香港中文大學 CUHK | 語言學及現代語言系 Department of Linguistics and Modern Languages

Reinstalling Verbal c-selection

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Time: 4:30 p.m. - 6:15 p.m. (Hong Kong Time, UTC +8)

Venue: Lai Chan Pui Ngong Lecture Theatre , Y.C. Liang Hall, The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Abstract

A central question in contemporary syntactic theory concerns how verbs select their arguments. Nowadays, most approaches assume that verbal selection does not involve syntactic selection (or c-selection). In this talk, I argue that, despite the important role played by s-selection and l-selection in verbal argument selection, every verb also c-selects a DP argument, following some novels ideas on the nature of syntactic labeling and featural projection, which I will spell out in my talk. This view raises questions about the apparent counterexamples where verbs do not appear to select a DP argument. Following my general approach to the labeling if adjuncts in Zeijlstra's (2020), I argue that PP arguments are in fact verbal modifiers, such that the PP syntactically selects the VP rather than the verb selecting the PP. Furthermore, I propose that CP arguments arise come about two different types. Subject CPs are in fact DP arguments (see Hartmann 2011 and references therein), while non-subject CPs are either DPs as well or, again, verbal modifiers (see Kastner 2015,and, most notably, Bondarenko 2023). In addition, I argue that unsatisfied selectional requirements project into the syntactic structure until they are satisfied. Taken together, this view maintains that every verb selects for a DP argument, which, if not satisfied by its complement or specifier, is ultimately fulfilled by the DP subject. This paper develops a general proposal for the syntax of (verbal) modifiers/adjuncts, a theory of the difference between DP and non-DP CP arguments, and an account of how selectional requirements are encoded and projected within syntactic structure. It also makes some novel claims about the relation between abstract case, morphological case and phi-agreement.

Speaker

Hedde Zeijlstra is a university professor at Georg-August-University in Göttingen. His main interest is the relation between sentence meaning and form: how does the meaning of a sentence follow from its parts, and why are there so many different ways of expressing the same meaning across languages? Hedde received his PhD from University of Amsterdam in 2004, with his seminal work "sentential negation and negative concord". Professor Zeijlstra has held guest lecture appointments at, among others, Cambridge University, MIT and UCLA. Since 2017 he also has served as an associate editor of *Natural Language & Linguistic Theory*, and since 2018 as general editor of *Linguistic Variation*. In addition, he is a member of the editorial boards of *Glossa, Linguistic Inquiry, the Journal of Linguistics*, and *Semantics & Pragmatics*.

All Are Welcome

Enquiries

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