

Gramatika 1

Addendum to Lecture 1 and Intro to Nouns

Reflection:

- When we are thinking and communicating ideas, what units of meaning are we processing in our head?

Refresher:

- What is the smallest language unit that carries meaning?

MORPHEME

- How do we call variants thereof?

ALLOMORPH

- a variant form of a morpheme
- Allomorphs are different ways of pronouncing or writing the same morpheme

COMPETENCE / PERFORMANCE

- Awareness of the (grammatical) rules vs. what people actually do
- Simple statement:
 - It's raining.
 - *She thinks that* it's raining.
 - *She thinks that she thinks that* it's raining.
 - *She thinks that she thinks that she thinks* it's raining.
... no limit on the length of English sentence
- we are capable of uttering infinitely long sentences (COMPETENCE) but we never do (PERFORMANCE)

PHRASES

- 1 or more words that functions as a meaningful unit (within a sentence)
 - I will find the red book [*in the garage*]
 - I [*will find [the [big red] book]*]
 - I will look [*up*]

A (recursive) **NOUN PHRASE**:

- books about islands
- books about islands on lakes
- books [about islands
[on lakes
[on islands
[on lakes ...]]]]



You can't actually utter an infinitely long NP, but your mental grammar is capable of producing one.

CLAUSES AND SENTENCES

- C: a group of words that contains a subject and a verb
- S: a complete thought that is expressed in words (irrespective of the number of subject-verb structures)
 - *The cat is sitting on the mat.*
 - *The cat is sitting on the mat, and the dog is playing with the ball.*
 - *The cat is sitting on the mat because it is tired.*
 - *The cat is sitting on the mat because it is tired, but the dog is playing with the ball.*

NOUNS (word class; Part of Speech)

- What are nouns?
 - Names for people, ideas, things, ...
 - Proper vs. common nouns

- Do nouns in English behave differently than nouns in your mother tongue?
 - Case, number / countability, gender