Typology I: Solution to Homework for Lecture 10

1. **ame the six central syntactic relations we covered in the lecture. For each of them, decide whether modern English has head marking, dependent marking, double marking or no marking. Justify each classification and give examples.**

   - *possessed noun – possessor*: English has dependent marking for this syntactic relation, either by using the genitive case ('my mother'<u>s</u> cat') or by using the preposition 'of' ('the cat <u>of</u> my mother')

   - *noun – modifying adjective*: English shows no marking for noun phrases with an adjective as dependent. However, for noun phrases with demonstrative determiners 'this'/'these' or 'that'/'those' as dependents, English displays dependent marking by agreement in number ('this cat'/'these cats')

   - *adposition – complementing NP*: For prepositional phrases English has dependent marking only with pronouns. Here the preposition demands the object form of the pronoun ('behind <u>them</u>', 'before <u>her</u>', 'against <u>him</u>')

   - *predicate – arguments & adjuncts*: English has head marking with the subject: an 's'-suffix at the verb determines that the subject is 3rd person singular ('The boy ask<u>s</u> a question.'). And English has dependent marking with the direct and indirect object, but only if it is a pronoun ('Why does James have the books?' 'Mary gave <u>him</u> <u>them</u>.'). Finally, English has dependent marking for adjuncts, which are usually marked by prepositions ('The man sees the dog <u>with</u> binoculars.')

   - *auxiliary verb – lexical verb*: In some constructions, English has no marking on either the auxiliary verb or the lexical verb. The linkage is then realized by juxtaposition: auxiliary verb directly before the lexical verb. In other constructions (like the perfect tenses or the passive voice), there is dependent marking on the lexical verb (participles are marked!).

   - *main-clause predicate – subordinate clause*: English has dependent marking. The subordinate clause is marked by an initial complementizer like 'that', 'if' or 'how', which itself is the head of the subordinate clause. ('I believe <u>that</u> you will win the game.' 'I wonder <u>if</u> it will rain tomorrow.' 'I don't understand <u>how</u> that should work out.') In a head-marking language, you could already see in the form of the main clause that a subordinate clause will follow.

2. ***What are the reasons for the switch from dependent marking to head marking in German preposition phrases?**

   - *gradual loss of case in nouns, but not in the articles:* 'dem Manne' → 'dem Mann' (the 'e'-suffix that marks the dative case is getting lost). Result: case information is only preserved in the article, not in the noun itself.

- *articles merges with prepositions:* von dem → vom, zu dem → zum, zu der → zur. Result: the case information of the article is absorbed by the preposition.
- *overall result*: preposition phrases in German switches from *marking the noun by case* ('vor <u>dem Hause</u>') to *marking the preposition by case* ('<u>vorm</u> Haus'), thus from dependent marking to head marking.

3. **In which different ways can the roles in a transitive sentence be marked? Which of these 'person marking strategies' occur in modern English? Give examples of each strategy.**

   Roles of transitive clauses can be marked in the following ways:

   (a) *Word order*: is an essential feature for person marking in modern English, since e.g. case marking is lost for non-pronominal noun phrases. For the sentence 'Mary gave Mike Jimmy.' only word order can resolve that 'Mary' is the agent, 'Mike' is the recipient and 'Jimmy' is the gift

   (b) *Case marking*: is only applied to pronouns in modern English to distinguish between subject and object. In the sentence '<u>He</u> can see <u>her</u>.', 'he' is subject-marked (nominative), 'her' is object-marked (oblique/accusative).

   (c) *Marking by adposition*: prepositions are generally used in modern English to mark adjuncts, like in 'I see Jenny <u>at</u> noon <u>in</u> the library.' Furthermore, the preposition 'to' is a variant to mark the recipient of a ditransitive sentence like in 'Mary gave Jimmy <u>to</u> Mike.'

   (d) *Verbal person marking*: is applied in modern English by marking agreement with the subject in person and number: the suffix '-s' at the verb requires the subject to be in 3rd person singular. In the sentence 'The striker need<u>s</u> the teammates.' only 'striker' in 3rd person singular can be subject, but not 'the teammates' (plural).

4. **What is a proclitic?**

   Proclitics resemble prefixes in forming a phonological unit with a word. But while prefixes attach only to specific types of words, proclitics attach to phrases and/or specialized syntactic positions.

5. **Name the different construction types for ditransitives. *Which type(s) is/are used by German? *Justify your opinion.**

   (a) Indirect object construction: the recipient has a special marking.
   (b) Double object construction: recipient and theme have the same marking.
   (c) Secondary object construction: the theme has a special marking.

   The *indirect object construction* is applied in German with the dative case, like in 'Martin gibt <u>dem Jungen</u> einen Ball.' ('Martin gives <u>the boy</u>[DAT] a ball[ACC].') Note: depending on the verb, also monotransitive objects can be marked by the dative case, like in 'Mary vergibt <u>dem Jungen</u>.' ('Mary forgives <u>the boy</u>[DAT].')

6. **Given below are seven transliterated example sentences from Georgian, the largest South Caucasian language. Identify how person marking for the A and P roles is realized, and isolate the relevant morphemes. Justify your answer.**

   - Me vašls vp'oulob. "I find an apple."

   - Me šen gp'oulob. "I find you."

   - Šen mp'oulob. "You find me."

   - Šen vašls p'oulob. "You find an apple."

   - Is vašls p'oulobs. "He finds an apple."

   - Is mp'oulobs. "He finds me."

   - Is šen gp'oulobs. "He finds you."

   The one-to-one mapping between the first words of the sentences is a very strong hint that we are dealing with subject pronouns in Georgian as well: *me* "I", *šen* "you", and *is* "he". Also, every Georgian sentence ends in a word with the common element *-p'oulob-*, and the only semantic element which every English translation contains is "finding", which means we can be sure that Georgian is an SOV language, and that the last words represent various inflected forms of the verb corresponding to "to find". As an example of a non-pronominal object, we find *vašls* "an apple" in all three sentences, presumably in an object case form. Since we only have transitive sentences in our sample, we cannot decide whether to call this case an absolutive or an accusative.

   Taking a look at the paradigm of *-p'oulob-*, we see that there consistently is a prefix *m-* if the object is in the first person singular, in which case there is no object pronoun. Also, the prefix *g-* appears to correspond to a second person singular object, although in this case, the object is additionally marked by *šen* used as an object pronoun (surprisingly, this form is identical to the subject form). In addition, we have a *v-* prefix in the first sentence, which might express the first person singular subject and a third person object at the same time, although given the data we have, we cannot be sure of this. Finally, we have a suffix *-s* whenever the subject is in the third person, another instance of subject marking. Although some details remain unclear, we can definitely say that person marking for both the A and P roles is marked at least partially by verbal inflection, and that the Georgian verb agrees with both the subject and the object at least in person.