

## THE THEORY OF COMPOSITE SENTENCES AND COMPLEX SENTENCES IN MODERN LINGUISTICS

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### Annotation

This article describes the meaning of the term composite sentence as a common term for both the compound and the complex sentence. Its trichotomic classification of sentences into simple, compound, complex, and methods employed by the grammarians.

**Keywords:** composite, compound, complex, trichotomic, "double" and "multiple".

Having analyzed a great number of research works, we have found that Cognitive linguistics is one of the most interesting and disputable branches of linguistics that studies mental processes and their linguistic reflection in people's daily lives. This science pays its prime attention to the language as a communicative unit which differs not only from the point of view of the nations and cultures but also from one person to another. Every human being has its own communicative aim and language pragmatic peculiarities, which reflect his picture of the world that comes from the process of syntheses of everything around him in his mind. Our research work is devoted to the analysis of one of the aspects of the study in cognitive linguistics- concept. In order to make the notion of cognitive linguistics more clearly we want to mention some additional information taken from the internet resources that help us to define this branch of the linguistic science: As has been pointed out in the introduction, the term composite sentence was used by H. Poutsma<sup>1</sup> as a common term for both the compound and the complex sentence and it may be accepted by those schools who adhere trichotomic classification of sentences into simple, compound and complex. This classification established in the English prescriptive grammar of the mid-19th century and accepted and developed by the authors of the classical scientific grammar remains the prevalent scheme of the structural classification of sentences in the grammars of all types in the modern period. A very important syntactic concept which developed along with this classification was the concept of the clause as a syntactic unit, containing a subject and a predicate.

From the very beginning the authors of prescriptive and scientific grammars have intuitively found out the weak link in this classification - the concept of the compound sentence, containing syntactically independent coordinated clauses or sentences. The compound

<sup>1</sup> Poutsma H. A Grammar of Late Modern English. Part II. Gro-ningen, 1926 (5 vols., 1904—1929).

sentence was not felt to be a sentence proper. There were at least three methods employed by the grammarians to find a way out of this difficulty:

(1) to explain it away by pointing out the complete independence and the possibility of isolating each member of a compound sentence without any change of its meaning or intonation;

(2) by employing new terms to express more exactly the grammatical peculiarity of this combination of sentences (cf. the terms "double" and "multiple" sentences);

(3) by excluding this concept from the structural classification of sentences (cf. Kruisinga, who uses the traditional term to denote the complex sentence only).

Structural linguistics treats the problem of the compound sentence in different ways. Some of them retain the traditional trichotomy, though the terms employed are sometimes non-traditional (e.g. "duplication of the pattern" in Hook and Mathews' grammar)<sup>2</sup>

Fries substitutes for the traditional doctrine his theory of included sentences (suggested doubtless by L.Bloomfield's ideas concerning the included position of a grammatical form) and sequences of sentences (the latter concept was probably borrowed from H.Sweet). The author's attitude towards the traditional concept of the compound sentence is not very clear. Fries justly remarks in a footnote that the so-called "compound" sentence seems to be primarily a matter of the punctuation of written texts, as in his mechanical recordings of speech only few instances occurred with a clear 3-2-3 intonation<sup>3</sup> before the words listed as sequence signals, i.e. signals of an independent sentence.<sup>4</sup> But, contrary to this assertion, the author classifies all the so-called sequence signals and coordinating conjunctions together with subordinating conjunctions as function words of the group J, i.e. as signals of inclusion. The attempts of the authors of the older scientific grammars to destroy the concept of the clause as it was understood by prescriptive grammar by introducing such notions as "half" clauses, "abridged" clauses, "infinitive", "gerund", "participle" clauses may be observed in the except from Bryant's grammar, treating verbid clauses. This tendency, which has found favour with some structural linguistics, may have far-reaching consequences in the theory of the complex sentence, as it leads to the demolition of the structural distinction between simple and complex sentences.

The extract from Gleason's work illustrates one of the few attempts of the modern schools of grammar to analyze complex sentences containing more than two clauses to the principle

<sup>2</sup> J.H.Hook, E.G.Mathews, Modern American Grammar and Usage, New York, 1956, p.81.

<sup>3</sup> According to the phonetic notation used by Ch.Fries, 3 denotes the usual voice level and 2-one step above the usual

<sup>4</sup> The view that the traditional compound sentence is not a syntactic unit, but a string of independent coordinate sentences, has been advanced, though with different arguments, in the articles: Л.Л.Июфик, Существует ли сложносочиненное предложение в английском языке? (Научные доклады высшей школы. Филологические науки, 1958, N 2) and D.J.Allerton, The Sentence as a Linguistic Unit (Lingua, V. 22, N 1, 1969). The latter author maintains that this analysis of coordinate sentences will have a profound effect on the grammar (op. cit., p.38).

of IC analysis. Transformational grammar derives complex and traditional compound sentences from two or more underlying strings or source sentences (double-base transformations), including them into matrix sentences (i.e. principal sentences) as inserts by means of embedding and conjoining transformations. The excerpt from R.Lakoff reveals a new tendency in the analysis of the compound sentence. She suggests that the logical notions of presupposition and deduction should be incorporated in grammar, in order to account for the differences of the syntactic structures of various types of compound sentences.

There is much more to be said about the complex sentence than about the compound. This is due to several causes, which are, however, connected with one another.

For one thing, the semantic relations which can be expressed by subordination are much more numerous and more varied than with coordination: all such relations as time, place, concession, purpose, condition etc. are expressly stated in complex sentences only.

## References

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2. J.H. Hook, E.G. Mathews, Modern American Grammar and Usage, New York, 1956, p.81.
3. See H.Sweet. A New English Grammar, Part I, p. 160-161.
4. Brown C. and Jule “Teaching the spoken language”, Cambridge, 1983)
5. Martin Hewings “Advanced grammar in use” 2005
6. Douglas Biber, S Susan Conrad, Geoffrey Leach “Student grammar of spoken and written English ”2002.
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