

Glossary

Accusative: The form of a noun in object position (*me, you, him, her, it, us, them*).

Acquisition: The gathering of subconscious information (like language).

Adjunct: Sister to X' , daughter of X' .

Adjunct Clause: An embedded clause in an adjunct position.

Adjunct Rule: $X' \rightarrow X' (ZP)$ or $X' \rightarrow (ZP) X'$

Affix Lowering: The lowering of inflectional suffixes to attach to their verb.

Agent: The doer of an action (under some definitions must be capable of volition).

AgrO: the head that checks accusative case in the split VP system.

Anaphor: An NP that obligatorily gets its meaning from another NP in the sentence. : A word that ends in *-self* or *-selves*.

Annotated C-structure (LFG): A c-structure annotated with the functional equations which map it to the f-structure.

Antecedent: The element that binds a pronoun, anaphor or R-expression. When this element c-commands another coindexed NP, it is a **binder** of that NP.

Antecedent Contained Deletion (ACD): A kind of ellipsis where the antecedent of the ellipsis contains the ellipsis site.

Argument Structure: The number of arguments that a predicate takes.

Arguments are the entities who are participating in the predicate relation.

Asterisk: * used to mark syntactically ill-formed (unacceptable or ungrammatical) sentences. The hash mark, pound, or number sign (#) is used to mark semantically strange, but syntactically well-formed, sentences.

A-structure: Argument structure. The LFG equivalent of the theta grid.

Asymmetric C-command: A asymmetrically c-commands B if A c-commands B but B does *not* c-command A.

Attribute Value Matrix (AVM): A matrix that has an attribute (or function) on the left and its value on the right.

Beneficiary: The entity for whose benefit the action is performed.

Binding: A binds B if and only if A c-commands B *and* A and B are coindexed. A is the *binder*, B is the *bindee*.

Binding Domain: Chapter 5 version: The clause.

Branch: A line connecting two parts of a tree.

Burzio's Generalization: The idea that if a verb does not assign an external argument (i.e., is passive or unaccusative), then it can't assign accusative case.

Case (capital C): The licensing that a DP requires: Nominative is found on subjects (specifier of finite T). Accusative is found on objects (complement to V).

case (lower case c): The special form DPs get depending upon their place in the sentence.

Case Filter: All DPs must be marked with Case.

C-command (formal): Node A c-commands node B if every node dominating A also dominates B *and* neither A nor B dominates the other.

C-command (informal): A node c-commands its sisters and all the daughters (and granddaughters, and great-granddaughters, etc.) of its sisters.

Chain: The moved copy and all its traces.

Clausal Subject Construction: A sentence where a clause appears in the specifier of TP. E.g., [*That Jean danced the rumba*] *is likely*.

Clause: A subject and a predicate phrase. Always a CP in our system

Closed class: Parts of speech that are *closed class* don't allow new coinages: D, P, Conj, C, T, Neg, and the pronoun subcategory of N.

Coherence: (LFG) All the governable grammatical functions in an f-structure must be governed by a local predicate.

Coindexed: Two NPs that have the same index (_i, _j, _k, etc.) are said to be coindexed.

Complement: Sister to X, daughter of X'.

Complement Clause: An embedded clause in a complement position.

Complement Rule: $X' \rightarrow X$ (WP) or $X' \rightarrow$ (WP) X

Complementary Distribution: When you have two categories and they never appear in the same environment (context), you have complementary distribution. Typically Complementary Distribution means that the two categories are subtypes of a larger class.

Complementizer Phrase (CP): C is the head of CP and is obligatory in all clauses, although sometimes phonologically null:

Completeness: (LFG) An f-structure must contain all the governable grammatical functions that its predicate governs.

Complex DP Constraint: $*wh_i [\dots [_{DP} \dots t_i \dots] \dots]$

Compositional (HPSG): The idea that the semantics of the sentence can be read off of the constituency tree. This idea is shared by P&P and HPSG, but is rejected by LFG.

Computational Component: The combinatorial, rule-based, part of the mind. Where the rules and filters are found.

Constituency Tests: Tests that show that a group of words function as a unit. There are four major constituency tests given here: *movement*, *coordination*, *stand alone*, and *replacement*.

Constituent of: A is a constituent of B if and only if B dominates A.

Constituent: A group of words that functions together as a unit. A set of terminal nodes exhaustively dominated by a particular node.

Construct Genitive/'s-Genitive: Possessor 's possessed.

Control Theory: The theory that governs how PRO gets its meaning. There appear to be syntactic factors (the controller must c-command PRO), thematic factors (what DP does the controlling is dependent upon what main clause predicate is present), and pragmatic factors involved.

Coordinate Structure Constraint:

$*wh_i \dots [_{XP} [_{XP} \dots t_i \dots] \text{ conj } [_{XP} \dots]] \dots$
 or $*wh_i \dots [_{XP} [_{XP} \dots] \text{ conj } [_{XP} \dots t_i \dots]] \dots$
 or $*wh_i \dots [_{XP} [_{XP} \dots] \text{ conj } t_i] \dots$
 or $*wh_i \dots [_{XP} t_i \text{ conj } [_{XP} \dots]] \dots$

Copy Theory of Movement: Movement is a two-part operation. First the moved element is copied and put into the surface position; second the original is made silent (but is still structurally present).

Corefer: Two NPs that are coindexed are said to corefer (refer to the same entity in the world).

Coreference Tags: (HPSG) Numbers written in boxes (e.g., 11) that show that two items are identical in a SYN-SEM structure or between SYN-SEM structures.

Corpus (pl. Corpora): A collection of real-world language data.

Count vs. Mass: Count nouns can appear with determiners and the quantifier *many*. Mass nouns appear with *much* and usually don't have articles.

Covert Movement: Movement between SPELLOUT and LF (silent movement).

C-structure (LFG): Constituent structure. The tree in LFG. Roughly equivalent to S-structure in P&P.

Daughter: B is the *daughter* of A if B is immediately dominated by A.

Descriptive Grammar: A scientific grammar that describes, rather than prescribes, how people talk/write.

Descriptively Adequate Grammar: A grammar that accounts for observed real-world data and native speaker judgments.

Determiner Phrase (DP): D is not in the specifier of NP. D heads its own phrase: [_{DP} [_{D'} D NP]].

Direct Object:

- a) With verbs of type $V_{[NP_NP]}$, $V_{[NP_CP]}$ and $V_{[NP_NP_PP]}$, the NP or CP daughter of VP.
- b) With verbs of type $V_{[NP_NP_ \{NP/CP\}]}$, an NP or CP daughter of VP that is preceded by another NP daughter of VP (i.e., the second NP daughter of VP).

Distribution: Parts of Speech are determined based on their distribution. We have both *morphological distribution* (what affixes are found on the word) and *syntactic distribution* (what other words are nearby).

Ditransitive: A predicate that takes three arguments.

Do-insertion (Do-support): When there is no other option for supporting inflectional affixes, insert the dummy verb *do* into T.

Domination: Node A dominates node B if and only if A is higher up in the tree than B and if you can trace a branch from A to B going only downwards.

Do-so-replacement: Replace a V' with *do so*.

DP Movement: Move a DP to a specifier position.

D-structure: The level of the derivation created by the base, and has had no transformations applied to it.

Echo-Questions and Intonational Questions: Question forms that are licensed by the phonology (intonation and stress) and not by the syntax, although they may involve a special C.

Embedded Clause/Subordinate Clause: A clause inside of another.

Exhaustive Domination: Node A exhaustively dominates a *set* of terminal nodes {B, C, ... , D}, provided it dominates all the members of the set (so that there is no member of the set that is not dominated by A) *and* there is no terminal node G dominated by A that is not a member of the set.

Existential Quantifier (\exists): Words like *some*, or *a*. Identifies at least one member of a set.

Experiencer: The argument that perceives or experiences an event or state.

Explanatorily Adequate Grammar: A grammar that accounts for observed real-world data and native speaker judgments and offers an explanation for the facts of language acquisition.

Expletive (or Pleonastic) Pronouns: A pronoun (usually *it* or *there*) without a theta role. Usually found in subject position.

Expletive Insertion: Insert an expletive pronoun into the specifier of TP.

Extended Projection Principle (EPP): All clauses must have subjects. Lexical information is syntactically represented.

External Theta Role: The theta role associated with subject DPs or CPs.

Extraposition: A sentence (often an alternate of a clausal subject construction) where there is an expletive in the subject position and a clausal complement. E.g., *It is likely that Jean danced the rumba.*

Falsifiable Prediction: To prove that a hypothesis correct you have to look for the data that would prove it *wrong*. The prediction that might prove a hypothesis wrong is said to be falsifiable.

F-description (LFG): The set of all functional equations. Defines the mapping between c-structure and f-structure.

Feature notations on major categories are a mechanism for indicating subcategories.

Feature Satisfaction (sometimes loosely called **Unification**) (HPSG): The idea that all the features in a SYN-SEM structure must match. The rough equivalent of feature checking in P&P/Minimalism.

Free Genitive/of-Genitive: Possessed of the possessor.

Free: Not bound.

F-structure (LFG): The level of representation where grammatical functions are unified.

Full Interpretation: Features must be checked in a local configuration.

Functional Categories contain the grammatical information in a sentence: D, P, Conj, T, Neg, C.

Functional Control: The LFG equivalent of control, indicated with a curved line linking two AVMs in an f-structure.

Functional Equation (LFG): An equation that maps one variable to another (e.g., $(f_1 \text{ SUBJ}) = f_2$ says that f_2 maps to f_1 's SUBJ function).

Gender (Grammatical): Masculine vs. Feminine vs. Neuter. Does not have to be identical to the actual sex of the referent. For example, a dog might be female, but we can refer to it with the neuter pronoun *it*. Similarly, boats don't have a sex, but are grammatically feminine.

Generative Grammar: A theory of linguistics in which grammar is viewed as a cognitive faculty. Language is generated by a set of rules or procedures. The version of generative grammar we are looking at here is primarily the *Principles and Parameters approach* (P&P) touching occasionally on *Minimalism*.

Government: Node A governs node B if A c-commands B, and there is no node G, where G is c-commanded by A and G c-commands B.
a) **Phrase-government:** If A is a phrase, then the categories that count for G in the above definition must also be phrases.

b) **Head-government**: If A is a head (word), then the categories that count for G in the above definition must also be heads.

Grammar: The set of rules that generate a language.

Grammatical Function (LFG): Same thing as a grammatical relation.

Common grammatical functions: SUBJ = subject; OBJ = object; PRED = predicate; XCOMP = open complement (non-finite clause); COMP = closed complement (finite embedded clause); FOCUS = the function associated with *wh*-phrases

Head: The word that gives its category to the phrase.

Head Feature Principle (HPSG): The HEAD value of any headed phrase is identical to the HEAD value of the head daughter.

Head Mobility: (LFG) The idea that lexical items can take different categories depending upon their features. E.g., a tensed verb in French is of category T, whereas an untensed one is a V. This derives head-to-head movement effects.

Hierarchical Structure: Constituents in a sentence are embedded inside of other constituents.

Immediate Constituent of: A is an immediate constituent of B if and only if B immediately dominates A.

Immediate Precedence: A immediately precedes B if there is no node G that follows A but precedes B.

Immediately Dominate: Node A immediately dominates node B if there is no intervening node G that is dominated by A, but dominates B. (In other words, A is the first node that dominates B.)

Index: A subscript mark that indicates what an NP refers to.

Innate: Hard-wired or built in, an instinct.

Instrument: A tool with which an action is performed.

Intermediate Projection: Any projection that is neither the head nor the phrase (i.e. all the X' levels).

Internal Theta Role: The theta role associated with objects or indirect objects.

Intransitive: A predicate that takes only one argument.

Island: A phrase that contains (dominates) the *wh*-phrase, and that you may not move out of.

Label: The name given to a node (e.g., N, NP, TP, etc.).

Language (*capital L*): The psychological ability of humans to produce and understand a particular language. Also called the **Human Language Capacity** or **i-Language**. This is the object of study in this book.

language (*lower-case l*): A language like English or French. These are the particular instances of the human Language. The data source we use to examine Language is language. Also called **e-language**.

Learning: The gathering of conscious knowledge (like linguistics or chemistry).

Lexical Categories express the content of the sentence. N (including pronouns), V, Adj, Adv.

Lexical Item: Another way of saying “word.” A lexical item is an entry in the mental dictionary.

Lexicon: The mental dictionary or list of words. Contains all irregular and memorized information about language, including the argument structure (theta grid) of predicates.

Light verbs (*little v*): the higher part of a complex verb, usually meaning CAUSE (or LOCATE in the case of ditransitive double object verbs).

Locality Constraint: A constraint on the grammar, such that two syntactic entities must be “local” or near to one another.

Locality Constraint on Theta Role Assignment: Theta roles are assigned within the projection of the head that assigns them (i.e., the VP or other predicate).

Location: The place an action or state occurs.

Logical Form (LF): The semantic/interpretive system.

Logical Problem of Language Acquisition: The proof that an infinite system like human language cannot be learned on the basis of observed data – an argument for UG.

Maximal Projection: The topmost projection in a phrase (XP).

Metavariable (LFG): A variable over variables. \uparrow = my mother’s variable, \downarrow = my variable.

Minimal Link Condition (MLC) (*intuitive version*): Move to the closest potential landing site.

Mother: A is the mother of B if A immediately dominates B.

Move (*very informal version*): Move something somewhere.

Native Speaker Judgments (intuitions): Information about the subconscious knowledge of a language. This information is tapped by means of the grammaticality judgment task.

No Crossing Branches Constraint: If node X precedes another node Y then X and all nodes dominated by X must precede Y and all nodes dominated by Y.

Node: The end of a branch.

Nominative: The form of a noun in subject position (*I, you, he, she, it, we, they*).

Non-terminal Node (*revised*): A node that dominates something. (A node that is a mother.)

Null Subject Parameter: The parameter switch that distinguishes languages like English, which require an overt subject, from languages like Italian that don't, and allow *pro*.

Number: The quantity of individuals or things described by a noun. English distinguishes singular (e.g., *a cat*) from plural (e.g., *the cats*). Other languages have more or less complicated number systems

Object Control: A sentence where there is a PRO in the embedded non-finite clause that is controlled by the object argument of the main clause. E.g., *John persuaded Bill_i PRO_i to leave*.

Object of Preposition (*preliminary*): NP daughter of PP.

Object Shift: the phenomenon where accusatively marked objects shift leftwards.

Obligatory vs. Optional Control: Obligatory control is when the PRO must be controlled: *Jean_i is reluctant PRO_i to leave*. Optional control is when the DP can be controlled or not: *Robert_i knows that it is essential [PRO_{ij} to be well behaved]*.

Oblique: any NP/PP in the sentence that is not a subject, object of a preposition, or indirect object.

Observationally Adequate Grammar: A grammar that accounts for observed real-world data (such as corpora).

One-replacement: Replace an N' node with *one*.

Open class: Parts of speech that are *open class* can take new members or coinages: N, V, Adj, Adv.

Open function (XCOMP): A function with a missing argument (e.g., a non-finite clause).

Outrank (HPSG): A phrase A outranks a phrase B just in the case where A's SYN-SEM structure precedes B's SYN-SEM structure on some ARG-ST list.

Overt Movement: Movement between D-structure and SPELLOUT (heard/pronounced movement).

Parameterization: The idea that there is a fixed set of possibilities in terms of structure (such as the options in the X-bar framework), and people acquiring a language choose from among those possibilities.

Parts of Speech (*a.k.a. word class, syntactic categories*): The labels we give to constituents (N, V, Adj, Adv, D, P, C, T, Neg, Conj). These determine the position of the word in the sentence

Passives: A particular verb form where the external argument (often the agent or experiencer) is suppressed and the theme appears in subject position. The movement of the theme is also an instance of DP movement.

Person: The perspective of the participants in the conversation. The speaker or speakers (*I, me, we, us*) are called first person. The listener(s) (*you*), are called the second person. Anyone else (those not involved in the conversation) (*he, him, she, her, it, they, them*) is referred to as the third person.

Phonetic Form (PF): The component of grammar where word order is expressed.

Plurality refers to the number of nouns. It is usually indicated in English with an -s suffix. Plural nouns in English do not require a determiner.

Potential Antecedent: A DP in the specifier of TP or another DP. The potential antecedent cannot be the anaphor or pronoun itself, nor can it be a DP that contains the anaphor or pronoun.

Pragmatics: The science that looks at how language and knowledge of the world interact.

Precedence: Node A precedes node B if and only if neither A dominates B nor B dominates A *and* A or some node dominating A sister-precedes B or some node \square dominating B.

Predicate: The *predicate* defines the relation between the individuals being talked about and some fact about them – as well as relations among the arguments.

Predicate Phrase: A group of words that attributes a property to the subject. (In most sentences this is the VP, although not necessarily so.)

Prescriptive Grammar: The grammar rules as taught by so called “language experts.” These rules, often inaccurate descriptively, prescribe how people should talk/write, rather than describe what they actually do.

Principle A (chapter 15): One copy of an anaphor in a chain must be bound within the smallest CP or DP containing it and a potential antecedent

Principle A (chapter 4): An anaphor must be bound in its binding domain.

Principle A (HPSG): An [ANA +] SYN-SEM structure must be outranked by a coindexed SYN-SEM structure.

Principle B (chapter 15): A pronoun must be free within the smallest CP or DP containing it but not containing a potential antecedent. If no such CP or DP can be found, the pronoun must be free within the root CP.

Principle B (chapter 4): A pronoun must be free in its binding domain.

Principle B (HPSG): An [ANA –] SYN-SEM structure must not be ranked by a coindexed SYN-SEM structure.

Principle C: An R-expression must be free.

Principle of Modification (revised): If a YP modifies some head X, then YP must be a sister to X or a projection of X (i.e., X', XP).

PRO (big PRO): A null (silent) DP found in Caseless positions (the specifier of non-finite TP).

pro (*Little pro* or *Baby pro*): A null (silent) DP often found in languages with “rich” agreement. *pro* does get Case.

PRO_{arb}: Uncontrolled PRO takes an “arbitrary” reference. That is, it means something like *someone*.

Projection: The string of elements associated with a head that bear the same category as the head (N, N', N', N', NP etc).

Projection Principle: Lexical information (like theta roles) is syntactically represented at all levels.

Pronoun: An NP that may (but need not) get its meaning from another NP in the sentence.

Proposition: The thematic relation assigned to clauses.

Pseudogapping: A variety of ellipsis where the accusative object is not deleted.

Quantifier Raising (QR): A covert instance of Move that moves quantifiers.

Raising: A specific instance of DP movement. The DP moves from the specifier of an embedded non-finite T to the specifier of a finite T in the main clause where it can get Case.

Recipient: A special kind of goal, found with verbs of possession (e.g., *give*).

Recursion: The possibility of loops in the phrase structure rules that allow infinitely long sentences, and explain the creativity of language.

R-expression: An NP that gets its meaning by referring to an entity in the world.

Root Node: The node that dominates everything, but is dominated by nothing. (The node that is no node's daughter.)

Root, Matrix, or Main Clause: A clause (CP) that isn't dominated by anything.

Scientific Method: Observe some data, make generalizations about that data, draw a hypothesis, test the hypothesis against more data.

Scope: A quantifier's scope is the range of material it c-commands.

Selectional Restrictions: Semantic restrictions on arguments.

Semantic Compositionality Principle (HPSG): In any well-formed phrase structure, the mother's RESTR value is the sum of the RESTR values of the daughters.

Semantic Inheritance Principle (HPSG): In any headed phrase, the mother's mode and index values are identical to those of the head daughter.

Semantic Judgment: A judgment about the meaning of a sentence, often relying on our knowledge of the context in which the sentence was uttered.

Sister Precedence: Node A sister-precedes node B if and only if both are immediately dominated by the same node, and A appears to the left of B.

Sisters: Two nodes that share the same mother.

Source: The starting point of a movement.

Specifier: Sister to X', daughter of XP.

Specifier Clause: An embedded clause in a specifier position.

Specifier Rule: $XP \rightarrow (YP) X'$ or $XP \rightarrow X' (YP)$

SPELLOUT: The point at which the derivation divides into form (PF) and meaning deriving structures (LF).

S-structure: The output of transformations.

Subcategories: The major parts of speech can often be divided up into subtypes, these are called subcategories.

Subject: A DP which has the property indicated by the predicate phrase. What the sentence is about. In most sentences, this surfaces in the specifier of TP.

Subject Condition: $*wh_i \dots [TP [CP \dots t_i \dots] T \dots]$

Subject Control (also called *Equi*): A sentence where there is a PRO in the embedded non-finite clause that is controlled by the subject argument of the main clause. E.g., *John_i is reluctant PRO_i to leave.*

Subject-Aux Inversion: A means of indicating a *yes/no* question. Involves movement of T to $\emptyset_{[+Q]}$ complementizer for morpho-phonological reasons.

Subject-to-object Raising (also called *Exceptional Case Marking* or *ECM*): A kind of DP movement where the subject of an embedded

non-finite clause moves to the complement of the verb in the main clause to get accusative Case. E.g., *Jean wants Bill_i[t_i to dance]*.

Subject-to-subject Raising: A kind of DP movement where the subject of an embedded non-finite clause moves to the specifier of TP of the main clause to get nominative Case. E.g., *Jean_i is likely t_i to dance*.

Symmetric C-command: A symmetrically c-commands B if A c-commands B and B c-commands A.

SYN-SEM Structure: (HPSG) The set of AVMs for a node, containing all the SYN, SEM and ARG-ST features.

Syntactic Judgment: A judgment about the form or structure of a sentence.

Syntactic Trees and Bracketed Diagrams: These are means of representing constituency. They are generated by rules.

Syntax: The level of linguistic organization that mediates between sounds and meaning, where words are organized into phrases and sentences.

T → C Movement: Move T to C, when there is a phonologically empty $\emptyset_{[+Q]}$ complementizer.

Tense Phrase (TP): T is the head of TP and is obligatory in all clauses, sometimes it involves lowering of the affix to the V. The subject DP occupies the specifier position: [TP DP_{subject} [T' T VP]].

Tensed or Finite Clause: A clause that is tensed.

Tenseless or Non-finite Clause: A clause that isn't tensed (e.g., I want [*Mary to leave*]).

Terminal Node: A node that dominates nothing. (A node that is not a mother.)

Thematic Relations: Semantic relations between a predicate and an argument – used as a means of encoding selectional restrictions.

Theme: The element that is perceived, experienced or undergoing the action or change of state

Theta Criterion:

- a) Each argument is assigned one and only one theta role.
- b) Each theta role is assigned to one and only one argument.

Theta Grid: The schematic representation of the argument structure of a predicate, where the theta roles are listed.

Theta Role: A bundle of thematic relations associated with a particular argument (DPs or CPs).

Transformation: A rule that takes an X-bar generated structure and changes it in restricted ways.

Transitive: A predicate that takes two arguments.

Unaccusatives: Inherently passive verbs like *arrive*.

Underdetermination of the Data: The idea that we know things about our language that we could not have possibly learned – an argument for UG.

Unification: (LFG) All the features and functions associated with the f-structure must be compatible. (Similar to feature checking in P&P.)

Uniqueness: (LFG) In a given f-structure, a particular attribute may have at most one value.

Universal: A property found in all the languages of the world.

Universal Grammar (UG): The innate (or instinctual) part of each language's grammar.

Universal Quantifier (\forall): Words such as *every*, *each*, *all*, *any*. Identifies all the members of a set.

$V \rightarrow T$ movement: Move the head V to the head T (motivated by morphology).

Valence Principle (HPSG): Unless the rule says otherwise, the mother's SPR and COMPS values are identical to those of the head daughter.

Variables: LFG uses variables (f_1 , f_2 , f_3 , ..., etc.) for each node on the c-structure which are used in the mapping between c-structure and f-structure.

Verb Movement Parameter: Option 1: all tensed verbs raise to T; Option 2: tensed auxiliaries raise to T and T lowers to tensed main verbs.

VP Ellipsis: A process that deletes a VP (or vP) under identity with a previously uttered identical VP.

VP-internal Subject Hypothesis: Subjects are generated in the specifier of VP.

Wh-in-situ: when a *wh*-phrase does not move.

Wh-island Constraint: * $wh_i [\dots [_{CP} wh_k [\dots t_i \dots] \dots] \dots]$

Wh-movement: Move a *wh*-phrase to the specifier of CP to check a *wh*-feature in C.

Wh-Parameter: Overt/Covert.

Wide vs. Narrow Scope: Wide scope is when one particular quantifier c-commands another quantifier. Narrow scope is the opposite.

Yes/No Question: A question that can be answered with a *yes*, a *no* or *maybe*.