

19. Illustrations

In this chapter, we apply the methodology described in the preceding chapters to some sample sentences.

- (i) “Mike’s boss gave him a day off yesterday.”

It is assumed that the topic is “Mike’s boss”, although in reality “Mike” is as likely. It is also assumed that “yesterday” relates to “day”, not to “gave”.

Sentence	Mike’s	boss	gave	him	a day off	yesterday
Discourse structure	{definite}		{aorist}	{circumstance}	{indefinite}	
Functional structure	{agent} ₁			{recipient} ₂	{object} ₃ \{possession ₄	
Functional qualifiers	{target} ₂	{role} ₁			{object} ₄	{time}
Component structure	{subject}		{verb}	{complement}	{object}	

If the topic had in fact been “Mike”, so that the sentence was understood (but not expressed) as “Mike was given a day off yesterday by his boss”, the functional structure would be the same, but in the discourse structure, {definite} would be exchanged with {circumstance}.

- (ii) “Mike was peeling the potatoes for today’s lunch.”

Sentence	Mike	was peeling	the potatoes	for	today’s	lunch.
Discourse structure	{definite}	{imperfect}\{select}				
Functional structure	{agent}	{transform}\{attribute}	{object} ₁			
Functional qualifiers₁			{object} ₁	{benefit}	{benefit} ₂	
Functional qualifiers₂					{time}	{object} ₂
Component structure	{subject}	{verb}\{complement}	{object}			

The verb “peel” is both transforming the potatoes, and removing their peel.

- (iii) “King Canute has sternly ordered the waves to retreat.”

Sentence	King Canute	has ordered	the waves	to retreat	sternly.
Discourse structure₁	{definite}	{perfect}\{select}			
Functional structure₁	{agent} ₁	{propose}	{recipient}\{object}	{indefinable}	
Functional qualifiers	{object ₁ – role}				
Discourse structure₂	{definite}	{perfect}\{select}			
Functional structure₂	{object}	{definite}			{style}

This sentence contains two actions or states: the king’s ordering of the waves, and his stern style in doing so. It is therefore two sentences; the second (his stern style) being an observation on the first.

- (iv) “Sarah’s work pleased her geography teacher.”

Sentence	Sarah’s work	pleased	her geography teacher.
Discourse structure	{definite}	{aorist}\{select}	
Functional structure	{object} ₁	{opinion}	{recipient} ₂
Functional qualifiers	{participate ₁ – agent ₃ }		{role ₂ – competence – target ₃ }
Component structure	{subject}\{object}	{verb}	{recipient}

The sentence describes how Sarah’s work is pleasing to the teacher and is therefore the {object} of the opinion. It is also the {subject} of the sentence.

- (v) “The date that you have proposed is convenient for my client.”

Sentence	The date that you have proposed	is convenient	for my client.
Discourse structure	{definite}	{select}	
Functional structure	{object} ₁	{benefit}	{beneficiary} ₂
Functional qualifiers	{object ₁ – propose ₃ – agent}\{perfect} ₃		{role ₂ – target}
Component structure	{subject}\{object}	{verb}	{beneficiary}

This sentence contains a restrictive relative clause, “that you have proposed”, which is perfective since the consequences of the proposal are being described. The main verb “is convenient” is stative, but its aspect is not relevant to the discourse structure. The date is the {object} of the convenience, but is also the {subject} of the sentence.

- (vi) “Because it was sunny yesterday, we went out.”

Assuming that both parts of this expression convey new information, they are two sentences: “It was sunny yesterday”; “Yesterday’s sun caused us to go out”, the second sentence being an adverbial to the first.

Sentence	It was sunny	yesterday	so	we	went out.
Discourse structure₁	{indefinite} ₁	{circumstance}			
Functional structure₁	{object}	{time}	{adverbial}		
Comp. structure₁	{verb}	{circumstance}	{adverbial}		
Discourse structure₂	{definite}				{select}
Functional structure₂	{causer}		{agent}\{object}		{move}
Comp. structure₂			{subject}\{object}		{verb}

- (vii) “Because it rained yesterday, we did not go out.”

Assuming that both parts of this expression convey new information, they are two sentences: “It rained yesterday”; “Yesterday’s rain caused us not to go out”, the second sentence being an adverbial to the first.

Sentence	It rained	yesterday	so	we	did not	go out.
Discourse structure₁	{indefinite} ₁	{circumstance}	{adverbial}			
Functional structure₁	{object}	{time}	{adverbial}			
Comp. structure₁	{verb}	{circumstance}	{adverbial}			
Discourse structure₂	{definite}				{not}	{definite}
Functional structure₂	{causer}		{agent}\{object}		{not}	{move}
Comp. structure₂			{subject}\{object}		{verb}	

- (viii) “Come when you can.”

Sentence	Come	when	you	can.
Discourse structure	{indefinable}		{definite}	
Functional structure	{object}	{time} ₁		
Functional qualifiers	{indefinable} ₁		{recipient}	{able}
Component structure	{verb}	{circumstance}		

- (ix) “Do as I say.”

Sentence	Do	as	I	say.
Discourse structure	{indefinable}	{definite}		
Functional structure	{perform}	{target} ₁		
Functional qualifiers	{indefinable} ₁		{agent}	{propose}
Component structure	{verb}	{circumstance}		

- (x) “She passed her exam with flying colours.”

This is again two sentences: “She passed her exam”; “Her passing of her exam was with flying colours”. “With flying colours”, being a metaphor, is treated as a single word.

Sentence	She	passed	her	exam	with flying colours.
Discourse structure ₁	{definite}	{select}			{adverbial}
Functional structure ₁	{agent}	{perform} ₁	{target} ₂		{adverbial}
Funct. qualifiers ₁		{benefit} ₁	{beneficiary}	{object} ₂	
Comp. structure ₁	{subject}\{object}	{verb}	{beneficiary}	{target}	{adverbial}
Discourse structure ₂	{definite}				{select}
Functional structure ₂	{object}	{definite}			{style}
Comp. structure ₂	{subject}\{object}				{verb}

- (xi) “The first person to gain 100 points wins the game.”

Sentence	The first	person	to gain	100	points	wins	the game.
Disc. structure	{definite}					{general}\{select}	
Funct. structure	{agent} ₁					{perform}	{target}
Funct. qualifiers ₁	{compare}	{object} ₁	{base}				
Funct. qualifiers ₂			{possession}	{object} ₂			
Funct. qualifiers ₃				{attribute}	{obj.} ₂		
Comp. structure	{subject}					{verb}	{target}

The function {compare} compares “the person” with the class of all those obtaining points. The sentence is {general} as it states a general rule.

- (xii) “With good luck, we will win the prize.”

Sentence	With good luck	we	will win	the prize.
Discourse structure ₁	{adverbial}	{definite}	{prospect}\{select}	
Functional structure ₁	{adverbial}	{agent}\{recipient}	{possession}	{object}
Comp. structure ₁	{adverbial}	{subject}\{recipient}	{verb}	{object}
Discourse structure ₂	{select}	{definite}		
Functional structure ₂	{benefit}	{beneficiary}	{definite}	
Comp. structure ₂	{verb}	{subject}	{definite}	

The first sentence addresses the question: “Will you win the prize?”, the answer being “Yes”. “The second sentence addresses the question: “What advantage will you need to win the prize?”, the answer being “Good luck”.

- (xiii) “Why did you say that?”

Sentence	Why	you	did say	that?
Discourse structure	{query – select}	{definite}		
Functional structure	{query – causer}	{agent}	{communicate}	{object}
Component structure	{query – causer}	{subject}	{verb}	{object}

(xiv) “I said that because I was angry.”

Sentence	I	said	that	because	I	was angry.
Discourse structure	{definite}			{select}		
Functional structure₁	{agent} ₁	{communicate}	{object}	{causer} ₂		
Comp. structure₁	{subject}	{verb}	{object}	{causer}		
Functional structure₂				{object} ₁	{effect} ₂	
Comp. structure₂				{subject}\ {object}	{verb}	

In discourse terms, this sentence is: “My saying that was caused by my anger.” The caused clause: “I said that” is the topic and the causing clause: “I was angry” is the comment.

(xv) “How did you do that so quickly?”

Sentence	How	you	did do that	so	quickly?
Discourse structure	{query – select}		{definite}		
Functional structure	{query – instrument}	{agent}	{participate}	{circumstance} ₁	
Functional qualifiers				{attribute}	{component} ₁
Component structure	{query – instrument}	{subject}	{verb}	{circumstance}	

(xvi) “I used a computer to do it.”

Sentence	I	used	a computer	to do it.
Discourse structure	{definite}	{aorist}	{indefinite}	{circumstance}
Functional structure	{agent}\{beneficiary}	{benefit}		{definite} ₁
Functional qualifiers				{participate} ₁
Component structure	{subject}\{beneficiary}	{verb}	{object}	{definite}

(xvii) “Which bicycle did you borrow?”

Sentence	Which bicycle	you	did borrow	this morning?
Discourse structure	{query – select}		{aorist}\{definite}	
Functional structure	{query – object}	{agent}	{possession}	{circumstance}
Functional qualifiers			{object}	{time}
Component structure	{object}	{subject}	{verb}	{circumstance}

(xviii) “Although young, she is already wealthy.”

Sentence	Young	although,	she	is already	wealthy.
Discourse structure₁	{indefinite}		{definite}		
Functional structure₁	{component}		{object}		
Discourse structure₂	{definite}			{already}\ {circumstance}	{indefinite}
Comp. structure₁	{gerund}		{subject}	{verb}	{complement}
Functional structure₂	{causer}	{not – causer – not}	{object}	{circumstance}	{indefinite}
Funct. qualifiers₂	{component}			{possession – object}	
Comp. structure₂	{subject}	{verb}	{object}	{complement}	

This is the compound sentence: “She is young”; “Her youth does not prevent her being already rich”. The double negative means that “wealthy” is {indefinite}, not {indefinable}.

(xix) “Although clever, he is not yet rich.”

Sentence	Clever	although,	he	is not yet	rich
Discourse structure₁	{indefinite}		{definite}		
Functional structure₁	{attribute}		{object}		
Comp. structure₁	{gerund}		{subject}	{verb}	{complement}
Discourse structure₂	{definite}			{still} {not}	{indefinable}
Functional structure₂	{instrument}	{not – causer}	{indefinable} ₁		
Funct. qualifiers₂	{attribute}		{recipient}	{not} ₁	{possession}
Comp. structure₂	{subject}	{verb}	{object}	{complement}	

This is the compound sentence: “He is clever”; “His cleverness is not yet the means of his being rich”.

(xx) “If it is sunny, we can go out.”

Sentence	If	it is sunny,	we	can	go out.
Discourse structure	{indefinable}		{definite}		
Functional structure	{depend}	{indefinable}	{definite} ₁		
Functional qualifiers₁		{effect}	{definite}	{able} ₁	{indefinable}
Functional qualifiers₂			{agent}\{object}		{move}
Component structure	{verb}	{indefinable}		{subject}	

This sentence means: “Our ability to go our depends on whether it is sunny.” The verb is therefore “if” and the subject is “can”.

(xxi) “Harold Wilson was Prime Minister from 1964 to 1976, except from 1970 to 1974.”

Sentence	Harold Wilson	was Prime Minister	from 1964 to 1976	except from 1970 to 1974.
Discourse structure	{definite}	{indefinite}	{circumstance}	
Functional structure	{object}	{role}	{competence} ₁	
Functional qualifiers			{not} ₁	{competence} ₂
Component structure	{subject}\{object}	{verb}	{adverbial}	

(xxii) “She allowed enough time to complete the journey.”

Sentence	She	allowed	time	enough	to complete the journey.
Discourse structure	{definite}	{indefinite}			{circumstance}
Functional structure	{agent}\{beneficiary}	{benefit}	{object} ₁	{benefit}	
Functional qualifiers₁			{object} ₁	{compare}	{base}
Component structure	{subject}	{verb}	{object}	{complement}	

(xxiii) “The inflation rate has fallen to 2%.”

Sentence	The inflation rate	has fallen to	2%.
Discourse structure	{definite}	{perfect}	{select}
Functional structure	{object} ₁		{constituent – attribute}
Functional qualifiers	{object}	{constitute} ₁	
Component structure	{subject}\{object}	{verb}	{complement}

(xxiv) “You must be pleased at the outcome.”

Sentence	You	must be	pleased at	the outcome.
Discourse structure	{definite}	{infer}	{select}	
Functional structure	{recipient}	{infer}	{opinion}	{instrument}
Functional qualifiers				{effect}
Component structure	{subject}	{verb}		{object}

The sentence could be alternatively expressed: “The outcome must have pleased you”. In that case, the component structure would be {subject\instrument – verb – recipient}.

(xxv) “John was de-selected as candidate for the election.”

Sentence	John	was	de-selected	as candidate	for the election.
Discourse structure	{definite}	{aorist}	{select}		
Funct. structure	{object}		{competence}	{not – role}	{target}
Comp. structure	{subject}\{object}	{verb}		{not – complement}	{target}

This is a reversal sentence, in which a previous {complement} “candidate” is reversed.

(xxvi) “She has lost her car key.”

Sentence	She	has	lost	her	car	key.
Discourse structure	{definite}	{perfect}	{select}			
Funct. structure	{beneficiary} ₁		{not – benefit}	{object} ₂		
Funct. qualifiers				{beneficiary} ₁	{benefit}	{object} ₂
Comp. structure	{subject}	{verb}	{not – complement}	{object}		

This is again a reversal sentence, in which a previous {complement} “have a car key available” is reversed.

(xxvii) “The man whose car you borrowed is my neighbour.”

Sentence	The man	whose	car	you	borrowed	is my	neighbour.
Disc. structure	{definite}					{select}	
Funct. structure	{recipient} ₁					{obj.} ₁	{possess.} ₁
Funct. qualifiers₁	{recip.} ₁	{possess.} ₂	{obj.} ₂				
Funct. qualifiers₂			{obj.} ₂	{recip.} ₂	{possess.} ₃		
Comp. structure	{subject}					{object}	{verb}

(xxviii) “Peter has mislaid his spectacles.”

Sentence	Peter	has	mislaid	his	spectacles.
Discourse structure	{definite}	{perfect}	{select}		
Functional structure	{recipient} ₁		{error}\{possession}	{recipient} ₁	{object}
Component structure	{subject}	{complement}\{verb}		{object}	

(xxix) “Has Peter mislaid his spectacles?”

Sentence	Has	Peter	mislaid	his	spectacles?
Discourse structure	{query – perfect}	{definite}	{select}		
Functional structure	{query}	{recipient} ₁	{error}\{possession}	{recipient} ₁	{object}
Component structure		{subject}	{complement}\{verb}	{object}	

(xxx) “He has read some of the ten books.”

This sentence is not a statement, since it does not provide information on a known entity, but existential, since it introduces an entity for discussion: “There are some of the ten books which I have read”.

Sentence	He	has	read	some of	the ten	books.
Disc. structure	{circumstance}\{perfect}			{indefinite}		
Funct. structure	{agent}\{recipient}		{possession}	{object} ₁		
Funct. qualifiers₁				{constitute}	{attribute}	{object} ₁
Comp. structure	{subject}	{verb}\{complement}		{object}		

(xxxi) “All I want is my two front teeth.”

Sentence	All	I	want	is my	two front	teeth.
Disc. structure	{only}	{definite}		{select}		
Funct. structure		{agent}\{recipient}	{suppose}	{object}\{indefinable}		
Funct. qualifiers₁					{attribute}	{object}
Comp. structure	{subject}\{object}			{verb}	{complement}	