UGRC 150
CRITICAL THINKING & PRACTICAL REASONING

Session 1 – THOUGHTS AS OBJECTS OF SCRUTINY

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Humans are thinking beings and they very often express their thoughts in the form of language. This session seeks to get students to understand the need and how to treat thoughts as objects of study. Here students will be taught the following: sentences and statements; interrogatives, imperative and declaratives; and also study the distinction between sentence fragment and emotive expressions.
Goals and Objectives

At the end of the session, the student will
• Be able to tell what a sentence is.
• Be able to identify the subject and predicate of a sentence.
• Be able to tell how a sentence differ from a statement.
• Be able to tell why some interrogatives are imperatives.
• Understand declarative sentence.
• Be able to contrast factual sentence with imperative.
• Understand the difference between sentence fragment and emotive expressions.
The key topics to be covered in the session are as follows:

- **Topic One**: *SENTENCE and STATEMENT*

- **Topic Two**: *TYPES OF SENTENCE SHAPE THOUGHTS*
  - sub topic one: *INTERROGATIVES*
  - sub topic two: *IMPERATIVES*
  - sub topic three: *DECLARATIVE*

- **Topic Three**: *RECOGNISING SENTENCE FRAGMENTS AND EMOTIVE EXPRESSIONS*
Reading List

• Log onto the UG Sakai LMS course site: http://sakai.ug.edu.gh/xxxxxxxxxx
• Read Unit 1 of Recommended Text – pages 4-12
• Watch the Videos for session 1- Thoughts as Objects of scrutiny
• Visit the Chat Room and discuss the Forum question for session 1
Topic one

SENTENCE AND STATEMENT
A sentence is a group of words that has a subject and predicate, independent on its own and makes meaning.

- **SUBJECT** - the person or thing that the sentence talks about.
- **PREDICATE** - The part of the sentence that talks about the subject.

**Examples:**
1. Joan is a student.
2. Mathematics is an interesting subject.
3. You are great!
Continuation

- **SUBJECT**
  1. Joan is a student.
  2. Mathematics is an interesting subject.
  3. You are great!

- **PREDICATE**
  1. Joan is a student.
  2. Mathematics is an interesting subject.
  3. You are great!
What is a STATEMENT

- A **statement** is a sentence that says something which is either **true or false**. Examples, 1. "*Socrates is a man.*", 2. "*A triangle has three sides.*", 3. "*Madrid is the capital of Spain.*", 4. “*UGRC I50 is a compulsory course for all students in University of Ghana.*”

- However **NOT** all sentences are statements. **Examples**, 
  - "Who are you?"
  - "Run!"
  - "Greenness perambulates"
  - "I had one grunch but the eggplant over there."

**NB: Statements are Truth Bearers.**
Topic two

TYPES OF SENTENCE SHAPE

THOUGHTS
Sentence-shape thought refers to the different forms of sentences that express the different thoughts of human beings.

Some sentences serve to ask questions to gain information while others issue a directive or request to get something done. Some sentences also convey information.

The types of sentence-shape thought are Interrogative, imperative, and declarative sentences.

The types of sentence shape thought are complete sentences. The subject and the predicate are present.
Sub topic one

INTERROGATIVES
Interrogatives also called *questions* are sentences expressed to *seek for information*. If the correct answers are provided then they are successful.

**Examples:**

1. Did you take your vitamin this morning?
2. Do you want coffee, tea, or soda?
3. Where do you live?
4. Who is playing in the Super Bowl?
5. There’s a game on today, isn’t there?

**NB.** Interrogatives are not Truth Bearers;
They are not true or false sentences
Sub topic two

IMPERATIVES
What are IMPERATIVES

• Imperatives are sentences expressed to get someone to perform an action. They are also called directives, commands, and requests.

• Examples: commands -
  1. Take that chewing gum out of your mouth.
  2. Stand up straight.
  3. Give me the details.

• Examples: directives -
  1. Open your book.
2. Take two tablets every evening.
3. Take a left and then a right.

• **Examples: request**-
  1. Please, close the door.
  2. Please, can you help me cross the street?
  3. Can you open the window?

• **However, when imperatives are made in a polite manner, it turns to have an explicit and implicit meaning at the same time. NB Imperatives are also not truth bearers.**
Sub topic three

DECLARATIVE SENTENCE
What is a DECLARATIVE SENTENCE

- **Sentences** that *convey information* of different kinds are called **declarative sentences**. They can be **true or false** (TRUTH BEARERS) Thus they are also called **statements or propositions**.

- **Examples:**
  1. There are five million people at risk.
  2. London is the capital of England.
  3. She asked whether I liked her dress.
  4. It’s a nice day for a walk along the beach.
  5. I think you should wear the blue shirt with the khaki pants.
  6. We’re going to the movies later this evening.
There are three different types of declarative sentence. These are factual statements, definitions, and value judgments.

FACTUAL STATEMENT: They are sentences that describe the way the world is. Examples. 1. “The current temperature is above 0° Fahrenheit.”, 2. “My car's battery must be dead since the car will not start and the lights and horn do not work either.” 3. “It is raining outside.”

NB: They are found to be true or false by the use of our senses.
continuation

• **DEFINITIONS:** They are sentences that conveys the correct meaning of words.

• **Examples.** 1. “*Even number is any number that is divisible by two without a remainder*”, 2. “*Widow is a woman whose husband is dead*”, 3. “*Bank is a place where moneys are kept or borrowed*.”

• **NB if the meaning of the word is correct then it is true. But if the meaning is incorrect then it is false.**
continuation

• **VALUE JUDGMENTS**: They are sentences that prescribe or evaluates the way something should be or how someone in the world ought to behave. Examples. 1. “He should not leave the car door open.”, 2. “It is not appropriate to insult your wife.”, 3. “The knife that I used to cut the meat has a really good edge.” 4. “Abortion is committing murder and should not be legalized.”

• **NB**: value judgments do NOT state facts or realities but rather interpret facts or realities to express an opinion.
Value judgments come in two forms.

1. **Moral Value Judgments**
   - (a) It is not appropriate to insult your wife.
   - (b) Abortion is committing murder and should not be legalized.

2. **Non-Moral Value Judgments**
   - (c) The knife that I used to cut the meat has a really god edge.
   - (d) He should not slam the car door.
Metaphors are also another way of expressing a value judgment.

Examples.

1. Sampson is a lion. (Sampson is courageous or brave)
2. Mothers are jewels. (Mothers are precious)
3. Bukom banku is Mohammed Ali. (Bukom banku is a good boxer)
RECOGNIZING SENTENCE FRAGMENTS AND EMOTIVE EXPRESSIONS
What are SENTENCE FRAGMENTS

- **SENTENCE FRAGMENTS** are sentences that do not express *Complete thought* because they do **not** have either a *subject*, a *verb* or a *predicate*. They are *incomplete sentences*.

**Examples of sentence fragments.**

1. Because his car was in the shop *(What did he do?)*
2. After the rain stops *(What then?)*
3. If you want to go with me *(What should you do?)*
4. When you finally take the test *(What will happen?)*

**NB. Since fragments are incomplete sentences, they are not regarded as truth bearer expressions.**
Emotive expressions are sentences that express strong feelings sometimes by the use of an exclamation(!). They show a vast range of emotions......love, anger, happiness, confusion, elation or any other typed of exuberant emotion.

Examples of emotive expressions
1. What exceptional children these are!(astonished)
2. Fantastic, we closed the deal! (elation)
3. I simply adore you! (love)
4. My life will never be the same without you! (sorrow)
5. Our team won the championship! (happiness)
6. Oh, I didn’t see you come in! (surprise)
7. Wow!, Brilliant!, Awesome!, Ouch!, Bravo!.. ETC

NB: Emotive expressions are subjective and have no basis for rational evaluation. They are also not truth bearers.