

UPenn, Department of Linguistics
2020 fall: Ling 650-301 – Topics in natural language syntax:
The syntax of the noun phrase

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1 Practical issues

- status: This course has no in-person components
- class structure: synchronous session on Monday 10–12am ET
- credit requirements:
 - present/lead the discussion of one paper
 - write a term paper (deadline: December 22)
- the grade will largely be based on your term paper, but the participation in class can also be taken into account
- auditing is welcome
- please register on Canvas

2 Description

The syntax of the noun phrase usually does not receive all that much attention in the literature. It is often taken for granted that the same structures and principles we find at the clausal level also hold for the noun phrase level. This has sometimes been called into question, see Bruening (2020). The noun phrase is quite generally a good testing ground for syntactic theories because the amount of structure is more limited than at the clausal level so that predictions can be tested more easily. The noun phrase is thus also a good area to practice syntactic argumentation. In this seminar we will cover a broad range of NP-related phenomena rather than focusing on specific issues.

3 Goals

- Get an overview of the various theoretically interesting empirical phenomena
- Discover the parallels and differences between the nominal and the clausal level

4 Background reading

- the original: Abney (1987)
- overviews: Bernstein (2001) [very superficial, though], Longobardi (2001), Coene & d’Hulst (2003), Alexiadou et al. (2007), Bruening (2009), Punske (2014), Bruening (2020), Salzmann (2020), Larson (to appear)
- some typology: Plank (2003)

5 Possible topics (suggestions welcome)

- DP or NP? Parallels between the clausal and the nominal domain: Bruening (2009), Bruening et al. (2018), Bruening (2020), Salzmann (2020); Larson (to appear)
- The cartography of the noun phrase, location of features like gender/number: Kramer (2016a), Kramer (2016b)
- Concord (in case and phi-features): Nikolaeva (2005), Baker (2008), Georgi & Salzmann (2011), Danon (2011), Hyman et al. (2013), Toosarvandani & van Urk (2014); Norris (2017a,b)
- hybrid nouns and agreement: Landau (2016), Puškar (2018)
- The syntax of possessors/genitives (including possessor doubling, Status constructus, Case-splits, prominent DP-internal possessors etc.): Koptjevskaja-Tamm (2002, 2003), Georgi & Salzmann (2011), Assmann et al. (2014), Öztürk & Taylan (2016)
- The syntax of numerals, genitive of quantification, agreement with quantified nouns: Bošković (2006), Brattico (2010, 2011), Danon (2012, 2013), Pesetsky (2013), Driemel & Stojković (2019)
- Definiteness marking: Danon (2008), Hankamer & Mikkelsen (2005), Heck et al. (2009), Kramer (2010), Katzir (2011), Schoorlemmer (2012), Norris et al. (2014)
- Determiner doubling (Scandinavian, Greek polydefinites: Katzir (2011), Lekakou & Szendrői (2012), Alexiadou (2014), Lekakou (2017)
- Languages without articles, syntax of bare nouns – Extraction from DP (PP-, left-branch extraction): Cheng & Sybesma (1999) Bošković (2005, 2008, 2009, 2016), Heycock & Zamparelli (2003), Pereltsvaig (2006, 2007, 2013), Danon (2006), Despić (2013), Le Bruyn & de Swart (2014), Gillon & Armoskaite (2015), Delfitto & Fiorin (2017), Syed & Simpson (2017), Jenks (2018), Dayal & Sağ (2020)
- Order in the noun phrase (Greenberg's Universal 20): Cinque (2005), Abels & Neeleman (2012)
- Head-movement within DP: Longobardi (1994), Georgi & Müller (2010), Carstens (2017)
- The syntax of adjectives, e.g. Cinque (2010)
- NP-ellipsis: Corver & van Koppen (2010), Corver & van Koppen (2011), Saab & Lipták (2016), Murphy (2018)
- Discontinuous DPs (NP-split as in German/Slovenian): Ott (2015)
- Predicate inversion, N-of-N-construction (*a bear of a man*), e.g. Bennis et al. (1997), Dikken & Singhapreecha (2004)
- The recent book by Adger (2013) on labeling and order in the NP

6 Program

09.14.2020	Intro: Various DP-phenomena	
09.21.2020	NP vs. DP:	Bruening et al. (2018); optional: Salzmann (2020: 22-32)
09.28.2020	Location of features: number:	Kramer (2016b)
10.05.2020	Hybrid nouns and the agreement hierarchy:	Puškar (2018)
10.12.2020	Concord:	Toosarvandani & van Urk (2014)
10.19.2020	Possessors:	Assmann et al. (2014)
10.26.2020	Languages without articles and LBE:	Bošković (2016)
11.02.2020	Syntax of bare nouns in coordination:	Heycock & Zamparelli (2003)
11.09.2020	Adjectives 1:	Cinque (2010: 1-41)
11.16.2020	Adjectives 2:	Cinque (2010: 43-85)
11.23.2020	Order in the noun phrase:	Abels & Neeleman (2012)
11.30.2020	Definiteness 1: Augment in Nata: Gambarage (2019: chapter 3, opt. 309-320, 350-355)	
12.07.2020	Definiteness 2 Polydefinites in Greek:	Lekakou & Szendrői (2012)
12.10.2020	Definiteness 3: Definiteness doubling in Germanic	Schoorlemmer (2012: 107-142)

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