On the Expressions of (Morphosyntactic) Features

Formal features are employed in each component of grammar (i.e., Syntax, Semantics, Morphology, Phonology). However, they do not always syntactic manifestation. This course focuses mainly on Morphosyntactic Features that are responsible for triggering and constraining various syntactic operations. We will look into the different operations motivated by Morphosyntactic features (e.g., Selection, Licensing, Movement), compare them to other (non-syntactic) features, study their universality and consider their inner dependency and hierarchical order.

3rd Year Elective, Fall & Spring Semesters, 2021-2022

Time: Tuesday 14:00-16:00

Pre-requisite
Introduction to Linguistics
Introduction to Syntax
Syntax A and B

Requirements and Grade
- Preparation for class, reading all required readings
- Perusall Reading Assignments and Quizzes: 20%
- Midterm assignment: 30%
- Final assignment: 50%

Contact
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Program

*There might be some changes in the order or content depending on our progress. You will be notified of any change in our schedule well in advance.

1. Introduction –
   - Features: Origin and motivation.
   - Features in the interfacing components of grammar.
   - Getting familiar with the terminology.

2. T (Infl) and φ-features
   - Syntactic or Morphological?
   - Feature Dependency.
   - Feature Hierarchy and Typology.
   - Mismatch in agreement.

3. DP and Case
   - What is case?
   - On Licensing and Abstract Case vs. M(morphological)-Case
   - Universality – Do all DPs get case?

4. Roots and Verbal Patterns
   - Features in the Lexicon.
   - Selectional Features.
   - Features in Morphology

5. Features on P
   a. Licensing features and Coincidence Relations.
      - Selectional features on Hebrew Ps.

6. Strong Features and Movement
   - EPP and visibility.
   - More about universality.

7. Conclusion.

References


Danon, Gabi. 2006. משלימים שמניים והשמטת מילות יחס. *Hebrew Linguistics* 58. 27-44.


