SUBJECT: FUDAMENTALS OF LINGUISTICS
TOPIC:IMMEDIATE CONSTITUENT ANALYSIS
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IMMEDIATE CONSTITUENT ANALYSIS

IC Analysis

- Structuralist tool for syntactic analysis
- Introduced by Bloomfield followed by Roulon Wells and Zelling Harris
- Analysing each utterance into the smallest meaningful units possible.
- Units at the last level are called *ultimate constituents*
- *Constituents* --- any word or morpheme or construction which enters into some larger construction
- *Construction* ----any group of words or morphemes or a phrase or sentence

- Each construction is broken up into successive layers
- At each stage of division, the two contituents are called the *immediate constituents or IC*s of that particular construction.
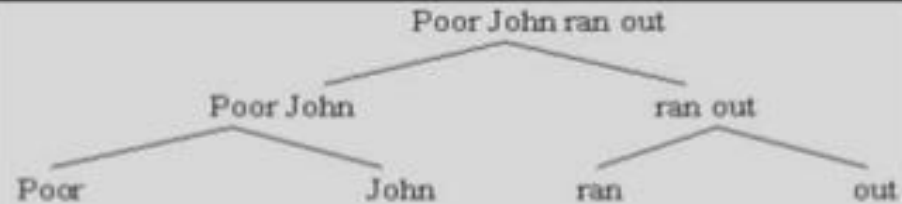
Ways of showing the IC

Box Diagram →

The	boy

eat	s

the	mango	es

Brackets diagram →

[[The] [boy]] [[eat] [s] [the] [mango] [es]]

Tree Diagram →

```
              Poor John ran out
             /                 \
        Poor John            ran out
        /       \            /      \
     Poor      John        ran      out
```

I am giving a presentation

```
I am giving a presentation
├── I
└── am giving a presentation
    ├── am giving
    │   ├── am
    │   └── giving (give + ing)
    └── a presentation
        ├── a
        └── presentation (present + ation)
```
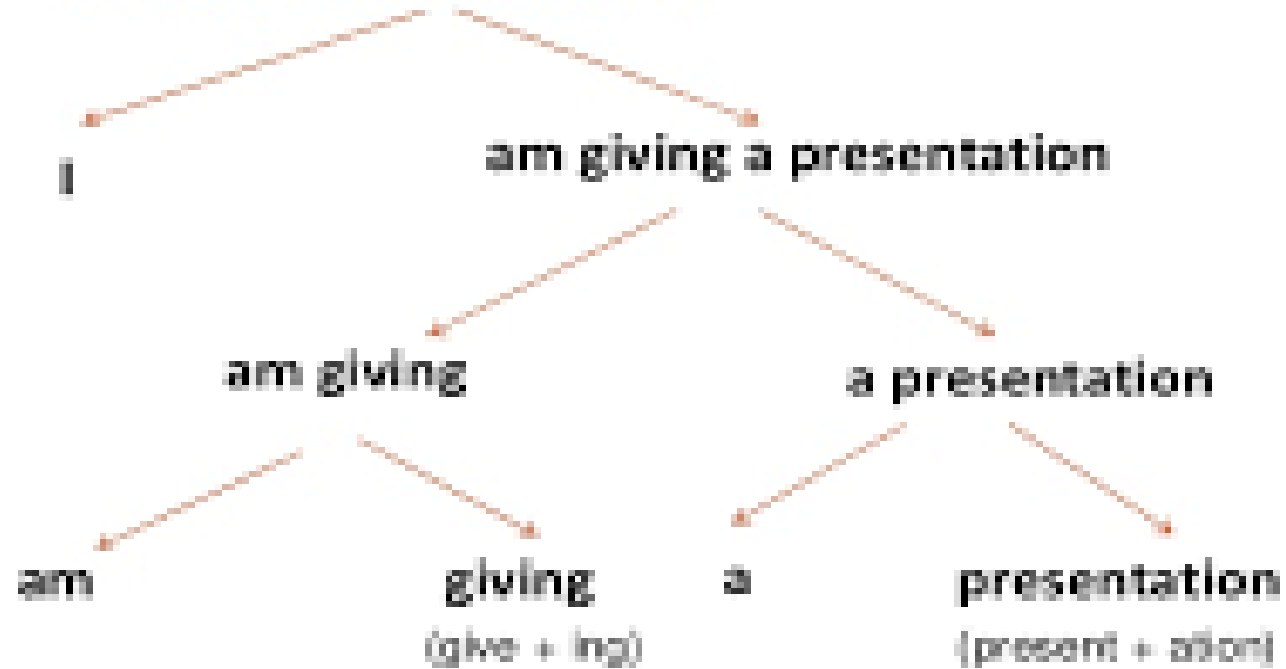
Limitation

- Constructional homonymy or the problem of ambiguity

   E.G. hunting dogs and small children's pets

   Ambiguity ---- lexical, constructional and derivational

                   bank , old men and women , love of god

   Structural homonymy--- constructional and derivational ambiguity

- Problem of discontinuity or discontinuous Ics

 E.G. Is he coming?

       He took his hat off

Limitation

- Problem of embedding

E.g. The boy who won the prize is my cousin.

- Problem of conjoining

E.g. Do you like beer, brandy or rum?

- Problem of inter-sentence relationship

E.g. I teach grammar. Grammar is taught by me.

- Problem of overlapping

E.g. He has no love of or kindness for dogs.

Limitation

- The problem of structural similarity an different grammatical relation among constituents.

  E.g. John is easy to please and John is eager to please

- The problem of multiple ICs

   E.g. An intelligent, smart, sprightly boy……..

- Problem of understood elements

E.g. pass the salt

Thank you