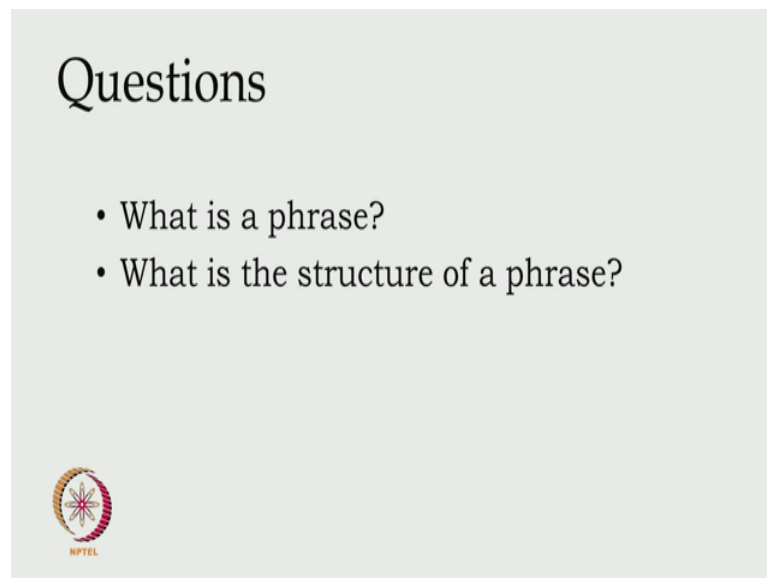


Principles and Parameters in Natural Language
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Lecture - 21
Specifier and Complement


We will look at X bar theory where we are looking at the structure of a phrase. We started with phrase structure rules and then we moved on to the structure with apparent and advantages that we have discussed so far.

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Questions

- What is a phrase?
- What is the structure of a phrase?



In order to answer these questions we have we have looked at this sentence and when we see this phrase structure in this structure I have fixed your questions because now we can see things more clearly.

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Phrase structure Rules

- Students of physics likes pizza in the evening.
- S = NP VP
- NP = N PP
- VP = V NP PP
- NP = N
- PP = P NP



So, when we tell me tell me again for everybody this this is making sense right in a 2 just 2 simple points out of this these rules that I want you to understand the algorithm is not. So, difficult or these names are not so difficult for you to understand like NPVP and all those things. The 2 main points here are the following a these rules describe the sentence before, in order for us to understand the relationship among all the words in that sentence and how those words form a group and with whom and then how each group of words that is a phrase is related to one another right that is one.


Second is these rules independently can generate infinite number of sentences with little bit modification or not or even when we do not modify these rules can generate lot of sentences lot of sentences. Of course, there are limitations of these rules, but these are the 2 points that we wanted through these rules.

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Phrase Structure Rule

[S/IP/TP/AgrP [NP Students [PP of physics]]
[VP likes [NP pizza] [PP in [NP the evening]]]]

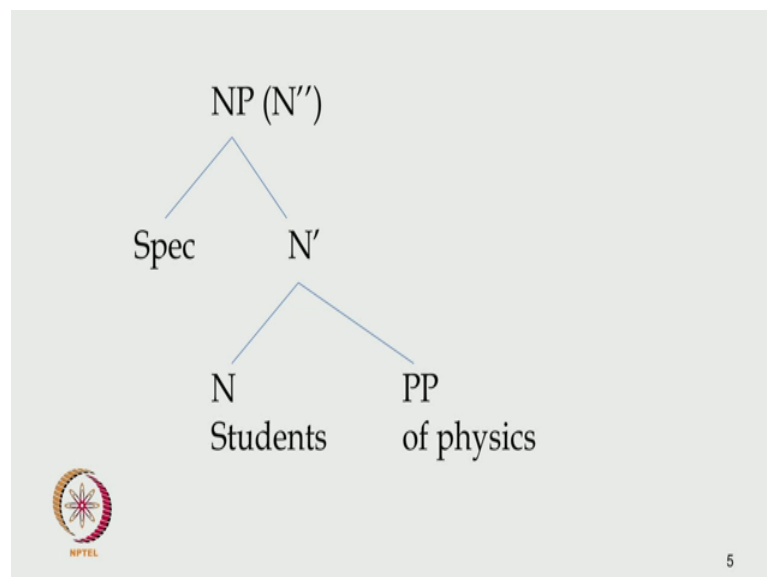
S = IP = TP = AgrP



4

Then this one shows us little bit clearly about this grouping of words, we have seen these things thus far and we talked about why a subject is also called and inflectional phrase or a tense phase or an agreement phase right and we will we will look at it more when we reach that part.

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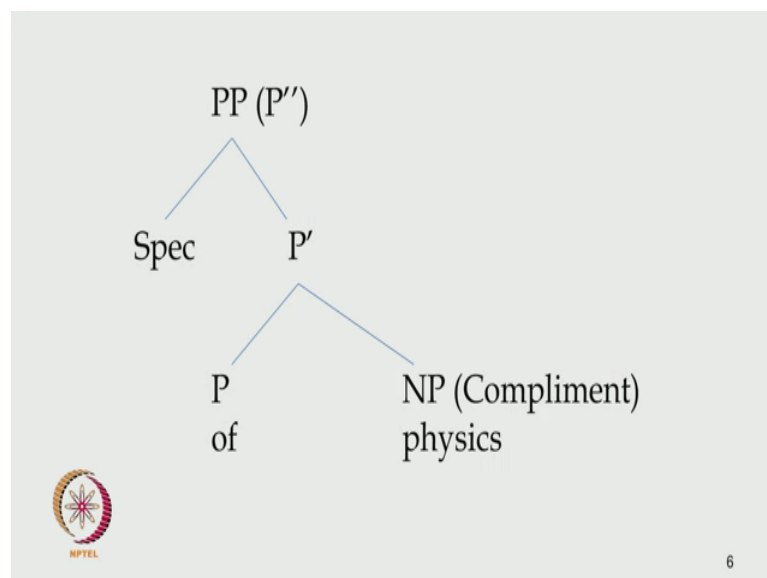
Then we started looking at this structure of the of the phrase in terms of their binary branching that is the structure that we see now are all binary in terms of their branching. I do not have multiple branching a structure on the screen, but I have shown you the

multiple branching a structure on the board which will remind you that multiple branching a structure was able to tell us grouping, but not much beyond that in the sense that in the sense that multiple branching have their own limitations that they do not show any sort of hierarchical configuration.

In order to capture conceptual hierarchy and phrases and units of a phrase that is within the phrase the reason why this was called X bar is because there was an intermediate node created for us to understand this whole thing. So, we get 3 layers of representation of a particular phrase that is head, than intermediate category head will be N, intermediate category in that is intermediate level N bar and then the phrasal status of the whole phrase that is NP or N 2 bars. And this is the this is the blueprint of structure of all the phrases and then lot of other things coming to play which we are going to see that how they become a recursive and how they get connected with one another so clear.

So, far the notion of with this this this whole set of nodes tell us about the notion of a specifier and complements as well with respect to head that is specifier by virtue of being higher, than the head has a scope over both head and it is complement and compliments are only going to be in close proximity with their heads this is also categorically clear from these structures.

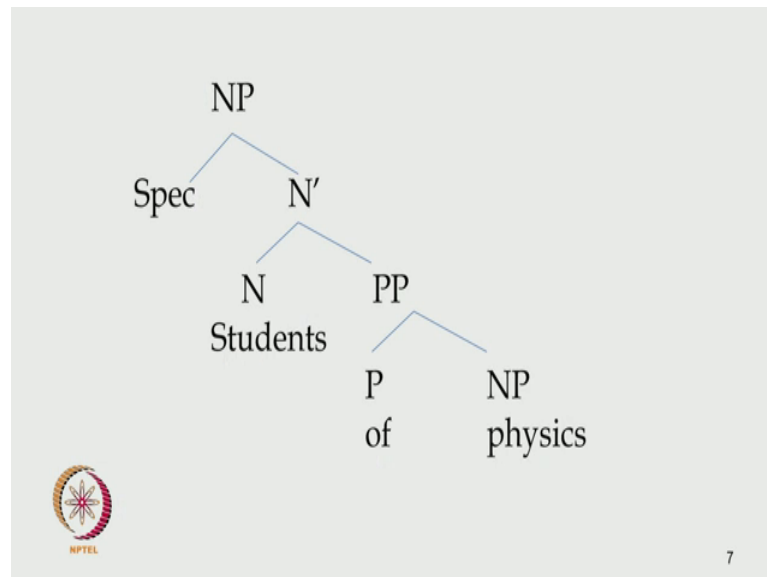
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Then we saw that sometimes we may not have a compliment or we may have a compliment, we may not have a specifier we may have in a specifier. Irrespective of their

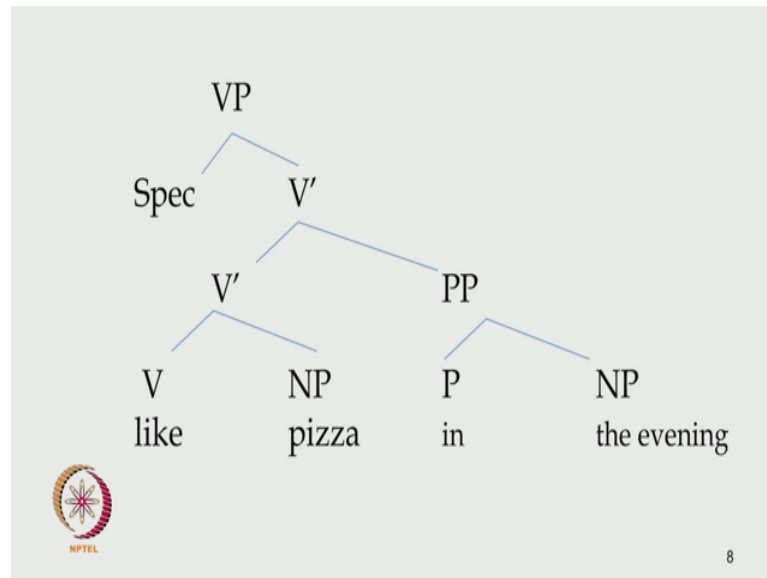
physical presence we are going to have we have these spaces for them; however, we do not have a phrase if we if the head is not present that is without the head we cannot conceptualize probably the phrase. So, again the head is not significant just for it is name the whole existence of the phrase depends on head.

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When we start looking at larger phrases then we see how they are connected. So, in this NP we see the head of this this phrase is a noun and then PP is it is complement and then again that PP is headed by a P within NP complement, and then we can again break them into it is actual shape where the last NP that you see physics is not going to have it is either have it is specifier and complement therefore, I have just put them as NP clear.

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If we start looking at the word phrase of the sentence that you have seen that students of physics like pizza in the evening the whole phrase part of the part of this sentence look like this on the screen clear. Where in the verb phrase the head of the verb is like and then pizza is the complement of the verb that is because verb is transitive in it is in nature and then we see that the PP in the evening is not really the compliment, it has the you can see the you can look at the configuration and see the this is not the question of chicken and the egg.

There are 2 thing again 2 things are prominently clear and visibly clear if you see this thing, the structure tells you that the that the noun pizza is in close proximity with the verb that is the noun, that is the noun phrase, which is being sub categorised required by the verb and it is complement. And in the evening is a there are there are 2 things about the phrase in the evening a it is not related to pizza, if at all it has to say anything it has to say something about the entire this part entire this thing that is like pizza.

If this thing has to say anything that in the evening is talking about like pizza. Therefore, it is higher and since it is not a sub categorised or a required element this kind of thing where you see the intermediate category, an intermediate category, being expanded that is another a another of this is a joint this this type of a requirement or this type of manipulation is called my I do not mean manipulation in a negative sense, this kind of manipulation of this structure is called adjunction. Where we have just another V bar

adjoint which serves the purpose gives captures the way phrases are conceptually available in their structure in the deeper structure of the phrase and also captures the distinction between a complement and the adjunct making sense. This much in very briefly in the last class we had seen in the last few minutes as well we had we have looked at things. So, far and I have again slowly gone over these things for us to understand how these things work.

Student: Sir even though noun (Refer Time: 11:13)

Student: Can it be further split into (Refer Time: 11:17)

Yes

Student: (Refer Time: 11:18)

Yes

Student: So, there would be the specifier.

So, there would be the specifier.

Student: No complement and (Refer Time: 11:21)

Exactly

Student: And just above the preposition phrase

Uh.

Student: Should not that also be split into a specifier first and the P dash.

Absolutely

Student: And then the (Refer Time: 11:31) the plan (Refer Time: 11:32) even if it is blank should not be mention it (Refer Time: 11:35)

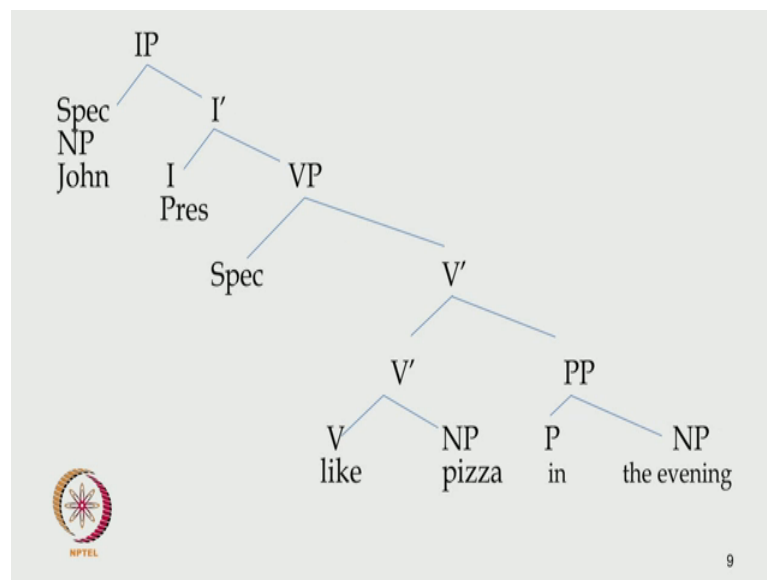
Yes you are right it should be, but the reason why I have not put them here, that for there are 2 reasons a there was not much of a space on the screen that is 1, B I will I do not mean to underestimate your imaginations. Once you understand the structure of a phrase, but that that could be the third region the second the first is there was no a space here and

the second is it is a general practice in the struct when we look at this structure see. We look at this structure right now we are looking at this structure because I am taking you through these things one by one for the first time, but when people look at people draw an a structure of a tree in their understanding and investigation, the standard practice by people I mean linguist investigating a sentence, the standard practice in the field is not to draw things that are not available.

Knowing very well that those things exists. So, you your question is absolutely right and I agree with you that probably when these things are presented for the first time they should be expanded they will be nice, but that is how like I have done with the VP and also I took little bit of liberty with this thing because I have done the PP here, because we have a specifier head and complement we know no nothing comes in the specifier of the specifier of the PP.

Therefore in the in this PP we have just dropped it, but we understand it do you understand the question and the answer both so 2.

(Refer Slide Time: 13:40)



Now just now and look at the whole sentence, bare with me for the moment again for the for the purpose of this space I have reduced this subject and I am going to show you the subject separately, just look at how it is how this whole sentence projects itself and what is combined with what.

You have seen all the way to VP now look at the whole sentence, we are calling the whole sentence an IP right, you can call it anything even if you call s does not matter much. The practices are even when you put S in the top in the branching people go with the I bar and I, the idea is not to put S bar in S because s represents the sentence and not a phrase. So, when we call IP what we are saying is we are considering the whole sentence as a phrase and just like in a smaller phrase like NP or VP, the head of the phrase is a noun or a verb when we say the entire sentence is IP the head of the sentence is an I, which means inflection and in the place of inflection here you see what do you say in the place of infection.

In this sentence.

Student: (Refer Time: 15:24)

Which PRS which means present tense. So, I have put only tense here I have put only tense here. So, there could be several questions then why do not you call it T or TP. The again we can call that, but the point will be the same we can call it TP and then T bar and T and then everything else does not change anything. We can we can call it AGRP AGR bar then in the place of I we say AGR and then put something there.

I want you to understand conceptually a very simple thing that whatever names whatever the name we give is not really important, what is important is sentence is a phrase by itself and this notion of representing or drawing a sentence captures the fact that in the head place of a sentence, whatever comes is the most important part of the sentence. Saying the same thing in other words this the advantage of this structure is it clearly shows you what is the head of a sentence, what is the most important part of a sentence. Do you see the thing putting both ways this the advantage of this structure is it captures the important part of the sentence and it enables us to see the most significant part in a sentence.

Student: Sir (Refer Time: 17:26) if a sentence itself is tenseless.

Sentence itself is tenseless.

Student: Yeah.

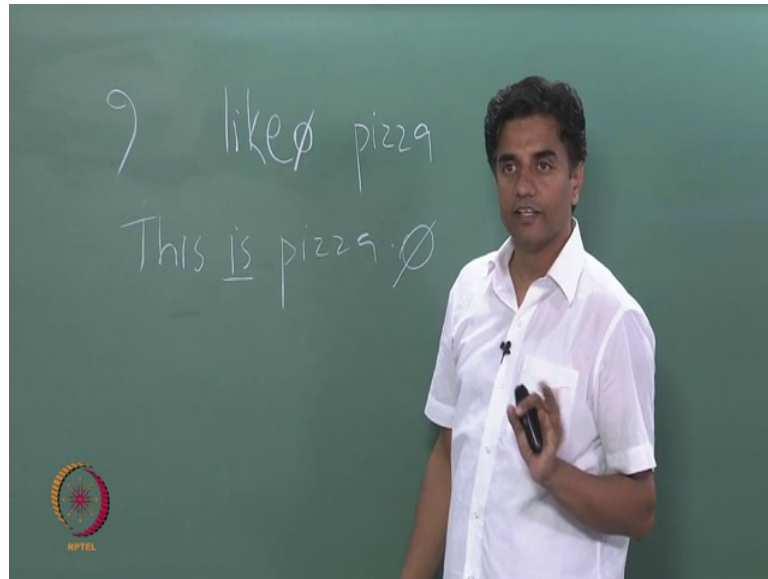
Not all the time.

Student: But in this example you were telling.

Oh very true.

What I was to what I have told you when we discussed about tense when we said things like when we say like Pizza remember.

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What I said is there is no tense marker is it that day that mean tense is absent, tense marker is not visible in a sentence like this and tense marker is visible in a sentence like. So, this becomes a tense marker at that time what we were discussing is very simple thing the tense is a slippery category, in a language like English the whole notion of gender is completely 0 all the time unlike our languages. Where we see gender appearing at the surfaces structure are you with me are you are you following me in our languages we see gender appearing at the surfaces structure on the on surface, can you give me an example of this thing when I say in our language we see gender appearing on the surface.

Student: Sir appearing on the surface you mean there is a marker.

Maker clearly visible exactly.

And the reason why I am taking you again slowly, because I want to clarify this this this point in a very clear way anybody.

Student: [FL]

So, [FL] what kind of tense is visible on the verb some sort of masculine marker right which tells you that the subject of the sentence is masculine. In a language like English it is always going to be dormant, it never going to be visible I am reading, he is reading, she is reading it is always going to be dormant. Now the point is it is not that there is no tense in English it is just dormant for the purpose of grammar it does not participate in grammatical process therefore, never surfaces.

In a language like Hindi because it participates in a grammatical process it surfaces sometimes. Similarly in a language like English tense is a very slippery category sometimes it is it has no manifestation and sometimes it has manifestations even here. So, I am and this is the story only in present tense the reason why I am calling do you do you understand why I am calling it a slippery category you are you following or not no. So, you need to ask what do you mean by slippery only then I will know that you it is not clear to you, I can figure out some things by looking at your faces, but not everything. It slippery means it is hard to put your finger on it right it is hard to catch in the sense that see any marker of tense here no, any marker of tense here yes. So, if this story is about, but we know that there is a present tense here this sentence is present tense.

When I say I like pizza the sentence is present tense. So, there is no marker at present tense, but this is there is no marker of present tense, but this is present. So, 0 marker this is clearly a present tense marker. So, in the in this story of present tense sometimes it appears sometimes it does not, in the past tense it is always going to appear, in the future tense it is always going to appear. So, when is when it appears sometimes and when it does not appear sometimes that is called hard to put your finger, sometimes it is 0, sometimes it is surfaces. Nonetheless it is never conceptually absent this this is an important thing for you to understand this distinction is very crucial.

And when we say no tense marker we do not mean to say no tense we are only saying no physical marker of tense and this kind of a structure also helps us see that that tense is available. It also helps us there are there are several other things which I am going to show you little later once we are once we have developed the whole structure of a sentence, then we will move on to see what else this kind of a structure helps us understand, because if it only helps us understand nice looking picture and that is not enough that that is too heavy a load on human mind.

Are you still with me any other question so far.

Student: Sir

Student: We you said imperative sentences

Right

Student: You said they have no tense

Right

Student: Same way it has no tense marker (Refer Time: 23:43) a truly no

No in that case there is no tense also, here we are saying no tense marker in when in when we say tenseless sentences. We literally mean no tense and in that kind of a structure just tell me how will how will that structure work, in that structure what you see here in place of I present tense in that case you will see 0.

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Student: Sir this particular sentence.

Student: John first of all it should be likes pizza in the evening.

Very nice go ahead

Student: So, this just is showing a habit or something which is (Refer Time: 24:38)

Hm.

Student: So, does this still have tense I mean I thought that when you say something like I live in Chennai or you say he lives in Chennai is it present tense or is it imperative sentence.

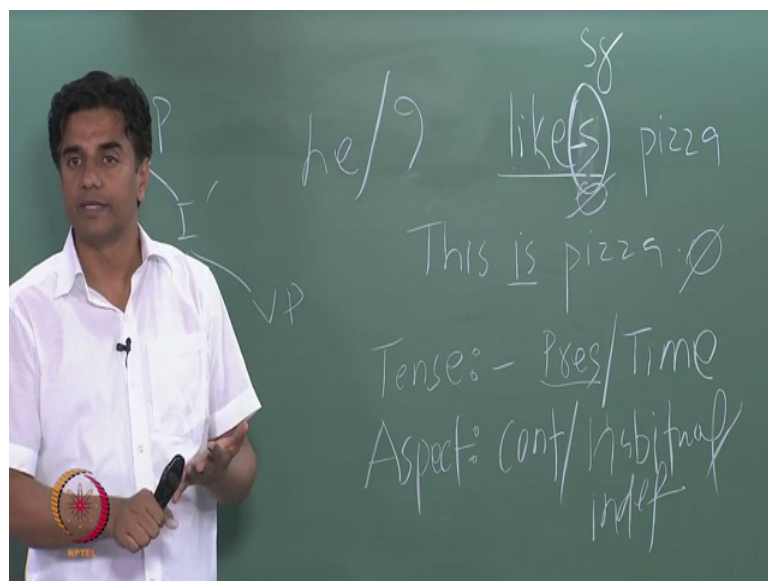
How many of you understand his question? Do you want something many people, do you something, very nice question and very significant question. These are the things which I sincerely request you to understand with clarity, there is absolutely no rush we can spend time on these things and trust me once you understand these distinctions and these the underlying facts of this the this question these things are going to make more sense to you understand this. So, give me a couple of minutes to clarify this the clarify his question you are right.

What is the first thing that you were saying that this would be?

Student: Like (Refer Time: 25:39)

John like pizza very nice when we say how about I like pizza then it would have been right what this is trying to show you is.

(Refer Slide Time: 25:57)



This S on the verb, it is something else that is by something else you mean something external it tells us about something. So, these verbs likes and please stop me if it is it if it starts making sense to you as long as it is making sense listen to me and if it stops making sense please stop me.

We are saying there are 2 things here; one is the verb and then something else. So, this when we are representing the structure in third major part verb only responsible for verb it is not responsible for anything else. Therefore, it is not carrying any s and I want it that way this is not a typo or anything and I wanted it you to see that clearly, that verb is only responsible for verb. Whatever this information is has to be represented or manifestive somewhere else in this structure on the surface level when we speak the sentence this information shows up on the verb too.

But in the conceptual representation this information has to go somewhere else because this information belongs to somewhere else, the verb as a category can only contain verb. So, that disjoint is what is what you see here. Now where does what is this information, what kind of information does this give us, tell me what kind of information does this give us.

Student: Singular

Singular right everybody.

Because if it is plural then you then you do not see this coming now the story of I is little bit different I do not want to mix everything, the story of I is different we say I like pizza and he likes pizza he is singular therefore, likes, but how about I like is I plural, now this story is something this is this is a different different story of English which is which has something English or specific for us to understand and if you remember I will tell you that a story later, because let us understand this thing right now. What you said is right this is a singular marker if we put here a plural pronoun like they we get like if we put a singular one he then we get like this. So, this is a singular marker.

Now, singular marker is part of agreement, it is not part of it is not the marker of tense see this thing singular marker is part of agreement not part of tense. Tense is present meaning is present tense, but physically it is absent seriously there is no physical marker

of present tense on the sentence. So, this is an agreement marker the tense marker is 0 and the you said something else something else which is very interesting.

Student: Why is this not an imperative sentence?

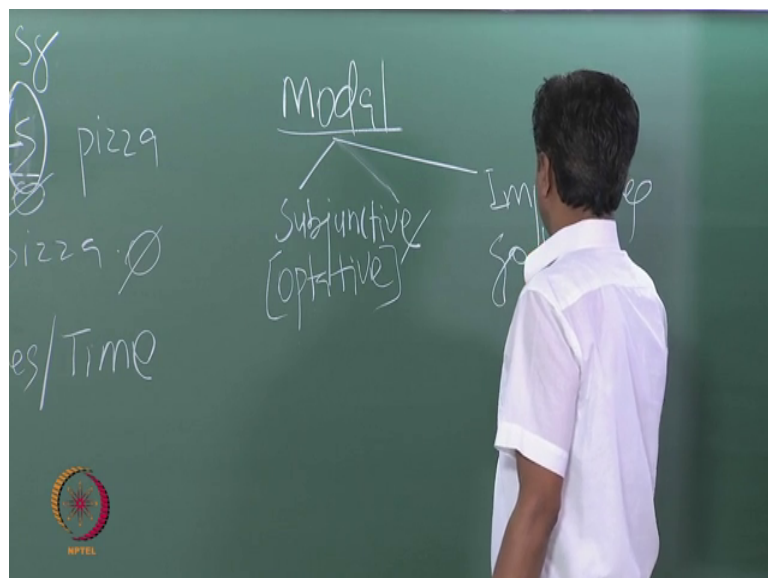
Why no you were

Student: That I thought that there is no tense in the whole sentence.

That was not true for to begin with imperative sentences are tenseless sentences.

So, when we say there is no tense there is only there are only 2 types of sentences which takes no tense. In fact, in fact the whole story is one.

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See modal verbs do not take tense there are 2 type of this one is subjunctive, in English the same thing is called optative, you may have heard sentences like may you live long right may you live long. Those are the sentences of optative types they are tenseless, when someone says may you live long, what is the tense here and to understand whether tense is present or not we need to know what is it that tense tell us. Tense only talks about time if a sentence does not show any relation with time that in the present, past or future then we say such sentences are tenseless yes.

If a sentences shows tiny then that sentence is in terms of present past and future then that is a sentence with tense now no big mystery here. So, this sentence I like pizza is

this present forgets about the markers right now, is it talking about present time, past time, or future time. It is it talks about time it does not talk about future, if I if why use why also why it seems like no time is something else that I am going to show you it is it is not future, it is not past, it is present.

Now, hold on. So, this is one which will be tenseless may king may you live long the other is Imperatives things like go home.

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These are the kind of sentences in natural languages which are called tenseless sentences others are going to be sentences with tense. So, this has present tense the other ask N the other thing is called aspect, I think we have discussed that with respect to when we were discussing about tense and other agreement and functional categories. There were several things that we discussed does anyone remember what are the things that we discussed here with aspect.

Student: Continuous (Refer Time: 32:43)

Continuous was one what did continuous say, now continuous is aspect is different from tense because we can take any tense and any aspect and make a sentence. So, I can take a present tense and continuous aspect I can say I am eating pizza right is this is this continuous eating.

Student: (Refer Time: 33:10) continuous

And present continuous I can take a past tense and still make a continuous sentence what would be the sentence.

Student: I have been (Refer Time: 33:19)

No not have been is something else.

Past and Continuous.

Student: Ok.

I was eating pizza

Past tense and continuous why is it continuous and I and is still past, because it is talking about something which was in progress at some moment of time in the past, that some moment of time is shared between speaker and the listener, but it is talking about continuation of something in some moment of time in the past therefore, I am eating pizza is present and I was eating pizza is past.

So, one is that this distinction is about present and past which is tiny tense; aspect is different from tense. So, aspect talks about the way things were happening which is that was continuous ING represents continuous and what is this what is the aspect here in this sentence the aspect here is Habitual or the same thing is called indefinite the same is called indefinite because it is there is some sort of regularity in it, there is some sort of indefiniteness. So, we call it habitual also. So, I just want you to understand the terms the we use different terms with the same meaning. So, this the sentence the reason why this sentence gives you the feeling that it is not it is definitely not future, it is definitely not past and it gives you a sense of not present is because of it is indefinite nature.

Student: Sir how do we differentiate between (Refer Time: 35:25)

How do we differentiate between?

Student: In between habitual and the imperative sentence.

Habitual and Imperative.

Student: Yeah

That is because is when you say I like pizza, you were talking about you were talking about something which is indefiniteness in the sense of a particular habit formation, when you were talking about imperative sentences like go home it is not habitual it is it is one time instruction go home there is a categorical difference between the 2 like, I somewhere someone says go to Chennai next week if I tell you go to Mumbai next week and if someone says I live in Mumbai.

When do you see difference between the 2 types of sentences one is talking about indefinite nature of a state in the city of Mumbai, when someone says I live in Mumbai, it means you do not know when I started living, you do not know when I am going to move to next city at this moment in time. It is a continuous it is a there is some sort of regularity in my stay in Mumbai it is not when I say I am living in Mumbai I do not mean I am a visitor in Mumbai visiting see the point that is called indefinite status coming from the verb which comes through aspect which is indefinite. So, for this sentence I like pizza or her likes pizza the things are this is present tense indefinite aspect, singular agreement marker all these kinds of information is associated with verb all such things are associated with verb, but they have to be manifested somewhere, in the structure they have to be manifested somewhere else get my point.

Now, can we can move beyond the verb phrase. So, let me let me let me get a concerns here first are we clear about sentences with tense not just this example take the examples of other sentences that I have given you, I am I am eating a pizza and I was eating a pizza with the help of all such sentences do you understand the distinction between a sentence with tense and sentence with without tense, that is number one where I want your clarity; number 2 when we have sentences with tense alone is not enough what other information we get from the verb besides it is timing is also things like continuous habitual or perfected somebody said I have been eating, I have been eating pizza is this present tense or past tense.

Student: Present tense.

Present tense and.

Student: (Refer Time: 38:40).

What aspect.

Student: (Refer Time: 38:43)

Its way too complicated it is present do you write tense is present, perfect is also something that we see because it gives us a sense that something is about in the recent past and it gives continuity also. So, I have been eating it is present, perfect, continuous, I do not want to complicated to that far, but again like I have told you I have promised you in the beginning I will only point out things later, when we are looking at more complicated stuff. It is not that I have been eating pizza is the sentence that you have heard for the first time, you may have written this sentence you may have spoken these kinds of sentences several times and you know this sentence.

What if I ask you to describe this sentence in terms of it is tense and aspect and when you come up with the term present, perfect, and continuous, you will be lost with how can something be continuous and perfect both at the same time . So, we are only talking about 4 5 some languages like Sanskrit have 12 different aspects.

In some languages certain aspects are not present in some languages lot many aspects are captured again number of aspects in a sentence visible and not so visible is language dependent thing. Is it is language specific thing which is part of parameter the fact that we know these distinctions categorically clear here, there is a reason why someone will say I am eating, I have eaten and I have been eating. There is a difference between all these sentences and those differences are not just subtle, those differences are categorical you just listen to this is a very simple sentence, I am eating, I have eaten and I have been eating are not the distinction categorical this is not subtle difference. I am eating is present continuous, I have eaten is present perfect, I have been eating use you give this sentence I did not want to give you this thing. Therefore, I am only trying to stay with a simpler sentences, because the important part is for us to understand the concepts not the sentences like I have been telling you we are not dealing with English we are dealing with these aspects.

So, coming back to that do you see the difference between these 3 sentences I am eating, I am repeating this again I am eating, I have eaten and I have been eating, I have eaten is an example of present perfect, which is very different from I had eaten, if you say I had eaten and I have what is the difference between I had eaten and I have eaten.

Student: Completed just now.

Completed just now, which means present perfect and past perfect both gives us a sense of perfection, by perfection we mean completion of an action, but the 2 gives us the reading is recent past that is just now and remote past, again human mind makes no mistake in figuring out or applying the notion of relativity in terms of time, recent past and remote past are relative terms as you can understand in a history in a human history 50 years maybe recent time right.

But when we are talking about eating pizza 2 hours ago maybe recent time, 4 hours ago maybe remote past, 4 hours ago maybe remote past with reference to 2 hours as recent past. The point is human mind makes no mistake with these things it does it is calculation perfectly nicely, without us knowing about these things which again goes back to the point of knowledge of language that I have discussed with you get the get the point.

Second. So, tense alone is not enough for these things. So, that is aspect then there is a notion of agreement that is singular thing has to be agree with singular and plural thing has to be agree plural, these are the categories in language if you have to give a metaphor you know when we make a nice chicken or vegetables, when you are served that thing in a plate, what you see is a nice chicken dish, what you do not see is the end is the specific ingredients it might contain. Functional elements are like them that we do not see them with bare eyes for us to see that we need to know what such things are right.

Similarly, so these elements are functional elements in a line in in language, these are functional elements involved in making a sentence all right. I wanted to make one more point and then go to the structure which is and functional functional aspects of language have to be different from lexical aspects; lexical markers that that is lexical elements like pizza I are only visible things and they are going to carry functional elements. Sometimes and here is the here is the point that I want you to understand very carefully sometimes functional things like agreement marker, tense marker, aspect markers, are going to be visible when they appear in their real phrases real forms they are going to be visible sometimes they are not visible.

That does not mean they are not there even in the tenseless sentence when we say there is no tense we only mean that tense is 0, no tense is not really tense, but it leaves the possibility that there are sentences that are going to have tenses. Now having said that is

can I ask you a final time that tense aspect make sense do you know tense and aspect let us come here now, what you see beyond VP that we have added in this slide which is IP, IP and like I have been telling you sentence is called inflectional phrase it is called inflectional phrase not because it is a nice term all the functional elements that you have seen, tense, aspect, agreement they are all infections tense aspect agreement that you have seen here they are all part of inflection.

Student: Sir are they inflecting the verb phrase.

They are going to be

Student: They are inflecting the verb phrase that is why we are (Refer Time: 46:56)

That is why they inflect the verb.

Yeah (Refer Time: 46:59) the verb

Absolutely right they are in simpler terms we say these are they show up on th verb, but technically you can definitely say they inflect the verb. So, we see them only when verbs are inflected, when verbs are not inflected we call that infinitive to go to like when verbs are inflected then they do not remain infinitive you understand this now. They are not call they are not infinitive verbs. So, verbs get inflected and then we see the all of them are part of inflectional category, they are all inflectional category therefore, they are going to stay with infection and there has always been a discussion that why which one is more important tense aspect or agreement.

With reasons people have argued for tense with reasons people argued for agreement and with reasons people have argued for inflection. Inflection being more important, because inflection contains both tense and tense aspect and agreement everything together therefore, we call it inflectional phrase. And in this inflectional phrase I have put that this this is where we (Refer Time: 48:27) we were stuck and we want to come back to this thing again I have put only present.

So, it is it seems like inflection only means tense, but one can always put in the place of inflection.

(Refer Slide Time: 48:44)



Inflection I the whole bunch of features tense aspect and agreement all of them are part of inflection and this was the reason let me close this thing by saying that this was the reason why people said no we need to separate the things out otherwise it is going to be it is not making much. So, tense is more important aspect is more important or agreement is more important.

Now, the more important discussion is not what is important and what is not important the important was this should manifest clearly they should be represented clearly I will I will show you one more the structure which is going to be very nice and I invite you to see this thing in the book it is starts with inflection and if you if you can understand and if you are still with me with their structure listen to me it starts with inflection right and then it goes to I and then it goes to T TP, then it again goes to aspect phrase and then it goes to agreement phrase manifesting everything and then comes VP.

See the see the point. So, there are 2 ways of doing it either you either you project everything else or you just project I and then VP. In both the cases I know we need to stop, in both the cases where do you see VP coming in VP is what in the sentence.

Student: (Refer Time: 50:25)

Complement of I

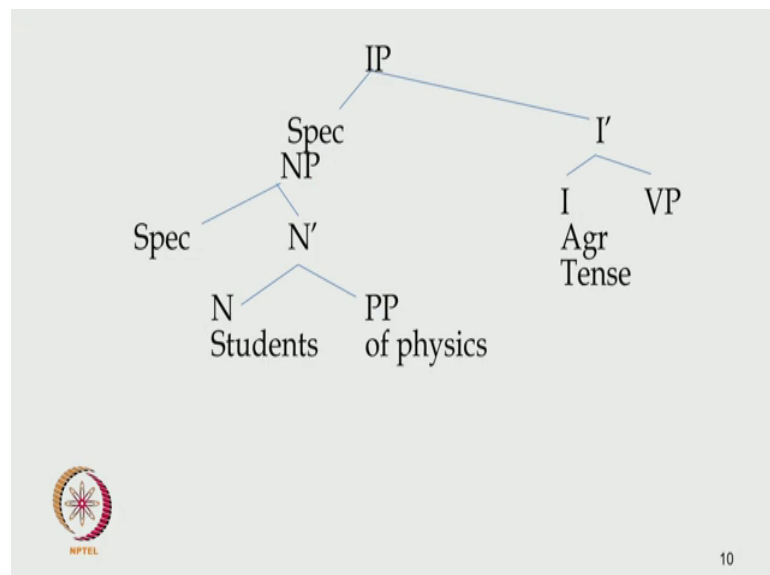
Student: I

VP is the complement of I and this should show you what we have been discussing in terms of subject and predicate and we will we will continue our discussion more where do you see subject.

Student: (Refer Time: 50:47)

Subject you do not see it so far and I have tried to put it there subject is actually their specifier of the sentence, remember when we discuss subject and predicate we said subject is outside the predicate it becomes and it is higher becomes their specifier of the sentence.

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We will continue from this slide tomorrow and we will discuss more where, I will show you this thing that how a bigger subject is represented.