Introduction to Syntax and Semantics Course Outline

Tutor:

Dr. Walid Amer

1. Course description

The aim of this course is to provide a state-of-the-art overview of generative syntax, the Government and Binding framework. In the course, we will emphasize the comparative aspect of generative research, paying close attention to the nature of cross-linguistic variation.

The course will also cover semantics. It will touch meaning, semantic constraints, reference and referential expressions, denotations and connotations, lexemes and ambiguity.

Introductory reading materials will be taken from the following books (specified in each class):

- Ian Roberts (1996) Comparative Syntax, British library

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
<th>FURTHER READING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Foundations and Methods</td>
<td>Chomsky 1988, Ch1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Phrase Structure</td>
<td>Stowell 1983</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Case, Binding &amp; Agreement</td>
<td>Den Dikken 1995, Ch1,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Menuzzi 1999, Ch1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>VP configurationality, Argument Structure,</td>
<td>Larson 1988</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Head movement</td>
<td>Pollock 1989</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Hale &amp; Keyser 1993</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Theta theory</td>
<td>Ian Roberts 1996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Wh-constructions &amp; A-bar mvt.</td>
<td>Cinque 1991, Ch1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Control theory</td>
<td>Ian Roberts 1996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Discussion Midterm Assignment,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>DP Structure, Predication, Copular</td>
<td>Longobardi 1994</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Structures</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>On double object &amp; dative constructions</td>
<td>W. Amer 1996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Introduction to semantics</td>
<td>Charles Kreidler 1998</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4. References

Bailyn, John Frederick (2002): Scrambling to reduce scrambling, Part 1 & II. In Glot International 6-4 & 6-5.


Chomsky, N. 2001b. Beyond Explanatory Adequacy. Ms. MIT.


