

Autonomy of syntax: Advantages for experimental cognitive science

Throughout *Syntactic structures* Chomsky derives formal methods for verifying and analysing human language syntax (Chomsky 1957). These methods prove that it is possible to understand the syntax, but raises a plenitude of questions about language semantics. This paper argues how this generative theories is - and has been - an advantage for the search of semantics within the field of experimental cognitive science. By explaining how generative theories of language can instruct the search for meaning in a cognitive system, this paper proceeds to relate this search to two examples, finally concluding on the prospects of the current line of research.

By segregating syntax from semantics he argues that '*we are forced to conclude that grammar is autonomous and independent of meaning*' (Chomsky 1957, p. 17). In this paper I