

Blending: Oblique & Subject

The following revision is taken from the dissertation of a Chinese-speaking student of Education

Original	Revisions
According to Borg and Gall (1989) summarise the characteristics of socio-anthropological paradigm as follow:	1. According to Borg and Gall (1989), the characteristics of the socio-anthropological paradigm are as follows:
	2. Borg and Gall (1989) summarise the characteristics of the socio-anthropological paradigm as follows:

The original sentence shows what is in my experience the commonest form of syntactic blending in student writing (and occasionally in mine, too): the sentence opens with a noun phrase (here, 'Borg and Gall (1989)') in **oblique** case (i.e. it is within a preposition phrase functioning as an adverbial): the blend occurs when the sentence continues as if the noun phrase were the **subject** of the sentence. The direction of the blend appears to be always from oblique to subject, and never in the other direction: in the texts that students bring to me I have yet to see a sentence opening with a noun phrase apparently intended to be the subject, which subsequently gets treated as if it were part of an adverbial. In other words, I do **not** find blends such as:

Borg and Gall (1989), the characteristics of the socio-anthropological paradigm are as follows:

You may be interested to know that given the choice between the two possible re-writes of the sentence, the student chose the second.

Both revisions contain two further corrections: the change of 'as follow' to 'as follows' and the insertion of 'the' in the noun phrase 'socio-anthropological paradigm'. That second point will be dealt with in Kibbitzer 48.