ENG509

Syntax and Sentence Structure

1. **Constituents I: Word Order**
   Refers to how words are arranged in a sentence to convey meaning. For example, English generally follows a Subject-Verb-Object (SVO) word order: "She eats an apple."
2. **Constituents II: Phrases I**
   Explores how words group together to form phrases, like noun phrases ("the big dog") or verb phrases ("is running"). These phrases act as building blocks of sentences.
3. **Further Phrases**
   Goes deeper into more complex phrases, such as prepositional phrases ("on the table") and how these phrases fit into sentence structures.

Functions and Roles in Grammar

4. **Grammatical Functions of the Verb & Its Complements**
   Looks at the role of the verb in a sentence and its complements. Complements are words or phrases that complete the verb's meaning, like "She **gave him a gift**" (where "him" and "a gift" are complements).
5. **Grammatical Function**
   Refers to the role that a word or phrase plays in a sentence, such as subject, object, or predicate.
6. **Null Constituents**
   These are "invisible" parts of a sentence that are understood but not spoken or written. For example, in "I want [to eat]," the "to eat" part is understood even if it's not explicitly said.

Movement in Syntax

7. **Head Movement**
   Describes how parts of a sentence (like verbs) can move to different positions for grammatical or stylistic reasons. For example, in questions like "Do you know?" the verb "do" moves to the start of the sentence.

8. **Wh-movement**
   Refers to moving question words (like "what," "who," or "where") to the beginning of a sentence. For example, "You saw who?" becomes "Who did you see?"
9. **Wh-movement & A-movement**
   Compares two types of movements in syntax:
   - Wh-movement focuses on moving question words.
   - A-movement involves moving subjects or objects to new positions, like in passive sentences ("The book was read by her").
10. **A-movement**
    A specific kind of movement where nouns or noun phrases are moved to satisfy grammatical rules, often in passive constructions. Example: "She read the book" → "The book was read by her."
11. **Agreement, Case, and A-movement**
    Refers to the grammatical rules that ensure agreement (like subject-verb agreement: "She eats"), proper case usage (e.g., "he" vs. "him"), and how A-movement fits into these rules.

Advanced Syntax Concepts

12. **Split Projections**
    Refers to breaking down sentence elements (like verbs) into smaller components or layers to better understand how they function.
13. **Phases**
    Sentences are built in stages or "phases" in syntax, where certain chunks are processed before the whole sentence comes together.

Morphology and Syntax Research

14. **Key Research Themes in Morphology**
    Focuses on understanding how words are formed (prefixes, suffixes, roots) and how these structures affect language use.
15. **Research Issues of the Field of Syntax**
    Explores ongoing questions in syntax, like how sentence structures vary across languages, how children learn syntax, and how grammar rules work in different contexts.