המחלקה לספרויות זרות ובלשנות, תש"פ 20-2019

Name of the course: Is DP universal? The determiner phrase in languages with and without articles
Lecturer name: David Erschler
Course number:
Office hours: Monday, 11:00 – 12:00

Short course description

The assumption that noun phrases project an additional layer, the determiner phrase (DP), has been standard in the generative literature for the last 30 years. The motivation and evidence for this conjecture initially came from languages with obligatory articles, primarily English. Yet many languages of the world lack articles altogether. Is it legitimate to posit the DP in such languages? This question has been debated in the literature recently. In this seminar, we will examine the arguments in favor of the DP, and see whether they are applicable to languages that lack articles. We will explore the consequences positing of the DP entails for a wide range of phenomena in grammar.

Key words: syntax, typology, determiner, determiner phrase, article

Course requirements:
Attendance required: yes
1. Active participation in class discussion: 10%
2. Presentation: 20%
3. Final assignment: 70%

Topics to be covered:

1. Basic properties of the DP in languages with overt articles. Parallels between the DP, the TP and the CP.
2. Arguments against positing the DP in languages with overt articles.
3. The DP in languages without articles: pro and contra.
4. Consequences of positing the DP projection: the DP and extraction out of noun phrases; the DP and ellipsis in noun phrases.
5. The DP and argumenthood of noun phrases.
6. Fine structure of the DP and DP-internal movement.

Tentative Schedule
Week 1-2: Introduction: Course overview & logistics. Basic properties of the DP. Parallels between the DP, the TP, and the CP.
Week 3-4. Arguments against the DP in languages with articles.
Week 5-8 The DP in languages without articles: pro and contra.
Week 9-10. Consequences of positing the DP projection: the DP and extraction out of noun phrases; the DP and ellipsis in noun phrases.
Week 11-12. Can you be a verb argument without being a DP? DP and case assignment.
Week 13-14 Fine structure of the DP and DP-internal movement.

Readings

All the readings will be posted on the course site.

Abney, Steven Paul. 1987. The English Noun Phrase in Its Sentential Aspect. Doctoral Dissertation, Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Distributed by MIT Working Papers in Linguistics, Cambridge, Mass.

Bernstein, Judy. 2001. The DP Hypothesis: Identifying clausal properties in the nominal domain. In *The Handbook of Contemporary Syntactic Theory*, ed. M. Baltin and C. Collins, 536–561. Oxford: Blackwell.

Bošković, Željko. 2009. 'More on the no-DP analysis of article-less languages', *Studia Linguistica* 63,187-203.

Bruening 2009 Selectional Asymmetries between CP and DP Suggest that the DP Hypothesis is Wrong. University of Pennsylvania Working Papers in Linguistics. Vol. 15 > Iss. 1

Cinque, Guglielmo. 2005. Deriving Greenberg's Universal 20 and its exceptions. *Linguistic Inquiry* 36:315–332.

Corver, Norbert & Marjo van Koppen. 2011. NP-ellipsis with adjectival remnants: a micro-comparative perspective. *Natural Language and Linguistic Theory* 29: 371–421.

Danon, Gabi. Caseless nominals and the projection of DP. *Natural Language & Linguistic Theory* 24(4), 977-1008.

Davies, William D. & Stanley Dubinsky. 2003. On Extraction from NPs. *Natural Language and Linguistic Theory* 21: 1–37.

Dryer, Matthew S. 2007. Noun phrase structure. In Language Typology and Syntactic Description, Volume 2: Complex Constructions, ed. T. Shopen, 151–205. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, second edition.

Georgi, Doreen & Müller, Gereon. 2010. Noun-Phrase Structure by Reprojection. *Syntax* 13:1, 1–36

Kagan, Olga & Pereltsvaig, Asya. 2012. Motivating the DP Projection in Languages without articles. Proceedings of IATL 28.

Longobardi, Giuseppe. 1994. Reference and proper names: A theory of N-movement in syntax and Logical Form. *Linguistic Inquiry* 25:609–665.

Merchant, Jason. 2014. Gender mismatches under nominal ellipsis. *Lingua* 151: 9-32.

Pereltsvaig, Asya. 2006. Small Nominals. *Natural Language and Linguistic Theory* 24:433-500.

Pereltsvaig, Asya. 2007. The Universality of DP: A View from Russian. *Studia Linguistica* 61: 59–94.

Pereltsvaig, Asya. 2013. Noun Phrase Structure in Article- less Slavic Languages: DP or not DP? *Language and Linguistics Compass* 7/3: 201–219,

Ritter, Elizabeth. 1991. Two functional categories in noun phrases: Evidence from Modern Hebrew. *Perspectives on Phrase Structure.* Syntax and Semantics 25. Academic Press. New York. 37–62.

Supplementary readings

Chomsky, Noam. 2007. "Approaching UG from Below". In U. Sauerland and H.-M. Gärtner (eds.), Interfaces + Recursion = Language?, 1-30. Berlin: De Gruyter.

N. Chomsky, Á. Gallego & D. Ott. 2017. Generative grammar and the faculty of language: insights, questions, and challenges. *Catalan Journal of Linguistics*. https://ling.auf.net/lingbuzz/003507

Progovac, Ljiljana. 1998. Determiner phrase in a language without determiners. *Journal of Linguistics* 34: 165-179.

Szabolcsi, Anna. 1983. The possessor that ran away from home. The Linguistic Review 3:89–102.

Szabolcsi, Anna. 1987. Functional categories in the noun phrase. In *Approaches to Hungarian, Volume 2: Theories and Analyses*, ed. I. Kenesei, 167–189. Szeged: JATE.

Szabolcsi, Anna. 1994. The noun phrase. In Syntax and Semantics, Volume 27: *The Syntactic Structure of Hungarian*, ed. F. Kiefer and K. É. Kiss, 179–274. San Diego: Academic Press.