

LIN 2361
Descriptive Grammar of Modern English
Instructor: Joe Roy
Lecture Outline
12 January 2009

Agenda

1. Noun Phrases and Determiners
2. Determiner Types
3. Possession in English
4. Another Example
5. Preliminaries for Tense and Aspect.

Noun Phrases and Determiners

The storm knocked out all our electricity.

Noun phrases: Determiner + Noun

Determiner Types

Indefinite/Definite Articles
Demonstrative Pronouns
Possessive Pronouns
Quantifying Determiners

Possession in English

Periphrastic Possession versus Possessive Case
Genitives in English?
Embedded Possessives (a.k.a. Double Genitives)

An Example

The following editorial is from the Fulcrum (The U of O Student Newspaper in English):
<http://www.thefulcrum.ca/node/2253>

Support for the Sake of Support

WITH ITS DECISION to support striking OC Transpo workers, the Student Federation of the University of Ottawa (SFUO) has seemingly abandoned its mandate to represent students' needs and protect their rights. The SFUO's support of the Amalgamated Transit Union Local 279 (ATU) on the premise that unions should stand together is absolutely indefensible, given that the transit strike—which has been on since Dec. 10—has affected thousands of students, cutting off their primary method of transportation to campus and around the city.

SFUO President Dean Haldenby's comment that "we are a union and we do support the transit union" does not speak for the thousands of U of O students who have had to scramble to make alternate arrangements, gotten delayed by picketing bus drivers, or been unable to get to school altogether during exams.

Rather, the SFUO's support for OC Transpo drivers is little more than a retaliatory attack against the City of Ottawa's defeat of the U-Pass proposal. Haldenby's statement that "we see the way that the City of Ottawa has treated us, and it wouldn't be highly unlikely that this is the same manner that they're treating the ATU" is more reminiscent of a targeted response to a personal slight than a facts-based assessment of the situation. (As if the SFUO's whiny "P.S. I want my universal bus pass at a fair price!" on their Mayor Larry O'Brien-bashing postcard isn't proof enough.)

The SFUO has displayed blatant ignorance of the ill-treatment of students by the ATU, which has not only disrupted service during the exam and holiday season but has also picketed outside Algonquin College, making hundreds of students late for exams on Dec. 12. The SFUO has opted to blame the City for the strike, and chosen to side with a fellow union based on ideology and spite alone. While neither side is faultless, supporting the union—whose strike action has directly hurt students—flies in the face of the SFUO's *raison d'être*.

The SFUO's vendetta against O'Brien and the City of Ottawa has led U of O undergrads down a path that sees them backing a union that is not only completely unaffiliated with student needs, but has cost U of O students a way to work, a way to class, and likely a significant amount of money spent on alternate forms of transit.

Perhaps the SFUO should worry less about solidarity with other unions and more about solidarity with its own membership.

Preliminaries for Verbs

Past Passive Participles

Present Active Participles

Auxiliaries

Tense/Aspect