pavey
Frontmatter
More information

6.3 Constituent representation of *the lid of the box* 183
6.4 Constituent representation of deverbal noun. Original © Cambridge University Press 1997, reproduced with permission. 184
6.5 Constituent representation of NP with NPIP 185
6.6 Constituent representation of NPIP and NPFP. Original © Robert D. Van Valin, Jr 2005, reproduced with permission. 185
6.7 Constituent representation of possessive constructions 186
6.8 Constituent representation of pronoun and proper noun 187
6.9 Overview of NP constituent and operator representation 188
6.10 Syntactic representation for noun phrases. Original © Robert D. Van Valin, Jr 2005. Reproduced with permission. 195
6.11 Syntactic representation for English NP with nominal aspect 196
6.12 Syntactic representation of demonstratives in NPs 197
6.13 Position of adjunct adpositional phrase 199
6.14 Internal structure of predicative adpositional phrase. Original © Robert D. Van Valin, Jr 2005. Reproduced with permission. 200
6.15 Internal structure of non-predicative prepositional phrase. Original © Robert D. Van Valin, Jr 2005. Reproduced with permission. 201
6.16 Constituent representation of adjunct adpositional phrase 204
6.17 Constituent representation of argument-marking adpositional phrase 205
6.18 Constituent representation of argument-adjunct adpositional phrase 205
6.19 Constituent representation of clause-level adjunct 207
6.20 Constituent representation of core-level adjunct 207
6.21 Constituent representation of adjuncts at all three levels 208
7.1 Simple clause in English 220
7.2 Visual representation of complex constructions 220
7.3 Diagram representing coordination 223
7.4 Constituent representation of coordinate constructions 223
7.5 Diagram representing subordination 223
7.6 Diagram representing cosubordination 225
7.7 Constituent representation of cosubordinate constructions 226
7.8 Types of connection in complex constructions. Original © Cambridge University Press 1997, reproduced with permission. 226
7.9 Symmetry in complex constructions 226
7.10 Constituent representation of ad-clausal subordination 228
7.11 Syntactic representation of clausal cosubordination 230
7.12 Constituent representation of ad-core subordination 231
7.13 Constituent representation of core subordination 232

© in this web service Cambridge University Press www.cambridge.org

CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-51786-7 - The Structure of Language: An Introduction to Grammatical Analysis
Emma L. Pavey
Frontmatter
More information

7.14	Syntactic representation of core coordination and core cosubordination. Original © Cambridge University Press 1997, reproduced with permission.	234
7.15	Syntactic representation of nuclear subordination	235
7.16	Syntactic representation of nuclear coordination	236
7.17	Interclausal relations hierarchy. Original © Robert D. Van Valin, Jr 2005, reproduced with permission.	246
7.18	English restrictive relative clause	248
7.19	Indonesian restrictive relative clause	250
7.20	Internally headed relative clause in Miskitu	253
7.21	English complex sentence for exercise A1	258
8.1	The cognitive status of referents. Original © Cambridge University Press 1997, reproduced with permission.	272
8.2	Relationship between the expression of an NP and its pragmatic status. Original © Robert D. Van Valin, Jr 2005, reproduced with permission.	277
8.3	Constituent representation of the pre-core slot	280
8.4	Pre-core slot containing adjunct constituent	281
8.5	Constituent representation of the post-core slot	282
8.6	Constituent representation of left and right detached positions	283
8.7	Constituent representation of left detached position and pre-core slot	283
8.8	Constituent representation of two left detached positions in French	285
8.9	Constituent representation of *it*-cleft construction	287
8.10	Polar question in Austrian Sign Language	291
8.11	Syntactic representation of *in-situ* question in Tshangla	294
9.1	Scale of isolating and polysynthetic morphological types	312
9.2	Scale of agglutinative and fusional morphological types	314
9.3	Split intransitive grammatical relations system	317
9.4	Language family tree for Zome and Koireng	320
9.5	Representation of the Yimas view of time	324
9.6	Relative and absolute reference points	325

© in this web service Cambridge University Press www.cambridge.org

CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-51786-7 - The Structure of Language: An Introduction to Grammatical Analysis
Emma L. Pavey
Frontmatter
More information

Tables

2.1	Kham data, version 1	*page* 14
2.2	Kham data, version 2	14
2.3	Kham data, version 3	15
2.4	Kham data, version 4	15
2.5	Kham data, version 5	16
2.6	Kham data, final version	16
2.7	Hungarian position class chart, version 1	17
2.8	Hungarian position class chart, final version	18
2.9	Yatê personal prefix paradigm	20
2.10	Halkomelem person particles with intransitive predicates	21
2.11	Derivational affix examples	24
2.12	Summary of differences between inflection and derivation	24
2.13	Summary of differences between affixes and clitics	38
4.1	Relationship between syntactic and semantic units	94
4.2	Properties of the five main predicate classes	100
4.3	Activities and active achievements	101
4.4	Properties of active achievements	101
4.5	Causative predicate classes	102
4.6	Morphological marking of states, accomplishments/achievements and causatives	107
4.7	Semantic roles of state predicate arguments	110
4.8	Semantic roles of activity predicate arguments	112
4.9	Semantic roles and predicate classes	116
4.10	Hierarchy of semantic roles	118
4.11	Actor-Undergoer Hierarchy	120
5.1	Properties of valence-changing constructions	169
6.1	Pronoun types	187
6.2	Semantic roles of argument-adjunct adpositional phrases	202
6.3	Properties of adpositional phrases	205
7.1	Complex construction table for exercise A2	258
8.1	Terms associated with information structure	274
8.2	Constructional template for English content question construction	298

© in this web service Cambridge University Press www.cambridge.org

CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-51786-7 - The Structure of Language: An Introduction to Grammatical Analysis
Emma L. Pavey
Frontmatter
More information

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank all those who gave input and feedback during the process of writing this book, and those who assisted with language data: in particular I would like to thank Robert Van Valin, Jr, and also Bonnie Henson, Howard Jackson, Madeleine van den Bovenkamp, Jamin Pelkey, Toshio Ohori and David Crozier. I would also like to thank Tom Stobbe for his assistance in the compilation process.

For keeping me sane during the book-writing process, I credit the time spent with my friends at the A Rocha Centre in Surrey, BC.

Finally, my broad but sincere thanks also go to my 'guinea pigs', the students at the Canada Institute of Linguistics at Trinity Western University (Langley, BC) who helped me refine and improve this book, and who showed a keen aptitude for finding typos. Remaining mistakes are of course mine.

© in this web service Cambridge University Press www.cambridge.org

CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-51786-7 - The Structure of Language: An Introduction to Grammatical Analysis
Emma L. Pavey
Frontmatter
More information

Notes for instructors and readers

This book is intended to be read in order, from chapter 1 to chapter 9, as each chapter builds on the content of previous chapters. It contains a large number of exercises, over one hundred in total; chapters 2 to 8 contain two sets of exercises, one set based on English and another set based on other languages. The degree of difficulty of each exercise is indicated with asterisks: exercises with two asterisks present more of a challenge than those with one asterisk. Several chapters include text-based exercises both to provide variety and to guide the reader towards a more realistic experience of linguistic fieldwork. There are also 'mini-exercises' in the text of each chapter, and additional exercises and resources are available on the web via Cambridge University Press. In addition, this book offers an extensive glossary (glossary items appear in the text in bold, small capitals at their first occurrence) and a list of the 200+ languages referred to in this book; the language list includes references where more information on each language may be found.

A native or advanced level of English is assumed of the reader, but only basic linguistic terminology is presupposed. As such, this book is ideally suited to a second-level undergraduate class. It is also appropriate for an introductory graduate-level class, particularly where the student is migrating from studying formal approaches to syntax to a more functional approach (chapters 3 to 9 in particular). Much of the syntactic framework used in this book comes from Role and Reference Grammar Theory. For more comprehensive detail concerning this theory, the reader is directed to consult Van Valin (2005) or Van Valin and LaPolla (1997).

© in this web service Cambridge University Press www.cambridge.org

CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-51786-7 - The Structure of Language: An Introduction to Grammatical Analysis
Emma L. Pavey
Frontmatter
More information

Abbreviations

1	1st person
2	2nd person
3	3rd person
I	class/type 1
II	class/type 2
III	class/type 3 (etc.)
A	actor
AAJ	argument-adjunct adpositional phrase
ABIL	abilitative case
ABL	ablative
ABS	absolutive
ABSOL	absolute
ACC	accusative
ADJ	adjective
ADN	adnominal modifier
ADV	adverb/adverbial
ADVR	adversative
AFF	affirmative
AFX	affix
AGR	agreement
AGT	agentive case
ALL	allative
AN	animate
ANT	anterior
ANTIP	antipassive
AOR	aorist
APPL	applicative
ART	article
ASP	aspect
ASRT	assertive/assertative
ASSOC	associative
ASSUM	assumed evidential
ATTR	attributive
ATV	active voice
AUG	augmented number

© in this web service Cambridge University Press www.cambridge.org

CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-51786-7 - The Structure of Language: An Introduction to Grammatical Analysis
Emma L. Pavey
Frontmatter
More information

AUX	auxiliary
AV	agentive voice
BEL	belonging or association
BEN	benefactive
BV	borrowed verb
CAUS	causative
CL	clitic
CLF	classifier / class marker
CLM	clause linkage marker
CM	causee marker
CN	common noun
COLL	collective
COM	comitative
COMP	complementizer
COMPL	completive
CONJ	conjunct
CONSEC	consecutive marker
CONT	continuative aspect
CONTR	contrastive focus particle
COP	copula
CST	contrast
CVB	converb
DAT	dative
DCOP	deictic copula
DECL	declarative
DEF	definite
DEIC	deictic
DEM	demonstrative
DER	derivational affix
DES	desiderative
DET	determiner
DETR	detransitivizer
DEX	indexer
DFUT	distant future
DIM	diminutive
DIR	directional
DIR.EV	direct evidence evidential
DIRC	direct case
DISJ	disjunct
DIST	distal
DLMT	delimitative
DM	dependency marker
d-S	derived single argument
DSTR	distributive

© in this web service Cambridge University Press www.cambridge.org

CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-51786-7 - The Structure of Language: An Introduction to Grammatical Analysis
Emma L. Pavey
Frontmatter
More information

DU	dual
DUB	dubitative
DUR	durative
EMPH	emphatic
EP	emphatic pronoun
ERG	ergative
EVID	evidential
EXCL	exclusive
EXIST	existential
EXT	extension particle
F	feminine
FIN	finite verb
FOC	focus
FRUST	frustrative
FUT	future
FV	final vowel
GEN	genitive
GIV	given
H	human
HAB	habitual
HORT	hortative
HSY	hearsay evidential
ID	identifiable
IF	illocutionary force
IMP	imperative
INAN	inanimate
INCL	inclusive
IND	indicative
INDF	indefinite
INF	infinitive
INFL	inflectional affix
INFR	inferred evidential
INGR	ingressive
INS	instrumental
INT	interrogative
INTR	intransitive
IPFV	imperfective
IRR	irrealis
ITER	iterative
IX	use of the index finger to point
LAT	lative
LDP	left-detached position
LIM	limitative
LNK	linker

© in this web service Cambridge University Press www.cambridge.org

CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-51786-7 - The Structure of Language: An Introduction to Grammatical Analysis
Emma L. Pavey
Frontmatter
More information

LOC	locative
M	masculine
MIN	minimal number
MKR	marker
ML	male
MOD	modality
N	neuter
NASP	nominal aspect
NDU	non-dual
NEG	negation
NEUT	neutral
NF	non-final marker
NFUT	non-future tense
NH	non-human
NM	non-masculine
NMLZ	nominalizer
NOM	nominative
NP	noun phrase
NPFP	noun phrase final position
NPIP	noun phrase initial position
NPRS	non-present
NPST	non-past tense
NRL	non-relational prefix
NSG	non-singular
NUC	nucleus
NUM	number
NVIS	non-visual evidential
OBJ	object
OBJV	objective
OBL	oblique
OBLIG	obligation
OBS	observational
ONOM	onomatopoeia
OV	objective voice
P	preposition
PASS	passive
PAT	patient
PAU	paucal
PBL	possibility
PC	perfect converb
PFV	perfective
PL	plural
PN	proper noun
POCS	post-core slot

© in this web service Cambridge University Press www.cambridge.org

CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-51786-7 - The Structure of Language: An Introduction to Grammatical Analysis
Emma L. Pavey
Frontmatter
More information

POL	polite
POSS	possessive
POST	posterior
POT	potential mood
PP	adpositional phrase
PrCS	pre-core slot
PRDR	predicator
PRED	predicate
PREP	preposition
PRET	preterite tense
PRF	perfect aspect
PRO	pronoun
PROB	probability
PROC	process
PROG	progressive
PROP	proper name
PROS	prospective aspect
PROX	proximal
PRP	present active participle
PRS	present tense
PSA	privileged syntactic argument
PST	past tense
PTCL	particle
PTCP	participle
PURP	purposive
Q	question marker/particle
QNT	quantification
QUAL	qualitative
RC	relative clause
RDP	right-detached position
REC	recent past
RECP	reciprocal
RED	reduplication
REF	referential
REFL	reflexive
REFLPOSS	reflexive possessive
REL	relative marker
REM	remote past
REMF	remote future
REP	reported evidential
RES	resultative
RL	realis
RP	reference phrase
RPRO	relative pronoun

© in this web service Cambridge University Press www.cambridge.org

CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-51786-7 - The Structure of Language: An Introduction to Grammatical Analysis
Emma L. Pavey
Frontmatter
More information

RSM	resumptive marker
S	single argument of intransitive predicate
S_A	single actor argument of intransitive predicate
SBJ	subject
SBJV	subjunctive
SBST	substantivizer
SC	subject concord
SEML	semelfactive
SENS	non-visual sensory evidential
SEQ	sequential
SG	singular
SIM	simultaneous aspect
SP	spatial preposition
SPC	specifier
SPEC	speculative evidential
SRDIR	superdirective
SS	same subject
STAT	stative
STM	statement marker
S_U	single undergoer argument of intransitive predicate
SUBV	subjective
SVC	serial verb construction
TAM	tense aspect modality
TEL	telic
TEMP	temporal marker
TH	theme
TM	terminal marker
TNS	tense
TOP	topic
TR	transitive
U	undergoer
V	verb
VB	verbaliser
VIS	visual evidential
VOC	vocative
VOL	voluntative
WH	wh question
WP	witnessed past
XP	any type of phrase

© in this web service Cambridge University Press www.cambridge.org