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, soul, 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quality</th>
<th>positive</th>
<th>negative</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Size</td>
<td>big</td>
<td>small</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Length</td>
<td>long</td>
<td>short</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Width</td>
<td>wide</td>
<td>narrow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thickness</td>
<td>thick</td>
<td>thin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Height / position</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Height / size</td>
<td>tall</td>
<td>short</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speed</td>
<td>fast</td>
<td>slow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loudness</td>
<td>loud</td>
<td>quiet</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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  waitress
  - prince  princess
  - 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)
- \[ S = \text{SUBJ} \ \text{VP} \]
- \[ \text{SUBJ} = \{\text{NP/S}\} \]
- \[ \text{VP} = \{\text{COPULAR} / \text{VERBAL (ADV)}\} \]
- \[ \text{COPULAR} = \text{COP PRED} \]
- \[ \text{PRED} = \{\text{ADJ} / \text{NP}\} \]
- \[ \text{VERBAL} = \text{V (OBJ)} \ (\{\text{IO (IO) /COMP}\}) \]
- \[ \text{COMP} = S \]
- \[ \text{IO} = \text{PP} \]
- \[ \text{PP} = P \text{ NP} \]
- \[ \text{OBJ} = \text{NP} \]
- \[ \text{NP} = \{\ (\text{MODIF}) \text{ N (MOODIF)} / \text{PRO} / \text{NAME}\} \]
Adverbs

- **Form: Most heterogeneous**
  - adverbal 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
    Maybe she will come.
  - Modal Aux  
    She must be wrong.
    She may have left.
  - Perception Verb  
    I guess he is wrong
    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
    - past -ed
    - future will / shall
  - Aspect: Perfect
    - has / have / had –en
    - Progressive 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 → NP VP (ADVP)
- NP → DET (ADJP)* N (PP)*
- VP → (AUX) V (PP)* (ADVP)*
- PP → P NP
- ADJP → (ADV)* (ADJ)* ADJ
- ADVP → (ADVP)* ADV
- ADVP → PP
- DET → 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.

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.

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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>person/number/gender</th>
<th>subject</th>
<th>object</th>
<th>modifier</th>
<th>pronoun</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st SG</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>me</td>
<td>my</td>
<td>mine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd SG</td>
<td>you</td>
<td>you</td>
<td>your</td>
<td>yours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd SG Fem</td>
<td>she</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>yours</td>
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<tr>
<td>3rd PL</td>
<td>they</td>
<td>them</td>
<td>their</td>
<td>theirs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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!