

The Syntax Questionnaire

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INSTRUCTIONS

- **Please answer the questions briefly** (1-3 sentences or so). If you find that you would like to elaborate further on any question, go ahead and do this in the 'Optional' section at the end (where you have a total of 10 pages to basically write about any syntax-related topic you like)
- Questions marked with an asterisk (*) are **optional**
- If possible, check all information with a **native speaker** (and credit them); if from a printed source, please provide the reference
- We are asking for translations of various sentences to try to get a sense of the basic syntactic processes in a fairly easy way; if you have access to **written corpora**, and you find equivalent actually used sentences, we would be happy if you incorporated them (please add a citation)
- For translating sentences, please separate (inflectional) suffixes and explain what they are, lining up the word and its gloss (use 'TAB'). Example of translating a sentence from English to Finnish (change names to native names in your language):

"Mary gave a present to John"

Maija	anto-i	Jukalle	lahja-n
Maija-NOM	give-3SG/PAST	Jukka-ADE	present-ACC

- For answering questions about word order (and for translating), use the most common or typically used word order (if two orders are equally common, note this)
- For **abbreviations**, please use the list that we will provide
- A **terminology** list will be provided, as well
- If the question is problematic in your language or you have further questions about it, just answer 'to be clarified' (or email us asking for clarification)

Section 1. Word order and sentence types

1.1. Basic word order

1.1.1 Finite verb and its arguments: please translate sentence (a):

(a) Mary prepared a meal.

1.1.2 Non-finite verb and the object: please translate sentence (b).

(b) Mary did not want to prepare a meal.

1.1.3 Word order in imperatives: please translate (c):

(c) Prepare a meal! Don't prepare a meal!

1.1.4 Pronominal objects: do pronouns have the same or different word order as in (a) and (b)? Please translate (d) and (e).

(d) We met him.

(e) We did not want to meet him.

1.1.5 Sentences without a copula: does your language have predicative or existential sentences without the verb 'be'? Is finite morphology (tense/agreement) marked somewhere else? How are such sentences negated?

1.1.6 Location of adverbs: please copy the translated sentence from (b) above, and then mark all the places where the adverb 'yet' could occur. (*For example, for the English sentence 'Mary did not # want to prepare a meal #', "yet" can occur where the # marks are*)

*1.1.7 Adpositions: does your language have prepositions or postpositions? Which ones do you think are more common? Do they require case-marking of the noun?

*1.2.8 Other: is there anything else you would like to add on basic word order?

1.2. Negation

1.2.1 A negative auxiliary (verb): Is there a negative auxiliary verb in your language? What kind of finite suffixes can it carry, and in what order? (Agreement? Tense? Mood? Voice?)

1.2.2 Additional auxiliary verbs with negation: if the negative auxiliary (or particle) cannot carry all the finite affixes, does finite verb morphology appear on the main verb in a negative sentence, or on additional auxiliaries?

1.2.3. Word order in (finite) negative sentences: what is the typical order of the negative auxiliary/particle compared to the main verb and the subject?

1.2.4. Negation of non-finite clauses: How are non-finite clauses negated (or can they be negated)? Can the negative auxiliary (or particle) occur in a non-finite clause?

1.3 Questions and Information Structure

1.3.1 Regular yes/no questions: please translate (f), noting a possible question particle.

(f) Did Mary prepare a meal?

1.3.2 The question particle: does your language have one? If so, does it usually attach to the verb? Where in the sentence do the question particle and its host occur — beginning, end, or middle of the sentence? Is there more than one possibility?

1.3.3 Questioning an NP: please translate (g), to see if the question particle can attach to NP.

(g) (Was it) a **soup** (that) Mary prepared?

1.3.4 Content (WH-) questions: please translate the question in (j):

(j) What did Mary prepare?

1.3.5 Word order in WH-questions: compared to a regular sentence, are there any other differences in the word order of a question except for the question word itself?

*1.3.6 Question words: Please list the common words in your language for the WH-words WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN, HOW and WHY. Do WHO and WHAT conjugate in nominal case? How about the other four?

*1.3.7 Location of WH-words: in a content (WH-) question (with a single clause), does the question word (e.g. 'what') always occur at the beginning of the sentence, or can it occur somewhere else?

*1.3.8 Old and new information: please translate sentence (h) in a context where the underlined phrase is new information in the discourse; and sentence (i) with the underlined phrase being discussed and emphasized (old information):

(h) I recently read a really good book.

(i) That crazy story, we certainly should forget.

*1.3.9. Sentence particles: Are there affixes that might occur in sentences such as (h) or (i) that are difficult to translate? Where in the sentence do they occur (maybe suffixed to the first word or phrase)?

*1.3.10 Other, on complex main clauses: is there anything else you would like to add on main clause questions or old and new information (focus or topicalization)?

Section 2: Advanced topics

2.1 The structure of the NP (or DP)

2.1.1 The possessive construction(s): How is the possessive construction such as 'John's bird' or 'his bird' formed in your language? Is there more than one common way to do it?

2.1.2 Attributive adjective: please translate sentence (k):

(k) The yellow bird sits on a yellow table.

2.1.3 Combining a possessor and an adjective: translate sentence (m):

(m) John's yellow bird sits on his yellow table.

2.1.4 Adjectival concord: do attributive adjectives agree in case or number with the head noun?

*2.1.5 Quantifiers: where in the DP do they occur? Can they co-occur with a possessive and an adjective? Please translate (n) if possible:

(n) Many of John's yellow birds are pretty.

*2.1.6 Quantifiers and case: what case does the NP of a quantifier carry? Singular or plural? (Try MANY, SOME, FEW, MOST, MUCH...)

2.2 Finite complement clauses

2.2.1 Finite embedded yes/no questions: can a finite yes/no question be embedded? Please translate (o), if possible:

(o) John wondered if Mary had prepared a meal.

2.2.2 Finite embedded WH-questions: can a (finite) WH-question be a subordinate clause? Please translate (p), if possible:

(p) John asked why Mary had not prepared a meal.

2.2.3 Finite embedded clauses: does your language allow a finite subordinate clause (more on non-finite clauses later)? Please translate (q), if possible:

(q) Mary said that she does not usually prepare food.

2.3 Non-finite complement clauses

2.3.1 Non-finite verb forms: How many different, commonly used, non-finite (infinitival or participial) verb forms does your language have? List the four most common ones and give a typical example of each.

Form 1:

Form 2:

Form 3:

Form 4:

*2.3.2 Case on non-finite verb forms: do the non-finite forms carry case? Are all the cases possible?

Form 1:

Form 2:

Form 3:

Form 4:

2.3.3: Tense, agreement and negation with non-finite forms: can any of the non-finite forms carry subject-verb agreement, tense/mood/voice marking, or sentential negation?

Form 1:

Form 2:

Form 3:

Form 4:

*2.3.4: Finite vs. non-finite: Do any of the non-finite forms have a finite equivalent? (*For example, in English, the non-finite 'reading this book' in 'I saw him reading this book' has the finite equivalent 'I saw him as he was reading this book'*)

Form 1:

Form 2:

Form 3:

Form 4:

2.4 Relative clauses

2.4.1. Non-finite relative clauses: *A relative clause is a clause modifying a noun, either preceding or following the noun (the underlined part modifying 'man' in the English example 'Here is the man whom you met yesterday'. Does your language have a non-finite (participial) relative clause? Does the clause precede or follow the noun it modifies? If so, please give an example.*

2.4.2. The verb form in a participial relative clause: Is the verb form one of the ones listed above in 2.3? Does it carry case/possessive suffix/tense/mood/voice? Does it agree with the noun it modifies?

2.4.3. Finite relative clauses: Does your language have a finite version of the relative clause? If so, does it precede or follow the noun it modifies? Is there a separate relative pronoun (like the word 'whom' in the English example)? Please give an example.

*2.4.4 Relative pronouns: If your language has relative pronouns, please list any common ones. Do these words have another meaning or usage as well?

2.4.5 Resumptive pronouns: Can you have a pronoun in the relative clause that fills in the missing element ('him' in the [ungrammatical] English example 'Here is the man whom you met him yesterday'*)?

2.5 Reflexives and anaphoric binding

2.5.1 Reflexives: Please translate the following sentences:

(r) Mary hurt herself.

(s) We washed ourselves.

2.5.2 The reflexive morpheme: Is there a fixed morpheme used in these constructions corresponding to 'self', or does the form vary depending on the subject? Is a possessive suffix involved?

2.5.3 Anaphoric binding: Please translate:

(t) Mary wanted Jane to draw herself.

(u) We saw ourselves in the mirror.

2.5.4 The anaphoric morpheme: What is the morpheme corresponding to the 'self/selves' form in the sentences (t) and (u) in your language? Does it vary depending on the subject? Is it same form as the reflexive, or different?

2.5.5 Binding the anaphor: In example (t), is Jane drawing a picture of Jane, or a picture of Mary? Or are both possible interpretations?

2.5.6. The reciprocal construction: Please translate (v):

(v) We saw each other.

*2.5.7. The reciprocal morpheme: what do the components of 'each other' mean? Does it carry case or a possessive suffix?

***Section 3: Optional syntax topics**

• *if you wish, choose any of these topics and write up to 10 pages on it (or more than one topic, total of 10 pages). Also, you may elaborate on any of the questions in the questionnaire here. If there is another syntax-related topic not listed that you would like to write about, please check with us first.*

3.1. Causatives: How are causative constructions formed in your language? (e.g. 'The boy made the baby cry')

3.2 Other valency-changing operations: Discuss constructions such as passive or the middle construction.

3.3 Grammatical relations and thematic roles: Discuss how grammatical relations such as subject and object, and/or Theta-roles such as Agent or Patient work in your language.

3.4 Case: Discuss any aspect of grammatical, lexical or semantic case.

3.5 Object agreement: Is there object agreement in your language? How does it work?

3.6 Special verb forms: Are there any special mood or voice verb forms (such as the evidential) in your language? How are they used?

3.7 Control: In the non-finite constructions, how does control work? That is, what is understood as the (non-realized) subject of the non-finite verb in each construction?

3.8 Functional projections: If you are familiar with the notions of headedness and functional projections such as TP and CP, describe your language in these terms.

3.9 Binding theory: If you are familiar with binding, please describe anaphoric and pronominal binding in your language in more detail than Section 2.5.

3.10 Long distance WH-questions: Discuss long-distance WH-movement in your language

3.11 Parasitic gaps: a parasitic gap is a second gap that may occur in a 'without'-clause, inside a question (English example: 'What did you throw away [] without reading []?') Does your language allow the second, 'parasitic', gap?