

Topics in Syntactic Agreement

UAB, Fall 2015

Syllabus

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(all classes will take place between 15:00 and 18:00; room TBA)

16 NOVEMBER 2015

What is agreement?

- Agreement as co-variance etc
- Head-marking vs dependent-marking languages

Features

- Phi-features
- Interpretable and uninterpretable features
- Feature geometry

Syntactic categories

LANGUAGES WE WILL LOOK AT: LATIN, HUNGARIAN, TZUTUJIL, PAMAN, RUSSIAN, GERMAN, SPANISH, ENGLISH

17 NOVEMBER 2015

A short history of Agree

- Agreement as a rule. Transformational grammar
 - From PSR to MP
- Agreement as relation. Government and binding.
 - Agreement in a Spec-head configuration
- Agreement as an operation. The Minimalist Program
 - Match and Agree

Case

Defective Intervention Effect

Other ways to conceive agreement

- Agreement as a fallible operation
- Agreement as sharing
- Agreement as category-building

LANGUAGES WE WILL LOOK AT: ENGLISH, ITALIAN, FRENCH, CHINESE

18 NOVEMBER

The locus of agreement

- Agreement as a PF operation

Agreement within (prosodic) domains

- Agreement as a Narrow Syntactic operation

(In-) sensitivity to the Phase Impenetrability Condition

Agree into finite clauses

Agreement in existentials

Agreement with wh- in situ

Case assignment in long passive constructions

Agreement as a PIC-sensitive narrow syntactic operation

PIC domain = prosodic domain

PIC domain different from prosodic domain

Modular PIC

LANGUAGES WE WILL LOOK AT: HINDI/URDU, NEPALI, DUTCH, CHUKCHEE, ENGLISH, GERMAN, ITALIAN, ZULU (DYIRBAL, LEZGIAN, TSEZ, ESKIMO-INUIT, MAYAN, BASQUE, ABKHAZ)

19 NOVEMBER

The timing of agreement

- Agreement before movement

Defective intervention again

Transitive Expletive Constructions (TEC)

- Agreement both before and after movement

Passives

- Agreement after movement

Long Distance Agreement

Parasitic agreement

LANGUAGES WE WILL LOOK AT: JAPANESE, ICELANDIC, HINDI, CHAMORRO

20 NOVEMBER

The direction of agreement

- Direction of Agreement: downwards. Agreement under c-command

Long Distance Agreement

Inverted subjects

Honorific agreement

Wh- agreement

- Direction of agreement: upwards

Reverse Agree

Why reverse agreement can't work

Spec-head agreement

- Direction of agreement: both downwards and upwards

Cyclic Agree

Agreement mismatch

Omnivorous agreement

LANGUAGES WE WILL LOOK AT: ITALIAN, JAPANESE, ICELANDIC, HINDI, ENGLISH, GEORGIAN, CHAMORRO, RIPANO, ABRUZZESE