Phrase Structure and Functional Categories

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Trondheim
March 2015

1. Class 1: This will focus on the function of phrase structure in connecting form and meaning vs. as a model of distribution. It will cover early models of phrase structure (especially PS-rules) and consider whether we need phrase structure (incorporating alternative perspectives such as categorial approaches and dependency approaches).

2. Class 2: This will focus on dependencies in phrase structure. What core empirical data are there that require us to go beyond monostratal phrase structure models (if any)? We will compare different approaches to capturing these dependencies and focus on the impact of structure preservation and how that affects the kinds of architecture we want to adopt for linguistic theory. We'll finish with the minimalist approach, where structure and dependency are folded into a single operation, and look at the consequences of that model.

3. Class 3: With this model in place, we then consider the questions of endocentricity (X-bar theory) and projection/labelling (whether all structures are endocentric). The question of labelling leads to the core issue of the distinction between lexical vs functional elements and how these behave in projection and selection. We will cover the core motivations for extended projections and compare these with other models of functional structure especially the more recent idea that roots start extended projections so that all labels are really functional labels.

4. Class 4: With a general model of rooted extended projections in place, we then explore the relationship between extended projections and morphologization (pronunciation), specifically how the structures of such a model might be spelled out, comparing different models of lexical spell out, extended projection spell out and tree spell out. Adopting a model of spell out as extended projection based, we then look at the notion of lexical items as stored syntactic structures, which leads to the idea that syntax is acquired through a kind of construction grammar in reverse. Time permitting we'll consider how this may connect to questions of frequency and usage patterns.

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