

Conclusions and Directions for Further Study

We started this textbook with the question of what a person needs to know about their language in order to understand a simple sentence. We hypothesized that some of language is innate and other parts are parameterized. In the first twelve chapters of this book, we sketched out some of the major research threads in one approach to syntax: the principles and parameters (P&P) view. In part 1, we looked at how rules generate hierarchical tree structures. These structures are geometric objects with mathematical properties. We looked at one set of phenomena (binding) that is sensitive to those properties. In part 2, we looked at a more sophisticated view of tree structures, developing X-bar theory, and the thematic (lexical) constraints on it such as theta theory. In part 3, we looked extensively at how problematic word orders, such as passives, raising, VSO languages, and *wh*-questions could all be accounted for using movement. In chapter 12, we brought these threads together and started looking at the unified approach to movement. Part 4 addressed three more advanced topics in syntax. We looked at split VP/vPs and the way they account for ditransitives and object shift; we looked at raising and control; and we revisited binding theory and came up with a more sophisticated version of the binding theory. Part 5 of this book changed direction slightly. We looked, ever so briefly, at two popular alternatives to P&P/Minimalism. This was so that you could read papers and books written in those alternatives, as well as giving you a taste for other, related, ways we can approach topics in syntax.

Congratulations for getting through all this material. I hope this book has whetted your appetite for the study of syntax and sentence structure and that you will pursue further studies in syntactic theory. To this end, I've appended a list of books that can take you to the next level.

Cook, V. J. and Mark Newson (1996) *Chomsky's Universal Grammar: An Introduction* (2nd ed.). Oxford: Blackwell.

Cowper, Elizabeth (1992) *A Concise Introduction to Syntactic Theory: The Government and Binding Approach*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

- Haegeman, Liliane (1994) *Introduction to Government and Binding Theory*. Oxford: Blackwell.
- Ouhalla, Jamal (1990) *Introducing Transformational Grammar* (2nd ed.). London: Edward Arnold.
- Radford, Andrew (1997a) *Syntactic Theory and The Structure of English: A Minimalist Approach*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Radford, Andrew (2004) *Minimalist Syntax: Exploring the Structure of English*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Roberts, Ian (1997) *Comparative Syntax*. London: Edward Arnold.