

LING 203 Workshop Week 7

Sentence types

(Ricky is sitting in reception, David comes over)

Dawn: This is Mr Brent.

David: Guilty.

5 Ricky: Alright? Hi. Ricky Howard from the temping agency. Verna sent me down to start today.

David: Temporary. Staff. Only. Ricky?

Ricky: Yeah.

David: Ricky! Ricky, no, Ricky...what was his girlfriends name on Eastenders?

10 Ricky: Bianca.

David: Ricky! Leave it! Did she tell you I was mad?

Ricky: Yeah, she said you had a nervous breakdown.

David: I haven't had a nervous breakdown. So.

Ricky: No, sorry, that was a joke. She said you were a really good laugh, y'know...

15 David: Well, we all are, aren't we? Part of my job description now innit? Unofficially. OK, let's get you started. Into the fray!

David: What upsets me about the job? Erm...wasted talent, yeah? People could come to me and they could go, "Excuse me David, but you've been in the business twelve
20 years. Can you just spare us a moment, to tell us how to run a team? How to keep them task-orientated as well as happy." But they don't. That's the tragedy.

(David is showing Ricky around)

25 David: This is the, erm, accounts department. Alright? The number bods. Do not be fooled by their job descriptions. They are absolutely mad, all of them. (He points at Sheila) Especially that one, he's mental. (He points at Keith) Not literally, obviously, that wouldn't work. Last place you'd want someone like that is in accounts. This is the recycling bin.

30 Ricky: Right.

David: Obviously we get through a lot of paper. We make a lot.

Ricky: Actually we sell it.

David: Yeah...Doesn't grow on trees. (Ricky laughs) You know it is pulp, yeah?

Ricky: Yeah.

35 (Tim is on the phone while Gareth is sliding a ruler between their desks trying to get Tim's papers on Tim's desk and his papers on his own desk)

Tim: Actually Mr Davis, can I call you back? Something's just come up. Two minutes, thanks very much, bye. What are you doing?

40 Gareth: What?

Tim: Gareth, what are you doing?

Gareth: I'm just pushing this stuff off my desk, I can't concentrate.

Tim: It wasn't on your desk.

Gareth: It was, it was all overlapping. It was coming over the edge, here. Alright?

45 One word, two syllables, demarcation. Alright?

(David is still showing Ricky around, he hides behind a plant)

David: Mr Brent I presume. That's just to cheer these lot up. We send them out to get the plants, the girls, it makes them a little bit happier. Cos they can
50 sometimes get a little bit. (Points to a fish on the wall, and presses a button below it) Oh, it's run out of batteries. Can we get some batteries for Billy Bigmouth? Take it out of petty cash. Can't put a price on comedy. Erm

55 (Gareth is still annoying Tim)

Tim: You're a twat, Gareth. You're a twat and a knob end.

Gareth: I'm still not listening, so it's not offending me.

Tim: Right, OK, so you won't hear this. You're a cock. You're a cock. You're
60 a cock. You're a cock.

(Back to David and Ricky)

David: Here y'are look. This is the sort of work we're doing... (He points to
65 some drawing on the wall) Cartoons. Does my bum look big in these? That's not sexist, that's the bloke saying it. At last. So. All for that. All for that in the workplace.

Ricky: Managed to scrape a first in the end... (David points to Flat Eric hanging on a coat stand)

70 David: You've met Tim, haven't you?

Tim: Hello.

Ricky: Alright?

David: Oh, careful. Watch this one. Gareth Keenan in the area. Ricky the new
tim. Introduce yourself.

- 75 Ricky: Good to see you.
 Gareth: Gareth Keenan, Assistant Regional Manager.
 David: Assistant *to* the Regional Manager. Gareth's my right-hand man. I need him beneath me. Ooh, as an actress said to a bishop. No, he's not. I'm not. Tell about your car and your kung fu and everything.
- 80 Gareth: Yeah, I've got a TR3. I bought it for twelve hundred, done it up, now it's worth three grand.
 David: Profit on that, just under
 Gareth: New suspension, new engine.
 David: Just a wreck.
- 85 Gareth: I've got some photos. (He goes to his drawer) Oh, what is that?
 David: Whoa, whoa.
 Gareth: Dave, right that is it.
 David: Slow down, you move too fast, Solomon's here. All part of the job. What's going on?
- 90 Gareth: (Reaching into his drawer and picking out a jelly with a stapler in) He's put my stapler inside a jelly again. That's the third time he's done it, it wasn't even funny the first time.
 David: Why's he done that?
 Gareth: I told him once that I don't like jelly. I don't trust the way it moves.
- 95 David: You show a weakness, he'll pounce. You should know about that. What is it in here?
 Gareth: It's my stapler. (He delves into the jelly and removes his stapler)
 David: Well don't do that, eat it out, there's people starving in the world, which I hate. So. And it's a waste, so. How do you know it's yours?
- 100 Gareth: Cos it's got my name on it in Tippex.
 David: Yeah, don't eat it now then. Chemicals.
 Gareth: Right, you can be my witness. (Points at Ricky) Give him an official warning.
 Tim: (Eating jelly out of the packet) How do you know it was me?
- 105 Gareth: It's always you.
 David: Mad here
 Gareth: Can't you discipline him?
 David: Ooh, kinky. No. The thing about practical jokes is you've got to know when to stop, as well as start, and now's the time to stop putting Gareth's personal
- 110 possessions in jelly. Alright?
 Tim: Gareth, it's only a trifling matter. (David laughs)
 David: Here we go, always like this.
 Ricky: You should put him in custody.
 David: He's going to fit in here, we're like Vic and Bob aren't we? And one extra
- 115 one. Oh god.

Gareth: Yeah, I'm more worried really, about damage to company property, that's all

David: Trifling...I'm just trying to think of other deserts to do

I. Summarise B&B (2001, Ch.5)

II. Questions directly related to the lecture

Consider the transcript above.

1. a. In terms of the 4 types introduced in B&B (2001) and in the lecture, what *function* (speech act) do most of the sentences perform?
 b. Give 3 examples of sentences in the fragment performing this function, and for each of them say what their *structure* is (again, four types were discussed in the lecture, some of them with sub-types).

2. a. 1.15 "Well, we all are, aren't we?" In terms of the subtypes of interrogative sentences mentioned in the reading and in class, what type is *aren't we*?
 b. Find 3 more sentences in the transcript whose structure is interrogative. Again, in terms of the subtypes you know, what type of interrogative sentences are they?

3. a. Find 2 examples of imperative sentences.
 b. What function do they perform?

4. a. ll. 108-110 "The thing about (...) possessions in jelly." We saw in class that certain combinations of sentence structure/sentence function are prototypical, while others are less so. Is this sentence an example of one of a prototypical pairing of structure and function? Explain.
 b. Can you identify an example in the transcript yourself of a sentence that performs a non-prototypical function?

5. a. Find 2 examples of sentences performing the exclamation function.
 b. How would you label them in terms of their structure?

III. Linguistic analysis

1. Draw tree diagrams for the following sentences, labelling the nodes according to their category (NP, VP, etc.) not function (Subj, Pred, O_d, O_i, etc.).
 a. 1.57 You're a twat.

- b. 1.93 Why's he done that?
- c. 1.95 You show a weakness.
- d. 1.97 It's my stapler.
- e. 1.107 Can't you disciple him?

2. Consider imperative sentences.

a. Do you they ever perform another function than the directive one? If so, can you think of some examples (not necessarily from the transcript)?

b. In the *Office* transcript above find three examples of imperative sentences. Rephrase them so as to sound more "polite". Don't just give one more polite version for each sentence, but instead try to come up with a *range* of alternatives — some of them a *bit* more polite, some of them a *lot* more polite — and explain what it is that changes their level of politeness.

IV. Mini-investigation

Consider the extract from Geoffrey Chaucer's prologue to *The Miller's Tale* with interlinear translation below. Are the four sentence structures (declarative, interrogative, imperative, exclamative) in Chaucer's Middle English exactly the same as they are in present-day English or are there any differences? Pay attention to the order of the elements (subject, verb, etc.) and also to the question as to whether the elements themselves are exactly the same or if there are more or fewer of them in certain structures.

The Miller's Prologue

Heere folwen the wordes betwene the Hooste and the Millere
Here follow the words between the Host and the Miller

- 3109 Whan that the Knyght had thus his tale ytoold,
When the Knight had thus told his tale,
- 3110 In al the route nas ther yong ne oold
In all the company there was no one young nor old
- 3111 That he ne seyde it was a noble storie
Who did not say it was a noble story
- 3112 And worthy for to drawen to memorie,
And worthy to draw into memory,

- 3113 And namely the gentils everichon.
And especially the gentlefolk every one.
- 3114 Oure Hooste lough and swoor, "So moot I gon,
Our Host laughed and swore, "As I may move about (I swear),
- 3115 This gooth aright; unbokeled is the male.
This goes well; the bag is opened.
- 3116 Lat se now who shal telle another tale;
Let's see now who shall tell another tale;
- 3117 For trewely the game is wel bigonne.
For truly the game is well begun.
- 3118 Now telleth ye, sir Monk, if that ye konne,
Now tell you, sir Monk, if you can,
- 3119 Somwhat to quite with the Knyghtes tale."
Something to equal the Knight's tale."
- 3120 The Millere, that for dronken was al pale,
The Miller, who for drunkenness was all pale,
- 3121 So that unnethe upon his hors he sat,
So that he hardly sat upon his horse,
- 3122 He nolde avalen neither hood ne hat,
He would not doff neither hood nor hat,
- 3123 Ne abyde no man for his curteisie,
Nor give preference to any man out of courtesy,
- 3124 But in Pilates voys he gan to crie,
But in Pilate's voice he began to cry,
- 3125 And swoor, "By armes, and by blood and bones,
And swore, "By (Christ's) arms, and by blood and bones,
- 3126 I kan a noble tale for the nones,
I know a noble tale for this occasion,
- 3127 With which I wol now quite the Knyghtes tale."
With which I will now requite the Knight's tale."
- 3128 Oure Hooste saugh that he was dronke of ale,
Our Host saw that he was drunk on ale,
- 3129 And seyde, "Abyd, Robyn, my leeve brother;
And said, "Wait, Robin, my dear brother;
- 3130 Som bettre man shal telle us first another.
Some better man shall first tell us another.
- 3131 Abyd, and lat us werken thriftily."
Wait, and let us act properly."
- 3132 "By Goddes soule," quod he, "that wol nat I;
"By God's soul," said he, "that will not I;

3133 For I wol speke or elles go my wey."
 For I will speak or else go my way."
 3134 Oure Hoost answerde, "Tel on, a devel wey!
 Our Host answered, "Tell on, in the devil's name!
 3135 Thou art a fool; thy wit is overcome."
 Thou art a fool; thy wit is overcome."

 3136 "Now herkneth," quod the Millere, "alle and some!
 "Now listen," said the Miller, "everyone!
 3137 But first I make a protestacioun
 But first I make a protestation
 3138 That I am dronke; I knowe it by my soun.
 That I am drunk; I know it by my sound.
 3139 And therfore if that I mysspeke or seye,
 And therefore if that I misspeak or say (amiss),
 3140 Wyte it the ale of Southwerk, I you preye.
 Blame it on ale of Southwerk, I you pray.
 3141 For I wol telle a legende and a lyf
 For I will tell a legend and a life
 3142 Bothe of a carpenter and of his wyf,
 Both of a carpenter and of his wife,
 3143 How that a clerk hath set the wrightes cappe."
 How a clerk has set the carpenter's cap (fooled him)."

 3144 The Reve answerde and seyde, "Stynt thy clappe!
 The Reeve answered and said, "Hold your tongue!
 3145 Lat be thy lewed dronken harlotrye.
 Let be thy ignorant drunken ribaldry.
 3146 It is a synne and eek a greet folye
 It is a sin and also a great folly
 3147 To apeyren any man, or hym defame,
 To slander any man, or defame him,
 3148 And eek to bryngen wyves in swich fame.
 And also to bring wives in such ill fame.
 3149 Thou mayst ynogh of othere thynges seyn."
 Thou canst say enough about other things."

 3150 This dronke Millere spak ful soone ageyn

This drunken Miller spoke very quickly in reply
 3151 And seyde, "Leve brother Osewold,
 And said, "Dear brother Oswald,
 3152 Who hath no wyf, he is no cokewold.
 He who has no wife, he is no cuckold.
 3153 But I sey nat therfore that thou art oon;
 But I say not therefore that thou art one;
 3154 Ther been ful goode wyves many oon,
 There are very good wives, many a one,
 3155 And evere a thousand goode ayeyns oon badde.
 And ever a thousand good against one bad.
 3156 That knowestow wel thyself, but if thou madde.
 Thou knowest that well thyself, unless thou art mad.
 3157 Why artow angry with my tale now?
 Why art thou angry with my tale now?
 3158 I have a wyf, pardee, as wel as thou;
 I have a wife, by God, as well as thou;
 3159 Yet nolde I, for the oxen in my plogh,
 Yet I would not, for the oxen in my plow,
 3160 Take upon me moore than ynogh,
 Take upon me more than enough (trouble),
 3161 As demen of myself that I were oon;
 As to believe of myself that I were one (a cuckold);
 3162 I wol bileve wel that I am noon.
 I will believe well that I am not one.
 3163 An housbonde shal nat been inquisityf
 A husband must not be inquisitive
 3164 Of Goddes pryvetee, nor of his wyf.
 Of God's secrets, nor of his wife.
 3165 So he may fynde Goddes foyson there,
 So long as he can find God's plenty there,
 3166 Of the remenant nedeth nat enquire."
 Of the rest he needs not enquire."