# Immediate Constituent Analysis (ICA)

**Badri Abdulhakim.D.M.Mudhsh, Ayman Hamid Al-Takhayinh, Othman Aref Al-Dala'ien**

Research scholars, Department of linguistics, Aligarh Muslim University, AMU

*Abstract-* This paper gives a concise study of I.C. Analysis. Moreover, this is a method of sentence analysis which was first mentioned by Leonard Bloomfield and developed further by Rulon Wells. As we know, the practice of I.C. Analysis is now widespread. This paper starts with a brief introduction of I.C. Analysis and explores what is I.C. Analysis. It also gives illustration of how sentences are analyzed and divided into constituents in the large construction. Then it discusses what is ICA, and its approach and frame. In this paper we also know how to analyze the ICA and how we analyze ICA sentences and it also discusses what are the limitations of ICA.

*Index Terms-* Immediate Constituent Analysis (ICA)

## I. INTRODUCTION

ICA (Immediate Constituent Analysis) and the traditional sentence analysis during the 1950s. It views out that both fail to provide a definite criterion for the limit of constituent segmentations. The emphasizes that the fundamental defect of ICA is that the notion of heads does not play any role therein.ICA only gives a set of binary structural patterns ,but not the association patterns composed of various binary patterns.ICA also fails in producing the multi-valence semantic relations. A new method is then posited which is named Direct Constituent Analysis which asserts the unique head of the word and the layer structure centered on the head of the word.

The ICA of a sentence can be represented as a labeled bracketing of the sentence in which matched brackets enclose a constituent subparts of the sentence and label on these brackets specifies the grammatical category of the constituent.

The I.C. Analysis process reached a full blown strategy for analyzing sentence structure in the early works of Noam Chomsky. Most of the tree structures employed to represent the syntactic structure of sentences are parts of some form of I.C. Analysis. The structuralists ignored meaning and emphasized that the language should be studied in a mechanical ways, and a

linguist should therefore discover the various constituents of language as element in the larger construction which is called a sentence.

## II. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1- To give a brief study about ICA in general.
2- To highlight what is ICA.
3- To know how ICA is analyzed.
4- To illustrate examples of how ICA sentences are analyzed.

**I.C. Analysis – Definition:** is an implicit assumption that linguistic structure, especially syntactic structures are layered structures amenable to analysis by progressive dichotomous cutting.

**In another word I.C. Analysis** is that system of grammatical analysis that breakup sentences into sequential layers, or constituents until in the final layer, and every constituent consists of only a word or meaningful part of a word.
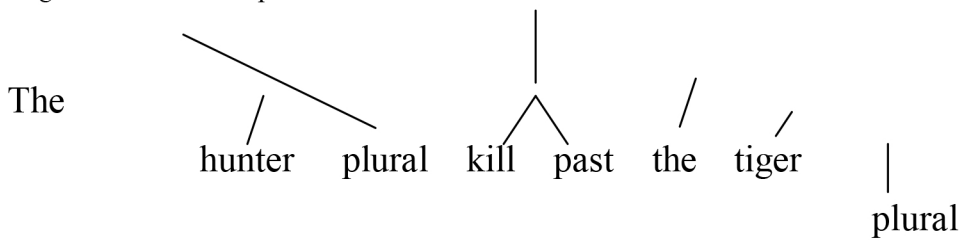
**Approach of I.C. Analysis:** The initial emphasis was upon pure segmentation, simply breakup the sentence into its constituent parts without, at first, knowing what these parts were: Generally the section is binary except in some cases where section into three or more points is allowed.

**Terms:** Ultimate, immediate, and larger construction, linear structure.

**(i) The concept of constitute and constituent:** The important thing to note here is the fact that constitute and constituent are relative terms. For example, "poor John" is a constitute when viewed in relation to "poor" and "John", but it is a constituent when viewed in relation to the sentence as a whole.

**(ii) Morphemes as Ultimate Constituents:** The proponents of IC analysis also emphasized that the ultimate constituents of a sentence are morphemes and not words. Hockett (1958), "morphemes rather than words are the elementary building blocks of language in its grammatical aspect."
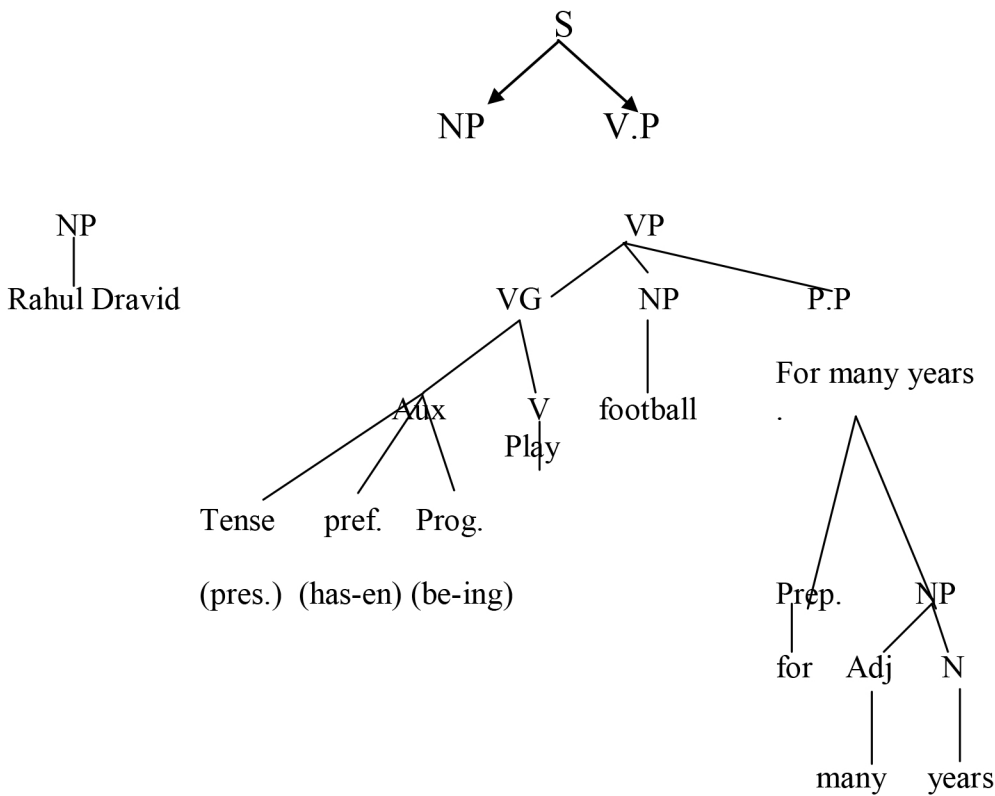
The tree diagram will make this point clear.

The    hunter    plural    kill    past    the    tiger

plural

**Figure(1)**

That the ultimate constituents of a sentence are morphemes and not words is one of the basic assumptions of grammatical analysis these days but during the early days of linguistics it was useful to emphasize such things.
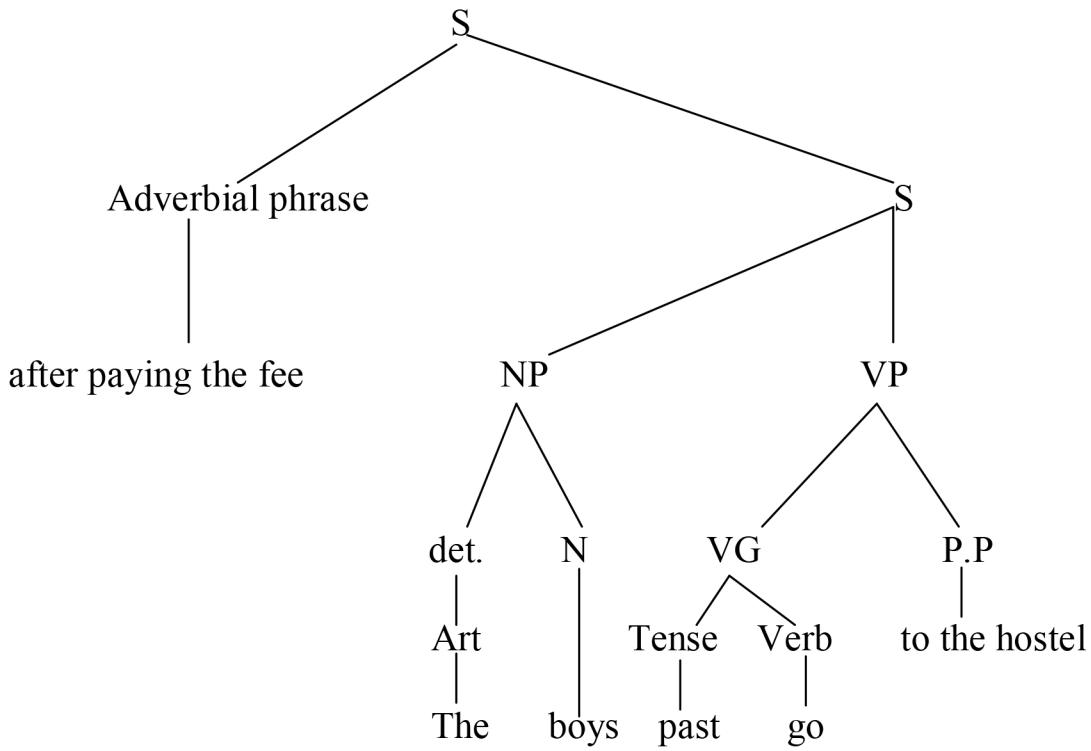
**I.C. Analysis of Sentences:** A single sentence is made up of an NP (subject) and a predicate phrase. This predicate phrase which is apart from a compulsory verbal group may optionally have one or more noun phrase(s), preposition phrase(s) and adverbial and adjective phrases. Here are a few examples:

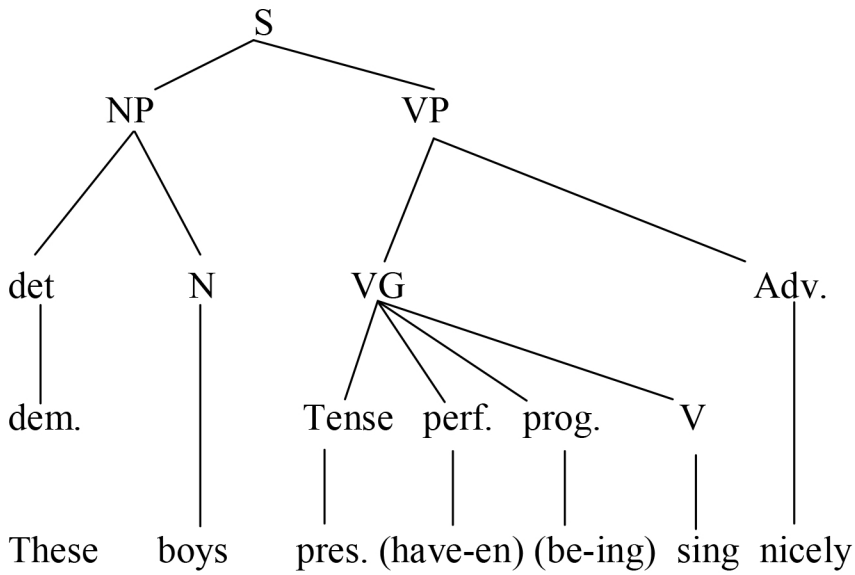(i)  Rahul Dravid has been playing football for many years.

S
NP        V.P

NP
Rahul Dravid

VP
VG    NP    P.P
Aux    V    football    For many years
Play

Tense    pref.    Prog.
(pres.)  (has-en)  (be-ing)

Prep.    NP
for    Adj    N

many    years

**Figure(2)**

(ii)    After paying the fee the boys went to the hostel.

S
├── Adverbial phrase
│       └── after paying the fee
└── S
    ├── NP
    │   ├── det.
    │   │   └── Art
    │   │       └── The
    │   └── N
    │       └── boys
    └── VP
        ├── VG
        │   ├── Tense
        │   │   └── past
        │   └── Verb
        │       └── go
        └── P.P
            └── to the hostel

**Figure(3)**

(iii)   These boys have been singing nicely

S
├── NP
│   ├── det
│   │   └── dem.
│   │       └── These
│   └── N
│       └── boys
└── VP
    ├── VG
    │   ├── Tense
    │   │   └── pres.
    │   ├── perf.
    │   │   └── (have-en)
    │   ├── prog.
    │   │   └── (be-ing)
    │   └── V
    │       └── sing
    └── Adv.
        └── nicely

**Figure(4)**

## III. Limitations of IC Analysis

(A) Immediate constituent analysis has its limitations: It is not constituent analysis has its limitations. It is not possible to analyze like such structures, as they do not form proper grammatical groups. For example, hence is a sentence:
She is taller than her sister.

In this sentence, the sequence –er than is not covered by IC analysis.

(B) IC analysis is not below the words: In IC analysis it is tacitly assumed that there will be no division into pieces. Smaller than words (morphemes) until all the words have been divided.

(C) Unbalanced Bracketing: IC analysis does not refer to our grammatical knowledge. So it does not take us very far and without the help of labeled bracketing we cannot point out the source of ambiguity in many sentences. The labeled bracketing can be used to differentiate the two possibilities in an example that is often against IC analysis.

Flying planes can be dangerous. Here, in one case 'flying' is the head of the noun phrase while on the other hand is 'planes'.

## IV. CONCLUSION

This paper briefly discusses the immediate constituent analysis and it also gives account of what is ICA by giving clear illustration and examples. It starts with the introduction of ICA and how was the ICA developed from 1950s onwards. Then it discusses what is ICA, and its approach and frame. In this paper we also know how to analyze the ICA and how we analyze ICA sentences and it also discusses what are the limitations of ICA.

## REFERENCES

[1] Bingfu, L. U. (2008). Direct constituent analysis: A reflection on the debates of sentence analysis methods [J]. Studies of the Chinese Language, 2, 006.

[2] Chomsky, N. (2002). Syntactic structures. Walter de Gruyter.

[3] Damodar Thakur, (1998). Linguistics Simplified Syntax, ISBN: 97881-7709-316-2.

[4] Hockett, C. F. (1958). A course in modern linguistics. Language Learning, 8(3-4), 73-75.

[5] Longacre, R. E. (1960). String constituent analysis. Language, 63-88.

[6] Peters Jr, P. S., & Ritchie, R. W. (1972). Context-sensitive immediate constituent analysis: context-free languages revisited. Mathematical systems theory, 6(3), 324-333.

[7] Pike, K. L. (1943). Taxemes and immediate constituents. Language, 65-82.

[8] Pushpinder Syal, D.V. Jinda, 2007: An Introduction to Linguistics, ISBN: 978-81-203-3216-4

[9] Stark, B. R. (1972). The Bloomfieldian Model. Lingua, 30, 385-421.

[10] Street, J. C. (1967). Methodology in immediate constituent analysis. In Approaches in linguistic methodology (pp. 89-114)

[11] Wells, R. S. (1947). Immediate constituents. Language, 23(2), 81-117.

## AUTHORS

**First Author** – **Badri Abdulhakim.D.M.Mudhsh**, Research Scholar At Aligarh Muslim University, AMU badrimudhsh@yahoo.com.

**Second Author** – **Ayman Hamid Al-Takhayinh**, research scholar, Aligarh Muslim University, AMU, aymantakhayinh@yahoo.ccom

**Third Author** – **Othman Aref Al-Dala'ien**, research scholar, Aligarh Muslim University, AMU, Othman.dalain@yahoo.com.

**Correspondence Author** – Badri Abdulhakim.D.M.Mudhsh, (badrimudhsh@yahoo.com) (00917060888157).