Autonomy of syntax: Disadvantages for experimental cognitive science

Throughout *Syntactic structures* Chomsky derives formal methods for verifying and analysing human language syntax (Chomsky 1957). By segragating syntax from semantics Chomsky argues that '*we are forced to conclude that grammar is autonomous and independent of meaning*' (Chomsky 1957, p. 17). While Chomsky has proven that it is possible to construct syntax computationally, he raises a plenitude of questions about language ambiguity and semantics.

This paper argues how this generative approach is a disadvantage to the field of experimental cognitive science. By relating an article on orthographic processing of baboons (Grainter et al. 2006)[1] to the idea of autonomy of syntax, this paper includes novel research on semantics and meaning representation and finally concludes on how the most recent development relates to the Chomskyan heritage.

A study on baboons and their capability to process orthograpic information[2]

[1] Jonathan Grainger et al., *Orthographic Processing in Baboons (Papio papio)*, Science 336, 245 (2012).

[2] Jonathan Grainger et al., *Orthographic Processing in Baboons (Papio papio)*, Science 336, 245 (2012).