



Off the Chain

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Date: October 20, 2020 (Tuesday)
Time: 4:30pm - 6:15pm (Hong Kong Time, UTC +8)
***Seminar will be conducted via ZOOM**

Registration Deadline:
12:00nn of 18 October 2020 (Sunday) – Hong Kong Time
The Zoom Meeting details will be provided on 19 October 2020



Prior registration is required

Abstract

Minimalism has no agreed-upon approach to chains. The key problem, as noted by Collins & Groat (2018), is that an all-you-need-is-MERGE logic (Chomsky 2008, Chomsky et al. 2019) is not enough to distinguish repetitions (selected from the Lexicon) from copies (taken from the derivational workspace that carries the computation). Chomsky (1995, 2000, 2001), for instance, resorts to Numerations (NUM) to track the distinction, which has to assume the paraphernalia of indices. Alternatives presuppose, e.g., multi-dominance or an independent operation (like COPY) to implement the distinction (cf. Chomsky 2005, Epstein et al. 1998, Gärtner 2002, etc). Chomsky (2008) pursues yet another approach where MERGE, plus phase-level memory, is supposed to capture the distinction. In this paper (part of a bigger project), we argue that chains could be understood as making use of a process of Case tokenization, which we take relates to the operation AGREE. Our approach has an obvious connection with locality, since it invokes phases by directly involving C and v^* (assuming these are the loci for ϕ -features). From this, we will argue that this very phase involvement correlates with the well-known distinction between A and A' chains, which we try to refine as well.

Speaker

I work as a Professor Agregat at the Departament de Filologia Espanyola of the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona. I am also a member of the Centre de Lingüística Teòrica.

I am primarily interested in the areas of theoretical syntax and linguistic variation. In my work, I study syntactic phenomena (locality, phrase structure, transformations, etc.) with an eye on trying to understand what they tell us about broader questions concerning the Language Faculty. I have specialized in Romance languages (particularly Iberian varieties, with special attention to Spanish and its dialectal variation).

Since 2014, I am the main coordinator of the Syntactic Atlas of Spanish (ASinEs), an on-going project devoted to the study of the syntactic variation of Spanish dialects and developed in cooperation with different centers, including the Real Academia Española. In 2016, I also created the Atles Dialectal de Barcelona (ADiBa).

Finally, since I also consider it the responsibility of researchers to contribute to society by offering their expertise, part of my outreach activities is focused on helping improve the way in which language is taught at Secondary Education through the GrOC initiative.

All are Welcome

