

# Adjectives - Semantic Characteristics

## ■ Prototypical ADJs

■ (inherent, concrete, relatively stable qualities)

### ■ 1. Size

- General size: big / small
- Horizontal extension: wide / narrow
- Thickness: thick / thin    fat / skinny
- Vertical extension: tall / short
- Vertical elevation: high / low
- Length: long / short

## ■ 2. Color

- Brightness: dark / light, dark / bright, black / white
- Colors: red, orange, yellow, beige, blue, violet

## ■ 3. Auditory

- Loudness: loud / soft, noisy / quiet
- Absolute pitch: high / low
- Relative pitch: sharp / flat
- Harmony: mellow / harsh
- Melody: melodious / cacophonous

## ■ 4. Shape

- One-dimensional: straight/crooked, bent
- Two-dimensional: round, square, oval
- Three-dimensional: spherical, cubic, conical

## ■ 5. Taste:

- sweet, sour, salty, acid. Bitter

## ■ 6. Tactile:

- Texture: rough / smooth
- Resistance: hard / soft
- Pointness: sharp / dull

# Less Prototypical ADJs

## ■ 1. Evaluative:

- good/bad, pretty/ugly, nice/lousy, desirable/undesirable

## ■ 2. Transitory States:

- Internal-mental: angry, tired, happy, sad, content
- External: busy/idle, clean/dirty
- Speed: fast/slow

## ■ 3. States of Living:

- Age: young / old, new / old
- Life: alive / dead
- Health: healthy, sick, well

## ■ Order of ADJs

- A long, silver, sharp knife
- A silver, sharp, long, knife
- A sharp, long, silver, knife
- A handsome, young, healthy boy
- A young, healthy, handsome boy
- A healthy, young, handsome boy
- A **tall**, handsome, healthy, and young boy

■ Compare: a **big tall** girl vs. a **tall big** girl

# Antonymic Pairs

Quality	positive	negative
Size	big	small
Length	long	short
Width	wide	narrow
Thickness	thick	thin
Height / position	high	low
Height / size	tall	short
Speed	fast	slow
Loudness	loud	quiet

## Asymmetrical use of the pair:

- The positive member provides the NAME of the scale:
  - length, width, loudness
- Positive members are used in neutral questions:
  - How **old** are you? (vs. How young??)
  - How **tall** are you? (vs. How short??)
  - How **big** is your house? (vs. How small??)

# Semantic Markedness

- The positive member : unmarked.  
The negative member: marked.
- **Semantically and pragmatically marked:**
  - How **short** are you?
- Morphologically marked due to semantic/pragmatic markedness:
  - waiter                      wait**ress**
  - prince                      princ**ess**
  - doctor                      **female** doctor
  - Nurse                      **male** nurse



# Adjectives:

## Syntactic behavior

- Adjectival Predicate:
  - Joe [is smart]
- Modifier in NP:
  - Joe is [a smart boy]
- In complex sentences:
  - She is easy to please but hard to forget.
  - It's so good of you to come.
  - It's incredible that there's this big fire.

# Adjectives:

## Morphological Characteristics

- Inflectional:

- er, -est

- Derivational:

- N > ADJ

circul-ar

fat-al

cycl-ic

republic-an

disastr-ous

law-ful

pain-less

- V > ADJ

abus-ive

read-able

brok-en

pretent-ious

- Negative-derived

un-willing

im-possible

in-tolerable

dis-agreeable

# Simple Verbal Clauses

- Summary of the phrase- structure of simple clauses (obligatory participants only)
- $S = \text{SUBJ VP}$
- $\text{SUBJ} = \{\text{NP/S}\}$
- $\text{VP} = \{\text{COPULAR / VERBAL (ADV)}\}$
- $\text{COPULAR} = \text{COP PRED}$
- $\text{PRED} = \{\text{ADJ / NP}\}$
- $\text{VERBAL} = \text{V (OBJ) (\{IO (IO) /COMP\})}$
- $\text{COMP} = \text{S}$
- $\text{IO} = \text{PP}$
- $\text{PP} = \text{P NP}$
- $\text{OBJ} = \text{NP}$
- $\text{NP} = \{ (\text{MODIF}) \text{N (MODIF)} / \text{PRO / NAME} \}$

# Adverbs

## ■ Form: Most heterogeneous

- adverbial word / phrases / clauses

## ■ Semantic Classes & Categorial flexibility:

‘She opened the door....’

quickly	(manner, one word)
with a broken heart	(manner, PP)
thinking about him	(manner, participle)
with a key / by hand	(instrument, PP)
manually	(instrument, one word)
frequently	(frequency, one word)
yesterday / last night	(temporal, NP)
on Tuesday	(temporal, PP)
when the bell rang	(temporal, clause)

# Adverbs

‘She opened the door....’

repeatedly / again

(aspectuality)

perhaps / probably

(epistemic)

fortunately

(evaluative)

simply / just

(emphatic)

## ■ **Word order flexibility:**

Quickly she open the door.

She quickly open the door.

She opened the door quickly.

## ■ **Manner vs. Instrument ('with')**

I wrote the letter                      with a pencil

with love.

I treated him                      with antibiotics.

with respect.

## ■ PP vs. -ly

I made it **by hand**  
**manually.**

I attacked him **by words.**  
**verbally.**

She wrote **with caution.**  
**cautiously.**

# Modality Marking

## ■ Epistemic Marking

(truth, certainty, probability)

- |                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| - Adverbs         | She is most certainly wrong<br>Maybe she will come. |
| - Modal Aux       | She must be wrong.<br>She may have left.            |
| - Perception Verb | I guess he is wrong<br>I suppose she has left.      |



## ■ **Evaluative (Deontic) Marking**

### ■ Adverbs

Luckily, they finished the exam.

Unfortunately, they died.

### ■ Modal denoting ‘obligation.’

You should study hard.

He need to say ‘Sorry.’

They ought to work together.

### ■ Verbs

I’d rather you do it.

I’m afraid we ran out of luck.

I wish I had been there.

I prefer you quit now.

## ■ **Emphatic Marking**

I just want a little bit.

She did exactly what you told her.

I really want to go.

I do want to go.

## **Adverbs modifying ADJ**

She is very lucky.

A very tall man.

# Verbs

- Semantic and syntactic properties: See Ch.3

- Morphological Characterization

## Grammatical / Inflectional Morphology:

- Tense: past vs. non-past  
future  
-ed  
will / shall
- Aspect: Perfect  
Progressive  
has / have / had –en  
BE-ing
- Modality:  
can / must / may
- Subject agreement:  
-s
- Negation:  
n't / not
- Passive:  
BE -en

# Tree Diagrams

- To describe the syntactic structure of a clause
- Contains:
  - Categorical labels
  - Linear order
  - Hierarchical constituent (i.e. parts) structure

### ■ 3. Parsing:

- $S \rightarrow NP VP (ADVP)$
- $NP \rightarrow DET (ADJP)^* N (PP)^*$
- $VP \rightarrow (AUX) V (PP)^* (ADVP)^*$
- $PP \rightarrow P NP$
- $ADJP \rightarrow (ADV)^* (ADJ)^* ADJ$
- $ADVP \rightarrow (ADVP)^* ADV$
- $ADVP \rightarrow PP$
- $DET \rightarrow$  articles, demonstrative,  
possessive

- Mary cried.
- Mary cried loudly.
- Mary cried extremely loudly.
- Mary had cried extremely loudly for food for two hours at the train station.
- The hungry boy had cried loudly for food for two hours at the train station.

■ Exercise:

*The President of Singapore will come to our university with the newly- elected major next Monday.*

- Mary cried.
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- PS-rules:
  - S -> NP VP
  - NP -> Name
  - NP -> Art Adj N

# Homework 3

- Come up with a set of PS-rules for the following sentence and draw a tree diagram:

*The President of Singapore will come to our university with the newly-elected mayor next Monday.*



# Minor Word Classes

## ■ Prepositions:

- marking indirect object or adverbial complement:

- ❖ Simple P: to, from, for, behind, upon, in, with
- ❖ Complex P: on top of, outside (of), in the back of
- ❖ Preceding a NP: at home  
to the store  
on top of the house  
in her beautiful new downtown office

# Minor Word Classes

## ■ Inter-clausal connectives:

- ❖ He came in **and** sat down.
- ❖ She left **because** he asked her to.
- ❖ **While** he was waiting, she left.

## ■ Conjunctions:

- ❖ **Simple conjunctions:** and, but, so, or, then
- ❖ **Complex conjunctions:** and then, later on
- ❖ **Historically complex conjunctions:**  
however, moreover, furthermore

# Minor Word Classes

## ■ Subordinators

- ❖ Simple subordinators: when, if, after, since
- ❖ Complex subordinators: in spite of, in order to
- ❖ Historically complex subordinators:  
because, until, although, despite
  - ❖ - If she's right...
  - ❖ In spite of having had no prior experience...
- ❖ Some requires nominalization:
  - ❖ Beginning with John's passing his exams...
  - ❖ During the search for the new Director...

# Minor Word Classes

## ■ Pronouns

### ❖ Definite referring pronouns

<u>possessor</u>				
<u>person/number/gender</u>	<u>subject</u>	<u>object</u>	<u>modifier</u>	<u>pronoun</u>
<u>1st SG</u>	I	me	my	mine
2nd SG	you	you	your	yours
3rd SG Fem	she	her	her	hers
3rd SG Masc	he	him	his	his
3rd SG Neut	it	it	its	its
1st PL	we	us	our	ours
2nd PL	you	you	your	yours
3rd PL	they	them	their	theirs

# Pronouns

## ❖ Indefinite or non-referring pronouns:

one, some, few, several, any

## ❖ Relative and interrogative pronouns

subj.: who

reason: why

obj.: whom

manner: how

location: where

time: when

# Determiners

## ■ Articles

- Definite: the
- Indefinite: a, some
- Non-referring: any, no

## ■ Demonstratives

- This, these
- That, those

## ■ Possessor pronouns

- My, your, her, his

# Other Minor Classes

- Numerals
- Ordinals
- Auxiliaries
- **Interjections:** Involving expressive or social interactive functions
  - Yes, Okay, well, now
  - Wait a minute!
  - No way Jose!
  - Excuse me!