Sentence types

- Types
  - declaratives: subject is present and precedes verb e.g. Paul gave her a present
  - interrogatives: yes-no interrogatives with operator in front of subject e.g. Did Paul give her a present?; wh-interrogatives with an initial wh-element e.g. what did Paul give her?; alternative questions e.g. will you go by bus or by train?
  - Imperatives: no overt grammatical subject and the verb has the base form e.g. Give her a present
  - exclamatives: initial phrase introduced by what or how, subject-verb order e.g. what a nice present!
  - Echoes: an addition to the traditional classification in modern grammars; used in dialogue to confirm, question or clarify; reflect structure of preceding sentence e.g. <S1> John didn’t like the film - <S2> He didn’t like it either.

Discourse functions

- Four types of sentence function
  - statement: for conveying information
  - question: seek information though not always.
    - Rhetorical questions- no answers expected e.g. who cares?
    - Exclamatory questions - express speakers strong feelings and ask hearer to agree e.g. Wasn’t it wonderful!
    - Directive: instruct someone to do something; uses: commanding, inviting, warning, pleading, suggesting, instructing, permitting, expressing good wishes
  - Exclamation: show that one has been impressed or roused by something e.g. Gosh!, Oh dear!, How nice!

Syntactic analysis

- Immediate Constituent analysis: Constituents - smaller forms into which a larger form (construction) may be analyzed e.g. poor John analyzable into the constituents “poor” and “John” – immediate constituents. Compare “lost the watch”
- constituent structure of a phrase or sentence - the hierarchical organization of the smallest forms (ultimate constituents) into layers of successively more inclusive units e.g. {John} [{poor}] [{lost}] [{the}] [{the}] [{watch}]]
- Phrase structure grammar - within the Chomskyan framework - consists of a set of rules used to determine grammaticality of sentences
  - an infinite number of (grammatical) strings generated from a finite set of rules - phrase structure rules
  - a sentence is divided into its syntactic categories (phrasal and lexical categories)

Phrase structure grammar

- A PSG generates (defines as grammatical) sentences and assigns them a structural description e.g. The man hit the ball
  - S → NP + VP
  - VP → V + (NP)
  - NP → (Det) + N
  - Det → the, a, ...
  - N → man, ball, ...
  - V → hit, see...
- sentence structure represented by phrase structure trees/phrase markers/tree diagrams (cf. Fig 1)
- three types of information in tree diagrams:
  - the linear order of words in the sentence
  - the groupings of words into syntactic categories
  - the hierarchical structure of the syntactic categories

Transformations

- PS rules failed to account for some syntactic phenomena e.g. yes-no questions, passive sentences etc.
- transformational rules (T rules) depend upon prior application of PS rules
- Transformational grammar includes both PS rules and T rules
- T rules convert or transform one phrase marker (underlying phrase marker) into another (the derived phrase marker) e.g. the passive transformation rule converts an active sentence into a passive one: John will hit the ball → the ball will be hit by John
- NP↓ - AUX - V - NP↓ → NP↓ - AUX + be + en -V- by + NP↓
- The boy will leave → will the boy leave? (statement to question) - inversion rule: move Aux to the left of the subject NP
- Will the boy leave?