

XIV Grammar and Syntax

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XIV Grammar and Syntax

XIV-1. Sentence

A sentence is usually defined as a group of words that expresses a complete thought¹. In Mártölämmë, the simplest sentence is a two-part construction; however, the typical sentence is usually a three-part construction. The intransitive verb in the predicate builds the two-part construction for the sentence. Otherwise, any type of verb forms the three-part construction for the sentence. The parts of the sentence are the predicate, subject, and the complement. The following sections fully describe these parts in more detail by dissecting the same example.

XIV-1-1. Predicate

The first part of the sentence is common to all two-part and the three-part constructions. The predicate is the first part of the sentence. The predicate describes what happens in respect to the subject of the sentence. In the vulgar syntax, the predicate is always the first part of a sentence. In Mártölämmë, the predicate is the anchor for all sentence structures. In addition, it influences the behavior of all its modifiers and objects.

XIV-1-1-1. Simple Predicate

The simple predicate is the primary verb within the sentence. If the statement possesses other verbals, the simple predicate serves as the foundation for the primary aspectual and tense perspectives. In addition, the verb governs the other verbals by providing them a sole point of reference that they refer to in their context. Hence, the verbals may provide additional aspectual and tense information that would stem from the predicate. The sentence below shows the simple predicate, *añê*, and a verbal, *ranto*, which its verb governs.

simple predicate
↓
Añê pos'su nulmemö háře kes'së wendö lör'ranto vár'behřë ke |
to give (vd.) + glad + wise-man + old + book + lady + (pret.) walk + (ines.) house + adm.
(The old, wise man gladly gives the lady the book before walking
into the house.)



XIV-1-1-2. Complete Predicate

The complete predicate is all the words that say something about the subject's activity. It includes the simple predicate and any accompanying modifiers, such as adverbs and other adverbial forms.² The following example shows the complete predicate, *añê pos'su*.

complete predicate
↓ ↓
Añê pos'su nulmemö háře kes'së wendö lör'ranto vár'behřë ke |
to give (vd.) + glad + wise-man + old + book + lady + (pret.) walk + (ines.) house + adm.
(The old, wise man gladly gives the lady the book before walking
into the house.)



XIV-1-2. Subject

The second part of the sentence is a common element in most sentences. It usually exists in most two-part and the three-part sentence constructions. This part is called the subject of the sentence. The subject is the focus of the message or the topic in the context.

The subject of the sentence is usually in one of two roles. The first role is the agent. As the agent, the substantive performs the action of the verb.³ The second role is the experiencer. As the experiencer, the activity of the predicate reflects its activity back to the subject's perspective.⁴ In these roles, the substantive is always the subject of the predicate.

The subject of the sentence is always in one of two cases: primitive and tertitive. The subject always follows the complete predicate in the vulgar syntax. In the classic syntax, the subject can be located anywhere within the sentence due to their case markings.

XIV-1-2-1. Simple Subject

A simple subject is a substantive, which is usually a noun or a pronoun. The subject generally represents a person or a thing, which the complete predicate describes. The following example shows the simple subject, *nulmemö*.

simple subject
↓

Añê pos'su nulmemö háře kes'së wendö lör'ranto vár'behře ke |
to give (vd.) + glad + wise-man + old + book + lady + (pret.) walk + (ines.) house + adm.
(The old, wise man gladly gives the lady the book before walking
into the house.)



XIV-1-2-2. Complete Subject

A complete subject is the noun phrase that represents what is discussed in the sentence. It consists of the simple subject and all the words that modify it, such as adjectives and other modifiers. The following example shows the complete subject, *nulmemö háře*.

complete subject
↓ ↓

Añê pos'su nulmemö háře kes'së wendö lör'ranto vár'behře ke |
to give (vd.) + glad + wise-man + old + book + lady + (pret.) walk + (ines.) house + adm.
(The old, wise man gladly gives the lady the book before walking
into the house.)



XIV-1-3. Complement

In the three-part construction, the last part of the sentence is the complement. The complement always provides more information about the subject and it's predicate. More importantly, it completes the meaning begun by the subject and the predicate.⁵

The complement in Mártölämmë is usually in one of four roles. The direct object represents the first role. The indirect object denotes the second role. In the third role, it is the subject complement. The last role represents the objective.

The predicate can possess up to three primary objects in the sentence, which is determined by its transivity. The primary objects are the subject, direct object, and indirect object. The case structure governs these primary objects; hence, they are easily located in the sentence. For example, the direct object is always in one of two cases: primitive and secundative. As for the indirect object, it is always in the secundative case.

The direct object always follows the subject in the vulgar syntax. In addition, the indirect object always follows the direct object in the vulgar syntax. In the classic syntax, these can be located anywhere within the sentence due to their case markings.

The predicate can possess an unlimited number of secondary objects. The subject complements and the objectives represent these kinds of objects. The secondary objects are independent of the case system.

XIV-1-3-1. Direct Objects

A direct object is a substantive that identifies what the activity from the predicate acts upon it.⁶ As described earlier, the action from the predicate affects the direct object.⁷ Hence, the direct object of the sentence plays the role of the patient.

As with the subject, the direct object may possess modifiers. The noun phrase will include the direct object and all the words that modify it, such as adjectives and other modifiers. The following example shows the noun phrase, *kes`hülë hvese*, where the direct object, *kes`hülë*, precedes its modifier, *hvese*.

direct object
↓ ↓

Añê pos`su nulmemö háře kes`hülë hvese wendö lór'ranto
vár'behřë ke |
to give (vd.) + glad + wise-man + old + book-blue + new + lady + (pret.) walk +
(ines.) house + adm.
(The old, wise man gladly gives the lady the new blue book before
walking into the house.)



XIV-1-3-2. Indirect Objects

An indirect object is a substantive that serves two roles. The first role is the beneficiary. This identifies the substantive that benefits from the activity in the predicate.⁸ The second role is the goal. Hence, this role shows the reason for the activity towards the indirect object.⁹

As with the direct object, the indirect object may possess modifiers. The noun phrase will include the indirect object and all the words that modify it, such as adjectives and other modifiers. The following example shows the indirect object, *wendö*, which has no accompanying modifiers.

indirect object
↓

Añê pos`su nulmemö háře kes`hülë hvese wendö lór'ranto
vár'behřë ke |
to give (vd.) + glad + wise-man + old + book-blue + new + lady + (pret.) walk +
(ines.) house + adm.
(The old, wise man gladly gives the lady the new blue book before
walking into the house.)



XIV-1-3-3. Subject Complements

A subject complement is a substantive or an adjective that follows the predicate and it completes the meaning of the sentence. The subject complement provides additional information that describes the subject. The predicate adjectives and predicate verbals are two types of subject complements.

In English, everyone is familiar with the first type of the subject complements. These are predicate adjectives that follow the verb and they modify the subject of the sentence. In the example sentence, "the day is *hot*." The predicate adjective, *hot*, modifies its subject, *day*.

XIV-1-3-4. Objectives

An objective usually follows after the object of the verb that it modifies. If the objective modifies the sentence, it modifies the predicate and it follows last. In the example below, the objective modifies the direct object of the predicate. The objective, *she'an'nē*, modifies the direct object, *kes'sē*, in the example sentence below.

objective
↓

Añê pos'su t'nulmemö háře kes'sē she'an'nē d'wendö |
 to give (vd.) + glad + wise-man + old + book + (equa.) gift + lady
 (The old, wise man gladly gives the lady the book as a gift. -or-
 The old, wise man gladly gives the book as a gift to the lady.)



XIV-2. Phrases

The phrase is a common element in most sentences. It is defined as a group of words that works as a syntactic unit expressing something within the sentence.¹⁰ The phrase usually contains a head word, which one or more modifiers or particles follow it.

For example, the complete predicate is considered a verb phrase in some languages. In Mártölämmë, the verb phrase is the simplest sentence, which can exist as one word, a verb, where its subject is understood. Generally, the verb phrase is the foundation for all Mártölämmë sentences. Previously stated, the predicate is the anchor for all sentence structures. In addition, it influences the behavior of all its modifiers and objects.

XIV-2-1. Phrase Type

The predicate governs any phrase as any other syntactic object that exists in the sentence. It will treat the phrase as one of its objects, such as a noun, an adjective, and an adverb. Hence, the use of the phrase determines the type of phrase. The phrase augments the information in the context by one of three ways: substantival, adjectival, and adverbial.

XIV-2-1-1. Substantival

The substantival phrase is the noun phrase in English. In Mártölämmë, the predicate treats the substantival phrase as a substantive. This phrase possesses a substantive as its head and the following modifiers accompany the head substantive. The head substantive can be either a noun or a verbal.

In the example below, the substantival phrase contains a verbal and its modifier. The head of the phrase is the verbal, *rantiyo*, in the middle voice, which marks a reflexive activity in the subject. The modifier, *na'sembe*, represents the meaning "the benefit of health" that is reflected back to the verbal. The verbal translates to "walking oneself" and it is further described by its modifier. Hence, the substantival phrase, *rantiyo na'sembe*, translates to "walking oneself for the benefit of health."

substantival phrase
↓ ↓

Istérzê rantiyo na'sembe d'poht'tambë |
 to be (vt-ps-dura.) + walk (vbl-my.) + (bene.) health + habit-good
 (Walking for one's health is always a good habit.)



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The complete subject is another example of a substantival phrase. Previously, the example shows the complete subject, *nulmemö háře*. The head noun of the phrase is the wise man, *nulmemö*. The modifier, *háře*, follows the head noun, where it augments the description of the wise man.

substantival phrase
↓ ↓

Añê pos'su nulmemö háře kes'sě wendö lór'ranto vár'behrë ke |
to give (vd.) + glad + wise-man + old + book + lady + (pret.) walk + (ines.) house + adm.
(The old, wise man gladly gives the lady the book before walking
into the house.)



In the next example, we previously examined the noun phrase with the direct object as the head noun. In this phrase, the equative objective, *she'an'ně*, modifies the direct object, *kes'sě*, of the predicate.

substantival phrase
↓ ↓

Añê pos'su t'nulmemö háře kes'sě she'an'ně d'wendö |
to give (vd.) + glad + wise-man + old + book + (equa.) gift + lady
(The old, wise man gladly gives the lady the book as a gift. -or-
The old, wise man gladly gives the book as a gift to the lady.)



XIV-2-1-2. Adjectival

The adjectival phrase is the adjective phrase in English. In Mártölämmë, the predicate treats the adjectival phrase as an adjective. This phrase possesses an adjective, a noun, a verbal, or an objective as its head. The modifiers follow the head word of the phrase.

Previously, we examined the illative admotive phrase, *vár'behrë ke*. This phrase consists of the illative objective, *vár'behrë*, and the admotive particle, *ke*, follows the objective it modifies. From the sentence, one can easily observe that this phrase modifies the head of the pretempive objective clause, *ranto*. The head, *ranto*, is the predicate of the clause and the illative admotive phrase, *vár'behrë ke*, is one of its objects.

adjectival phrase
↓ ↓

Añê pos'su nulmemö háře kes'sě wendö lór'ranto vár'behrë ke |
to give (vd.) + glad + wise-man + old + book + lady + (pret.) walk + (ines.) house + adm.
(The old, wise man gladly gives the lady the book before walking
into the house.)



In another example, the adjectival phrase is a compound adjective, *nek'ne ár mórte*. The two adjectives are separated by the conjunction particle, *ár*. In the example below, the adjectival phrase modifies the object of the predicate, *tích hářö*. Furthermore, this excerpt contains an understood subject from previous discourse not stated in this example. By examination, you discover that the classic syntax assists in determining the object of the predicate. Otherwise, the subject must be stated when using the vulgar syntax and the use of the case marker becomes optional on the object.

introduces the predicate of the clause, which is the verbal, *ranto*. The subject of this clause is the understood third person dual pronoun, *pa*, whose antecedents are the two individuals identified in the principle clause. The head of the clause also governs the illative admotive phrase, *vár'behrë ke*, as one of its objects.

---subordinate clause---
 ↓ ... ↓

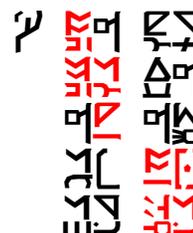
Añê pos̃su nulumemö háře kes̃së wendö lór'ranto vár'behrë ke |
 to give (vd.) + glad + wise-man + old + book + lady + (pret.) walk + (ines.) house + adm.
 (The old, wise man gladly gives the lady the book before walking
 into the house.)



In other situations, the subordinate clause is not introduced. In almost all these situations, a verbal clause is the subordinate clause. In the example sentence below, the verbal clause, *yiñno yelnêmeldi*, contains the head of the clause, which is the verbal, *yiñno*. The subject of this clause is the love songs, *yelnêmeldi*, that identify what is rehearsed in the principle clause.

subordinate clause
 ↓ ↓

Tírgê sruzö yiñno yelnêmeldi na'nat̃ně |
 to practice (vi-ps.) + wife (sororal) + to sing (vbl.) + song-love (pl.) + (bene.) charity
 (The sororal wife rehearses singing the love songs for a charity.)



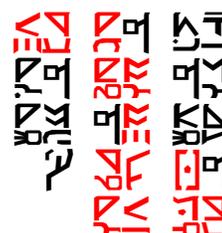
XIV-3-2-2. Adjectival

The adjectival clause is the adjective clause in English. In Mártölämmë, the predicate treats the adjectival clause as an adjective. This clause possesses an adjective, a noun, a verbal, or an objective as its head. The modifiers follow the head word of the clause.

The first example of the adjectival clause uses a verbal, *kusho*, as the head of the clause. The subject of this clause is the red flag, *dayêgóryë*. The head of the clause also governs the superessive immotive *púrmë*, *gül'tôlidêtulë*, as one of its objects.

-----subordinate clause-----
 ↓ ... ↓

Iz̃'nê gwérö kusho dayêgóryë gül'tôlidêtulë d'Mandö |
 to call (vt-ps.) + man-young + to wave (vbl.) + banner-red + (supim.) hill-far + Mandö
 (The young man waving the red flag on the far hill is named Mandö.)



In the next example, the sentence possesses an adjectival clause that is a relative clause. For this sentence, the case activity within the sentence requires a brief explanation. The primary verb is transitive; however, the verbal in modus participialis assumes the ditransitive characteristic.

The principle clause has a transitive verb; hence, all the objects of the predicate are in the primitive and secundative cases. The subject is the understood substantive, *be*, and it is in the primitive case. The object of the predicate is the book, *kes̃së*, and it is in the secundative case.

The subordinate clause is the relative clause that contains the ditransitive verbal, *añaso*. The relative particle, *no'*, introduces the verbal as the head of the clause. The subject of this

