

Advanced Topics in Syntax: The syntax of the DP

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Description

The aim of this three-day intensive minicourse is to introduce and discuss issues arising in connection with the structure of nominal expressions. After a brief introduction to generative assumptions about X-bar syntax, we will discuss the functional projections posited in nominal phrases, starting at the bottom and working our way up to the DP level and beyond. In addition to offering an overview of the extant literature, the course also features the instructor's ongoing work at the relevant points. We will aim to compare and contrast different analyses of the same data wherever possible, and will heavily draw on crosslinguistic data to motivate the hypotheses about structure.

Requirements

Students taking this course for credit will be expected to actively participate in the discussion in class, and to write a home essay based on a topic of their choosing related to any of the themes discussed in the course. The essay can analyze some aspect of NP syntax deeper than we do in class, or it can apply the theories discussed in the course to a set of data or a language not touched upon in class. If in doubt, get in touch with the instructor. Minimum requirements: 10 pages without references, 12 pt TNR font, 1 inch margins, 1 or 1.5 line spacing.

Background

A basic working knowledge of present-day generative syntactic theory will be presupposed, but the course begins with a short recap of the N-bar level, complements and adjuncts in the Noun Phrase and the DP hypothesis.

Programme

- Module 1. Introduction to X-bar theory via the NP. The DP hypothesis.
- Module 2. Adjectives.
- Module 3. Classifiers.
- Module 4. Numerals and the plural marker.
- Module 5. The DP area: demonstratives and the definite article.
- Module 6. Deriving basic word order in the DP.
- Module 7. Possessive structures.
- Module 8. Pronouns.
- Module 9. Relative clauses.
- Module 10. Nominalizations.
- Module 11. General discussion.

Recommended materials for X-bar theoretic background

Introduction to the N-bar level, complements and adjuncts in the Noun Phrase and the DP hypothesis can be found in any introductory textbook to generative syntax, including but not limited to the following:

- Andrew, Carnie. 2021. *Syntax. A generative introduction*. 4th edition. Oxford: Wiley Blackwell. Chapters 3 and 6.
- Tortora, Christina. 2018. *Understanding sentence structure: An introduction to English syntax*. Oxford: Wiley. Chapters 2 and 6.
- Newson, Mark et al. 2006. [Basic English syntax with exercises](#). Budapest: ELTE Bölcsész Konzorcium. Available on-line, free of charge. Chapter 3 Section 1 and Chapter 4.
- Adger, David. 2003. *Core syntax: A Minimalist approach*. New York: Oxford University Press. Chapters 4.2 and 7. (this is best as a refresher rather than a first introduction)

In addition, two narrated slideshow series can also be helpful in reviewing the basics:

- [Carnie 2021 Syntax 4th Edition](#) channel on A YouTube: Videos 6.1, 6.4 (the first 18 minutes only) and 7.1
- SAFE series on Marcel den Dikken's [course material page](#): SAFE 11 on the DP hypothesis.

Readings

The following monographs can be used as general reference works to accompany the course:

- Artemis Alexiadou, Liliane Haegeman and Melita Stavrou. 2007. *Noun Phrase in the Generative Perspective*. *Studies in Generative Grammar* 71. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter.
- Dékány, Éva. 2021. *The Hungarian nominal functional sequence*. *Studies in Natural Language and Linguistic Theory* 100. Cham: Springer. (pre-publication version available on my [homepage](#))