Seminar in syntax, Fall 2023
The syntax of the noun phrase

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September 26, 2023

Time and place: Tuesday - Friday 12.10-13.30, 18 Seminary Pl Rm 108

Office hours: Tuesdays 2-4pm (and by appointment).

1   Description

The syntax of the noun phrase has received considerably less attention than the syntax of clauses. In this course, we will get an overview of the theoretically interesting empirical phenomena in the nominal domain, and we will discuss their implications for syntactic theory more generally. The specific phenomena that will be considered include (but are not limited to) the following: the NP vs. DP debate, the parallelism (if any) between the nominal and the clausal level, the location of features (e.g., gender, number) in the nominal spine, word order and movement in the noun phrase, the syntax of modification, and determiner spreading.

2   Requirements

- **Do the readings!** You are expected to participate in the discussion.

- You have to write **3 reading responses** throughout the course of the semester. The reading response is supposed to be a short (2 pages maximum) reaction to the reading(s) of the week; the reaction can consist of your thoughts/comments on the paper, criticism, possible extensions of the theory to another language/phenomenon etc. You can choose the weeks for doing the responses, but you should send them to me via e-mail before the class for which they are due.

- **Research project.** Since this is a PhD class, the project should go beyond a simple literature review (i.e., it should be a piece of original research). There are 3 requirements associated with the final project:

    - Choose your topic by November 2nd. This can be an informal email with a title and a short paragraph describing your idea.

- Final presentation: these will take place during the last week of class.
- Final paper (10–15 pages): due on last day of classes (December 13th)

- **Optional language journal**. Choose a language that you know well (your native language, if it is not English, a second language that you speak well, a language that you've done research on, etc.). Think about its behavior with respect to the theories/phenomena we discuss in class, and write down your thoughts regularly. At the end of the class, you will probably find in your journal entries an interesting puzzle worth exploring.

3   Tentative schedule

Date	Topic	Reading(s)
T 09/05	Introduction	
F 09/08	NP or DP?	Salzmann (2020)
T 09/12	Location of gender features	Kramer (2016b)
F 09/15	Agreement	Landau (2016)
T 09/19	Location of number features I	Wiltschko (2008)
F 09/22	Location of number features II	Kramer (2016a)
T 09/26	Number-based noun classification I	Harbour (2011)
F 09/29	Number-based noun classification II	Kouneli (2021)
T 10/03	Word order in the DP: phrasal movement	Cinque (2005)
F 10/06	Word order in the DP: head movement	Carstens (2017)
T 10/10	Adjectives I	Cinque (2010): Chapters 2–3
F 10/13	Adjectives II	Cinque (2010): Chapter 4
T 10/17	Definiteness in Chinese I	Jenks (2018)
F 10/20	Definiteness in Chinese II	Dayal & Jiang (2022)
T 10/24	Classifiers in Chinese I	Cheng & Sybesma (1999)
F 10/27	Classifiers in Chinese II	Wu & Bodomo (2009) and *optionally* Cheng & Sybesma (2012)
T 10/31	Scandinavian determiner doubling I	Embick & Noyer (2001)
F 11/03	Scandinavian determiner doubling II	Hankamer & Mikkelsen (2005)
T 11/07	Greek determiner spreading I	Lekakou & Szendroi (2012)
F 11/10	Greek determiner spreading II	Alexiadou (2014): Chapter 2
T 11/14	Hebrew definiteness agreement I	Shlonsky (2004)
F 11/17	**NYU workshop**	
W 11/22	Hebrew definiteness agreement II	Pereltsvaig (2006)
T 11/28	Amharic definiteness agreement	Kramer (2010)
F 12/01	Maltese determiner spreading	Winchester (2019): Chapter 3
T 12/05	Kipsigis DP (ONLINE class)	*Optional*: Kouneli (2019): Chapter 5
F 12/08	No Class (we'll reschedule for presentations)	
T 12/12	No Class (we'll reschedule for presentations)	

References

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