Word features and word concatenation

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Abstract: To evaluate a sentence we need to consider the words, the meaning and the structure. To calculate the structure, we need the elements and the glue that puts the elements together. In this talk I will present arguments that the syntactic elements are not words, but are features of words. Harley 2006 and Marantz 1997 among many others, argue that the English word *give* is actually composed of CAUSE and HAVE. While much recent research has painstakingly constructed arguments for the decomposition of words into features, syntactic agreement features remain poorly understood. I argue that agreement is not divided along the parameters of Subject/Verb agreement and Adjective/Noun agreement, rather agreement reflects the types of concatenation operations, Functional Application and Predicate Modification. In this presentation I will take data from Hindi/Urdu, French and English to provide tangible evidence for the two types of syntactic glue, through this novel division in agreement features.

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