
Scope of Syntax

Introduction

Have you ever heard the word Syntax? What is syntax on your mind? The word syntax derived from Ancient Greek *σύνταξις* "coordination" from *σύν syn*, "together," and *τάξις táxis*, "an ordering". Linguistically, it can be described as the study of rules, or "patterned relations" that govern the way the words in the sentence come together. Pay attention to the following examples:

- (1) *Read *The Fault in Our Stars* Laras in her bed room.
- (2) *In her bed room read *The Fault in Our Stars* Laras.
- (3) **The Fault in Our Stars* read Laras a in her bed room.
- (4) Laras read *The Fault in Our Stars* in her bed room.

The examples (1) to (3) above have the same words in every sentence as those in the example (4). But although the first three examples have the same words as the fourth, the example (1) to (3) cannot be called sentences. The arrangement of the words in the first three sentences is not correct so that they are not accepted as sentences in English (* = expresses ungrammatical in English). The correct arrangement in English is only the example (4). Now you pay attention to the next examples.

- (5) Amir hit Irfan.
- (6) Irfan hit Amir.

Syntactically, the two examples (5) and (6) are the same, one subject, one verb, and one object. Both of the examples above have the same elements, but they have different meanings. Semantically,