LING3350 Structure of English
Course Outline
Semester 2 2007

Course Co-ordinator: Associate Professor Peter Peterson
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Course Overview
This course provides the grammatical knowledge necessary for a descriptive analysis of the structure of contemporary English, from the level of word class through phrase structure analysis to the description of complex sentence patterns. On completion of the course students should be able to provide a grammatical analysis of samples of English text and identify sources of error in child language, learner English and disordered language.

Contact Hours
Lecture for 2 Hours per Week for 13 Weeks

Learning Materials
Course material will be available through Blackboard. Students should read the lecture material on Blackboard on a regular basis.

Useful References

Assumed Knowledge
LING1110 or equivalent knowledge of elementary grammatical terminology.
Students who have not completed LING1110 may find it useful to read through Crystal, Rediscover Grammar (see above).

Course Outline Issued and Correct as at: Week 1, Semester 2 - 2007

CTS Download Date: Please insert date
**Course Objectives**
On successful completion of this course, students will:
- have an understanding of grammatical terminology and levels of grammatical analysis
- be competent to analyse sentences in terms of word classes, phrase structure and grammatical relations
- be competent to apply grammatical knowledge to the analysis of texts and of child-generated language
- be able to identify sources of error in child language, ESL and disordered language

**Course Content**
A descriptive analysis of the structure of contemporary English. Topics covered will be selected from the following:
- formal criteria for word class identification
- analysis of simple clause structures
- grammatical relations
- finite and non-finite subordinate clauses
- coordination and apposition
- interrogative structures
- topicalisation structures such as existential, extraposition, cleft and pseudo-cleft

**Assessment Items**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Examination: Class</th>
<th>In-class test (one hour, week 8) (15%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Essays / Written Assignments</td>
<td>Three take-home assignments in the form of problem sets: 2 @ 15%; 1 @ 20% (50%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Examination: Formal</td>
<td>Two hour examination (end of semester)35%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Callaghan Campus Timetable**
LING3350  
Structure of English  
Enquiries: School of Humanities and Social Science  
Semester 2 - 2007

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lecture</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>13:00 - 15:00</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>[V107]</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Online Tutorial Registration:**

Students are required to enrol in the Lecture and a specific Tutorial time for this course via the Online Registration system. Refer - [http://studinfo1.newcastle.edu.au/rego/stud_choose_login.cfm](http://studinfo1.newcastle.edu.au/rego/stud_choose_login.cfm)

NB: Registrations close at the end of week 2 of semester.

**Studentmail and Blackboard:** Refer - [www.blackboard.newcastle.edu.au](http://www.blackboard.newcastle.edu.au)

This course uses Blackboard and studentmail to contact students, so you are advised to keep your email accounts within the quota to ensure you receive essential messages. If emailing staff directly use the course code in the subject line of your email. Students are advised to check their studentmail and the course Blackboard site on a weekly basis.
Plagiarism

University policy prohibits students plagiarising any material under any circumstances. A student plagiarises if he or she presents the thoughts or works of another as one's own. Without limiting the generality of this definition, it may include:

- copying or paraphrasing material from any source without due acknowledgment;
- using another's ideas without due acknowledgment;
- working with others without permission and presenting the resulting work as though it was completed independently.

Plagiarism is not only related to written works, but also to material such as data, images, music, formulae, websites and computer programs. Aiding another student to plagiarise is also a violation of the Plagiarism Policy and may invoke a penalty.

For further information on the University policy on plagiarism, please refer to the Policy on Student Academic Integrity at the following link -

The University has established a software plagiarism detection system called Turnitin. When you submit assessment items please be aware that for the purpose of assessing any assessment item the University may -

- Reproduce this assessment item and provide a copy to another member of the University; and/or
- Communicate a copy of this assessment item to a plagiarism checking service (which may then retain a copy of the item on its database for the purpose of future plagiarism checking).
- Submit the assessment item to other forms of plagiarism checking

Further Information

Details about the following topics are available on your course Blackboard site. Refer -
www.blackboard.newcastle.edu.au/

- Written Assignment Presentation and Submission Details
- Online copy submission to Turnitin
- Penalties for Late Assignments
- Special Circumstances
- No Assignment Re-submission
- Re-marks & Moderations
- Return of Assignments
- Preferred Referencing Style
- Student Representatives
- Student Communication
- Essential Online Information for Students
LING 3350 Structure of English

Lecture Outline (approximate only)

**Week 1**
- **Introduction**: structure vs function: the structural basis of modern grammars
- **Word classes**: levels of analysis: word, phrase, clause
  - open classes (lexical categories)
  - closed classes (function words)

**Week 2**
- **Phrase structure**: general template: (premodifer(s)) + Head + (postmodifier(s))
- **Major phrase categories**: NP, PP, VP, AP, AdvP
- **Complex phrases**: hierarchical structure as a general property of syntax

**Weeks 3 - 5**
- **Clause structure**: general template: NP + VP (+ peripheral elements)
- **Structure of VP**: AUX as premodifer
- **Postmodifiers**: core (arguments); peripheral (adjuncts)
- **Types of verb**: intransitive, transitive, ditransitive, copular
- **Tests for syntactic function**

**Weeks 6 - 7**
- **Agreement**
  - Related sentence pairs: statement/question; affirmative/negative; etc.
  - Tests for constituency

**Weeks 8 - 12**
- **Week 9: Class test, first hour**
- **Complex sentences (sentences containing a subordinate clause)**
- **Types of subordinate clause (internal structure)**
  - finite: tensed statement; relative clause; indirect question
  - non-finite: infinitival; participial (gerund)
- **Functions of subordinate clauses**

**Week 13**
- **Coordination**

**Assessment Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assignment 1</td>
<td>Monday August 13</td>
<td>(week 5)</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignment 2</td>
<td>Monday August 27</td>
<td>(week 7)</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Test</td>
<td>Monday September 10</td>
<td>(week 9)</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignment 3</td>
<td>Monday October 15</td>
<td>(week 12)</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Formal Examination</td>
<td></td>
<td>(exam period)</td>
<td>35%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
# LING3350 Structure of English

## Word Classes

### Open Classes (content words)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word Class</th>
<th>Typical Position</th>
<th>Characteristic Affixes</th>
<th>Morphology</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Noun</strong></td>
<td>head of NP;</td>
<td>-hood, -ity,</td>
<td>PLURAL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>often preceded by</td>
<td>-ness, -tion, etc.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Verb</strong></td>
<td>typically follows initial NP;</td>
<td>-ise</td>
<td>PAST TENSE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>may be preceded or followed by adverb</td>
<td>-ing (sometimes)</td>
<td>PRESENT -s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Adjective</strong></td>
<td>before noun (after determiner); after copular verb; after intensifier</td>
<td>-al, -able, -ful</td>
<td>COMPARATIVE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Adverb</strong></td>
<td>before or after verb; after intensifier</td>
<td>-ly</td>
<td>COMPARATIVE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Closed Classes (function words)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Function Word</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Preposition</strong></td>
<td>typically precedes NP</td>
<td>at, in, on, under, through, of, about, along, ...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Article</strong></td>
<td>first position in NP</td>
<td><strong>Indefinite Article</strong>: a/an, some</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Demonstrative</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>this, that, these, those</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Quantifier</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>all, each, every, many, ...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pronoun</strong></td>
<td>stands in place of NP</td>
<td><strong>Personal</strong>: I, we, you, he, she, it, they, ...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Interrogative</strong>: who, which, what</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Auxiliary Verb</strong></td>
<td>precedes main verb</td>
<td><strong>Modal Auxiliary</strong>: can/could, may/might, will/would, shall/should, must</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Intensifier</strong></td>
<td>precedes ADJ or ADV</td>
<td>pretty, quite, rather, very, ...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Coordinator</strong></td>
<td>joins two equivalent units</td>
<td>(both) and, but, (either) or, (neither) nor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Subordinator</strong></td>
<td>introduces subordinate clause</td>
<td>that; although, because, since, ...</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>