

Nani Chanishvili

Centre of Language, Logic and Speech
Georgia, Tbilisi

Syntactic and Semantic Structure of Georgian Sentence

In recent years there are many different approaches to syntax and semantics. The complexity of natural languages cannot be regulated so that we have a complete system which we can account by a small well-defined rules. Clear division can be made between syntax and semantics. The natural language is social, psychological, pragmatic phenomenon.

The main goal of this paper is to show that the first thing we need for further research is the unification of the definitions and especially such important key words as “subject”, “object”.

What is “subject” and what is “object” from the linguistic point of view and what is the difference between the linguistic and logical “subjects” and “objects” and how do they correspond with semantic level elements such as Agent, Beneficiary, etc. ? The answer on this very simple but very important question is the main goal of the linguists to-day.

Functional grammar gives a prominent role to three distinct “layers” of functional notions:

1. *Semantic functions*: Agent, Goal, Recipient, Beneficiary, etc.
2. *Syntactic functions*: Subject and Object
3. *Pragmatic functions*: Theme and Tail, Topic and Focus

But for example in Georgian and Russian grammatical tradition we have for syntactic functions another term- “Подлежащее”(underlying)- for Subject, “Дополнение”(complement)- for Object; “ქვემდებარე“-for Subject and “დამატება“-for Object;

When we are speaking about different definitions and terms for the syntactic and semantic studies, we mean different grammatical traditions for different languages.

In Georgian and Russian grammatical traditions linguists define different terms for the syntactic level – not “subject” and “Object” but “Grammatical Subject”- “Подлежащее”-“ ქვემდებარე“ and “Grammatical Object”-“Дополнение”-“ დამატება“.

Semantic functions specify the roles that the referents of the terms carrying these functions play within the state of affairs designated by the predication in which the terms occur.

Syntactic functions specify the perspective from which that state of affairs is presented in the linguistic expression.

Pragmatic functions specify the informational status of the constituents of a predication within the wider communicative setting in which they occur.

But it is obvious that in Georgian and Russian grammars we use for the Syntactic function another term, not Subject and Object.

I think that for better understanding each other we have to add to this three levels the fourth one-*Logical level* and then we will have four levels:

1. Semantic functions: Agent, Recipient etc.

2. Logical functions: Subject, Object

3, Syntactic functions: Grammatical Subject(Underlying), Grammatical Object(Compliment) etc.

4. Pragmatic functions : Theme, Tail, Topic, Focus etc,

In Georgian grammatical tradition we have a very clear and formal definition of the Grammatical Subject-Grammatical Subject is the member of the sentence which corresponds in the verb with the marker of the group "V"(this is the morphological marker of the first person singular in the normal verbs like "v-asheneb" "I am building", "v-cer" "I am writing). Georgian verb is polypersonal, we have in the Georgian verb the morphological marker of the grammatical direct Object-"m-xatavs"- "He is painting Me" this "M" is the marker of the Grammatical Direct Object "Me"; and grammatical Indirect Object as well- "m-cers" "He is writing to Me", in this example morphological marker-"M" is for the Grammatical Indirect Object "Me".

Such formal definition of the Grammatical Subject and Grammatical Object helps us to differentiate Grammatical and Logical Subject in the passive constructions, where Grammatical Subject is not the Logical Subject and so called inversive sentences, where Logical Subjects are marked with the morphological marker of the Grammatical Object- "M" in such examples as "m-ikvar-s me is" "I love him", where Logical Subject "I" corresponds with the morphological marker of the Grammatical Object- "M" and Logical Object "him" is marked with the suffix "S"- the morphological marker of the Grammatical Subjects (which is the third person singular marker of the group "V").

So I think, that if we will have in mind the terms "Grammatical Subject" and "Grammatical Object" always when we are reading in the English language linguistic literature the terms "Subject" and "Object", we will have better understanding of the syntactic and Semantic structures of the sentences and at the same time we will begin the process of the unification of the definitions;

In terms of semantic structure, the Georgian sentence consists of four principal elements: 1) motive of the action, 2) direct agent, 3) direct object of the action or patient and 4) addressee of the action. These elements, following definite regularities, are expressed at the morphological level in both the substantive and the

verb as well as at the syntactic level. In the Georgian grammatical tradition the main syntactic structure of the sentence is built with the following syntactic roles- subject, direct object, indirect object. The place of the subject in the active construction can be held only by the motive of the action and by the direct agent, etc.

The principle of reciprocal compensation represents a manifestation of the principle of isomorphism at the syntagmatic level. The categories of verb and cases find themselves related by compensatory distribution in a sentence. The number of non-adverbial semantic cases in a sentence is inversely proportional to the syntactic valency of the verb. The greater this valency the fewer non-adverbial semantic cases in a sentence, and vice versa. When the syntactic valency of the verb reaches a maximum (four octants) the number of semantic cases (potential octants) falls to zero.

The Georgian sentence is thus characterized by the degree of reduction and the degree of expansion of its semantics. The semantics of the whole sentence can expand into semantic cases or completely reduce into a verb depending on its actual and potential valency. Both are influenced by the isolated de-verbal nominal super-category. In a sentence it may manifest itself either in the verb or in the substantive. If it manifests itself in the substantive the letter becomes a potential octant and the potential valency of the verb increases by one unit accordingly. If it passes from the substantive to the verb the valency of the verb rises by one unit and the substantive already becomes open to the "invasion" of the another super-category, which will turn it back into a potential octant until the verb imbibes all possible super-categories, i.e., until it realizes its complete potential and its syntactic valency reaches a maximum of four. The possibility of manifestation of a definite supercategory in the verb depends on the concrete semantics and syntactic valency of the verb. The maximum syntactic valency of the Georgian verb equals four- a fact that represents its typological characteristics.

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