TOPICS:
Syntactic relations & Thematic roles
Agreement Government & Case

1) Syntactic Relations:
Subject and Object. Semantic vs. Structural Definitions

Reminder:
Defining morpho-syntactic categories:
Noun = "a person, place, or thing" (semantic def'n)
Problems with abstract nouns (not to mention gerunds): problem of 'recall'
Noun = "a person, place, thing, or idea"
Problem: what does this exclude? problem of 'precision'

Now
Defining grammatical relations:
Subject =

Direct object =

Thematic Roles
Agent, Patient, Benefactor, Recipient …
Agent = one doing it.
Patient = one have stuff done to it
Benefactor = one for whom something is done
Recipient = one who gets something
Agreement and Government

Syntactic (structural) relationships between words are signaled also by morphological aspects of the words themselves.

**Agreement**: A mechanism whereby a structural relationship between two items is signaled by both items sharing a morphological marking.

E.g. English subject-verb plurality agreement
English subject-verb plurality agreement
"Cows run." and "A cow runs."
Not
"A cow run." and "Cows runs."

Two morphological rules:
- noun plural: /-z/ \(\leftrightarrow\) "plural"
- verb singular: /-z/ \(\leftrightarrow\) "singular"
(subject and verb must have same plurality)

Word order vs. Agreement:
"A rabbit chase foxes."
"Foxes chases a rabbit."

**Government**: A mechanism whereby a structural relationship between a head and one of its modifiers or arguments is signaled by a morphological marking on the modifier or argument.

E.g. English case marking in pronouns -- form of pronoun must match position of pronoun with respect to the verb (inside or outside VP).
*I like he." "he" marked as subject, but is in VP
Also, we have one too many subjects
*Me like him. "Me" marked as object, but is not in VP
Also, we have one too many objects
*Him like I A little better ... got one subject and one object. They're both in the wrong place, though
I like him. \(\rightarrow\) "I" is marked as a subject, and is outside of the VP;
"him" is marked as an object and is inside the VP
Agreement in other languages:

**Old English:**

Eadwine eorl coom mid landfyrde and draaf hine uut.
Edwin earl came with army and drove him out.

SUBJ V.intrans V.trans OBJ

Se haalga Andreas him andswarode
The holy Andrew him answered

SUBJ OBJ V.trans

Tha sealde se cyning him sweord
Then gave the king him sword

V.ditrans SUBJ I.OBJ D.OBJ

Ne can ic noht singan
Not can I nothing sing

Aux SUBJ OBJ V.trans

**Attic Greek:**

(Greek has several cases, two are important here: subjective, for subjects, and dative, which some verbs require on objects. Also, Greek uses verbs as adjectives (participles) a lot.)

**Klearchos ape:nte:se Philippo:i apionti**

"Klearcus met Philip leaving"

Question: Who was leaving? Philip or Klearchus?

**Klearchos ape:nte:se Philippo:i apio:n**

(SUBJ) (DAT) (SUBJ)

"Klearcus met Philip while Klearchus was leaving"

**Klearchos ape:nte:se Philippo:i apionti**

(SUBJ) (DAT) (DAT)

"Klearcus met Philip while Klearchus was leaving"
Government:

**Standard German:**

(Background: German has 4 cases on determiners:
Nominative for subjects, Accusative for direct objects
Dative for indirect objects, and Genitive for possessives)

Das Buch liegt auf dem Tisch.
The book lays on the table.
"The book is on the table."

Er lehnt das Fahrrad gegen den Tisch.
He leans the bicycle against the table.
"He leans the bicycle against the table.

Er spricht über den Mann.
He speaks about the man.
"He talks about the man."

Das Buch liegt über dem Tisch.
The book lies on top of the table.
"The book is on top of the table."