

The Diderichsen sentence model

- a functional and formal approach to syntax

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[1] Diderichsen's classical models:

Helsætningsskema:

Forbinderfelt	Fundamentfelt	Neksusfelt			Indholdsfelt		
sideordnende Konj.- ks	Fundament - F	Finit - v	Subjekt - n	Neksusadv. - a	Infinit - V	Obj. 1-2 - N	Indhold-adv. - A
<i>og</i>	<i>saa</i>	<i>kunde</i>	<i>han</i>	<i>sikkert ikke alligevel</i>	<i>faa sagt</i>	<i>hende Besked</i>	<i>i Tide</i>

'and then could he surely not nevertheless get said her the message on time' (and then he surely could not bring her the message on time)

Ledsætningsskema:

Forbinderfelt		Neksusfelt			Indholdsfelt		
Sideordnende konj. - ks	Underordnende konj. - ku	Subjekt - n	Neksusadv. - a	Finit - v	Infinit - V	Obj. 1-2 - N	Indholdsadv. - A
<i>og</i>	<i>at</i>	<i>han</i>	<i>sikkert ikke alligevel</i>	<i>kunde</i>	<i>faa sagt</i>	<i>hende Besked</i>	<i>i Tide</i>

[the same as a clause]

[2] 4 kind of syntactic entities recognised by the Diderichsen model:

1. Finite verb forms {v}
2. Infinite verb forms entering into a hypotactic chain with a finite verb (and thus making up the verbal phrase that constitutes the sentence {V})
3. Nominal phrases directly dependent from the verb as subjects, objects and predicatives {s or S for substantial, later changed into n and N for 'nominal' resp.)
4. All other phrases, under the cover term of adverbs. {a or A}

[3] Reconstruction of the criteria applied by Diderichsen:

Slot	Necessary criteria	Additional criteria
F	Slot of nominals or adverbs	Usually connecting up with the context (anaphoric or deictic)
v	slot of the finite verb form	
n	slot of nominals	Usually the place of the subject (and unstressed pronouns)
a	slot of adverbs	Usually the place of sentence adverbs or adverbs that have a criterial meaning in the context
V	slot of infinite verb forms	
N	slot of nominals	Usually the place of objects and predicatives
A	slot of adverbs	Usually the place of circumstantial adverbs: time, place and manner.

[4] Diderichsen on the sentence as a speech act:

Denne Setzung er altsaa ikke (som Dommens) funderet ("verhaftet") i Virkeligheden, den er endvidere uafhlængig af den Talendes egen Mening om Indholdet (en bevidst Fiktion og en grundfæstet Overbevisning udtrykkes i samme Modus) og af den talendes Hensyn til

So this *Setzung* is not (like the verdict's) based (*verhaftet*) in Reality; further, it is independent of the Speaker's own Opinion on the Content (a deliberate Fiction and firm Conviction are expressed in the same Modus), and of the Speaker's Respect for the Effect on the Listeners (it

Virkningen paa Tilhørerne (det er ikke Meningen, at Tilhørerne for Alvor skal “tro” paa det fortalte Æventyr eller den fremsatte videnskabelige Hypotese); men ved at fremsætte et Indhold i Indikativ giver man et Tankeprodukt (der har sin selvstændige “irreale” Existens uafhængigt af den reale skabende psykiske Proces) en “forbindende”, “forpligtende” Karakter; man konstituerer det i Udsagnet indehldte Tankekopleks (“Gedankengebilde”) som grundlæggende Fixum for en udtrykt (ell. blot mulig) videre Tankebygning, og udelukker saaledes Gyldigheden af en bestemt Række af Domme eller Antagelser, der strider mod den først “satte”. Har jeg (som Dom eller Antagelse) “sat” Sagført holdet: Jorden staar stille, har jeg spærret Muligheden for dermed stridende Domme (fx. Jorden roterer). og en Antagelse i Modstrid med den anførte maa meddeles i “Modus irrealis”.

Det vil formentlig være klart, at et saadant bindende Grundlag ikke skabes af Sætninger i de andre Modi (...), og at den “Virkelighed”, der finder grammatiske Udtryk i de indikativiske Sætninger, saaledes ikke tilhører “der jenseitsgedanklichen Umwelt”, men er en Ejendommelighed ved en Klasse af “Gedankengebilde”, der ved deres immanente logiske Funktion udgør en Art Fixpunkter for mere omfattende (realiserede eller blot mulige) Tankekoplexer; karakteristisk for disse “Gedankengebilde” er det, at de kan være “sande” eller “falske”, : at de (under visse Omstændigheder) kan falde sammen med (eller stride mod) “Gedankengebilde” (Domme) af samme Type, der hviler paa (mere eller mindre sikre) empiriske lagtagelser af de samme Genstande, som udtrykket siger til (“meint” i de tyske Phænomenologers Sprog).

Diderichsen 1939 s. 37f.

[5] Controversial example from Hansen 1964

Han er rask, oppe og i god bedring

is not intended that Listeners should really “believe” the Fairytale told or scientific Hypothesis put forth); but by putting forth a Content in the Indicative, one gives a Product of Thought (which has its own independent “unreal” Existence, independent of the actual creative psychic Process) a “binding”, “responsible” Character; one constitutes the Complex of Thought contained in the Utterance (*gedankengebilde*) as fundamental Fixum for an expressed (or only possible) further Construction of Thought, and thus eliminate the Validity of a specific Series of Verdicts or Assumptions that conflict with the first “laid down”. If I (as Verdict or Assumption) have “laid down” the Case: The Earth stands still, I have disallowed the Possibility for the conflicting Verdict (e.g. the Earth rotates), and an Assumption contrary to that put forth must be mediated in “Modus irrealis”.

It is presumably clear that such a binding Basis is not created by Sentences in the other Modi (...), and that the “Reality” which finds grammatical Expression in the indicative Sentences, thus does not belong to *der jenseitsgedanklichen Umwelt*, but is a Peculiarity in a Class of *Gedankengebilde*, which by their immanent logical Function comprise a Kind of Fixpoint for more comprehensive (realised or only possible) Complexes of Thought; it is characteristic of these *Gedankengebilde* that they can be “true” or “false”; that they (in certain Circumstances) can coincide with (or conflict with) *Gedankengebilde* (Verdicts) of the same Type, that rest on (more or less certain) empirical Observations of the same Objects as the Expression aims at (“meint” in the Language of German Phenomenologists).

Diderichsen 1939 p. 37f

[6]

Sentence model from Hansen 1970

Independent model:

ks V S L a1 Oi Od P Adv a2

Dependent model:

ks ku S a1 V Oi Od P Adv a2

In juxtaposition:

ks V S L a1 Oi Od P Adv a2

ks ku S a1 V Oi Od P Adv a2

[7] Reconstruction of sentences analysed with Hansen 1970:

Hansen spiser en bøf ['Hansen eats a steak']

ks	F	V	S	L	a1	Oi	Od	P	Adv - a2
	<i>Hansen</i>	<i>spiser</i>					<i>en bøf</i>		

Hansen har spist en bøf [Hansen has eaten a steak']

ks	F	V	S	L	a1	Oi	Od	P	Adv-a2	ex		
	<i>Hansen</i>	<i>har</i>								<i>ks-ku-S-a1</i>	<i>V</i>	<i>Oi-Od-P-Adv-a2</i>
										<i>spist</i>	<i>en bøf</i>	

Hansen må have spist en bøf. ['Hansen must have eaten a steak']

ks-F	V	S-L-a1-Oi-Od-P-Adv-a2	ex									
<i>Hansen</i>	<i>må</i>		<i>ks-ku-S-a1</i>	<i>V</i>	<i>Oi-Od-P-Adv-a2</i>	ex						
				<i>have</i>			<i>ks-ku-S-a1</i>	<i>V</i>	<i>Oi-Od-P-Adv-a2</i>			
							<i>spist</i>	<i>en bøf</i>				

[8] Version from Heltoft 1986:

ku	Modalitetsfelt		Kernefelt						a2	T
	Fundamentfelt F/a	m	Neksusfelt			Indholdsfelt				
n			n	a	v	V	N	A		
(1) når	nu	(at)	der	ikke	er		tale	om en konjunktion		
(2)	For det andet	får	hun	først		sendt	det	til Fyn	i morgen	
(3) som		(at)	jeg		er		glad	for		

1: ‘when now there is no talk of a preposition’ (since this is in no way a preposition)

2: ‘Secondly gets she first sent it to Funen tomorrow.’ (Secondly she will only manage to get i to Funen tomorrow)

3: ‘which (that) I am happy of’

[9] The list of slot criteria extended:

<i>Slot</i>	<i>Morphological criteria</i>	<i>Relational criteria</i>	<i>Textual criteria</i>
<i>F</i>	<i>Slot of nominals or adverbs</i>		<i>Usually connecting up with the context (anaphoric or deictic)</i>
<i>v</i>	<i>slot of the finite verb form</i>		
<i>S</i>	<i>slot of nominals</i>	<i>The place of the subject (and in some cases unstressed pronouns)</i>	
<i>a</i>	<i>slot of adverbs</i>		<i>Usually the place of sentence adverbs or adverbs that have a criterial meaning in the context</i>
<i>V</i>	<i>slot of infinite verb forms</i>		
<i>IO-DO</i>	<i>slot of nominals</i>	<i>The place of the two types of objects</i>	
<i>Adv2</i>	<i>slot of adverbs</i>	<i>The place of certain circumstantial adverbs: time(†), place(†) and manner.¹</i>	
<i>P</i>	<i>slot of additional non-verbal material to the verb phrase</i>	<i>Additional non-verbal material to the verb phrase: verbal particles, nouns and adjectives without determiner, predicatives., prepositional objects.</i>	
<i>Adv3</i>	<i>slot of adverbs</i>	<i>The place of certain circumstantial adverbs: time, place and manner.</i>	

¹ The placement of time and place adverbs in this slot is old-fashioned, but was still possible in the 19th century, cp. this quote from Poul Martin Møller: ““(...) og Græs og Løv, der dryppede ned i Grøften, duftede dem efter denne Vederquægelse med dobbelt Friskhed imøde.” (Poul M. Møller: *Udvalgte Digtninge*. København: Gyldendalske Boghandels Forlag 1901, s. [3])

[10] Rough functional distribution of elements:

<i>Fundamentfelt</i>	<i>Neksusfelt</i>	<i>Indholdsfelt</i>
F	v n a	V N A
<i>Elements connecting up with the context in the discourse</i>	<i>Elements relating to the situation of the utterance, enunciation</i>	<i>Elements related to the content: the verbal stem and its supplementary elements, énoncé.</i>

[11] Rough formally oriented distribution of elements: *see also 8!*

Modalitetsfelt		Kernefelt			Indholdsfelt				
		Neksusfelt							
F	m	n	a	v	V	N	A	a2	