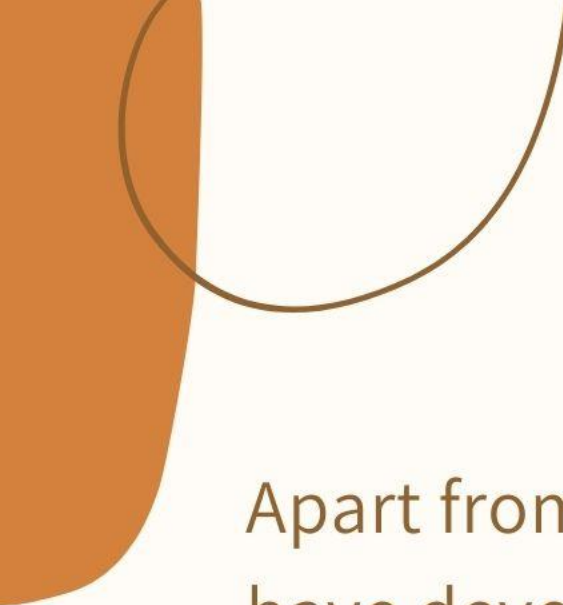





THE STRUCTURE OF SUBORDINATION

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Apart from the four basic types of syntactic structures, some linguists have developed another type of structure known as

- the structure of subordination, which consists of a subordinator and a dependent unit.
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- Subordinators are **prepositions** (e.g. in, at, on, to, etc.), **relative adverbs** (e.g. when, where, why, how), and **subordinating conjunctions** (e.g. before, tell, after, since, etc.).
- Dependent units may be **words, phrases, or clauses**.

*A structure of subordination can have various functions in all **the four basic structures** as shown in the following examples. (Notice that each structure of subordination is underlined.)

Functions of Structures of Subordination	Examples
- As modifier in the structure of modification	<p><u>To / our surprise</u>, Miss Namibia was crowned Miss Universe 1992.</p> <p>To = subordinator (preposition) our surprise = dependent unit</p> <p>To our surprise modifies Miss Namibia was crowned Miss Universe 1992, which is the head.</p>

Functions of Structures of Subordination	Examples
- As subject in the structure of predication	<p><u>Where / I live</u> is no concern of yours.</p> <p>Where = subordinator (relative adverb)</p> <p>I live = dependent unit</p> <p>Where I live functions as the subject.</p>

Functions of Structures of Subordination	Examples
- As subjective complement in the structure of complementation	<p>The problem is <u>beyond / my ability</u>.</p> <p>beyond = subordinator (preposition) my ability = dependent unit</p> <p>beyond my ability functions as subjective complement of the verbal element is.</p>

Functions of Structures of Subordination	Examples
<p>- As direct object in the structure of complementation</p>	<p>Sue doesn't remember <u>when / she saw her dentist.</u></p> <p>when = subordinator (relative adverb) she saw her dentist = dependent unit</p> <p>when she saw her dentist functions as direct object of the verbal element doesn't remember.</p>

Functions of Structures of Subordination	Examples
- As objective complement in the structure of complementation	<p>They kept us <u>in / suspense</u>.</p> <p>in = subordinator (preposition) suspense = dependent unit</p> <p>in suspense functions as objective complement which refers to the direct object us.</p>

Functions of Structures of Subordination	Examples
<p>- As the two conjoins in the structure of coordination</p>	<p>He walked <u>across / the street</u> and <u>into / that building</u>.</p> <p>across, into = subordinators the street, that building = dependent units</p> <p>across the street is the first conjoin; whereas into that building is the second conjoin</p>

REFERENCE

Jotikasthira, P. (2014). Introduction to the English Language : System and Structure. Bangkok: Faculty of Arts, Chulalongkorn University.