

LING 46000: Seminar: Syntax (Agreement)

Time: Tue/Thu 11.20–12.40

Location: Zoom

Instructor: Andrew Murphy (andrew.murphy@uchicago.edu)

Office hours: by appointment

Course description

This seminar will deal with cross-linguistic variation in agreement phenomena, where the features of an argument are tracked by some other element(s) in the clause (e.g. the verb). In particular, we will focus on the kind of factors that shape agreement patterns across languages. We will also consider more typologically unusual agreement phenomena such as hierarchy effects, long-distance agreement, non-canonical agreement targets and switch reference. The central goal is to understand how variation in the realization of agreement can inform our assumptions about the core syntactic operation Agree. Furthermore, we will try to better understand the division of labor between syntax and post-syntax in accounting for the surface realization of agreement phenomena.

Prerequisite

Completion of LING 30202 or permission of the instructor.

Readings

Readings will be made available in electronic form (PDF) on Canvas. To facilitate discussion, please complete all scheduled reading assignments before class. We will not be able to discuss every aspect of the assigned readings, but take a broader perspective on the issues involved.

Requirements

The final grade will be based on a final squib (8 or more pages) related to the topic of the seminar.

- An original research paper.
- A critical evaluation or comparison of one or more of the readings, or some other relevant publication on agreement.
- An outline of a research project, complete with bibliography, research questions, and expected possible answers.

You can talk to me about your planned topic at any time, and by the end of week 6 at the latest.

Tentative schedule

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|---------------|---|
| Week 1 | Agreement and Agree |
| | <i>Background:</i> Chomsky (2000), Corbett (2006: Ch.2) |
| 09/29/20 | Overview |
| 10/01/20 | Pesetsky & Torrego (2007) |
| Week 2 | Hierarchy Effects I: Local Scenarios |
| 10/06/20 | Béjar & Rezac (2009) |
| 10/08/20 | Georgi (2012) |
| Week 3 | Hierarchy Effects II: PCC |
| | <i>Background:</i> Béjar & Rezac (2003) |
| 10/13/20 | Deal (2020) |
| 10/15/20 | Foley & Toosarvandani (to appear) |
| Week 4 | Long-Distance Agreement |
| 10/20/20 | Polinsky & Potsdam (2001) |
| 10/22/20 | Bhatt (2005) |
| Week 5 | Agreement and Case |
| 10/27/20 | Bobaljik (2008) |
| 10/29/20 | Atlamaz & Baker (2018) |
| Week 6 | Agreement and Concord I: Noun phrases |
| | <i>Background:</i> Danon (2011) |
| 11/03/20 | Norris (2014: Ch.3) |
| 11/05/20 | Toosarvandani & van Urk (2014) |
| Week 7 | Agreement and Concord II: Clause-level |
| 11/10/20 | Polinsky et al. (2017) |
| 11/12/20 | Carstens & Diercks (2013) |
| Week 8 | Switch reference |
| | <i>Background:</i> Finer (1985) |
| 11/17/20 | Keine (2013) |
| 11/19/20 | Arregi & Hanink (2020) |
| Week 9 | Discourse-controlled agreement |
| 12/01/20 | Sundaresan (2016) |
| 12/03/20 | Alok (to appear) |

Reading list

- Alok, Deepak (to appear). The Morphosyntax of Magahi Addressee Agreement. *Syntax*
- Arregi, Karlos & Emily Hanink (2020). Switch Reference as Index Agreement. Ms. The University of Chicago & The University of Manchester.
- Atlamaz, Ümit & Mark Baker (2018). On Partial Agreement and Oblique Case. *Syntax* 21(3). 195–237.
- Béjar, Susana & Milan Rezac (2003). Person Licensing and the Derivation of PCC Effects. In A. T. Pérez-Leroux & Y. Roberge (eds). *Romance Linguistics: Theory and Acquisition*. John Benjamins: Amsterdam. 49–62.
- Béjar, Susana & Milan Rezac (2009). Cyclic Agree. *Linguistic Inquiry* 40(1). 35–73.
- Bhatt, Rajesh (2005). Long Distance Agreement in Hindi-Urdu. *Natural Language and Linguistic Theory* 23(4). 757–807.
- Bobaljik, Jonathan David (2008). Where's Phi? Agreement as a Postsyntactic Operation. In D. Harbour, D. Adger & S. Béjar (eds). *Phi Theory: Phi-Features across Modules and Interfaces*. Oxford University Press: Oxford. 295–328.
- Carstens, Vicki & Michael Diercks (2013). Agreeing How? Implications for Theories of Agreement and Locality. *Linguistic Inquiry* 44(2). 179–237.
- Chomsky, Noam (2000). Minimalist Inquiries: The Framework. In R. Martin, D. Michaels, J. Uriagereka & S. J. Keyser (eds). *Step by Step: Essays on Minimalist Syntax in Honor of Howard Lasnik*. MIT Press: Cambridge, MA. 89–155.
- Corbett, Greville G. (2006). *Agreement*. Cambridge University Press: Cambridge.
- Danon, Gabi (2011). Agreement and DP-Internal Feature Distribution. *Syntax* 14(4). 297–317.
- Deal, Amy Rose (2020). Interaction, Satisfaction and the PCC. Ms. University of California, Berkeley.
- Finer, Daniel L. (1985). The Syntax of Switch-Reference. *Linguistic Inquiry* 16(1). 35–55.
- Foley, Steven & Maziar Toosarvandani (to appear). Extending the Person-Case Constraint to Gender: Agreement, Locality and the Syntax of Pronouns. *Linguistic Inquiry*
- Georgi, Doreen (2012). A Relativized Probing Approach to Person Encoding in Local Scenarios. *Linguistic Variation* 12(2). 153–210.
- Keine, Stefan (2013). Deconstructing Switch-Reference. *Natural Language and Linguistic Theory* 31(3). 767–826.
- Norris, Mark (2014). *A Theory of Nominal Concord*. PhD thesis, University of California Santa Cruz.
- Pesetsky, David & Esther Torrego (2007). The Syntax of Valuation and the Interpretability of Features. In S. Karimi, V. Samiian & W. Wilkins (eds). *Phrasal and Clausal Architecture: Syntactic Derivation and Interpretation*. In Honor of Joseph E. Emonds. John Benjamins: Amsterdam. 262–294.
- Polinsky, Maria & Eric Potsdam (2001). Long-Distance Agreement and Topic in Tsez. *Natural Language and Linguistic Theory* 19(3). 583–646.
- Polinsky, Maria, Nina Radkevich & Marina Chumakina (2017). Agreement Between Arguments? Not Really. In R. D'Alessandro, I. Franco & A. J. Gallego (eds). *The Verbal Domain*. Oxford University Press: Oxford. 49–84.
- Sundaesan, Sandhya (2016). Anaphora vs. Agreement: A New Kind of Anaphor Agreement Effect in Tamil. In P. Grosz & P. Patel-Grosz (eds). *The Impact of Pronominal Form on Interpretation*. de Gruyter: Berlin. 77–105.
- Toosarvandani, Maziar & Coppe van Urk (2014). Agreement in Zazaki and the Nature of Nominal Concord. Ms. UCSC & MIT.