

Locality of Grammatical Relations

Course description The idea of constituent structure plays a central role in most current syntactic frameworks, and with it the idea that it is possible and useful to define constituents as modular local domains in which to express grammatical relations and constraints. From category selection and semantic role assignment, via case and other government phenomena, to agreement phenomena, there is a general consensus that most grammatical relations can and should be expressed in terms of local trees or the domain of a single head-projection. Apart from the theoretical issue as such, it is also relevant from a computational and psycholinguistic perspective to determine which grammatical relations need to be ensured in what domains. Language phenomena which cannot be captured locally, such as unbounded dependency constructions (topicalization, wh-questions, ...) or middle distance dependencies (raising, restructuring phenomena like clitic-climbing, ...) have thus received much attention in the literature.

In this seminar, we investigate the nature of the domains that are required to establish different kinds of grammatical relations. Some investigators have recently pointed out a number of phenomena in which traditionally local properties of embedded constituents apparently have to be visible outside of the local head domain these constituents occur in. For example, work on case assignment in German by Meurers and in Polish by Przepiorkowski, on English tag questions by Flickinger and Bender and ‘tough’ complement structure by Levine, all point to the persistence of information about clause-internal constituents at higher levels of phrase structure configuration.

On the basis of a clarification of the different ways in which locality considerations are effective in the various frameworks, the crucial questions we envisage this course addressing include

- What are the constituents whose specifications must be available outside the clauses they appear in?
- What is the nature of the clause-internal information which must be allowed to be accessible outside the clause?

We believe this topic to be particularly appropriate for a general discussion since the questions of how the locality of grammatical relations is reflected in a theoretical architecture, and how apparent exceptions can be integrated into this picture, clearly involve theoretical and empirical considerations which are relevant independent of the particular formalization.

The course will start out with a short introduction of the traditional HPSG paradigm (Pollard and Sag 1994) and how the issue of locality of grammatical relations has been addressed in it. The main part of the course then is dedicated to the various empirical phenomena which have been argued in the literature to violate the mentioned locality.

General and organizational things

- When and Where: Mondays and Wednesdays, 10³⁰–12¹⁸, 206 Pomerene Hall
- Course email list: 795k@ling.osu.edu
- Course web page: <http://ling.osu.edu/~dm/03/spring/795K/>
- Office hours: Mondays, 13³⁰–15³⁰
 - Bob in 214 Oxley
 - Detmar in 201a Oxley

We want to emphasize that since this course is a seminar, i.e., each participant is expected to take an active role as a researcher. More concretely, each participant is expected to

- a) explore and present one of the topics:
 - research the topic, starting from (but not ending with) the provided references
 - present topic to class using handouts or overheads, a draft of which are discussed with either of us during the office hours the week before
- b) actively participate in the class discussion and take the reading for each session seriously
- c) prepare a term paper which addresses a phenomenon related to the topic of this seminar. This involves two steps:
 - Handing in a 5 page outline of the data and the intended hypothesis during class on Monday, 2. June.
 - Turning in the finished paper (ps or pdf, via email to both Bob and Detmar) by 14. Sept. There will be no extensions after this date.

The topics and individual sessions

1. *Mon, 31. March: Introduction* (Detmar)
 - As general preparation, some understanding of the setup of HPSG and the idea of locality of selection is helpful. So we recommend having a look at chapters 1, 3, and 7 of [Pollard and Sag \(1994\)](#)
2. *Wed, 2. April: Exemplifying the issue: Tag Questions in English* (Bob)
 - To be read **before** this class: [Bender and Flickinger \(1999a\)](#); [Kathol \(1999\)](#)
3. *Mon, 7. April: Copy-raising/Richard* ([Bender and Flickinger 1999b](#); [Runner and Potsdam 2001](#))
4. *Wed, 9. April:*
5. *Mon, 14. April: Tough constructions in English* (Bob)
 - To be read **before** this class: [Levine \(2000\)](#).
6. *Wed, 16. April:*
7. *Mon, 21. April: English purpose infinitives* ([Baxter 1999](#); [Johnston 1999](#))
8. *Wed, 23. April:*
9. *Mon, 28. April: For-to constructions in English* ([Höhle 1994](#), and general references on the construction)
10. *Wed, 30. April:*
11. *Mon, 5. May: Case assignment to subjects in German* (Detmar)
 - To be read **before** this class: [Meurers \(1999\)](#).
12. *Wed, 7. May:*
13. *Mon, 12. May: The notion of subject and “predicate” in other languages* ([Kathol 2002, 2003, to appear](#))
14. *Wed, 14. May:*
15. *Mon, 19. May: Evidence from Polish* ([Przepiórkowski 1999, 2000](#))
16. *Wed, 21. May:*

Mon, 26. May: Memorial day
17. *Wed, 28. May: Quantifier scope in German* ([Kiss 2001](#))
18. *Mon, 2. June:*
19. *Wed, 4. June:*

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