

LING 30201: Syntactic Analysis I

Time: Mon/Wed 3.00–4.20

Location: t.b.a.

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

Office hours: Rosenwald 205C, by appointment

Course description

This course is an advanced survey of topics in contemporary syntactic theory, highlighting both relevant research topics and syntactic argumentation through readings from the primary research literature. In this first part of the sequence, we will focus on argument structure and related phenomena such as raising, case and agreement.

Prerequisite: Graduate student status or the grade A/A- in LING 20201 Introduction to Syntax (with permission of the instructor)

Readings

Readings will be made available in electronic form (PDF) on Canvas. All handouts and homework assignments will be available there as well. You are expected to complete all scheduled reading assignments before class. In class, we will not discuss every aspect of the assigned readings, and instead take a broader perspective on that week's topic.

Evaluation

Breakdown:

Final squib	50%
Homework assignments	40%
Participation	10%

Final squib

The final squib can be on any topic related to material covered in class. It should be of squib length (approx. 10 pages), and must be individual work. You should have picked a topic by the end of week 7, and you should discuss potential topics with me by then (even if you haven't picked a topic, I can help you to find one). The squib is due on 12/9 (Friday of Exam Week).

Homework assignments

There will be four short homework assignments (approx. 1–2 pages). These will include some open questions that may have the potential to become a squib topic if you find them interesting. The homework assignments should be written up in full prose, with the all steps in argumentation made explicit. It is possible to work together on assignments (but acknowledge this explicitly), but each person must do an individual write-up.

Active participation

Active participation in classes is expected. Please come to class prepared and ready to contribute to the discussion!

Schedule

Week 1 Verb phrases
Reading: Janke & Neeleman (2012)

Week 2 External arguments
Reading: Harley (2013), Merchant (2013)

Homework assignment 1 (due by end of week 3)

Week 3 Passive
Reading: Collins (2005)

Week 4 Double object constructions
Reading: Bruening (2010*a,b*)

Homework assignment 2 (due by end of week 5)

Week 5 Resultatives
Reading: Folli & Harley (2020)

Week 6 Agreement
Reading: Kalin & van Urk (2015)

Week 7 The PCC
Reading: Deal (to appear)

Week 8 Case
Reading: Baker & Vinokurova (2010)

Homework assignment 3 (due by end of week 9)

Week 9 Control
Reading: Polinsky & Potsdam (2002)

Reading list

Baker, Mark & Nadya Vinokurova (2010). Two Modalities of Case Assignment: Case in Sakha. *Natural Language and Linguistic Theory* 28(3). 593–642.

Bruening, Benjamin (2010*a*). Ditransitive Asymmetries and a Theory of Idiom Formation. *Linguistic Inquiry* 41(4). 519–562.

- Bruening, Benjamin (2010b). Double Object Constructions Disguised as Prepositional Datives. *Linguistic Inquiry* 41(2). 287–305.
- Collins, Chris (2005). A Smuggling Approach to the Passive in English. *Syntax* 8(2). 81–120.
- Deal, Amy Rose (to appear). Interaction, Satisfaction and the PCC. *Linguistic Inquiry*
- Folli, Rafaella & Heidi Harley (2020). A Head Movement Approach to Talmy's Typology. *Linguistic Inquiry* 51(3). 425–470.
- Harley, Heidi (2013). External Arguments and the Mirror Principle: On the Distinctness of Voice and v. *Lingua* 125. 34–57.
- Janke, Vikki & Ad Neeleman (2012). Ascending and Descending VPs in English. *Linguistic Inquiry* 43(2). 151–190.
- Kalin, Laura & Coppe van Urk (2015). Aspect Splits Without Ergativity: Agreement Asymmetries in Neo-Aramaic. *Natural Language and Linguistic Theory* 33(2). 659–702.
- Merchant, Jason (2013). Voice and Ellipsis. *Linguistic Inquiry* 44(1). 77–108.
- Polinsky, Maria & Eric Potsdam (2002). Backward Control. *Linguistic Inquiry* 33(2). 245–282.