

Embedded clauses

It's raining.

I think [(**that**) it's raining].

It's raining.

I think [**(that)** it's raining].

I wonder [**whether/if** it's raining].

[**If** it's raining], we'll stay inside.

[**Although** it's raining now], it'll clear up later.

[**Unless** it rains], we'll go on a picnic.

...

It's raining.

Bill said [**that** it's raining].

It's raining.

Bill said [**that** it's raining].

Mary knows [**that** Bill said [**that** it's raining]].

It's raining.

Bill said [**that** it's raining].

Mary knows [**that** Bill said [**that** it's raining]].

I wonder [**whether** Mary knows [**that** Bill said
[**that** it's raining]]]...

infinitives

I decided to leave.

I persuaded Bill to leave.

infinitives

I decided to leave.

I decided *that I should leave*.

I persuaded Bill to leave.

I persuaded Bill *that he should leave*.

infinitives

I decided to leave.

I decided *that I should leave*.

I persuaded Bill to leave.

I persuaded Bill *that he should leave*.

[To leave] would be smart.

two aspects of word order variation...

remember German V2?

Die Frau **sah** gestern den Mann
the woman saw yesterday the man
'The woman saw the man yesterday'

Den Mann **sah** die Frau gestern
the man saw the woman yesterday
'The man, the woman saw yesterday'

Gestern **sah** die Frau den Mann
yesterday saw the woman the man
'Yesterday, the woman saw the man'

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This only happens *when there's no complementizer.*

two aspects of word order variation...

remember German V2?

Die Frau **sah** gestern den Mann
the woman saw yesterday the man
'The woman saw the man yesterday'

Ich glaube, dass [die Frau den Mann gestern **sah.**]
I believe that the woman the man yesterday saw
'I believe that the woman saw the man yesterday'

If there's an overt complementizer (*dass*), then the German verb is at the end of the clause.

word order again: clauses often extrapose, as we've seen.

Taro thinks [**that** natto is tasty]

Taroo-kun-wa [nattoo-ga oisii **to**] omou. (*Japanese*)

CheleTa Suneche [**je** or baba aSbe] (*Bangla*)
the.boy heard that his father will.come

CheleTa [or baba aSbe **bole**] Suneche.

Bangla is mostly SOV...

very common for embedded clauses

KriSno hEmleT poRlo.

to be 'on the edge'

Krishna Hamlet read

of the main clause.

'Krishna read Hamlet'

Clauses and case/agreement:

For some kinds of phenomena, clauses act like objects...

Udaltzain-**ek** ukatu dute [Rubioren bizkartzain zir-ela] (*Basque*)
policemen-**ERG** deny AUX Rubio's bodyguards were-**that**]
'The town policemen have denied that they were Rubio's bodyguards'

→ **ERG** case on subject, suggesting that the verb is transitive.

Clauses and case/agreement:

For some kinds of phenomena, clauses act like objects...

...there may even be cases where they can control agreement:

[That Nixon will be reelected] and [that he will be impeached]
seem about equally likely.

Restrictions on their distribution:

I see **the weather report**.

I see **that it's raining**.

Restrictions on their distribution:

I see **the weather report**.

I see **that it's raining**.

They're talking about **the weather report**.

*They're talking about **that it's raining**.

Restrictions on their distribution:
can they be subjects?

[That it's raining] is obvious.

[For the Red Sox to lose this game] would be disappointing.

Restrictions on their distribution:
can they be subjects?

[That it's raining] is obvious.

[For the Red Sox to lose this game] would be disappointing.

[The rain] is obvious.

[A loss] would be disappointing.

Restrictions on their distribution:
can they be subjects?

[That it's raining] is obvious.

[For the Red Sox to lose this game] would be disappointing.

[The rain] is obvious.

[A loss] would be disappointing.

Is [the rain] obvious?

Would [a loss] be disappointing?

Restrictions on their distribution:
can they be subjects?

[That it's raining] is obvious.

[For the Red Sox to lose this game] would be disappointing.

[The rain] is obvious.

[A loss] would be disappointing.

Is [the rain] obvious?

Would [a loss] be disappointing?

*Is [that it's raining] obvious?

*Would [for the Red Sox to lose this game] be disappointing?

Indexical shift

Who did John say [**that** he saw?]

Tursun [**men** kim-ni kördim] didi?

Tursun **I** who-ACC saw said

‘Who did Tursun say that **he** saw?’

(Uyghur)

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24.917 ConLangs: How to Construct a Language Fall 2018

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