SEMINAR 1 – SENTENCE AND SENTENCE STRUCTURE (SGEL 2.2 – 2.5; LEG – 1.1 – 1. 21; Chalker – ex. 2,3,4)

sentence (subject and predicate) - sentence elements (S, V, O, A, C) - types of verbs (transitive, intransitive, copular) - 7 basic clause types - phrases - clause

SENTENCE

"A sentence is a grammatically complete unit (i.e. constructed according to a system of rules) which can be used on its own without people feeling it to be incomplete."

Q1: Consider the following stretches of language. Are they sentences?

- e.g. a) Are playing football in the garden. (compare: *Hraji fotbal na zahradě*.)
 - b) Rained. (compare: *Pršelo*.)
 - c) The boys.

Q2: What's missing in each one?

 \rightarrow a sentence comprises a subject and a predicate:

the subject (he, my mother, the children, one of his brothers)
the predicate (= what is said about the subject, i.e. all the words in a sentence except
the subject)

SENTENCE (CLAUSE) ELEMENTS

English grammar, unlike Czech, recognizes as clause elements only those which operate on the level of the sentence structure, whether they are obligatory or optional – i.e. *subject, verb, object, complement* and *adverbial*. Czech grammatical tradition also includes the modifying (= rozvíjející, expanding) elements. In English these modifiers are not regarded as clause elements.

Q3: Consider the following sentence and try to answer the questions:

- e.g. The beautiful young woman in the bright red dress is my best friend's cousin.
- 1. What is the subject?
- 2. How many sentence elements are there?

In English, we distinguish 5 basic sentence elements:

- [S] the **subject** is easily identifiable by asking *who*?(or *what*?) *he, children, my mother, someone, her younger brother, the man in the black coat, that new English-Czech dictionary, etc.*
 - the predicate has a few constituents:

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V ] - verb - are playing
O ] - object - football
A ] - adverbial - in the garden (=time, place, manner)
C ] - complement - is used after a copular verb (=a linking verb) e.g. He is clever.
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E. g. . The beautiful young woman in the bright red dress | is | my best friend's cousin.

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    I | don't know | what he wants.
    S V O (here the object is expressed by a clause)
    She |called | him | a fool.
    S V O C
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VERBS

We distinguish 3 basic types of verbs:

- a) **intransitive** do not require an object, can be followed by an adverbial or stand on their own, cannot be used in the passive!
 - e.g. My head **aches**. The bus **left** (early). They didn't **arrive**.
- b) **transitive** require <u>an object</u>, cannot stand on their own e.g. I **need** <u>money</u>. He **enjoys** <u>parties</u>. I **met** *him* yesterday.

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*I bought. → I bought it / some food / a new CD.

* I like wearing. → I like wearing skirts and dresses.

(but in a different context / meaning 'buy' and 'wear' can be used as intransitive verbs)
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- some verbs can take two objects She sent <u>me a postcard</u>. these verbs are called **ditransitive** x **monotransitive** take one object (**complex-transitive** occur in SVOC and SVOA type)
- direct object (4. pád accusative) a postcard
- indirect object (3.pád dative) me

c) copular or linking – are followed by a subject complement or an adverbial

- the complement to the <u>subject</u> - tells us something about the subject

e.g. <u>John</u> is clever. / <u>Mike</u> is an architect./ <u>Your dinner</u> seems ready. (SVC)

He was at home. (SVA)

most common copular verbs: be, seem, appear, sound, feel, taste, smell + verbs indicating a change: become, go, grow, get, prove, turn

But! One verb can belong to more than one class, e.g. some verbs can be used both transitively and intransitively:

Compare: open The door opened. (SV) v. Someone opened the door. (SVO)

answer

close

CLAUSE TYPES

- a simple sentence consists of a single independent clause
- the clause may contain a few sentence elements
- there are seven basic clause types which differ according to whether one or more clause elements are **obligatory present** in addition to the S and V
 - 1. **SV** My head aches. / They laughed.
 - 2. **SVC** My brother has become an architect.
 - 3. **SVO** My sister enjoyed her holiday. / That lecture bored me.
 - 4. **SVOO** The firm gave Sam an expensive watch.
 - 5. **SVOC** They made Sam chairman./ I find her advice very helpful. (= complement to the object, the verb is complex-transitive)
 - 6. **SVA** The bank is on the corner.
 - 7. **SVOA** You can put the dish on the table.
- intransitive verbs occur in type SV (e.g. *shine, disappear, ache*)
- transitive verbs occur in type SVO(e.g. bore), SVOO (e.g. send, give), SVOC (e.g. find, appoint, elect), SVOA (e.g. put)
- copular verbs occur in types SVC(e.g. seem, become), SVA (e.g. be)

IN THE STUDY OF GRAMMAR THERE ARE TWO MAIN ISSUES: FUNCTION AND FORM.

In English grammar the sentence is described as having five levels with different units: **sentences** which consist of one or more **clauses**, which consist of one or more **phrases**, which consist of one or more **words**, which consist of one or more **morphemes**

So far we have analyzed parts of sentences in terms of their function (=sent. elements) – functions are realized by various phrases

A phrase – a word or more words built around the head word

- a) **noun phrase My watch** has disappeared. (i.e. S is realized by a noun phrase)
- b) **verb phrase** My watch **has disappeared**. (i.e. V is realized by a verb phrase)
- c) adjective phrase She was a bit doubtful. (i.e. C is realized by an adj. phrase)
- d) adverb phrase She answered quite rapidly. (i.e. A is realized by an adverb ph.)
- *e)* **prepositional phrase** The keys were **on the desk**. (A is realized by a prepositional phrase)

SENTENCE V. CLAUSE

In English a sentence is an independent unit, a clause is a unit within a sentence. In Czech we do not make this distinction. (compare: sentence and clause v. *věta*)

The **simple sentence** consists of one clause. e.g. *I was late for school*.

The **multiple sentence** consists of two or more clauses. We distinguish two types:

- a) **compound** sentence two or more main, syntactically independent clauses which are coordinated
 - e.g. I was late for school today but the teacher wasn't angry with me.
- b) **complex** sentence one of the clauses is **superordinate**, the other (or others) is / are dependent, i.e. **subordinate**
 - e.g. Although she needed the money, she didn't accept my offer.

Compare the sentences:

- a) Jane realized her mistake and apologized at once.
- b) When Jane realized her mistake, she apologized at once.