Gramatika 1

Addendum to Lecture 1 and Intro to Nouns

Reflection:

 When we are thinking and communicating ideas, what units of meaning are we processing in our head?

Refresher:

What is the smallest language unit that carries meaning?

MORPHEME

How do we call variants thereof?

ALLOMORPH

- a variant form of a morpheme
- Allomorphs are different ways of pronouncing or writing the same morpheme

ALLOMOPRHS

- Past tense morpheme: -ed, -d, -t (walked, ran, slept, read_)
- Comparative adjective morpheme: -er, more ... (bigger, more expensive)
- Superlative adjective morpheme: -est, -most ... (biggest, most expensive)
- Plural morpheme: -s >> /s/, /z/, /iz/ (cats, dogs, houses)
 -en, ... (children, feet)

COMPETENCE / PERFORMANCE

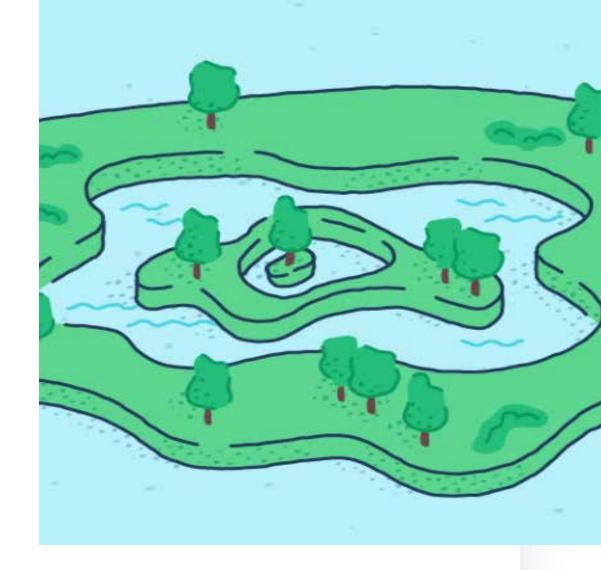
- Awareness of the (grammatical) rules vs. what people actually do
- Simple statement:
 - It's raining.
 - She thinks that it's raining.
 - She thinks that she thinks that it's raining.
 - She thinks that she thinks that she thinks it's raining.
 - ... no limit on the length of English sentence
- we are capable of uttering infinitely long sentences (COMPETENCE) but we never do (PERFORMANCE)

PHRASES

- 1 or more words that functions as a meaningful unit (within a sentence)
 - I will find the red book [in the garage]
 - I [will find [the [big red] book]]
 - I will look [*up*]

A (recursive) **NOUN PHRASE**:

- books about islands
- books about islands on lakes



You can't actually utter an infinitely long NP, but your mental grammar is capable of producing one.

CLAUSES AND SENTENCES

- C: a group of words that contains a subject and a verb
- S: a complete thought that is expressed in words (irrespective of the number of subject-verb structures)
 - The cat is sitting on the mat.
 - The cat is sitting on the mat, and the dog is playing with the ball.
 - The cat is sitting on the mat because it is tired.
 - The cat is sitting on the mat because it is tired, but the dog is playing with the ball.

NOUNS (word class; Part of Speech)

- What are nouns?
 - Names for people, ideas, things, ...
 - Proper vs. common nouns

- Do nouns in English behave differently than nouns in your mother tongue?
 - Case, number / countability, gender