**Lecture: Word Classes and Grammatical Categories**

**1. Word Classes or Parts of Speech**

Sentences are composed of units which can be referred to as *parts of speech* or *word classes* as: ***articles, nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, prepositions,*** etc. these can be exemplified as follows:

* ***Closed-system Items:***

The set of items are closed in the sense that they cannot normally be extended by the creation of additional members. The decision to use one item in a given structure excludes the possibility of using any other.

e.g. ***articles*** (the, a, an), ***demonstratives*** (this, that, those, etc.), ***pronouns*** (I, who, anybody, etc.), ***prepositions*** (in, at, of, etc.), ***conjunctions*** (but, for, although, etc.) and ***interjections*** (oh, ah, etc.).

* ***Open-class Items:***

The class is open in the sense that it is indefinitely extendable. New items are constantly created.

e.g. ***nouns*** (table, John, food, etc.), ***adjectives*** (hungry, happy, fantastic, etc.), ***adverbs*** (definitely, then, rarely, etc.), and ***verbs*** (eat, do, appreciate, etc.).

**2. Grammatical Categories**

In many languages, the form of a word varies in order to express such contrasts as:

* **Number**: singular and plural.

Cat/***cats***, medium/***media***, ox/***oxen***, goose/***geese***.

* **Gender**: English makes very few gender distinctions compared to other languages. There is no gender concord in English as in French and Arabic.

He is ***intelligent***/she is ***intelligent***.

* **Case**: in English, we distinguish two cases: the ***–s genitive*** and the ***of genitive.***

The ***car’s*** windows// the end of the pandemic.

* **Voice:** English has two voices: the active voice and the passive voice.

He regularly ***washes*** his hands//his hands ***are*** regularly ***washed*** by him.

* **Tense:** the past, present and future**.**

The president ***resigned*** last year.

He ***prepares*** his documents.

I ***will do*** it.

* **Aspect**: an action may be completed or incompleted. If completed, the aspect is called ***perfective***, and if incompleted, the aspect is ***imperfective*** (continuous or progressive).

Her father ***received*** medication for four weeks. (He is cured of the infection).

Her father ***is receiving*** medication for his condition. (He is still ill).

* **Person**: there are three persons: persons which refer to the speaker (***first person: I, we***), persons which are addressed (***second person: you***), and persons which are referred to but not addressed (***third person: it, he, she, they***).
* **Mood:** this category relates the action to such conditions as certainty, obligation, necessity, ability, possibility, etc. Mood can be realized by means of modal auxiliaries expressing statements, commands, probabilities, wishes, etc. the following examples illustrate some of them:

He can speak a little German (ability).

You should send him a message (advice).

We may be obliged to close everything (possibility).

Can/may I use your phone (permission)?

You must avoid close contact with ill people (obligation).