

Lesson 16

Word order

16.1 S + P

In Blin, the word order is usually of the form: **Subject(S) + Predicate (P)**. A predicate says something about the subject. "Life is good", the subject (Life) is expressed as good, and hence "is good" is the predicate in this sentence. The predicate can simply be a verb (V) or a verb plus an object(O).

Examples

gemena beher gn

A lion big is = A lion is big. The predicate here is "beher gn".

Gaim yi dan gn

Gaim my brother is = Gaim is my brother.

Gabr Kasala feruKw

Gabr Kasala went = Gabr went to Kasala

16.2 S+O+V:

When the verb is inflected (shows the person, subject) but does not show the nature of the object.

Examples

gemena begat kuwuKw A lion sheep killed = A lion killed a sheep. The -t in bega (sheep) shows that the sheep is a direct object.

We could also say **begat gemena kuwuKw**. sheep lion killed = A lion killed a sheep.

It is the -t suffix in **bega** that shows **bega** is the (direct) object. But the verb **kuwuKw** (killed) does not show a sheep is the object.

an blin ketebekun I Blin write = I write Blin

16.3 S+O+V:

When the inflected form of the verb also shows nature of the object also (marker of object) we can know from the verb what the subject and the object of the sentence are.

Examples

kuwuKw = it killed (kuna, to kill)

kuwuKwla = It (He) killed her, -la = her.

gemena begat kuwuKwla = A lion killed a sheep.

If we already know the story about the lion, we would simply say *kuwulkwla* and this single verb contains both the Subject and the Object.

enkelekw = he loves (**enkelna**, to love)

enkelekwla = he loves her, **-la** (her). (also **enkelukula**)

Gaim Afyetti enkelekwla. Gaim Afyet loves = Gaim loves Afyet.

S + O + V

Also **O + S + V** does not change meaning **Afyetti Gaim enkelekwla**. Afyet Gaim loves = Gaim loves Afyet. The suffix **-ti** after Afyet shows that Afyet is the (direct) object

Summary

In English the word order is very important in understanding the meaning of a sentence. The word order in English is **S + V + O**. Example: Gaim loves Afyet. The word order of a Blin sentence, however, can change without changing the meaning. The usual form is **Subject + Object + Verb (S ---> O ---> V)**. But the object can also precede the subject without changing the meaning (**O --> S --> V**). A third alternative is when the subject and the verb are sufficient (**S + V**). Finally, the verb stands alone for a sentence in which the subject and the object are understood from the inflection - suffix attached to the verb (V).

Hence we have the following word order:

S = Gaim, O = Afyet, V = *enkelekula* or *enkelekwla*

S + O + V: Gaim Afyetti *enkelekula* = Gaim loves Afyet.

O + S + V: Afyetti Gaim *enkelekula* = Gaim loves Afyet.

S + V: Gaim *enkelekula* = Gaim loves her

V: *enkelekula* = he loves her. S = *gemena*, O = *bega*, V = *Kuwukw*

S + O + V: *begat gemena kuwuKw* = A lion killed a sheep

O + S + V: *begat gemena kuwuKw* = A lion killed a sheep

S + V: *gemena kuwuKw* = A lion killed

V: *kuwuKw* = (It) killed