

# Head-Driven Phrase Structure Grammar

The handbook

Edited by

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Empirically Oriented Theoretical  
Morphology and Syntax



## **Empirically Oriented Theoretical Morphology and Syntax**

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# Head-Driven Phrase Structure Grammar

The handbook

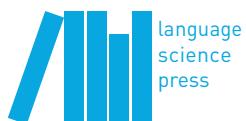
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# Preface



# Acknowledgments



# **Part I**

# **Introduction**



# Chapter 1

## Basic properties and elements

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University of Essex

Anne Abeillé

Université Paris Diderot

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### 1 Introduction

Phasellus maximus erat ligula, accumsan rutrum augue facilisis in. Proin sit amet pharetra nunc, sed maximus erat. Duis egestas mi eget purus venenatis vulputate vel quis nunc. Nullam volutpat facilisis tortor, vitae semper ligula dapibus sit amet. Suspendisse fringilla, quam sed laoreet maximus, ex ex placerat ipsum, porta ultrices mi risus et lectus. Maecenas vitae mauris condimentum justo fringilla sollicitudin. Fusce nec interdum ante. Curabitur tempus dui et orci convallis molestie (Chomsky 1957).

Meier (2017)



- (1) Latin (personal knowledge)

cogit-o ergo sum  
 think-1SG.PRES.IND hence exist.1SG.PRES.IND  
 ‘I think therefore I am’

Sed nisi urna, dignissim sit amet posuere ut, luctus ac lectus. Fusce vel ornare nibh. Nullam non sapien in tortor hendrerit suscipit. Etiam sollicitudin nibh ligula. Praesent dictum gravida est eget maximus. Integer in felis id diam sodales accumsan at at turpis. Maecenas dignissim purus non libero scelerisque porttitor. Integer porttitor mauris ac nisi iaculis molestie. Sed nec imperdiet orci. Suspendisse sed fringilla elit, non varius elit. Sed varius nisi magna, at efficitur orci consectetur a. Cras consequat mi dui, et cursus lacus vehicula vitae. Pellentesque sit amet justo sed lectus luctus vehicula. Suspendisse placerat augue eget felis sagittis placerat.

Table 1: Frequencies of word classes

	nouns	verbs	adjectives	adverbs
absolute	12	34	23	13
relative	3.1	8.9	5.7	3.2

Sed cursus<sup>1</sup> sapien pulvinar. Sed consequat, magna<sup>2</sup>. Nunc dignissim tristique massa ut gravida. Nullam auctor orci gravida tellus egestas, vitae pharetra nisl porttitor. Pellentesque turpis nulla, venenatis id porttitor non, volutpat ut leo. Etiam hendrerit scelerisque luctus. Nam sed egestas est. Suspendisse potenti. Nunc vestibulum nec odio non laoreet. Proin lacinia nulla lectus, eu vehicula erat vehicula sed.

## Abbreviations

COP copula

FV final vowel

NEG negation

SM subject marker

---

<sup>1</sup>eros condimentum mi consectetur, ac consectetur

<sup>2</sup>eu scelerisque laoreet, ante erat tristique justo, nec cursus eros diam eu nisl. Vestibulum non arcu tellus

## Acknowledgements

## References

- Chomsky, Noam. 1957. *Syntactic structures* (Janua Linguarum / Series Minor 4). The Hague/Paris: Mouton.
- Meier, Jane. 2017. *Language universals and linguistic typology*. Oxford: Basil Blackwell.



## Chapter 2

# The evolution of HPSG

Dan Flickinger

Stanford University

Carl Pollard

Ohio State University

Tom Wasow

Stanford University

HPSG was developed to express insights from theoretical linguistics in a precise formalism that was computationally tractable. It drew ideas from a wide variety of traditions in linguistics, logic, and computer science. Its chief architects were Carl Pollard and Ivan Sag, and its most direct precursors were Generalized Phrase Structure Grammar and Head Grammar. The theory has been applied in the construction of computational systems for the analysis of a variety of languages; a few of these systems have been used in practical applications. This chapter sketches the history of the development and application of the theory.

## 1 Introduction

From its inception in 1983, HPSG was intended to serve as a framework for the formulation and implementation of natural language grammars which are (i) linguistically motivated, (ii) formally explicit, and (iii) computationally tractable. These desiderata are reflective of HPSG's dual origins as an academic linguistic theory and as part of an industrial grammar implementation project with an eye toward potential practical applications. Here (i) means that the grammars are intended as scientific theories about the languages in question, and that the analyses the grammars give rise to are transparently relatable to the predictions



(empirical consequences) of those theories. Thus HPSG shares the general concerns of the theoretical linguistics literature, including distinguishing between well-formed and ill-formed expressions and capturing linguistically significant generalizations. (ii) means that the notation for the grammars and its interpretation have a precise grounding in logic, mathematics, and theoretical computer science, so that there is never any ambiguity about the intended meaning of a rule or principle of grammar, and so that grammars have determinate empirical consequences. (iii) means that the grammars can be translated into computer programs that can handle linguistic expressions embodying the full range of complex interacting phenomena that naturally occur in the target languages, and can do so with a tolerable cost in space and time resources.

The two principal architects of HPSG were Carl Pollard and Ivan Sag, but a great many other people made important contributions to its development. Many, but by no means all, are cited in the chronology presented in the following sections. There are today a number of groups of HPSG researchers around the world, in many cases involved in building HPSG-based computational systems. While the number of practitioners is relatively small, it is a very active community that holds annual meetings and publishes quite extensively. Hence, although Pollard no longer works on HPSG and Sag died in 2013, the theory is very much alive, and still evolving.

## 2 Precursors

HPSG arose between 1983 and 1985 from the complex interaction between two lines of research in theoretical linguistics: (i) work on context-free Generative Grammar (CFG) initiated in the late 1970s by Gerald Gazdar and Geoffrey Pullum, soon joined by Ivan Sag, Ewan Klein, Tom Wasow, and others, resulting in the framework referred to as Generalized Phrase Structure Grammar (GPSG: [Gazdar, Klein, Pullum & Sag 1985](#)); and (ii) Carl Pollard's Stanford dissertation research, under Sag and Wasow's supervision, on Generalized Context-Free Grammar, and more specifically Head Grammar (HG: [Pollard 1984](#)).

### 2.1 Generalized Phrase Structure Grammar

In the earliest versions of Generative Grammar ([Chomsky 1957](#)), the focus was on motivating transformations to express generalizations about classes of sentences. In the 1960s, as generative linguists began to attend more explicitly to meaning, a division arose between those advocating using the machinery of transforma-

tions to capture semantic generalizations and those advocating the use of other types of formal devices. This division became quite heated, and was subsequently dubbed “the linguistic wars” (see Newmeyer 1980: Chapter 5). Much of the work in theoretical syntax and semantics during the 1970s explored ways to constrain the power of transformations (see especially Chomsky 1973 and Chomsky & Lasnik 1977), and non-transformational approaches to the analysis of meaning (see especially Montague 1974 and Dowty 1979).

These developments led a few linguists to begin questioning the central role transformations had played in syntactic research of the preceding two decades (notably, Bresnan 1978). This questioning of Transformational Grammar (TG) culminated in a series of papers by Gerald Gazdar, which (in those pre-internet days) were widely distributed as paper manuscripts. The project that they laid out was succinctly summarized in one of Gazdar’s later publications as follows:

Consider eliminating the transformational component of a generative grammar. (Gazdar 1981: 155)

The framework that emerged became known as Generalized Phrase Structure Grammar; a good account of its development is Ted Briscoe’s interview of Gazdar in November 2000.<sup>1</sup>

GPSG developed in response to several criticisms leveled against transformational grammar. First, TG was highly underformalized, to the extent that it was unclear what its claims—and the empirical consequences of those claims—amounted to; CFG, by comparison, was a simple and explicit mathematical formalism. Second, given the TG architecture of a context-free base together with a set of transformations, the claimed necessity of transformations was standardly justified on the basis of arguments that CFGs were insufficiently expressive to serve as a general foundation for natural language (NL) grammar; but Pullum & Gazdar (1982) showed all such arguments presented up to that time to be logically flawed or else based on false empirical claims. And third, closely related to the previous point, they showed that transformational grammarians had been insufficiently resourceful in exploiting what expressive power CFGs *did* possess, especially through the use of complex categories bearing features whose values might themselves bear features of their own. For example, coordinate constructions and unbounded dependency constructions had long served as prime exemplars of the need for transformations, but Gazdar (1981) was able to show that both kinds of constructions, as well as interactions between them, did in fact yield straightforward analyses within the framework of a CFG.

---

<sup>1</sup><https://nlp.fi.muni.cz/~xjakub/briscoe-gazdar/>, 2018-08-21.

Gazdar and Pullum's early work in this vein was quickly embraced by Sag and Wasow at Stanford University, both formally inclined former students of Chomsky's, who saw it as the logical conclusion of a trend in Chomskyan syntax toward constraining the transformational component. That trend, in turn, was a response, at least in part, to (i) the demonstration by Peters & Ritchie (1973) that Chomsky's (1965) Standard Theory, when precisely formalized, was totally unconstrained, in the sense of generating all recursively enumerable languages; and (ii) the insight of Emonds (1976) that most of the transformations proposed up to that time were "structure-preserving" in the sense that the trees they produced were isomorphic to ones that were base-generated. Besides directly addressing these issues of excess power and structure preservation, the hypothesis that NLs were context-free also had the advantage that CFGs were well-known by computer scientists to have decidable recognition problems and efficient parsing algorithms, facts which seemed to have some promise of bearing on questions of the psychological plausibility and computational tractability of the grammars in question.

Aside from serving as a framework for theoretical linguistic research, GPSG also provided the theoretical underpinnings for a natural language processing (NLP) project established in 1981 by Egon Loebner at Hewlett-Packard Laboratories in Palo Alto. This project, which led in due course to the first computer implementation of HPSG, is described below.

## 2.2 Head Grammar

Pollard, with a background in pure mathematics, Chinese historical phonology, and 1930s–1950s-style American structural linguistics, arrived at Stanford in 1979 with the intention of getting a Ph.D. in Chinese linguistics, but was soon won over to theoretical syntax by Wasow and Sag. He had no exposure to Chomskyan linguistics, but was immediately attracted to the emerging nontransformational approaches, especially the early GPSG papers and the contemporaneous forms of CG in Bach (1979; 1980) and Dowty (1982a,b), in part because of their formal simplicity and rigor, but also because the formalism of CFG was (and is) easy to read as a more technically precise rendering of structuralist ideas about syntax (as presented, e.g., in Bloomfield 1933 and Hockett 1958).

Although Pullum & Gazdar (1982) successfully refuted all published arguments to date that CFGs were inadequate for analyzing NLs, by the following year, Stuart Shieber had developed an argument (published in Shieber 1985), which was (and remains) generally accepted as correct, that there could not be a CFG that accounted for the cross-serial dependencies in Swiss German; and Chris Culy

showed, in his Stanford M.A. thesis (cf. Culy 1985), that the presence of reduplicative compounding in Bambara precluded a CF analysis of that language. At the same time, Bach and Dowty (independently) had been experimenting with generalizations of traditional A-B (Ajdukiewicz-Bar Hillel) CG which allowed for modes of combining strings (such as reduplication, wrapping, insertion, cliticization, and the like) in addition to the usual concatenation. This latter development was closely related to a wider interest among nontransformational linguists of the time in the notion of discontinuous constituency, and also had an obvious affinity to Hockett's (1954) item-and-process conception of linguistic structure, albeit at the level of words and phrases rather than morphemes. One of the principal aims of Pollard's dissertation work was to provide a general framework for syntactic (and semantic) analysis that went beyond—but not too far beyond—the limits of CFG in a way that took such developments into account.

Among the generalizations of CFG that Pollard studied, special attention was given to HGs, which differ from CFGs in two respects: (i) the role of strings was taken over by headed strings, essentially strings with a designation of one of its words as its head; and (ii) besides concatenation, headed strings can also be combined by inserting one string directly to the left or right of another string's head. An appendix of his dissertation (Pollard 1984) provided an analysis of discontinuous constituency in Dutch, and that analysis also works for Swiss German. In another appendix, Pollard used a generalization of the CKY algorithm to prove that the head languages (HLs, the languages analyzed by HGs) shared with CFLs the property of deterministic polynomial time recognition complexity, but of order  $n^7$ , subsequently reduced by Kasami, Seki & Fuji (1989) to  $n^6$ , as compared with order  $n^3$  for CFLs. For additional formal properties of HGs, see Roach (1987). Vijay-shanker & Weir (1994) proved that HGs had the same weak generative capacities as three other grammar formalisms – Combinatory Categorial Grammar (Steedman 1987; 1990), Lexicalized Tree-Adjoining Grammar (Shabes 1990), and Linear Indexed Grammar (Gazdar 1988) – and the corresponding class of languages became known as ‘mildly context sensitive’.

Although the handling of linearization in HG seems not to have been pursued further within the HPSG framework, the ideas that (i) linearization had to involve data structures richer than strings of phoneme strings, and (ii) the way these structures were linearized had to involve operations other than mere concatenation, were implicit in subsequent HPSG work, starting with Pollard & Sag's (1987) Constituent Order Principle (which was really more of a promissory note than an actual principle). These and related ideas would become more fully fleshed out a decade later within the linearization grammar avatar of HPSG de-

veloped by Reape (1996), Reape (1992), and Kathol (1995; 2000). On the other hand, two other innovations of HG, both related to the system of syntactic features, were incorporated into HPSG, and indeed should probably be considered the defining characteristics of that framework, namely the list-valued SUBCAT and SLASH features, discussed below.

### 3 The HP NLP project

Work on GPSG culminated in the 1985 book *Generalized Phrase Structure Grammar* by Gazdar, Klein, Pullum, and Sag. During the writing of that book, Sag taught a course on the theory, with participation of his co-authors. The course was attended not only by Stanford students and faculty, but also by linguists from throughout the area around Stanford, including the Berkeley and Santa Cruz campuses of the University of California, as well as people from nearby industrial labs. One of the attendees at this course was Anne Paulson, a programmer from Hewlett-Packard (HP) Laboratories in nearby Palo Alto, who had some background in linguistics from her undergraduate education at Brown University. Paulson told her supervisor at HP Labs, Egon Loebner, that she thought the theory could be implemented and might be turned into something useful. Loebner, a multi-lingual polymathic engineer, had no background in linguistics, but he was intrigued, and invited Sag to meet and discuss setting up a natural language processing project at HP. Sag brought along Gazdar, Pullum, and Wasow. This led to the creation of the project that eventually gave rise to HPSG. Gazdar, who would be returning to England relatively soon, declined the invitation to be part of the new project, but Pullum, who had taken a position at the University of California at Santa Cruz (about an hour's drive from Palo Alto), accepted. So the project began with Sag, Pullum, and Wasow hired on a part-time basis to work with Paulson and two other HP programmers, John Lamping and Jonathan King, to implement a GPSG of English at HP Labs. J. Mark Gawron, a linguistics graduate student from Berkeley who had attended Sag's course, was very soon added to the team.

The initial stages consisted of the linguists and programmers coming up with a notation that would serve the purposes of both. Once this was accomplished, the linguists set to work writing a grammar of English in Lisp to run on the DEC-20 mainframe computer that they all worked on. The first publication coming out of this project was a 1982 Association for Computational Linguistics paper. The paper's conclusion begins:

What we have outlined is a natural language system that is a direct im-

plementation of a linguistic theory. We have argued that in this case the linguistic theory has the special appeal of computational tractability (promoted by its context-freeness), and that the system as a whole offers the hope of a happy marriage of linguistic theory, mathematical logic, and advanced computer applications. (Gawron et al. 1982: 80)

This goal was carried over into HPSG.

It should be mentioned that the HP group was by no means alone in these concerns. The early 1980s was a period of rapid growth in computational linguistics (due at least in part to the rapid growth in the power and accessibility of computers). In the immediate vicinity of Stanford and HP Labs, there were at least two other groups working on developing natural language systems that were both computationally tractable and linguistically motivated. One such group was at the Xerox Palo Alto Research Center, where Ron Kaplan and Joan Bresnan (in collaboration with a number of other researchers, notably Martin Kay) were developing Lexical Functional Grammar; the other was at SRI International, where a large subset of SRI's artificial intelligence researchers (including Barbara Grosz, Jerry Hobbs, Bob Moore, Hans Uszkoreit, Fernando Pereira, and Stuart Shieber) worked on natural language. Thanks to the founding of the Center for the Study of Language and Information (CSLI) at Stanford in the early 1980s, there was a great deal of interaction among these three research groups. Although some aspects of the work being done at the three non-Stanford sites were proprietary, most of the research was basic enough that there was a fairly free flow of ideas among the three groups about building linguistically motivated natural language systems.

Other projects seeking to develop theories combining computational tractability with linguistic motivation were also underway outside of the immediate vicinity of Stanford, notably at the Universities of Pennsylvania and Edinburgh. Aravind Joshi and his students were working on Tree Adjoining Grammars (Joshi et al. 1975; Joshi 1987), while Mark Steedman and others were developing Combinatory Categorial Grammar (Steedman 1987; 1990).

During the first few years of the HP NLP project, several Stanford students were hired as part-time help. One was Pollard, who was writing his doctoral dissertation under Sag's supervision. Ideas from his thesis work played a major role in the transition from GPSG to HPSG. Two other students who became very important to the project were Dan Flickinger, a doctoral student in linguistics, and Derek Proudian, who was working on an individually-designed undergraduate major when he first began at HP and later became a master's student in computer science. Both Flickinger and Proudian became full-time HP employees

after finishing their degrees. Over the years, a number of other HP employees also worked on the project and made substantial contributions. They included Susan Brennan, Lewis Creary, Marilyn Friedman (now Walker), Dave Goddeau, Brett Kessler, Joachim Laubsch, and John Nerbonne. Brennan, Walker, Kessler, and Nerbonne all later went on to academic careers at major universities, doing research dealing with natural language processing.

The HP NLP project lasted until the early 1990s. By then, a fairly large and robust grammar of English had been implemented. The period around 1990 combined an economic recession with what has sometimes been termed an “AI winter” – that is, a period in which enthusiasm and hence funding for artificial intelligence research was at a particularly low ebb. Since NLP was considered a branch of AI, support for it waned. Hence, it was not surprising that the leadership of HP Labs decided to terminate the project. Flickinger and Proudian came to an agreement with HP that allowed them to use the NLP technology developed by the project to launch a new start-up company, which they named Eloquent Software. They were, however, unable to secure the capital necessary to turn the existing system into a product, so the company never got off the ground.

## 4 The emergence of HPSG

A few important features of GPSG that were later carried over into HPSG are worth mentioning here. First, GPSG borrowed from Montague the idea that each phrase structure rule was to be paired with a semantic rule providing a recipe for computing the meaning of the mother from the meanings of its daughters (Gazdar 1981: 156); this design feature was shared with contemporaneous forms of Categorial Grammar (CG) being studied by such linguists as Emmon Bach (Bach 1979; 1980) and David Dowty (Dowty 1982a,b). Second, the specific inventory of features employed in GPSG for making fine-grained categorial distinctions (such as case, agreement, verb inflectional form, and the like), was largely preserved, though the technical implementation of morphosyntactic features in HPSG was somewhat different. And third, the SLASH feature, which originated in Gazdar’s (1981) derived categories (e.g. S/NP), and which was used to keep track of unbounded dependencies, was generalized in HPSG to allow for multiple unbounded dependencies (as in the notorious violins-and-sonatas example in (1) below). As will be discussed, this SLASH feature bears a superficial—and misleading—resemblance to the Categorial Grammar connectives written as ‘/’ and ‘\’. On the other hand, a centrally important architectural feature of GPSG absent from HPSG (and from HG) was the device of metarules, higher-order rules

used to generate the full set of context-free phrase structure rules (PSRs) from an initial inventory of basic PSRs. Among the metarules were ones used to introduce non-null SLASH values and propagate them upward through trees to a position where they were discharged by combination with a matching constituent called a filler (analogous to a *wh*-moved expression in TG).

A note is in order about the sometimes confusing use of the names *Head Grammar* (*HG*) and *HPSG*. Strictly speaking, *HG* was a specific subtype of generalized CFG developed in Pollard’s dissertation work, but the term *HG* did not appear in academic linguistic publications with the exception of the [Pollard & Sag \(1983\)](#) WCCFL paper, which introduced the distinction between head features and binding features (the latter were incorporated into GPSG under the name *foot features*). In the summer of 1982, Pollard had started working part time on the HP NL project; and the term *HPSG* was first employed (by Pullum) in reference to an extensive reworking by Pollard and Paulson of the then-current HP GPSG implementation, incorporating some of the main features of Pollard’s dissertation work in progress, carried out over the summer of 1983, while much of the HP NLP team (including Pullum and Sag) was away at the LSA Institute in Los Angeles. The implication of the name change was that whatever this new system was, it was no longer GPSG.

Once this first HPSG implementation was in place, the NLP work at HP was considered to be within the framework of HPSG, rather than GPSG. After Pollard completed his dissertation, he continued to refer to *HG* in invited talks as late as autumn 1984; but his talk at the (December 1984) LSA Binding Theory Symposium used *HPSG* instead, and after that, the term *HG* was supplanted by *HPSG* (except in publications by non-linguists about formal language theory). One additional complication is that until the [Gazdar, Klein, Pullum & Sag \(1985\)](#) volume appeared, GPSG and HPSG were developing side by side, with considerable interaction. Pollard, together with Flickinger, Wasow, Nerbonne, and others, did HPSG; Gazdar and Klein did GPSG; and Sag and Pullum worked both sides of the street.

HPSG papers, about both theory and implementation, began to appear in 1985, starting with Pollard’s WCCFL paper *Phrase structure grammar without metarules* ([Pollard 1985](#)), and his paper at the Categorial Grammar conference in Tucson ([Pollard 1988](#)), comparing and contrasting HPSG with then-current versions of Categorial Grammar due to Bach, Dowty, and Steedman. These were followed by a trio of ACL papers documenting the current state of the HPSG implementation at HP Labs: [Creary & Pollard \(1985\)](#), [Flickinger, Pollard & Wasow \(1985\)](#), and [Proudian & Pollard \(1985\)](#). Of those three, the most significant in terms of

its influence on the subsequent development of the HPSG framework was the second, which showed how the lexicon could be (and in fact was) organized using multiple-inheritance knowledge representation; Flickinger’s Stanford dissertation (Flickinger 1987) was an in-depth exploration of that idea.

## 5 Early HPSG

Setting aside implementation details, early HPSG can be characterized by the following architectural features:

**Elimination of metarules** Although metarules were a central feature of GPSG, they were also problematic: Uszkoreit & Peters (1982) had shown that if metarules were allowed to apply to their own outputs, then the resulting grammars were no longer guaranteed to generate CFLs; indeed, such grammars could generate all recursively enumerable languages. And so, in GPSG, the closure of a set of base phrase structure rules (PSRs) under a set of metarules was defined in such a way that no metarule could apply to a PSR whose own derivation involved an application of that metarule. This definition was intended to ensure that the closure of a finite set of PSRs remained finite, and therefore still constituted a CFG.

So, for example, the metarule STM1 was used in GPSG to convert a PSR into another PSR, one of whose daughters is [+NULL] (informally speaking, a ‘trace’), and feature cooccurrence restrictions (FCRs) guaranteed that such daughters would bear a SLASH value, and that this SLASH value would also appear on the mother. Unfortunately, the finite closure definition described above does not preclude the possibility of derived PSRs whose mother carries multiple, in fact unboundedly many SLASH values (e.g. NP/NP, (NP/NP)/NP, etc.). And this in turn leads to an infinite set of PSRs, outside the realm of CF-ness (see Ristad 1986). Of course, one could rein in this excess power by imposing another FCR that disallows categories of the form (X/Y)/Z; but then there is no way to analyze sentences containing a constituent with two undischarged unbounded dependencies, such as the VP complement of *easy* in the following example:

- (1) Violins this finely crafted, even the most challenging sonatas are easy to [play \_ on \_].

GPSG avoided this problem by not analyzing such examples. In HPSG (Pollard 1985), by contrast, such examples were analyzed straightforwardly by replacing GPSG’s category-valued SLASH feature with one whose values were lists (or sets)

of categories. This approach still gave rise to an infinite set of rules, but since maintaining context-freeness was no longer at stake, this was not seen as problematic. The infinitude of rules in GPSG arose not through a violation of finite closure (since there were no longer any metarules at all), but because each of the handful of schematic PSRs (see below) could be directly instantiated in an infinite number of ways, given that the presence of list-valued features gave rise to an infinite set of categories.

**Lexical rules** GPSG, generalizing a suggestion of Flickinger (1983), constrained metarules to apply only to PSRs that introduced a lexical head. Pollard (1985) took this idea a step further, noting that many proposed metarules could be reformulated as lexical rules that (among other effects) operated on the subcategorization frames (encoded by the SUBCAT feature discussed below) of lexical entries. The idea of capturing some linguistic generalizations by means of rules internal to the lexicon had been explored by generative grammarians since Jackendoff (1975); and lexical rules of essentially the kind Pollard proposed were employed by Bach (1983), Dowty (1978), and others working in Categorial Grammar. Examples of constructions handled by metarules in GPSG but in HPSG by lexical rules included sentential extraposition, subject extraction, and the passive. Flickinger, Pollard & Wasow (1985) argued for an architecture for the lexicon that combined lexical rules with multiple inheritance using a frame-based knowledge representation system (Minsky 1975), on the basis of both overall grammar simplicity and efficient, easily modifiable implementation.

**CG-like treatment of subcategorization** GPSG treated subcategorization using an integer-valued feature called SUBCAT that in effect indexed each lexical item with the rule that introduced and provided its subcategorization frame; e.g. *weep* was listed in the lexicon with SUBCAT value 1 while *devour* was listed with SUBCAT value 2, and then PSRs of roughly the form in (2)

- $$(2) \quad \begin{aligned} VP &\rightarrow V[\text{SUBCAT } 1] \\ VP &\rightarrow V[\text{SUBCAT } 2] \text{ NP} \end{aligned}$$

guaranteed that lexical heads would have the right kinds of complements. In HPSG, by contrast, the SUBCAT feature directly characterized the grammatical arguments selected by a head (not just the complements, but the subject too) as a list of categories, so that e.g. *weep* was listed as  $V[\text{SUBCAT } \langle \text{NP} \rangle]$  but *devour* as  $V[\text{SUBCAT } \langle \text{NP}, \text{NP} \rangle]$  (where the first occurrence of NP refers to the object and the second to the subject). This treatment of argument selection was inspired by

Categorial Grammar, where the same verbs would have been categorized as NP\S and (NP\S)/NP respectively;<sup>2</sup> the main differences are that (i) the CG treatment also encodes the directionality of the argument relative to the head, and (ii) in HPSG, all the arguments appear on one list, while in CG they are ‘picked up’ one at a time, with as many connectives (/ or \) as there are arguments. In particular, as in the CG of Dowty (1982b), the subject was defined as the last argument, except that in HPSG, ‘last’ now referred to the rightmost position on the SUBCAT list, not to the most deeply embedded connective. In HPSG, this ordering of the categories on the SUBCAT list was related not just to CG, but also to the traditional grammatical notion of obliqueness, and also to the accessibility hierarchy of Keenan & Comrie (1977). See Müller & Wechsler (2014: Section 4) for a more detailed discussion of these developments from GPSG to HPSG.

**Schematic rules** Unlike CFG but like CG, HPSG had only a handful of schematic rules. For example, in Pollard (1985), a substantial chunk of English ‘local’ grammar (i.e. leaving aside unbounded dependencies) was handled by three rules: (i) a rule (used for subject-auxiliary inversion) that forms a sentence from an inverted (+INV) lexical head and all its arguments; (ii) a rule that forms a phrase from a head with SUBCAT list of length  $> 1$  together with all its non-subject arguments; and (iii) a rule that forms a sentence from a head with a SUBCAT value of length one together with its single (subject) argument.

**List- (or set-) valued SLASH feature** The list-valued SLASH was introduced in Pollard (1985) to handle multiple unbounded dependencies, instead of the GPSG category-valued SLASH (which in turn originated as the *derived categories* of Gazdar (1981), e.g. S/NP). In spite of the notational similarity, though, the PSG SLASH is not an analog of the CG slashes / and \ (though HPSG’s SUBCAT is, as explained above). In fact, HPSG’s SLASH has no analog in the kinds of CGs being developed by Montague semanticists such as Bach (1979; 1980) and Dowty (1982a) in the late 1970s and early 1980s, which followed the CGs of Bar-Hillel (1954) in having only rules for eliminating (or canceling) slashes as in (3):

$$(3) \quad \frac{A \ A \backslash B}{B} \quad \frac{B / A \ A}{B}$$

To find an analog to HPSG’s SLASH in CG, we have to turn to the kinds of CGs invented by Lambek (1958), which unfortunately were not yet well-known to

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<sup>2</sup>We adhere to the Lambek convention for functor categories, so that expressions seeking to combine with an A on the left to form a B are written ‘A\B’ (not ‘B\A’).

linguists (though that would soon change, starting with Lambek's appearance at the 1985 Categorial Grammar conference in Tucson). What sets apart grammars of this kind (and their elaborations by Moortgat (1989), Oehrle et al. (1988), Morrill (1994), and many others), is the existence of rules for hypothetical proof (not given here), which allow a hypothesized category occurrence introduced into a tree (thought of as a proof) to be discharged.

In the Gentzen style of natural deduction (see Pollard 2013), hypothesized categories are written to the left of the symbol  $\vdash$  (turnstile), so that the two slash elimination rules above take the following form, where  $\Gamma$  and  $\Delta$  are lists of categories, and comma represents list concatenation as in (4):

$$(4) \quad \frac{\Gamma \vdash A \quad \Delta \vdash A \setminus B}{\Gamma, \Delta \vdash B} \quad \frac{\Gamma \vdash B/A \quad \Delta \vdash A}{\Gamma, \Delta \vdash B}$$

These rules serve to propagate hypotheses (analogous to linguists' traces) downward through the proof tree (downward because logicians' trees are upside down with the conclusion, or 'root', at the bottom). In HPSG notation, these same rules can be written as one rule (since SUBCAT is nondirectional) in (5):

$$(5) \quad \frac{B[\text{SUBCAT } \langle \dots, A \rangle, \text{SLASH } \Gamma] \quad A[\text{SLASH } \Delta]}{B[\text{SUBCAT } \langle \dots \rangle][\text{SLASH } \Gamma, \Delta]}$$

This in turn is a special case of an HPSG principle first known as the Binding Inheritance Principle (BIP) and later as the Nonlocal Feature Principle (binding features included SLASH as well as the features QUE and REL used for tracking undischarged interrogative and relative pronouns). The original statement of the BIP (Pollard 1986) treated SLASH as set- rather than list-valued:

The value of a binding feature on the mother is the union of the values of that feature on the daughters.

For example, the doubly-gapped VP in the violins-and-sonatas example in (1) is analyzed in HPSG roughly as is shown in Figure 1 and essentially the same way in Lambek-style CG:

$$(6) \quad \frac{\begin{array}{c} \text{play} \quad t \\ \vdash ((NP \setminus S)/PP)/NP \quad NP \vdash NP \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c} \text{on} \quad t \\ \vdash PP/NP \quad NP \vdash NP \end{array}}{\begin{array}{c} NP \vdash (NP \setminus S)/PP \\ NP \vdash PP \end{array}} \quad \frac{}{NP, NP \vdash (NP \setminus S)}$$

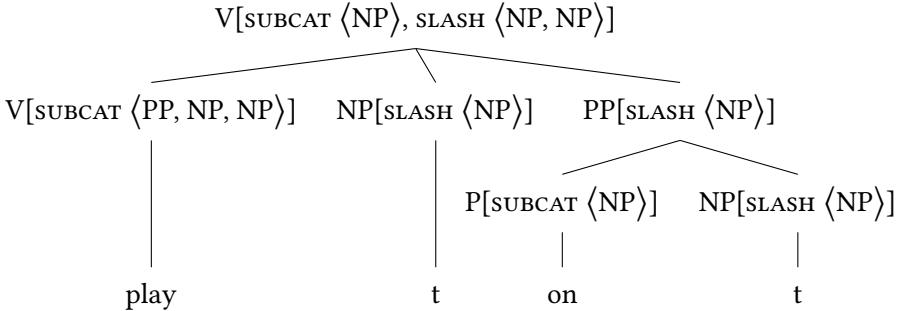


Figure 1: *play on* as part of *Violins this finely crafted, even the most challenging sonatas are easy to play on.*

Aside from the binary branching of the Lambek analysis, the main difference is that HPSG traces of the form  $A[\text{SLASH } \langle A \rangle]$  correspond to Lambek axioms of the form  $A \vdash A$ , which is the standard mechanism for introducing hypotheses in Gentzen-style natural deduction.

An overview and elaboration of early HPSG is provided by the two books [Pollard & Sag \(1987\)](#) and [Pollard & Sag \(1994\)](#). Confusingly, the former is called *Information-Based Syntax and Semantics, Volume 1: Fundamentals*, and the second simply *Head-Driven Phrase Structure Grammar* (not *Information-Based Syntax and Semantics, Volume 2*). The reason for the title change had to do with a change in the underlying mathematical theory of feature structures. In the first book, following work in theoretical computer science by [Rounds & Kasper \(1986\)](#) and [Moshier & Rounds \(1987\)](#), feature structures were treated as data structures that supplied partial information about the linguistic objects being theorized about; this perspective in turn was based on [Scott's \(1982\)](#) mathematical theory of computation in terms of what he called information systems. Subsequently, Paul King persuaded Pollard and Sag that it was more straightforward to distinguish between feature structures, thought of as formal models of the linguistic objects, and feature descriptions or formulas of feature logic, which provided partial information about them, as described in his Manchester dissertation ([King 1989](#)). Although the formal issues involved in distinguishing between the two approaches are of interest in their own right, they seem not to have had a lasting effect on how theoretical linguists used HPSG, nor on how computational linguists implemented it. As for subject matter, [Pollard & Sag \(1987\)](#) was limited to the most basic notions, including syntactic features and categories (including the distinction between head features and binding features); subcategorization

and the distinction between arguments and adjuncts (the latter of which necessitated one more rule schema beyond the three proposed by Pollard 1985); basic principles of grammar (especially the Head Feature Principle and the Subcategorization Principle); the obliqueness order and constituent ordering; and the organization of the lexicon by means of a multiple inheritance hierarchy and lexical rules. Pollard & Sag (1994) used HPSG to analyze a wide range of phenomena, primarily in English, that had figured prominently in the syntactic literature of the 1960s–1980s, including agreement, expletive pronoun constructions, raising, control, filler-gap constructions (including island constraints and parasitic gaps); so-called binding theory (the distribution of reflexive pronouns, nonreflexive pronouns, and non-pronominal NPs), and scope of quantificational NPs.

## 6 Theoretical Developments

Three decades of vigorous work since Pollard & Sag (1987) developing the theoretical framework of HPSG receive detailed discussion throughout the present volume, but we highlight here two significant stages in that development. The first is in Chapter 9 of Pollard & Sag (1994), where a pair of major revisions to the framework presented in the first eight chapters are adopted, changing the analysis of valence and of unbounded dependencies. Following Borsley (1987; 1988; 1989; 1990), Pollard and Sag moved to distinguish subjects from complements, and further to distinguish subjects from specifiers, thus replacing the single SUBCAT attribute with SUBJ, SPR, and COMPS. This formal distinction between subjects and complements enabled an improved analysis of unbounded dependencies, eliminating traces altogether by introducing three lexical rules for the extraction of subjects, complements, and adjuncts respectively. It is this revised analysis of valence constraints that came to be viewed as part of the standard HPSG framework, though issues of valence representation cross-linguistically remain a matter of robust debate.

The second notable stage of development was the introduction of a type hierarchy of *constructions* as descriptions of phrasal feature structures, employed first by Sag (1997) in a richly detailed analysis of a wide variety of relative clause phenomena in English. This extension from the lexicon of the use of descriptions of typed feature structures organized in hierarchies to syntactic rules preserved the ability to express general principles holding for rule schemata while also enabling expression of idiosyncratic properties of phrases. In Borsley & Abeillé (2019), Chapter 1 of this volume, the version of the framework with this extended use of types is termed *Construction-based HPSG*, including further elaboration by

Ginzburg & Sag (2000) to a comprehensive analysis of interrogatives in English.

## 7 The LinGO Project

In the early 1990s, a consortium of research centers in Germany secured funding from the German government for a large project in spoken language machine translation, called *Verbmobil* (Wahlster 2000), which aimed to combine a variety of methods and frameworks in a single implemented state-of-the-art demonstrator system. Grammars of German and English were to be implemented in HPSG, to be used both for parsing and for generation in the translation of human-human dialogues, with a German grammar initially implemented by Pollard and Tibor Kiss at IBM in Heidelberg, later replaced by one developed at the German AI Research Center (DFKI), coordinator for the *Verbmobil* project. The DFKI contracted in 1993 with Sag at CSLI to design and implement the English grammar, with Flickinger brought over from HP Labs to help lead the effort, forming a new research group at CSLI initially called ERGO (for English Resource Grammar Online), later generalized to the name LinGO (Linguistic Grammars Online). Early LinGO members included Wasow and linguistics graduate student Rob Malouf, who authored the initial implementation of the English Resource Grammar (ERG), along with four other linguistics graduate students, Emily Bender, Kathryn Campbell-Kibler, Tony Davis, and Susanne Riehemann.

During the first of the two four-year phases of the *Verbmobil* project, the focus was on designing and implementing core syntactic and semantic analyses, initially using the DISCO/PAGE platform (Uszkoreit et al. 1994) developed at the DFKI, and largely informed by the framework presented in Pollard & Sag (1994). However, a more computationally useful semantic formalism emerged, called Minimal Recursion Semantics (MRS: Copestake, Flickinger, Pollard & Sag 2005), which Ann Copestake, formerly of the European ACQUILEX project, helped to design. Copestake also expanded the LKB system (Copestake 2002) which had been used in ACQUILEX, to serve as the grammar development environment for the LinGO project, including both a parser and a generator for typed feature structure grammars.

The second four years of the *Verbmobil* project emphasized development of the generation capabilities of the ERG, along with steady expansion of linguistic coverage, and elaboration of the MRS framework. LinGO contributors in this phase included Sag, Wasow, Flickinger, Malouf, Copestake, Riehemann, and Bender, along with a regular visitor and steady contributor from the DFKI, Stephan Oepen. *Verbmobil* had meanwhile added Japanese alongside German (Müller &

Kasper 2000) and English (Flickinger, Copestate & Sag 2000) for more translation pairs, giving rise to another relatively broad-coverage HPSG grammar, Jacy, authored by Melanie Siegel at the DFKI (Siegel 2000). Work continued at the DFKI, of course, on the German HPSG grammar, written by Stefan Müller, adapted from his earlier Babel grammars (Müller 1999), and with semantics contributed by Walter Kasper.

Before the end of *Verbmobil* funding in 2000, the LinGO project had already begun to diversify into other application and research areas using the ERG, including over the next several years work on augmented/adaptive communication, multiword expressions, and hybrid processing with statistical methods, variously funded by the National Science Foundation, the Scottish government, and industrial partners including IBM and NTT. At the turn of the millenium, Flickinger joined the software start-up boom, co-founding YY Software funded through substantial venture capital to use the ERG for automated response to customer emails for e-commerce companies. YY produced the first commercially viable software system using an HPSG implementation, processing email content in English with the ERG and the PET parser (Callmeier 2000) which had been developed by Ulrich Callmeier at the DFKI, as well as in Japanese with Jacy, further developed by Siegel and by Bender. While technically capable, the product was not commercially successful enough to enable YY to survive the bursting of the dot-com bubble, and it closed down in 2003. Flickinger returned to the LinGO project with a considerably more robust ERG, and soon picked up the translation application thread again, this time using the ERG for generation in the LOGON Norwegian-English machine translation project (Lønning et al. 2004) based in Oslo.

## 8 Research and Teaching Networks

The first international conference on HPSG was held in 1993 in Columbus, Ohio, in conjunction with the Linguistic Society of America's Summer Institute. The conference has been convened every year since then, with locations in Europe, Asia, and North America. Two of these annual meetings have been held jointly with the annual Lexical Functional Grammar conference, in 2000 in Berkeley and in 2016 in Warsaw. Proceedings of these conferences since 2000 are available on-line from CSLI Publications.<sup>3</sup> Since 2003, HPSG researchers in Europe have frequently held a regional workshop in Bremen, Berlin, Frankfurt, or Paris,

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<sup>3</sup><http://csli-publications.stanford.edu/HPSG/>, 2018-08-21.

annually since 2012, to foster informal discussion of current work in HPSG. These follow in the footsteps of European HPSG workshops starting with one on German grammar, held in Saarbrücken in 1991, and including others in Edinburgh and Copenhagen in 1994, and in Tübingen in 1995.

In 1994, the HPSG mailing list was initiated,<sup>4</sup> and from 1996 to 1998, the electronic newsletter, the HPSG Gazette,<sup>5</sup> was distributed through the list, with its function then taken over by the HPSG mailing list.

Courses introducing HPSG to students became part of the curriculum during the late 1980s and early 1990s at universities in Osaka, Paris, Saarbrücken, Seoul, and Tübingen, along with Stanford and OSU. Additional courses came to be offered in Bochum, Bremen, Carnegie-Mellon, Göttingen, Heidelberg, Jena, Leuven, Potsdam, and the University of Washington. Summer courses and workshops on HPSG have also been offered since the early 1990s at the LSA Summer Institute in the U.S., including a course by Sag and Pollard on binding and control in 1991 in Santa Cruz, and at the European Summer School in Logic, Language and Information (ESSLLI), including a course by Pollard in Saarbrücken in 1991 on HPSG, a workshop in Colchester in 1992 on HPSG, a workshop in Prague in 1996 on Romance (along with two HPSG-related student papers at the first-ever ESSLLI student session), and courses in 1998 in Saarbrücken on Germanic syntax, grammar engineering, and unification-based formalisms, in 2001 on HPSG syntax, in 2003 on linearization grammars, and more since. Also in 2001, a Scandinavian summer school on constraint-based grammar was held in Trondheim.

Several HPSG textbooks have been published, including at least [Borsley \(1991; 1996\)](#), [Sag & Wasow \(1999\)](#), [Sag, Wasow & Bender \(2003\)](#), [Müller \(2007a; 2013a\)](#), [Müller \(2016\)](#), [Kim \(2016\)](#), and [Levine \(2017\)](#).

## 9 Implementations and Applications of HPSG

The first implementation of a grammar in the HPSG framework emerged in the Hewlett-Packard Labs natural language project, for English, with a lexical type hierarchy ([Flickinger, Pollard & Wasow 1985](#)), a set of grammar rules that provided coverage of core syntactic phenomena including unbounded dependencies and coordination, and a semantic component called Natural Language Logic ([Laubsch & Nerbonne 1991](#)). The corresponding parser for this grammar was implemented in Lisp ([Proudian & Pollard 1985](#)), as part of a system called HP-NL ([Nerbonne](#)

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<sup>4</sup>Its archives can be found at <https://hpsg.hu-berlin.de/HPSG/MailingList>.

<sup>5</sup><http://www.sfs.uni-tuebingen.de/~gazette>, 2018-08-21.

& Proudian 1987) which provided a natural language interface for querying relational databases. The grammar and parser were shelved when HP Labs terminated their natural language project in 1991, leading Sag and Flickinger to begin the LinGO project and development of the English Resource Grammar at Stanford.

By this time, grammars in HPSG were being implemented in university research groups for several other languages, using a variety of parsers and engineering platforms for processing typed feature structure grammars. Early platforms included the DFKI's DISCO system (Uszkoreit et al. 1994) with a parser and graphical development tools, which evolved to the PAGE system; the ALE system (Franz 1990; Carpenter & Penn 1996), which evolved in Tübingen to TRALE (Meurers et al. 2002; Penn 2004); and Ann Copestake's LKB (Copestake 2002) which grew out of the ACQUILEX project. Other early systems included ALEP within the Eurotra project (Simpkins & Groenendijk 1994), ConTroll at Tübingen (Götz & Meurers 1997), CUF at IMS in Stuttgart (Dörre & Dorna 1993), CL-ONE at Edinburgh (Manandhar 1994), TFS also at IMS (Emele 1994), ProFIT at the University of Saarland (Erbach 1995), Babel at Humboldt University in Berlin (Müller 1996), and HDDrug at Groningen (van Noord & Bouma 1997).

Relatively early broad-coverage grammar implementations in HPSG, in addition to the English Resource Grammar at Stanford (Flickinger 2000), included one for German at the DFKI (Müller & Kasper 2000) and one for Japanese (Jacy: Siegel 2000), all used in the *Verbmobil* machine translation project; a separate German grammar (Müller 1996; 1999); a Dutch grammar in Groningen (Bouma, van Noord & Malouf 2001); and a separate Japanese grammar in Tokyo (Miyao et al. 2005). Moderately large HPSG grammars were also developed during this period for Korean (Kim & Yang 2003) and for Polish (Mykowiecka, Marcinia, Przepiórkowski & Kupś 2003).

In 1999, research groups at the DFKI, Stanford, and Tokyo set up a consortium called DELPH-IN (Initiative for Deep Linguistic Processing in HPSG), to foster broader development of both grammars and platform components, described in Oepen, Flickinger, Tsujii & Uszkoreit (2002). Over the next two decades, substantial DELPH-IN grammars were developed for Norwegian (Hellan & Haugereid 2003), Portuguese (Branco & Costa 2010), and Spanish (Marimon 2010), along with moderate-coverage grammars for Bulgarian (Osenova 2011), Greek (Kordoni & Neu 2005), Hausa (Crysmann 2012), Hebrew (Arad Greshler, Herzog Sheinfux, Melnik & Wintner 2015), Indonesian (Moeljadi et al. 2015), Mandarin Chinese (Fan et al. 2015), Thai, and Wambaya (Bender 2008), all described at <http://delph-in.net>. Several of these grammars are based on the Grammar Matrix (Bender,

Flickinger & Oepen 2002), a starter kit generalized from the ERG and Jacy for rapid prototyping of HPSG grammars, along with a much larger set of course-work grammars.<sup>6</sup> Out of this work has grown the linguistically rich Grammar Matrix customization system (Bender, Drellishak, Fokkens, Poulsen & Saleem 2010), a set of libraries of phenomena enabling a grammar developer to complete a questionnaire about characteristics of a language to obtain a more effectively customized starting grammar.

Broad-coverage grammars developed in the TRALE system (Meurers et al. 2002; Penn 2004) include German (Müller 2007a), Danish (Müller & Ørsnes 2013), and Persian (Müller 2010). Other TRALE grammars include Mandarin Chinese (Müller & Lipenkova 2013), Georgian (Abzianidze 2011), Maltese (Müller 2009), Spanish (Machicao y Priemer 2015), and Yiddish (Müller & Ørsnes 2011). Development of grammars in TRALE is supported by the Grammix system (Müller 2007b); Müller (2015) provides a summary of this family of grammar implementations.

These grammars and systems have been used in a wide variety of applications, primarily as vehicles for research in computational linguistics, but also for some commercial software products. Research applications already mentioned include database query (HP Labs) and machine translation (Verbmobil and LOGON), with additional applications developed for use in anthology search (Schäfer, Kiefer, Spurk, Steffen & Wang 2011), grammar tutoring in Norwegian (Hellan, Bruland, Aamot & Sandøy 2013), ontology acquisition (Herbelot & Copestake 2006), virtual robot control (Packard 2014), visual question answering (Kuhnle & Copestake 2017), and logic instruction (Flickinger 2017), among many others. Commercial applications include e-commerce customer email response (for YY Software), and grammar correction in education (for Redbird Advanced Learning, now part of McGraw-Hill Education: Suppes, Flickinger, Macken, Cook & Liang 2012). See Bender & Emerson (2019), Chapter 28 of this volume for further discussion.

For most practical applications, some approximate solution to the challenge of parse selection (disambiguation) must be provided, so developers of several of the DELPH-IN grammars, including the ERG, follow the approach of Oepen, Flickinger, Toutanova & Manning (2004), which uses a manually-annotated treebank of sentences parsed by a grammar to train a statistical model which is applied at run-time to identify the most likely analysis for each parsed sentence. These treebanks can also serve as repositories of the analyses intended by the grammarian for the sentences of a corpus, and some resources, notably the Alpino Treebank (Bouma, van Noord & Malouf 2001), include analyses which the gram-

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<sup>6</sup><http://moin.delph-in.net/MatrixTop>, 2018-08-21.

mar may not yet be able to produce automatically.

## 10 Prospects

As we noted early in this chapter, HPSG’s origins are rooted in the desire simultaneously to address the theoretical concerns of linguists and the practical issues involved in building a useful natural language processing system. In the decades since the birth of HPSG, the mainstream of work in both theoretical linguistics and NLP developed in ways that could not have been anticipated at the time. NLP is now dominated by statistical methods, with almost all practical applications making use of machine learning technologies. It is hard to see any influence of research by linguists in most NLP systems, though periodic workshops have helped to keep the conversation going.<sup>7</sup> Mainstream grammatical theory, on the other hand, is now dominated by the Minimalist Program (MP), which is too vaguely formulated for a rigorous comparison with HPSG.<sup>8</sup> Concern with computational implementation plays virtually no role in MP research; see Müller (2016) for a discussion.

It might seem, therefore, that HPSG is further from the mainstream of both fields than it was at its inception, raising questions about how realistic the objectives of HPSG are. We believe, however, that there are grounds for optimism.

With regard to implementations, there is no incompatibility between the use of HPSG and the machine learning methods of mainstream NLP. Indeed, as noted above, HPSG-based systems that have been put to practical use have necessarily included components induced via statistical methods from annotated corpora. Without such components, the systems cannot deal with the full variety of forms encountered in usage data. On the other hand, existing NLP systems that rely solely on machine learning from corpora do not exhibit anything that can reasonably be called understanding of natural language. Current technologies for machine translation, automatic summarization, and various other linguistic tasks fall far short of what humans do on these tasks, and are useful primarily as tools to speed up the tasks for the humans carrying them out. Many NLP researchers are beginning to recognize that developing software that can plausibly be said

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<sup>7</sup>For example, one on “Building Linguistically Generalizable NLP Systems” at the 2017 EMNLP conference in Copenhagen, and one on “Relevance of Linguistic Structure in Neural NLP” at the 2018 ACL conference in Melbourne.

<sup>8</sup>Most work in MP is presented without precise definitions of the technical apparatus, but Edward Stabler and his collaborators have written a number of papers aimed at formalizing MP. See in particular Collins & Stabler (2016).

to understand language will require representations of linguistic structure and meaning like those that are the stock in trade of linguists. See [Bender, Flickinger, Oepen, Packard & Copestake \(2015\)](#) for more discussion on sentence meaning.

Evidence for a renewed interest in linguistics among NLP researchers is the fact that major technology companies with natural language groups have recently begun (or in some cases, resumed) hiring linguists, and increasing numbers of new linguistics PhDs have taken jobs in the software industry.

In the domain of theoretical linguistics, it is arguable that the distance between HPSG and the mainstream of grammatical research (that is, MP) has narrowed, given that both crucially incorporate ideas from Categorial Grammar (see [Re-toré & Stabler 2004](#), [Berwick & Epstein 1995](#), and [Müller 2013b](#) for comparisons between MP and CG). Rather than trying to make that argument, however, we will point to connections that HPSG has made with other work in theoretical linguistics. Perhaps the most obvious of these is the work of Peter Culicover and Ray Jackendoff on what they call *Simpler Syntax*. Their influential 2005 book with that title ([Culicover & Jackendoff 2005](#)) argues for a theory of grammar that differs little in its architecture and motivations from HPSG.

More interesting are the connections that have been forged between research in HPSG and work in Construction Grammar (CxG). [Fillmore \(1988: 36\)](#) characterizes the notion of *construction* as “any syntactic pattern which is assigned one or more conventional functions in a language, together with whatever is linguistically conventionalized about its contribution to the meaning or use of structures containing it.” Among the examples that construction grammarians have described at length are *the Xer, the Yer* (as in *the older I get, the longer I sleep*), *X let alone Y* (as in *I barely got up in time to eat lunch, let alone cook breakfast*), and *What’s X doing Y?* (as in *What’s this scratch doing in the table?*). As noted above and in [Müller \(2019\)](#), Chapter 36 of this volume, HPSG has incorporated the notion of construction since at least the late 1990s.

Nevertheless, work that labels itself CxG tends to look very different from HPSG. This is in part because of the difference in their origins: many proponents of CxG come from the tradition of Cognitive Grammar or typological studies, whereas HPSG’s roots are in computational concerns. Hence, most of the CxG literature is not precise enough to allow a straightforward comparison with HPSG, though the variants called Embodied Construction Grammar and Fluid Construction Grammar have more in common with HPSG; see [Müller \(2017\)](#) for a comparison. In the last years of his life, Ivan Sag sought to unify CxG and HPSG through collaboration with construction grammarians from the University of California at Berkeley, particularly Charles Fillmore, Paul Kay, and Laura Michaelis.

They developed a theory called *Sign-Based Construction Grammar* (SBCG), which would combine the insights of CxG with the explicitness of HPSG. Sag (2012: 70) wrote, “To readers steeped in HPSG theory, SBCG will no doubt seem like a minor variant of constructional HPSG.” Indeed, despite the name change, the main feature of SBCG that differs from HPSG is that it posits an inheritance hierarchy of constructs, which includes feature structure descriptions for such partially lexicalized multi-word expressions as *Ved X’s way PP*, instantiated in such VPs as *ad-libbed his way through a largely secret meeting*. While this is a non-trivial extension to HPSG, there is no fundamental change to the technical machinery. In fact, it has been a part of the LinGO implementation for many years.

That said, there is one important theoretical issue that divides HPSG and SBCG from much other work in CxG. That issue is locality. To constrain the formal power of the theory, and to facilitate computational tractability, SBCG adopts what Sag (2012: 150) calls “Constructional Localism” and describes it as follows: “Constructions license mother-daughter configurations without reference to embedding or embedded contexts.” That is, like phrase structure rules, constructions must be characterized in terms of a mother node and its immediate daughters. At first glance, this seems to rule out analyses of many of the examples of constructions provided in the CxG literature. But Sag (2012: 150) goes on to say, “Constructional Localism does not preclude an account of nonlocal dependencies in grammar, it simply requires that all such dependencies be locally encoded in signs in such a way that information about a distal element can be accessed locally at a higher level of structure.”

Fillmore (1988: 35) wrote:

Construction grammars differ from phrase-structure grammars which use *complex symbols* and allow the *transmission of information* between lower and higher structural units, in that we allow the direct representation of the required properties of subordinate constituents. (Should it turn out that there are completely general principles for predicting the kinds of information that get transmitted upwards or downwards, this may not be a real difference.) (Fillmore 1988: 35)

SBCG is committed to the position alluded to in the parenthetical sentence in this quote, namely, that general principles of information transmission within sentences makes it possible to insist on Constructional Localism. See Müller (2019), Chapter 36 of this volume for a much more detailed discussion, and Van Eynde (2015) for a review of the 2012 SBCG book.

Finally, another point of convergence between work in HPSG and other work in both theoretical linguistics and NLP is the increasing importance of corpus

data. In the early years of the HP NLP project, the methodology was the same as that employed in almost all work in theoretical syntax and semantics: the grammar was based entirely on examples invented by the researchers. At one point during the decade of the HP NLP project, Flickinger, Pullum, and Wasow compiled a list of sentences intended to exemplify many of the sentence types that they hoped the system would eventually be able to analyze. That list, 1328 sentences long, continues to be useful as a test suite for the ERG, and is also used by various other NLP groups. But it does not come close to covering the variety of sentence forms that are found in corpora of speech and various written genres. As the goals of the HPSG implementations have broadened from database query to dealing with “language in the wild”, the use of corpora to test such systems and motivate extensions to them has increased. This parallels a development in other areas of linguistics, which have also increasingly made use of large on-line corpora as sources of data and tests of their theories. This is a trend that we expect will continue.

In short, there are signs of convergence between work on HPSG and work in other areas, and it seems plausible to think that the market for HPSG research will grow in the future.

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# Chapter 3

## Formal Background

Frank Richter

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### 1 Introduction

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## **Abbreviations**

## **Acknowledgements**

## Chapter 4

# The nature and role of the lexicon in HPSG

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This chapter discusses the critical role the lexicon plays in HPSG and the approach to lexical knowledge that is specific to HPSG. We describe the tenets of lexicalism in general, and discuss the nature and content of lexical entries in HPSG. As a lexicalist theory, HPSG treats lexical entries as informationally rich, representing the combinatorial properties of words as well as their part of speech, phonology, and semantics. Thus many phenomena receive a lexically-based account, including some that go beyond what is typically regarded as lexical. We turn next to the global structure of the HPSG lexicon, the hierarchical lexicon and inheritance. We show how the extensive type hierarchy employed in HPSG accounts for lexical generalizations at various levels and discuss some of the advantages of default (nonmonotonic) inheritance over simple monotonic inheritance. We then describe lexical rules and their various proposed uses in HPSG, comparing them to alternative approaches to relate lexemes and words based on the same root or stem.

## 1 Introduction

The nature, structure, and role of the lexicon in the grammar of natural languages has been a subject of debate for at least the last 50 years. For some, the lexicon is a prison that “contains only the lawless”, to borrow a memorable phrase from Di Sciullo & Williams (1987: 3), and not much of interest resides there. In some recent views, the lexicon records merely phonological information and some world knowledge about each lexical entry (see Marantz 1997). All of the action is in the



syntax, save the expression of complex syntactic objects as inflected words. In contrast, lexicalist theories of grammar, and HPSG in particular, posit a rich and complex lexicon embodying much of grammatical knowledge.

This chapter has two principal goals. One is to review the arguments for and against a lexicalist view of grammar within the generative tradition. The other is to survey the HPSG implementation of lexicalism. In regard to the first goal, we begin with the reaction to Generative Semantics, and note developments that led to lexicalist theories of grammar such as Lexical Functional Grammar (LFG) and then HPSG. Central to these developments was the argument that lexical processes, rather than transformational ones, provided more perspicuous accounts of derivational morphological processes. The same kinds of arguments then naturally extended to phenomena like passivization, which had previously been treated as syntactic. Once on this path, lexical treatments of other prototypically syntactic phenomena – long distance extraction, *wh*-movement, word order, and anaphoric binding – were advanced as well, with HPSG playing a leading role.

But this does not mean that opposition to lexicalism melted away. Both Minimalism, and in particular Distributed Morphology (Bruening 2018; Marantz 1997) and Construction Grammar (Goldberg 1995; Tomasello 2003; van Trijp 2011) claim that lexicalist accounts fail in various ways. We discuss some of these current issues, including the apparent occurrence of syntactically complex structures in the lexicon, word-internal ellipsis, and endoclitics, each of which poses challenges for those who advocate a strict separation between lexical and syntactic processes. While we maintain that the anti-lexicalist arguments are not especially strong, and the phenomena they are based on somewhat marginal, we acknowledge that these questions are not yet settled. We then turn to the specifics of the lexicon as modeled within HPSG. Lexicalism demands, of course, that lexical entries be informationally rich, encoding not merely idiosyncratic properties of a single lexical item like its phonology and semantics, but also more general characteristics like its combinatorial possibilities. We outline what HPSG lexical entries must contain, and how that information is represented. This leads naturally to the next topic: with so much information in a lexical entry, and so much of that repeated in similar ones, how is massive redundancy avoided? The hierarchical lexicon, in which individual lexical entries are the leaves of a multiple inheritance hierarchy, is a core component of HPSG. Types throughout the hierarchy capture information common to classes of lexical entries, thereby allowing researchers to express generalizations at various levels. Just as all verbs share certain properties, all transitive verbs, all verbs of caused motion, and all transitive

verbs of caused motion share additional properties, represented as constraints on types within the hierarchy. We draw on examples from linking, gerunds, and passive constructions as illustrations, but many others could be added.

Constraints specified on types in the hierarchy are deemed to be inherited by their subtypes, but monotonic inheritance of this kind runs into vexing issues. Most obviously, there are irregular morphological forms; any attempt to represent, say, the phonology of English plurals as a constraint on a plural noun class in the hierarchical lexicon must then explain why the plural of *child* is *children* and not *\*childs*. Beyond this simple example, there are ubiquitous cases of lexical generalizations that are true by default, but not always. Various mechanisms for modeling default inheritance have therefore been one focus within HPSG, and we furnish an example of their use in modeling the properties of gerunds in English and other languages.

Finally, we discuss lexical rules and their alternatives. Along with the “vertical” relationships between classes of lexical entries modeled by types and their subtypes in the hierarchical lexicon, there is a need for “horizontal” relationships between lexical entries that are based on a single root or stem, such as forms of inflectional paradigms. Yet formalizing lexical rules adequately within HPSG has proven surprisingly difficult; specifying just what information is preserved and what is changed by a lexical rule is one prominent issue. We conclude this chapter by describing alternatives to lexical rules. One is to appropriately underspecify properties of lexical entries so that they cover all relevant variants of a single lexeme or word. The second augments the type hierarchy via online type construction, extending the predefined lexical types specified in the hierarchy to include “virtual types” that combine the information from multiple predefined types.

## 2 Lexicalism

### 2.1 Lexicalism and the origins of HPSG

Lexicalism began as a reaction to Generative Semantics, which treated any regularity in the structure of words (derivational patterns, broadly speaking) as only epiphenomenally a matter of word structure and underlyingly as a matter of syntactic structure (see Lakoff 1970, among others). In the Generative Semantics view, all grammatical regularities are a matter of syntax (much of it, in fact, logical syntax). Chomsky (1970) presented many arguments that lexical knowledge differs qualitatively from syntactic knowledge and should be modeled dif-

ferently. Jackendoff (1975) is an explicit model of lexical knowledge that follows Chomsky's insights, although it focuses exclusively on derivational morphological processes. The main insight that Jackendoff formalizes is that relations between stems and relations between words (say, between *destruct* and *destruction*) are to be modeled not via a generative device but through a redundancy mechanism that measures the relative complexity of a lexicon where these relations are present or not present (the idea is that a lexicon where *construct* and *construction* are related is simpler than one where they are not). Bochner (1993) is the most formalized and detailed version of this approach to lexical relations. Lexicalist approaches, including LFG and HPSG, took their lead from Jackendoff's work. LFG has relied heavily on treating relations between stems and between words as lexical rules, rather than the kind of generative devices that one finds in syntax. But, as accounts of linguistic phenomena in LFG focused increasingly on the lexicon, the question of whether lexical rules retain the character of redundancy rules or turn into yet another kind of generative device arose. Consequently, the necessity of lexical rules has been questioned as well (see Koenig & Jurafsky 1994 and Koenig 1999: 29–49 for potential issues that arise once lexical rules are assumed to be involved in the creation of new lexical items).

Lexicalism, at least within HPSG, embodies two distinct ideas. First is the idea that parts of words are invisible to syntactic operations (*lexical integrity*, see Bresnan & Mchombo 1995), so that relations between stems and between word forms cannot be the result of or follow syntactic operations, as in Distributed Morphology (Halle & Marantz 1993), or other linguistic models that assign no special status to the notion of word. Relations between words are therefore not modeled via syntactic operations (hence the appeal to Jackendoff's lexical rules). Second is the idea that the occurrence of a lexical head in distinct syntactic contexts arises from distinct variants of words. For instance, the fact that the verb *expect* can occur both with a finite clause and an NP+VP sequence (see (2) vs. (1)) means that there are two variants of the verb *expect*, one that subcategorizes for a finite clause and one where it subcategorizes for an NP+VP sequence.<sup>1</sup> Not all lexicalist theories, though, cash out these two distinct ideas the same way. The net effect of lexicalism within HPSG is that words and phrases are put together via distinct sets of constructions and that words are syntactic atoms. These two assumptions justify positing two kinds of signs, *phrasal-sign* and *lexical-sign*, and go hand in

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<sup>1</sup>As this chapter is an overview of the approach to lexical knowledge HPSG embodies rather than a description of particular HPSG analyses of phenomena, we will sample liberally from various illustrative examples and simplify whenever possible the analyses so that readers can see the forest and not get lost in the trees.

hand with the surface-oriented character of HPSG and what one might call a principle of surface combinatorics: if expression A consists of the concatenation of B and C ( $B \oplus C$ ), then all grammatical constraints that make reference to B and C are circumscribed to A.

- (1) I expected that he would leave yesterday.
- (2) I expected him to leave yesterday.

An evident concern regarding this view of the lexicon is the potential proliferation of lexical items, replete with redundant information. Will it be necessary to specify all the information in these two items for *expect* without regard for the large amount of duplication between them? Will the same duplication be needed for the verb *hope*, which patterns similarly (but not quite identically)? How will somewhat similar verbs, such as *imagine*, *suppose*, and *anticipate* which allow finite complements but not infinitive ones, be represented? We will describe HPSG's solutions to these questions below, in our discussion of the hierarchical lexicon. First, however, we turn to recent arguments against lexicalism, and then discuss in more detail just what kinds of information should be in HPSG lexical items.

## 2.2 Recent challenges to lexicalism

As there have been several challenges to lexicalism (see Bruening 2018 and Haspelmath 2011 among others for some recent challenges), we now explore lexicalism and lexical integrity in HPSG in more detail. We first note that lexicalism does not imply that word and phrase formation are necessarily different “components” as is often claimed (see Marantz 1997, Bruening 2018). Some lexicalist approaches *do* assume that word formation and phrase building belong to two different components of a language’s grammar (this is certainly true of Jackendoff 1975), but they need not. Within HPSG, there are approaches that treat every sign-formation (be it word-internal or word-external) as resulting from typed mother-daughter configurations: this is the hypothesis pursued in Koenig 1999, and is also the approach frequently taken in implementations of large-scale grammars where lexical rules are modeled as unary-branching trees; see the English Resource Grammar (Copstake 2002) and the grammars developed in the Core-Gram project (Müller 2015) (see Mueller2018 for a similar point in his response to Bruening’s paper). Furthermore, recent approaches to inflectional morphology within HPSG model realizational rules through the very same tools the rest of a language’s grammar uses (see Crysmann & Bonami 2016 and Crysmann

2019, Chapter 22 of this volume). There are also approaches to phrases where the same analytical tools developed to model lexical knowledge (see Section 4) are employed to model phrase-structural constructions (see Sag’s 1997 analysis of relative clauses, for example). So, both in terms of the formal devices and in terms of analytical tools used to model datasets, words and phrases can be treated the same way in HPSG (although they need not be). Somewhat ironically, and despite claims to the contrary, word formation in the syntactocentric approach Marantz or Bruening advocates *does* make use of distinct formal machinery to model word formation, namely realizational rules as well as various readjustment rules, as well as fusion and fission rules, to model inflectional morphology (see Halle & Marantz 1993; Embick 2015).

With this red herring out of the way, we concentrate on the two most important challenges Bruening (2018) and Haspelmath (2011) present to lexicalist views. The first challenge are cases of phrasal syntax feeding the lexicon, purportedly exemplified by sentences such as (3).

- (3) I gave her a don’t-you-dare! look. (example (1a) in Bruening 2018)

We can provisionally accept for the sake of argument Bruening’s contention that *don’t-you-dare!* is a word in (3), despite its reliance on the (unjustified) assumption that the secondary object in (3) involves N-N compounding rather than an AP N structure (we refer readers to Bresnan & Mchombo 1995 or Mueller 2018 for counter-arguments to Bruening’s claim). Crucially, though, examples such as (3) have no bearing on HPSG’s model of lexical knowledge, as HPSG-style lexicalism does not preclude constructions that form words from phrases. Nothing, as far as we know, rules out constructions of the form *stem/word → phrase* in HPSG. The two assumptions underlying the HPSG brand of lexicalism we mentioned above do not preclude a *lexical-sign* having a *phrasal-sign* as sole daughter (although we do not know of any HPSG work that exploits this possibility) and examples such as (3) are simply irrelevant to whether HPSG’s lexicalist stance is empirically correct.

The second challenge to lexicalism presented in Bruening (2018) bears more directly on HPSG’s assumption that words are syntactic atoms. Word-internal conjunction/ellipsis examples, illustrated in (4) (adapted from Bruening’s (31a), p. 14), seem to violate the assumption that syntactic constraints cannot “see” the internal structure of words, as ellipsis in these kinds of examples seems to have access to the internal part of the word *over-application*. In fact, though, such examples do not violate lexical integrity if one enriches the representation of composite words (to borrow a term from Anderson 1992) to include a represen-

tation of their internal phonological parts as proposed in Chaves (2008; 2014).

(4) Over- and under-application of stress rules plagues Jim's analysis.

Chaves' analysis assumes that the phonology of compound words and words that contain affixoids (to borrow a term from Booij 2005) is structured. The MorphoPhonology or MP attribute of words (and phrases) is a list of phonological forms and morphs information. The MP of compound words and words that contain affixoids includes a separate member for each member of the compound, or for the affixoid and stem. Thus in (4), the MPS of *overapplication* and *underapplication* each contain two elements: one for *over/under*, and one for *application*. Given this enriched representation of the morphophonology of words like *under/overapplication*, a single ellipsis rule can apply both to phrases and to composite words, eliding the second member of the word *overapplication*'s MP. As Chaves (p. 304) makes clear, such an analysis is fully compatible with lexical integrity, as there is no access to the internal structure of composite words, only to the (enriched) morphophonology of the entire word.

Haspelmath (2011) similarly challenges the view that syntactic processes may not access the internal structure of words, although Haspelmath's point is merely that what is a word is cross-linguistically unclear. So-called suspended affixation in Turkish (see (5)) also shows that word parts can be elided. We cannot discuss here whether Chaves' analysis can be extended to cases like (5) where suffixes are seemingly elided or whether lexical sharing (where a single word can be the daughter of two c-structure nodes à la McCawley 1982), as proposed in Broadwell (2008), is needed.

- (5) kedi ve köpek-ler-im-e  
 cat and dog-PL-1SG-DAT  
 'to my cat(s) and dogs'

What is important for current purposes is that these putative challenges to lexical integrity such as (4) or (5) do not necessarily render a substantive version of it implausible. The same is true of another potential challenge to lexical integrity which neither Bruening nor Haspelmath discuss, endoclitics, which we turn to next.

Endoclitics are clitics that at least appear to be situated within a word, rather than immediately preceding or following it, as clitics often do (Crysman & Penn 2019, Chapter 11 of this volume). In many cases, endoclitics appear at morphological boundaries, as in the well-studied pronominal clitics of European Portuguese

(Crysman 2001). An approach similar to what we have referenced above for composite words and elided morphology may extend to these as well. But some trickier cases have also come to light, in which the clitic appears within a morpheme, not at a boundary. Two of the best documented cases come from the Northeast Caucasian language Udi (Harris 2000) (see (6)) and from Pashto (Tegey 1977; Roberts 2000; Dost 2007) (see (7)).

- (6) q'ačay-y-on bez tänginax baš=q'un-q'-e  
thief-PL-ERG my money.DAT steal<sub>1</sub>-3PL-steal<sub>2</sub>-AORII  
'Thieves stole my money.' (root *bašq'*, 'steal') (Harris, op.cit., (18))
- (7) a. təlwahá=me  
push.IMPF.PST.3SG-cl.1SG  
'I was pushing it.' (from Tegey 1977; Dost 2007)
- b. təl=me-wahə  
push<sub>1</sub>-cl.1SG-push<sub>2</sub>.PF.PST.3SG  
'I pushed it.' (from Tegey 1977; Dost 2007)

In these cases, as with clitics in general, there is a clash between the phonological criteria for wordhood, under which the clitics would be regarded as incorporated within words, and the syntactic constituency and semantic compositionality. But what makes these particularly odd is that these clitics are situated word-internally, even morpheme-internally. Udi subject agreement clitics such as *q'un* in (6) typically attach to a focused constituent, which can be a noun, a questioned constituent, or a negation particle as well as a verb (Harris 2000). Under certain conditions, as in (6), none of these options is available or permitted, and the clitic is inserted before the final consonant of the verb root, dividing it in two pieces, neither of which has any independent morphological status. Its position in this instance is apparently phonologically determined; it cannot appear word-finally or word-initially, and as there is no morphological boundary within the word it must therefore appear within the monomorphemic root. Pashto clitics seek "second position", whether at the phrasal, morphological, or phonological level; *me* in (7) appears to be situated after the first stressed syllable (or metrical foot), which, in the case of (7b), also divides the verb into two parts that lack any independent morphological status.

If clitics are viewed as a syntactic phenomenon ("phrasal affixes", as Anderson 2005 puts it), these endoclitics must "see" into the internal structure of words (be it morphological, prosodic, or something else), thereby seemingly violating

lexical integrity. Anderson's brief account invokes a reranking of optimality theoretic constraints from their typical ordering, whereby the clitic's positional requirements outrank lexical integrity requirements. Crysman (2000) proposes an analysis, paralleling in many respects his account of European Portuguese clitics in Crysman (2001), using Reape's constituent order domains (Reape 1994) and, in particular, Kathol's topological fields (Kathol 1999) (see Müller (2019a), Chapter 10 of this volume). The "morphosyntactic paradox" in Udi, to borrow a phrase from Crysman (2002), is effectively "resolved on the basis of discontinuous lexical items"; this account then "parallels HPSG's representation of syntactic discontinuity" (Crysman 2000), (Müller 2019a, Chapter 10 of this volume).

For Pashto, researchers generally agree that the notion of second position is crucial, but that it can be defined at various levels – phrasal, lexical, and phonological. In this last case, clitics can appear within a word following the first metrical unit, as illustrated above (chapters/phonology Chapter ?? of this volume). Dost (2007) invokes the mechanisms of word order domains (Reape 1994) and topological fields (Kathol 1999) at these various levels to account for this distribution of clitics. In this analysis, some words contain more than one order domain at the prosodic level. Lexical integrity is preserved to the extent that, while domains at the prosodic level are "visible" to clitics in Pashto, syntactic processes do not reference the internal makeup of words.

Still, these accounts of endoclitics in Udi and Pashto appear to breach the wall of the strictest kind of lexical integrity, as they require access to some of the internal structure of lexical entries through a partial decomposition of their morphophonology into distinct order domains. Yet we would not wish to advocate models that permit unconstrained violations of lexical integrity, either. The troublesome cases we have noted here are relatively marginal or cross-linguistically rare; they seem to be limited in scope to prosodic or morphophonological information (e.g., ellipsis, insertion). As Broadwell (2008) points out when comparing possible analyses of Turkish suspended affixation, rejecting lexicalism altogether may lead to an unconstrained theory of the interaction between words/stems and phrases and incorrect predictions (e.g., that all affixes in Turkish can be suspended). Likewise, we would not expect to find a language in which endoclitic positioning is utterly unconstrained or where syntactic operations are sensitive to the fact that *anticonstitutional* is based on the nominal root *constitution*, or where coordination of affixes is always possible. Rejecting lexicalism begs the question of why such languages do not seem to exist, why what is visible to syntactic operations of the internal structure of words (morphophonological structure) is so restricted or why even that kind of morphophonological visibility is

so rare (particular affixoids and endoclitics, say).

### 3 Lexical entries in HPSG

#### 3.1 What are lexical entries?

Because lexical entries or items (the terms are used interchangeably, it seems, within the HPSG literature) play a central role in accounting for the syntax of natural languages, lexical entries are informationally rich in HPSG. An additional consequence of HPSG’s lexicalist stance is that there will be many lexical entries where one might at first glance expect a single entry. We will see below how HPSG handles multiple entries and classes of entries while avoiding redundancy, but it is important at the outset to clarify what a lexical entry is in HPSG. One misunderstanding about lexical entries conflates descriptions and the entities they describe, or, in other words, fails to distinguish between constructions in the abstract and a particular word or phrase (i.e., a lexical entry vs. a fully instantiated lexeme). As **chapters/formalbackground** Chapter ?? of this volume makes explicit, grammars in HPSG consist of *descriptions* of structures, and the lexicon thus consists of descriptions of what a fully specified lexeme or word can be. To see the importance of the distinction between descriptions (stored entries) and the fully instantiated objects that are being described, consider HPSG’s model of subcategorization with reference to the relevant portion of the tree for sentence (1). HPSG’s model of the dependency between heads and complements stipulates identity between the syntactic and semantic information of each complement (the value of the SYNSEM attribute) and a member of the list of complements the head subcategorizes for. Since there are indefinitely many SYNSEM values, on the assumption that there are indefinitely many clausal meanings (a point Jackend-off 1990: 8–9 emphasizes), there are, in principle, indefinitely many fully instantiated entries for the verb *see* subcategorizing for a clausal complement (as in (1)). But each of these fully instantiated entries for *expect* – one for each clausal sentence that corresponds to the tree in Figure 1 – corresponds to a single abstract description, and it is this description that the lexicon contains.

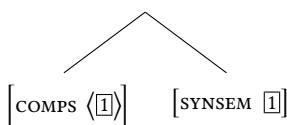


Figure 1: A head-complement phrase

The formal status of lexical entries has engendered a fair amount of theoretical work and some debate. We will touch on some aspects of this further below, in connection with online type construction. For further discussion of these kinds of issues, see chapters/formalbackground Chapter ?? of this volume and Borsley & Abeillé (2019), Chapter 1 of this volume.

### 3.2 What information is in lexical entries?

Aside from the expected phonological and semantic information, specific to each lexeme, lexical entries include morphological information and information about their combinatorial potential. Morphosyntactic features can be part of the input to inflectional rules, but are also used to select the appropriate types of phrases (via their projections through the Head-Feature Principle), as shown in (8). Some verbs, for instance, select for a PP headed by a particular preposition; others select for VPs whose verb is a gerund, or a bare infinitive, and so forth. Lexical entries thus include as much morphological information as both (inflectional) morphology and syntactic selection require.

- (8) a. John conceived *of/\*about* the world's tastiest potato chip.
- b. John regretted *going/\*(to)* go to the party.

We illustrate the second leading idea behind HPSG or LFG's lexicalism – that there are different variants of lexical heads for different contexts in which heads occur – with the French examples in (9). The verb *aller* 'go' in (9a) combines with a PP headed by *à* that expresses its goal argument and a subject that expresses its theme argument. The same verb in (9b) combines with the so-called non-subject clitic *y* that expresses its goal argument. We follow Miller & Sag (1997) and assume here that French non-subject clitics are prefixes. Since the context of occurrence of the head of the sentence, *aller*, differs across these two sentences (NP \_\_\_\_ PP[*à*] and NP *y* \_\_\_\_ , respectively and informally), there will be two distinct entries for *aller* for both sentences, shown in (10) and (11) (we simplify the entries' feature geometry for expository purposes). Information in the entry in (11) that differs from the information in the entry in (10) appears in red.

- (9) a. Muriel va                  à Lourdes.  
         Muriel go.PRES.3RD.SG at Lourdes.
- b. Muriel y        va.  
         Muriel there go.PRES.3RD.SG

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Category information in both entries contains part of speech information (including morphologically relevant features of verb forms), ARGUMENT-STRUCTURE information and VALENCE information. MORPH information includes both stem form information, inflected form information (I-FORM) and, in case so-called clitics are present, the combination of the clitic and inflected form information. Both entries illustrate how informationally rich lexical entries are in HPSG. But, postulating informationally rich entries does not mean stipulating all of the information within every entry. In fact, only the stem form and the relation denoted by the semantic content of the verb *aller* need to be stipulated within either entry. All the other information can be inferred once it is known which classes of verbs these entries belong to. In other words, most of the information included in the

entries in (10) and (11) is not specific to these individual entries, an issue we take up in Section 4. As mentioned above, the informational difference between the two entries for *va* and *y va* is indicated in red in (11). The first difference between the two variants of *va* ‘goes’ is in the list of complements: the entry for *y va* does not subcategorize for a locative PP, since the affix *y* satisfies the relevant argument structure requirement. This difference in the realization of syntactic arguments (via phrases and pronominal affixes) is recorded in the types of the PP members of ARG-ST, *p-aff* in (11), but a PP headed by *à* in (10). Finally, the two entries differ in the FORM of the verb, which is the same as the inflected form of the verb in (10) (as indicated by the identically numbered 5), but not in (11), whose FORM includes the prefix *y*.

One other question arises with regard to the information in lexical entries. Are there attributes or values that occur solely within lexical signs, and not in phrasal ones? If so, they would provide a diagnostic for distinguishing lexical signs from others. Specific phonological information, for instance, is something we would expect to be introduced by lexical entries, and not elsewhere. Such information would thus be specific to lexical signs. Likewise, the ARG-ST list, which we included in the categorial information of signs in (10) and (11), might be regarded as a feature confined to lexical signs (see, among others, Ginzburg & Sag 2001), on the premise that lexical items alone specify combinatorial requirements (but see Przepiórkowski 2001 for a contrary view, and see Müller 2019b, Chapter 36 of this volume for other views questioning this assumption). But HPSG researchers have generally not explored this question in depth, and we will leave this issue here.

### 3.3 The role of the lexicon in HPSG

As we hope is evident by now, the lexicon plays a critical role in HPSG’s explanatory mechanisms, as lexical entries encode not merely their idiosyncratic phonological and semantic characteristics, but their distributional and combinatorial potential as well. Much of the information contained in lexical entries is geared towards modeling how words interact with one another, as we have already seen. As detailed in Wechsler, Koenig & Davis (2019), Chapter 9 of this volume, their combinatorial potential is recorded using two kinds of information, a list of syntactic arguments or syntactic requirements to be satisfied, and distinct lists that indicate how these requirements are to be satisfied (as local dependents, as non-local dependents, or as clitics/affixes). Not only are syntactic arguments recorded; so is their relative obliqueness (in terms of grammatical function), as per the partial hierarchy in (12) from Pollard & Sag (1992).

(12) SUBJECT < PRIMARY OBJ < SECOND OBJ < OTHER COMPLEMENTS

We illustrate this explanatory role by noting the role of the lexicon in HPSG's approach to binding, as described in Pollard & Sag (1992) (see Branco (2019), Chapter 21 of this volume for details). As lexical entries of heads record both syntactic and semantic properties of their dependents, constraints between properties of heads and properties of dependents, e.g., subject-verb agreement, or between dependents, e.g., binding constraints, illustrated in (14), can be stated, at least partially, as constraints on classes of lexical entries. The principle in (14) is such a constraint.

- (13) a. Mathilda<sub>i</sub> saw herself<sub>i</sub> in the mirror.  
b. \* Mathilda<sub>i</sub> saw her<sub>i</sub> in the mirror.

- (14) An anaphor must be coindexed with a less oblique co-argument, if there is one.

Principle (14) is, formally, a constraint on lexical entries that makes use of the required information in an entry's argument structure regarding the syntactic and semantic properties of its dependents. The three argument structures in (15) illustrate permissible and ungrammatical entries. (15a) illustrates exempt anaphors, as there is no less oblique syntactic argument than the anaphoric NP; (15b) illustrates a non-exempt anaphor properly bound by a less oblique, co-indexed non-anaphor; (15c) illustrates an ungrammatical lexical entry that selects for an anaphoric syntactic argument that is not co-indexed by a less oblique syntactic argument, despite not being an exempt anaphor (i.e., not being the least oblique syntactic argument).

- (15) a.  $\left[ \text{ARG-ST } \langle \text{NP}_{i,+ana}, \dots \rangle \right]$   
b.  $\left[ \text{ARG-ST } \langle \text{NP}_{i,-ana}, \dots, \text{NP}_{i,+ana}, \dots \rangle \right]$   
c. \*  $\left[ \text{ARG-ST } \langle \text{XP}_j, \dots, \text{NP}_{i,+ana}, \dots \rangle \right]$

Our purpose here is not to argue in favor of the specific approach to binding just outlined. Rather, we wish to illustrate that in a theory like HPSG where much of syntactic distribution is accounted for by properties of lexical entries, co-occurrence restrictions treated traditionally as constraints on trees (via some notion of command) are modeled as constraints on the argument structure of lexical entries. It is tempting to think of such a lexicalization of binding principles as a notational variant of tree-centric approaches. Interestingly, this is not

the case, as argued in Wechsler (1999). Wechsler argues that the difference between argument structure and valence is critical to a proper model of binding in Balinese. Summarizing briefly, voice alternations in Balinese (e.g., objective or agentive voices) do not alter a verb's argument structure but do alter its valence – the subject and object it subcategorizes for. As binding is sensitive to relative obliqueness within ARG-ST, binding possibilities are not affected by voice alternations within the same clause, which are represented with different valence values. In the case of raising, on the other hand, the argument structure of the raising verb and the valence of the complement verb interact, as the subject of the complement verb is part of the argument structure of the raising verb. An HPSG approach to binding therefore predicts that voice alternations within the embedded clause will not affect binding of co-arguments of the embedded verb, but will affect binding of the raised NP and an argument of the embedded verb. This prediction seems to be borne out, as the Balinese examples in (16) show.

- (16) a. Ia<sub>i</sub> nawang awakne<sub>i</sub>/Ia<sub>\*i</sub> lakar tangkep polisi.  
           3rd AV.know self/3rd       FUT ov.arrest police  
           ‘He<sub>i</sub> knew that the police would arrest himself<sub>i</sub>/him<sub>\*i</sub>.’
- b. Cang ngaden ia<sub>i</sub> suba ningalin awakne<sub>i</sub>/ia<sub>\*i</sub>  
       1sg AV.think 3rd already AV.see self/3rd  
       ‘I believe him<sub>i</sub> to have seen himself<sub>i</sub>/ him<sub>\*i</sub>.’
- c. Cang ngaden awakne<sub>i</sub> suba tingalin=a<sub>i</sub>.  
       1sg AV.think self<sub>i</sub>      already ov.see=3  
       ‘I believe him to have seen himself.’

Sentence (16a) shows that the proto-agent (the first element of ARG-ST) of the subject-to-object raising verb *nawang* ‘know’ can bind the raised subject (which in this case corresponds to the proto-patient of the complement verb *tangkep* ‘arrest’ since that verb is in the objective voice). Sentence (16b) shows that the raised (proto-agent) subject of the complement verb can bind its proto-patient argument. Critically, sentence (16c) shows that the raised proto-patient (second) argument of the complement verb can be bound by the complement verb's proto-agent. The contrast between sentences (16b) and (16c) illustrates that while binding is insensitive to valence alternations (the same proto-agent binds the same proto-patient argument in both sentences), raising is not (the proto-agent argument is raised in (16b) and the proto-patient argument in (16c)). As Wechsler argues, this dissociation between valence subjects and less oblique arguments on the ARG-ST list is hard to model in a configurational approach to binding that

equates the two notions in terms of c-command or the like. What is important for our purposes is that a “lexicalization” of argument structure, valence, and binding has explanatory power beyond tree configurations, illustrating some of analytical possibilities informationally rich lexical entries create.

### 3.4 Lexical vs. constructional explanations

As we have noted above, HPSG posits that much of the combinatorics of natural language syntax is lexically determined; lexical entries contain information about their combinatorial potential and, as a consequence, if a word occurs in two distinct syntactic contexts, it must have two distinct combinatorial potentials. Under this view, phrase-structure rules are boring and few in number. They are just the various ways for words to realize their combinatorial potential. In the version of HPSG presented in Pollard & Sag (1994), for example, there are only a handful of general phrase-structural schemata, one for a head and its complements, one for a head and its specifier, one for a head and a filler in an unbounded dependency and so forth, and the structure of clauses is relatively flat in that relations between contexts of occurrence of words is done “at the lexical level” rather through operations on trees.

In a transformational approach, on the other hand, relations between contexts of occurrence of words are seen as relations between *syntactic* trees, and the information included in words can thus be rather meager. In fact, in some recent approaches, lexical entries contain nothing more than some semantic and phonological information, so that even part of speech information is something provided by the syntactic context (see Borer 2003; Marantz 1997). In some constructional approaches (Goldberg 1995 for example), part of the distinct contexts of occurrence of words comes from phrase structural templates that words fit into. So again, there can be a single entry for several contexts of occurrence.

HPSG’s approach to lexical knowledge is quite similar to that of Categorial Grammar (to some degree this is due to HPSG’s borrowing from Categorial Grammar important aspects of its treatment of subcategorization). As in HPSG, the combinatorial potential of words is recorded in lexical entries so that two distinct contexts of occurrence correspond to two distinct entries. The difference from HPSG lies in how lexical entries relate to each other. In many forms of Categorial Grammar (be it Combinatorial or Lambek-calculus style), relations between entries are the result of a few general rules (e.g., type raising, function composition, hypothetical reasoning, etc.) (see Dowty 1978 for an approach that countenances lexical rules, though). The assumption is that those rules are universally available; however, those rules may be organized in a type hierarchy

and an individual language might avail itself of only a portion of this hierarchy, as in Baldridge (2002). Relations between entries in HPSG can be much more idiosyncratic and language-specific. We note, however, that nothing prevents lexical rules constituting a part of a Categorial Grammar (see Carpenter 1992a), so that this difference is not necessarily qualitative, but concerns how much of researchers' efforts are typically spent on extracting lexical regularities; HPSG has focused much more, it seems, on such efforts.

## 4 The hierarchical lexicon

We have now seen that lexicalism demands that lexical entries be information rich, in order to encode what might otherwise be represented as syntactic rules. To avoid massive and redundant stipulation throughout the lexicon, we need mechanisms to represent the regularities within it. Two main mechanisms have been used in HPSG to achieve this. The first mechanism is the organization of information shared by lexical entries or parts of entries into a hierarchy of types, in a way quite similar to semantic networks within knowledge representation systems (see, among others, Brachman & Schmolze 1985). This hierarchy of types (present in HPSG since the beginning: Pollard & Sag 1987 and the seminal work of Flickinger et al. 1985, Flickinger 1987) ensures that individual lexical entries only specify information that is unique to them. The second mechanism is lexical rules, which relate variants of entries, and more generally, members of a lexeme's morphological family (which consists of a root or stem as well as all stems derived from that root or stem) or members of a word's inflectional paradigm.

In this section, we discuss the hierarchical organization of the lexicon into cross-cutting classes of lexical entries at various levels of generality. We examine two distinct techniques for inheritance, which are not mutually exclusive. One is to create subtypes directly, with pertinent additional constraints stated for each subtype. Different classes of words are thus reified as subtypes of *word* (or *lexical-sign*) in the hierarchy, and all lexical items that belong to that subtype inherit its constraints. Another technique, more prevalent in current HPSG work, uses implicational statements. If certain properties hold of a lexical item (for example, if its AUX value is +), then others must hold as well (e.g., it subcategorizes for a VP complement, whose subject is token identical to the auxiliary verb's). These statements need not involve all of the information that's present in the entire *word*, so they need to refer only to substructures within *word* objects, like their SYNSEM values.

## 4.1 Inheritance

All grammatical frameworks classify lexical entries to some extent, of course. Basic part of speech information is one obvious case. This high-level classification is present in HPSG, too, as part of the hierarchy of types of heads. That information is recorded in the value of the HEAD feature. A simple hierarchy of types of heads is depicted in Figure 2.

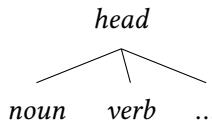


Figure 2: A hierarchy of types of *head*

Each of these types is a partial specification of a lexical entry's head properties. Typing of HEAD information allows the ascription of appropriate properties to different classes of lexical entries. For example, case information is only relevant to nouns and adjectives, and whether a verb is an auxiliary or not is only relevant to verbs. The subtypes of *head* in (2) allow us to define additional specifications of the properties appropriate for different parts of speech. For example, lexical entries with a HEAD value of *noun* contain an attribute for CASE, while those for *verb* contain the attributes AUX, TENSE, and ASPECT, as shown in (17) (we use implicational statements in (17) to indicate feature appropriateness conditions for the types *noun* and *verb* for perspicuity only; such conditions would be part of the grammar's signature, see *chapters/formalbackground* Chapter ?? of this volume). In other words, the grammar's signature will specify that only for nouns (those lexical entries whose HEAD value is of type *noun*) is the attribute CASE appropriate. Similarly, only for verbs are the attributes AUX, TENSE, and ASPECT appropriate.

Typing of parts of speech thus lets us specify what it means for a part of speech to be a noun or a verb in a particular language (of course, there will be strong similarities in these properties across languages) and omit for individual noun and verb entries properties they share with all nouns and verbs.

- (17) a. If the attribute CASE is an attribute within a lexical entry's HEAD value, then the value of HEAD is of type *noun*.  
b. If the attributes AUX, TENSE, or ASPECT are attributes within a lexical entry's HEAD value, then the value of HEAD is of type *verb*.

The statements in (17) are in some sense merely definitional, as noted. But they allow us to state just once the general information that applies to whole classes of lexical entries. Thus, the pronoun *him* need only include the fact that its HEAD is of type *noun*; the fact that it might bear case can be inferred. Similarly, the entry for the verb *can* need only include the head information [AUX +] for us to be able to infer that it is a *verb* (assuming AUX is not an appropriate attribute for another type).

## 4.2 Representing lexical generalizations

So far, we have merely shown an HPSG implementation of a part of speech taxonomy, but once we consider subtypes with additional constraints, the utility of the hierarchical lexicon within a lexicalist framework becomes apparent. There are interesting generalizations to be made about more specific classes, such as transitive verbs, past participles, or predators denoting caused motion (regardless of their part of speech). In the hierarchical lexicon, we can represent these “interesting” classes as types. Which classes are worth positing in the grammar of a given language depends on the properties of its grammar; thus we expect lexical classes to specify a mix of cross-linguistically common (possibly, in some cases, universal) and language-particular constraints.

A seemingly straightforward way to “capture generalizations about the elements of the lexicon” is to posit a hierarchy of subtypes of *word*. Thus types such as *verb-word* and *noun-word* specify properties of verbs and nouns, and types such as *subj-control-pred* and *obj-control-pred* specify properties of predicates that exhibit subject and direct object control. Individual lexical items belong to multiple types in the hierarchy; the verbs *try* and *attempt* inherit the information from *verb-word* and *subj-control-pred*, while the nouns *attempt* and *effort* inherit the information from *noun-word* and *subj-control-pred*.

[Ackerman & Webelhuth \(1998\)](#) use this kind of hierarchy of subtypes of *word* in their accounts of German passives and other phenomena, which we will discuss briefly in the following section. In this case, the information involved in their account is both morphological and syntactic, and they propose a hierarchy of verb types at the *word* level.

However, a hierarchy of subtypes of *word* is, while formally feasible, potentially rather inelegant. Note first that types like *verb* and *noun* are already defined as subtypes of the type *head*. There is an obvious danger of redundancy if we additionally posit parallel subtypes of *word* such as *verb-word* and *noun-word*, serving no other function than as types with the corresponding HEAD values. Furthermore, signs in HPSG are structured objects, with their various kinds of infor-

mation deliberately arranged in a way that associates pieces of information that “travel together.” The information within HEAD, for example, is grouped there because it is all subject to the Head Feature Principle. Both part-of-speech and control information are found within SYNSEM, as phonological information has no bearing on these things. So rather than creating subtypes of *word* to capture regularities in the lexicon, we would prefer to express those regularities as constraints on subtypes that encompass only the information that’s pertinent. These are the smallest, “narrowest” portions of *word* objects that include all that information; the remaining portions of a *word* can be ignored in this context. In other words, we take advantage of HPSG’s feature geometry and of the hierarchies of types appropriate for a particular substructure within signs to express generalizations as “locally” as possible (see **chapters/formalbackground** Chapter ?? of this volume).

Implicational statements can serve well for expressing generalizations as “locally” as possible; they constrain the range of possible values of attributes and can stipulate structure sharing among them. As a simple example, consider the possible complements of prepositions. Unlike verbs, which, at least in some languages, can have multiple elements on their COMPS lists, prepositions are limited to at most one. There are no ditransitive prepositions (as far as we are aware). The following statement expresses this generalization in English as well as more formally.

- (18) a. If a *category* object has a HEAD of type *prep*, then the value of its VAL | COMPS is a list that contains at most one element.  
b.  $\left[ \begin{smallmatrix} \textit{cat} \\ \text{HEAD } \textit{prep} \end{smallmatrix} \right] \Rightarrow \left[ \text{VAL} | \text{COMPS } \textit{elist} \setminus \langle \textit{synsem} \rangle \right]$

A more extensive example concerns linking of semantic roles to syntactic arguments, and is drawn from the work of [Davis & Koenig \(2000\)](#), [Davis \(2001\)](#), and [Koenig & Davis \(2003\)](#). Informally, the linking constraints we wish to capture are:

- (19) a. Causal verbs link the causer to the subject.  
b. Caused motion verbs link the causer to the subject and the moving entity, if distinct from the causer, to the direct object.  
c. However, caused motion verbs in which the causer and moving entity are the same thing can link both to the subject (and needn’t have a direct object).

The second and third statements are subcases of the first, so ideally we prefer to state the substance of the first statement just once, rather than repeat it. We

could posit subtypes of *word*, along the lines of the approach mentioned above, such as *transitive-verb* and *caused-motion-verb*. But implicational statements provide an arguably simpler way to model the facts of linking. Since the constraints we wish to express concern both ARG-ST and CONT, our implications are stated on *local* objects, which are the minimal type of object containing these attributes. We presuppose here a hierarchy of semantic relation types as values of CONT, including *cause-rel*, *motion-rel* and their subtype *caused-motion-rel*, each of which licenses attributes for the required participant roles.

First, we require that the causer, denoted in (20b) by the value of ACT, be linked to the subject (the first element of ARG-ST):

- (20) a. If a *synsem* object's CAT | HEAD value is of type *verb*, and its CONT value is of type *cause-rel*, then its value of CONT | ACT is token identical to the index of the first element of its ARG-ST list.  
 b.  $\begin{bmatrix} \text{CAT} | \text{HEAD} & \text{verb} \\ \text{CONT} & \text{cause-rel} \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} \text{CONT} & [\text{ACT } \boxed{1}] \\ \text{ARG-ST} & \langle \text{NP}_{\boxed{1}}, \dots \rangle \end{bmatrix}$

Then, we link the moving entity in a caused motion verb, denoted in (21b) by the value of UND, to any NP on ARG-ST:

- (21) a. If a *synsem* object's CAT | HEAD value is of type *verb*, and its CONT value is of type *move-rel*, then its value of CONT | UND is token identical to the index of some NP element of its ARG-ST list.  
 b.  $\begin{bmatrix} \text{CAT} | \text{HEAD} & \text{verb} \\ \text{CONT} & \text{move-rel} \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} \text{CONT} & [\text{UND } \boxed{1}] \\ \text{ARG-ST} & \langle \dots, \text{NP}_{\boxed{1}}, \dots \rangle \end{bmatrix}$

Both of these implicational statements apply to a verb with a CONT value of type *caused-motion-rel*. Note that if the causer and the moving entity are distinct, they will be realized as separate NPs on the ARG-ST list. This is the linking pattern we find in numerous verbs, such as *throw*, *lift*, *expel*, and so on. In some cases, however, the causer and the moving entity may be one and the same. If the ACT and UND values are identical in CONT, then the second implication allows the moving entity to be realized as the subject, or as a reflexive direct object, as in:

- (22) The kids rolled (themselves) down the hill.

What is ruled out by this pair of statements, though, is a hypothetical verb *quoll*, with a linking pattern like this:

- (23) \*The rock quolloed the kids down the hill.  
 (intended: The kids rolled the rock down the hill.)

Additional restrictions may apply to some verbs of motion. For instance, many verbs of locomotion entail that the causer and moving entity are identical, and allow only an intransitive variant:

- (24) The kids strolled (\*themselves) down the hill.

We could represent this identity using another constraint, solely within CONT, as follows, where the type *self-move-rel* is a subtype of *move-rel*:

- (25) a. If a *synsem* object's CAT | HEAD value is of type *verb*, and its CONT value is of type *self-move-rel*, then its values of CONT | ACT and CONT | UND are token identical.

$$\text{b. } \begin{bmatrix} \text{CAT|HEAD} & \text{verb} \\ \text{CONT} & \text{self-move-rel} \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} \text{CONT} & \begin{bmatrix} \text{ACT} & \boxed{1} \\ \text{UND} & \boxed{1} \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix}$$

When we consider the most specific types of the lexical hierarchy, where individual lexical entries reside, the same kinds of constraints, pertaining solely to a given lexical entry's phonological form, inflectional class, specific semantics, register, and so forth, can be employed. This lexeme or word-specific information needs to be spelled out somewhere in any grammatical framework. We can now view this as just the narrowest, most particular case of specifying information about a class of linguistic entities. At the same time, information shared across a broader set of lexical entries need not be stated separately for each one. Thus, the phonology of the word *spray* and the precise manner of motion of the particles or liquid caused to move in a spraying event are unique to this lexical entry. However, much of its syntactic and semantic behavior – it is a regular verb, participating in a locative alternation, involving caused ballistic motion of a liquid or other dispersable material – is shared with other English verbs such as *splash*, *splatter*, *inject*, *squirt*, and *drizzle*. To the extent that these “narrow conflation classes”, as Pinker (1989) terms them, are founded on clear semantic criteria, we can readily state syntactic and semantic constraints on the appropriate types in the relevant type hierarchy. Thus much of the semantics of a verb like *spray* need not be specified at the level of that individual lexical entry. Apart from the broad semantics of caused motion, shared by numerous verbs, the verbs in the narrow conflation class containing *spray* share the selectional restriction, noted above, that their objects are set in motion by an initial impulse and that they are liquid or particulate material. We might therefore posit a subtype of the type *caused-motion-rel* to represent this shared semantics triggering the locative alternation, with further subtypes for the semantics of the individual verbs. Note that not all these constraints apply to precisely the same class (there are other verbs

with somewhat different semantics, like *load* and *wrap*, exhibiting the locative alternation, for example), so several types might be required.

To sum up the import of these brief examples, the substance of the hierarchical lexicon need not be directly expressed in terms of subtypes of *word*, but rather in implicational statements that express constraints among types in the structures inside lexical entries. Interactions among these statements provide a way for classes of lexical items to inherit and share properties, so that they need not specify the same information over and over again.

### 4.3 Cross-cutting types in the lexicon

Having now illustrated the use of implicational statements to specify constraints on classes of lexical entries at various levels of generality, we present in this section an example of cross-cutting types, each expressing some generalization about a class of words. Drawn from Ackerman & Webelhuth (1998), this sample analysis concerns German passives, which come in several varieties, each with its own constraints. Each passive construction uses a different auxiliary (*werden*, *sein*, or *bekommen*) and two of these constructions require a participial form of the verb, while the *sein* passive requires *zu* followed by an infinitive VP. Additionally, passives appear attributively, as NP modifiers, as well as predicatively. Here are two examples of the *zu* + infinitive passive, the first attributive, the second predicative:

- (26) a. die dem Mann von Johann zu schenkenden Blumen  
the the man by Johann to give flowers  
'the flowers that must be given to the man by Johann'
- b. weil die Blumen den Mann von Johann zu schenken sind  
because the flowers the man by Johann to give are  
'because the flowers must be given to the man by Johann'

Ackerman & Webelhuth's account of German passives posits a multiple inheritance hierarchy of lexical types (note that these are all subtypes of a type *word*, not subtypes of values within it). A portion of their hierarchy of German passive types is shown in Figure 3.

While all passives share the constraint that a logical subject is demoted, as stipulated on a general *univ-pas-bas-lci* passive type, the other requirements for each kind of passive are stated on various subtypes. The *zu+infinitive* passive, for instance, requires not only that *sein* is the auxiliary and that the main verb is infinitive, but that the semantics involves necessity or obligation. This differs from

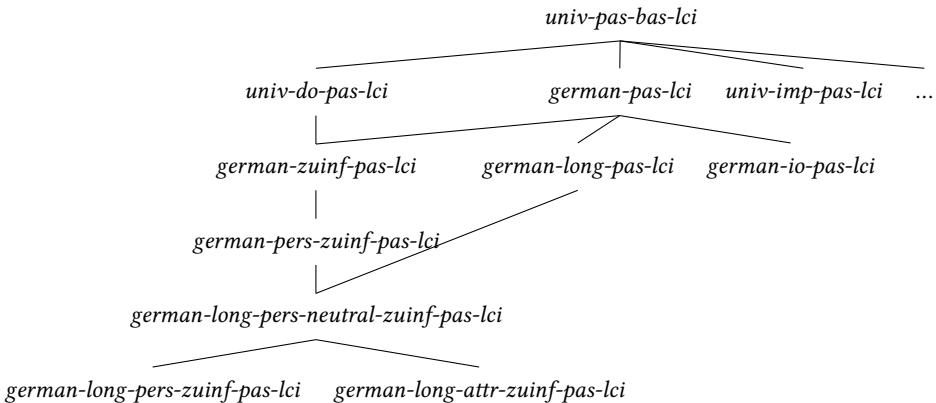


Figure 3: A portion of the hierarchy of passive lexical types according to Ackerman & Webelhuth (1998: 244)

the other passives, which simply maintain the semantics of their active counterparts. However, the types of the passive verb *schenken*(*den*) in (26a) and (26b) both inherit from several passive verb supertypes. As mentioned, at a general level, there is information common to all German passives, or indeed to passives universally, namely that the “logical subject” (first element of the basic verb’s ARG-ST list) is realized as an oblique complement of the passive verb, or not at all. A very common subtype, which Ackerman & Webelhuth also regard as universal, rather than specific to German, specifies that the base verb’s direct object is realized as the subject of its passive counterpart; this defines personal passives. Once in the German-specific realm, an additional subtype specifies that the logical subject, if realized, is the object of a *von*-PP; this holds true of all three types of German personal passives. Among its subtypes is one that requires *zu* and the infinitive form of the verb; moreover, although Ackerman & Webelhuth do not spell this out in detail, this subtype specifies the modal force associated with this passive construction but not of the others. Finally, both the predicative and attributive forms are subtypes of all the preceding, but these inherit also from distinct supertypes for predicative and attributive passives of all kinds. The supertype for predicative passives constrains them to occur with an auxiliary; its subtype for *zu* + infinitive passives further specifies that the auxiliary is *sein*. The attributive passive type, on the other hand, inherits from modifier types generally, which do not allow auxiliaries, but do require agreement in person, number, and case with the modified noun. In summary, the hierarchical lexicon is deployed here to factor out the differing properties of the various German passive

constructions, each of which includes its particular combination of properties via multiple inheritance.

#### 4.4 Default inheritance in the lexicon

So far, we have assumed rigid, monotonic inheritance of all information in supertypes to their subtypes; none of the inherited information can be overridden. This runs into difficulties when dealing with lexical entries that appear to be exceptional in some way, the obvious examples being morphological irregularities. How can productive regular forms such as *\*childs* be blocked, and only *children* allowed as a lexical entry? Under default unification, although the plural of *child* might inherit the information from the pertinent lexical entry and from the *plural-noun* type, which would entail the phonology for *\*childs*, this regular plural form would be overridden.

Several approaches to exceptions and irregularities have been proposed; we will focus first on *default unification*, and examine an alternative involving type underspecification, in the following section. Various complex issues arise in attempting to formulate a workable system of default unification and inheritance. See, e.g., [Briscoe & Copestake \(1999\)](#) for a brief overview of various ways that default unification might be defined. [Lascarides & Copestake \(1999\)](#) list several desirable criteria, including these:

- Non-default information is always preserved; this implies some means of distinguishing non-default from default (overridable) information.
- Default unification behaves like monotonic unification whenever possible; that is, if monotonic unification is possible, the default unification mechanism should yield the same result.
- Default unification is order-independent; this means that it is commutative and associative, like monotonic unification.

They explore the properties of their system, called YADU, in considerable detail. The intent is to preserve the behavior of non-default unification in cases where no default information is present, and for defeasible information at a more specific level in the type hierarchy to override defeasible information at a more general level.

We now sketch how YADU functions, using the example of English verb forms in [Lascarides & Copestake \(1999\)](#). The pertinent linguistic facts here are as follows: English past and passive participles are always identical in form, (simple)

past tense suffixes are usually the same as the corresponding participles', and the past tense suffix of most verbs is *-ed*. The last two statements are defeasible, while the first is not. In YADU, each type is represented with a nondefeasible typed feature structure, plus a set of defeasible feature structures, each with an associated type. The type hierarchy in Figure 4 provides an example (here, the nondefeasible information comes first, and the set of defeasible structures follows the slash).

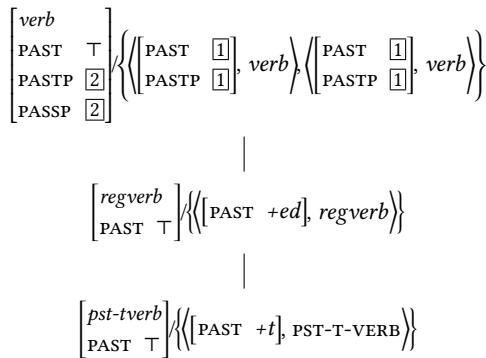


Figure 4: A hierarchy of past-tense formation “rules” from Lascarides & Copestake (1999: 61)

In (4), the most general type *verb* stipulates the identity of the past participle and passive participle forms as nondefault information. The value of the *PAST*, the simple past tense form, is unspecified (the symbol *T* refers to the most general type in the hierarchy). In the default information, the value of *PAST* is shared with both the values of both participle forms, whatever they may be. For regular verbs (type *regverb*), this value will be, by default, the result of a function that suffixes *-ed* to the verb stem (Lascarides & Copestake gloss over the details of morphology and phonology here). In the more specific type *pst-t-verb*, however, the default *-ed* is overridden by (default) information that the suffix is *-t*.

Thus a *pst-t-verb* like *burn/burnt* inherits the nondefault information from *regverb* and *verb*, but overrides the regular past forms. The default information in *pst-t-verb* is associated with a more specific type than that in *regverb*, so it takes precedence in YADU’s unification procedure. And as Lascarides & Copestake note (p. 62): “This is the reason for separating *verb* and *regverb* in the example above, since we want the *+t* value to override the *+ed* information on *regverb* while leaving intact the default reentrancy which was specified on *verb*. If we had not done this, there would have been a conflict between the defaults that

was not resolved by priority.” For morphological irregularities such as *children*, the same devices can be used, with a type for the lexical entry of *child* that overrides the regular plural form.

As an example of the use of default, nonmonotonic inheritance outside of morphology, consider the account of the syntax of gerunds in various languages developed by Malouf (2000). Gerunds exhibit both verbal and nominal characteristics, and furnish a well-known example of seemingly graded category membership, which does not accord well with the categorical assumptions of mainstream syntactic frameworks. Roughly speaking, English gerunds, and their counterparts in other languages, act much like verbs in their “internal” syntax, allowing direct objects and adverbial modifiers, but function distributionally (“externally”) as NPs. To take but a couple of pieces of evidence (see Malouf 2000: 27-33 for more details), gerunds can be the complement of prepositions, whereas finite clauses cannot (as in (27)); however, adverbs, not adjectives, can modify gerunds, while adjectives must be used to modify deverbal nouns (as in (28)).

- (27) a. Pat is concerned about Sandy('s) getting arrested.
- b. \*Pat is concerned about (that) Sandy got arrested.
- (28) a. Pat disapproved of (me/my) \*quiet/quietly departing before anyone noticed.
- b. Pat disapproved of my quiet/\*quietly departure.

One approach to modeling these distinctions is directly, via syntactic rules that allow an NP to be expanded as a constituent internally headed by a verb. As Malouf notes, this offers no account of the observed behavior of gerund-like forms across languages. Some possible combinations of noun-like and verb-like attributes are frequently attested cross-linguistically in gerunds and their equivalents, while others are rare or unattested. Cross-linguistically, gerunds vary in their subcategorization possibilities: some allow subjects and complements, while some allow only complements and no subjects. But there appear to be no cases of gerund-like lexical items that can take a subject but cannot take complements.

Instead of such unmotivated syntactic rules, Malouf posits a lexical rule, which converts the lexical category of a verb to *noun*, but otherwise preserves its verbal properties, such as subcategorization. With strictly monotonic inheritance, this poses problems, as it would force us to abandon useful generalizations about nouns other than gerunds (e.g., they do not take direct object complements, as many verbs and their gerunds do). Default inheritance provides one way to

model the observed phenomena, without weakening the constraints on parts of speech to the point where no meaningful constraints distinguish them.

In Malouf's account, there are both "hard" constraints – a verb lexical entry, for example, must have a HEAD value of type *relational* (encompassing verbs, adjectives, and adpositions) – and "soft," overridable constraints – a verb lexical entry by default has a HEAD value of type *verb*. In addition, following Bouma et al. (2001), he posits the types *ext-subj* and *ext-spr*. The former constrains the HEAD value to *relational* and the first element of the ARG-ST list to be the SUBJ (only adjectives, adpositions, verbs, and predicative NPs have subjects), while the latter constrains the HEAD value to *noun* and the first element of the ARG-ST list to be the SPR (only nouns have specifiers), as shown in (29).

(29)	a.	$\begin{bmatrix} ext\text{-}subj \\ \text{HEAD } relational \\ \text{VAL } \left[ \text{SUBJ } \langle \boxed{1} \rangle \right] \\ \text{ARG-ST } \langle \boxed{1}, \dots \rangle \end{bmatrix}$	b.	$\begin{bmatrix} ext\text{-}spr \\ \text{HEAD } noun \\ \text{VAL } \left[ \text{SPR } \langle \boxed{1} \rangle \right] \\ \text{ARG-ST } \langle \boxed{1}, \dots \rangle \end{bmatrix}$
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Malouf then specifies default HEAD values for the lexical classes *n* and *v* (see (30) for the latter's definition). As gerunds have both properties of nominal and relational heads, they are subtypes of both, as shown in the multiple inheritance hierarchy in Figure 5. The *v* type, which concerns us here, has a default HEAD value *verb*, as shown in (30) in addition to the non-default, more general type *relational* it also includes (default information follows /).

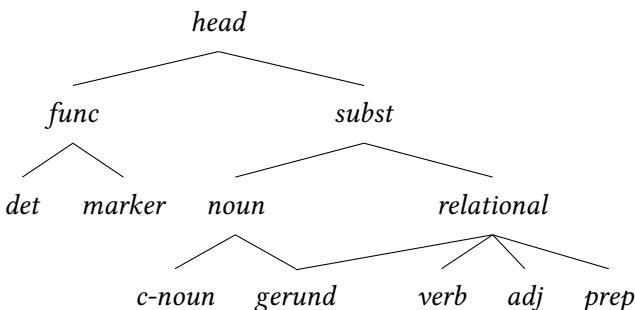


Figure 5: A cross-cutting hierarchy of types of *head* according to Malouf (2000: 65)

(30)	$\begin{bmatrix} v \\ \text{HEAD } relational / verb \\ \text{CONT } psoa \end{bmatrix}$
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However, the default value *verb* is overridden in the subtype *vger*, in which the HEAD value is *gerund*, which is a subtype of both *noun* and *relational*, but not of *verb*. The type *vger* is shown in (31); where *f-ing* is a function that produces the *-ing* form of an English verb from its root.

(31)	$\begin{array}{c} vger \\ \left[ \begin{array}{c} \text{MORPH} \quad \left[ \begin{array}{c} \text{ROOT} \quad \boxed{1} \\ \text{I-FORM} \quad f\text{-ing}(\boxed{1}) \end{array} \right] \\ \text{HEAD} \quad gerund \end{array} \right] \end{array}$
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The type *vger* is thus compatible with “verb-like” characteristics. But, as its HEAD is also a subtype of *noun*, it lacks a SUBJ attribute and instead has a SPR attribute. Gerunds therefore allow complements (unlike ordinary nouns), but not subjects (unlike ordinary verbs). Malouf’s hierarchy of types makes this prediction, in effect, because the *ext-spr* type requires that the “external argument” (the first on the ARG-ST list) is realized as the value of SPR.

While it would be possible to construct type hierarchies of lexical types, HEAD types, and so on that would allow for “anti-gerunds” – those that would act externally as nouns, allow subjects, but not permit complements – this would require reorganizing these type hierarchies to a considerable extent. Given that many nouns besides gerunds – nominalizations, for example – are relational (that is, have a CONTENT value of type *psoa*), it could be difficult to model a hypothetical language that permits only the anti-gerunds rather than the normal ones.

Malouf further notes a key difference between gerunds and exceptions like *\*childs/children*: English gerunds are productive (and completely regular morphologically). If the same mechanisms of default unification are involved in both, what accounts for this difference? His answer is that productive and predictable processes involve on-line type construction (see Section 5.3 for details). The irregular form *children* must of course be learned and stored, not generated online. The default mechanisms described above, however, are employed at higher levels of the lexical hierarchy, and the individual gerunds forms *are* productively generated online. Note that, in contrast to the morphological and syntactic consistency among gerunds, English nominalizations display some idiosyncrasies that suggest at least some of them must be stored as distinct lexical items. Thus, as Malouf emphasizes, modeling prototypicality in the lexicon within HPSG can draw on both default inheritance and on-line type construction; together, they make “the connection between prototypicality, and productivity” (p. 127).

## 5 Lexical rules

In this section we describe the role lexical rules play in HPSG as well as their formal nature, i.e., how they model “horizontal” relations among elements of the lexicon. These are relations between variants of a single entry (be they subcategorizational or inflectional variants) or between members of a morphological family, as opposed to the “vertical” relations modeled through inheritance. Thus they provide a means to represent the intuitive notion of “derivation” of one lexeme from another.

### 5.1 What is the nature of lexical rules in HPSG?

While lexical rules or similar devices have been invoked within HPSG since its inception, formalizing their nature and behavior still continues. The intent, however, has always been, as Lahm (2016) stresses, to treat lexical rules (typically written  $A \mapsto B$ ) to mean that for every lexeme or word described by  $A$  there is one described by  $B$  that has as much in common with  $A$  as possible.

Copestake & Briscoe (1991), Briscoe & Copestake (1999), Meurers (2001), and many others formalize the notion of lexical rule within HPSG by introducing a type, say *lex-rule*, with the attributes IN and OUT, whose values are respectively the rule’s input and output lexical descriptions. As Briscoe & Copestake (1999) note, lexical rules of this form also bear a close relationship to default unification. The information in the input is intended to carry over to the output by default, except where the rule specifies otherwise and overrides this information. But, as Lahm (2016) points out, a sound basis for the formal details of how lexical rules work is not easily formulated. Meurers’ careful analysis of how to apply lexical rules to map a description  $A$  into the description  $B$  does not always work as intended, in that what we would expect to be licit inputs are not always actually such, and no output description results as a consequence. Fortunately, it is not clear that this is a severe problem in practice, and Lahm notes that he has not found an example of practical import where Meurers’ lexical rule formulation would encounter the problems he raises.

In a slight variant of the representation of lexical rules proposed by Copestake & Briscoe and Meurers, the OUT attribute can be dispensed with; the information in the lexical rule type that is not within the IN value then constitutes the output of the rule. The difference between the two representations with only the attributes SYNSEM and PHON included for expository purposes is shown in (32).

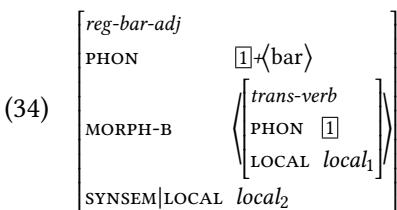
(32)	a.	$\begin{array}{c} \text{IN} \quad \left[ \begin{array}{c} \text{SYNSEM } a \\ \text{PHON } b \end{array} \right] \\ \text{OUT} \quad \left[ \begin{array}{c} \text{SYNSEM } c \\ \text{PHON } d \end{array} \right] \end{array}$
	b.	$\begin{array}{c} \left[ \begin{array}{c} \text{SYNSEM } c \\ \text{PHON } d \end{array} \right] \\ \text{IN} \quad \left[ \begin{array}{c} \text{SYNSEM } a \\ \text{PHON } b \end{array} \right] \end{array}$

In the variant in (32b), lexical rules are treated as subtypes of a *derived-word* type, which can combine with other types in the lexical hierarchy, merely adding the derivational source via the IN value. Formulated in either fashion, lexical rules are essentially equivalent to unary syntactic rules, with the IN attribute corresponding to the daughter and the OUT attribute to the mother (or the rest of the information in the rule, if the OUT attribute is done away with). This is the way lexical rules are implemented in the English Resource Grammar (see <http://www.delph-in.net/erg/> for demos and details about this large-scale implemented grammar of English) as well in the CoreGram Project and the Grammix grammar development environment (see Müller 2007 and <https://hpsg.hu-berlin.de/Software/Grammix/> for details on the Grammix software) (Bender & Emerson 2019, Chapter 28 of this volume).

One clear advantage of this kind of representation, i.e., a representation in which the attribute OUT is dispensed with and lexical “rules” are simply subtypes of *derived-word* or *derived-lexeme*, is that they are then positioned in the lexical hierarchy and subject to the same implicational constraints as other classes of words. They can also be organized in complex networks of more or less general rules. As Riehemann (1998) and Koenig (1999) show, if one includes in the lexical hierarchy unary-branching rules to model derivational morphology, a unified account of derivational processes that apply both productively to an open-ended set of lexemes as well as unproductively to another closed set of lexemes becomes possible. Consider the approach to derivational morphology taken by Riehemann (1998). Example (33) (Riehemann’s (1)) illustrates *-bar* suffixation in German, a process by which an adjective that includes a modal component can be derived from verb stems (similar to English *-able* suffixation). A lexical rule approach could posit a verb stem input and derive an adjective output. As Riehemann stresses, though, there are many different subtypes of *-bar* suffixation, some productive, some unproductive, all sharing some information. This combination of productive and unproductive variants of a lexical process is exactly what the type hierarchy is meant to capture and what Riehemann’s *Type-Based Derivational*

*Morphology* capitalizes on. The structure in (34) presents the relevant information about Riehemann's type for regular *-bar* '-able' adjectives (see Riehemann 1998: 68 for more details). Critically, *-bar* adjectives include a singleton-list base (the value of MORPH-B) that records the information of the adjective's verbal base (corresponding to the would-be lexical rule's input). Because of this extra layer, the local information in the base (*local*<sub>1</sub>) and the *-bar* adjective (*local*<sub>2</sub>) can differ without being in conflict.

- (33) Sie bemerken die Veränderung. Die Veränderung ist bemerkbar.  
 They notice the change. The change is noticeable.



## 5.2 Phenomena accounted for by lexical rules

Lexical rules have been put to many uses: derivational and inflectional morphology (Copestake & Briscoe 1995; Emerson & Copestake 2015), complex predicate formation and conversion (Müller 2010), negation (Kim & Sag 2002; Müller 2010), and diathesis alternations (Davis 2001). Moreover, proposals for lexical rules in HPSG have extended beyond what are traditionally or evidently viewed as lexical phenomena, to include treatments of affixal realization of arguments, extraction, unbounded dependencies, and adjuncts. In this section, we describe the use of lexical rules to model the realization of arguments as extracted dependents or affixes, rather than complements. We concentrate on two of these cases (affixal realization of arguments and complement extraction), which we will contrast with alternative analyses not involving lexical rules presented by the same authors (see the next section). They thus provide a good illustration of some of the analytical choices available to model relations between variant lexical entries based on a single stem.

We begin with the Complement Extraction Lexical Rule (hereafter, CELR) proposed in Pollard & Sag (1994), shown in (35). The input to the rule is any lexeme that selects for a syntactic argument ([3]) that the lexeme requires to be expressed as a complement (as indicated, this syntactic argument is also a member of the COMPS list). The output stipulates that this same syntactic argument is no longer a member of the COMPS list; however, the SLASH set now includes a new element,

which is the local information of this syntactic argument (1). Informally stated, the input entry specifies that a syntactic argument must be realized as a complement, whereas the output entry specifies that the same syntactic argument must be realized by a non-local dependent (see Pollard & Sag 1994: Chapter 4 for the distinction between LOCAL and NON-LOCAL information).

$$(35) \quad \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{ARG-ST } \langle \dots, [3], \dots \rangle \\ \text{COMPS } \langle \dots, [3] \text{ LOC } [1], \dots \rangle \\ \text{SLASH } [2] \end{array} \right] \mapsto \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{ARG-ST } \left\langle \dots, [3] \begin{array}{l} \text{LOC } [1] \\ \text{SLASH } [1] \end{array}, \dots \right\rangle \\ \text{COMPS } \langle \dots \rangle \\ \text{SLASH } \{[1]\} \cup [2] \end{array} \right]$$

A similar use of lexical rules to model alternative realizations of arguments can be found in Monachesi (1993), who analyzes alternations between complements and pronominal object affixes (traditionally called object clitics) in Italian in a way that parallels the French examples in (9).  $\bigcirc$  in the rule, shown in (36), a.k.a. the “shuffle” operation, stands for the unordered concatenation of two lists, since any member of the input’s COMPS list can be realized as a clitic and therefore not included in the output’s COMPS list (see Müller (2019a), Chapter 10 of this volume for a more formal explanation of  $\bigcirc$ ). In the output of the lexical rule in (36), a subset of the list of complements in the input (2) corresponds to a list of clitic SYNSEMS, realized as prefixes through inflectional rules not shown here.

$$(36) \quad \left[ \begin{array}{ll} \text{word} & \\ \text{HEAD} & \text{verb} \\ \text{VAL|COMPS } & [1] \bigcirc [2] \\ \text{CLTS} & \text{elist} \end{array} \right] \mapsto \left[ \begin{array}{ll} \text{word} & \\ \text{VAL|COMPS } & [1] \\ \text{CLTS} & [2] \text{list(cl-ss)} \end{array} \right]$$

Here as well, a lexical rule is employed in an analysis of what might well be considered a syntactic phenomenon. The possibility of treating phenomena like extraction and pronominal object affix placement at a lexical level, however, makes sense when they are considered fundamentally as matters of the combinatorial requirements of predicates, rather than effects of movement.

Before turning to the alternatives, we note in passing that lexical rules are inherently “directional”, with an input and an output. This seems intuitively correct in the cases we have discussed, but might not always be so. Is there inherent directionality, for example, between the causative and inchoative alternants of verbs such as *melt* or *slide* or between the ditransitive and prepositional object frames of verbs such as *give*, as Goldberg1995 asks? In contrast, the alternatives to lexical rules described in the following section lack this notion of directionality.

### 5.3 Alternatives to lexical rules

In this section we briefly examine two alternatives to lexical rules, each involving underspecification. The types of members of the ARG-ST list might be underspecified so that a single lexical description can correspond to more than one subcategorization frame. Or the type of the entry itself may be underspecified, so that it subsumes multiple inflectional or derivational forms. In both cases, the intent is that sufficiently underspecified information covers multiple entries that would otherwise have to be specified and related by lexical rules. We begin with alternatives to the complement extraction and clitic lexical rules in (35) and (36), proposed in Bouma et al. (2001) and Miller & Sag (1997).

In both cases, the idea is to distinguish between “canonical” and “non-canonical” realizations of syntactic arguments, as shown in the hierarchy of *synsem* types in Figure 9. “Canonical” means local realization as a complement or subject/specifier, and “non-canonical” means realization as an affix or filler of an unbounded dependency. Linking constraints between semantic roles (values of argument positions) and syntactic arguments (members of ARG-ST) do not specify whether the realization is canonical or not; thus they retain their original form. Only canonical members of ARG-ST must be structure-shared with members of valence lists. The two constraints that determine the non-canonical realization of fillers are shown in (37). (37a) specifies what it means to be a *gap-ss*, namely that the argument is extracted (its local information is “slashed”) whereras (37b) prohibits any *gap-ss* member from being a member of the COMPS list (see Bouma et al. 2001: 23). As these two constraints are compatible with either a canonical or extracted object, there is no need for the lexical rule in (35). (DEPS in (37b) is an attribute Bouma et al. introduce that includes not only syntactic arguments, the value of ARG-ST, but also some syntactic adjuncts;  $\ominus$  stands for list subtraction)

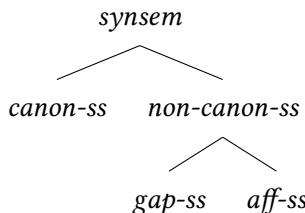


Figure 6: Types of *synsem*

- (37) a.  $gap\text{-}ss \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} LOC & \boxed{1} \\ SLASH & \boxed{1} \end{bmatrix}$

$$\text{b. } \textit{word} \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} \text{SUBJ} & \boxed{1} \\ \text{COMPS} & \boxed{2} \ominus \textit{list(gap-ss)} \\ \text{DEPS} & \langle \boxed{1} \rangle \oplus \boxed{2} \end{bmatrix}$$

Miller & Sag (1997) make a similar use of non-canonical relations between the ARG-ST list and the valence lists, eschewing lexical rules to model French pronominal object affixes (traditionally called clitics) and proposing instead the constraint in (38), where a subset of ARG-ST members, those that are realized as affixes (of type *aff*), are not also subcategorized for as complements.

$$(38) \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{MORPH} \left[ \begin{array}{ll} \text{FORM} & F_{PRAF}(\boxed{1}, \dots) \\ \text{I-FORM} & \boxed{1} \end{array} \right] \\ \text{SYNSEM} \left[ \begin{array}{ll} \text{HEAD} & \textit{verb} \\ \text{LOC|CAT} & \left[ \begin{array}{ll} \text{VAL} & \left[ \begin{array}{ll} \text{SUBJ} & \boxed{2} \\ \text{COMPS} & \boxed{3} \textit{list(non-aff)} \end{array} \right] \\ \text{ARG-ST} & (\boxed{2} \oplus \boxed{3}) \bigcirc \textit{nelist(aff)} \end{array} \right] \end{array} \right] \end{array} \right\}$$

In both of these analyses, related sets of lexical entries that could be thought of as “generated by lexical rules” are instead regarded as the various possible ways of obeying constraints like those in (37) or (38). This comes at a cost of additional types and constraints for extraction, and a loosening of requirements for the correspondence between the ARG-ST list and the valence lists. However, these approaches, in dispensing with lexical rules, sidestep the conceptual and representational issues that we noted earlier and attempts to restrict lexical rules to cases where they cannot be avoided, e.g., derivational morphology.

The second alternative to lexical rules based on underspecification was presented in Koenig & Jurafsky (1994) and Koenig (1999). Typically in HPSG, all possible combinations of types are reified in the type hierarchy (in fact, they must be present, per the requirement that the hierarchy be sort-resolved: Carpenter 1992b, Pollard & Sag 1994), or, equivalently, that each linguistic entity be assigned exactly one maximally specific type – a.k.a. *species* (Richter 2000: 78). Thus, if one partitions verb lexemes into transitive and intransitive and, orthogonally, into, say, finite verbs and gerunds (limiting ourselves to two dimensions here for simplicity), the type hierarchy must also contain the combinations transitive+finite, transitive+gerund, intransitive+finite, and intransitive+gerund. Naturally, this kind of fully enumerated type system is unsatisfying. For one thing, there is no additional information that the combination subtype *transitive+finite* carries that is not present in its two supertypes *transitive* and *finite*, and similarly for the other combinations. In contrast to the “ordinary” types, posited to represent information shared by classes of lexemes, these combinations seem to have no

other purpose than to satisfy a formal requirement on the mathematical structure of a type hierarchy (namely, that it forms a lattice under meet and join). Second, and related to the first point, this completely elaborated type hierarchy is redundant. Once you know that all verbs fall into two valence classes, transitive and intransitive, and simultaneously into two inflectional classes, finite and gerund, and that valence and inflection are two orthogonal dimensions of classification of verbs, you know all you need to know; the type of any verb can be completely predicted from these two orthogonal dimensions of classification and standard propositional calculus inferences.<sup>2</sup>

Figure 7 is a simplified hierarchy of verb lexemes we use for strictly expository purposes, where the boxed labels in small caps VFORM and ARG-ST are mnemonic names of orthogonal dimensions of classification of subcategories of verbs (and are not themselves labels of subcategories). Inheritance links to the predictable subtypes are dashed and their names grayed out; this indicates that these types can be inferred, and need not be declared explicitly as part of the grammar. A grammar of English would include statements to the effect that head information about verbs includes a classification of verbs into finite or base forms (of course, there would be more types of verb forms in a realistic grammar of English) as well a classification into intransitive and transitive verbs (again, a realistic grammar would include many more types).

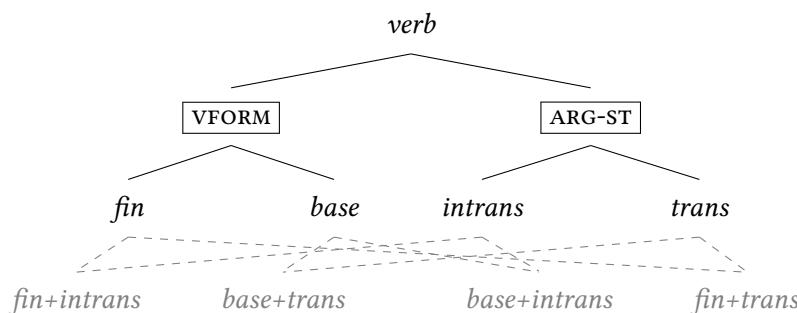


Figure 7: An example of on-line type construction

Crysmann & Bonami (2016) have shown how this *online type construction*,

<sup>2</sup>One possible way of making formally explicit the idea behind on-line type construction within the model-theoretic approach to HPSG that is now standard (King 1989; Richter 2000) is to allow maximally specific sorts, or species, to be non-atomic – either sets of species or non-atomic sums of species – just in cases where orthogonal dimensions of classification have been used since Flickinger (1987). For reasons of space, we do not pursue this line of inquiry in this chapter.

where predictable combinations of types of orthogonal dimensions of classification are not reified in the grammar, is useful when modeling productive inflectional morphology. Consider, for example, exponents of morphosyntactic features whose shape remains constant, but whose position within a word's template (to speak informally here) varies. One case like this is the subject and object markers of Swahili, which can occur in multiple slots in the Swahili verb template (Stump 1993; Bonami & Crysmann 2016).

For reasons of space we illustrate the usefulness of this dynamic approach to type creation, the Type Underspecified Hierarchical Lexicon (TUHL), with an example from Koenig (1999): the cross-cutting classification of syntactic/semantic information and stem form in the entry for the French verb *aller* (see Bonami & Boyé 2001 for a much more thorough discussion of French stem allomorphy along similar lines; Crysmann & Bonami's much more developed approach to stem allomorphy would model the same phenomena differently and we use Koenig's simplified presentation for expository purposes only). The forms of *aller* are based on four different suppletive stems: *all-* (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> person plural of the indicative and imperative present, infinitive, past participle, and imperfective past), *i-* (future and conditional), *v-* (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, or 3<sup>rd</sup> person singular and 3<sup>rd</sup> person plural of the indicative present), and *aill-* (subjunctive present). These four suppletive stems are shared by all entries (i.e., senses) of the lexeme *aller*: the one which means 'to fit' as well as the one which means 'to leave', as shown in (39) (see Koenig 1999: 40–41). The cross-cutting generalizations over lexemes and stems are represented in Figure 8. Any *aller* stem combines one entry and one stem form. In a traditional HPSG type hierarchy, each combination of types (grayed out in Figure 8), would have to be stipulated. In a TUHL, these combinations can be dynamically created when an instance of *aller* needs to be produced or comprehended.

- (39) a. Marc est allé à Paris.  
           Marc be-PR.3RD.SG go-PPT to Paris  
           'Marc went to Paris.'
- b. Marc s'en ira.  
           Marc 3.REFL-of.it go-FUT.3RD.SG  
           'Marc will leave.'
- c. Ce costume te va bien.  
       This suit you go-PR.3.SG well  
       'This suit becomes you.' (lit. goes well to you)

- d. Il faut que j'y aille.  
 It must that I.to.there go-SUBJ.PR.1.SG  
 'I must go there.'

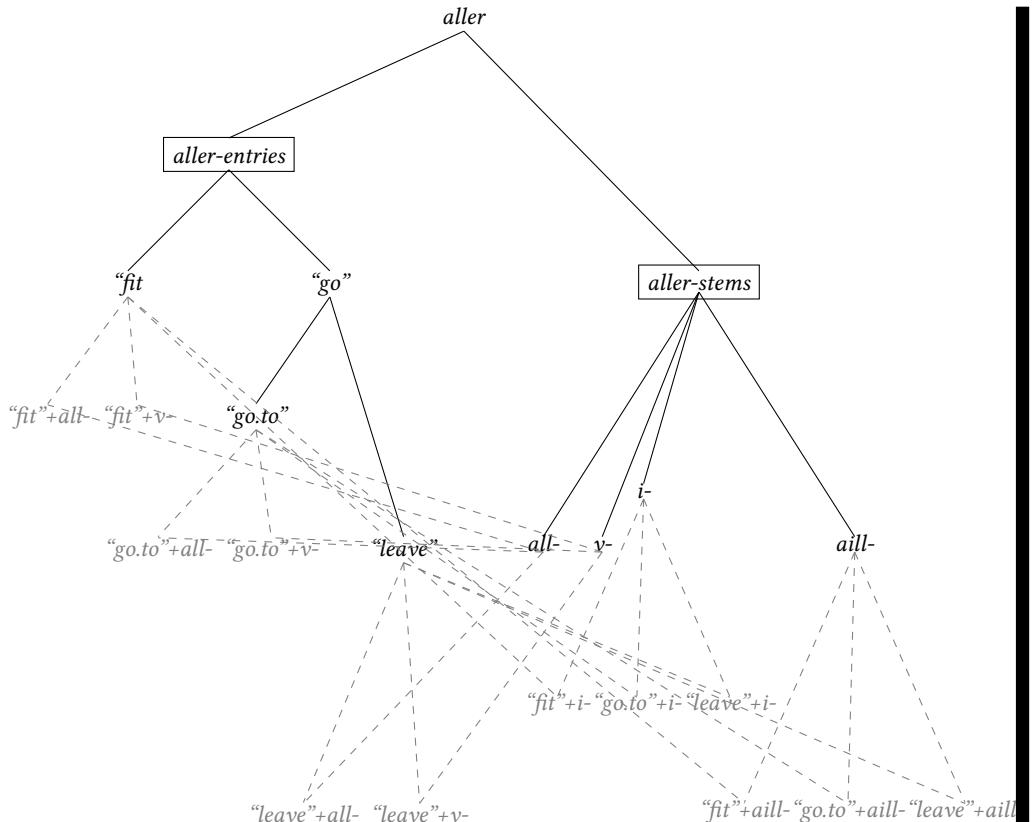


Figure 8: A hierarchy of lexical entries and stem-forms for the French verb *aller*, from Koenig (1999)

Both the distinction between canonical and non-canonical *synsem* and type underspecification avoid conflict between the information specified in the variants of words based on a single lexeme (e.g., conflicts on how syntactic arguments are realized); they abstract over the relevant pieces of conflicting information. Underspecifying information included in lexical entries or lexical types allows a single entry or type to stand for the two distinct entries or types that would be related as input and output by lexical rules.

Lexical rules have played a crucial role in the rise of lexicalist approaches

to syntax. But the two alternative analytical tools we discussed in this section (which, of course, can be combined in an analysis) have chipped away at their use in HPSG. Inflectional morphology is now dealt with through lexical types associating morphosyntactic features with forms/positions and constraints on words (ensuring that all morphosyntactic features are realized, see Crysman (2019), Chapter 22 of this volume). Non-canonical realization of syntactic arguments as affixes or fillers in unbounded dependencies is now modeled by distinguishing kinds of members of the ARG-ST list and constraints on words that relate valence, argument structure, and dependents lists.

So, what remains of the case for lexical rules? Well, first, as we showed above, lexical rules are now simply unary-branching rules within the lexical part of the type hierarchy. As such they are not formally distinct from the rest of the lexical hierarchy or the hierarchy of signs, as they used to be. Second, they are not meant to model just unproductive processes, as they were originally intended to in Jackendoff (1975) and Bochner (1993). They can be used to model unproductive processes, but they can also model productive derivational processes (in fact both when a single derivational process is both).

Still, the existence of two distinct ways of dealing with potential conflict of information – underspecification or unary branching rules – raises the issue of which one should be used when. Unfortunately, there is no general guideline; it depends on the nature of the data that needs to be modeled. Müller (2006; 2010) argues that diathesis phenomena, broadly speaking, favor a lexical rules approach over a phrase-structural constructional approach à la Goldberg 1995 or an online type construction approach suggested in Kay (2002). The arguments are convincing, but it should be noted that some of the data involves derivational morphology (e.g., causatives) or passive morphemes, which involves a Type-Based Derivational Morphology of the kind Riehemann argues for (such an approach was suggested in Koenig 1999: Chapter 4). What remains unclear to us is whether there are instances where lexical rules as unary-branching rules are a better model of “horizontal” generalizations that do not involve morphological processes, i.e., whether the kind of lexical rules Pollard & Sag (1994) proposes (e.g., the Complement Extraction Lexical Rule) are ever motivated over the underspecification treatment of such phenomena proposed in Bouma et al. (2001).

## 6 Conclusion

Our principal goals in this chapter have been to present the HPSG viewpoint on the structure and content of individual lexical entries, and the organization of the

lexicon as a whole. Unsurprisingly, both of these are pervaded by HPSG's lexicalist stance. With regard to lexical entries, this entails informationally rich and sometimes complex representations. A lexical entry models not only a word's idiosyncratic properties, but also its general morphological, distributional, combinatorial, and semantic characteristics. Consequently, HPSG researchers have devoted a great deal of attention to representing all of these in a parsimonious way, so as to avoid massive redundancy in the lexicon. We have surveyed several techniques addressing how to parcel out information shared among entries into descriptions that are true of sets of entries. First, feature geometry plays a key role in organizing portions of this information within a lexical entry in "packages" that tend to recur throughout the lexicon. This in turn allows these recurring portions to be associated with types in a hierarchy. Through inheritance, these common elements can be stated in just one location for the class of words that share them, and multiple inheritance makes it possible to represent numerous cross-cutting classifications of words. We have shown two ways in which HPSG scholars have exploited these mechanisms. One is by creating a hierarchy of subtypes of *word*, each with associated constraints. The other, probably more commonly employed in current work, is to posit type hierarchies of various objects within lexical entries, along with implicational statements that constrain the content of a lexical entry containing those types of objects.

This hierarchical character of the HPSG lexicon serves to model the "vertical" relationships among classes of words, based on properties like part of speech, subcategorization, linking, morphological and paradigmatic classes, and so forth. There is also a "horizontal" aspect of lexical relations, however, for which lexical rules explicitly relating one class of lexemes or words to another have been proposed. While their original use was primarily to model systematic sets of, say, forms in an inflectional paradigm, HPSG's lexicalist approach to syntax has also seen them employed in accounts of phenomena such as extraction, traditionally regarded as outside the lexicon. We also presented two alternatives to lexical rules that appear to handle these phenomena equally well. One involves underspecification within lexical entries in a way that permits them to describe the right range of related forms, while the other allows underspecification within type hierarchies, and requires fully specified types to be constructed "online". Both of these alternatives, like lexical rules, avoid massively repetitive specification of properties of families of systematically related words. Lexical rules as well as the two alternatives we outlined are independently needed and, although one can make suggestive remarks as to when to use lexical rules or either alternative, the issue cannot be settled *a priori* and must be argued on a case by case basis.

But, the rich and intricate hierarchical lexicon cum lexical rules is a defining, enduring, and pervasive feature of HPSG, more prominent here than in almost any other grammatical framework.

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# Chapter 5

## HPSG in understudied languages

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Work within HPSG has explored typologically-different and genetically-diverse languages, though the framework is not well-known for such explorations. This chapter details some of that work, focusing on the phenomena of argument indexing (pronoun incorporation or agreement), non-accusative alignment, and VSO constituent order. Examination of proposed and possible analyses within these areas reveals that HPSG can flexibly handle a wide range of languages all while maintaining a certain uniform “underlying structure” within the analyses.

### 1 Introduction

To date, the most intensely studied language within the HPSG framework has been English; this follows the trend in modern syntactic theorizing at large: English is currently the best described language in the world. Still, there has been plenty of work within HPSG on languages other than English (ISO 639-3 code: eng); in fact, substantial work has occurred within the framework<sup>1</sup> on German (ISO: deu) (Crysman 2003; Müller 2013), Danish (ISO: dan) (Müller & Ørsnes 2015), Norwegian (ISO: nor) (Hellan & Haugereid 2003), French (ISO: fra) (Abeillé & Godard 2000; 2002; 2004; Abeillé et al. 2006), Spanish (ISO: spa) (Maramon 2013), Portuguese (ISO: por) (Branco & Costa 2008), Mandarin Chinese (ISO: cmn) (Müller & Lipenkova 2013; 2016; Yang & Flickinger 2014), Japanese (ISO: jpn) (Siegel et al. 2016), and Korean (ISO: kor) (Kim et al. 2011), among others. However, work within HPSG is not particularly well-known for exploring a wide range of typologically- and genetically-diverse languages, certainly not to

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<sup>1</sup>Citations in this paragraph are to works, if available, whose focus is on the entire morphosyntax of the language in question rather than on particular issues in these languages.



the degree of its constraint-based lexicalist cousin, Lexical Functional Grammar. Nevertheless, there has been work within HPSG on such languages; this chapter will discuss some of this work as well as suggesting some further avenues for HPSG work within these languages.

The term I will employ for these typologically- and genetically-diverse languages is *understudied languages*. Which languages qualify as understudied languages, though? Does the term just cover languages that have not previously been investigated, syntactically? Or maybe all the languages without any previous HPSG work? Or maybe the term encompasses any language that is not the most described language, English? Though I reject all these (somewhat jocular) definitions, I do grant that *understudied language* is surely a fuzzy category, with boundaries that are difficult to demarcate and with conditions for inclusion that could be controversial. As a working benchmark for this chapter, I will suppose that the term *understudied languages* includes those languages that have a combined native and non-native speaker population of 1.2 million or fewer (roughly 0.01% of the world's population at present), that are spoken currently or have gone extinct within the last 120 years, that are generally spoken in a smaller, contiguous part of the globe, and that are not usually employed in international diplomacy or commerce. With this benchmark, languages<sup>2</sup> like Tongan (Polynesian, Austronesian; Tonga; ISO: ton), Kimaragang (Dusunic, Austronesian; Sabah, Malaysia; ISO: kqr), Warlpiri (Ngumpin-Yapa, Pama-Nyungan; west central Northern Territory, Australia; ISO: wbp), Burushaski (isolate; Gilgit-Baltistan, Pakistan; ISO: bsk), Lezgian (Lezgic, Nakh-Dagestanian; southern Dages-tan, Russia; ISO: lez), Maltese (Semitic, Afro-Asiatic; Malta; ISO: mlt), Basque (isolate; Basque Country, Spain & France; ISO: eus), Welsh (Celtic, Indo-European; Wales, UK; ISO: cym), Oneida (Iroquoian; New York & Wisconsin, USA; Ontario, Canada; ISO: one), Coast Tsimshian (Tsimshianic; NW British Columbia, Canada & SE Alaska, USA; ISO: tsi), Yucatec Maya (Mayan; Yucatan Peninsula, Mexico & Belize; ISO: yua), and Macushi (Cariban; Roraima, Brazil, E Venezuela, & SE Guyana; ISO: mbc) would all be included, while the ten languages mentioned in the first paragraph would not.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>2</sup>The locations and genetic affiliations of the languages listed here were checked at [Hammarström et al. \(2018\)](#) (accessed 2018-07-31).

<sup>3</sup>Some of the languages listed above will be discussed further in this chapter. Others from the above list are well-known understudied languages from the linguistics literature. A few of these languages have HPSG work that is not mentioned elsewhere in this chapter: on Tongan, see also [Dukes \(2001\)](#); on Warlpiri, see [Donohue & Sag \(1999\)](#); on Maltese, see [Müller \(2009\)](#); on Basque, see also [Crowgey & Bender \(2011\)](#); on Oneida, see also [Koenig & Michelson \(2010\)](#); on Yucatec Maya, see [Dąbkowski \(2017\)](#).

The denotation of the term *understudied languages* is intended to be different from *endangered language*; there is nothing in the above supposition of what an understudied language is that says that an understudied language may (or may not) potentially cease to be spoken within the next five to seventy years (see discussion in Krauss 1992 and Simons & Lewis 2013 for more on endangered languages and the crisis they face). However, the two terms do, in actuality, overlap: many understudied languages are endangered languages. While the use of HPSG (or other formal syntactic framework) or not likely has no direct bearing on the continued viability of a particular language, the practitioners of HPSG join with other linguists in seeing the importance of documenting such languages and supporting the rights of communities of endangered languages to continue to speak these languages.

Understudied languages exhibit a great variety of syntactic behaviors – some of them quite similar to “well-studied languages,” some of them quite different – and these languages do not form an obvious natural class, syntactically. Due to space limitations, I will focus on just a very small portion of the syntactic phenomena of understudied languages: argument indexing, non-accusative alignment (chiefly ergativity), and VSO constituent order. These phenomena and their analyses will give the reader a sense of how HPSG has been or could be applied to understudied languages. Unfortunately, this means that a collection of phenomena made famous by understudied languages – including, among others, noun incorporation (but see Malouf 1999; Runner & Aranovich 2003; Ball 2005a,b; 2008), serial verbs (but see Muansuwan 2001; 2002; Kropp Dakubu et al. 2007; Müller & Lipenkova 2009; Lee 2014), clause-chaining, evidentiality systems (but see Lee 2012), object-initial word order, and applicatives (but see Runner & Aranovich 2003; Ball 2008; 2010) – will not be discussed.

In going through the phenomena to be discussed, it will become clear that HPSG can flexibly handle a wide range of languages even while keeping its core characteristics. In fact, in most areas of analytic interest, several different approaches within the framework are equally viable at the outset. Relatedly, the analysis of many areas, especially from a cross-linguistic perspective, is far from settled. This seems to me to be an advantage: it allows competing analyses to be modeled clearly and precisely, while allowing empirical facts to better adjudicate between approaches.<sup>4</sup>

In my discussion, I will move through the three areas of argument indexing (in Section 2), non-accusative alignment (Section 3), and VSO constituent order (Section 4), which corresponds to decreasing pervasiveness – roughly estimated

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<sup>4</sup>This point is also made in Fokkens (2014), especially in Chapter 1.

– for each phenomenon across the world’s languages.

## 2 Argument indexing

Widespread among all sorts of natural languages – understudied or not – is what Haspelmath (2013) terms argument indexing. In argument indexing, morphologically dependent elements – that is, affixal elements usually located within or near the verb and with denotations (seemingly) similar to pronouns – either occur in place of arguments of the main semantic predicate of the clause or alongside them.<sup>5</sup> While this phenomenon occurs even a bit in English and throughout other European languages, argument indexing in understudied languages tends to be more “rampant”: that is, all (or most) of the verb’s arguments are indexed, rather than just the subject being indexed, as is the most common pattern in Europe (Siewierska 2013b). When the argument indexing is “rampant”: its treatment within the syntax (and within the morphology-syntax interface) of a language becomes a key question. HPSG analyses offer several possible answers how the syntax of argument indexing works, all while maintaining the framework’s surface orientation. Empirically, it is clear that not all argument indexes behave in quite the same way in all languages, so I will explore the analysis of two subtypes of indexes in the sections to follow: first, indexes that do not co-occur with external, role-sharing noun phrases, and, second, indexes that can co-occur with external, role-sharing noun phrases.<sup>6</sup>

### 2.1 Indexing in complementary distribution with conominals

Some argument indexes in some languages have the property that they do not – and cannot – appear with a non-pronominal element sharing their same syntactic/semantic role in the same narrow clause (I will refer to these non-pronominal elements as conominals, following Haspelmath 2013). The term that Haspelmath suggests – and I will use – for such argument indexes is pro-index. One language showing pro-index behavior with its argument indexes is Macushi, as revealed from the examples in (1):

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<sup>5</sup>Thus, this area includes what has been considered to be predicate-argument agreement as well as what some consider to be “pronoun incorporation”, though one of the key points of Haspelmath (2013) is that the pre-existing terminology – if not also the pre-existing analyses – in this domain has been misleading.

<sup>6</sup>See also Saleem (2010) for a similar – though not identical – analysis of the same analytical domain.

- (1) Macushi [mbc] (Abbott 1991 via Siewierska 1999 and Corbett 2003)

- a. i-koneka-'pí-u-ya  
3SG.ABS-make-PAST-1SG-ERG  
'I made it'
- b. \* uuri-ya i-koneka-'pí-u-ya  
1SG-ERG 3SG.ABS-make-PAST-1SG-ERG  
Intended: 'I made it'

The example in (1a) is just a verb with all its arguments realized as argument indexes. The example in (1b) clearly reveals the pro-index behavior of the argument indexes: the affixed verb is incompatible with an independent pronoun, such as *uuri-ya* '1SG.ERG'.

The pro-index phenomenon has a straightforward (and, as a result, commonly assumed) analysis within HPSG. The analysis was originally proposed by Miller & Sag (1997) for French "clitics", but could equally be applied to the Macushi case above, among others. Key to this analysis is the idea found in most versions of HPSG (emerging in the mid-to-late 1990s) that there are separate kinds of lists for the combinatorial potential(s) of heads. In fact, not only are there these separate lists, but there can be (principled) mismatches between them (see Borsley & Abeillé 2019, Chapter 1 of this volume and Wechsler, Koenig & Davis 2019, Chapter 9 of this volume). The first of these lists is the ARGUMENT-STRUCTURE (ARG-ST) list. This list handles phenomena related to the syntax-semantic interface, like linking (Davis 2001), case assignment (Przepiórkowski 1999), and binding restrictions (Manning & Sag 1998; Wechsler & Arka 1998). The other lists are the two valence lists, the SUBJECT (SUBJ) list and the COMPLEMENTS (COMPS) list. These are concerned with the "pure" syntax and mediate which syntactic elements can combine with which others.

On the Miller & Sag-style analysis of pro-indexes, the verb's ARG-ST list contains feature descriptions corresponding to all of its arguments. For the examples in (1), the verb's ARG-ST list would include a feature description for both the semantic maker and the semantic element that is made (as will appear in (3)). However, the same verb's SUBJ and COMPS lists would contain no elements corresponding to any affixed arguments. What prompts this disparity? The arguments realized by affixes correspond to a special kind of feature description on the ARG-ST list, typed *non-canonical*.<sup>7</sup> (Intuitively, these arguments are realized

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<sup>7</sup>In the version of HPSG of Ginzburg & Sag (2000), *non-canonical* was an immediate subtype of *synsem*; and the relevant feature descriptions were thus seen as syntactico-semantic complexes. In the latter-day version of HPSG known as Sign-Based Construction Grammar (Sag 2012), the *non-canonical* type was rechristened *covert* and was an immediate subtype of *sign*, the

in a non-canonical way.) Feature descriptions of the *non-canonical* type differ from their sibling type *canonical* in how they interact with the SUBJ and COMPS lists. Governing the relationship between the ARG-ST and these valence lists is the Argument Realization Principle, which is stated in (2):

$$(2) \quad word \Rightarrow \left[ \begin{array}{l} SS|LOC|CAT \left[ \begin{array}{l} SUBJ \boxed{B} \\ COMPS \boxed{C} \end{array} \right] \\ ARG-ST \boxed{A} list(canonical) (= \boxed{B} \oplus \boxed{C}) \bigcirc \boxed{D} list(non-canonical) \end{array} \right]$$

(cf. Ginzburg & Sag 2000: 171)

The constraint in (2) says that only the list of *canonical* feature descriptions on the ARG-ST can (and must) appear on the SUBJ and COMPS lists. Thus, the principle disallows any *non-canonical* argument from being mapped to either of these valence lists. This, then, captures the idea that such affixal arguments are generally inert in the combinatorics of the syntax proper: they saturate an argument slot and that argument slot is no longer available for other (at least direct) syntactic combination.

So, returning to the Macushi word *ikoneka'piuya* 'I made it' from (1a), it will have the partial lexical description in (3):

$$(3) \quad \left[ \begin{array}{l} SS|LOC \left[ \begin{array}{l} CAT \left[ \begin{array}{l} HEAD \verb \\ SUBJ \langle \rangle \\ COMPS \langle \rangle \end{array} \right] \\ CONT \left[ \begin{array}{l} RELS \left[ \begin{array}{l} make-rel \\ ARG1 \boxed{1} \\ ARG2 \boxed{2} \end{array} \right] \end{array} \right] \end{array} \right] \\ ARG-ST \langle [non-canonical]_{\boxed{1}}, [non-canonical]_{\boxed{2}} \rangle \end{array} \right]$$

In (3), the word's ARG-ST list is comprised of two *non-canonical* feature descriptions (corresponding to the maker argument with index  $\boxed{1}$  and the made argument, with index  $\boxed{2}$ ). Yet, by the Argument Realization Principle, the SUBJ and COMPS lists are empty. Consequently, *ikoneka'piuya* 'I made it', can be a clause by itself – as it is in (1a) – because it requires no other valents (that is, it has a "saturation" level on a par with a clause) and it is headed by a verb (just like a clause is).

The specification of an empty list also contributes to ruling out examples like (1b) with a conominal. On the standard HPSG view of how valence is managed,

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relevant feature descriptions being entire signs. In spite of these differences, which may seem significant, the analysis is very similar in both versions of the framework. Several subtypes of *non-canonical/covert* have been recognized, the subtype relevant for this example would be *aff*. But I will just use the *non-canonical* type here.

no element with an empty valence list can combine with any possible valence-saturating syntactic entity, like an NP.<sup>8</sup> Thus, the grammar would correctly not license a tree like in Figure 1.<sup>9</sup>

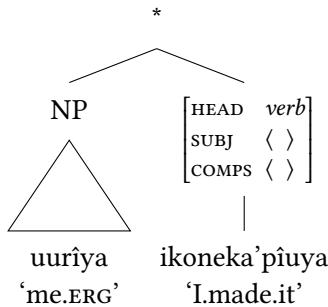


Figure 1: A tree of an illicit conominal–pro-index combination

Overall, the Argument Realization Principle-mandated non-mapping of the *non-canonical* ARG-ST list members to either the SUBJ or the COMPS list captures the key behavior found in the pro-indexing type of argument indexing: the argument indexes occur in complementary distribution with any conominal.

## 2.2 Indexing co-occurring with conominals

Even though the pro-index type of argument index has a more straightforward analysis, this type is not the most common in the world’s languages. Rather, the most common type of argument indexing appears to be the one where the argument indexing affix(es) can co-occur with a conominal, but do(es) not have to. In Haspelmath’s (2013) terms, this is the cross-index type.<sup>10</sup> A language exhibiting this type of behavior is Basque, as evident from the example in (8):

<sup>8</sup>To truly rule out the NP from combining with the verb in Figure 1, the NP would also need to not match any non-local requirements of the verb.

<sup>9</sup>The tree in Figure 1, as well as other trees in this chapter, only provides the relevant attribute-value pairs, suppressing the geometry of features found in more articulated feature descriptions.

<sup>10</sup>The behavior of cross-indexes is canonical for so-called “pro-drop” languages, a term arising from the transformational syntax tradition (particularly from Chomsky 1981), but now with wider currency.

- (4) Basque [eus] (Laka 1996: 98)

Zuk niri liburua saldu d-i-da-zu.  
2SG.ERG 1SG.DAT book.DEF sold 3SG.ABS-AUX-1SG.DAT-2SG.ERG  
'You have sold me the book.'

Though *zuk* 'you', *niri* 'me', or even *liburua* 'the book' would not need to be present for the grammaticality of this sentence, this sentence (and language) exhibits cross-index behavior because, even though these nominals are present, the argument indexing affixes on, in this case, the auxiliary *didazu* '3SG.ABS:AUX:-1SG.DAT:2SG.ERG' still occur.

Unlike the pro-indexes, there is no current standard HPSG analysis of cross-indexes.<sup>11</sup> Nevertheless, there are some possible approaches. I detail two in some depth here – what I will call the underspecification analysis and what I refer to as the direct syntax approach – and mention some other options near the end of the section.

### 2.2.1 Underspecification for Cross-Indexes

On the underspecification analysis, the lexical descriptions of argument index-containing words would have underspecified feature descriptions on their ARG-ST lists, corresponding to their argument indexes. These would then resolve depending on the syntactic context. Which portions of the feature description would be underspecified is a bit flexible (at least, in the abstract) and depends on whether the analyst thought the "agreement" (argument indexing) was more formal or semantic in nature (see Wechsler 2019, Chapter 6 of this volume for a more thorough discussion of what is involved here). For the sake of illustration purposes, I will employ a more semantic approach below.

Let us consider a word, like the Basque auxiliary *dut* 'AUX:3.ABS:1SG.ERG', that has a third-person singular absolute argument index. Such a word might just be specified, by the constraints on the various lexical types of Basque, as in (5).<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>11</sup>This may, in part, be a consequence of the standard way of managing predicate-argument relations in the syntax in HPSG: this management strategy is resource-sensitive – namely, once something is “cancelled” off a SUBJ or COMPS list, it no longer appears on any subsequent (higher) lists and cannot be used for other syntactic purposes. However, Section 2.2.3 will discuss some HPSG approaches where the management strategy is not so resource-sensitive.

<sup>12</sup>The lexical descriptions associated with *dut* in (5)–(7) all have a further argument – the verbal expression associated with the auxiliary – suppressed in these descriptions (with ellipses) because such a verbal argument (and its interaction with the other arguments) is not the focus of the analysis here.

$$(5) \quad \left[ \text{ARG-ST} \left( \left[ \text{synsem} \right], \left[ \begin{array}{c} \text{synsem} \\ \text{ss} | \text{LOC} | \text{CONT} | \text{IND} \quad 3\text{sg} \end{array} \right], \dots \right) \right]$$

To be consistent with (5), the second ARG-ST list member just needs to be something that is semantically a third person. Therefore, the second ARG-ST list member could ultimately resolve to a *non-canonical* feature description, as in (6):

$$(6) \quad \left[ \text{ARG-ST} \left( \left[ \text{synsem} \right], \left[ \begin{array}{c} \text{non-canonical} \\ \text{ss} | \text{LOC} | \text{CONT} | \text{IND} \quad 3\text{sg} \end{array} \right], \dots \right) \right]$$

This resolution would be forced when no conominal is present (if this *synsem* on the ARG-ST list resolved to the *canonical* type and a conominal was not present, the COMPS list would illicitly not be emptied). The analysis would, in this condition, be identical to that of the pro-indexes provided in Section 2.1.

However, the second ARG-ST list member could also ultimately resolve to a *canonical* feature description, as in (7):

$$(7) \quad \left[ \text{ARG-ST} \left( \left[ \text{synsem} \right], \left[ \begin{array}{c} \text{canonical} \\ \text{ss} | \text{LOC} | \text{CONT} | \text{IND} \quad 3\text{sg} \end{array} \right], \dots \right) \right]$$

This resolution would be forced when a conominal is present (otherwise, the conominal could not be syntactically licensed). Thus, the analysis, in this condition, is like an instance of obligatorily co-present conominal and argument index (a gramm-index in Haspelmath's terms).

As the discussion above indicates, there is a certain portion of this analysis that is not lexically mandated: the precise resolution of the argument depends on the specific syntactic expressions appearing in a particular clause. This analysis is also of the dual-nature type discussed by Haspelmath (2013): the argument index is treated as a pro-index when it has no conominal and it is treated as gramm-index when a conominal is present. Other frameworks employ a similar analysis (LFG does, for instance – see Bresnan et al. 2015: Chapter 8). Haspelmath criticizes this approach for positing two distinct structural types for a single kind of affix; though, in the analysis above, it does not seem that the structural types are that radically different (observe that just one underspecified lexical description is associated with forms with affix). Still, we might want to at least consider other options – and, in keeping with the tendency for multiple different approaches to be found within HPSG, there are some.

### 2.2.2 The “direct syntax” approach to cross-indexes

Another approach to cross-indexes, proposed for Oneida in Koenig & Michelson (2015), takes the view that, in at least some languages, argument indexes always

stand for arguments and the combination of a conominal and a verb with argument indexing is more purely semantically mediated and akin to a nominal expression combining with an already saturated narrow clause.<sup>13</sup> This approach Koenig & Michelson have called the “direct syntax approach” (it is direct in the sense that the combinatorics are not mediated by any valence lists, which, arguably, is a bit more “indirect”).

As Koenig & Michelson (2015) discuss in detail, it appears that Oneida exhibits some interesting properties that make treating its argument indexing patterns in a (seemingly) rather different way much more plausible. For one, as shown in (8), the verb indexes all its arguments morphologically (except inanimates, like ‘his axe’ in (9)) – often with portmanteau affixes, as in (8) – making the case that the argument indexes are the actual arguments much stronger.

- (8) Oneida [one] (Koenig & Michelson 2015: 5)

wa-hiy-até-kw-a-h-t-e?  
FACT-1SG>3.M.SG-flee-LNK.V-CAUS-PNC  
'I chased him away.'

Second, the evidence is equivocal about whether the language has any selection that cannot be treated as semantic selection.

Thus, on Koenig & Michelson’s view (and in keeping with the terminology of the previous discussion): all the arguments correspond (at best) to *non-canonical* elements on the ARG-ST list and thus there is never any head-argument combinations in the syntax. Any and all conominals then are licensed via index sharing of a nominal and an element on a NON-LOCAL feature that Koenig & Michelson call DISLOC (see Koenig & Michelson 2015: 39 for discussion of why they consider this the best way to deal with the NON-LOCAL feature), as shown in Figure 2, a tree of (9):

- (9) Oneida [one] (Koenig & Michelson 2015: 17)

Λ-ha-hyo?thi-yát-e?      laoto·kÁ,  
FUT-3M.SG.A-sharpen-PNC his.axe  
'he will sharpen his axe,'

Koenig & Michelson’s (2015) discussion suggests that the direct syntax type might represent an extreme, occurring only in the most polysynthetic and non-configurational of languages, like Oneida and its Iroquoian kin. However, this

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<sup>13</sup>This analysis is perhaps the closest any HPSG analysis comes to the so-called Pronominal Argument Hypothesis (Jelinek 1984).

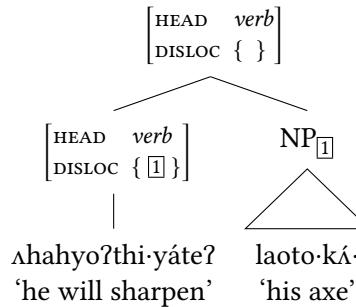


Figure 2: Licensing conominals on the direct syntax approach

claim remains an open question. Perhaps further study will reveal that this sort of analysis could profitably be employed in other kinds of languages.

### 2.2.3 Other possibilities for cross-indexes

In addition to the analyses discussed in the previous two subsubsections, there are a few more conceptual avenues that might be explored for the analysis of cross-indexes, though it is not clear that they have been fully explored in the literature yet (which might raise some questions as to their viability).

One route to explore would be to use lexical rules to create ARG-ST or the valence lists with feature descriptions corresponding to both the argument indexes and the conominals (something similar was explored for “clitics” in various Romance varieties by [Monachesi 2005](#)). Such a lexical rule might look as in (10):

$$(10) \quad \begin{aligned} & \left[ \text{ARG-ST } \boxed{A} \left( \left[ \text{canonical} \right], \left[ \text{non-canonical} \right. \right. \right. \\ & \left. \left. \left. \left[ \text{ss|LOC|CONT|IND } \boxed{1} \right] \right] \right) \mapsto \\ & \left[ \text{ss|LOC|CAT|COMPS list} \oplus \left( \left[ \text{canonical} \right. \right. \right. \\ & \left. \left. \left. \left[ \text{ss|LOC|CONT|IND } \boxed{1} \right] \right] \right) \\ & \text{ARG-ST } \quad \boxed{A} \end{aligned}$$

This approach might be a way to loosen the resource sensitivity of the usual valence regime, though a proposal along these lines would need to take care in considering whether any changes would be needed in the statement of the Argument Realization Principle (and if so, what form they should take) and if there would be any undesirable consequences to allowing single semantic arguments to correspond to more than one syntactico-semantic element.

Another route to consider would be to relax the resource sensitivity in the syntax, instead of in the information associated with single words. Given pro-

posals like the one in Bender (2008) for non-cancellation of arguments (more detailed discussion of this proposal is in Section 6 of Müller 2019, Chapter 10 of this volume<sup>14</sup>) to deal with apparent cases of discontinuous constituency, maybe something similar should also be explored for the cross-index type of argument indexing.

Overall, there seems to be a need for more explorations into cross-index behavior cross-linguistically within HPSG. Certainly, the above discussion shows that, in fact, there is no shortage of possible analyses, but work remains to further determine which of these might be the best analysis, overall, or which of these might be best for which languages.

### 3 Non-accusative alignments

Another area (in fact, not so distant from argument indexing in function) where understudied languages have enriched the general understanding of natural language morphosyntax is in the area of (morphosyntactic) alignment. Alignment concerns how the morphology of a language (if not also its syntax) groups together (or “aligns”) different arguments together into (what seem to be) particular grammatical relations (see Bickel & Nichols 2009 for an overview of alignment).<sup>15</sup> The most widespread alignment is the accusative one – familiar from ancient Indo-European languages and conservative modern day ones – where subjects of transitive and intransitive verbs are treated differently from the objects of transitive verbs. Other recognized alignments include ergative (where subjects of transitive verbs are treated differently from the subjects of intransitives, which, in turn, pattern with the direct objects of transitives) (see Comrie 1978; Plank 1979; Dixon 1979; 1994, among others, for further discussion), split-S/active (where semantic agents and patients are treated differently) (see Klimov 1973; 1974; Dixon 1994: Chapter 4; Mithun 1991; Wichmann & Donohue 2008, among others, for further discussion), tripartite (where subjects of transitive verbs, subjects of intransitive verbs, and objects of transitive verbs are each treated differently) (Dixon 1994: 39–40), Austronesian alignment<sup>16</sup> (where arguments of various semantic roles can flexibly hold a privileged syntactic slot) (see

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<sup>14</sup> Also see like-minded proposals in Meurers (1999) and Müller (2008).

<sup>15</sup> Alignment can be explored both in head-marking and dependent-marking (Nichols 1986); however, having already focused on a kind of head-marking strategy in the previous section, I will focus on the corresponding dependent-marking strategy in this section.

<sup>16</sup> This kind of system is known by various different names other than Austronesian alignment, including a symmetrical voice system, a Philippine-type voice system, or an Austronesian focus system.

Schachter 1976; Ross 2002; Himmelmann 2005 for more discussion), and hierarchical alignment (where elements of higher discourse salience are treated differently from elements of lower discourse salience) (see Jacques & Antonov 2014 for a good overview of what is involved).

Surveys from WALS (Comrie 2013a,b; Siewierska 2013a) indicate that accusative alignment is common worldwide,<sup>17</sup> and this seems to be even more true of languages with large numbers of speakers. Of the top 25 most widely spoken languages at present, arguably only a collection of languages from the Indian sub-continent (Hindi-Urdu, Marathi, and Gujarati) have non-accusative alignments, and even those are restricted to certain portions of their respective verbal systems (see Verbeke 2013: Chapter 7 for more on the patterns in these and other Indo-Aryan languages). Impressionistically, it seems that understudied languages do have a much stronger propensity for non-accusative alignments.

Because the non-accusative alignments at least seem to be rather different than accusative alignment, it is an interesting question how a given framework might handle these kinds of systems. In the majority of this section I will focus on the analysis of ergative systems, as a proof of concept (see, however, Drellishak 2009 for analyses of each of the non-accusative alignments, including the hierarchical type).<sup>18</sup>

In dealing with the analysis of ergative systems, it will be useful to divide the discussion into two parts. First, I will consider how particular morphological forms within NPs are licensed in instances when they co-occur with their governing verb – I will call this “the licensing of case in the syntax” (see also Przepiórkowski 2019, Chapter 7 of this volume). Second, I will consider how particular arguments come to be associated with particular morphological forms (whether realized or not) – I will call this “the licensing of case in linking” (see also Wechsler, Koenig & Davis 2019, Chapter 9 of this volume). This division is not commonly recognized in most other frameworks; however, it does present itself as a possible division within HPSG, due to the separate ARG-ST and valence lists.

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<sup>17</sup>However, since the surveys focus more on coding patterns rather than behavioral patterns (coding and behavioral in the sense of Keenan 1976 – “coding” related to morphological patterns or function words that signal a particular grammatical relation category; “behavioral” related to reference properties or patterning across clauses), it is possible that they underreport behavioral accusative patterns, even among languages that have so-called “neutral” coding patterns.

<sup>18</sup>There is also some discussion of an HPSG analysis of the ergative-aligned case system of the Caucasian language Archi – similar, in some respects, to the Lezgian examples I consider further on – in Borsley (2016), though the focus of that paper is much more on Archi’s argument indexing system rather than its case system.

### 3.1 The licensing of case in the syntax

The licensing of case in the syntax within HPSG is as straightforward in non-accusative alignments as it is in an accusative alignment system; the fundamentals are the same, regardless of alignment. This comes about due to the use of feature value matching (also known as “feature unification”) for case licensing in the syntax.<sup>19</sup> The simple premise of feature value matching is that a value for a particular feature possessed by an argument and a feature value required by its head (for that same argument) must match. The nature of this analysis makes case licensing nearly identical – excepting the different values involved – to the selection of part-of-speech categories.<sup>20</sup>

To actually license case in the syntax with an ergative system, the key elements are (1) a feature for nominal expressions (call it CASE) and (2) appropriate values for CASE, like *ergative* and *absolutive*. Note that the values of *ergative* and *absolutive* are typed, so they can be potentially grouped with other case values into supertypes, like *structural cases* or *semantic cases*, if such groupings are relevant (as was done for the first time in Heinz & Matiasek 1994). With those features in place, the rest of the analysis falls out through the larger theories of syntactic selection, featural identities, and syntactic combination: certain heads will require [CASE *erg(ative)*] and [CASE *abs(olutive)*] of their arguments. If certain potential arguments are just single words, the values for CASE of these words will straightforwardly match or not. If certain potential arguments consist of multiple words, independent constraints on HEAD value identity will ensure that the value for CASE will be identical between the head daughter and overall phrase; constraints on the syntactic combination then ensure that the CASE values of the nominal expressions and the head requirements match.

To see this with an actual example, let us consider the Lezgian sentence in (11):

- (11) Lezgian [lez] (Haspelmath 1993: 287)  
Aбуру зун ажібда.  
3PL.ERG 1SG.ABS shame.FUT  
'They will shame me.'

The example in (11) could be analyzed with the tree in Figure 3.

<sup>19</sup>Feature value matching does have some conceptual similarity to the “feature checking” approach to case found in more recent Minimalist work (Chomsky 1991; 1993; Adger 2000; 2010; Frampton & Gutmann 2006; Pesetsky & Torrego 2007), though there are notable differences between the approaches, particularly that features are deleted in feature checking, but not in feature value matching.

<sup>20</sup>Thus, to use terms more commonly associated with Mainstream Generative Grammar, HPSG views case licensing as (a specific kind of) c-selection (in the sense of Grimshaw 1979).

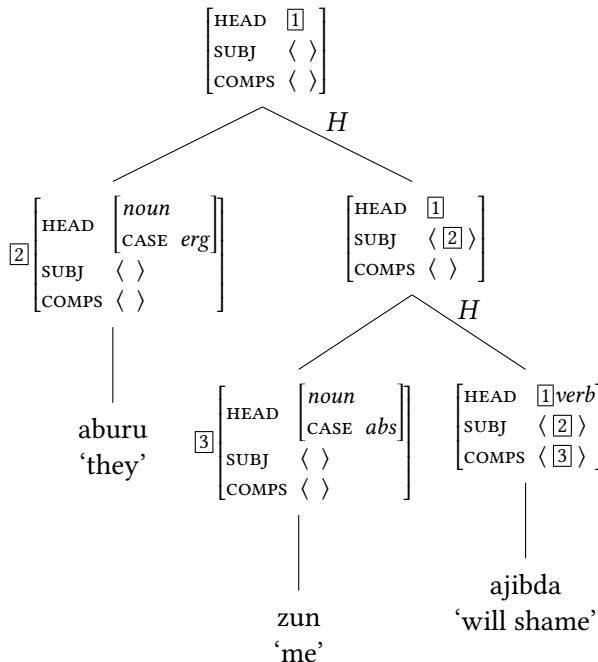


Figure 3: A tree of (11)

The tree in Figure 3 consists of two head-argument combinations, and in fact, the tree has the same geometry as an accusative verb-final language (on standard assumptions about the constituency) – indeed, as the HPSG analysis does not intrinsically tie the analysis of case with constituency, the geometry of clauses would, all else being equal, not differ based on alignment alone. The most idiosyncratic aspect of Figure 3 is that the verb *ajibda* ‘will shame’ is one that requires an ergative–absolutive combination of arguments. Because the HPSG framework is feature-rich and formally rigorous in how feature values must be constrained within constituent structures, the licensing of case in the syntax in an HPSG analysis is very straightforward.

### 3.2 The licensing of case in linking

Lurking behind the most idiosyncratic aspect of Figure 3 is the question of how particular heads come to have their particular argument requirements. This is, in fact, the question of how case is licensed in linking. As with other matters of non-accusative alignments, it seems that different alignments need not be treated in a

wholly different fashion from each other: thus, the same kinds of analytic moves for accusatively aligned systems could be used for non-accusatively aligned systems. That being so, it is probably too hasty to assume that there is a one-size-fits-all solution for linking of case across all languages (regardless of alignment), as quite a few different factors appear to be important in different languages, among them at least verb class (that is, the classes related to the verbal lexical semantics), the semantic nature of the argument itself, the morphological form of the verb, and the subordination status of the clause headed by the verb (see, for example, discussion in Dixon 1994).

In all known ergative languages, the ergative–absolutive case pattern – clearly indicating that the subjects of transitive verbs are not encoded like the subjects of intransitive verbs – appears with “primary transitive verbs” (a term from Andrews 1985; 2007): predicates with the canonical meaning associated with transitive verbs where an initiating entity causes change in an undergoing entity. Given this basic generalization, a possible analysis of the arguments’ case requirements with these “primary transitive verbs” would be through the constraint in (12):

$$(12) \quad trans\text{-}v\text{-}lxm \Rightarrow \left[ \begin{array}{l} SS|LOC|CONT|KEY \\ ARG-ST \end{array} \middle| \begin{array}{l} act\text{-}und\text{-}rel \\ \left[ \begin{array}{l} ARG1 \boxed{1} \\ ARG2 \boxed{2} \end{array} \right] \\ \left( [CASE \ erg]_{\boxed{1}}, [CASE \ abs]_{\boxed{2}} \right) \oplus list \end{array} \right]$$

In (12), the verb lexeme has an ARG-ST list with both an ergative and an absolute argument. Key to this result is that the verb lexeme is associated with an *actor-undergoer-relation* (*act-und-rel*), and, in fact, this is the value of the KEY feature in (12), encoding the designated semantic relation relevant for case and linking (see Koenig & Davis 2006 for more on the KEY feature). The *act-und-rel* type designates semantic predicates with precisely the denotation behind the notion of “primary transitive verb” (see Davis 2001: 75–134 for discussion of this type, other related types, and how these types fit into a hierarchy of semantic relations). Provided that the constraint in (12) is the only argument realization constraint to mention the ergative and absolute cases, the ergative–absolutive collection of arguments would only be available with verbs with this particular sort of meaning.<sup>21</sup> The overall linking constraint is placed on a *transitive-verb-lexeme* (*trans-v-lxm*), so that (a) the case requirements are stated once for all the different inflected forms of the verb and (b) so these case requirements could also

<sup>21</sup>Though to achieve more generality with the licensing of absolute case, one might follow Ball (2008: Chapter 7) and have separate linking constraints for absolute and ergative case.

be inherited by other semantically appropriate verbs with even more arguments than the bivalent predicate illustrated in (12).

As alluded to above, in other case “assignment” situations, though, other factors beyond just the semantics of the verb can be relevant (certainly with any instance of “split ergativity”, among others). These could be still be treated with constraints with a similar format to (12), but if they needed to refer to, say, just past tense verb forms, the relevant linking constraint would almost assuredly need to reference information from the morphology (perhaps encoded as part of a MORPH(OLOGY) attribute). Given the known claims about what non-accusative alignment can be sensitive to, it seems likely that the sign-based architecture (where all linguistic areas of structure can interact in parallel) would enable the straightforward statement of case constraints based on the previously claimed generalization. And, in fact, having the possibilities of morphological form, semantics, and various syntactic properties easily available for an analysis could be useful as a means of testing and modeling which areas might be relevant in particular examples.

Overall, there is a lot still to be done to better understand the intricate details of case and linking generally, but given the toolbox available in the HPSG framework (again, see Przepiórkowski 2019, Chapter 7 of this volume and Wechsler, Koenig & Davis 2019, Chapter 9 of this volume), it seems like HPSG offers a lot of flexibility for better figuring out what linguistic elements are crucial for particular patterns and for encoding analyses that directly reference the interaction of these elements across different levels of structure.

## 4 Verb-subject-object constituent order

Let us turn to another interesting phenomenon of understudied languages: Verb-Subject-Object (VSO) constituent order.<sup>22</sup> VSO order appears to be the rarest of the more common orders. Various typology surveys (like Dryer 2013) indicate that it is only found in about 8–10% of the world’s languages. Interestingly, a greater number of examples of languages with this order do come from the realm of understudied languages. Of the twelve understudied languages (a non-random sample<sup>23</sup>) mentioned in the introduction, five of them have VSO (or verb-initial

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<sup>22</sup>It would probably be clearer to refer to this order as Predicate–Agentive–Patientive order, because, as noted in the previous section, alignment and constituent order are, to a degree, disjoint. However, I will bow to tradition and use the terms verb, subject, and object and their abbreviations, V, S, and O.

<sup>23</sup>See fn. 3 for the rationale behind the choice of those twelve languages.

with no strict ordering of S and O) order. Perhaps a bit more telling of the (apparent) understudied language bias to VSO order is that only one of the top 50 languages by native speakers – Tagalog – reasonably clearly has VSO order.<sup>24</sup> Interestingly, VSO order does occur in a number of languages as a non-dominant word order: for instance, it is found in a great many western European languages (English, German, French, Spanish, among others) as a common order in questions.

In spite of its relative rarity as a dominant order, VSO order (as well as verb-initial order with flexible ordering of verbal dependents) poses some interesting challenges for frameworks that place some importance in constituency (as HPSG has done). Since the V and the O are not (normally) adjacent in VSO clauses, it is less than obvious that there is a constituent that groups them together (as a VP or a V') in these languages. This contrasts with the more common Subject–Verb–Object and Subject–Object–Verb orders where a constituent that groups the V and O together is much more plausible, on surface adjacencies alone. A long-standing question across constituency-based frameworks is how to best characterize VSO order, both on its own and in the context of the other cross-linguistically attested and common order patterns.

Analyses within Mainstream Generative Grammar have generally analyzed VSO as a derived order; all (or nearly all) of them (especially after the 1970s) have viewed VSO as a derived permutation of some constituent (or more) from a covert SVO order (see [Clemens & Polinsky 2017](#) for an overview of the analyses within this tradition). Some of the suggested HPSG analyses follow a similar line of analysis, and I will briefly touch on those proposals below. However, more HPSG analysts have generally taken VSO order as is, and so I spend more of this section discussing two surface-oriented VSO analyses in HPSG: what I call the flat structure analysis and what I call the binary branching head-initial analysis.

#### 4.1 The analogues of verb movement in HPSG

Interestingly, there is not one, but two styles of HPSG analyses that are roughly analogous to Mainstream Generative Grammar’s verb movement, commonly employed to derive VSO order. Both are discussed in greater detail in [Müller \(2019\)](#), Chapter 10 of this volume, so my comments here will be somewhat superficial and will center around verb-initiality. The first of the two uses the DOUBLESLASH

<sup>24</sup>Tagalog’s distant Austronesian relatives Indonesian, Javanese, and Sundanese, along with Arabic – all four of these languages are also in the top 50 – had VSO, historically, and each of these languages preserves some instances of VSO order. As is often the case when looking at word orders and languages, things are rarely as cut and dry as they might otherwise seem.

feature (see Section 4.1 of Müller 2019, Chapter 10 of this volume) and so treats the initial verb as involved in a long-distance dependency. Thus, in keeping with other long-distance dependencies in HPSG, information related to the initial verb is passed through the constituent structure to the verb's downstairs position (a trace, with semantic and syntactic structure, though no phonological realization). While this analysis has been explored for some Germanic languages (see Figure 2 in Müller 2019, Chapter 10 of this volume for a pictorial depiction of an analysis of an English verb-initial clause), I am not aware that it has (yet) been seriously explored in the HPSG literature for any particular verb-initial language (let alone for an understudied verb-initial language).

The other verb-movement-like analysis uses constituent order domains and linearization (see Section 5 of Müller 2019, Chapter 10 of this volume). On this analysis, the verb, while combined with its complements at a low level, is constrained at the clausal level to be initial (see Borsley 2006 for more discussion of this in a verb-initial context). This style of analysis has been closely and carefully considered for Welsh in work by Borsley (for example in Borsley 1989; 1995; 2009), but time and again, it seems that Borsley suggests that an analysis (at least for the basics of clausal structure) more in line with what is discussed in Section 3 is to be preferred for Welsh.

Given the rarity (and perhaps reluctance) – noted above – of HPSG researchers to analyze VSO order as covertly SVO (or, more to the point, to recognize a constituent that groups together the V and O within VSO structures), one might wonder why this has (hitherto) been so. Probably, HPSG's surface orientation has played a role, as well as the fact that HPSG-internal considerations do not force or strongly suggest positing a VP constituent. Furthermore, HPSG analysts have also carefully considered how constituency tests might inform such structures. In exploring these, various HPSG researchers (such as Borsley 2006 for Welsh and Ball 2008: Chapter 3 for Tongan) have not found compelling evidence for positing a VP constituent in particular VSO languages.<sup>25</sup> For instance, Ball, in looking at Tongan, found that: putative VP-coordination “over” a subject is not possible; no auxiliary or verb obviously subcategorizes for a verbal constituent that obviously excludes its subject, nor do adverbial elements obviously select for such a constituent; and, while “VP-fronting” and “VP-ellipsis” are possible, they seem to involve NPs rather than VPs. While these facts do not definitively

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<sup>25</sup>The undermotivated VP in Welsh is probably just a VP headed by a finite verb, as Welsh does give evidence for non-finite VPs (Borsley et al. 2007). In other languages, like Tongan, the undermotivated VPs might include both finite and non-finite VPs. As has emerged in the study of verb-initial languages in several frameworks, these languages might not be as structurally uniform as the term “verb-initial languages” suggests.

rule out a VP (it is difficult to argue that anything is clearly absent), they suggest that not positing a VP does not complicate the grammar of this kind of language. Undoubtedly, it would be interesting to see what further explorations like these with more verb-initial language might reveal. Still, the VSO-as-covert-SVO analysis may lie on shakier empirically grounds than analyses within Mainstream Generative Grammar have generally acknowledged and this, explicitly or implicitly, has led HPSG analysts to explore other avenues in the analysis of VSO languages.

## 4.2 The flat structure analysis

The seemingly most common analysis of VSO languages in HPSG is the flat structure analysis.<sup>26</sup> As its name suggests, the proposed structure is flat, with the verb, subject NP, and any complement NPs all being sisters within the same constituent. To license such a structure, one has to depart from rules that put just heads and complements or just heads and subjects together. The flat structure analysis instead makes use of what I call the Head-All-Valents Schema (also sometimes called the Head-Subject-Complements Schema), given in (13):

$$(13) \quad \begin{aligned} \text{head-all-valents-schema} \Rightarrow \\ \left[ \begin{array}{ll} \text{ss|LOC|CAT} & \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{SUBJ } \langle \rangle \\ \text{COMPS } \langle \rangle \end{array} \right] \\ \text{HD-DTR} & \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{word} \\ \text{ss|LOC|CAT } \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{SUBJ } \langle [1] \rangle \\ \text{COMPS } \langle [2], \dots, [n] \rangle \end{array} \right] \end{array} \right] \\ \text{NON-HD-DTRS } \langle [1], [2], \dots, [n] \rangle & \end{array} \right] \end{aligned}$$

Per its name, it licenses a fully saturated phrase comprising a head – a single word – and all its valents (subject, object, and whatever else). This schema has not just been used for canonical VSO clauses within HPSG, but other clause-level head-initial structures, including polar questions in English. Thus, this schema has a long pedigree in the HPSG literature (compare the schema in (13) with

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<sup>26</sup>There are, in fact, several alternative flat structure analyses, differing slightly in how the head's valence features relate to the structure. Besides having the head combine with its subjects and complements simultaneously, as in the main text, one variant has all the arguments as complements and, thus, VSO order arises out of a head-complements structure. Borsley (1995) suggests that different languages might utilize different variants: in particular, Borsley suggests that Syrian Arabic uses the head-subject-complements combination while Welsh uses the head-complements combination. Still other analysts (such as Ball 2008; 2017) utilize a mixture of these two: having all arguments on just one valence feature, but combining all arguments with the head at once.

Schema 3 from Pollard & Sag 1994: 40; *sai-ph* from Ginzburg & Sag 2000: 36; and *aux-initial-cxt* from Sag 2012: 188).

To see an example using the Head-All-Valents Schema, let us consider example (14) from Kimaragang:

- (14) Kimaragang [kqr] (Kroeger 2010: 7)  
 Minangalapak it kogiw do ratu.  
 PST.AV.TR.split NOM orangutan GEN durian  
 'The orangutan split (open) a durian.'

By the Head-All Valents Schema (and appropriate inherited constraints concerning the featural identities of HEAD values), a tree for (14) would be as in in Figure 4.

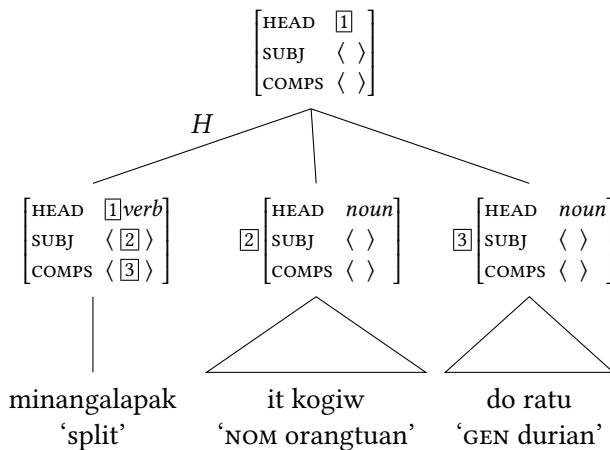


Figure 4: Tree of (14) in the flat structure analysis

To license the tree in Figure 4, we first should observe that the verb *minangalapak* 'split' appears to require both a nominative and a genitive argument. With two such nominal expressions fitting those requirements available, the Head-All-Valents Rule can put all three of these elements – the verb and two NPs – together, and the resulting mother node's SUBJ and COMPS lists would be empty.

In spite of the flatness of Figure 4, the structure is like all head-nexus combinations in HPSG: a head and (at least some of) its dependents. In fact, Figure 4 is identical to certain verb phrases headed by a ditransitive verb (on some HPSG analyses) – just a verb and two NPs. Furthermore, the flat nature of the structure is less of a concern than it would be under c-command-based proposals (which

are the off-the-shelf analyses in Mainstream Generative Grammar): binding relations in HPSG are not calculated from the configurations within the tree, but from configurations on the ARG-ST list (see Branco 2019, Chapter 21 of this volume). Other subject-object and agent-patient asymmetries (to the extent they exist) are likewise encoded in HPSG analyses using non-configurational data structures and do not seem to be relevant for determining constituency.

Additionally, assuming a flatter structure for VSO/verb-initial languages eases the analysis of several other phenomena (especially versus a treatment of the same data with a VP constituent). In verb-initial languages where the order of elements following the verb is flexible (as in Tongan, among others), having all arguments together with the verb as part of a single constituent allows for such “scrambling” to be analyzed with simple linear precedence constraints within that constituent, rather than having to deal with different orders across a VP boundary (see the analysis in Ball 2008: Chapter 3 for Tongan and Müller 2019, Chapter 10 of this volume for other HPSG approaches to “scrambling”). There are also a few languages like Coast Tsimshian, where morphological marking (somewhat surprisingly) on one syntactic item refers to the next constituent over. An example of this phenomenon is given in the Coast Tsimshian sentence in (15), where the second line employs brackets to better show which elements are related to which others:

- (15) Coast Tsimshian (Sm'algyax) [tsi] (Mulder 1994: 32)  
Yagwat huumda duusa hoon.  
Yagwa-t huum-[da duus]-[a hoon]  
CONT-3.ERG smell-[ERG.CN cat]-[ABS.CN fish]  
'The cat is sniffing the fish.'

It is far more straightforward to analyze the apparent sideways relationships when the interacting elements are sisters, rather than to manage the relationships across a VP boundary (and possibly other constituent boundaries) (see Ball 2011 for an in-depth look into this syntactic phenomenon in Coast Tsimshian and an analysis of it).

### 4.3 The binary branching head-initial analysis

Another approach in HPSG to VSO structures takes the view that all verb-headed structures within the clause are maximally binary branching, but strongly head-initial. This approach still has a strong surface-orientation – so it does not take the VSO order to be covertly SVO or SOV – but does posit that more structure is present within a clause than on the flat structure analysis.

On the binary branching head-initial analysis, VSO clauses are built out of several instances of a single rule. The rule, which I call the Head-Valent Schema, is given in (16):<sup>27</sup>

$$(16) \begin{array}{c} \text{head-valent-schema} \Rightarrow \\ \left[ \begin{array}{c} \text{SS|LOC|CAT|VAL } \boxed{A} \\ \text{HD-DTR } \quad \left[ \text{SS|LOC|CAT|VAL } \langle \boxed{1} \rangle \oplus \boxed{A} \right] \\ \text{NON-HD-DTRS } \quad \langle \boxed{1} \rangle \end{array} \right] \end{array}$$

The rule in (16) allows a head to combine with just one of its valents; in particular, the first one on its VAL list. This aspect of the ordering is crucial to ensure that the subject NP before object NP sequence is licensed.

Returning to the Kimaragang example of (14), we can see how a structure licensed by the Head-Valent Schema in (16) differs from a structure licensed by the Head-All-Valents Schema. The structure licensed by the Head-Valent Schema (and relevant inherited constraints) is given in Figure 5.

Like in Figure 4, in Figure 5, the head verb requires a nominative and a genitive argument. However, instead of combining with both of these at the same time, the verb just combines with the initial nominative argument (⟨2⟩), leaving the genitive argument (⟨3⟩) to be passed up to the mother. At this second level of structure, the Head-Valent Schema again applies – because there is still at least one element on the relevant head’s VAL list – integrating ⟨3⟩ into the structure. The rule is barred, correctly, from applying to the root node of the tree in Figure 5, as this root node has an empty VAL list and the Head-Valent Schema requires the head daughter to have at least one valent.

A noteworthy feature of the VSO binary branching head-initial analysis is its grouping of verb and the subject NP into a constituent. Exactly this sort of thing has been reported to occur in some verb-initial languages, like Malagasy (Keenan 2000), suggesting the binary branching head-initial analysis might be preferable for such languages. In VSO languages without such evidence, it would seem that either the flat structure analysis or the binary branching head-initial analysis would be possible, all else being equal.

If one is accustomed to seeing the trees from Mainstream Generative Grammar, the structure in Figure 5 may still seem strange (notably, the structural

<sup>27</sup>The Head-Valent Schema here is designed to implement the Categorial Grammar analysis of Keenan (2000) in HPSG terms, and, as such, uses a single VALENCE list, abbreviated VAL. So, for the discussion in this section, I will employ this slightly different feature geometry. Note that the configuration of Figure 5 could also be achieved using the SUBJ and COMPS lists found elsewhere in this chapter (although it requires two rules instead of just one). As has been a recurring theme throughout this chapter, many analyses are possible and more empirical work is needed to see which might be preferred.

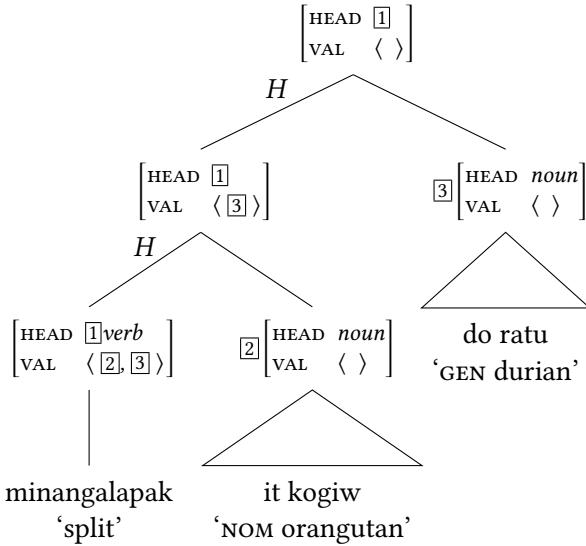


Figure 5: Tree of (14) in the binary branching head-initial analysis

prominence relationships between what seems to be the subject NP and what seems to be the object NP are reversed). Nevertheless, many of the same kinds of comments made for the flat structure analysis hold here as well. The structure in Figure 5 is just a series of head-argument structures, the most common kind of structure in HPSG. And, once again, the non-configurational approach to binding in HPSG renders any issues related to tree configuration and binding as irrelevant.

Both approaches to VSO order discussed above do raise interesting questions about whether there are any underlying grammatical principles, processing preferences, or historically-driven outcomes behind the patterns. For the binary branching head-initial analysis, there is a question as to why the required order of combination goes from least oblique to most oblique. A similar set of questions can be leveled to the flat structure analysis: what inhibits a more constituent-rich structure? Why are flat structures licensed here and not elsewhere? To my knowledge, these questions have yet to be tackled within the HPSG literature, but they do seem to be reasonable next steps, in addition to better seeing which analyses are appropriate for which verb-initial languages.

## 5 Wrapping Up

In general, HPSG practitioners have been fairly conservative in what they assume to be universal in syntax: since there is no core assumption in HPSG that particular rich, innate, and universal class of structures help children learn any language (Mainstream Generative Grammar’s Universal Grammar), proposals can be (and are) made that are agnostic as to universality. Even so, the brief trip made in this chapter through argument indexing, non-accusative alignments, and verb-initial constituent order found in understudied languages reveals that the more dependency-oriented portions of the framework – in particular, the areas encoded in the SUBJ, COMPS, and ARG-ST lists – are useful for the analysis of all three of these areas, across different languages, and, thus, are candidates for universality<sup>28</sup> (though the current level of understanding does not clearly point to them originating from either a rich language-specific part of cognition or from general cognition). Furthermore, the explorations above show that the rich and precise modeling using attribute-value matrices also allows for uniform sorts of analyses, even though the details may differ.<sup>29</sup> While the precise attributes and feature values may not completely be candidates for universality, they certainly aid in the enterprise of exploring different analyses and determining what precisely must be said to capture certain linguistic phenomena.

In addition to revealing some of the more uniform aspects of HPSG, the above discussion also reveals a certain flexibility in how the framework can be deployed – several analyses might be possible and certain ones might be more appropriate for certain languages and not for others. Thus, on top of a uniform foundation, various languages and phenomena are open to be analyzed in their own terms, dependent on what the specific empirical facts reveal. This mesh of uniformity and parochiality in HPSG analyses seems to strike a good balance as grammarians try to capture the two (somewhat paradoxical) realities one finds when comparing across languages: languages are both surprisingly similar and surprisingly different.

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<sup>28</sup>Or in the case of the SUBJ and COMPS lists, a candidate for near-universality, as Koenig & Michelson (2015) argue that Oneida does not require such lists.

<sup>29</sup>Two projects within the HPSG community have explored in-depth how uniform particular HPSG analyses of different languages might be. The Grammar Matrix project (Bender et al. 2010) just starts from a common core and adds language-specific elements as needed; The CoreGram project (Müller 2015) actively tries to use the same sorts of data structures for as many languages as possible within the project.

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## **Part II**

# Syntactic phenomena



# Chapter 6

# Agreement

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Agreement is modeled in HPSG by assigning agreement features such as person, number, and gender (“phi features”) to specified positions in the feature structures representing the agreement trigger and target. The locality conditions on agreement follow from the normal operation of the grammar in which those phi features are embedded. In anaphoric agreement, phi features appear on referential indices; in verb agreement, phi features appear on the verb’s ARG-ST list items; and in modifier agreement, phi features appear on the MOD value of the modifier. Selective underspecification of agreement features accounts for the alternation between formal and semantic agreement. Within the HPSG framework, long-distance agreement has been analyzed as anaphoric agreement in a special clausal construction, while superficial agreement has been modeled using linearization theory.

## 1 Introduction

Agreement is the systematic covariation between a semantic or formal property of one element (called the agreement *trigger*) and a formal property of another (called the agreement *target*). In the sentences *I am here* and *They are here*, the subjects (*I* and *they*, respectively) are the triggers; the target verb forms (*am* and *are*, respectively) covary with them. Research on agreement systems within HPSG has been devoted to describing and explaining a number of observed aspects of such systems. Regarding the grammatical relationship between the trigger and the target, we may first of all ask how local that relationship is, and in what grammatical terms it is defined. Having determined the prevailing locality conditions on agreement in a given language, we attempt to explain observed exceptions, that is, cases of apparent “long-distance agreement”, as well as cases of superficial agreement defined on string adjacency. Agreement features across



languages include person, number, and gender (known as *phi* features), as well as deictic features and case, but various different subsets of those features are involved in particular agreement relations. How can we explain the distribution of features? How are locality and feature distribution related to the diachronic origin of agreement systems? Also, as indicated in the definition of agreement provided in the first sentence of this paper, the features of the target are sometimes determined by the trigger’s form and sometimes by its meaning. What regulates this choice? In some cases a single trigger in a sentence determines different features on two different targets. Why does such “mixed agreement” exist, and what does its existence tell us about the grammatical representation of agreement? This chapter reviews HPSG approaches to these questions of locality, grammatical representation, feature distribution, diachrony, semantic versus formal agreement, and mixed agreement. Agreement with coordinate phrases is discussed by Abeillé & Chaves (2019), Chapter 17 of this volume.

HPSG offers an integrated account of these phenomena. In most cases the analysis of agreement phenomena does not involve any special formal devices dedicated for agreement, comparable to the *probe* and *goal*, or the AGREE relation, found in Minimalist accounts (Chomsky 2000). Instead, the observed agreement phenomena arise as a side effect of other grammatical mechanisms responsible for valence saturation, the semantics of modification, and coreference.

## 2 Agreement as unification

Constraint-based formalisms such as HPSG are uniquely well-suited for modeling agreement. Within such formalisms, agreement occurs when multiple feature sets arising from distinct elements of a sentence specify information about a single abstract object, so that the information must be mutually consistent (Kay 1984). The two forms are said to agree when the values imposed by the two constraints are compatible, while ungrammaticality results when they are incompatible. For example the English verb *is* in (1) specifies that its initial ARG-ST list item, which is identified with the SUBJ list item, has third person, singular features. In the mechanism of valence saturation, the NP list item in the value of SUBJ unifies with the feature description representing the SYNSEM value of the subject NP. The features specified by the verb for its subject and by the subject NP must be compatible; otherwise the representation for the resulting sentence is ill-formed, predicting ungrammaticality as in (3a).

- (1) Simplified lexical sign for the verb *is*:

PHON	$\langle is \rangle$				
VALENCE	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>SUBJ</td><td><math>\langle [1] \rangle</math></td> </tr> <tr> <td>COMPS</td><td><math>\langle [2] \rangle</math></td> </tr> </table>	SUBJ	$\langle [1] \rangle$	COMPS	$\langle [2] \rangle$
SUBJ	$\langle [1] \rangle$				
COMPS	$\langle [2] \rangle$				
ARG-ST	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>[1]NP</td><td><math>\left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{PERS } 3rd \\ \text{NUM } sg \end{array} \right]</math></td> </tr> <tr> <td>[2]XP</td><td></td> </tr> </table>	[1]NP	$\left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{PERS } 3rd \\ \text{NUM } sg \end{array} \right]$	[2]XP	
[1]NP	$\left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{PERS } 3rd \\ \text{NUM } sg \end{array} \right]$				
[2]XP					

- (2) Simplified lexical signs for *I* and *she*:

PHON	$\langle I \rangle$	PHON	$\langle she \rangle$							
HEAD	<table border="0"> <tr> <td><i>noun</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td>PERS <i>1st</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td>NUM <i>sg</i></td> </tr> </table>	<i>noun</i>	PERS <i>1st</i>	NUM <i>sg</i>	HEAD	<table border="0"> <tr> <td><i>noun</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td>PERS <i>3rd</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td>NUM <i>sg</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td>GEN <i>fem</i></td> </tr> </table>	<i>noun</i>	PERS <i>3rd</i>	NUM <i>sg</i>	GEN <i>fem</i>
<i>noun</i>										
PERS <i>1st</i>										
NUM <i>sg</i>										
<i>noun</i>										
PERS <i>3rd</i>										
NUM <i>sg</i>										
GEN <i>fem</i>										

- (3) a. \*I is sober.  
b. She is sober.

The features supplied by the trigger and target must be consistent, but there is no general minimum requirement on how many features they specify. Both of them can be, and typically are, underspecified for some agreement features. For example, gender is not specified by the verb in (1) or the first pronoun in (2).

Since unification is commutative, the representation of an agreement construction is the same regardless of whether a feature originates from the trigger or the target. This immediately accounts for common agreement behavior observed when triggers are underspecified (Barlow 1988). For example, Serbo-Croatian is a grammatical gender language, where common nouns are assigned to the masculine, feminine, or neuter gender. The noun *knjiga* ‘book’ in (4) is feminine, so the modifying determiner and adjective appear in feminine form (Wechsler & Zlatić 2003: 4, ex. (1)).

- (4) Ov-a star-a knjig-a stalno pad-a.  
this-NOM.F.SG old-NOM.F.SG book-NOM.SG always fall-3SG  
'This old book keeps falling.'

However, some nouns are unspecified for gender, such as *sudija* ‘judge’. Interestingly, the gender of an agreeing adjective actually adds semantic information, indicating the sex of the judge (Wechsler & Zlatić 2003: 42, ex. (23)).

- (5) a. Taj stari sudija je dobro sudio.  
that.M old.M judge AUX well judged.M  
'That old (male) judge judged well.'

- b. Ta stara sudija je dobro sudila.  
 that.F old.F judge AUX well judged.F  
 ‘That old (female) judge judged well.’

Here the gender feature comes from the targets instead of the trigger. This illustrates an advantage of constraint-based theories like HPSG over transformational accounts in which a feature is copied from the trigger, where it originates, to the target, where it is then realized. The usual source of the feature (the noun) lacks it in (5), a problem for the feature-copying view.

The same problem occurs even more dramatically in *pro*-drop languages. Many languages allow subject pronouns to drop, and distinguish person, number, and/or gender on the verb. If those features originate from the null subject, then there would have to be distinct null pronouns, one for each verbal and predicate adjective inflection (Pollard & Sag 1994: 64). This would be more complex and stipulative, and moreover the paradigm of putative null pronouns would have to exactly match the set of distinctions drawn in the verb and adjective systems, rather than reflecting the pronoun paradigm. HPSG avoids this suspicious assumption. Null anaphora is modeled by allowing the *pro*-dropped argument to appear on the ARG-ST list but not a VALENCE list (see Wechsler, Koenig & Davis 2019, Chapter 9 of this volume). For example, in the context given in (6) a Serbo-Croatian speaker could omit the subject pronoun.

- (6) Context: Speaker comes home to find her bookcase mysteriously empty.  
 Gde su (one) nestale?  
 where did (they.F.PL) disappear.F.PL  
 ‘Where did they (i.e. the books) go?’

The sign for the inflected participle specifies feminine plural features on the initial item in its ARG-ST list. The SUBJ list item is optional:

- (7) Simplified lexical sign for the participle form *nestale*:

PHON	$\langle \text{nestale} \rangle$
VALENCE	$\left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{SUBJ } \langle (\boxed{1}) \rangle \\ \text{COMPS } \langle \rangle \end{array} \right]$
ARG-ST	$\left[ \begin{array}{l} \boxed{1} \text{NP} \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{NUM } pl \\ \text{GEN } fem \end{array} \right] \end{array} \right]$

The feminine plural features are specified regardless of whether the subject pronoun appears. When the pronoun is dropped we have the usual underspecifica-

tion, only in this case the trigger does not exist, so it is effectively fully underspecified, realizing no features at all.

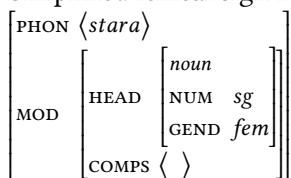
### 3 Locality in agreement

#### 3.1 Argument and modifier agreement

In HPSG, the grammatical agreement of a predicator with its subject or object, or an adjective, determiner, or other modifier with its head noun, piggy-backs on the mechanism of valence saturation and modification. Agreement is encoded in the grammar by adding features of person, number, gender, case, and deixis to the existing feature descriptions involved in syntactic and semantic composition. This simple assumption is sufficient to explain the broad patterning of distribution of agreement, in contrast to the transformational approach where complex locality conditions must be stipulated.

In HPSG, predicate-argument agreement arises directly from the valence saturation, as illustrated already in (1) above. Thus the locality conditions on the trigger-target relation follow from the conditions on the subject-head or complement-head relation. Similarly, attributive adjectives agree with nouns directly through the composition of the modifier with the head that it selects via the MOD feature. For example, the Serbo-Croatian feminine adjective form *stara* ‘old.F’ in (5b) specifies feminine singular features for the common noun phrase (N') that it modifies.

- (8) Simplified lexical sign for *stara*:



In head-adjunct phrases, the MOD value of the adjunct daughter is token-identical with the *synsem* value of the head daughter. So *stara*'s feminine singular features cannot conflict with the features of the noun it modifies.

The predicted locality conditions are also affected by the percolation of features from words to phrasal nodes, and this depends on the location of the features within the feature description. Agreement features of the *trigger* appear either within the HEAD value or the semantic CONTENT value (these give rise to CONCORD and INDEX agreement, respectively; see Section 4.2). In either case

these features percolate from the trigger's head word to its maximal phrasal projection, due to the Head Feature Principle in the former case and the Semantics Principle in the latter. For example the noun phrase *the books* inherits its [NUM *pl*] feature from the head word *books*. This determines plural agreement on a verb: *These books are/\*is interesting*. Apparent exceptions, where a target seems to fail to agree with the head of the trigger, are discussed below.

However, agreement features of the *target* appear in neither the HEAD nor the CONTENT value of the target form, but rather appear embedded in an ARG-ST list item or MOD features. So agreement features of the target do not project to the target's phrasal projection such as VP, S, or AP. This is a welcome consequence. If the subject agreement features of the verb projected to the VP, for example, we would expect to find VP-modifying adverbs that consistently agree with them, but we do not.<sup>1</sup>

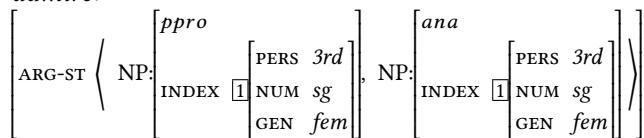
## 4 Varieties of agreement target

### 4.1 Anaphoric agreement

In anaphoric agreement, an anaphoric pronoun agrees in person, number, and gender with its antecedent. Since Pollard & Sag (1992; 1994), anaphoric agreement has been analyzed in HPSG by assuming that person, number, and gender are formal features of the referential index associated with an NP. Anaphoric binding in HPSG is modeled as coindexation, i.e. sharing of the INDEX value, between the binder and binee. Thus any specifications for agreement features of the INDEX contributed by the binder and binee must be mutually consistent. In (9), Principle A of the Binding Theory requires the reflexive pronoun to be coindexed with an o-commanding item, here the subject pronoun:

- (9) a. She admires herself.

- b. *admire*:



The agreement features are formal features and not semantic ones, but the semantic correlates of person (speaker, addressee, other), number (cardinality), and

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<sup>1</sup>VP-modifying secondary predicates sometimes agree with their own subjects. What we do not find are adjuncts that consistently agree with the subject agreement features of the VP even when the adjunct is not predicated of that subject.

gender (male, female, inanimate, etc.) are invoked under certain conditions (described in Section 5). Thus INDEX agreement is distinct from *pragmatic agreement* whereby semantic features of two coreferential expressions must be semantically consistent in order for them to refer to a single entity. INDEX agreement is enforced only within the syntactic domain defined by binding theory, while pragmatic agreement applies everywhere. For example, feminine pronouns are sometimes used for ships, in addition to neuter pronouns. Whichever gender is chosen, it must be consistent in binding contexts (example based on Pollard & Sag's 1994: 79 example (46a)):

- (10) a. The ship lurched, and then it righted itself. She is a fine ship.
- b. The ship lurched, and then she righted herself. It is a fine ship.
- c. \* The ship lurched, and then she righted itself.
- d. \* The ship lurched, and then it righted herself.

The bound reflexive must agree formally with its antecedent, while other coreferential pronouns need not agree, as they are not coarguments of the antecedent and not subject to the structural binding theory.

In grammatical gender languages, where common nouns are conventionally assigned to a gender, an anaphoric pronoun appearing outside the binding domain of its antecedent can generally agree with that antecedent either formally or, if it is semantically appropriate (such as an animate, sexed entity), it can alternatively agree pragmatically. In most situations pronouns allow either pragmatic or INDEX agreement with their antecedents. For example, pronouns coreferential with the Serbo-Croatian grammatically neuter diminutive noun *devojče* 'girl' can appear in either neuter or feminine gender (from Wechsler & Zlatić 2003: 198):

- (11) Ovo malo devojče<sub>i</sub> je ušlo.  
this.N.SG little.N.SG girl.N.SG AUX.3SG entered.N.SG
  - a. Ono<sub>i</sub> je htelo da telefonira.  
it.N.SG AUX.SG wanted.N.SG that telephone
  - b. Ona<sub>i</sub> je htela da telefonira.  
she.F.SG AUX.SG wanted.F.SG that telephone  
'This little girl<sub>i</sub> came in. She<sub>i</sub> wanted to use the telephone.'

The neuter pronoun in (11a) reflects INDEX agreement with the antecedent while the feminine pronoun (11b) reflects its reference to a female (pragmatic agreement). But when a reflexive pronoun is locally bound by a nominative subject, agreement in formal INDEX features is preferred:

- (12) Devojče je volelo samo/?\*samu sebe.  
girl.NOM.N.SG AUX3.SG liked.N.SG own.ACC.N.SG/ACC.F.SG self.ACC  
'The girl liked herself.'

Again, this illustrates INDEX agreement in the domain defined by the structural binding theory.

## 4.2 Grammatical agreement: INDEX and CONCORD

As noted above, in HPSG agreement effectively piggy-backs on other independently justified grammatical processes. Anaphoric agreement is a side-effect of binding (Section 4.1) while grammatical agreement is a side-effect of valence saturation and modification (Section 3.1). The formal HPSG analysis of a particular agreement process mainly consists of positing agreement features somewhere in the feature structure; the observed properties follow from the location of those agreement features. With regard to the location of the features, grammatical agreement bifurcates into two types, INDEX and CONCORD.<sup>2</sup> (The attribute name CONCORD was introduced by Wechsler & Zlatić 2000: 799, Wechsler & Zlatić 2003: 14; precursors to the idea were treated as HEAD features in Pollard & Sag 1994, and called AGR by Kathol 1999.) The best way to understand this bifurcation of agreement, and indeed the operation of grammatical agreement systems generally, is by considering their diachronic origin. Although our primary goal is the description of synchronic grammar, a look at diachrony can help explain the forms that the grammar takes, and can also provide clues as to the best formalization of it.

Within the diachronic literature on agreement there are thought to be two different lexical sources for agreement inflections: (i) incorporated pronouns and (ii) incorporated noun classifiers (Greenberg 1978). These two sources, ultimately traced to pronouns and common nouns, give rise to INDEX and CONCORD target inflections, respectively, as explained next.

### 4.2.1 INDEX agreement

Taking pronouns first, many grammatical agreement systems evolve historically from the incorporation of pronominal arguments into the predicates selecting those arguments, such as verbs and nouns (Bopp 1842; Givón 1976; Wald 1979,

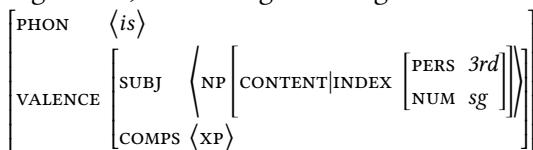
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<sup>2</sup>The INDEX/CONCORD theory is sketched in Pollard & Sag (1994: Chapter 2) and Kathol (1999), and developed in detail in Wechsler & Zlatić (2000; 2003), all in the HPSG framework. It has since been adopted into LFG (King & Dalrymple 2004, *inter alia*) and GB/Minimalism (Danon 2009).

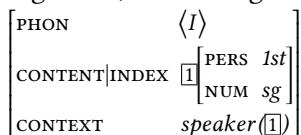
inter alia). When a phrase serving as antecedent of the incorporated pronoun is reanalyzed as the true subject or object of the predicate, the pronominal affix effectively becomes an agreement marker. With this reanalysis the only change in the affix is that it loses its ability to refer: it no longer functions as a pronoun. The affix retains its agreement features, and what was formerly anaphoric agreement with the topic becomes grammatical agreement with the subject or object. This explains why the features of grammatical agreement match those of pronominal anaphora: typically person, number, and gender, with occasional deictic features (Bresnan & Mchombo 1987: 752).

As explained above, structural anaphoric binding involves identifying (structure sharing) the referential indices of the pronoun and its binder. Therefore grammatical agreement derived from it is also INDEX agreement. For example, the signs for English *is* and *I* in (1) and (2) above should be rewritten as follows:

- (13) Sign for *is*, illustrating INDEX agreement:



- (14) Sign for *I*, illustrating INDEX features:



This finite verb form specifies third person singular features of its subject's referential index.

One salient distinguishing characteristic of INDEX agreement is that it includes the PERSON feature. The only known diachronic source of the PERSON feature is from pronouns. Therefore, the other type of agreement, CONCORD, lacks the PERSON feature (as we will see below).

By modeling verb agreement in a way that reflects its historical origin, we are able to explain an array of facts concerning particular agreement systems. Some of these facts and explanations are presented in Section 6 below.

#### 4.2.2 CONCORD

The agreement inflections on modifiers of nouns, such as adjectives and determiners, are thought to derive historically not from pronouns, but from noun

classifiers (Greenberg 1978; Reid 1997; Seifart 2009; Grinevald & Seifart 2004, Corbett 2006: 268–269). The classifier morphemes in turn derive historically from lexical common nouns denoting superordinate categories like animal, woman, man, etc. For example Reid (1997) posits the following historical development of Ngan’gityemerri (southern Daly; southwest of Darwin, Australia), a language where the historical stages continue to cooccur in the current synchronic grammar. Originally the language had general-specific pairings of nouns as a common syntactic construction, such as *gagu wamanggal* ‘animal wallaby’ in (15a) (from Reid 1997: 216, examples (162)–(165)). The specific noun can be omitted when reference to it is established in discourse, leaving the general noun and modifier, to form NPs like *gagu kerre*, literally ‘animal big’ but functioning roughly like nominal ellipsis ‘big one’. Then, where the specific noun is also included, both noun and modifier attract the generic term (15b). The gender markers then reduce phonologically and incorporate, producing modifier gender agreement (15c).

(15) a. Stage I:

Gagu wamanggal kerre ngeben-da.  
animal wallaby big 1SG.SB.AUX-shoot  
'I shot a big wallaby.'

b. Stage II:

Gagu wamanggal gagu kerre ngeben-da.  
animal wallaby animal big 1SG.SB.AUX-shoot  
'I shot a big wallaby.'

c. Stage III:

wa=ngurmumba wa=ngayi darany-fipal-nyine.  
male=youth male=mine 3SG.AUX-return-FOC  
'My initiand son has just returned.'

If the same affix is retained on the modifiers and the noun they modify, then the result is symmetrical agreement (also known as alliterative agreement), like the feminine *-a* endings in Spanish *zona rosa* (Corbett 2006: 87–88). But often an asymmetry between the affixes on the noun and the modifiers develops: the noun affix becomes obligatory and is subject to morphophonological processes that do not affect the modifier affix (Reid 1997: 216). This process may further progress to “prefix absorption” into the common noun, as evidenced by “gender prefixed nominal roots being interpreted as stems for further gender marking” (Reid 1997: 217).

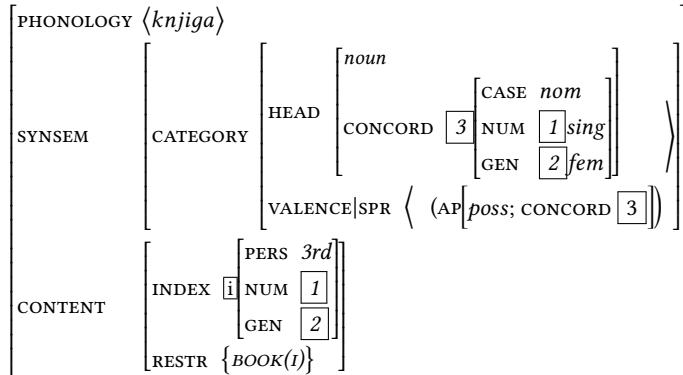
Agreement marked with inflections from such nominal sources is called *concord*, which is described using the HPSG CONCORD feature. What is the proper HPSG formalization of this type of agreement, given its provenance? The last stages of the diachronic development, described in the previous paragraph, imply that the *form* of the trigger (the noun) is influenced by the agreement features. That is, noun declension classes tend to correlate with gender assignment (and more generally, phonological and morphological characteristics of nouns correlate with gender assignment); and number is marked on nouns as well. (This close relation between declension class and CONCORD is demonstrated in detail in [Wechsler & Zlatić 2003](#): Chapter 2.) Thus the agreement features must appear both on the head noun (to inform its form and/or its gender selection and number value) and on the phrasal projection of that noun (to trigger agreement via the MOD feature of the agreement targets). Ergo CONCORD is a HEAD feature of the trigger.

Along with the number and gender features, the CONCORD value is assumed to include the case feature when case is a feature of NPs realized on both the head noun and its modifying adjectives or determiner. CONCORD lacks the person feature, since common nouns, from which the agreement inflections on the targets derive, lack the person feature (common nouns do not distinguish person values, since they are all in the third person). Meanwhile, INDEX agreement preserves the pronominal features of person, number, and gender, reflecting its origins. In the usual case the number and gender values found in CONCORD match those found in INDEX. The Serbo-Croatian noun form *knjiga* triggers feminine singular nominative CONCORD on its adjectival possessive specifier and modifier, and third person singular INDEX agreement on the finite auxiliary. (The status of the participle is discussed below.)

- (16) Moja stara knjiga je pala.  
 my.F.NOM.SG old.F.NOM book.NOM.SG AUX.3.SG fall.PPRT.F.SG  
 ‘My old book fell.’ ([Wechsler & Zlatić 2003](#): 18)

The nominative singular noun form *knjiga* specifies its agreement features in both CONCORD (a HEAD feature) and INDEX, with the respective values for number and gender shared:

- (17) Lexical sign for *knjiga* ‘book’ (from Wechsler & Zlatić 2003: 18):



The specifier (SPR) is shown as AP because the possessive phrase is categorically an adjective phrase in Serbo-Croatian. The features in the overlap between CONCORD and INDEX are normally shared as in this example. But with some special nouns, features can be asymmetrically specified in only one of the two values (with no reentrancy linking them, of course). This leads to mismatches between CONCORD and INDEX targets, discussed in Section 6 below.

The phi features also appear within the HEAD value, as shown in (17), so that adjunct APs can agree with those features. For example, concord by the attributive adjective *stara* ‘old’ is guaranteed because its MOD feature is specified for feminine singular features, as shown in (8) in Section 3.1 above.

### 4.3 Conclusion

To summarize this section, we have seen the two main historical paths to agreement, and shown how HPSG formalizes these two types of agreement so as to capture the syntactic and semantic properties that follow directly from their origins. Agreement that descends from anaphoric agreement of pronouns with their antecedents, through the incorporation of personal pronouns into verbs and other predicates, inherits the INDEX matching process found in the anaphoric agreement from which it descends. Agreement that descends from the incorporation of noun classifiers involves features located in the HEAD value that connect a trigger noun form to its phrasal projection. The feature sets differ for the same reason; PERSON is a feature only of the first type, and CASE only of the second. CONCORD correlates strongly with declension class, while INDEX agreement need not correlate as strongly (for evidence see Wechsler & Zlatić 2003: Chapter 2). The differences in feature sets and morphology further correlate with systematic syntactic differences, described in the following section.

## 5 Syntactic, semantic, and default agreement

This chapter has so far focused mainly on formal agreement, as opposed to semantic agreement. But this is one of three different ways in which the form of an agreement target may be determined by a grammar:

- (18) Formal, semantic, and default determinants of target form.
  - a. Formal agreement: The target form depends on the trigger's formal phi features.
  - b. Semantic 'agreement': The target form depends on the trigger's meaning.
  - c. Failure of agreement: The target fails to agree and hence takes its default form.

In formal agreement, the trigger is grammatically specified for certain features as a consequence of the words making up the trigger phrase: for example a nominal may be marked for a gender as a consequence of the lexical gender of the head noun. In semantic agreement, the target is sensitive to the meaning of the trigger instead of its formal features. English number agreement can be formal as in (19), from Wechsler (2013: 92), or semantic as in (20), from McCloskey (1991: 92):

- (19) a. His clothes are/\*is dirty.
- b. His clothing is/\*are dirty.
- (20) a. That the position will be funded and that Mary will be hired now seems/??seem likely.
- b. That the president will be reelected and that he will be impeached are/??is equally likely at this point.

Regarding (20), McCloskey (1991: 564–565) observes that singular is used for “a single complex state of affairs or situation-type”, while plural is possible for “a plurality of distinct states of affairs or situation-types”. The latter sort of interpretation is facilitated by the use of the adverb *equally*. Formal and semantic gender agreement are illustrated by the French examples in (21):

- (21) a. La sentinelle à la barbe a été { prise / \*prise } en otage.  
the.F sentry bearded AUX been taken.F.SG taken.M hostage  
‘The bearded sentry was taken hostage.’

- b. Dupont est { compétent / compétente }.  
Dupont is competent.M.SG competent.F.SG  
'Dupont { a man / a woman } is competent.'

The grammatically feminine noun *sentinelle* ‘sentry’ triggers feminine agreement regardless of the sex of the sentry; but in (21b) feminine agreement indicates that Dupont is female while masculine agreement indicates that Dupont is male.

How does the grammar negotiate between formal and semantic agreement? In HPSG, syntactic and semantic representations are composed in tandem, making the framework well suited to address this question. It was addressed in early HPSG work, including Pollard & Sag (1994: Chapter 1). The specific approach due to Wechsler (2011) exploits the underspecification of agreement features (see Section 2). I posit the Agreement Marking Principle (AMP), which states that target agreement features are semantically interpreted whenever the trigger is underspecified for the formal grammatical features to which the target would normally be sensitive. The subject phrases in (19) are specified for number due to the formal features of the head nouns, but those in (20) are not, as a (coordinate) clause has no grammatical source for those features. Consequently, by the AMP, the verb’s number feature is semantically interpreted in (20). Similarly, *sentinelle* in (21a) gives its formal feminine gender feature to the subject, while *Dupont* lacks a gender specification, triggering the semantic interpretation of the target adjectives in (21b): feminine is interpreted as ‘female’.

Agreement targets generally have a default form for use when there is no trigger or the normal agreement relation is blocked for some reason. Blocking of agreement comes about in various situations; here we consider a case where the trigger is interpreted metonymically, apparently resulting in a reassignment of the referential index. Swedish predicate adjectives normally agree with their subjects in number (either singular or plural) and grammatical gender, either neuter (NT) or ‘common’ gender (COM), the gender held in common between masculine and feminine:

- (22) a. Hus-et är gott.  
house-DEF.N.SG is good.N.SG  
'The house is good.'
- b. Pannkaka-n är god.  
pancake-DEF.COM.SG be.PRES good.COM.SG  
'The pancake is good.'

- c. { Hus-en / Pannkak-orna } är god-a.  
 house-PL.DEF pancake-PL.DEF be.PRES good-PL  
 'The houses / The pancakes are good.'

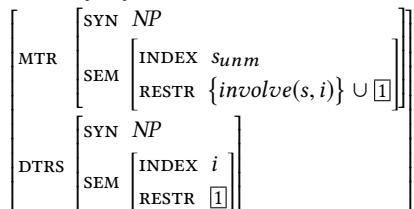
As shown in (22), a predicate adjective is inflected for number, and, in the singular, for gender, and agrees with its subject. But in sentences like (23), the adjective appears in the neuter singular form, regardless of the number and gender features of the subject. Note that *pannkakor* is the plural form of a common gender noun (Faarlund 1977; Enger 2004; Josefsson 2009):

- (23) Pannkak-or är gott.  
 pancake-PL be.PRES good.N.SG  
 'Situations involving pancakes are good.' (e.g. 'Eating pancakes is good.)

In general, Swedish predicate adjectives appear in neuter singular when there is no triggering NP, such as with clausal subjects (see (25a) below). Wechsler & Zlatić (2003) posit the index type *unm* ('unmarked') for referential indices that lack phi features, such as those introduced by verbs. So *gott* has a SUBJ list item whose index is disjunctively specified for either neuter singular or type *unm*.

The lack of agreement in (23) then arises because the subject phrase refers, not to the pancakes, but to a situation involving them; hence its referential index is distinct from the one lexically introduced by the noun *pannkakor*. A rule shifts the index and encodes the metonymic relation between the entity and the situation involving it. This is implemented with a non-branching phrasal construction in Wechsler (2013: 82, ex. 20):

- (24) *metonymy-ctx:*



The noun *pannkakor* in (23) has an index marked with the features [PERSON 3rd], [GENDER com], and [NUMBER pl], which, by the Semantics Principle, are therefore shared with the index of the daughter NP node in a structure licensed by rule (24). But the construction specifies the mother NP node's index is unmarked for those features, thus explaining the neuter singular adjective.

On the alternative ellipsis analysis, sentence (23) has an elliptical clausal or infinitival subject, with a structure like (25a) except that *att äta* is silent (Faarlund 1977; Enger 2004; Josefsson 2009):

- (25) a. Att äta pannkakor är gott.  
to eat pancakes be.PRES good.N.SG  
'Eating pancakes is good.'  
b. Det är gott att äta pannkakor.  
it be.PRES good.N.SG to eat pancakes  
'It is good to eat pancakes.'  
c. \*Det är gott pannkakor.  
it be.PRES good.N.SG pancakes  
Intended: 'It is good to eat pancakes.'

But the metonymic subject behaves in all respects like an NP, and unlike a clause or infinitival phrase. For example, unlike an infinitival it resists extraposition, as shown in (25b, c). The metonymy analysis captures the fact that the subject has a clause-like meaning but not clause-like syntax.

## 6 Mixed agreement

The two-feature (INDEX/CONCORD) theory of agreement was originally motivated by *mixed agreement*, where a single phrase triggers different features on distinct targets (Pollard & Sag 1994: Chapter 2; Kathol 1999). For example, the French second person plural pronoun *vous* refers to multiple addressees, and also has an honorific or polite use for a single (or multiple) addressee. When used to refer politely to one addressee, *vous* triggers singular on a predicate adjective but plural on the verb, as in (26a):

- (26) a. Vous êtes loyal.  
you.PL be.2PL loyal.M.SG  
'You (singular, formal, male) are loyal.'  
b. Vous êtes loyaux.  
you.PL be.2PL loyal.PL  
'You (plural) are loyal.'

Wechsler (2011) analyzes this by adopting the following suppositions: (i) *vous* has a second person plural marked referential index; (ii) *vous* lacks phi features for

CONCORD; (iii) finite verbs agree with their subjects in INDEX; and (iv) predicate adjectives agree with their subjects in CONCORD. Suppositions (i) and (iii) need not be stipulated, as they follow from the theory: the pronoun must have INDEX phi features since it shows anaphoric agreement (when it serves as binder or bindee); and the verb must agree in INDEX since it includes the PERSON feature. By the Agreement Marking Principle (see Section 5), the (CONCORD) number and gender features of the predicate adjective are interpreted semantically, which is what is shown by example (26).

“Polite plural pronouns” of this kind are found in many languages of the world (Head 1978). The cross-linguistic agreement patterns observed in typological studies (Comrie 1975; Wechsler 2011) confirm the predictions of the theory. Taken together, suppositions (i) and (iii) from the previous paragraph entail that any person agreement targets agreeing with polite pronouns should show formal, rather than semantic, agreement. Targets lacking person, meanwhile, can vary across languages. This pattern is confirmed for all languages with polite plurals that have been surveyed, including Romance languages; Modern Greek; Germanic (Icelandic); West, South and East Slavic; Hindi; Gbaya (Niger-Congo); Kobon and Usan (Papuan); and Sakha (Turkic) (see Comrie 1975 and Wechsler 2011).

The INDEX/CONCORD distinction plays a crucial role in this account of mixed agreement. An earlier hypothesis, proposed by Kathol (1999), is that French predicate adjectives are grammatically specified for semantic agreement with their subjects, while finite verbs show formal agreement. But a plurale tantum noun such as *ciseaux* ‘scissors’ triggers syntactic agreement on the predicate adjective:

- (27) Ces ciseaux sont géniaux! (\*génial!)  
 these.PL scissors(M.PL) are.PL brilliant.M.PL (\*brilliant.M.SG)  
 ‘These scissors are cool!’

As far as the syntax is concerned, *ciseaux* ‘scissors’ is an ordinary common noun with masculine plural CONCORD features, so it triggers those features on the adjective. More generally, agreement target types cannot be split into “formal” and “semantic” agreement targets; both formal and semantic agreement are found across all target types. Which of the two is observed for a given agreement feature depends, according to the INDEX/CONCORD theory, on whether the trigger is specified for the grammatical feature, together with the INDEX versus CONCORD status of the target.

## 7 Agreement defined on other structures

So far our look at grammatical agreement has focused primarily on agreement defined on local grammatical relations like subject, object, and modifier. In this section we look at HPSG analyses of two other types of agreement, namely long-distance and superficial agreement.

### 7.1 Long-distance agreement

The simple picture of locality in the previous sections is challenged by the phenomenon of long-distance agreement, where the trigger appears within a clause subordinate to the one headed by the target verb. Long-distance agreement has been observed in a number of languages, including Tsez (Nakh-Dagestanian; Polinsky & Potsdam 2001), Hindi-Urdu (Bhatt 2005), and Passamaquoddy (Athabaskan; Bruening 2001; LeSourd 2018).

Passamaquoddy long-distance agreement is illustrated by this sentence (LeSourd 2018: ex. (5)), with the relevant elements indicated in bold:

- (28) N-kosicíy-a-k [ eli- Píyel -litahási-t  
1-know-DIR-PROX.PL thus- Peter -think-3AN  
[ eli-kis-ankum-í-hti-t **níkt** **ehpíc-ik**  
thus-PAST-sell-3/1-PROX.PL-3AN those.PROX woman-PROX.PL  
posonúti-yil ] ]  
basket-IN.PL

‘I know that Peter thinks that those women sold me the baskets.’

The *-k* suffix on the matrix verb *kosicíy* ‘know’ marks plural, deictically proximate agreement with the phrase *níkt ehpícik* ‘those women’ in the doubly embedded subordinate clause. LeSourd (2018) analyzes Passamaquoddy long distance agreement in the HPSG framework. He notes that Passamaquoddy long distance agreement is paralleled by long-distance raising, in which an NP in the matrix clause is coreferential with an implicit argument of a subordinate clause (LeSourd 2018: ex. (4)):

- (29) N-kosicíy-a-k **níkt** **ehpíc-ik<sub>i</sub>** [ eli- Píyel  
1-know-DIR-PROX.PL those.PROX woman-PROX.PL thus- Peter  
-litahási-t [ eli-kis-ankum-í-hti-t **e<sub>i</sub>** posonúti-yil ] ]  
-think-3AN thus-PAST-sell-3/1-PROX.PL-3AN basket-IN.PL  
‘I know about those women<sub>i</sub> that Peter thinks that they<sub>i</sub> sold me the  
baskets.’

Passamaquoddy speakers report that sentences (28) and (29) suggest the subject of ‘know’ (the speaker) is familiar with the women. This provides evidence that the phrase ‘those women’ in (29) is an argument of the matrix verb ‘know’, as implied by the translation. Similarly, the matrix clause (28) contains a null argument (cross-referenced by the proximate plural *-k* suffix), which is cataphoric to ‘those women’. Hence a more literal translation of (28) is ‘I know about them; that Peter thinks that those women, sold me the baskets.’<sup>3</sup> What the long-distance agreement and raising constructions share is simply that the matrix object is coreferential with some argument contained in the subordinate clause. The following lexical entry for the verb root *kosicíy* ‘know’ captures that:

- (30) *kosicíy* ‘know’:  

$$\left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{PHON } \langle \text{kosicy} \rangle \\ \text{ARG-ST } \left\langle \text{NP}_i, \text{NP}_j, \text{S} : \left[ \text{RESTR} \left\langle \dots [ \text{PRD} | \text{ARG } j ] \dots \right\rangle \right] \right\rangle \end{array} \right]$$

LeSourd adopts the version of HPSG described in the Sag et al. (2003) textbook, which uses a simplified Minimal Recursion Semantics. The semantic restrictions feature (RESTR) takes as its value a list of elementary predication (PRD). The list for each node is a concatenation of the restrictions of the daughter nodes. Thus every semantic argument contained within the S complement, whether overt or null, will correspond to some argument (ARG) of an elementary predication (PRD) in S’s RESTR list. The lexical entry in (30) stipulates that the matrix object NP corefers with some such argument. In conclusion, Passamaquoddy long-distance agreement is really the anaphoric agreement of a pronoun with an antecedent in a higher clause.

## 7.2 Superficial agreement

In some languages, string adjacency of the trigger and target, rather than a grammatical relation such as subject or modifier, is a grammatical condition on agreement. This may arise because person agreement derives historically from pronoun incorporation, and a basic syntactic precondition for incorporation is string adjacency between the pronoun and the head into which it incorporates (Givón 1976; Ariel 1999; Wechsler et al. 2010; Fuss 2005). If the trigger occupies the syntactic position that the pronoun occupied prior to incorporation (for example because the trigger is itself a pronoun) then the result is that trigger and target

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<sup>3</sup>LeSourd notes that Passamaquoddy lacks Principle C effects, so cataphora of this kind is permitted.

are adjacent. For example, West Flemish complementizers agree with an immediately following subject, even though the complementizer and subject are not related by any grammatical relation (Haegeman 1992). To take another example, Borsley (2009) analyzes Welsh superficial agreement in the HPSG framework, citing examples like the following:

- (31) a. Gwelon      nhw ddraig.  
          see.PAST.3PL they dragon  
          ‘They saw a dragon.’
- b. arno      fo  
      on.3SG.M he  
      ‘on him’
- c. Gweles      i a    Megan geffyl.  
          see.PAST.1SG I and Megan horse  
          ‘Megan and I saw a horse.’

The trigger is the subject in (31a), object in (31b), and the first conjunct of a coordinate subject in (31c). But in every case, “An agreeing element agrees with an immediately following noun phrase if and only if the latter is a pronoun” (Borsley 2009: ex. 48). Borsley (2009: ex. 99) expresses this as an HPSG implicational constraint using the DOMAIN feature from linearization theory (Reape 1994; Müller 1995; 1999; Kathol 2000):

- (32) [DOM  $\langle [\text{AGR } \boxed{1}], \text{NP: } ppro_{\boxed{2}}, \dots \rangle$ ]  $\Rightarrow \boxed{1} = \boxed{2}$

The DOMAIN list encodes linear precedence between constituents that are not necessarily sisters. In (32) the AGR value is the set of phi features of the target; the colon following NP represents the semantic CONTENT attribute; and the subscripted tag  $\boxed{2}$  is the INDEX value. The rule states that when a constituent bearing the AGR attribute is immediately followed by a personal pronoun (content of type  $ppro$ ), then the AGR value is identified with the pronoun’s index (shown here as  $\boxed{2}$ ), that is, it agrees with a right-adjacent pronoun.

## 8 Conclusion

Agreement is analyzed in HPSG by assigning phi features to specific locations in the feature descriptions representing the grammar. Anaphoric agreement results from phi features appearing on the referential indices of the binder and bindee,

together with the assumption that binding consists of the identification of those indices. Verbal agreement with subjects and objects results when phi features appear on the verb's ARG-ST list items that are identified with the SYNSEM values of the subject and object phrases. Modifier agreement with heads occurs when phi features appear within the MOD value of the modifier. According to the INDEX/CONCORD theory, when agreement is historically descended from anaphoric agreement of incorporated pronouns, then those features within the ARG-ST list or MOD items are located on the referential index; while otherwise they are collected in the CONCORD feature and placed within the value of the HEAD features. The locality conditions on agreement follow from the normal operation of the grammar in which those phi features are embedded. Some cases of agreement seem to exist outside those conditions. Long-distance agreement has been analyzed as a kind of anaphoric agreement within a prolepsis construction, and superficial agreement has been defined on string adjacency and precedence, within linearization theory.

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# Chapter 7

## Case

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The aim of this chapter is to provide an outline of HPSG work on grammatical case. Two issues that attracted much attention of HPSG practitioners in the 1990s and early 2000s are the locality of case assignment, especially the so-called structural case assignment, as well as case syncretism and underspecification; they are discussed in two separate sections. The third section summarises other work on case carried out within HPSG, including some computational efforts, as well as investigations of case phenomena at the syntax-semantics interface and at the border of syntax and morphology.

### 1 Introduction

HPSG is not widely known for its approach to grammatical case. For example, it is only mentioned in passing in the 2006 monograph *Theories of Case* (Butt 2006: 225) and in the 2009 *Oxford Handbook of Case* (Malchukov & Spencer 2009: 43), which features separate articles on GB/Minimalism, Lexical Functional Grammar, Optimality Theory and other grammatical frameworks. As most of the HPSG work on case was carried out in the 1990s and early 2000s, this perception is unlikely to have changed since the publication of these two volumes.

The aim of this chapter is to provide an overview of HPSG work on grammatical case and to show that it does offer novel solutions to some of the problems related to case. Two main research areas are presented in the two ensuing sections: structural case assignment is discussed in Section 2 and case syncretism and underspecification in Section 3. Some of the other HPSG work on case, including implementational work, is outlined in Section 4.



## 2 Structural case assignment

Pollard & Sag (1994) did not envisage a separate theory of case:<sup>1</sup> “Nominative case assignment takes place directly within the lexical entry of the finite verb”, while “the subject SUBCAT element of a nonfinite verb [...] does not have a case value specified” (p. 30). However, they added in a footnote on the same page that “for languages with more complex case systems, some sort of distinction analogous to the one characterized in GB work as ‘inherent’ vs. ‘structural’ is required.”

In the transformational Government and Binding theory of the 1980s (GB; Chomsky 1981; 1986), “inherent” – or “lexical” – case is understood as rigidly assigned by the head and independent of syntactic environment, while “structural” case varies with the structural context (e.g., Haider 1985: 70). This difference can be illustrated on the basis of the following examples from German (Przepiórkowski 1999a: 63, based on data from Heinz & Matiasek 1994):

- (1) a. Der Mann unterstützt *den Installateur*.  
the man.NOM supports the plumber.ACC  
'The man is supporting the plumber.'
  - b. *Der Installateur* wird unterstützt.  
the plumber.NOM AUX supported  
'The plumber is supported.'
  - c. das Unterstützen *des Installateurs*  
the supporting the plumber.GEN  
'the support for/from the plumber'
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- (2) a. Der Mann hilft *dem Installateur*.  
the man.NOM helps the plumber.DAT  
'The man is helping the plumber.'
  - b. *Dem Installateur* wird geholfen.  
the plumber.DAT AUX helped  
'The plumber is helped.'
  - c. das Helfen *des Installateurs*  
the helping the plumber.GEN  
'the help from/\*for the plumber'

In (1), both arguments of the verb UNTERSTÜTZEN<sup>2</sup> ‘support’ receive structural

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<sup>1</sup>This section is to some extent based on Przepiórkowski (1999a), Section 3.4 and Chapter 4; see also Müller (2013), Chapter 14.

<sup>2</sup>Note the convention of using small capitals to typeset lemmata.

case: the patient argument occurs in the accusative in (1a), in the nominative in (1b), and in the genitive in (1c). Similarly, the agent argument is in the nominative in (1a), but it may only occur in the genitive in (1c); hence, the single argument marked as genitive in (1c) is ambiguous between the agent and the patient. In the case of (2), the agent argument of *HELPEN* ‘help’ is similarly assigned structural case, but the patient argument receives a rigid inherent case: it is always the dative, so, e.g., the genitive in (2c) may only be understood as marking the agent.

Examples such as those above may still be handled without any general principles of case assignment. For example, lexical rules (Pollard & Sag 1987: 209–218) responsible for forming passive participles (as in the b. examples above) and gerunds (as in the c. examples) might be responsible for manipulating case values of arguments, e.g., for translating nominative and accusative – but not dative – to genitive in the case of gerunds. However, the interaction of the structural/inherent case dichotomy with raising (and – in some languages – with control) motivates a more comprehensive approach to case assignment.

Consider Icelandic raising verbs (all Icelandic data is taken from Sag et al. 1992: 304–305):

- (3) a. *Hann virðist elskja hana.*  
he.NOM seems love.INF her.ACC  
'He seems to love her.'
- b. *Þeir telja Mariú hafa skrifað ritgerðina.*  
they believe Mary.ACC have.INF written the.thesis  
'They believe Mary to have written her thesis.'

As in other languages, the subject of the infinitival verb raised to the higher subject position, as in (3a), normally receives the nominative case there, while – in the case it is raised to the object position, as in (3b) – it normally receives the accusative case. This could be easily modelled in accordance with the suggestion of Pollard & Sag (1994: 30) that infinitival verbs do not assign case to their subjects, while finite verbs – in this case finite raising verbs – normally assign the nominative to their subjects and the accusative to their objects. But, as is well known (Andrews 1982; Zaenen & Maling 1983; Zaenen et al. 1985), some Icelandic verbs idiosyncratically assign specific “quirky” cases to their subjects, and when they do, the higher raising verbs must honour this assignment:

- (4) a. *Hana virðist vanta peninga.*  
her.ACC seems lack.INF money  
'She seems to lack money.'

- b. Hann telur *mig* vanta peninga.  
he.NOM believes me.ACC lack.INF money  
'He believes that I lack money.'
- (5) a. *Barninu* virðist hafa batnað veikin.  
the.child.DAT seems have.INF recovered.from the.disease  
'The child seems to have recovered from the disease.'
- b. Hann telur *barninu* hafa batnað veikin.  
he believes the.child.DAT have.INF recovered.from the.disease  
'He believes the child to have recovered from the disease.'
- (6) a. *Verkjanna* virðist ekki gæta.  
the.pains.GEN seems not be.noticeable.INF  
'The pains don't seem to be noticeable.'
- b. Hann telur *verkjanna* ekki gæta.  
he believes the.pains.GEN not be.noticeable.INF  
'He believes the pains to be not noticeable.'

Thus, in (4), the understood subject of the infinitival VANTA 'lack' must be in the accusative, whether it is raised to the object position, as in (4b), where the accusative would be expected anyway, or to the subject position, as in (4a), where normally the nominative case would be expected. This works similarly in the case of verbs idiosyncratically assigning their subject the dative case, as in (5), or the genitive case, as in (6).

The difficulty presented by such examples is this. If the finite raising verbs were assumed to assign case to the raised subjects – nominative in the case of raising to subject and accusative in the case of raising to object – then this would clash with "quirky" cases assigned to their subjects by some verbs: (4a), (5) and (6) would be predicted to be ungrammatical. If, on the other hand, such raising verbs did not assign case to the raised arguments, instead relying on the lower verbs to assign appropriate cases to their subjects, then it is not clear what case should be assigned to their subjects by the usual – not "quirky" – verbs: it cannot always be the nominative, as the accusative case is witnessed when the subject is raised to the object position, as in (3b); similarly, it cannot always be the accusative, as the nominative case surfaces when the subject is raised to the subject position, as in (3a).

The intuition of the analysis proposed in Sag et al. (1992) relies on the distinction between structural and inherent case assignment, although these terms do

not appear in that paper. Verbs such as those in (4)–(6) assign their subjects specific inherent cases (accusative in (4), dative in (5) and genitive in (6)), while the usual verbs, as in (3), only mark their subjects as structural, to be assigned case elsewhere. Finite raising verbs are, in a way, sensitive to this distinction, and only assign the nominative (in the case of raising to subject) or accusative (in the case of raising to object) to such structural arguments. While Sag et al. (1992) represent this distinction between structural and inherent case implicitly, via the interaction of two attributes, CASE (realised case) and DCASE (default case), later HPSG work assumes explicit representation of the two kinds of case as two subtypes of *case* in the type hierarchy: *str*(uctural) and *lex*(ical). Such a *case* type hierarchy is, apparently independently, alluded to in Pollard (1994) and introduced in detail in Heinz & Matiasek (1994), to which we turn presently.

On the basis of German examples such as (1)–(2), Heinz & Matiasek (1994) argue that out of four morphological cases in German – nominative, accusative, genitive and dative – the first three (i.e., with the exception of the dative) may be assigned structurally, by general case assignment principles. Similarly, they argue that the last three (i.e., apart from the nominative) may also be assigned lexically, in which case they are stable across various syntactic environments. These empirical observations are translated into the *case* hierarchy in Figure 1.

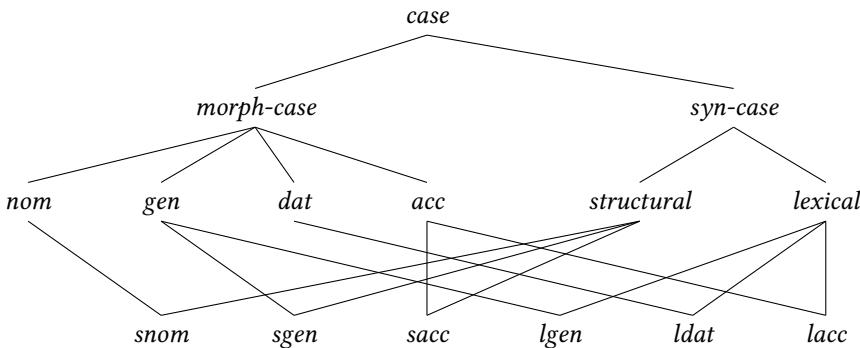


Figure 1: Case hierarchy for German encoding the structural/lexical distinction

Particular verbs may assign specific lexical cases to their arguments, e.g., *ldat*. They may also specify arguments as bearing structural case, in which case only the *str*(uctural) supertype is mentioned in the lexicon. For example, the lexical entries for UNTERSTÜTZEN ‘support’ and HELFEN ‘help’ contain the following sub-categorisation requirements:

- (7) a. UNTERSTÜTZEN: [SUBCAT ⟨ NP[*str*], NP[*str*] ⟩]  
b. HELFEN: [SUBCAT ⟨ NP[*str*], NP[*ldat*] ⟩]

Assuming a similar *case* hierarchy for Icelandic, the difference between the usual verbs, such as ELSKA ‘love’ in (3a), and “quirky” subject verbs, such as VANTA ‘lack’ in (4), could be represented as below (omitting non-initial arguments):

- (8) a. ELSKA: [SUBCAT ⟨ NP[*str*], ... ⟩]  
b. VANTA: [SUBCAT ⟨ NP[*lacc*], ... ⟩]

Since Pollard (1994) and Heinz & Matiasek (1994), such representations of case requirements are generally adopted in HPSG,<sup>3</sup> with the only difference that SUBCAT is currently replaced with ARG-ST. The point where different approaches diverge is how exactly structural case is resolved to a specific morphological case.

The simplest principle would resolve the case of the first *str* argument of a pure (non-gerundial) verb to nominative, i.e., to *snom*, the case of any subsequent *str* argument of a pure verb to accusative, i.e., to *sacc*, and the case of any *str* argument of a gerund to *sgen*. Unfortunately, this simple principle would not work in various cases of raising, e.g., in the case of the Icelandic data above. While the “quirky” cases in (4)–(6) would be properly taken care of by this approach – once the subject is assigned a specific lexical case it is outside of the realm of a principle resolving structural cases – structural subjects raised to a higher verb would be assigned specific case twice (or more times, in the case of longer raising chains): on the SUBCAT (or ARG-ST) of the lower verb and on the SUBCAT (or ARG-ST) of the raising verb. This would not necessarily lead to problems in the case of raising to subject verbs, as in (3a), as the structural argument would be the subject in both subcategorisation frames, so it would be resolved to *snom* twice, but it would create a problem in the case of raising to object verbs, as in (3b), as the raised argument would be resolved to the nominative on the lower subcategorisation frame and to the accusative on the higher frame. So, the problem is not limited to Icelandic, but may be observed in any language with raising to object (also known as Exceptional Case Marking or Accusativus cum Infinitivo or Acl), including German (cf., e.g., Heinz & Matiasek 1994: 231). Obviously, even if a structural argument occurs on a number of SUBCAT or ARG-ST lists, it should be assigned specific morphological case according to its position on just one of them – the highest one.

Both Pollard (1994) and Heinz & Matiasek (1994) account for such facts via configurational case principles, e.g. (Heinz & Matiasek 1994: 209):

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<sup>3</sup>A recent example being Machicao y Priemer & Fritz-Huechante (2018: 169).

## (9) CASE PRINCIPLE (for German):

In a *head-complement-structure* whose head has category  
 $\text{verb}[\text{fin}]$  the external argument has a CASE value of *snom*,  
 $\text{verb}$  the internal argument has a CASE value of *sacc*,  
 $\text{noun}$  the internal argument has a CASE value of *sgen*.  
These are the only saturated or almost saturated  
*head-complement-structures* with structural arguments.

## (10) Syntactically External Argument ('Subject'):

If the first element of the SUBCAT list of a sign is an NP[*str*], it is called  
the (*syntactically*) *external argument* of that sign.

## (11) Syntactically Internal Argument ('Direct Object'):

If the second element of the SUBCAT list of a sign is an NP[*str*], it is called  
the (*syntactically*) *internal argument* of that sign.

Heinz & Matiasek (1994: 209–210) formalize this CASE PRINCIPLE by giving the following constraints:

$$(12) \begin{array}{c} \text{phrase} \\ \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{SYNSEM} | \text{LOC} | \text{CAT} \\ \text{HEAD} \quad \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{verb} \\ \text{VFORM } \text{fin} \end{array} \right] \\ \text{SUBCAT } \langle \rangle \end{array} \right] \\ \Rightarrow \\ \text{DTRS} \left[ \begin{array}{l} h\text{-}c\text{-}str \\ \text{HEAD-DTR} | \dots | \text{SUBCAT } \langle \text{NP}[\text{str}], \dots \rangle \end{array} \right] \\ \left[ \text{DTRS} | \text{HEAD-DTR} | \dots | \text{SUBCAT } \langle \text{NP}[\text{snom}], \dots \rangle \right] \end{array}$$

$$(13) \begin{array}{c} \text{phrase} \\ \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{SYNSEM} | \text{LOC} | \text{CAT} \\ \text{HEAD} \quad \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{verb} \\ \text{VFORM } \text{fin} \end{array} \right] \\ \text{SUBCAT } \langle \rangle \vee \langle \text{synsem} \rangle \end{array} \right] \\ \Rightarrow \\ \text{DTRS} \left[ \begin{array}{l} h\text{-}c\text{-}str \\ \text{HEAD-DTR} | \dots | \text{SUBCAT } \langle \text{synsem}, \text{NP}[\text{str}], \dots \rangle \end{array} \right] \\ \left[ \text{DTRS} | \text{HEAD-DTR} | \dots | \text{SUBCAT } \langle \text{synsem}, \text{NP}[\text{sacc}] \rangle, \dots \right] \end{array}$$

$$(14) \quad \begin{aligned} & \left[ \begin{array}{l} \textit{phrase} \\ \text{SYNSEM|LOC|CAT} \left[ \begin{array}{ll} \text{HEAD} & \textit{noun} \\ \text{SUBCAT} & \langle \rangle \vee \langle \textit{synsem} \rangle \end{array} \right] \\ \text{DTRS} \left[ \begin{array}{l} \textit{h-c-str} \\ \text{HEAD-DTR|...|SUBCAT} \langle \textit{synsem}, \text{NP}[str], \dots \rangle \end{array} \right] \end{array} \right] \Rightarrow \\ & \qquad \qquad \qquad \left[ \text{DTRS|HEAD-DTR|...|SUBCAT} \langle \textit{synsem}, \text{NP}[sgen] \rangle, \dots \right] \end{aligned}$$

Note that the locus of this CASE PRINCIPLE is *phrase* and that it makes reference to *head-complement-structure* values of the DAUGHTERS (DTRS) attribute. In this sense, this principle is configurational. Similar principles were proposed for Korean (Yoo 1993; Bratt 1996), English (Grover 1995) and Polish (Przepiórkowski 1996a), *inter alia*.

This configurational approach to case assignment is criticised in Przepiórkowski (1996b; 1999a,b) on the basis of conceptual and theory-internal problems. The conceptual problem is that a configurational analysis is employed for what is usually considered an essentially local phenomenon, one concerned with the relation between a head and its dependents (Blake 1994). The – more immediate – theory-internal problem is that such configurational case principles are restricted to locally realised arguments, and are not necessarily compatible with those – dominant since Pollard & Sag (1994: Chapter 9) – HPSG analyses of extraction which do not assume traces and with those HPSG approaches to cliticisation in which the clitic is realised as an affix rather than a tree-configurational constituent (cf., e.g., Miller & Sag 1997 on French and Monachesi 1999 on Italian).

The solution proposed in Przepiórkowski (1996b; 1999a,b) is to resolve structural cases directly within ARG-ST, via local principles operating at the level of *category* of a word (where both head information and argument structure information – but not constituent structure – are available) rather than at the level of *phrase*. This seems to bring back the problem, discussed in connection with the Icelandic data above, of raised arguments, which occur on a number of ARG-ST lists. The innovation of Przepiórkowski (1996b; 1999a,b) is the proposal to mark, within ARG-ST, whether a given argument is realised locally (either tree-configurationally, or as a gap to be extracted higher on, or as an affix) or not. If it is realised locally, it may be assigned appropriate case; if it is not (because it is raised), its structural case must be resolved higher up. On this setup, the above constraints (12)–(13) responsible for the assignment of structural nominative and accusative are replaced with the following two constraints (and similarly for the

structural genitive):<sup>4</sup>

$$(15) \quad \left[ \begin{array}{ll} \text{HEAD} & \text{verb} \\ \text{ARG-ST} & \left( \begin{array}{l} \text{ARG NP}[str] \\ \text{REALIZED} + \end{array} \right) \oplus \boxed{2} \end{array} \right] \Rightarrow \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{ARG-ST} \left( \begin{array}{l} \text{ARG NP}[snom] \end{array} \right) \oplus \boxed{2} \end{array} \right]$$

$$(16) \quad \left[ \begin{array}{ll} \text{HEAD} & \text{verb} \\ \text{ARG-ST} & \boxed{1} nelist \oplus \left( \begin{array}{l} \text{ARG NP}[str] \\ \text{REALIZED} + \end{array} \right) \oplus \boxed{2} \end{array} \right] \Rightarrow \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{ARG-ST} \boxed{1} \oplus \left( \begin{array}{l} \text{ARG NP}[snom] \end{array} \right) \oplus \boxed{2} \end{array} \right]$$

Obviously, for such constraints to work, values of ARG-ST must be lists of slightly more complex objects than *synsem* (these are now values of ARG within such more complex objects), and additional principles must make sure that values of REALIZED are instantiated properly (see Przepiórkowski 1999a: 78–79 for details).

The analysis of Przepiórkowski (1996b; 1999a,b) assumes that an argument is locally realised – and hence may be assigned structural case – if and only if it is not raised to a higher argument structure. Meurers (1999a,b), on the basis of empirical observations in Haider (1990), Grewendorf (1994) and Müller (1997), shows that this assumption does not always hold in German; rather, structural case should be assigned to arguments on the basis of whether they are raised or not, and not whether they are locally realised or not. Consider the following data (Meurers 1999a: 294):

- (17) a. [Ein Außenseiter gewinnen] wird hier nie.  
          an.NOM outsider   win.INF   will here never  
          ‘An outsider will never win here.’
- b. [Einen Außenseiter gewinnen] lässt Gott hier nie.  
          an.ACC outsider   win.INF   lets god here never  
          ‘God never lets an outsider win here.’

Assuming that fronted fragments, marked with square brackets, are single constituents,<sup>5</sup> the subject of *gewinnen* ‘win’ forms a constituent with this verb, i.e.,

<sup>4</sup>The antecedents of such principles could be further constrained to apply to *words* only. As usual, ‘⊕’ indicates concatenation of lists.

<sup>5</sup>This assumption is not completely uncontroversial; see Kiss (1994: 100–101) for apparent counterexamples and Müller (2003; 2005; 2017) for a defense of this assumption.

it has the same configurational realisation in both examples. Hence, configurational case assignment principles should assign it the same case in both instances, contrary to facts: *ein Außenseiter* occurs in the nominative in (17a) and *einen Außenseiter* bears the accusative case in (17b). As argued by Meurers (1999a,b), the reason is that – although the subject is realised locally to its infinitival head – it is in some sense raised further to the subject position of the auxiliary *wird* in (17a) and to the object position of the Acl verb *läßt* in (17b), hence the difference in cases. This suggests that structural case should be assigned not where the argument is realised, but on the highest ARG-ST on which it occurs. A corresponding modification of the non-configurational case assignment approach of Przepiórkowski (1996b; 1999a,b) – replacing the [REALIZED +] with [RAISED –] in constraints such as (15)–(16) and providing appropriate constraints on values of RAISED – is proposed in Przepiórkowski (1999a: 93–95); see also Müller (2013), Section 17.4 (and references therein) for further improvements.

While this non-configurational approach to syntactic case assignment was motivated largely by the need to capture complex interactions in a precise way, it turns out to formalise sometimes apparently contradictory intuitions expressed in various approaches to case. First of all, it preserves the common intuition that case is a local phenomenon, an intimate relation between a head and its dependents. Second, it successfully formalises the distinction between structural and inherent/lexical case known from the transformational literature of the 1980s, and non-configurationally encodes the apparently configurational principles of structural case assignment. Third, while most HPSG literature on case is concerned with syntactic phenomena in European languages, this approach has been extended to case stacking known, e.g., from languages of Australia and case attraction observed, e.g., in Classical Armenian and in Gothic (Malouf 2000). Fourth, by allowing antecedents of implicational constraints such as (15)–(16) to be *local* objects, not just syntactic *categories*, semantic factors influencing case assignment may also be taken into account, as in differential case marking, repeatedly considered in Lexical Functional Grammar (cf., e.g., Butt & King 2003 and references therein), but apparently not (so far) in HPSG. Fifth, as pointed out in Przepiórkowski (1999a,b), the above approach to case formalises the “case tier” intuition of Zaenen et al. (1985), Yip et al. (1987) and Maling (1993) (see also Maling 2009).

Let us illustrate the last point with some Finnish data from Maling (1993):

- (18) a. Liisa muisti matkan vuoden.  
Liisa.NOM remembered trip.ACC year.ACC  
'Liisa remembered the trip for a year.'

- b. Lapsen täytyy lukea kirja kolmannen kerran.  
child.GEN must read book.NOM [third time].ACC  
'The child must read the book for a third time.'
- c. Kekkoseen luotettiin yksi kerta.  
Kekkonen.ILL trust.PASSP [one time].NOM  
'Kekkonen was trusted once.'
- d. Kekkoseen luotettiin yhden kerran yksi vuosi.  
Kekkonen.ILL trust.PASSP [one time].ACC [one year].NOM  
'Kekkonen was trusted for one year once.'

Maling (1993) argues at length that some adjuncts (adverbials of measure, duration and frequency) behave just like objects with respect to case assignment and, in particular, notes the following generalization about syntactic case assignment: only one NP dependent of the verb receives the nominative, namely the one which has the highest grammatical function; other dependents receive the accusative.<sup>6</sup> Thus, if none of the arguments bears inherent case, the subject is in the nominative and other dependents are in the accusative, cf. (18), but if the subject bears an idiosyncratic case, it is the object that gets the nominative, cf. (18b). Furthermore, if all arguments (if any) bear inherent case, the next "available" grammatical function is that of an adjunct, thus one of the adjuncts receives the nominative, cf. (18c)–(18d).

Given such facts, Maling (1993) claims that syntactic case is assigned in Finnish on the basis of grammatical hierarchy and that (at least some) adjuncts belong to this hierarchy. Moreover, as evidenced by (18c)–(18d), adjuncts do not form a single class in this hierarchy: although the multiplicative adverbial *yksi kerta* is nominative in (18c), this case is won over by the duration adverbial in (18d). Taking into consideration also the partitive of negation facts (measure adverbials, but not duration or frequency adverbials, behave like direct objects in the sense that they take partitive case under sentential negation), Maling (1993) extends the grammatical function hierarchy for Finnish in the following way:

- (19) SUBJ > OBJ > MEASURE > DURATION > FREQUENCY

While these generalisations are developed in the context of Lexical Functional Grammar, it is not clear how they could be encoded in LFG: there are no formal mechanisms for stating such a hierarchy of grammatical functions and, addition-

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<sup>6</sup>See also Zaenen & Maling (1983) and Zaenen et al. (1985) for a similar generalisation with respect to Icelandic.

ally, all adjuncts are assumed to be elements of an unordered set.<sup>7</sup> On the other hand, given the “adjuncts as complements” approach of Bouma et al. (2001) and others, upon which at least some adjuncts are added to ARG-ST (perhaps renamed to DEPS), and assuming – as is standard in HPSG – that ARG-ST elements satisfy the obliqueness hierarchy, formalisation of the “case tier” approach is easy and consists of two implicational principles similar to (15)–(16). The first principle resolves the first structurally-cased element of extended ARG-ST to nominative, whether this element is the first element of ARG-ST or not (it is not in the case of (18b)–(18d)), and whether it corresponds to the subject, the direct object or an adjunct. The second principle resolves the structural case of all subsequent elements, if any, to accusative.

### 3 Case syncretism and neutrality

Another important strand of HPSG work on case concerns situations in which a single syncretic form seems to simultaneously bear two (or more) case values, as in the following examples involving coordination, free relatives and parasitic gaps:

- (20) Polish coordination (Dyla 1984: 701–702):

- a. Kogo            Janek        lubi            a     Jerzy  
    who.ACC/GEN Janek.NOM likes(OBJ.ACC) and Jerzy.NOM  
    nienawidzi?  
    hates(OBJ.GEN)  
    ‘Who does Janek like and Jerzy hate?’
- b. \* Co            Janek        lubi            a     Jerzy  
    what.NOM/ACC Janek.NOM likes(OBJ.ACC) and Jerzy.NOM  
    nienawidzi?  
    hates(OBJ.GEN)  
    Intended: ‘What does Janek like and Jerzy hate?’

- (21) English coordination (Goodall 1987: 70; Levine et al. 2001: 206):

This is the man who<sub>i</sub>.NOM/ACC Robin saw  $e_i$ .ACC and thinks  $e_i$ .NOM is handsome.

- (22) German coordination (Pullum & Zwicky 1986: 764–765):

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<sup>7</sup>But see Przepiórkowski (2016) for an attempt to introduce a single ordered list of dependents and formalise the functional hierarchy in LFG.

- a. Er findet und hilft  
he.NOM finds(OBJ.ACC) and helps(OBJ.DAT)  
Frauen.  
women.NOM/ACC/GEN/DAT  
'He finds and helps women.'
- b. \* Sie findet und hilft Männer.  
she.NOM finds(OBJ.ACC) and helps(OBJ.DAT) men.NOM/ACC/GEN  
Intended: 'She finds and helps men.'
- c. \* Sie findet und hilft Männern.  
she.NOM finds(OBJ.ACC) and helps(OBJ.DAT) men.DAT  
Intended: 'She finds and helps men.'

(23) German free relatives (Groos & van Riemsdijk 1981: 212):

Was du mir gegeben hast, ist  
what.NOM/ACC you.NOM me.DAT given(OBJ.ACC) have is(SUBJ.NOM)  
prächtig.  
wonderful

'What you have given to me is wonderful.'

(24) English parasitic gaps (Hukari & Levine 1996: 482; Levine et al. 2001: 205):

Robin is someone who<sub>i</sub>.NOM/ACC even good friends of  $e_i$ .ACC believe  
 $e_i$ .NOM should be closely watched.

In (20a), the fronted syncretic accusative/genitive form *kogo* 'who' satisfies the requirements of the two coordinated verbal constituents: in one, *lubi* 'likes' requires an accusative object, and in the other, *nienawidzi* 'hates' expects a genitive object. A form which is not syncretic between (at least) these two cases cannot occur in the place of *kogo*; this is illustrated in (20b), where the element putatively shared by the two verbal constituents is syncretic between accusative and nominative, rather than accusative and genitive. The English example (21) is similar and involves the relative pronoun *who*, syncretic between accusative and nominative. The well-known example (22) illustrates essentially the same phenomenon in German: the form *Frauen* 'women', which is fully syncretic with respect to case, simultaneously satisfies the accusative requirement of *findet* 'finds' and the dative requirement of *hilft* 'helps'. By contrast, this joint requirement is not satisfied either by *Männer*, which is accusative (among other cases) but not dative, or by *Männern*, which is dative but not accusative. The other two examples show that this phenomenon is not restricted to coordination. In (23), the

syncretic form *was* ‘what’ simultaneously satisfies the constraint that the object of *gegeben* ‘given’ is accusative and that the subject of *ist* ‘is’ is nominative. Similarly, the extracted *who* in (24) seems to simultaneously bear the accusative case assigned by the preposition *of* and the nominative case of the subject of *should*.

Such examples were at one point considered problematic not only for HPSG, but for unification-based theories in general (Ingrīa 1990). The reason is that, on the straightforward approach to case, they should all be ungrammatical. For example, in the case of (22a), the assignment of the accusative to the object of *findet* ‘finds’ should clash with the assignment of the dative to the object of *hilft* ‘helps’, as both objects are realised by the same noun *Frauen* ‘women’. In other words, the attempt to unify accusative and dative should fail.

The solution first proposed by Levine et al. (2001: 207–208) is to enrich the *case* hierarchy in such a way that the unification of two different morphological cases does not necessarily result in failure.<sup>8</sup> Specifically, assuming that nominative and accusative are structural cases in English, they propose the part of the structural case hierarchy shown in Figure 2.<sup>9</sup>

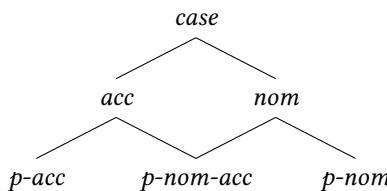


Figure 2: Case hierarchy for English encoding case syncretism

Particular nominal forms are specified in the lexicon as either pure accusative (*p-acc*), pure nominative (*p-nom*) or syncretic between the two (*p-nom-acc*):

- (25)    *he*        [CASE *p-nom*]
- him*      [CASE *p-acc*]
- whom*     [CASE *p-acc*]
- who*       [CASE *p-nom-acc*]
- Robin*     [CASE *p-nom-acc*]

On the other hand, heads – or constraints of a case principle of the kind presented in the previous section – specify particular arguments as *nom* or *acc*. So,

<sup>8</sup>See Ingrīa (1990: 196) for an earlier implementation of roughly the same idea in the context of unification grammars.

<sup>9</sup>Type names follow the convention in Daniels (2002), for increased uniformity with the remainder of this section.

in the case of the parasitic gap example (24), the *acc* requirement associated with the preposition *of* and the *nom* requirement on the subject of *should* are not incompatible: their unification results in *p-nom-acc* and the shared dependent may be any form compatible with this case value, e.g., *who* (but not *whom*). Examples (20)–(23) can be handled in a similar way.

A situation often perceived as dual to such case neutrality, sometimes called “case underspecification”, occurs when a head specifies the case of its dependent disjunctively and may combine with a coordinate structure containing phrases in both cases, e.g.:

- (26) a. Polish ([Przepiórkowski 1999a](#): 175):

Dajcie wina i całą świnię!  
give wine.GEN and whole.ACC pig.ACC  
'Serve (some) wine and a whole pig!'

- b. Russian ([Levy 2001](#): 11):

Včera vec' den' on proždal svoju podrugu Irinu  
yesterday all day he expected self's.ACC girlfriend.ACC Irina.ACC  
i zvonka ot svoego brata Grigorija.  
and call.GEN from self's brother Grigory  
'Yesterday he waited all day for his girlfriend Irina and for a call from his brother Grigory.'

In Polish, the object of the verb *dajcie* ‘give’ is normally in the accusative, but may also be realised as the genitive, when its meaning is partitive; in (26a), the object is a coordination of such a genitive noun *wina* ‘(some) wine’ and the accusative *całą świnię* ‘whole pig’. Similarly, according to [Levy 2001](#), the Russian verb *proždal* ‘awaited’ may combine with accusative or genitive, and in (26b) it happily combines with a coordinate phrase containing both.

If such “accusative and genitive” coordinate phrases bear case at all, the value of this grammatical category must be something like *acc+gen*. Note that this situation differs from case neutrality discussed above: a syncretic case such as *p-acc-gen* intuitively corresponds to intersection: a nominal bearing this case is accusative and genitive at the same time. On the other hand, the intuition behind *acc+gen* is that of union: a (coordinated) nominal with this case value has accusative elements and genitive elements, so it may fill a position disjunctively specified as requiring accusative *or* genitive. However, *acc+gen* coordinate phrases cannot fill either purely accusative positions (because such phrases contain genitive – i.e., non-accusative – conjuncts), or purely genitive positions (be-

cause of accusative – i.e., non-genitive – conjuncts), or positions simultaneously specified as accusative *and* genitive, as in (20) above (for both reasons).

This duality is a feature of the Categorial Grammar approach to case and coordination of Bayer (1996) (see also Bayer & Johnson 1995) and the corresponding HPSG analyses were presented in Levy (2001) and Levy & Pollard (2002), as well as in Daniels (2002). As noted in Levy & Pollard (2002: 233), the two HPSG approaches are isomorphic. The main technical difference is that the relevant case hierarchies are construed outside of the usual HPSG type hierarchy in the approach of Levy (2001) and Levy & Pollard (2002), but they are fully integrated in the approach of Daniels (2002). For this reason, and also because it is the basis of some further HPSG work (e.g., Crysmann 2005), this latter approach is presented below.

Intuitively, just as the common subtype of *acc* and *nom*, i.e., *p-nom-acc* in Figure 2, represents forms which are simultaneously accusative and nominative, the common supertype, i.e., *case*, which should perhaps be renamed to *nom+acc*, should represent coordinate structures involving nominative and accusative conjuncts. However, given that all objects are assumed to be sort-resolved in standard HPSG, saying that the case of a coordinate structure is *case* (or *nom+acc*) is paramount to saying that it is either *p-acc* (pure accusative), or *p-nom-acc* (syncretic nominative/accusative), or *p-nom* (pure nominative). One solution is to “make a simple change to the framework’s foundational assumptions” (Sag 2003: 268) and to allow linguistic objects to bear non-maximal types. This is proposed and illustrated in detail in Sag (2003). A more conservative solution, proposed in Daniels (2002), is to add dedicated maximal types to all such non-maximal types; for example, the hierarchy in Figure 2 is modified as shown in Figure 3. Apart from the trivial renaming of *case* to the more explicit *nom+acc*, a maximal

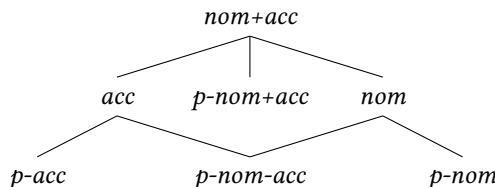


Figure 3: Case (sub)hierarchy encoding nominative/accusative syncretism and underspecification

type corresponding to this renamed non-maximal type is added here, namely, *p-nom+acc*.

Let us illustrate this approach with the two Polish examples (20a) and (26a),

repeated below as (27a)–(27b):

- (27) a. Kogo Janek lubi a Jerzy nienawidzi?  
           who.ACC/GEN Janek.NOM likes(OBJ.ACC) and Jerzy.NOM hates(OBJ.GEN)  
           ‘Who does Janek like and Jerzy hate?’  
       b. Dajcie wina i całą świnię!  
           give wine.GEN and whole.ACC pig.ACC  
           ‘Serve (some) wine and a whole pig!’

As these examples involve accusative and genitive, I will assume that the complete case hierarchy contains a subhierarchy such as that in Figure 3 above, but with all occurrences of *nom* replaced by *gen* as in Figure 4.

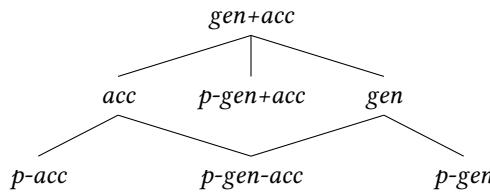


Figure 4: Case (sub)hierarchy encoding accusative/genitive syncretism and underspecification

First of all, heads subcategorise for (or relevant case principles specify) “non-pure” cases, i.e., *acc*, *gen*, *gen+acc*, etc., but not *p-acc*, *p-gen*, *p-gen+acc*, etc. For example, *lubi* ‘likes’ and *nienawidzi* ‘hates’ in (27a) expect their objects to have the case values *acc* and *gen*, respectively. Moreover, *dajcie* ‘give’ in (27b) specifies the case of its object as *gen+acc*. On the other hand, nominal dependents bear “pure” cases. For example, *kogo* ‘who’ in (27a) is lexically specified as *p-gen-acc*. Similarly to the analysis of the English parasitic gap example above, this neutralised case is compatible with both specifications: *acc* and *gen*.

The analysis of (27b) is a little more complicated, as a new principle is needed to determine the case of a coordinate structure. The two conjuncts, *wina* ‘wine’ and *całą świnię* ‘whole pig’, have – by virtue of lexical specifications of their head nouns – the case values *p-gen* and *p-acc*, respectively. Now, the case value of the coordination is determined as follows: take the “non-pure” versions of the cases of all conjuncts (here: *gen* and *acc*), find their (lowest) common supertype (here: *gen+acc*), and assign to the coordinate structure the “pure” type corresponding to this common supertype (here: *p-gen+acc*). This way the coordinate structure in (27b) ends up with the case value *p-gen+acc*, which is compatible with the *gen+acc* requirement posited by the verb *dajcie* (or by an appropriate principle

of structural case assignment). Obviously, a purely accusative, purely genitive or accusative/genitive neutralised object would also satisfy this requirement.

One often-perceived – both within and outside of HPSG – problem with this approach is that it leads to very complex type hierarchies for *case* and rather inelegant constraints (Sag 2003: 272, Dalrymple et al. 2009: 63–66). Let us, following Daniels (2002), simplify the presentation of type hierarchies such as that in Figure 3, by removing all those “pure” types which are only needed to represent some non-maximal types as maximal as in Figure 5. Hence, the representation

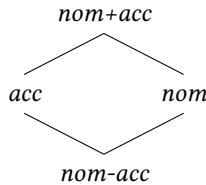


Figure 5: Simplified case (sub)hierarchy encoding nominative/accusative syncretism and underspecification

in this figure corresponds to seven types shown explicitly in Figure 3 (each non-maximal type in Figure 5 has an additional *p*-type, while the maximal *nom-acc* in Figure 5 is the same as *p-nom-acc* in Figure 3). What would a similar hierarchy for three morphological cases look like? Daniels (2002: 143) provides the visualisation in Figure 6, involving 18 nodes corresponding to 35 types in the full type hierarchy. As mentioned in Levy & Pollard (2002: 225), the size of such a type hierarchy grows double exponentially with the number of grammatical cases, so it would already be next to impossible to visualise such a hierarchy for German, with its four cases, not to mention Polish with its seven cases or Finno-Ugric languages with around 15 cases. And matters are further complicated by the fact that sometimes form syncretism simultaneously involves a number of grammatical categories, so perhaps such type hierarchies should combine case information with person, gender and number (Daniels 2002: 145, Crysmann 2005), and by the fact that coordinated elements may be specified for different categories (e.g., an NP specified for case may be coordinated with a sentence), in which case it is not clear what categories should be borne by the coordinate structure as a whole (see, e.g., the inconclusive fn. 10 in Sag 2003: 277).

After the early 2000s, such complex *case* hierarchies do not appear in HPSG work. A possible reason for this is the increasing popularity of ellipsis-based accounts of various coordinate constructions, including unlike category coordination cases, of which the “case underspecification” examples (26a)–(26b) may

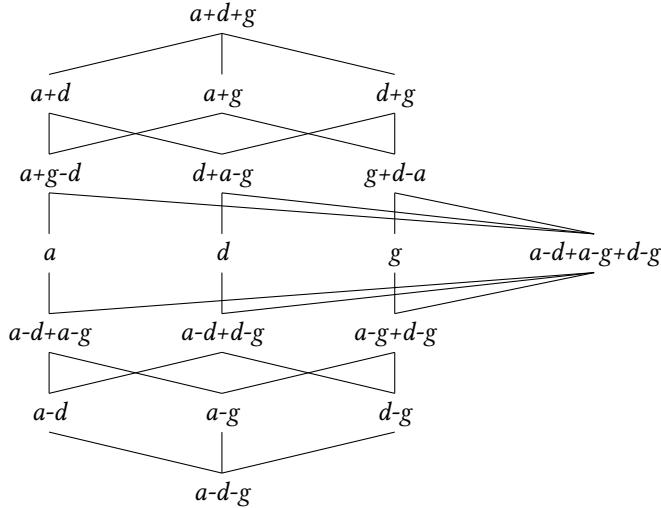


Figure 6: Simplified case (sub)hierarchy encoding accusative/dative/genitive syncretism and underspecification

be seen as special cases.<sup>10</sup> Such ellipsis accounts are usually formulated within the linearisation approach of Reape (1992; 1994) and Kathol (1995), and they have been claimed to deal with some of the cases discussed in this section, e.g., by Crysmann (2008), Beavers & Sag (2004), and Chaves (2006; 2008). However, such linearisation-based approaches to coordination have more recently come under attack: see Levine (2011) and Kubota & Levine (2015) (as well as Yatabe 2012; 2016 and, especially, Yatabe & Tam 2018 for a defence of ellipsis-based accounts of some cases of coordination). Hence, it is difficult to predict at the moment whether ellipsis-based analyses will permanently remove the need for complex type hierarchies modelling neutralisation and underspecification in coordination. But even if they do, some of the examples given at the beginning of this section, namely (23)–(24), demonstrate that feature neutrality is not limited to coordinate structures, but also occurs at least in free relatives and multiple gapping, so case hierarchies of the kind illustrated in Figure 2, with separate types representing syncretic cases, are still needed in contemporary HPSG, regardless of the analysis of coordination; an example of a more recent analysis which does

<sup>10</sup>Another HPSG approach to unlike category coordination which obviates the need for such complex hierarchies is that of Yatabe (2004), according to which the – perhaps disjunctive or underspecified – requirements of the head independently distribute to all conjuncts, in a manner similar to (but more general than) distributivity within coordinate structures assumed in LFG (Dalrymple & Kaplan 2000; Dalrymple et al. 2009; Przepiórkowski & Patejuk 2012).

assume such a case hierarchy (to account for gapping and resumptive pronouns in Modern Standard Arabic) is [Alotaibi & Borsley \(2013\)](#).<sup>11</sup>

## 4 Other HPSG work on case

Apart from the two clearly identifiable strands of HPSG work described in the two preceding sections, there are also single papers concerned with various theoretical and implementational aspects of grammatical case. Of these, the report by [Drellishak \(2008\)](#) on modelling complex case phenomena in the Grammar Matrix ([Bender et al. 2002](#)) has the widest typological scope. It describes the treatment of various case systems in the multilingual platform for implementing HPSG grammars: not only the pure nominative-accusative, ergative-absolutive and tripartite systems, but also systems with various types of split ergativity, systems – known from Austronesian languages, including Tagalog – in which case marking interacts with focus marking, and so-called “direct-inverse” systems, exemplified by Algonquian languages, in which case marking partially depends on the hierarchies – or scales – of nominal phrases, e.g., based on person and/or animacy. Similarly to the non-configurational case assignment principles discussed in Section 2 above, such systems are described – via constraints on specific lexical types – by specifying case values of elements on ARG-ST. Also, a typologically very interesting language, Nias, usually assumed to display the ergative-absolutive alignment but with the typologically exceptional property of marking the absolute – rather than the ergative – case, is reanalysed as a nominative-accusative language in [Crysman \(2009\)](#), with the sole argument of intransitive verbs mapped to the grammatical function of object, rather than subject.

Two other works mentioned here are concerned with two very different aspects of case systems of particular languages. [Ryu \(2013\)](#) investigates the issue of case spreading from an argument of a verb to certain nominal dependents of this argument in Korean. He investigates the semantic relations that must hold between the two nominals for such “case copying” to occur and proposes a repertoire of 16 semantic relations (collected in five coherent groups, further classified into two general classes) which make the spreading of the nominative possible, 10 of which (three of the five groups, one of the two classes) license the spreading of the accusative. On the syntactic side, the dependents of such nominal arguments are raised to become valency elements of the governing verbs. In

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<sup>11</sup>But see [Crysman \(2017\)](#) for a reanalysis which does not need to refer to such a case hierarchy.

particular, dependents of the subject are raised to the VAL|SUBJ list, resulting in multiple valency subjects. Configurational case assignment rules constrain the value of case of each valency subject to nominative, and of each valency complement to accusative. The paper does not discuss the (im)possibility of formulating such case assignment rules non-configurationally, within local ARG-ST (or DEPS), but the challenge for the non-configurational case assignment seems to be the fact that multiple argument structure elements may correspond to valency subjects (and multiple to valency complements), so – looking at the argument structure alone – it is not immediately clear how many initial elements of this list should be assigned the nominative case, and which final elements should get the accusative.

Finally, a very different aspect of Hungarian case is investigated in Thuilier (2011), namely, whether case affixes should be distinguished from postpositions and, if so, where to draw the line. In Hungarian, postpositions behave in some respect just like case affixes (e.g., they do not allow any intervening material between them and the nominal phrase), which has led some researches to deny the existence of this distinction. Thuilier (2011) shows that, in this case, the traditional received wisdom is right, and that case affixes and postpositions differ in a number of morphological and syntactic ways. The proposed tests suggest that the essive element *ként*, normally considered to be a case affix, should be re-analysed as a postposition, thus establishing the number of Hungarian cases as 16. The resulting analysis of Hungarian case affixes and postpositions is couched within Sign-Based Construction Grammar (Boas & Sag 2012).

In summary, while HPSG is perhaps not best known for its approach to grammatical case, it does offer a range of interesting accounts of a variety of case-related phenomena in diverse languages ranging from German, Icelandic and Polish through Finnish and Hungarian to Korean and Nias; it provides perhaps the only formal implementation of the influential “case tier” idea; and it successfully captures somewhat conflicting intuitions concerning the locality of case assignment.

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# Chapter 8

## Nominal structures

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This chapter shows how nominal structures are treated in HPSG. The introduction puts the discussion in the broader framework of the NP vs. DP debate and differentiates three HPSG treatments, i.e. the specifier treatment, the DP treatment and the functor treatment. They are each presented in some detail and applied to the analysis of ordinary nominals, covering both syntactic and semantic aspects. A comparison reveals that the DP treatment does not mesh as well with the monostratal surface-oriented nature of the HPSG framework as the other treatments. Then it is shown how the specifier treatment and the functor treatment deal with nominals that have idiosyncratic properties, such as the Big Mess Construction, gerunds, nominalized infinitives and irregular P+NP combinations. Their analysis typically requires an appeal to phrasal constraints and a modicum of constructionalism.

### 1 Introduction

We use the term ‘nominal’ in a theory-neutral way as standing for a noun and its phrasal projection. In this broad sense all of the bracketed strings in (1) are nominals.

- (1) [the [red [box]]] is empty

For the analysis of nominals there are two main approaches in generative grammar. One treats the noun (N) as the head all the way through. In that analysis the largest bracketed string in (1) is an NP. The other makes a distinction between the nominal core, consisting of a noun with its complements and modifiers, if any, and a functional outer layer, comprising determiners, quantifiers and numerals. In that analysis the noun is the head of *red box*, while the determiner is the head of *the red box*, so that the category of the latter is DP.



The first approach, henceforth called the **NP approach**, prevailed in generative grammar up to and including the Government and Binding model (Chomsky 1981). One of its modules, the categorial component, consists of phrase structure rules, such as those in (2).

- (2) a. VP → V NP  
b. NP → Det Nom

They are required to “meet some variety of X-bar theory” (Chomsky 1981: 5). The original variety is that of Chomsky (1970). It consists of the following cross-categorial rule schemata:

- (3) a. X' → X ...  
b. X'' → [Spec, X'] X'

X' stands for the combination of a head X and its complements, where X is N, A or V, and X'' stands for the combination of X' and its specifier “where [Spec, N'] will be analyzed as the determiner” (Chomsky 1970: 52). X-bar theory was further developed in Jackendoff (1977), who added a schema for the addition of adjuncts and who extended the range of X with P, the category of adpositions. Generalized Phrase Structure Grammar developed a monostratal version of it, exemplified by the analysis in Figure 1, quoted from Gazdar et al. (1985: 126). The top node is the double-bar category N'', which consists of the determiner and the single-bar category N'. The AP and the relative clause are adjoined to N', and the lowest N' consists of the noun and its PP complement.

The second approach, henceforth called the **DP approach**, results from an extension of the range of X in (3) to the functional categories. This was motivated by the fact that some of the phrase structure rules, such as (4), do not fit the X-bar mould.

- (4) S → NP Aux VP

To repair this, the category Aux, which contained both auxiliaries and inflectional verbal affixes (Chomsky 1957), was renamed as I(nfl) and treated as the head of S. More specifically, I(nfl) was claimed to combine with a VP complement, yielding I', and the latter was claimed to combine with an NP specifier (the subject), yielding I'' (formerly S). For the analysis of nominals such an overhaul did not at first seem necessary, since the relevant PS rules did fit the X-bar mould, but it took place nonetheless, mainly in order to capture similarities between nominal and clausal structures. These are especially conspicuous in

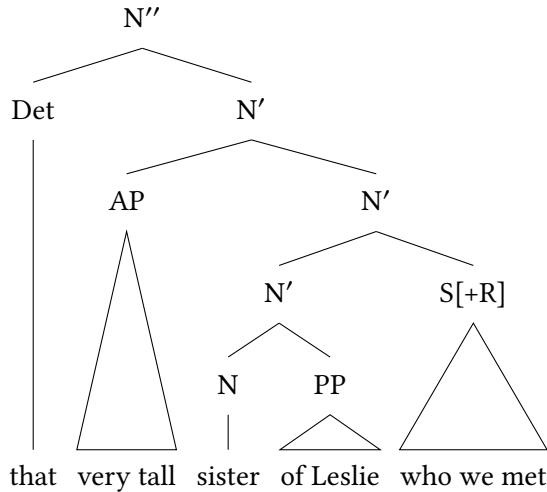


Figure 1: The NP approach

gerunds, nominalized infinitives and nominals with a deverbal head, and were seen as evidence for the claim that determiners have their own phrasal projection, just like the members of I(nfl) (Abney 1987). More specifically, members of D were claimed to take an N'' complement (formerly Nom), yielding D', and the latter was claimed to have a specifier sister, as in Figure 2. The DP approach was also taken on board in other frameworks, such as Word Grammar (Hudson 1990) and Lexical Functional Grammar (Bresnan 2001: 99).

Turning now to Head-driven Phrase Structure Grammar we find three different treatments. The first and oldest can be characterized as a lexicalist version of the NP approach, more specifically of its monostratal formulation in GPSG. It is first proposed in Pollard & Sag (1987) and further developed in Pollard & Sag (1994) and Ginzburg & Sag (2000). We henceforth call it the **specifier treatment**, after the role which it assigns to the determiner. The second is a lexicalist version of the DP approach. It is first proposed in Netter (1994) and further developed in Netter (1996), and Nerbonne & Mullen (2000). We will call it the **DP treatment**. The third adopts the NP approach, but neutralizes the distinction between adjuncts and specifiers, treating them both as functors. It is first proposed in Van Eynde (1998) and Alleganza (1998) and further developed in Van Eynde (2003), Van Eynde (2006) and Alleganza (2006). It is also adopted in Sign-Based Construction Grammar (Sag 2012). We will call it the **functor treatment**. This chapter presents the three treatments and compares them wherever this seems

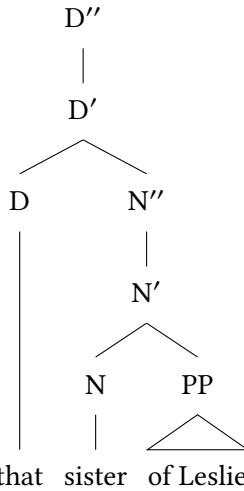


Figure 2: The DP approach

appropriate.

We first focus on ordinary nominals (Section 2) and then on nominals with idiosyncratic properties (Section 3). For exemplification we use English and a number of other Germanic and Romance languages, including Dutch, German, Italian and French. We assume familiarity with the typed feature structure notation and with such basic notions as unification, inheritance and token-identity.

## 2 Ordinary nominals

We use the term ‘ordinary nominal’ for a nominal that contains a noun, any number of complements and/or adjuncts and at most one determiner. This section shows how such nominals are analyzed in respectively the specifier treatment (2.1), the functor treatment (2.2) and the DP treatment (2.3).

### 2.1 The specifier treatment

The specifier treatment adopts the same distinction between heads, complements, specifiers and adjuncts as X-bar syntax, but the integration of these notions in a monostratal lexicalist framework inevitably leads to various differences. The presentation is mainly based on [Pollard & Sag \(1994\)](#) and [Ginzburg & Sag \(2000\)](#). We first discuss the syntactic structure (2.1.1) and the semantic composition (2.1.2)

of nominals, and then turn to nominals with a phrasal specifier (2.1.3).

### 2.1.1 Syntactic structure

Continuing with the same example as in Figures 1 and 2, a relational noun, such as *sister*, selects a PP as its complement and a determiner as its specifier, as spelled out in its CATEGORY value (5).

<i>category</i>	
HEAD	<i>noun</i>
SPR	$\langle \text{DET} \rangle$
COMPS	$\langle \text{PP}[\text{of}] \rangle$

The combination with a matching PP, as in *sister of Leslie*, is subsumed by the *head-comp(lement)s-phr* type, as defined in Borsley & Abeillé (2019), Chapter 1 of this volume, and yields a nominal with an empty COMPS list. Similarly, the combination of this nominal with a matching determiner, as in *that sister of Leslie*, is subsumed by the *head-sp(ecifie)r-phr* type, as defined in Borsley & Abeillé (2019), Chapter 1 of this volume. and yields a nominal with an empty SPR list. This is spelled out in Figure 3.

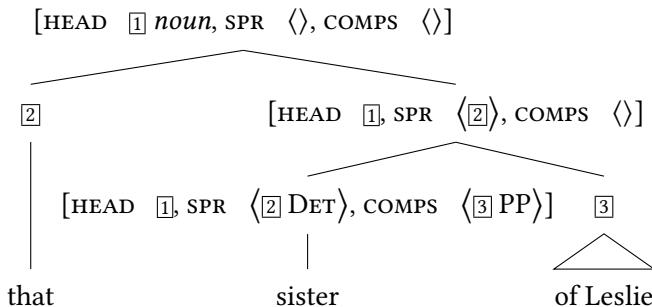


Figure 3: Adnominal complements and specifiers

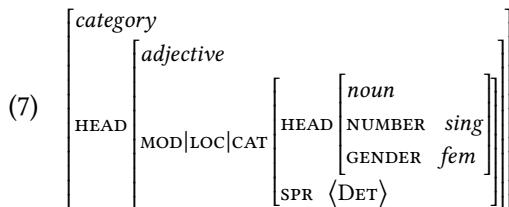
Since the noun is the head of *sister of Leslie* and since the latter is the head of *that sister of Leslie*, the Head Feature Principle implies that the phrase as a whole shares the HEAD value of the noun (1). The valence features, COMPS and SPR, have a double role. On the one hand, they register the degree of saturation of the nominal; in this role they supersede the bar levels of X-bar theory. On the other hand, they capture co-occurrence restrictions, such as the fact that the

complement of *sister* be a PP, rather than an NP or a clause, and that its specifier be a singular determiner, rather than a plural one.<sup>1</sup>

In contrast to complements and specifiers, adjuncts are not included in valence lists, since their addition has no effect on the degree of saturation. At the same time, since the combination of an adjunct with its head is subject to co-occurrence restrictions, one needs a way to capture those. For that purpose Pollard & Sag (1994: 55–57) employs the feature MOD(IFIED). It is part of the HEAD value of the substantive parts-of-speech, i.e. noun, verb, adjective and preposition. Its value is of type *synsem* in the case of modifying items and of type *none* otherwise.

- (6) *substantive*: [MOD *synsem* ∨ *none*]

As an example, let us take the number and gender agreement between nouns and adjectives in the Romance languages.<sup>2</sup> The Italian *grossa* ‘big’, for instance, is compatible with singular feminine nouns, such as *scatola* ‘box’, but not with plural feminine nouns, such as *scatole* ‘boxes’, nor with masculine nouns, such as *libro* ‘book’ or *libri* ‘books’. This is made explicit in its MOD value, spelled out in (7).



The token-identity of the MOD(IFIED) value of the adjective with the SYNSEM value of its head sister is part of the definition of type *head-adj(unct)-phr*, as defined in Borsley & Abeillé (2019), Chapter 1 of this volume. Since the MOD(IFIED) feature is part of the HEAD value, it follows from the Head Feature Principle that it is shared between an adjective and the AP which it projects. As a consequence, the MOD(IFIED) value of *molto grossa* ‘very big’ is shared with that of *grossa* ‘big’.

Besides its role in modeling agreement, the MOD value is also instrumental in capturing constraints on linear order. The fact, for instance, that the AP in *that very tall bridge* appears after the determiner and not before, as in \**very tall*

<sup>1</sup>The value of the third valence feature (SUBJ) is invariably the empty list for nouns, except in the case of predicative nouns, whose SUBJ list contains an NP that is identified with the target of the predication, see Ginzburg & Sag (2000: 409).

<sup>2</sup>This is an instance of concord, as defined in Wechsler (2019), Chapter 6 of this volume.

*that bridge*, is captured by the stipulation that the MOD value of the adjective is a nominal with a determiner on its SPR list. This blocks the combination with a fully saturated NP, as in *\*very tall that bridge*.<sup>3</sup> Also here, the MOD value of the adjective is shared with that of the AP, as shown in Figure 4.

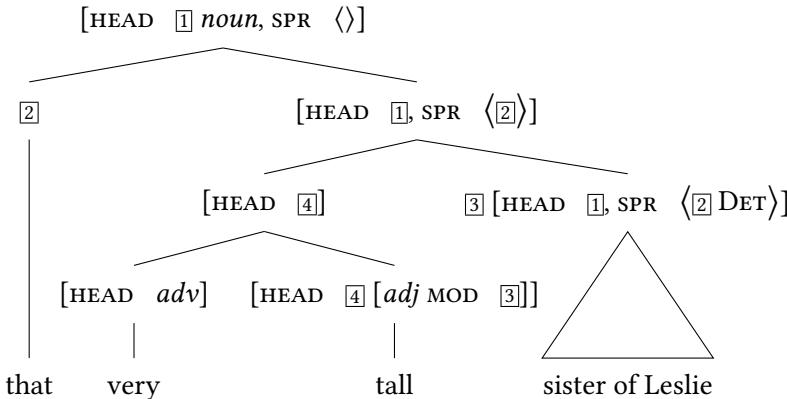


Figure 4: Adnominal modifiers

### 2.1.2 Semantic composition

Given the monostratal nature of HPSG, semantic representations do not constitute a separate level of representation, but take the form of attribute value pairs that are added to the syntactic representations. Phrase formation and semantic composition are, hence, modeled in tandem. Technically, the CONTENT feature is declared for the same type of objects as the CATEGORY feature.

- (8) *local*:  $\begin{bmatrix} \text{CAT } \textit{category} \\ \text{CONTENT } \textit{semantic-object} \end{bmatrix}$

For nominals the value of the CONTENT feature is of type *scope-obj(ect)* in Ginzburg & Sag (2000). A scope-object is an index-restriction pair in which the index stands for entities and in which the restriction is a set of facts which constrain the denotation of the index, as in the CONTENT value of the noun *box*:

- (9) 
$$\begin{bmatrix} \textit{scope-obj} \\ \text{INDEX } \boxed{1} \textit{index} \\ \text{RESTR } \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} \textit{box} \\ \text{ARG } \boxed{1} \end{bmatrix} \right\} \end{bmatrix}$$

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<sup>3</sup>This order constraint is overruled in the Big Mess Construction, see Section 3.2.

This is comparable to the representations which are canonically used in Predicate Logic (PL), such as  $\{x|box(x)\}$ , where  $x$  stands for the entities that the predicate *box* applies to. In contrast to PL variables, HPSG indices are sorted with respect to person, number and gender. This provides the means to model the type of agreement that is called index agreement in Wechsler (2019), Chapter 6 of this volume.

$$(10) \quad \text{index: } \begin{bmatrix} \text{PERSON} & \text{person} \\ \text{NUMBER} & \text{number} \\ \text{GENDER} & \text{gender} \end{bmatrix}$$

CONTENT values of attributive adjectives are also of type *scope-object*. When combined with a noun, as in *red box*, the resulting representation is one in which the indices of the adjective and the noun are identical, as in (11).<sup>4</sup>

$$(11) \quad \begin{bmatrix} \text{scope-obj} \\ \text{INDEX } [1] \\ \text{RESTR } \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} \text{red} \\ \text{ARG } [1] \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} \text{box} \\ \text{ARG } [1] \end{bmatrix} \right\} \end{bmatrix}$$

Also this is comparable to the PL practice of representing such combinations with one variable to which both predicates apply, as in  $\{x|red(x) \& box(x)\}$ . What triggers the index sharing is the MOD(IFIED) value of the adjective, as illustrated by the AVM of *red* in (12) (Pollard & Sag 1994: 55).<sup>5</sup>

$$(12) \quad \begin{bmatrix} \text{adjective} \\ \text{CAT|HEAD } \begin{bmatrix} \text{MOD|LOC|CONTENT } \begin{bmatrix} \text{scope-obj} \\ \text{INDEX } [1] \\ \text{RESTR } [\Sigma] \end{bmatrix} \\ \text{CONTENT } \left[ \begin{bmatrix} \text{INDEX } [1] \\ \text{RESTR } \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} \text{red} \\ \text{ARG } [1] \end{bmatrix} \right\} \cup [\Sigma] \end{bmatrix} \right] \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix}$$

The adjective selects a scope-object, shares its index and adds its own restriction to those that are already present. The resulting CONTENT value is then shared with the mother.

To model the semantic contribution of determiners, Ginzburg & Sag (2000) makes a distinction between scope-objects that contain a quantifier (*quant-rel*),

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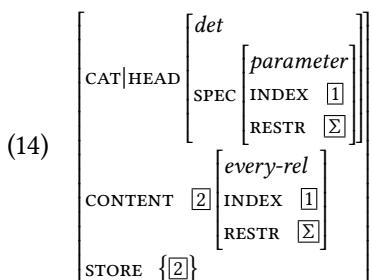
<sup>4</sup>This is an example of intersective modification. The semantic contribution of other types of adjectives, such as *alleged* and *fake*, are modeled differently (Pollard & Sag 1994: 330–331).

<sup>5</sup> $[\Sigma]$  stands for an object of type *set*, as in Ginzburg & Sag (2000).

and those that do not (*parameter*). In terms of this distinction, the addition of a determiner to a nominal, as in *every red box*, triggers a shift from *parameter* to *quant-rel*. To capture this the specifier treatment employs the feature SPEC(IFIED). It is part of the HEAD value of the determiners, and its value is of type *semantic-obj(ect)*.<sup>6</sup>

- (13) *determiner*: [SPEC semantic-obj]

In the case of *every*, the SPEC value is an object of type *parameter*, but its own CONTENT value is a subtype of *quant-rel* and this quantifier is put in store, to be retrieved at the place where its scope is determined, as illustrated by the AVM of *every* in (14) (Ginzburg & Sag 2000: 204).



Notice that the addition of the SPEC feature yields an analysis in which the determiner and the nominal select each other: The nominal selects its specifier by means of the valence feature SPR and the determiner selects the nominal by means of SPEC.

### 2.1.3 Nominals with a phrasal specifier

Specifiers of nominals tend to be single words, but they can also take the form of a phrase. The bracketed phrase in [*the Queen of England's*] *sister*, for instance, is in complementary distribution with the possessive determiner in *her sister* and has a comparable semantic contribution. For this reason it is treated along the same lines. More specifically, the possessive marker 's is treated as a determiner that takes an NP as its specifier, as shown in Figure 5 (Pollard & Sag 1994: 51–54) and (Ginzburg & Sag 2000: 193).<sup>7</sup>

<sup>6</sup>In Pollard & Sag (1994: 45) the SPEC(IFIED) feature was also assigned to other function words, such as complementizers, and its value was of type *synsem*.

<sup>7</sup>The treatment of the phonologically reduced 's as the head of a phrase is comparable to the treatment of the homophonous word in *he's ill* as the head of a VP. Notice that the possessive 's is not a genitive affix, for if it were, it would be affixed to the head noun *Queen*, as in \**the Queen's of England sister*, see Sag et al. (2003: 199).

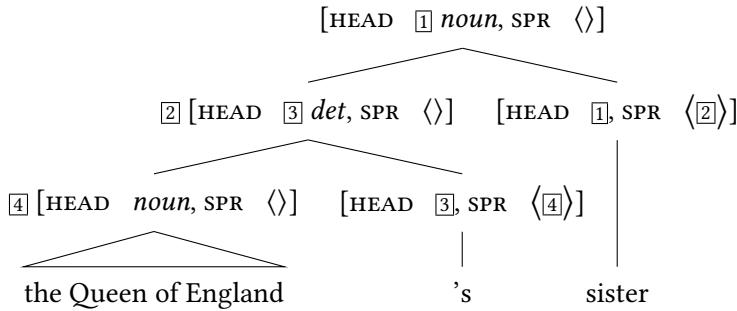
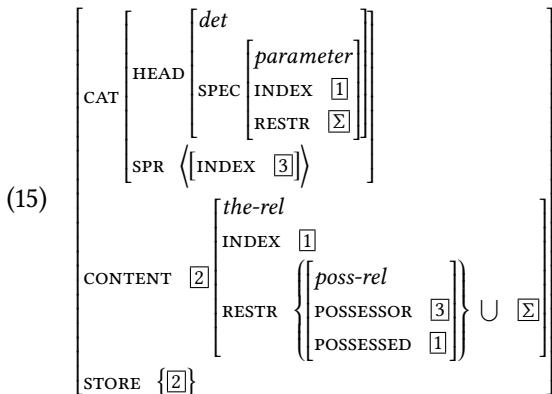


Figure 5: Phrasal specifiers

In this analysis the specifier of *sister* is a DetP that is headed by 's and the latter takes the NP *The Queen of England* as its specifier.<sup>8</sup> Semantically, 's relates the index of its specifier (the possessor) to the index of the nominal that it selects (the possessed), as spelled out in (15).<sup>9</sup>



The assignment of *the-rel* as the CONTENT value captures the definiteness of the resulting NP. Notice that this analysis contains a DetP, but in spite of that, it is not an instance of the DP approach, since the determiner does not head the nominal, but only its specifier.

<sup>8</sup>Since the specifier of 's is an NP, it may in turn contain a specifier that is headed by 's, as in *John's uncle's car*.

<sup>9</sup>The terms 'possessor' and 'possessed' are meant to be understood in a broad not-too-literal sense.

## 2.2 The functor treatment

The functor treatment also adopts the NP approach, but –in contrast to the specifier treatment– it does not draw a distinction between specifiers and adjuncts, nor between lexical (or substantive) and functional categories.<sup>10</sup> The presentation in this section is mainly based on [Van Eynde \(2006\)](#) and [Alleganza \(2006\)](#). We first introduce the basics (Section 2.2.1) and then turn to nominals with a phrasal specifier (Section 2.2.2) and to nominals without specifier (Section 2.2.3).

### 2.2.1 Basics

The distinction between specifiers and adjuncts is usually motivated by the assumption that the former are obligatory and non-stackable, while the latter are optional and stackable. In practice, though, this distinction is blurred by the fact that many nominals are well-formed without specifier. To accommodate this one can employ phonetically empty determiners, optionality in the SPR list or a non-branching phrase type, but the functor treatment provides a more radical response and abandons the distinction between specifiers and adjuncts. Technically, this implies that the SPR feature is dropped.<sup>11</sup>

Besides, the functor treatment abandons the distinction between lexical and functional categories. The words which are commonly treated as determiners are not treated as members of a separate functional category ‘Det’, but are claimed to belong to independently needed lexical categories, such as Adjective, Adverb, Pronoun and Noun. The argumentation is mainly –but not only– based on matters of NP-internal agreement and inflectional variation ([Van Eynde 2006](#)). In Dutch, for instance, prenominal adjectives show agreement with the nouns they modify: They take the affix *-e* in combination with plural and singular non-neuter nominals, but not in combination with singular neuter nominals.<sup>12</sup>

- (16) zwarte muren, zwarte verf, zwart zand  
 black wall.PL, black paint.SG.FEM, black sand.SG.NEU

---

<sup>10</sup>The term *functor* is also used in Categorial (Unification) Grammar, where it has a very broad meaning, subsuming the nonhead daughter in combinations of a head with a specifier or an adjunct, and the head daughter otherwise, see [Bouma \(1988\)](#). This broad notion is also adopted in [Reape \(1994\)](#). We adopt a more restrictive version in which functors are nonhead daughters which lexically select their head sister.

<sup>11</sup>Intriguingly, Chomsky has recently argued that there is no need for the notion of specifier in Transformational Grammar either, see [Chomsky \(2013: 43\)](#).

<sup>12</sup>If the adjective is preceded by a definite determiner, it also takes the affix in singular neuter nominals. This phenomenon is treated in Section 2.2.2.

The same holds for several of the words that are claimed to be determiners, such as the possessive *ons* ‘our’ and the interrogative *welk* ‘which’.

- (17) onze ouders, onze muur, ons huis  
our parent.PL, our wall.SG.MAS, our house.SG.NEU
- (18) welke boeken, welke man, welk boek  
which book.PL, which man.SG.MAS, which book.SG.NEU

By contrast, prenominal (pro)nouns do not show NP-internal agreement and never take the *-e* affix. This not only holds for genitive nouns, such as *Jans*, but also for several of the words that are claimed to be determiners, such as the interrogative *wiens* ‘whose’ and the quantifying *wat* ‘some’.

- (19) Jans ouders, Jans fiets, Jans huis  
Jan.GEN parent.PL, Jan.GEN bike.SG.MAS, Jan.GEN house.SG.NEU
- (20) wiens ouders, wiens muur, wiens huis  
whose parent.PL, whose wall.SG.MAS, whose house.SG.NEU
- (21) wat boeken, wat verf, wat zand  
some book.PL, some paint.SG.FEM, some sand.SG.NEU

To model this the functor treatment assigns adjectival status to determiners like *ons* ‘our’ and *welk* ‘which’, and pronominal status to determiners like *wiens* ‘whose’ and *wat* ‘some’. This distinction is also relevant for other languages. The Italian possessives of the first and second person, for instance, show the same alternation for number and gender as the adjectives and are subject to the same constraints on NP-internal agreement.

- (22) il nostro futuro, la nostra scuola, i nostri  
the our future.SG.MAS, the our school.SG.FEM, the our  
genitori, le nostre scatole  
parent.PL.MAS, the our box.PL.FEM

The possessive of the third person plural, by contrast, does not show any inflectional variation and does not show agreement with the noun.<sup>13</sup>

- (23) il loro futuro, la loro scuola, i loro genitori,  
the their future.SG.MAS, the their school.SG.FEM, the their parent.PL.MAS,  
le loro scatole  
the their box.PL.FEM

---

<sup>13</sup>Confirming evidence for the pronominal status of *loro* is provided by the fact that it is also used as a personal pronoun, as in *l'ho dato a loro* ‘I gave it to them’.

An example from French is provided in Abeillé et al. (2004), which assigns adverbial status to the specifier in *beaucoup de farine* ‘much flour’. Technically, the elimination of the distinction between lexical and functional categories implies that there is no longer any need for drawing a distinction between the selection features MOD(IFIED) and SPEC(IFIED).

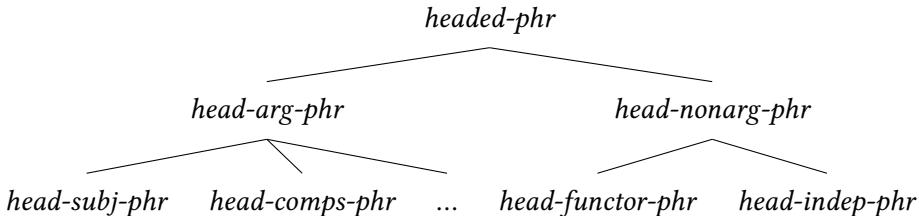


Figure 6: Hierarchy of headed phrases

To spell out the functor treatment we start from the hierarchy of headed phrases in Figure 6. The basic distinction is that between *head-argument-phr* and *head-nonargument-phr*. In the former the head daughter selects its non-head sister(s) by means of valence features, such as COMPS and SUBJ (but not SPR!), and it is their values that register the degree of saturation of the phrase, as shown for COMPS in Section 2.1.1. In head-nonargument phrases the degree of saturation is registered by the MARK(ING) feature. It is declared for objects of type *category*, along with the HEAD and valence features.<sup>14</sup> Its value is shared with the head daughter in head-argument phrases and with the non-head daughter in head-nonargument phrases, as spelled out in (24) and (25) respectively.

- (24) 
$$\left[ \begin{array}{l} \textit{head-arg-phr} \\ \text{SYNSEM|LOC|CAT|MARK } \boxed{1} \textit{ marking} \\ \text{HEAD-DTR|SYNSEM|LOC|CAT|MARK } \boxed{1} \end{array} \right]$$
- (25) 
$$\left[ \begin{array}{l} \textit{head-nonarg-phr} \\ \text{SYNSEM|LOC|CAT|MARK } \boxed{1} \textit{ marking} \\ \text{DTRS } \langle [\text{SYNSEM|LOC|CAT|MARK } \boxed{1}], \boxed{2} \rangle \\ \text{HEAD-DTR } \boxed{2} \textit{ sign} \end{array} \right]$$

Besides, instead of MOD and SPEC, the functor treatment employs one feature to model the selection of a head by its non-head sister. It is called SEL(ECT), and its value is an object of type *synsem* that is shared with the head daughter, as spelled out in (26).

<sup>14</sup>The MARKING feature is introduced in Pollard & Sag (1994: 46) to model the combination of a complementizer and a clause.

$$(26) \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{head-functor-phr} \\ \text{DTRS } \langle [\text{SYNSEM}|\text{LOC}|\text{CAT}|\text{HEAD}|\text{SEL } \boxed{1}], \boxed{2} \text{ sign} \rangle \\ \text{HEAD-DTR } \boxed{2} [\text{SYNSEM } \boxed{1} \text{ synsem}] \end{array}$$

This is a subtype of *head-nonargument-phr*. It subsumes the phrases in which the non-head daughter selects its head sister. As such it contrasts with phrases of type *head-independent-phr*, whose defining characteristic is that the nonhead daughter does not select its head sister: Its SEL value is hence *none*.<sup>15</sup>

$$(27) \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{head-independent-phr} \\ \text{DTRS } \langle [\text{SYNSEM}|\text{LOC}|\text{CAT}|\text{HEAD}|\text{SEL } \textit{none}], \boxed{1} \rangle \\ \text{HEAD-DTR } \boxed{1} \text{ sign} \end{array}$$

An illustration of the functor treatment is given in Figure 7. The combination of the noun with the adjective is an instance of *head-functor-phr*, in which the adjectival functor selects an unmarked nominal ( $\boxed{3}$ ), shares its MARKING value ( $\boxed{5}$ ), and, being a non-argument, shares it with the mother as well. The combination of the resulting nominal with the demonstrative is also an instance of *head-functor-phr*, in which the demonstrative functor selects an unmarked nominal ( $\boxed{4}$ ), but –differently from the adjective– its MARKING value is of type *marked*, and this value is shared with the mother ( $\boxed{2}$ ). This accounts for the fact that adjectives can be stacked, while determiners cannot. It also accounts for the ill-formedness of combinations like *\*long the bridge*, since attributive adjectives are not compatible with a marked nominal. Notice that the demonstrative does not belong to a functional part of speech, such as Det. Instead, it is claimed to be a pronoun. The only difference between adnominal *that* and nominal *that* concerns the SEL(ECT) value: While the former selects an unmarked singular nominal, the latter does not select anything.

Whether an adnominal functor is marked or unmarked is subject to cross-linguistic variation. The Italian possessives, for instance, are unmarked and can, hence, be preceded by an article, as in *il suo cane* ‘the his dog’ and *un mio amico* ‘a my friend’, while the French possessives are marked: (*\*le*) *mon chien* ‘(\*the) my dog’ and (*\*un*) *mon ami* ‘(\*a) my friend’.

The treatment of postnominal dependents is similar to that in the specifier treatment. A relational noun like *sister*, for instance, takes an optional PP[*of*] complement. Similarly, a deverbal noun like *description* takes two optional PP complements. If realized, as in *a description of the Hungarian NP by Ivan*, their

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<sup>15</sup>This type is introduced in Van Eynde (1998: 130). It will be used in Section 3 to deal with idiosyncratic nominals.

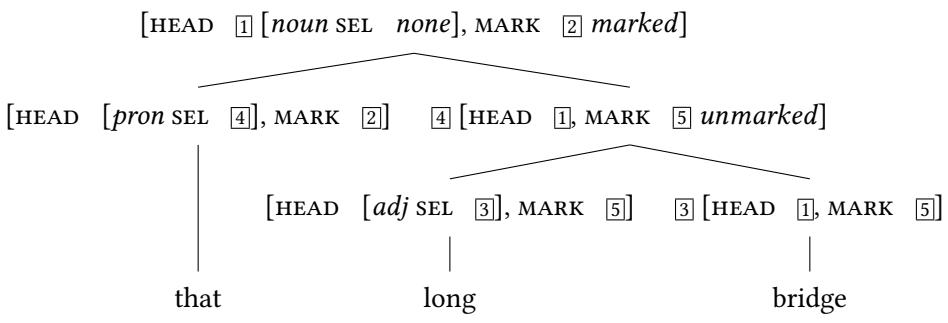


Figure 7: Adnominal functors

indices are identified with those of the second and the first argument respectively. There is a difference, though, in the treatment of nominals whose first argument is realized as a possessive, as in *his description of the Hungarian NP*. In this case, the first argument is not put on the SPR list of the noun. Instead, the possessive selects an unmarked nominal with an optional PP[*by*] complement on its COMPS list, and shares the index of that PP, as spelled out in Figure 8.

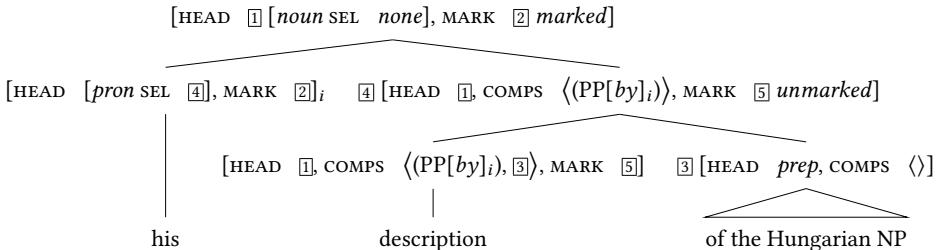


Figure 8: Deverbal nominals

### 2.2.2 Nominals with a phrasal functor

To illustrate how the functor treatment deals with phrasal specifiers we take the nominal *a hundred pages*. It has a left branching structure in which the indefinite article selects the unmarked singular noun *hundred* –its plural counterpart is *hundreds*– and in which the resulting NP selects the unmarked plural noun *pages*, as spelled out in Figure 9. The MARKING value of the article is shared with its mother (1), yielding a marked NP, and since the latter is a functor it is also shared with the NP as a whole (1). This accounts for the fact that it cannot be preceded by

a determiner, as in *\*those a hundred pages*. By contrast, if the place of the article is taken by a numeral, as in *two hundred pages*, the addition of a determiner is possible, as in *those two hundred pages*, since the numeral is unmarked. Notice that the HEAD value of the entire NP is identified with that of *pages*. This accounts for the fact that it is plural.

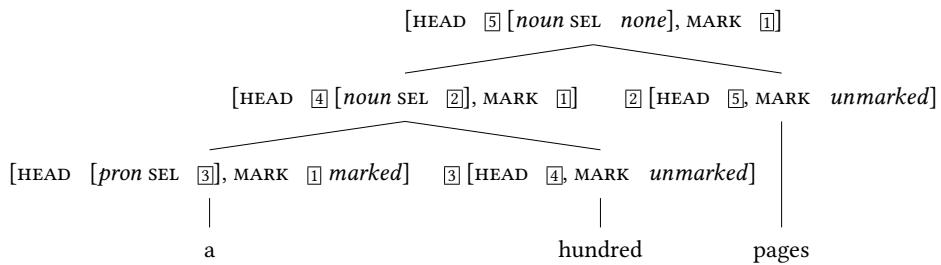


Figure 9: Phrasal functors

### 2.2.3 The hierarchy of MARKING values

Nominals without specifier have a MARKING value of type *unmarked*. Whether they need to be marked, depends on a multitude of factors and is largely language specific. Latin, for instance, does not require its nominals to contain a specifier, also if they are singular and count. Yet, there are cases in which an unmarked nominal is incomplete. To illustrate this let us take the attributive adjectives of Dutch again. As already pointed out in Section 2.2.1, they take the form without affix in singular neuter nominals, as in *zwart zand* ‘black sand’. A complication, though, is that they canonically take the form with the affix if the nominal is introduced by a definite determiner, as in *het zwarte zand* ‘the black sand’. This has consequences for the status of nominals with a singular neuter head: *zwart zand* and *\*zwarte zand*, for instance, are both unmarked, but while the former is well-formed as it is, the latter is only well-formed if it is preceded by a definite determiner. To model this Van Eynde (2006) differentiates between two types of *unmarked* nominals, as shown in Figure 10.

Employing the more specific subtypes, the adjectives without affix which select a singular neuter nominal have the value *bare*, while their declined counterparts which select a singular neuter nominal have the value *incomplete*. Since this MARKING value is shared with the mother, the MARKING value of *zwart zand* is *bare*, while that of *\*zwarte zand* is *incomplete*. The fact that the latter must be preceded by a definite determiner is modeled in the SEL(ECT) value of the deter-

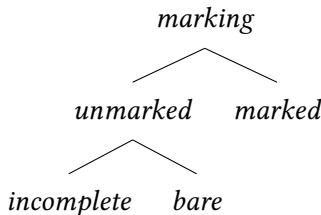


Figure 10: Hierarchy of MARKING values

miner: While definite determiners select an unmarked nominal, which implies that they are compatible with both bare and incomplete nominals, non-definite determiners select a bare nominal and are, hence, not compatible with an incomplete one, as in *\*een zwarte huis* ‘a black house’. The MARKING feature is, hence, useful to differentiate bare nominals from incomplete nominals. In a similar way, one can make finer-grained distinctions in the hierarchy of *marked* values to capture co-occurrence restrictions between determiners and nominals, as in the functor treatment of the Italian determiner system of [Allegranza \(2006\)](#). See also the treatment of nominals with idiosyncratic properties in Section 3.

## 2.3 The DP treatment

In contrast to the specifier treatment and the functor treatment, the DP treatment identifies the determiner as the head of an NP. The presentation in this section is mainly based on [Netter \(1994\)](#). We first sketch its main characteristics (2.3.1) and then list some problems for it (2.3.2).

### 2.3.1 Two types of complementation

As in the transformational DP treatment, nominal projections are divided in a nominal core, consisting of a noun and its complements and/or adjuncts, on the one hand, and an external functional layer, comprising the determiner, on the other hand. The former is analyzed in much the same way as in the specifier treatment. The relational noun *sister* in Figure 11, for instance, is combined with its PP complement in the usual way. The addition of the determiner, by contrast, is modeled differently. It is not the nominal which selects its specifier by means of the valence feature SPR; instead, it is the determiner which selects a nominal by means of the valence feature COMPS, yielding a DP with an empty COMPS list. To account for the fact that this DP inherits many of its properties from its

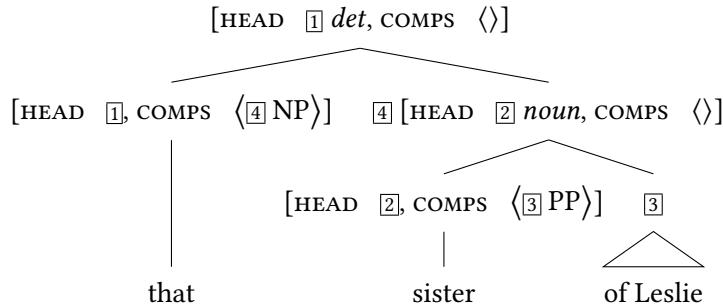


Figure 11: Lexicalist DP treatment

nominal non-head daughter, Netter makes a distinction between functional complementation and ordinary complementation, and differentiates between major and minor HEAD features:

- (28) *part-of-speech:*

MAJOR	[N boolean]
	[V boolean]
	[FCOMPL boolean]

The MAJOR attribute includes the boolean features N and V, where nouns are [+N, -V], adjectives [+N, +V], verbs [-N, +V] and prepositions [-N, -V]. Besides, [+N] categories also have the features CASE, NUMBER and GENDER. Typical of functional complementation is that the functional head shares the MAJOR value of its complement (Netter 1994: 311–312).

- (29) In a lexical category of type *func-cat* the value of its MAJOR attribute is token identical with the MAJOR value of its complement.

Since a determiner shares the MAJOR value of its nominal complement and since this value is also shared with the DP (given the Head Feature Principle), it follows that the resulting DP is [+N, -V] and that its CASE, NUMBER and GENDER values are identical to those of its nominal non-head daughter. This differentiates functional complementation from ordinary complementation, where a head and its complement do not share their MAJOR value. The noun *sister* in Figure 11, for instance, does not share the part-of-speech of its PP complement.

The MINOR attribute is used to model properties which a functional head does *not* share with its complement. It includes FCOMPL, a feature which registers

whether a projection is functionally complete or not. Its value is positive for determiners, negative for singular count nouns and underspecified for plurals and mass nouns. Determiners take a nominal complement with a negative FCOMPL value, but their own FCOMPL value is positive and since they are the head, they share this value with the mother, as in Figure 12. In this analysis, a nominal is complete, if it is both saturated (empty COMPS list) and functionally complete (positive FCOMPL).

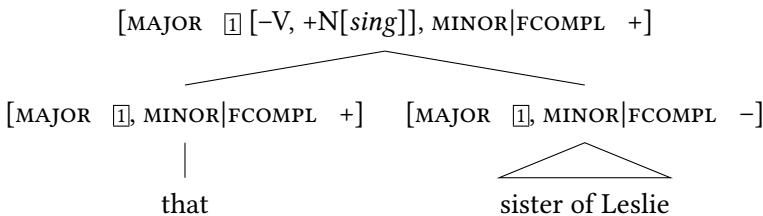


Figure 12: Functional completeness

### 2.3.2 Two problems for the DP treatment

A problem for the DP treatment concerns the notion of functional complementation, as defined in (29). If determiners share the MAJOR value of the nominals which they select, then it follows that they are nominal themselves, i.e. [+N, -V]. However, while this makes sense for determiners with (pro)nominal properties, such as the English *that*, the Dutch *wat* ‘some’ and the Italian *loro* ‘their’, it is rather implausible for determiners with adjectival properties, such as the Italian *mio* ‘my’, the Dutch *ons* ‘our’ and the German *welch* ‘which’. The problem also affects the associated agreement features, i.e. CASE, NUMBER and GENDER. If a determiner is required to share the values of these features with its nominal complement, as spelled out in (29), then we get implausible results for nominals in which the determiner and the noun do not show agreement. In the Dutch *wiens huizen* ‘whose houses’ and *'s lands hoogste bergen* ‘the highest mountains of the country’, for instance, the selected nominals are plural and non-genitive, and so are the entire DPs, but the selecting determiner (phrase) is singular and genitive.

Another problem concerns the assumption “that all substantive categories will require the complement they combine with to be both saturated and functionally complete” (Netter 1994: 311). Complements of verbs and prepositions must, hence, be positively specified for FCOMPL. This, however, is contradicted by the

existence of prepositions which require their complement to be functionally incomplete. The German prepositions *am*, *im*, *vom*, *beim* and *zum*, for instance, which diachronically result from the incorporation of a dative form of the definite article (*dem*) in respectively *an* ‘at’, *in* ‘in’, *von* ‘of’, *bei* ‘at’ and *zu* ‘to’, count as syntactic atoms in HPSG, just like the forms without incorporated article, but in contrast to the latter they require their complement to lack a determiner: While *in dem/diesem Zimmer* ‘in the/this room’ and *im Zimmer* ‘in.the room’ are both well-formed, *\*im dem/diesem Zimmer* ‘in.the the/this room’ is not.<sup>16</sup> Moreover, there are prepositions which do not contain an incorporated article, but nonetheless require a determinerless nominal. The Dutch *te* and *per*, for instance, are not compatible with nominals that contain a determiner, even if the nominal is singular and count, as in *te (\*het/een) paard* ‘on horse’ and *per (\*de/een) trein* ‘by train’. This must be due to a lexical property of these prepositions, since most other prepositions require such nominals to have a determiner, as in *ze viel van (\*het/een) paard* ‘she fell from \*(the/a) horse’ and *ze zit op (\*de/een) trein naar Londen* ‘she is on \*(the/a) train to London’. The requirement that complements of prepositions must be functionally complete is, hence, untenable.

## 2.4 Conclusion

This section has presented the three main treatments of nominal structure in HPSG. Two adopt the NP approach and one the DP approach. Overall, the former turn out to be more amenable to integration in a monostratal surface-oriented framework like HPSG than the latter. See also Müller (2018). Of the two NP treatments the specifier treatment is closer to early versions of  $\bar{X}$  syntax and to GPSG. The functor treatment is closer to versions of Categorial (Unification) Grammar, and has also been adopted in Sign-Based Construction Grammar (Sag 2012).

## 3 Idiosyncratic nominals

This section focusses on the analysis of nominals with idiosyncratic properties. Since their analysis often requires a relaxation of the strictly lexicalist approach

<sup>16</sup> A similar phenomenon exists in Italian, where the prepositions *a* ‘at’, *da* ‘from’, *su* ‘on’, *di* ‘of’ and *in* ‘in’ have alternate forms with an incorporated form of the definite article, as in *al*, *dal*, *sul*, *del* and *nel*, each with feminine and plural counterparts (*alla*, *agli*, *alle*, *dalla*, *dagli*, *dalle*, ...). The nominals which combine with such forms may not be introduced by a determiner: *di/\*della questa scatola* ‘of/of.the this box’ and *in/\*nel ogni palazzo* ‘in/\*in.the every palace’. The same holds m.m. for the French portemanteau forms *du*, *des*, *au* and *aux*.

of early HPSG we first introduce some basic notions of constructional HPSG.

The lexicalist approach of early HPSG can be characterized as one in which the properties of phrases are mainly determined by properties of the constituent words and only to a small extent by properties of the combinatory operations as such. Pollard & Sag (1994: 391), for instance, employs no more than seven types of combinatory operations, including those which were exemplified in Section 2.1, i.e. head-specifier, head-complements and head-adjunct.<sup>17</sup> Over time, though, this radical lexicalism gave way to an approach in which the properties of the combinatory operations play a larger role. The small inventory of highly abstract phrase types got replaced by a more fine-grained hierarchy in which the types contain more specific and –if need be– idiosyncratic constraints. This development started in Sag (1997), was elaborated in Ginzburg & Sag (2000), and gained momentum afterward, leading to what is now known as constructional HPSG. Characteristic of this approach is the use of a bi-dimensional hierarchy of phrasal signs. In such a hierarchy the phrases are not only partitioned in terms of HEADEDNESS, but also in terms of a second dimension, called CLAUSALITY, as in Figure 13.

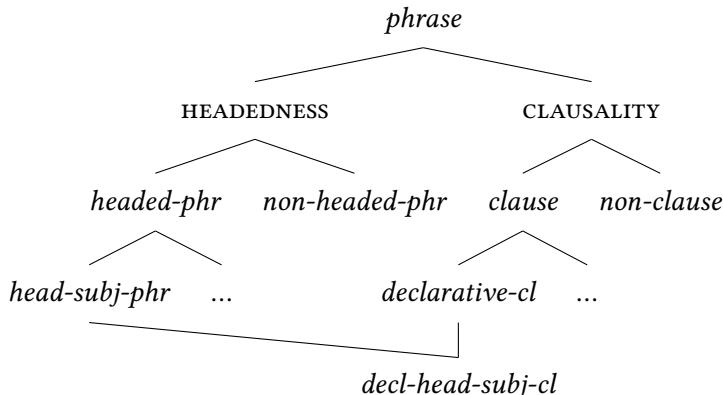


Figure 13: Bi-dimensional hierarchy of clauses

The types in the *CLAUSALITY* dimension are associated with constraints, in much the same way as the types in the *HEADEDNESS* dimension. Clauses, for instance, are required to denote an object of type *message* (Ginzburg & Sag 2000: 41).

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<sup>17</sup>The remaining four are head-subject, head-subject-complements, head-marker and head-filler.

- (30) 
$$\left[ \begin{array}{c} \text{clause} \\ \text{SYNSEM} | \text{LOC} | \text{CONTENT} \quad \text{message} \end{array} \right]$$

At a finer-grained level, the clauses are partitioned into declarative, interrogative, imperative, exclamative and relative clauses, each with their own constraints. Interrogative clauses, for instance, denote a question, while indicative declarative clauses denote a proposition.

Exploiting the possibilities of multiple inheritance one can define types which inherit properties from more than one supertype. The type *decl(arative)-head-subj(ect)-cl(ause)*, for instance, inherits the properties of *head-subject-phr*, on the one hand, and *declarative-cl*, on the other hand. Besides, it may have properties of its own, such as the fact that its head daughter is a finite non-inverted verb (Ginzburg & Sag 2000: 43). This combination of multiple inheritance and specific constraints on maximal phrase types is also useful for the analysis of nominals with idiosyncratic properties, as will be shown presently.

### 3.1 The Big Mess Construction

In ordinary nominals determiners precede attributive adjectives. Changing the order yields ill-formed combinations, such as *\*long that bridge* and *\*very tall every man*. However, this otherwise illegitimate order is precisely what we find in the Big Mess Construction (BMC), a term coined by Berman (1974).

- (31) a. *It's so good a bargain I can't resist buying it.*  
b. *How serious a problem is this?*

The idiosyncratic order in (31) is required if the nominal is introduced by the indefinite article, and if the preceding AP is introduced by one of a small set of degree markers, including *so*, *as*, *how*, *this*, *that* and *too*.

A specifier treatment of the BMC is provided in Ginzburg & Sag (2000: 201). It adopts a left branching structure, as in  $[[[so\ good]\ a]\ bargain]$ , in which *so good* is the specifier of the indefinite article and in which *so good a* is the specifier of *bargain*. This is comparable to the treatment of the possessive in  $[[[the\ Queen\ of\ England]\ 's]\ sister]$ , see Section 2.1.3. However, while there is evidence that *the Queen of England's* is a constituent, since it may occur independently as in *this crown is the Queen of England's*, there is no evidence that *so good a* is a constituent. Instead, there is evidence that the article forms a constituent with the following noun, since it also precedes the noun when the AP is in postnominal position, as in *we never had a bargain so good as this one*.

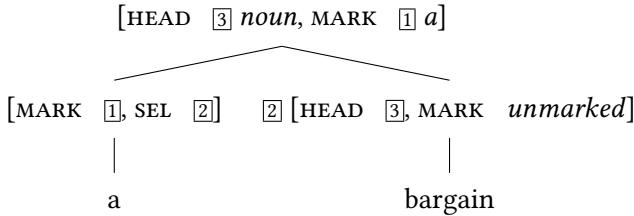


Figure 14: The lower NP

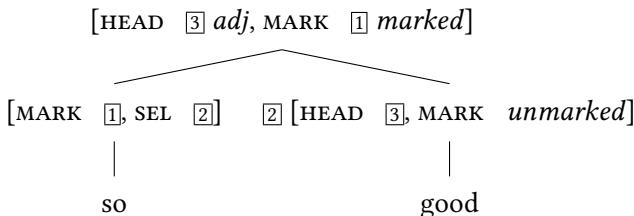


Figure 15: The marked AP

A structure in which the article sides with the noun, as in [[*so good*] [*a bargain*]], is adopted in Van Eynde (2007), Kim & Sells (2011), Kay & Sag (2012), Arnold & Sadler (2014) and Van Eynde (2018), all of which are functor treatments. The structure of the lower NP is spelled out in Figure 14. The article has a MARKING value of type *a* which is a subtype of *marked* and which it shares with the mother.<sup>18</sup> The AP is also treated as an instance of the head-functor type in Van Eynde (2007), Kim & Sells (2011) and Van Eynde (2018). The adverb has a MARKING value of type *marked*, so that the AP is marked as well, as shown in Figure 15. In combination with the fact that the article selects an unmarked nominal, this accounts for the ill-formedness of (32).

- (32) a. \* It's a so good bargain I can't resist buying it.  
     b. \* A how serious problem is it?

By contrast, adverbs like *very* and *extremely* are unmarked, so that the APs which they introduce are admissible in this position, as in (33).

- (33) a. This is a very serious problem.

<sup>18</sup>The MARKING value of the article looks similar to its PHONOLOGY value, but it is not the same. The PHONOLOGY values of *a* and *an*, for instance, are different, but their MARKING value is not.

- b. We struck an extremely good bargain.

To model the combination of the AP with the lower NP it may at first seem plausible to treat the AP as a functor which selects an NP that is introduced by the indefinite article. This, however, has unwanted consequences: Given that SEL(ECT) is a HEAD feature, its value is shared between the AP and the adjective, so that the latter has the same SEL(ECT) value as the AP, erroneously licensing such combinations as *\*good a bargain*. To avoid this [Van Eynde \(2018\)](#) exploits the possibilities of the bi-dimensional hierarchy of phrase types in Figure 16.

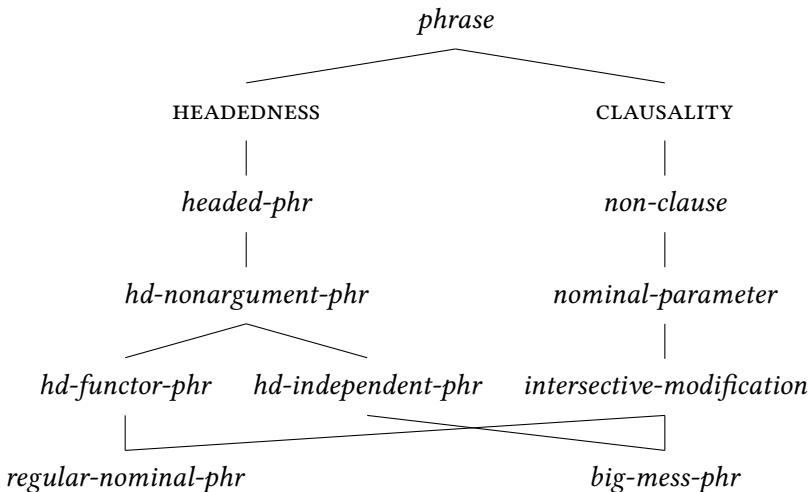


Figure 16: Bi-dimensional hierarchy of nominals

The types in the *HEADEDNESS* dimension are a subset of those in Figure 6. The types in the *CLAUSALITY* dimension mainly capture semantic and category-specific properties, in analogy with the hierarchy of clausal phrases in [Ginzburg & Sag \(2000\)](#). One of the non-clausal phrase types is *nominal-parameter*:

(34)	<p><i>nominal-parameter</i></p> $\left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{SYNSEM LOC} \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{CAT HEAD } \textit{noun} \\ \text{CONTENT} \left[ \begin{array}{l} \textit{parameter} \\ \text{INDEX } \boxed{1} \textit{index} \\ \text{RESTR } [\Sigma_1] \cup [\Sigma_2] \end{array} \right] \end{array} \right] \\ \text{DTRS } \langle \left[ \text{SYNSEM LOC CONTENT RESTR } [\Sigma_1], \boxed{2} \right] \rangle \\ \text{HEAD-DTR } \boxed{2} \left[ \text{SYNSEM LOC CONTENT} \left[ \begin{array}{l} \textit{parameter} \\ \text{INDEX } \boxed{1} \\ \text{RESTR } [\Sigma_2] \end{array} \right] \right] \end{array} \right]$
------	--

The mother shares its index with the head daughter ( $\boxed{1}$ ) and its RESTR(CTION) value is the union of the RESTR values of the daughters ( $[\Sigma_1]$  and  $[\Sigma_2]$ ). In the hierarchy of non-clausal phrases, this type contrasts amongst others with the quantified nominals, which have a CONTENT value of type *quant-rel* (Ginzburg & Sag 2000: 203–205). A subtype of *nominal-parameter* is *intersective-modification*, as defined in (35).

(35)	<p><i>intersective-modification</i></p> $\left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{SYNSEM LOC CONTENT INDEX } \boxed{1} \textit{index} \\ \text{DTRS } \langle \left[ \text{SYNSEM LOC CONTENT INDEX } \boxed{1} \right], \boxed{2} \rangle \\ \text{HEAD-DTR } \boxed{2} \textit{sign} \end{array} \right]$
------	--

This constraint requires the mother to share its index also with the non-head daughter. It captures the intuition that the noun and its non-head sister apply to the same entities, as in the case of *red box*.<sup>19</sup>

The maximally specific types inherit properties of one of the types of headed phrases, on the one hand, and of one of the non-clausal phrase types, on the other hand. Regular nominal phrases, for instance, such as *red box*, are subsumed by a type, called *regular-nominal-phr*, that inherits the constraints of *head-functor-phrase*, on the one hand, and *intersective-modification*, on the other hand. Another maximal type is *big-mess-phrase*. Its immediate supertype in the CLAUSALITY hierarchy is the same as for the regular nominal phrases, i.e. *intersective-modification*, but the one in the HEADEDNESS hierarchy is different: Being a subtype of *head-independent-phrase*, its non-head daughter does not select the head-daughter. Beside the inherited properties the BMC has some properties of its own. They are spelled out in (36).

<sup>19</sup>Another subtype of *nominal-parameter* is *inverted-predication*, which subsumes amongst others the binominal noun phrase construction and certain types of apposition (see Section 3.4).

$$(36) \quad \begin{aligned} & \left[ \begin{array}{c} \text{big-mess-phr} \\ \text{DTRS} \left\langle \begin{array}{c} \text{hd-functor-phr} \\ \text{SYNSEM} | \text{LOC} | \text{CAT} \left[ \begin{array}{cc} \text{HEAD} & \text{adjective} \\ \text{MARK} & \text{marked} \end{array} \right] \end{array} \right\rangle, \boxed{1} \end{array} \right] \\ & \text{HEAD-DTR } \boxed{1} \left[ \begin{array}{c} \text{regular-nominal-phr} \\ \text{SYNSEM} | \text{LOC} | \text{CAT} | \text{MARK } a \end{array} \right] \end{aligned}$$

The head daughter is required to be a regular nominal phrase whose MARKING value is *a*, and the non-head daughter is required to be an adjectival head-functor phrase with a MARKING value of type *marked*. This licenses APs which are introduced by a marked adverb, as in *so good a bargain* and *how serious a problem*, while it excludes unmarked APs, as in *\*good a bargain* and *\*very big a house*. Iterative application is not licensed, since (36) requires the head daughter to be of type *regular-nominal-phr*, which is incompatible with the type *big-mess-phrase*. This accounts for the fact that a big mess phrase cannot contain another big mess phrase, as in *\*that splendid so good a bargain*. A reviewer remarked that this analysis allows combinations like *so big a red expensive house*, suggesting that it should not. We are not sure, though, that this combination is ill-formed, and are anyway not inclined to exclude the presence of adjectives in the lower NP, since that would erroneously block the formation of the well-formed combinations in (37).

- (37) a. How big a new shrub from France were you thinking of buying?  
       b. That's as beautiful a little black dress as I've ever seen.

These are quoted from Zwicky (1995: 116) and Troseth (2009: 42) respectively.

### 3.2 Nominals with a verbal core

Ordinary nominals have a nominal core, but there are also nominals with a verbal core, such as gerunds and nominalized infinitives. They are of special interest, since they figure prominently in the argumentation that triggered the shift from the NP approach to the DP approach in Transformational Grammar. We first present a specifier treatment of the English gerund and then a functor treatment of the Dutch nominalized infinitive.

#### 3.2.1 The English gerund: a mixed category

Some examples of gerunds are given in (38–40), quoted from Quirk et al. (1985: 1290).

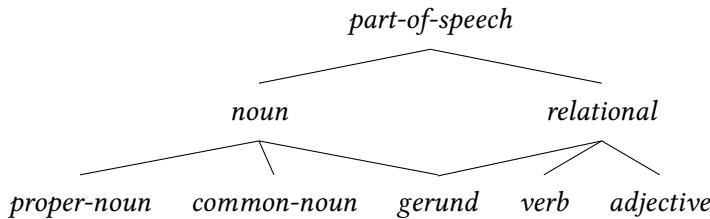


Figure 17: Gerunds as a mixed category

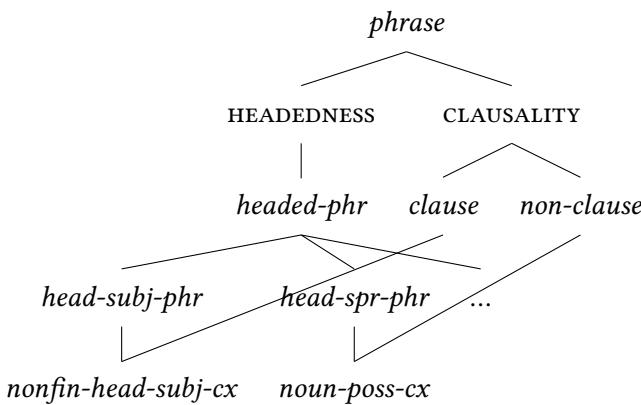


Figure 18: Bi-dimensional hierarchy of gerundial phrases

- (38) [Brown's deftly painting his daughter] is a delight to watch.
- (39) I dislike [Brown painting his daughter].
- (40) Brown is well known for [painting his daughter].

The bracketed phrases have the external distribution of an NP, taking the subject position in (38), the complement position of a transitive verb in (39) and the complement position of a preposition in (40). The internal structure of these phrases, though, shows a mixture of nominal and verbal characteristics. Typically nominal is the presence of the possessive in (38). Typically verbal are the presence of the accusative subject in (39), of the adverbial modifier in (38) and of the NP complements in (38–40). To model this Rob Malouf treats the gerund as a mixed category, introducing a separate part-of-speech for it, which is a subtype of *noun*, on the one hand, and *relational*, on the other hand, see Figure 17 (Malouf 2000: 65). The distinctive properties of this mixed category are spelled out in a lexical

rule which derives gerunds from the homophonous present participles (Malouf 2000: 66).<sup>20</sup>

(41)	<table border="0" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 10px;">HEAD</td><td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"><i>verb</i></td></tr> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 10px;">VFORM</td><td><i>prp</i></td></tr> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 10px;">SUBJ</td><td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">⟨1 NP⟩</td></tr> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 10px;">COMPS</td><td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">A</td></tr> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 10px;">SPR</td><td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">⟨ ⟩</td></tr> </table>	HEAD	<i>verb</i>	VFORM	<i>prp</i>	SUBJ	⟨1 NP⟩	COMPS	A	SPR	⟨ ⟩	⇒	<table border="0" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 10px;">HEAD</td><td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"><i>gerund</i></td></tr> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 10px;">SUBJ</td><td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">⟨1⟩</td></tr> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 10px;">COMPS</td><td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">A</td></tr> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 10px;">SPR</td><td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">⟨1⟩</td></tr> </table>	HEAD	<i>gerund</i>	SUBJ	⟨1⟩	COMPS	A	SPR	⟨1⟩
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VFORM	<i>prp</i>																				
SUBJ	⟨1 NP⟩																				
COMPS	A																				
SPR	⟨ ⟩																				
HEAD	<i>gerund</i>																				
SUBJ	⟨1⟩																				
COMPS	A																				
SPR	⟨1⟩																				

The gerunds are claimed to take the same kind of complements as the present participles from which they are derived (A), and the compatibility with adverbial modifiers follows from the fact that adverbs typically modify objects of type *relational*. The availability of different options for realizing the subject is captured by the inclusion of the subject requirement of the present participle in both the SUBJ list and the SPR list of the gerund (1). To model the two options Malouf (2000: 15) employs the bi-dimensional hierarchy of phrase types in Figure 18. The combination with an accusative subject is subsumed by *nonfin-head-subj-cx*, which is a subtype of *head-subj-phr* and *clause*. Its defining properties are spelled out in (42) (Malouf 2000: 16).

(42)	<table border="0" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 10px;">nonfin-head-subj-cx</td><td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">-</td></tr> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 10px;">SYNSEM LOC CAT HEAD ROOT</td><td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">-</td></tr> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 10px;">DTRS</td><td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> <table border="0" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 10px;">SYNSEM LOC CAT HEAD</td><td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> <table border="0" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 10px;">noun</td><td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">-</td></tr> <tr> <td>CASE</td><td>acc</td></tr> </table> </td><td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">1</td></tr> </table> </td></tr> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 10px;">HEAD-DTR</td><td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">1</td></tr> </table>	nonfin-head-subj-cx	-	SYNSEM LOC CAT HEAD ROOT	-	DTRS	<table border="0" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 10px;">SYNSEM LOC CAT HEAD</td><td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> <table border="0" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 10px;">noun</td><td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">-</td></tr> <tr> <td>CASE</td><td>acc</td></tr> </table> </td><td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">1</td></tr> </table>	SYNSEM LOC CAT HEAD	<table border="0" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 10px;">noun</td><td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">-</td></tr> <tr> <td>CASE</td><td>acc</td></tr> </table>	noun	-	CASE	acc	1	HEAD-DTR	1
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This construction type subsumes combinations of a non-finite head with an accusative subject, as in (39). When the non-finite head is a gerund, the HEAD value of the resulting clause is *gerund* and since that is a subtype of *noun*, the clause is also a nominal phrase. This accounts for the fact that its external distribution is that of an NP. By contrast, the combination with a possessive subject is subsumed by *noun-poss-cx*, which is a subtype of *head-spr-phr* and *non-clause* (Malouf 2000: 16).

(43)	<table border="0" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 10px;">noun-poss-cx</td><td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">-</td></tr> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 10px;">SYNSEM LOC</td><td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> <table border="0" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 10px;">CAT HEAD</td><td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">noun</td></tr> <tr> <td>CONTENT</td><td>nom-obj</td></tr> </table> </td></tr> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 10px;">DTRS</td><td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> <table border="0" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 10px;">SYNSEM LOC CAT HEAD</td><td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> <table border="0" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 10px;">noun</td><td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">-</td></tr> <tr> <td>CASE</td><td>gen</td></tr> </table> </td><td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">1</td></tr> </table> </td></tr> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 10px;">HEAD-DTR</td><td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">1</td></tr> </table>	noun-poss-cx	-	SYNSEM LOC	<table border="0" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 10px;">CAT HEAD</td><td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">noun</td></tr> <tr> <td>CONTENT</td><td>nom-obj</td></tr> </table>	CAT HEAD	noun	CONTENT	nom-obj	DTRS	<table border="0" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 10px;">SYNSEM LOC CAT HEAD</td><td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> <table border="0" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 10px;">noun</td><td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">-</td></tr> <tr> <td>CASE</td><td>gen</td></tr> </table> </td><td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">1</td></tr> </table>	SYNSEM LOC CAT HEAD	<table border="0" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 10px;">noun</td><td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">-</td></tr> <tr> <td>CASE</td><td>gen</td></tr> </table>	noun	-	CASE	gen	1	HEAD-DTR	1
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noun	-																			
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<sup>20</sup>Boxed capitals stand for objects of type *list*, as in Ginzburg & Sag (2000).

This construction subsumes combinations of a nominal and a possessive specifier, as in *Brown's house*.<sup>21</sup> It also subsumes combinations with the gerund, as in (38), since *gerund* is a subtype of *noun*.

In sum, Malouf's analysis of the gerund involves the postulation of a mixed type in the part-of-speech hierarchy, which allows the gerund to simultaneously function as a nominal and a relational category.

### 3.2.2 The Dutch nominalized infinitive: phrasal conversion

The closest equivalent of the gerund in Dutch is the nominalized infinitive. Some examples are given in (44–45).

- (44) [geld wegschenken] maakt vrouwen gelukkig  
[money donate.INF] makes women happy  
'Donating money makes women happy'
- (45) voor [het op diepte houden van de Vlaamse kusthavens] dient  
for [the on depth keep.INF of the Flemish coast.ports] needs  
gebaggerd te worden  
dredged to be  
'Dredging is necessary to keep the Flemish coastal harbors accessible'

Also here the bracketed phrases have the external distribution of an NP, taking the subject position in (44) and the complement position of a transitive verb in (45). And also here, the internal structure shows a mix of nominal and verbal characteristics. Typically nominal are the presence of the article and the postnominal PP complement in (45). Typically verbal are the presence of the direct object complement in (44) and the predicative PP complement in (45). To model this Van Eynde (2019) makes a distinction between the verbal core and the nominal fringe of a nominalized infinitive, as in the structure of (45), spelled out in Figure 19.

The infinitive is treated as unambiguously verbal at the lexical level and remains verbal when combined with its predicative PP complement, but then it is converted into a nominal projection and combined with a postnominal PP [*van*] complement and the definite article.<sup>22</sup> The conversion is modelled in terms of a non-headed phrase type, since it does not comply with the Head Feature Principle: The HEAD value of the mother is not shared with the daughter. More specif-

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<sup>21</sup>Malouf treats the English possessive as a genitive, differently from Sag et al. (2003).

<sup>22</sup>Since the article is a pronominal determiner, it is assigned the category N in the functor treatment.

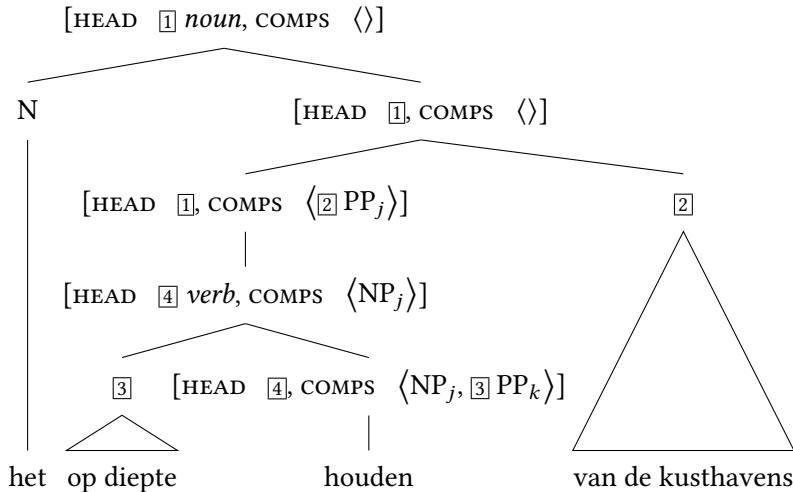


Figure 19: Dutch nominalized infinitive

ically, there is a subtype of the non-headed phrases, called *convert-phr*, whose defining characteristic is that they have a single daughter. In that respect they differ from coordinate phrases, which have at least two daughters.

$$(46) \quad \begin{bmatrix} \text{convert-phr} \\ \text{DTRS } \langle X \rangle \end{bmatrix}$$

The conversion which we observe in the Dutch nominalized infinitive is modeled in terms of a phrase type that inherits properties of *convert-phr* and *non-clause*. Its properties are spelled out in (47).

$$(47) \quad \begin{bmatrix} \text{nom-inf-phr} \\ \text{SYNSEM|CAT} \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{HEAD} \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{noun} \\ \text{NUMBER singular} \\ \text{GENDER neuter} \end{array} \right] \\ \text{SUBJ } \langle \rangle \\ \text{COMPS } \langle \langle \text{PP}_j \rangle \rangle \oplus \langle \langle \text{PP}_i \rangle \rangle \oplus \boxed{\text{A}} \\ \text{MARKING unmarked} \end{array} \right] \\ \text{DTRS } \left\langle \begin{array}{l} \text{SYNSEM|CAT} \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{HEAD|VFORM inf} \\ \text{SUBJ } \langle \text{NP}_j \rangle \\ \text{COMPS } \langle \langle \text{NP}_i \rangle \rangle \oplus \boxed{\text{A}} \end{array} \right] \end{array} \right\rangle \end{bmatrix}$$

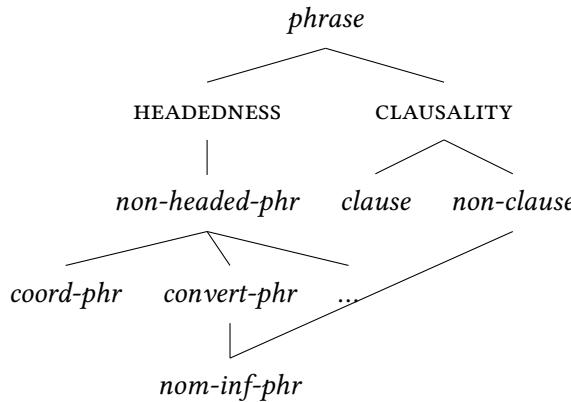


Figure 20: Nominalized infinitives in the bi-dimensional hierarchy

The daughter is an infinitive with a non-empty SUBJ list and a possibly empty COMPS list. The mother is an unmarked singular neuter nominal that inherits the unsaturated complement requirements of its daughter, albeit with the twist that NP complements become PP complements. The subject requirement of the infinitive is added to the COMPS list of the nominal and becomes a PP too. It is made optional, since it is often left unexpressed, as in (44–45). If present, it is introduced by *van* ‘of’ or *door* ‘by’, as in (48) and (49) respectively.

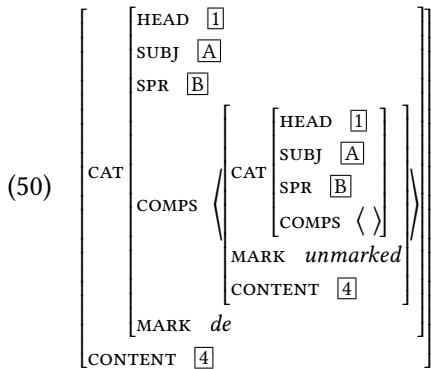
- (48) het trage afsterven van de koraalriffen  
the slow die.INF of the coral.reefs  
'the slow dying of the coral reefs'
- (49) het uitschakelen van Chelsea door Real Madrid  
the eliminate.INF of Chelsea by Real Madrid  
'the elimination of Chelsea by Real Madrid'

For a full treatment that also covers the semantic type shift that accompanies the syntactic conversion, we refer to Van Eynde (2019).

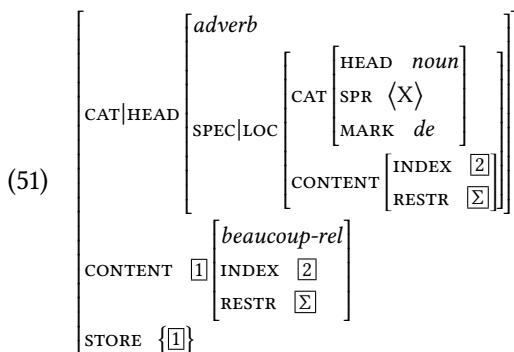
### 3.3 Idiosyncratic P+NP combinations

When a nominal combines with a preposition the result is usually a PP, but not always. The French *de* ‘of’, for instance, heads a PP in *je viens de Roubaix* ‘I come from Roubaix’, but not in *beaucoup de farine* ‘much flour’. As argued in Abeillé et al. (2004), there are many differences between these two uses of *de*, both syntactic and semantic ones. To model them they treat the former as the ordinary head of

a PP and the latter as a weak head. Typical of a weak head is that it shares nearly all properties of its complement, as spelled out in (50).



*de* has the same values for HEAD, SUBJ, SPR and CONTENT as its complement. When combined with *farine* ‘flour’, it is, hence, a noun that selects a specifier and that denotes a parameter.<sup>23</sup> The only difference between the weak head and its complement concerns the MARKING value: *de* requires an unmarked complement, but its own MARKING value is of type *de*, and this value is shared with the mother. Specifiers that require the presence of *de*, such as *beaucoup* ‘much/many’, select a nominal with that MARKING value, as shown in (51).<sup>24</sup>



Besides, the selected nominal is required to be unsaturated for SPR and the quantifier is required to share the index and restrictions of its head sister.

<sup>23</sup>The weak *de* also combines with infinitival VPs, as in *de sortir un peu te ferait du bien* ‘getting out a bit would do you some good’. In that combination, *de* is a verb that selects a subject and that denotes a state-of-affairs.

<sup>24</sup>In this AVM, quoted from Abeillé et al. (2004: 18), the value of SPEC is of type *synsem*, as in Pollard & Sag (1994), and not of type *semantic-object*, as in Ginzburg & Sag (2000).

The weak head analysis of Abeillé et al. (2004) fits the mold of the specifier treatment. The same data can be analyzed in a way that fits the mold of the functor treatment, as shown in Figure 21. In this analysis the preposition in *beaucoup de farine* ‘much flour’ is a functor that selects a nominal of type *bare* and that shares its own MARKING value (*de*) with the mother. The functor *beaucoup* in its turn selects a nominal with the MARKING value *de* and shares its own MARKING value with the NP as a whole. In this analysis *de* does not share the part-of-speech, valence and meaning of its nominal sister. Instead, those properties are shared directly between *farine* and *de farine*.

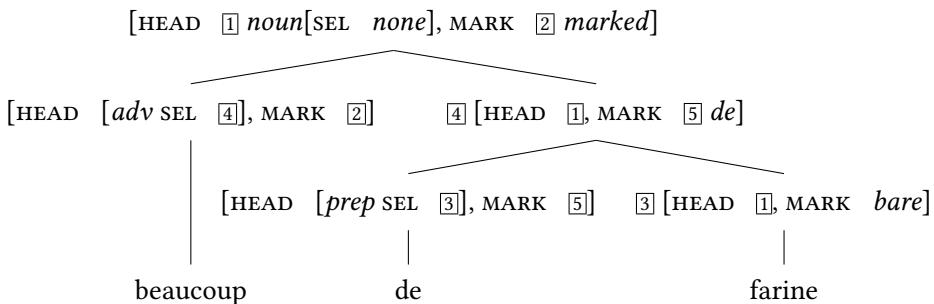


Figure 21: A prepositional functor

While the differences between the weak head treatment and the functor treatment are small and subtle, they may have empirical consequences. This is shown in Maekawa (2015), which offers an analysis of English nominals of the *kind/type/sort* variety. To account for the fact that the determiner shows agreement with the rightmost noun in *these sort of problems* and *those kind of pitch changes* Maekawa considers the option of treating *of* and the immediately preceding noun as weak heads, but considers this unsatisfactory, since it has the unwanted effect of treating *sort/kind/type* as plural. As an alternative, he develops an analysis in which *of* and the preceding noun are functors (Maekawa 2015: 149). This avoids the unwanted side-effect, since functors do not share the HEAD value of their head sister. Further evidence is provided in Maekawa (2016), which analyzes combinations of a singular numeral with a plural noun, as in *these thousand pages*. If *thousand* is treated as a weak head, it inadvertently inherits the number value of *pages*, i.e. plural, whereas it is in fact singular, its plural counterpart being *thousands*. This unwanted effect is avoided if *thousand* is treated as a functor.

### 3.4 Other nominals with idiosyncratic properties

A much studied nominal with idiosyncratic traits is the binominal noun phrase construction (BNPC), exemplified in (52).

- (52) a. She blames it on [her nitwit of a husband].  
b. She had [a skullcracker of a headache].

In contrast to ordinary [NP-of-NP] sequences, as in *an employee of a Japanese company*, where the first nominal is the head of the entire NP, and where the second nominal is part of its PP adjunct, the BNPC shows a pattern in which the relation between the nominals is a predicative one: her husband is claimed to be a nitwit, and the headache is claimed to be like a skullcracker. HPSG treatments of the BNPC are provided in Kim & Sells (2014) and Van Eynde (2018). The latter uses the phrase type hierarchy in (16), defining the BNPC as a maximal type that inherits from *head-independent-phr* and *inverted-predication*. To capture the intuition that the second nominal is the head of the entire NP, the preposition *of* is not treated as the head of a PP, but as a functor that selects a nominal head.

Comparable to NPs with a verbal core are NPs with an adjectival core, such as *the very poor* and *the merely skeptical*. They are described and provided with an HPSG analysis in Arnold & Spencer (2015). Interestingly, it employs a device for phrasal conversion that is similar to the one for the Dutch nominalized infinitive in Section 3.2.2.

Idiosyncratic are also the nominals with an extracted determiner, as in the French (53) and the Dutch (54).

- (53) Combien as-tu lu [\_\_ de livres en latin] ?  
how many have you read [\_\_ of books in Latin]  
'How many books have you read in Latin?'
- (54) Wat zijn dat [\_\_ voor vreemde geluiden] ?  
what are that [\_\_ for strange noises]  
'What kind of strange noises are those?'

The French example is analyzed in Abeillé et al. (2004: 20–21) and the Dutch one in Van Eynde (2004: 47–50).

Another special case is apposition. It comes in (at least) two types, known as close apposition and loose apposition. Relevant examples are respectively *my brother Richard is a soldier* and *Sarajevo, the capital of Bosnia, is where WWI began*. Both are compared and analyzed in Kim (2012) and Kim (2014). Van Eynde & Kim (2016) provides an analysis of loose apposition in Sign-Based Construction Grammar.

## 4 Conclusion

This chapter has provided a survey of how nominals are analyzed in HPSG. Over time three treatments have taken shape, i.e. the specifier treatment, the functor treatment and the DP treatment. They were presented and applied to ordinary nominals in Section 2. Nominals with idiosyncratic properties were discussed in Section 3. Modeling them requires a relaxation of the strictly lexicalist stance of early HPSG. The more flexible tools of constructional HPSG have been put to use in the analysis of the Big Mess Construction and of nominals with a verbal core, such as gerunds and nominalized infinitives. For other nominals with idiosyncratic properties pointers have been given to relevant literature.

In terms of the NP vs. DP debate, it is clear that the NP approach has been more successful in HPSG than the DP approach. This fits in with the tendency to avoid the postulation of functional categories with their respective projections. Clauses, for instance, are not analyzed as IPs either. The finer-grained differences between the specifier treatment and the functor treatment are a topic of ongoing debate. They both have their advocates and for the analysis of ordinary nominals there does not seem to be any evidence that decisively tilts the balance. For nominals with idiosyncratic properties, however, there is a clear tendency in the recent literature to adopt the functor treatment, usually in combination with phrasal constraints.

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For their comments on earlier versions of this chapter I would like to thank Bob Borsley, Stefan Müller, Liesbeth Augustinus and two anonymous reviewers. My contributions to the HPSG framework span three decades by now, starting with work on a EU-financed project in the early nineties, to which also Valerio Allegranza and Louisa Sadler contributed. Decisive for my conversion to HPSG at the time was not only the EU-money, but also conversations with Danièle Godard and Ivan Sag. I became a regular at the annual HPSG conferences by 1998 and started teaching it in Leuven around the same time. A heart-felt thanks goes to the colleagues who over the years have created such a stimulating environment to work in.

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## Chapter 9

# Argument structure and linking

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What we cannot speak about, we must pass over in silence.

## 1 Introduction

When a verb or other predicate is composed with the phrases or pronominal affixes expressing its semantic arguments, the grammar must specify the mapping between the semantic participant roles and syntactic dependents of that verb. For example, the grammar of English indicates that the subject of *eat* fills the eater role and the object of *eat* fills the role of the thing eaten. In HPSG this mapping is usually broken down into two simpler mappings by positing an intermediate representation called ARG-ST ('argument structure'). The first mapping connects the participant roles within the semantic CONTENT with the elements of the ARG-ST feature; here we will call the theory of this mapping *linking theory* (see Section 4). The second mapping connects those ARG-ST list elements to the elements of the VALLISTS, namely COMPS ('complements') and SUBJ ('subject'; or SPR, 'specifier'); we will refer to this second mapping as *argument realization* (see Section 2).<sup>1</sup> These two mappings are illustrated with the simplified lexical sign

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<sup>1</sup>Some linguists, such as Levin & Rappaport Hovav (2005), use the term 'argument realization' more broadly, to encompass linking as well.



for the verb *eat* in (1).

- (1) Lexical sign for the verb *eat*

PHON	$\langle \text{EAT} \rangle$				
VALENCE	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>SUBJ</td> <td><math>\langle [1] \rangle</math></td> </tr> <tr> <td>COMPS</td> <td><math>\langle [2] \rangle</math></td> </tr> </table>	SUBJ	$\langle [1] \rangle$	COMPS	$\langle [2] \rangle$
SUBJ	$\langle [1] \rangle$				
COMPS	$\langle [2] \rangle$				
ARG-ST	$\langle [1]\text{NP}_i, [2]\text{NP}_j \rangle$				
CONTENT	$\text{eat}(i, j)$				

In (1), ‘NP’ abbreviates a feature structure representing syntactic and semantic information about a nominal phrase. The variables  $i$  and  $j$  are the referential indices for the eater and eaten arguments, respectively, of the *eat* relation. The semantic information in  $\text{NP}_i$  semantically restricts the value or referent of  $i$ .

The ARG-ST feature plays an important role in HPSG grammatical theory. In addition to regulating the mapping from semantic arguments to grammatical relations, ARG-ST is the locus of the theories of anaphoric binding and other construal relations such as control and raising. (This chapter focuses on the function of ARG-ST in semantic mapping, with some discussion of binding and other construal relations only insofar as they interact with that mapping. A more detailed look at binding is presented in Chapter ??.)

In HPSG, verb diathesis alternations, voice alternations, and derivational processes such as category conversions are all captured within the lexicon (see Section 5 and Chapter ??). The different variants of a word are grammatically related either through lexical rules or by means of the lexical type hierarchy. HPSG grammars explicitly capture paradigmatic relations between word variants, making HPSG a *lexical approach to argument structure*, in the sense of Müller & Wechsler (2014a). This fundamental property of lexicalist theories contrasts with many transformational approaches, where such relationships are treated as syntagmatically related through operations on phrasal structures representing sentences and other syntactic constituents. Arguments for the lexical approach are reviewed in Section 8.

Within the HPSG framework presented here, we will formulate and address a number of empirical questions:

- We know that a verb’s meaning influences its valence requirements, (via the ARG-ST list, on this theory). What are the principles governing the mapping from CONTENT to ARG-ST? Are some aspects of ARG-ST idiosyncratically stipulated for individual verbs? What aspects of the semantic CONTENT bear on the value of ARG-ST, and what aspects do not? (For example, what is the role of modality?)

- How are argument alternations defined with respect to our formal system? For each alternation we may ask which of the following it involves: a shuffling of the ARG-ST list; a change in the mapping from ARG-ST to VAL; or a change in the CONTENT, with a concomitant change in the ARG-ST?

These questions will be addressed below in the course of presenting the theory. We begin by considering ARG-ST itself (Section 2), followed by the mapping from ARG-ST to VAL(Section 3) and the mapping from CONTENT to ARG-ST (Section 4). The remaining sections address further issues relating to argument structure: the nature of argument alternations, extending the ARG-ST attribute to include additional elements, whether ARG-ST is a universal feature of languages, and a comparison of the lexicalist view of argument structure presented here with phrasal approaches.

## 2 The representation of argument structure in HPSG

In the earliest versions of HPSG, the selection of dependent phrases was specified in the SUBCAT feature of the head word (Pollard & Sag (1987), Pollard & Sag (1994: ch. 1–8)). The value of SUBCAT is a list of items, each of which corresponds to the SYNSEM value of a complement or subject. Following are SUBCAT features for an intransitive verb, a transitive verb, and a transitive verb with obligatory PP complement:

- (2)    a. *laugh*: [ SUBCAT ⟨ NP ⟩ ]
- b. *eat*: [ SUBCAT ⟨ NP, NP ⟩ ]
- c. *put*: [ SUBCAT ⟨ NP, NP, PP ⟩ ]

Phrase structure rules in the form of immediate dominance schemata identify a certain daughter node as the head daughter (HEAD-DTR) and others as complement daughters (COMP-DTRS). In keeping with the *Subcategorization Principle*, here paraphrased from Pollard & Sag (1994: 34), list items are effectively ‘cancelled’ from the SUBCAT list as complement phrases are joined with the selecting head:

- (3) Subcategorization Principle: In a headed phrase, the SUBCAT value of the HEAD-DTR (‘head daughter’) is the concatenation of the phrase’s SUBCAT list with the list of SYNSEM values of the COMP-DTRS (‘complement daughters’).

Phrasal positions are distinguished by their saturation level: ‘VP’ is defined as a verbal projection whose SUBCAT list contains a single item, corresponding to the subject; and ‘S’ is defined as a verbal projection whose SUBCAT list is empty.

The ‘subject’ of a verb, a distinguished dependent with respect to construal processes such as binding, control, and raising, was then defined as the first item in the SUBCAT list, hence the last item with which the verb combines. However, defining ‘subject’ as the last item to combine with the head proved inadequate (Pollard & Sag 1994: Ch. 9). There are many cases where the dependent displaying subject properties need not be the last item added to the head projection. For example, in German the construal subject is a nominal in nominative case (Reis 1982), but the language allows subjectless clauses containing only a dative or genitive non-subject NP. If that oblique NP is the only NP dependent to combine with the verb then it is *ipso facto* the last NP to combine.

Consequently, the SUBCAT list was split into two valence lists, a SUBJ list of length zero or one for subjects, and a COMPS list for complements. Nonetheless, certain grammatical phenomena, such as binding and other construal processes, must still be defined on a single list comprising both subject and complements (Manning & Sag 1999). Additionally, some syntactic arguments are unexpressed or realized by affixal pronouns, rather than as subject or complement phrases. The new list containing all the syntactic arguments of a predicate was named ARG-ST (‘argument structure’).

In clauses without implicit or affixal arguments, the ARG-ST is the concatenation of SUBJ and COMPS respectively. For example, the SUBCAT list for *put* in (2c) is replaced with the following:

(4)	<table style="border-collapse: collapse; margin-bottom: 5px;"> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 10px;">PHON</td><td><math>\langle \text{PUT} \rangle</math></td></tr> </table> <table style="border-collapse: collapse; margin-bottom: 5px;"> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 10px;">VALENCE</td><td> <table style="border-collapse: collapse; border-left: 1px solid black; padding-left: 10px;"> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 10px;">SUBJ</td><td><math>\langle [1] \rangle</math></td></tr> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 10px;">COMPS</td><td><math>\langle [2, 3] \rangle</math></td></tr> </table> </td></tr> </table> <table style="border-collapse: collapse; border-left: 1px solid black; padding-left: 10px;"> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 10px;">ARG-ST</td><td><math>\langle [1\text{NP}, [2\text{NP}, [3\text{PP}]] \rangle</math></td></tr> </table>	PHON	$\langle \text{PUT} \rangle$	VALENCE	<table style="border-collapse: collapse; border-left: 1px solid black; padding-left: 10px;"> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 10px;">SUBJ</td><td><math>\langle [1] \rangle</math></td></tr> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 10px;">COMPS</td><td><math>\langle [2, 3] \rangle</math></td></tr> </table>	SUBJ	$\langle [1] \rangle$	COMPS	$\langle [2, 3] \rangle$	ARG-ST	$\langle [1\text{NP}, [2\text{NP}, [3\text{PP}]] \rangle$
PHON	$\langle \text{PUT} \rangle$										
VALENCE	<table style="border-collapse: collapse; border-left: 1px solid black; padding-left: 10px;"> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 10px;">SUBJ</td><td><math>\langle [1] \rangle</math></td></tr> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 10px;">COMPS</td><td><math>\langle [2, 3] \rangle</math></td></tr> </table>	SUBJ	$\langle [1] \rangle$	COMPS	$\langle [2, 3] \rangle$						
SUBJ	$\langle [1] \rangle$										
COMPS	$\langle [2, 3] \rangle$										
ARG-ST	$\langle [1\text{NP}, [2\text{NP}, [3\text{PP}]] \rangle$										

The idealization according to which ARG-ST is the concatenation of SUBJ and COMPS is canonized as the *Argument Realization Principle* (ARP) (Sag et al. 2003: PAGE). Exceptions to the ARP, that is, dissociations between VALENCE and ARG-ST, are discussed in Section 3.2 below.

A predicate’s VALENCE lists indicate its requirements for syntactic concatenation with phrasal dependents (Section 3). ARG-ST, meanwhile, provides syntactic information about the expression of semantic roles and is related, via linking theory, to the lexical semantics of the word (Section 3.2). The ARG-ST list contains specifications for the union of the verb’s syntactic local phrasal dependents (the

subject and complements, whether they are semantic arguments, raised phrases, or expletives) and its syntactic arguments that are not realized locally, whether they are unbounded dependents, affixal, or unexpressed.

Figure 1 provides a schematic representation of linking and argument realization in HPSG. Linking principles govern the mapping of participant roles in a predicate's CONTENT to syntactic arguments on ARG-ST. Argument realization is shown in this figure only for mapping to VAL; affixal and null arguments are not depicted. Here, the semantic roles are just arbitrary labels, but we discuss in Section (4) how they can be systematically related to lexical entailments of predicates. The ARG-ST and VALlists in this figure contain only arguments linked to participant roles, but in Section ?? we note motivations for extending ARG-ST to include additional elements. And in Section (3), we examine cases where the relationship between ARG-ST and VAL violates the ARP.

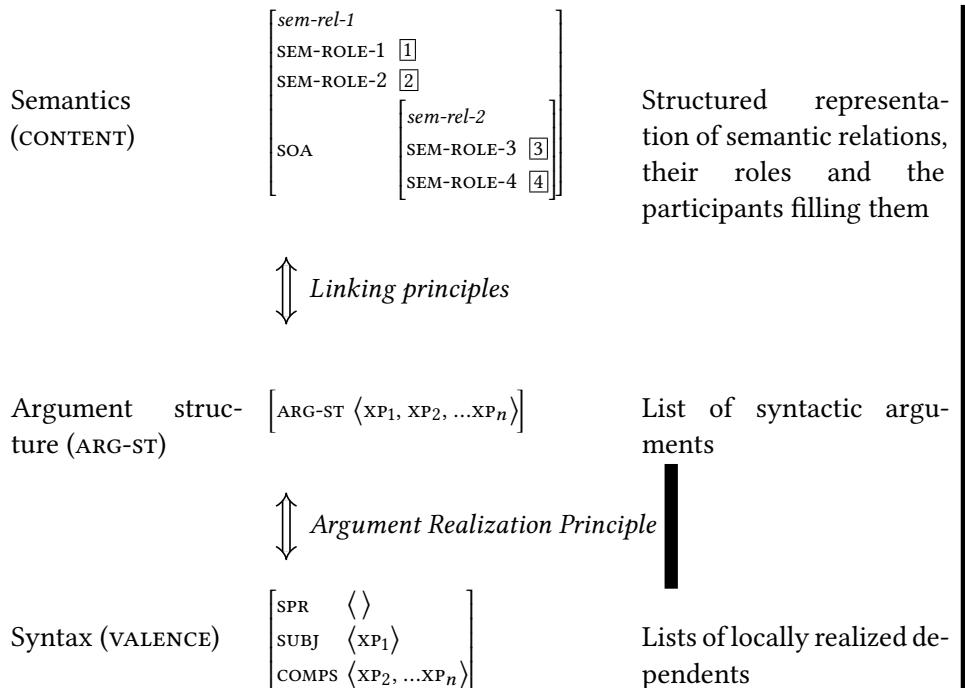


Figure 1: How linking works in HPSG

### 3 Argument realization: The mapping from ARG-ST to VALlists

#### 3.1 Variation in the expression of arguments

The VALfeature is responsible for composing a verb with its phrasal dependents, but this is just one of the ways that semantic arguments of a verb are expressed in natural language. Semantic arguments can be expressed in various linguistic forms: as local syntactic dependents (SUBJ and COMPS), as affixes, or displaced in unbounded dependency constructions (SLASH).

Affixal arguments can be illustrated with the first person singular Spanish verb *hablo* ‘speak.1SG’, as in 5.

- (5) a. Habl-o español.  
 speak-1SG Spanish  
 ‘I speak Spanish.’

- b. *hablo* ‘speak.1SG’:

PHON	$\langle \text{HABLO} \rangle$
VALENCE	$\left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{SUBJ } \langle \rangle \\ \text{COMPS } \langle [2] \rangle \end{array} \right]$
ARG-ST	$\left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{NP: } \left[ \begin{array}{l} ppro \\ \text{INDEX } \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{PERS 1st} \\ \text{NUM sg} \end{array} \right], [2] \text{NP} \end{array} \right] \end{array} \right]$

The *-o* suffix contributes the first person singular pronominal subject content to the verb form (the morphological process is not shown here; see Chapter MORPHOLOGY-CHAPTER). The pronominal subject appears on the ARG-ST list and hence is subject to the binding theory. But it does not appear in SUBJ, if no subject NP appears in construction with the verb.

A lexical sign whose ARG-ST list that is just the concatenation of its SUBJ and COMPS lists conforms to the Argument Realization Principle (ARP); such signs are called *canonical signs* by Bouma et al. (2001). Non-canonical signs, which violate the ARP, have been approached in two ways. In one approach, a lexical rule takes as input a canonical entry and derives a non-canonical one by removing items from the VALlists, while adding an affix or designating an item as an unbounded dependent by placement on the SLASH list. In the other approach, a feature of each ARG-ST list item specifies whether the item is subject to the ARP (hence mapped to a VALlist), or ignored by it (hence expressed in some other way). See

the chapter on the lexicon for more detail and Miller & Sag (1997) for a treatment of French clitics as affixes.

A final case to consider is null anaphora, in which a semantic argument is simply left unexpressed and receives a definite pronoun-like interpretation. Japanese *mi-* ‘see’ is transitive but the object NP can be omitted as in (6).

- (6) Naoki-ga mi-ta.  
 Naoki-NOM see-PAST  
 ‘Naoki saw it/him/her/\*himself.’

Null anaphors of this kind typically arise in discourse contexts similar to those that license ordinary weak pronouns, and the unexpressed object often has the (Principle B) obviation effects characteristic of overt pronouns, as shown in (6). But HPSG eschews the use of silent formatives like ‘small *pro*’ when there is no evidence for such items, such as local interactions with the phrase structure. Instead, null anaphors of this kind are present in ARG-ST but absent from VALLISTS. ARG-ST is directly linked to the semantic CONTENT and is the locus of binding theory, so the presence of a syntactic argument on the ARG-ST list but not a VALLIST accounts for null anaphora. To account for obviation, the ARG-ST list item, when unexpressed, receives the binding feature of ordinary (non-reflexive) pronouns, usually *ppro*. This language-specific option can be captured in a general way by VAL and ARG-ST defaults in the lexical hierarchy for verbs.

### 3.2 The syntax of ARG-ST and its relation to VALENCE

The ARG-ST ordering represents a preliminary syntactic structuring of the set of argument roles. In that sense it functions as an interface between the lexical semantics of the verb, and the expressions of dependents as described in Section 3. Its role thus bears some relation to the initial stratum in Relational Grammar, *argument structure* (including intrinsic classifications) in LFG Lexical Mapping Theory, D-structure in Government/Binding theory, and the Merge positions of arguments in Minimalism, assuming in the last two cases the Uniform Thematic Alignment Hypothesis (Miller & Sag 1997) or something similar. However, it also differs from all of those in important ways.

Semantic constraints on ARG-ST are explored in Section 4 below. But ARG-ST is not only structured by semantic distinctions between the arguments but also by syntactic ones. Specifically, the list ordering represents relative syntactic *obliqueness* of arguments. The least oblique argument is the subject (SUBJ), followed by

the complements (COMPS). Following Manning (1996) term arguments (direct arguments, i.e. objects) are assumed to be less oblique than ‘oblique’ arguments (adpositional and oblique case marked phrases), followed finally by predicate and clausal complements. The transitive ordering relation on the ARG-ST list is called *o-command* (‘obliqueness command’): the subject list item o-commands those of the complements; an object list item o-commands those of any obliques; and so on.

Voice alternations like the passive, which are defined on the ARG-ST list, illustrate the ordering of terms before obliques on the ARG-ST list. Passivization alters the syntactic properties of ARG-ST list items: the initial item of the active, normally mapped to SUBJ of the active, is an oblique (*by* phrase) or unexpressed argument in the passive. Given that terms precede obliques in the list order, any term arguments must o-command the passive oblique, so passive effectively re-orders the initial item in ARG-ST to a list position following any terms.

- (7) a. Susan gave Mary a book.
- b. Mary was given a book by Susan.
  
- (8) a. *give* (active): [ARG-ST < NP<sub>i</sub>, NP<sub>j</sub>, NP<sub>k</sub> >]
- b. *given* (passive): [ARG-ST < NP<sub>j</sub>, NP<sub>k</sub>, PP[*by*]<sub>i</sub> >]

Relative obliqueness conditions a number of syntactic processes and phenomena, including anaphoric binding. The o-command relation replaces the c-command in the Principles A, B, and C of Chomsky’s (1981) configurational theory of binding. For example, HPSG’s Principle B states that an ordinary pronoun cannot be o-commanded by its coargument antecedent, which accounts for the pronoun obviation observed in the English sentence *Naoki<sub>i</sub> saw him<sub>\*i/j</sub>*, and also accounts for obviation in the Japanese sentence (6) above.

Relative obliqueness also conditions the accessibility hierarchy of Keenan & Comrie (1977), according to which a language allowing relativization of some type of dependent also allows relativization of any less oblique than it. Hence if a language has relative clauses at all, it has subject relatives; if it allows obliques to relativize then it also allows subject and object relatives; and so on. Similar implicational universals apply to verb agreement with subjects, objects, and obliques Greenberg (1966).

Returning now to argument realization, we saw above that the rules for the selection of the subject from among the verb’s arguments are also stated on the ARG-ST list. In a ‘canonical’ realization the subject is the first list item, o-commanding all of its coarguments.

### 3.3 Syntactic ergativity

The autonomy of ARG-ST from the VALLISTS is further illustrated by cross-linguistic variation in the mapping between them. As just noted, in English and many other languages the initial item in ARG-ST maps to the subject. However, languages with so-called *syntactically ergative* clauses have been analyzed as following a different mapping rule. Crucially, the ARG-ST ordering in those languages is still supported by independent evidence from properties such as binding and NP versus PP categorial status of arguments. Balinese (Austronesian), as analyzed by Wechsler & Arka (1998), is such a language. In the morphologically unmarked, and most common voice, called ‘Objective voice’ (OV), the subject is any term *except* the ARG-ST-initial one.

Balinese canonically has SVO order, regardless of the verb’s voice form (Artawa 1994; Wechsler & Arka 1998). The preverbal NPs in (9) are the surface subjects and the postverbal ones are complements. When the verb appears in the unmarked OV verb, a non-initial term is the subject, as in (9a). But verbs in ‘Agentive Voice’ (AV) select as their subject the ARG-ST-initial item, as in (9b).

- (9) a. Bawiadol ida.  
pig OV.sell 3sg  
'He/She sold a pig.'
- b. Ida ng-adol bawi.  
3sg AV-sell pig  
'He/She sold a pig.'

A ditransitive verb such as the benefactive applied form of *beli* ‘buy’ in (10), has three term arguments on its ARG-ST list. The subject can be either term that is non-initial in ARG-ST:

- (10) a. Potlotente beli-ang=a I Wayan.  
pencil-DEF that OV.buy-APPL=3 Art Wayan  
'(s)he bought Wayan the pencil.'
- b. I Wayan beli-ang=a potlotente ento.  
Art Wayan OV.buy-APPL=3 pencil-DEF that  
'(s)he bought Wayan the pencil.'

Unlike the passive voice, which reorders the ARG-ST list, the Balinese OV does not affect ARG-ST list order. Thus the agent argument can bind a coargument reflexive pronoun (but not vice versa), regardless of whether the verb is in OV or AV form:

- (11) a. Ida ny-ingakin ragan idane.  
 3sg AV-see self  
 '(s)he saw himself/herself'
- b. Ragan idane cingakin ida.  
 self OV.see 3sg  
 '(s)he saw himself/herself'

The ‘seer’ argument o-commands the ‘seen’, with the AV versus OV voice forms regulating subject selection:

- (12) Agentive Voice form of ‘see’:

PHON	$\langle nyinkagin \rangle$
VALENCE	$\left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{SUBJ } \langle \boxed{1} \rangle \\ \text{COMPS } \langle \boxed{2} \rangle \end{array} \right]$
ARG-ST	$\langle \boxed{1} \text{NP}_i, \boxed{2} \text{NP}_j \rangle$
CONTENT	$\left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{see-rel} \\ \text{SEER } i \\ \text{SEEN } j \end{array} \right]$

- (13) Objective Voice form of ‘see’:

PHON	$\langle cinkagin \rangle$
VALENCE	$\left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{SUBJ } \langle \boxed{2} \rangle \\ \text{COMPS } \langle \boxed{1} \rangle \end{array} \right]$
ARG-ST	$\langle \boxed{1} \text{NP}_i, \boxed{2} \text{NP}_j \rangle$
CONTENT	$\left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{see-rel} \\ \text{SEER } i \\ \text{SEEN } j \end{array} \right]$

Languages like Balinese illustrate the autonomy of ARG-ST. Although the agent binds the patient in both (11)a and b, the binding conditions cannot be stated directly on the thematic hierarchy. For example, in HPSG a raised argument appears on the ARG-ST list of the raising verb even though that verb assigns no thematic role to that list item. But a raised subject can bind a coargument reflexive in Balinese (this is comparable to English *John seems to himself to be ugly*). Anaphoric binding in Balinese raising constructions thus behaves as predicted by the ARG-ST based theory (Wechsler 1999). In conclusion, neither VALNOR CONTENT provides the right representation for defining binding conditions, but ARG-ST fills the bill.

Syntactically ergative languages that have been analyzed as using an alternative mapping between ARG-ST and VAL include Tagalog, Inuit, some Mayan languages, Chukchi, Toba Batak, Tsimshian languages, and Nadëb (Manning 1996; Manning & Sag 1999).

Interestingly, while the GB/Minimalist configurational binding theory may be defined on analogues of VAL CONTENT, those theories lack any analogue of ARG-ST. This leads to special problems for such theories in accounting for binding in many Austronesian languages like Balinese. In transformational theories since Chomsky (1981), anaphoric binding conditions are usually stated with respect to the A-positions ('argument positions'). A-positions are analogous to HPSG VAL list items, with relative c-command in the configurational structure corresponding to relative list ordering in HPSG, in the simplest cases. Meanwhile, to account for data similar to (11), where agents asymmetrically bind patients, Austronesian languages like Balinese were said to define binding on the 'thematic structure' encoded in d-structure or Merge positions, where agents asymmetrically c-command patients regardless of their surface positions (Guilfoyle et al. 1992). But the interaction with raising shows that neither of those levels is appropriate as the locus of binding theory (Wechsler 1999).<sup>2</sup>

### 3.4 Symmetrical objects

We have thus far tacitly assumed a total ordering of elements on the ARG-ST list, but Ackerman et al. (2018), Ackerman et al. (2017) propose a partial ordering for certain so-called 'symmetrical object' languages. In Moro (Kordofanian), the two term complements of a ditransitive verb have exactly the same object properties. Relative linear order of the theme and goal arguments is free, as shown by the two translations of (14) (from Ackerman et al. 2017: 9):

- (14) é-g-a-natʃ-ó óráj ñerá  
      1SB.SM-CLG-MAIN-give-PFV CLG.man CLG.girl  
      'I gave the girl to the man.' / 'I gave the man to the girl.'

More generally, the two objects have identical object properties with respect to occurrence in post-predicate position, case marking, realization by an object marker, and ability to undergo passivization (Ackerman et al. 2017: 9).

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<sup>2</sup>To account for (11b) under the configurational binding theory, the subject position must be an A-bar position; but to account for binding by a raised subject, it must be an A-position. See Wechsler (1999).

Ackerman et al. (2017) propose that the two objects are unordered on the ARG-ST list. This allows for two different mappings to the COMPS list, as shown here:

- (15) a. Goal argument as primary object:

VALENCE	$\left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{SUBJ } \langle 1 \rangle \\ \text{COMPS } \langle 2, 3 \rangle \end{array} \right]$
ARG-ST	$\left[ \begin{array}{l} \langle 1 \text{NP}_i, \{ \langle 2 \text{NP}_j, \langle 3 \text{NP}_k \rangle \} \rangle \\ give-rel \end{array} \right]$
CONTENT	$\left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{AGENT } i \\ \text{GOAL } j \\ \text{THEME } k \end{array} \right]$

- b. Theme argument as primary object:

VALENCE	$\left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{SUBJ } \langle 1 \rangle \\ \text{COMPS } \langle 3, 2 \rangle \end{array} \right]$
ARG-ST	$\left[ \begin{array}{l} \langle 1 \text{NP}_i, \{ \langle 2 \text{NP}_j, \langle 3 \text{NP}_k \rangle \} \rangle \\ give-rel \end{array} \right]$
CONTENT	$\left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{AGENT } i \\ \text{GOAL } j \\ \text{THEME } k \end{array} \right]$

The primary object properties, which are associated with the initial term argument of COMPS, can go with either the goal or theme argument.

To summarize this section, while the relationship between ARG-ST, SUBJ, and COMPS lists was originally conceived as a straightforward one, enabling binding principles to maintain their simple form by defining ARG-ST as the concatenation of the other two, the relationship was soon loosened. Non-canonical relationships between ARG-ST and the VALlists are invoked in accounts of several core syntactic phenomena. Arguments not realized overtly in their canonical positions, due to extraction, cliticization, or pro-drop (null anaphora), appear on ARG-ST but not in any VALlist. Accounts of syntactic ergativity in HPSG involve variations in the mapping between ARG-ST and VALlists; in particular, the element of SUBJ is not, in such languages, the first element of ARG-ST. Modifications of ARG-ST play a role in treatments of passivization, where its expected first element is suppressed, and in languages with multiple, symmetric objects, where a partial rather than total ordering of ARG-ST elements has been postulated. Thus ARG-ST has now acquired an autonomous status within HPSG, and is not merely a predictable rearrangement of information present elsewhere in lexical entries.

## 4 Linking: the mapping between semantics and ARG-ST

### 4.1 HPSG approaches to linking

The term *linking* refers to the mapping specified in a lexical entry between participant roles in the semantics and their syntactic representations on the ARG-ST list. Early HPSG grammars stipulated the linking of each verb: semantic CONTENT values with predicate-specific attributes like DEVOURER and DEVoured were mapped to the subject and object, respectively, of the verb *devour*. But linking observes prevailing patterns, e.g. if one argument of a transitive verb in active voice has an agentive role, it will map to the subject, not the object. Thus these early accounts were unsatisfying, as they lead to purely stipulative accounts of linking, specified verb by verb. Beginning with Wechsler (1995b) and Davis (1996), researchers formulated linking principles stated on more general semantic properties holding across verbs.

Within the history of linguistics there have been three general approaches to modeling the lexico-semantic side of linking: thematic role types (Pāṇini ca 400 B.C., Fillmore 1968); lexical decomposition (Foley & Van Valin 1984; Rappaport Hovav & Levin 1998); and the proto-roles approach (Dowty 1991). In developing linking theories within the HPSG framework Wechsler (1995b) and Davis (1996) employed a kind of lexical decomposition that also incorporated some elements of the proto-roles approach. The reasons for preferring this over the alternatives are discussed in Section 4.4 below.

Wechsler's 1995b linking theory constrains the relative order of pairs arguments on the ARG-ST list according to semantic relations entailed between them. For example, his *notion rule* states that if one participant in an event is entailed to have a mental notion of another, then the first must precede the second on the ARG-ST list. The *conceive-pred* type is defined by the following type declaration (based on Wechsler (1995b: 127), with formal details adjusted for consistency with current usage):

(16) <i>conceive-pred:</i>	$\begin{array}{c} \text{ARG-ST} \quad \langle \text{NP}_i, \text{NP}_j \rangle \\ \left[ \begin{array}{c} \text{CONTENT} \quad \left[ \begin{array}{c} \text{conceive-rel} \\ \text{CONCEIVER } i \\ \text{CONCEIVED } j \end{array} \right] \end{array} \right] \end{array}$
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This accounts for a host of linking facts in verbs as varied as *like*, *enjoy*, *invent*, *claim*, and *murder*, assuming these verbs belong to the type *conceive-pred*. It explains the well known contrast between experiencer-subject *fear* and experiencer-object *frighten* verbs: *fear* entails that its subject has some notion of its object, so

*The tourists feared the lumberjacks* entails that the tourists are aware of the lumberjacks. But the object of *frighten* need not have a notion of its subject: in *The lumberjacks frightened the tourists (by cutting down a large tree that crashed right in front of them)*, the tourists may not be aware of the lumberjacks' existence.

Two other linking rules appeared in Wechsler (1995). One stated that 'affected themes,' that is, participants that are entailed to undergo a change, map to the object, rather than subject, of a transitive verb. Another pertained to stative transitive verbs entailing a part-whole relation between the two participants, such as *include* and *contain*: the whole maps to the subject and the part to the object.

The linking constraints do not rely on a total ordering of thematic roles, nor on an exhaustive assignment of thematic role types to every semantic role in a predicate. Instead, a small set of partial orderings of semantic roles, based on lexical entailments, suffices to account for the linking patterns of a wide range of verbs. This insight was adopted in a slightly different guise in work by Davis (1996; 2001) and Davis & Koenig (2000), who develop a more elaborated representation of lexical semantics, with which simple linking constraints can be stated. The essence of this approach is to posit a small number of dyadic semantic relations such as *act-und-rel* ('actor-undergoer relation') with attributes ACT(OR) and UND(ERGOER) that serve as intermediaries between semantic roles and syntactic arguments (akin to the notion of Generalized Semantic Roles discussed in Van Valin 1999).

What are the truth conditions of *act-und-rel*? Following Fillmore (1977), Dowty (1991), and Wechsler (1995b), Davis and Koenig note that many of the pertinent lexical entailments come in related pairs. For instance, one of Dowty's entailments is that one participant causally affects another, and of course the other is entailed to be causally affected. Another involves the entailments in Wechsler's notion rule (16); one participant is entailed to have a notion of another. These entailments of paired participant types characterize classes of verbs (or other predicates), and can then be naturally represented as dyadic relations in CONTENT. Collecting those entailments we arrive at a disjunctive statement of truth conditions:

- (17)  $\text{act-und-rel}(x, y)$  is true iff  $x$  causes a change in  $y$ , or  $x$  has a notion of  $y$ .

We can designate the  $x$  participant in the pair as the value of ACTOR (or ACT) and  $y$  as the value of UNDERGOER (or UND), in a relation of type *act-und-rel*. Semantic arguments that are ACTOR or UNDERGOER will then bear at least one of the entailments characteristic of ACTORS or UNDERGOERS (Davis & Koenig 2000: 72). This then simplifies the statement of linking constraints for all of these paired

participant types. Davis (1996) and Koenig & Davis (2001) argue that this obviates counting the relative number of proto-agent and proto-patient entailments, as advocated by Dowty (1991).

The linking constraints 18 and 19 state that a verb whose semantic CONTENT is of type *act-und-rel* will be constrained to link the ACT participant to the first element of the verb's ARG-ST list (its subject), and the UND participant to the second element of the verb's ARG-ST list (this is analogous to Wechsler's constraints based on partial orderings).

These linking constraints can be viewed as parts of the definition of lexical types, as in Davis (2001), where (18) defines a particular class of lexemes (or words).<sup>3</sup>

$$(18) \quad \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{CONTENT|KEY } [\text{ACTOR } \boxed{1}] \\ \text{ARG-ST } \langle \text{NP}_{\boxed{1}}, \dots \rangle \end{array} \right]$$

$$(19) \quad \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{CONTENT|KEY } [\text{UNDERGOER } \boxed{2}] \\ \text{ARG-ST } \langle \dots, \text{NP}_{\boxed{2}}, \dots \rangle \end{array} \right]$$

$$(20) \quad \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{CONTENT|KEY } \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{cause-possess-rel} \\ \text{SOA } [\text{ACTOR } \boxed{3}] \end{array} \right] \\ \text{ARG-ST } \langle \text{SYNSEM} \rangle \oplus \langle \text{NP}_{\boxed{3}}, \dots \rangle \end{array} \right]$$

The first constraint, in (18), links the value of ACT (when not embedded within another attribute) to the first element of ARG-ST. The second, in (19), merely links the value of UND (again, when not embedded within another attribute) to some NP on ARG-ST. Given this understanding of how the values of ACTOR and UNDERGOER are determined, these constraints cover the linking patterns of a wide range of transitive verbs: *throw* (ACT causes motion of UND), *slice* (ACT causes change of state in UND), *frighten* (ACT causes emotion in UND), *imagine* (ACT has a notion of UND), *traverse* (ACT “measures out” UND as an incremental theme), and *outnumber* (ACT is superior to UND on a scale).

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<sup>3</sup> Alternatively, (18) (and other linking constraints) can be recast as implicational constraints on lexemes or words (Koenig & Davis 2003). (i) is an implicational constraint indicating that a word whose semantic content includes an ACTOR role must map that role to the initial item in the ARG-ST list.

$$(i) \quad \left[ \text{CONTENT|KEY } [\text{ACTOR } \boxed{1}] \right] \Rightarrow \left[ \text{ARG-ST } \langle \text{NP}_{\boxed{1}}, \dots \rangle \right]$$

The third constraint, in (20), links the value of an ACT attribute embedded within a SOA attribute to an NP that is second on ARG-ST. This constraint accounts for the linking of the (primary) object of ditransitives. In English, these verbs (*give, hand, send, earn, owe*, etc.) involve (prospective) causing of possession (Pinker 1989; Goldberg 1995), and the possessor is represented as the value of the embedded ACT in (20). There could be additional constraints of a similar form in languages with a wider range of ditransitive constructions; conversely, such a constraint might be absent in languages that lack ditransitives entirely. As mentioned earlier in this section, the range of subcategorization options varies somewhat from one language to another.

The KEY attribute in (18) – (20) also requires explanation. The formulation of linking constraints here employs the architecture used in Koenig & Davis (2006), in which the semantics represented in CONTENT values is expressed as a set of *elementary predication*s, formalized within Minimal Recursion Semantics (Copestake et al. 2001; 2005). Each elementary predication is a simple relation, but the relationships among them may be left unspecified. For linking, one of the elementary predication is designated the KEY, and it serves as the locus of linking. This allows us to indicate the linking of participants that play multiple roles in the denoted situation. The KEY selects one relation as the “focal point,” and the other elementary predication are then irrelevant as far as linking is concerned. The choice of KEY then becomes an issue demanding consideration; we will see in the discussion of argument alternations in Section 5 how this choice might account for some alternation phenomena.

Note too that these linking constraints are treated as constraints on classes in the lexical hierarchy (see Chapter ??). One consequence of this fact merits brief mention. Constraint (19), which links the value of UND to some NP on ARG-ST, is a specification of one class of verbs. Not all verbs (and certainly not all other predators, such as nominalizations) with a CONTENT value containing an UND value realize it as an NP. Verbs obeying this constraint include the transitive verbs noted above, and intransitive “unaccusative” verbs such as *fall* and *persist*. But some verbs with both ACT and UND attributes in their CONTENT are intransitive, such as *impinge (on)*, *prevail (on)*, and *tinker (with)*. Interactions with other constraints, such as the requirement that verbs (in English, at least) have an NP subject, determine the range of observed linking patterns.

These linking constraints also assume that the proto-role attributes ACTOR, UNDERGOER, and SOA are appropriately matched to entailments, as described above. Other formulations are possible, such as that of Koenig & Davis (2003), where the participant roles pertinent to each lexical entailment are represented in CONTENT

by corresponding, distinct attributes.

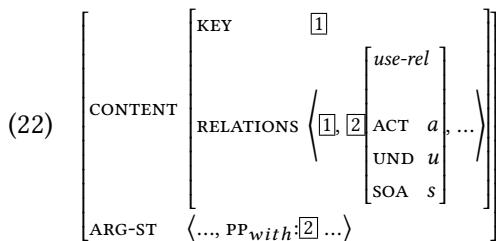
In addition to the linking constraints, there may be some very general well-formedness conditions on linking. We rarely find verbs that obligatorily map one semantic role to two distinct members of the ARG-ST list that are both expressed overtly. A verb meaning ‘eat’, but with that disallowed property, could appear in a ditransitive sentence like (4.1), with the meaning that Pat ate dinner, and his dinner was a large steak.

- (21) \*Pat ate dinner a large steak.

Typically semantic arguments map to at most one (overtly expressed) ARG-ST list item (Davis 2001: 262–268).

## 4.2 Linking oblique arguments

In this section we discuss linking of oblique arguments, that is, PP’s and oblique case marked NP’s. In some instances, a verb’s selection of a particular preposition appears at least partly arbitrary; it is hard to explain why we *hanker after* and *yearn for*, but we don’t \**yearn after*. In these cases, the choice of preposition may be stipulated by the individual lexical entry. But as Gawron (1986) and Wechsler (1995a) have shown, many prepositions are semantically meaningful. *For* in the above-mentioned cases, and in *look for*, *wait for*, and *aim for* is surely not a lexical accident. And in the cases like *cut with*, *with* is used in an instrumental sense, denoting a *use-rel* relation, as with verbs that either allow (*eat*) or require (*cut*) an instrument. Davis (1996; 2001) adopts the position of Gawron and Wechsler in his treatment of linking to PPs. As an example of this kind of account, the linking type in (22) characterizes a verb selecting a *with*-PP. The PP argument is linked from the RELS list rather than the KEY.



Apart from the details of individual linking constraints, we have endeavored here to describe how linking can be modeled in HPSG using the same kinds of constraints used ubiquitously in the framework. Within the hierarchical lexicon, constraints between semantically defined classes and syntactically defined

ones, can furnish an account of linking patterns, and there is no resort to additional mechanisms such as a thematic hierarchy or numerical comparison of entailments.

### **4.3 To what extent does meaning predict linking?**

The framework outlined above allows us to address the following question: how much of linking is strictly determined by semantic factors, and how much is left open to lexically arbitrary subcategorization specifications, or perhaps subject to other factors?

Subcategorization—the position and nature of ARG-ST elements, in HPSG terms—is evidently driven to a great extent by semantics, but debate continues about how much, and which components of semantics are involved. Views have ranged from the strict, highly constrained relationship in which lexical semantics essentially determines syntactic argument structure, to a looser one in which some elements of subcategorization may be stipulated. Among the first camp are those who espouse the Uniformity of Theta Assignment Hypothesis proposed in Baker (1988: 46) or Baker (1997), which maintains that “identical thematic relationships between items are represented by identical structural relationships” in the syntax. With regard to the source of diathesis alternations, Levin (1993: 12–13) notes that “studies of these properties suggest that argument structures might in turn be derivable to a large extent from the meaning of words”, and accordingly “pursues the hypothesis of semantic determinism seriously to see just how far it can be taken.”

Others, including Pollard & Sag (1987) (Section 5.3) and Davis (2001) (Section 5.1), have expressed caution, pointing out cases where subcategorization and diathesis alternations seem to be at least partly arbitrary. Pollard & Sag note contrasts like these:

- (23) a. Sandy spared/\*deprived Kim a second helping.  
b. Sandy \*spared/deprived Kim of a second helping. (Pollard & Sag 1987: ex. 214–215)

And Davis provides these pairs of semantically similar verbs with differing subcategorization requirements:

- (24) a. Few passengers waited for/awaited the train.  
b. Homer opted for/chose a chocolate frosted donut.  
c. The music grated on/irritated the critics. (Davis 2001: ex. 5.4)

Other cases where argument structure seems not to mirror semantics precisely include raising constructions, in which one of a verb's direct arguments bears no semantic role to it at all. Similarly, overt expletive arguments cannot be seen as deriving from some participant role in a predicator's semantics. Like the examples above, these phenomena suggest that some aspects of subcategorization are specified independently of semantics.

Another point against strict semantic determination of argument structure comes from cross-linguistic observations of subcategorization possibilities. It is evident, for example, that not all languages display the same range of direct argument mappings. Some lack ditransitive constructions entirely (Halkomelem), some allow them across a limited semantic range (English), some quite generally (Georgian), and a few permit tritransitives (Kinyarwanda and Moro). [Gerdts \(1992\)](#) surveys about twenty languages and describes consistent patterns like these. The range of phenomena such as causative and applicative formation in a language is constrained by what she terms its "relational profile;" this includes, in HPSG terms, the number of direct NP arguments permitted on its ARG-ST lists. Again, it is unclear that underlying semantic differences across languages in the semantics of verbs meaning 'give' or 'write' would be responsible for these general patterns.

Summarizing, there is much evidence tempting us to derive the contents of ARG-ST solely from lexical semantics. If this ultimately proves feasible, then ARG-ST serves more as a convenient interface notion with little possibility of independently expressing strictly syntactic aspects of subcategorization. This view, however satisfying it might be, does not accord with our current best understanding of the syntactic and semantic evidence. In the following sections we delve into some of the nuances that make linking more than a simple rendering of lexical semantics. We begin by noting a point on which HPSG accounts of linking differ from many others— the absence of traditional thematic roles.

#### 4.4 HPSG and thematic roles

The ARG-ST list constitutes the syntactic side of the mapping between semantic roles and syntactic dependents. As ARG-ST is merely an ordered list of arguments, without any semantic "labels," it contains no counterparts to thematic roles, such as AGENT, PATIENT, THEME, or GOAL. Thematic roles like these, however, have been a mainstay of linking in generative grammar since [Fillmore \(1968\)](#) and have antecedents going back to (Pāṇini. Ranking them in a *thematic hierarchy*, and labeling each of a predicator's semantic roles with a unique thematic role, then yields an ordering of roles analogous to the ordering on the ARG-ST list. Indeed, it

would not be difficult to import this kind of system into HPSG, as a means of determining the order of elements on the ARG-ST list. However, HPSG researchers have generally avoided using a thematic hierarchy, for reasons we now briefly set out.

Fillmore (1968) and many others thereafter have posited a small set of disjoint, thematic roles, with each semantic role of a predicator assigned exactly one thematic role. Thematic hierarchies depend on these properties for a consistent linking theory. But they do not hold up well to formal scrutiny. Jackendoff (1987) and Dowty (1991) note (from somewhat different perspectives) that numerous verbs have arguments not easily assigned a thematic role from the typically posited inventory (e.g., the objects of *risk*, *blame*, and *avoid*), that more than one argument might sensibly be assigned the same role (e.g., the subjects and objects of *resemble*, *border*, and some alternants of commercial transaction verbs), and that multiple roles can be sensibly assigned to a single argument (the subjects of verbs of volitional motion are like both an AGENT and a THEME). In addition, consensus on the inventory of thematic roles has proven elusive, and some, notoriously THEME, have resisted clear definition. Work in formal semantics, including Ladusaw & Dowty (1988), Dowty (1989), Landman (2000), and Schein (2002), casts doubt on the prospects of assigning formally defined thematic roles to all of a predicator's arguments, at least in a manner that would allow them to play a crucial part in linking. Thematic role types seem to pose problems, and there are alternatives that avoid those problems. As Carlson (1998) notes about thematic roles, “It is easy to conceive of how to write a lexicon, a syntax, a morphology, a semantics, or a pragmatics without them.”

#### 4.5 CONTENT decomposition and ARG-ST

Instead of thematic role types, lexical decomposition is typically used in HPSG to model the semantic side of the linking relation. The word meaning represented by the CONTENT value is decomposed into a set of elementary predicationsthat share arguments, as described in Section 4 above. Lexical decompositions cannot be directly observed, but the decompositions are justified indirectly by the roles they play in the grammar. Decompositions play a role in at least the following processes:

- *Linking*. As described in Section 4, linking constraints are stated on semantic relations like *act-und-rel* ('actor-undergoer relation'), so those relations must be called out in the CONTENT field.

- *Sublexical scope.* Certain modifiers can scope over a part of the situation denoted by a verb (Dowty 1979).

(25) John sold the car, and then he bought it again.

In this sentence the adverb *again* either adds the presupposition that John bought it before, or, in the more probable interpretation, it adds the presupposition that *the result of buying the car* obtained previously. The result of buying a car is owning it, so this sentence presupposes that John previously owned the car. Thus the decomposition of the verb *buy* in (36) below includes the *possess-rel* ('possession relation') holding between the buyer and the goods. This is available for modification by adverbials like *again*.

- *Argument alternations.* Some argument alternations can be modeled as highlighting of different portions of a single lexical decomposition. See Section 5.

In general, sublexical decompositions are included in the CONTENT field only insofar as they are visible to the grammar for processes like these.

The ARG-ST feature lies at the syntax side of the linking relation. Much like the CONTENT field, the ARG-ST items are justified only insofar as they are visible to the syntax. Many ARG-ST list items are obviously justified by being explicitly expressed as subject and complement phrases or as affixal pronouns. Certain implicit arguments appear if they are subject to the binding theory as applied to the ARG-ST list (as discussed in Section 3.1 above).

Implicit arguments can also participate in the syntax, and therefore appear on the ARG-ST list, by acting as controllers of adjunct clauses. For example, English rationale clauses like the infinitival phrase in (26a) are controlled by the agent argument in the clause, *the hunter* in this example. The implicit agent of a short passive can likewise control the rationale clause as shown in (26b). But the middle in (26c) lacks an implicit agent that is capable of controlling, even though native speakers assume that some agent must have caused the gun to load. This contrast was observed by Keyser & Roeper (1984) and confirmed in experimental work by Mauner & Koenig (2000).

- (26)
- a. The shotgun was loaded quietly by the hunter to avoid the possibility of frightening off the deer.
  - b. The shotgun was loaded quietly to avoid the possibility of frightening off the deer.

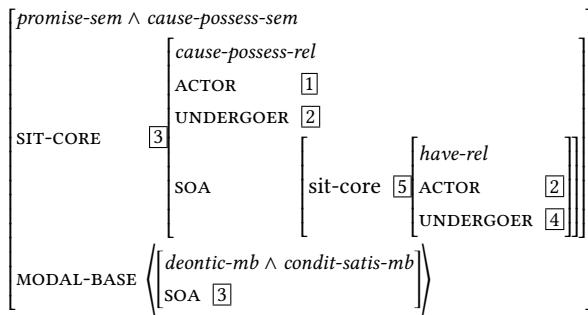
- c. \*The shotgun had loaded quietly to avoid the possibility of frightening off the deer.

If the syntax of control is specified such that the controller of the rationale clause is an (agent) argument on the ARG-ST list of the verb, then this contrast is captured by assuming that the agent appears on the ARG-ST list of the passive verb but not the middle.

#### 4.6 Modal transparency

Another observation concerning lexical entailments and linking was developed by Koenig & Davis (2001), who point out that linking appears to ignore modal elements of lexical semantics, even when those elements invalidate entailments (expanding on an observation implicit in Goldberg 1995). For instance, there are various English verbs displaying linking patterns like the ditransitive verbs of possession transfer *give* and *hand*, but which denote situations in which the transfer need not, or does not, take place. Thus, *offer* describes a situation where the transferor is willing to effect the transfer, *owe* one in which the transferor should effect the transfer but has not yet, *promise* describes a situation where the transferor commits to effect the transfer, and *deny* one in which the transferor does not effect the contemplated transfer. Koenig and Davis argue that modal elements should be clearly separated in CONTENT values from the representations of predicators and their arguments. (27) exemplifies this factoring out of sublexical modal information from core situational information. This pattern of linking functioning independently of sublexical modal information applies not only to these ditransitive cases, but also to verbs involving possession (cf. *own* and *obtain*, vs. *lack*, *covet* and *lose*), perception (*see* vs. *ignore* and *overlook*), and carrying out an action (*manage* vs. *fail* and *try*). Whatever the role of lexical entailments in linking, then, the modal information should be factored out, since the entailments canonically driving, e.g., the ditransitive linking patterns of verbs like *give* and *hand*, do not hold of *offer*, *owe*, or *deny*. The constraints in (18)-(20) need only been minimally altered to target the value of SIT-CORE within the representation of relation.

- (27) The lexical semantic representation of *promise* (Koenig & Davis 2001: 101)



## 5 The semantics and linking of argument alternations

A verb can often occur in varied syntactic contexts, as *find* does in (28); these are termed *valence alternations* or *diathesis alternations*, in reference to their different argument structures. Levin (1993) lists around 50 kinds of alternations in English, and there are still more, including the alternation illustrated in (28).

- (28) a. I found that the chair was comfortable  
       b. I found the chair to be comfortable  
       c. I found the chair comfortable

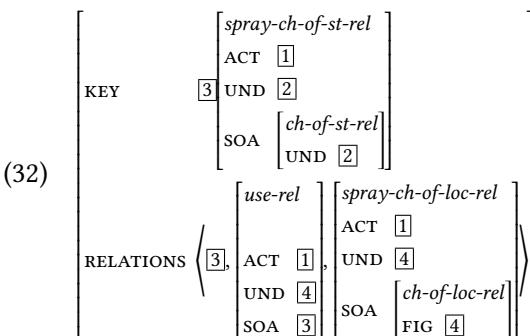
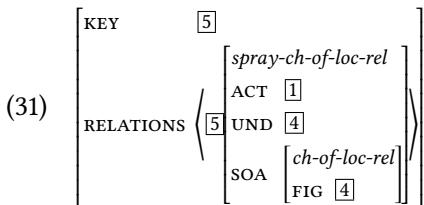
Another well studied alternation, the locative alternation, is exemplified by the two uses of *spray* in (29).

- (29) a. *spray<sub>loc</sub>*: Joan sprayed the paint onto the statue.  
       b. *spray<sub>with</sub>*: Joan sprayed the statue with paint.

It is typically assumed that these two different uses of *spray* in (29) have slightly different meanings, with the statue being in some sense more affected in the *with* alternant. This exemplifies the “holistic” effect of direct objecthood, which we will return to. Here, we will examine how semantic differences between alternants relate to their linking patterns. The semantic side of linking has often been devised with an eye to syntax (e.g., Pinker (1989), and see Koenig & Davis (2006) for more examples). There is a risk of stipulation here, without independent evidence for these semantic differences. In the case of locative alternations, though, the meaning difference between (29a) and (29b) is easily stated (and Pinker had the right intuition), as (29b) entails (29a), but not conversely. Informally, (29a) describes a particular kind of caused motion situation, while (29b) describes a situation in which this kind of caused motion additionally results in a caused change of state. The difference is depicted in the two structures in (30).

- (30) a. CAUSE (JOAN, GO (PAINT, TO (STATUE)))  
 b. ACT-ON (JOAN, STATUE, BY (CAUSE (JOAN, GO (PAINT, TO (STATUE)))))

This description of the semantic difference between sentences (29a) and (29b) provides a strong basis for predicting their different argument structures. But we still need to explain how linking principles give rise to this difference. Pinker's account rests on semantic structures like (30), in which depth of embedding reflects sequence of causation, with ordering on ARG-ST stemming from depth of semantic embedding, a strategy adopted in Davis (1996; 2001). This is one reasonable alternative, although the resulting complexity of some of the semantic representations raises valid questions about what independent evidence supports them. An alternative appears in Koenig & Davis (2006), who borrow from Minimal Recursion Semantics (see the chapter on Semantics for an introduction to MRS). MRS "flattens" semantic relations, rather than embedding them in one another, so the arrangement of these *elementary predication*s, as they are termed, is of less import. They posit a RELATIONS (or RELS) attribute that collects a set of elementary predication, each representing some part of the predicate's semantics. A KEY attribute specifies a particular member of RELS as the relevant one for linking (of direct syntactic arguments). In the case of (29b) the KEY is the caused change of state description. These MRS-style representations of the two alternants of *spray*, with different KEY values, are shown in (31) and (32).



Generalizing from this example, one possible characterization of valence al-

ternations, implicit in Koenig & Davis (2006), is as systematic relations between two sets of lexical entries in which the RELS of any pair of related entries are in a subset/subset relation (a weaker version of that definition would merely require an overlap between the RELS values of the two entries). Consider another case; (33) illustrates the causative-inchoative alternation, where the intransitive alternant describes only the change of state, while the transitive one ascribes an explicit causing agent.

- (33) a. John broke the window.
- b. The window broke.

Under a MRS representation, the change of state relation is a separate member of RELS; it is also included in the RELS of the transitive alternant, which contains a cause relation as well. Again, the RELS value of one member of each pair of related entries is a subset of the RELS value of the other.

Many other alternations involve one argument shifting from direct to oblique. Some English examples include conative, locative preposition drop, and *with* preposition drop alternations, as shown in (34):

- (34) a. Rover clawed (at) Spot.
- b. Bill hiked (along) the Appalachian Trail.
- c. Burns debated (with) Smithers.

It is well known that the direct objects in these alternations seem to be “affected” more than their oblique counterparts. So if Rover clawed Spot, we infer that Spot was subjected to direct contact with Rover’s claws and may have been injured by them, while if Rover merely clawed *at* Spot, no such inference can be made. Similarly, to say the one has hiked the Appalachian Trail suggests that one has hiked its entire length, not merely hiked along some portion of it. This holistic effect is not so evident in cases like (34c), though the direct object variant suggests that a formally organized debate took place, while the *with* variant could just describe an informal discussion. How might these varying intuitions related to “affectedness” relate to lexical semantic representations like those in (31) and (32)? Beavers (2010) provides one analytical advance in this direction, similar to the subset relationship between RELS values described above. He generalizes from affectedness to strength of entailments, where one semantic role’s entailments are stronger than another’s if and only if the set of entailments characterizing the second role also hold of the first. That is, what is true for any participant that bears the first role will be true for any participant that bears the

second, but not necessarily the converse. His *Morphosyntactic Alignment Principle* then relates this to linking, as stated in (35), where an “L-thematic role” is a linguistically relevant semantic role:

- (35) When participant  $x$  may be realized as either a direct or oblique argument of verb V, it bears L-thematic role  $R$  as a direct argument and L-thematic role  $Q \subseteq_M R$  as an oblique. (Beavers 2010: 848)

Here,  $Q \subseteq_M R$  means that  $Q$  is a “minimally weaker” role than  $R$ ; in other words, there is no role  $P$  in the predicator such that  $Q \subset P \subset R$ . Thus, the substantive claim is essentially that the MAP rules out “verbs where the alternating participant has MORE lexical entailments as an oblique than the corresponding object realization” (Beavers 2010: 849).

The entailments Beavers employs differ somewhat from those we have discussed here, involving quantized change, nonquantized change, potential for change (where change can refer to change in location, possession, state, or something more abstract), furnishing the clear ordering by strength that is central to his proposal. But they do resemble entailments of semantic relations we have represented as elementary predications, such as incremental theme, change of state, and possession, along with the modal effects described in Koenig & Davis (2001). Thus the notion of a stronger role in Beavers’ analysis has a rough analog in terms of whether a particular elementary predication is present in the semantics of a particular alternant. And only if an elementary predication is present, can it be designated as the KEY, and its roles linked directly. For example, in (31), there is nothing representing affectedness of the location, while in (32), there is, and it is designated as the KEY. As noted earlier, the semantics in (32) represents this additional entailment borne by the location argument. However, we are not aware of any simple, general way to represent Beavers’ MAP within the EP-based model of Koenig & Davis (2006). Indeed, there is an aspect of Beavers’ view that seems more in accord with numerical comparison approaches such as those of Dowty (1991) and Ackerman & Moore (2001), in that role strength is determined by the number of entailments that hold of it relative to others.

Having outlined the semantic basis of the different linking patterns of alternating verbs, we briefly take up three other issues. First is the question of how the alternants are related to one another. Second is how KEY selection has been used to account not just for alternants of the same verb, but for (nearly) synonymous verbs whose semantics contain the same set of elementary predications. Third is whether passives, which arguably do not differ semantically from their active counterparts, should be assimilated with other alternations or treated distinctly,

as a kind of non-canonical lexical item.

The hypothesis pursued in Davis (1996; 2001) is that most alternations are the consequence of classes of lexical entries having two related meanings. This follows researchers such as Pinker (1989) and Levin (1993) in modeling subcategorization alternations as underlyingly meaning alternations. This change in meaning is crucial in Koenig & Davis (2006) KEY shifts as well. In some cases, the value of the RELS attribute of the two valence alternates differ (as in the two alternates of *spray* in *spray/load* alternation we discussed earlier). In some cases, the alternation might be different construals of the same event for some verbs, but not others, as Rappaport Hovav & Levin (2008) claim for the English ditransitive alternations, which adds the meaning of transfer for verbs like *send*, but not for verbs like *promise*; a KEY change would be involved (with the addition of a *cause-possess-rel*) for the first verb only. But KEY shifts and diathesis alternations do not always involve a change in meaning. The same elementary predication can be present in as the CONTENT values of two alternants, with each alternant designating a different elementary predication as the KEY.

Koenig & Davis propose this not only for cases in which there is no obvious meaning difference between two alternants of a verb, but also for different verbs that appear to be truth-conditionally equivalent, one famous example being the verbs of commercial exchange *buy* and *sell* (but see Van Valin (1999: 387-388), Levin & Rappaport Hovav (2005: 20), and Wechsler (2005a) for arguments that *buy* and *sell* are not equivalent). Koenig and Davis argue that a commercial event involves two reciprocal actions, an exchange of goods (which involves giving goods and obtaining goods) and an exchange of money (which involves giving money and obtaining money). Individual verbs might select one or the other of these four relations, thus accounting for the differences in subject and object selection. As shown in (36) and (37), each of these verbs contains four elementary predication: one *exch-give-rel* and one *obtain-rel* for the transfer of goods, and one of each for the counter-transfer of money. *Buy* designates the *obtain-rel* representing the transfer of goods as the KEY, while *sell* designates the *exch-give-rel* representing the transfer of goods as the KEY. Other verbs, such as *pay* or *charge*, choose elementary predication representing the counter-transfer as the KEY. In all cases, the same linking constraints apply between the KEY and the ARG-ST list, yielding the different argument realizations of these verbs while preserving their underlying semantic commonality. The relevant portions of the entries for *buy* and *sell* in (36) and (37) below illustrate: critically, the KEY relation for *buy* is not the same as that for *sell*.

(36) A representation of the relevant parts of the lexical entry for *buy*:

	KEY	[7]	ACT [1] ( <i>buyer</i> )	ACT [1] ( <i>buyer</i> )
		UND [2]	UND [4]	
	RELATIONS	[7]	SOA [5] ACT [1] UND [2] ( <i>goods</i> )	SOA [6] ACT [3] ( <i>seller</i> ) UND [4] ( <i>money</i> )
CONTENT			obtain-rel ACT [3] ( <i>seller</i> ) UND [4]	exch-give-rel ACT [3] ( <i>seller</i> ) UND [2]
			SOA [6] ACT [3] ( <i>seller</i> ) UND [4] ( <i>money</i> )	SOA [5] ACT [1] UND [2] ( <i>goods</i> )
ARG-ST		[8]		
			⟨NP:[1], NP:[2], PP(FROM):[8]⟩	

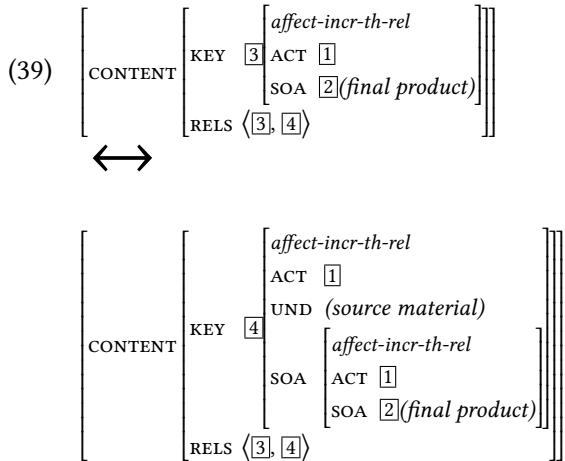
- (37) A representation of the relevant parts of the lexical entry for *sell*:

	KEY	[7]	ACT [1] ( <i>seller</i> )	ACT [1] ( <i>seller</i> )
		UND [2]	UND [4]	
	RELATIONS	[7]	SOA [6] POSSESS-REL ACT [3] ( <i>buyer</i> ) UND [2] ( <i>goods</i> )	SOA [6] POSSESS-REL ACT [1] UND [4] ( <i>money</i> )
CONTENT				
ARG-ST		[7]	⟨NP:[1], NP:[2], PP(to):[7]⟩	

As a final example of semantic alternations in the fine-grained meaning possibilities of verbs, we consider here the source-final product alternation exemplified in (38) where the direct object can be either the final product or the material source of the final product. Davis proposes that the (38a) sentences involve an alternation between the two meanings of entries represented in (39). We adapt Davis (2001) to make it consistent with Koenig & Davis (2006) and also treat the alternation as an alternation of meaning of *entries*. Note that in the meaning alternation described in (39), we use, informally, a double-headed arrow. One of the potential drawbacks of a lexical rule approach to valence alternations is that it requires selecting one or the other alternant as basic and the other as derived (e.g., is the inchoative or the causative basic?). This is not always an easy decision, as Goldberg (1995) or Levin & Rappaport Hovav (1994) have pointed out. Sometimes, morphology provides a clue, although in different languages the clues may point in different directions. French, and other Romance languages, use a “reflexive” clitic as a detransitivizing affix. In English, though, there is no obvious “basic” form or directionality. It is to avoid committing ourselves to a directionality in the meaning relation described in (39) that we eschews treating

it as a lexical rule.

- (38) a. Kim made/carved/sculpted/crafted a toy (out of the wood).  
       b. Kim made/carved/sculpted/crafted the wood into a toy.



Although most diathesis alternations can be modeled as alternations in meaning and as KEY shifts, some arguably cannot. We discuss the active/passive alternation here, but impersonals, as well as raising structures exemplified in (28) are good candidates too. The semantic relations of actives and long passives, as in (40), are practically identical and the difference between the two alternates is pragmatic in nature. Arguably, then, passives are a degenerate case of the subset relationship between RELS attributes, where the RELS values of the two entries are identical and so are the two entries' KEY. But this raises the question of whether linking in passives violates the constraints in (18)–(20), especially (18, which links the value of ACT to the first element of ARG-ST).

- (40) a. Fido dug a couple of holes.  
       b. A couple of holes were dug by Fido.

One typical HPSG method for modeling valence alternations like passives is through lexical rules (see Chapter ??) with one alternant serving as input and the other as output; the main effect of the lexical rule in such an approach is to alter the ARG-ST of the input, going from the ARG-ST of *give* to that of *given* in (8). Critically, we must assume that the output cannot be subject to linking constraint (18), since the actor argument is not linked to the first member of the ARG-ST list. A simplified representation of what such a rule would look like is provided in (41) where we assume that the input to the rule must be transitive.

$$(41) \quad \begin{array}{c} trans-vb \\ \text{HEAD} \quad \text{verb} \\ \text{ARG-ST} \left\langle \text{NP}_{[1]}, \text{NP}_{[2]} \right\rangle \oplus [3]list \end{array} \xrightarrow{\quad} \begin{array}{c} \text{HEAD} \quad [\text{VFORM } pass] \\ \text{ARG-ST} \left\langle \text{NP}_{[2]} \right\rangle \oplus [3] \oplus \left\langle \text{PP}[\text{by}]_{[1]} \right\rangle \end{array}$$

To sum up, in contrast to most meaning-driven alternations, valence alternations like the active/passive are modeled through the use of lexical rules that alter the ARG-ST of “base” entries. Which alternations pattern with active/passive and require positing lexical rules that alter a “base” entry’s ARG-ST list is, as of yet, not settled. We turn now to roles that are putatively present semantically, but not realized syntactically at all.

## 6 Extended ARG-ST

Most of this chapter focuses on cases where semantic roles linked to the ARG-ST list are arguments of the verb’s core meaning. But in quite a few cases, complements (or even subjects) of a verb are not part of this basic meaning; consequently, the ARG-ST list must be extended to include elements beyond the basic meaning. We consider three cases here, illustrated in (42)–(44).

Resultatives, illustrated in (42), express an effect, which is caused by an action of the type denoted by the basic meaning of the verb. The verb *fischen* ‘to fish’ is a simple intransitive verb (42a) that does not entail that any fish were caught, or any other specific effect of the fishing.

- (42) a. dass er fischt  
that he fishes  
'that he is fishing'
- b. dass er ihn leer fischt  
that he it empty fishes  
'that he is fishing it empty'
- c. wegen der Leerfischung der Nordsee  
because.of the empty.fishing of.the North.Sea.GEN  
'because of the North Sea being fished empty'

In (42b) we see a resultative construction, with an object NP and a secondary predicate AP. The meaning is that he is fishing, causing it (the body of water) to become empty of fish. Müller (2002) posits a German lexical rule applying to the verb that augments the ARG-ST list with an NP and AP, and adds the causal semantics to the CONTENT (see Wechsler (2005b) for a similar analysis of English

resultatives). The existence of deverbal nouns like *Leerfischung* ‘fishing empty’, which takes the body of water as an argument in genitive case (see 42c) confirms that the addition of the object is a lexical process, as noted by Müller (2002).

Romance clause-union structures as in (43) have long been analyzed as cases where the complements of the complements of a clause-union verb (*faire* in (43)) are complements of the clause-union verb itself (Aissen 1979).

- (43) Johanna a fait manger les enfants.  
 Johanna have made eat the children  
 ‘Johanna had the children eat.’

Within HPSG, the “union” of the two verbs’ dependents is modeled via the composition of ARG-ST lists of the clause union verb, following Hinrichs & Nakazawa (1994) (this is a slight simplification, see Chapter ?? for details).

Sentence (44) illustrates a slightly different point, namely that some semantic modifiers, such as *souvent* in (44), can be realized as complements, and thus should be added as members of ARG-ST (or members of the DEPS list if one countenances such an additional list).

- (44) Mes amis m’ ont souvent aidé.  
 My friends me have often helped  
 ‘My friends often helped me.’

Abeillé & Godard (1997) have argued that many adverbs including negative adverbs and negation in French are complements of the verb and Kim & Sag (2002) extended that view to some uses of negation in English. In contrast to resultatives, which affect the meaning of the verb, or to clause union, where one verb co-opts the argument structure of another verb, what is added to the ARG-ST list in these cases is typically considered a semantic adjunct and a modifier in HPSG (thus it selects the verb or VP via the MOD attribute).

Another case of an adjunct that behaves like a complement is found in (45). The clitic *en* expressing the cause of death is not normally an argument of the verb *mourir* ‘die’, but rather an adjunct (Koenig & Davis 2006):

- (45) Il en est mort  
 He of.it is dead.PERF.PAST  
 ‘He died of it’ (Koenig & Davis 2006, ex. 12a)

On the widespread assumption (at least within HPSG) that pronominal clitics are verbal affixes (see Miller & Sag 1997), the adjunct cause of the verb *mourir* must be

represented within the entry for *mourir*, so as to trigger affixation by *en*. Bouma, Malouf & Sag (2001) discuss such cases and other cases where “adverbials” as they call them, can be part of a verb’s lexical entry. To avoid mixing those adverbials with the argument structure list (and have to address their relative obliqueness with syntactic arguments of verbs), they introduce yet an additional list, the dependents list (abbreviated as DEPS) which includes the ARG-ST list but also a list of adverbials. Each adverbial selects for the verb on whose DEPS list it appears as argument, as shown in (46). But, of course, not all verb modifiers can be part of the DEPS list and Bouma, Malouf & Sag discuss at length some of the differences between the two kinds of “adverbials.”

$$(46) \quad \text{verb} \Rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} \text{CONT} | \text{KEY } [2] \\ \text{HEAD } [3] \\ \text{DEPS } [1] \oplus \text{list} \left[ \text{MOD } \left[ \begin{bmatrix} \text{HEAD } [3] \\ \text{key } [2] \end{bmatrix} \right] \right] \\ \text{ARG-ST } [1] \end{bmatrix}$$

Although the three cases we have outlined result in an extended ARG-ST, the ways in which this extension arises differ. In the case of resultatives, the extension results partly or wholly from changing the meaning in a way similar to Rappaport Hovav & Levin (1998): by adding a causal relation, the effect argument of this causal relation is added to the membership in the base ARG-ST list (see Section 5 for a definition of the attributes KEY and RELS; suffice it to say for now that a *cause-rel* is added to the list of relations that are the input of the rule). The entries of the clause union verbs are simply stipulated to include on their ARG-ST lists the syntactic arguments of their (lexical) verbal arguments. Finally, (negative) adverbs that select for a verb (VP) are added to the ARG-ST of the verb they select. A simplified representation of all three processes is provided in (47)-(49).

$$(47) \quad \begin{bmatrix} \text{KEY } [2] \\ \text{RELS } [1](...[2]...) \end{bmatrix} \mapsto \begin{bmatrix} \text{KEY } [3]\text{cause-rel} \\ \text{RELS } [1] \oplus [3] \end{bmatrix}$$

$$(48) \quad \begin{bmatrix} \text{ARG-ST } \left( \dots, \begin{bmatrix} \text{HEAD } \text{verb} \\ \text{ARG-ST } [1] \end{bmatrix} \right) \circ [1] \end{bmatrix}$$

$$(49) \quad [\text{ARG-ST } [1]] \mapsto [\text{ARG-ST } [1] \circ \langle \text{ADV}_{\text{neg}} \rangle]$$

## 7 Is ARG-ST universal?

In this section, we briefly consider the question of whether something akin to Figure 1 offers a satisfying account of the grammatical encoding of semantic ar-

guments across all languages. Because of its role in accounting for the syntax of basic clauses, the presence of an ARG-ST list on lexical entries comes with expectations about the syntactic realization of semantic roles. In recent work, Koenig & Michelson (2015) argue these expectations are not universally borne out, based on data from Oneida (Northern Iroquoian). The only grammatical reflex of semantic arguments in Oneida, they argue, is inflectional: the referencing of semantic arguments by so-called pronominal prefixes, which are better thought of as agreement markers à la Evans (2002). Koenig and Michelson distinguish between grammatical and syntactic arguments. Grammatical arguments include not only syntactic arguments (that is, those on ARG-ST) but also inflectional referencing of semantic roles. Some ordering analogous to linking in other languages is present in Oneida, because the semantic roles are not arbitrarily associated with agreement morphemes, but this can be captured in an ordered list of semantic indices , called INFL-STR in this proposal. INFL-STR is part of the morphological information relevant to word-internal inflectional processes, what Anderson (1992) calls ‘Morphosyntactic Representation’ in his treatment of Georgian agreement markers. The ordering of semantic indices on INFL-STR insures that the predicate is properly inflected. For example, the prefix *lak-* occurs if a third singular masculine proto-agent argument is acting on a first singular proto-patient argument as in *lak-hlo-lí-he?* ‘he tells me’ (habitual aspect), whereas the prefix *li-* occurs if a first singular proto-agent argument is acting on a third masculine singular argument, as in *li-hlo-lí-he?* ‘I tell him’ (habitual aspect).

In (50) and (51) we show the distinction between grammatical arguments realized as syntactic arguments (as in most languages) and those that are not (as in Oneida). Here, Koenig and Michelson follow the encoding of linking constraints as implicational constraints, as in Koenig & Davis (2003), although nothing critical hinges on that choice.

$$(50) \quad \left[ \begin{array}{c} \text{CONTENT} \\ \text{ARG-ST} \end{array} \left[ \begin{array}{c} \text{cause-rel} \\ \text{CAUSER } \boxed{1} \\ \langle \text{NP}, \dots \rangle \end{array} \right] \right] \Rightarrow \left[ \text{ARG-ST} \langle \text{NP}: \boxed{1}, \dots \rangle \right]$$

$$(51) \quad \left[ \begin{array}{c} \text{CONTENT} \\ \text{ARG-ST} \end{array} \left[ \begin{array}{c} \text{cause-rel} \\ \text{CAUSER } \boxed{1} \text{anim} \end{array} \right] \right] \Rightarrow \left[ \text{INFL-STR} \langle \boxed{1}, \dots \rangle \right]$$

(50) constrains the association between a cause and a *synsem* member of the ARG-ST list; (51) constrains the semantic *index* of the cause to be the first member of INFL-STR.

If a language like Oneida (Northern Iroquoian) only includes an ordering of semantic indices for inflectional purposes and constraints such as (51) and no

ARG-ST list, a number of predictions follow, which Koenig and Michelson claim are borne out. Briefly summarizing their evidence, the relation between semantic arguments and external phrases, when they occur, is not necessarily one of co-indexing, no binding constraints exist between external phrases (e.g., condition C violations can be found), there are no valence alternations, and no syntactic constraints on extraction. In other words, Oneida contains none of the evidence supporting the presence of an ARG-ST list and an ordering of syntactic arguments along an obliqueness hierarchy we have discussed in this chapter. The ARG-ST list may thus not a universal attribute of words, though present in the overwhelming majority of languages. Linking, understood as constraints between semantic roles and members of the ARG-ST list, is then but one possibility; constraints that relate semantic roles to an INFL-STR list of semantic indices is also an option. In languages that exclusively exploit that latter possibility, syntax is indeed simpler.

## 8 The lexical approach to argument structure

We end this chapter with a necessarily brief comparison between the approach to argument structure we describe in this chapter with other approaches to argument structure that have developed since the 1990's. This chapter describes a *lexical approach to argument structure*, which is typical of research in HPSG. The basic tenet of such approaches is that lexical items include argument structures, which represent essential information about potential argument selection and expression, but abstract away from the actual local phrasal structure. In contrast, *phrasal approaches*, which are common both in Construction Grammar and in transformational approaches such as Distributed Morphology, reject such lexical argument structures. Let us briefly review the reasons for preferring a lexical approach. (This section is drawn from Müller & Wechsler (2014b), which may be consulted for more detailed and extensive argumentation).

In phrasal approaches to argument structure, components of a verb's apparent meaning are actually 'constructional meaning' contributed directly by the phrasal structure. The linking constraints of the sort discussed above are then said to arise from the interaction of the verb meaning with the constructional meaning. For example, agentive arguments tend to be realized as subjects, not objects, of transitive verbs. On the theory presented above, that generalization is captured by the linking constraint (18), which states that the ACTOR argument of an *act-und-rel* ('actor-undergoer relation') is mapped to the initial item in the ARG-ST list. In a phrasal approach, the agentive semantics is directly associated with the subject position in the phrase structure. In transformational theories, a

silent ‘light verb’ (usually called ‘little *v*’) heads a projection in the phrase structure and assigns the agent role to its specifier (the subject). In constructional theories, the phrase structure itself assigns the agent role. In either type of phrasal approach, the agentive component of the verb meaning is actually expressed by the phrasal structure into which the verb is inserted.

The lexicalist’s predicate argument structure provides essential information for a verb’s potential combination with argument phrases. If a given lexical entry could only combine with the particular set of phrases specified in a single VALfeature, then the lexical and phrasal approaches would be difficult to distinguish: whatever information the lexicalist specifies for each VAllist item could, on the phrasal view, be specified instead for the phrases realizing those list items. But crucially, the verb need not immediately combine with its specified arguments. Alternatively it can meet other fates: it can serve as the input to a lexical rule; it can combine first with a modifier in an adjunction structure; it can be coordinated with another word with the same predicate argument structure; instead of being realized locally, one or more of its arguments can be effectively transferred to another head’s valence feature (raising or argument transfer); or arguments can be saved for expression in some other syntactic position (partial fronting). Here we consider two of these, lexical rules and coordination.

The predicate argument structure is abstract: it does not directly encode the phrase structure or precedence relations between this verb and its arguments. This abstraction captures the commonality across different syntactic expressions of the arguments of a given root.

- (52) a. The rabbits were nibbling the carrots.
- b. The carrots were being nibbled (by the rabbits).
- c. a large, partly nibbled, orange carrot
- d. the quiet, nibbling, old rabbits
- e. the rabbit’s nibbling of the carrots
- f. The rabbit gave the carrot a nibble.
- g. The rabbit wants a nibble (on the carrot).
- h. The rabbit nibbled the carrot smooth.

Verbs undergo morpholexical operations like passive (52d), as well as antipassive, causative, and applicative in other languages. They have cognates in other parts of speech such as adjectives (52c,d) and nouns (52e,f,g). Verbs have been argued to form complex predicates with resultative secondary predicates (52h), and with serial verbs in other languages.

The same root lexical entry *nibble*, with the same meaning, appears in all of these contexts. The effects of lexical rules together with the rules of syntax dictate the proper argument expression in each context. For example, if we call the first two arguments in an ARG-ST list (such as the one in (52) above) Arg1 and Arg2, respectively, then in an active transitive sentence Arg1 is the subject and Arg2 the object; in the passive, Arg2 is the subject and the referential index of Arg1 is optionally assigned to a *by*-phrase. The same rules of syntax dictate the position of the subject, whether the verb is active or passive. When adjectives are derived from verbal participles, whether active (*a nibbling rabbit*) or passive (*a nibbled carrot*), the rule is that whichever role would have been expressed as the subject of the verb is assigned by the participial adjective to the referent of the noun that it modifies, see [Bresnan \(1982\)](#) and [Bresnan et al. \(2015: Chapter 3\)](#). The phrasal approach, in which the agent role is assigned to the subject position, is too rigid.

Nor could this be solved by associating each syntactic environment with a different meaningful phrasal construction: an active construction with agent role in the subject position; a passive construction with agent in the *by*-phrase position; etc. The problem for that view is that that one lexical rule can feed another. In the example above, the output of the verbal passive rule (see (52d)) feeds the adjective formation rule (see (52e)).

A verb can also be coordinated with another verb with the same valence requirements. The two verbs then share their dependents. This causes problems for the phrasal view, especially when a given dependent receives different semantic roles from the two verbs. For example, in an influential phrasal analysis, [Hale & Keyser \(1993\)](#) derived denominal verbs like *to saddle* through noun incorporation out of a structure akin to [PUT a saddle ON x]. Verbs with this putative derivation routinely coordinate and share dependents with verbs of other types:

- (53) Realizing the dire results of such a capture and that he was the only one to prevent it, he quickly [saddled and mounted] his trusted horse and with a grim determination began a journey that would become legendary.<sup>4</sup>

Under the phrasal analysis the two verbs place contradictory demands on a single phrase structure. But on the lexical analysis, this is simple V<sup>0</sup> coordination.

To summarize, a lexical argument structure is an abstraction or generalization over various occurrences of the verb in syntactic contexts. To be sure, one key use of that argument structure is simply to indicate what sort of phrases the verb must (or can) combine with, and the result of semantic composition; if that were

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<sup>4</sup>[http://www.jouetthouse.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=56&Itemid=63](http://www.jouetthouse.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=56&Itemid=63), 21.07.2012

the whole story then the phrasal theory would be viable. But it is not. As it turns out, this lexical valence structure, once abstracted, can alternatively be used in other ways: among other possibilities, the verb (crucially including its valence structure) can be coordinated with other verbs that have a similar valence structure; or it can serve as the input to lexical rules specifying a new word bearing a systematic relation to the input word. The phrasal approach prematurely commits to a single phrasal position for the realization of a semantic argument. In contrast, a lexical argument structure gives a word the appropriate flexibility to account for the full range of expressions found in natural language.

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# Chapter 10

## Constituent order

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This chapter discusses local ordering variants and how they can be analyzed in HPSG. So-called scrambling, the local reordering of arguments of a head, can be accounted for by assuming flat rules or binary branching rules with arbitrary order of saturation. The difference between SVO and SOV is explained by assuming different mappings between the argument structure list (a list containing all arguments of a head) and valence features for subjects and complements. The position of the finite verb in initial or final position in languages like German can be accounted for by flat rules and a separation between immediate dominance and linear precedence information or by something analogous to head-movement in transformational approaches. The chapter also addresses the analysis of languages allowing even more freedom than just scrambling arguments. It is shown how one such language, namely Warlpiri, can be analyzed with so-called constituent order domains allowing for discontinuous constituents. I discuss problems of domain-based approaches and provide an alternative account of Warlpiri that does not rely on discontinuous constituents.

### 1 Introduction

This chapter deals with constituent order, with a focus on local order variants. English is the language that is treated most thoroughly in theoretical linguistics but is probably also a rather uninteresting language as far as the possibilities of reordering constituents is concerned: the order of subject, verb, and object is fixed in sentences like (1):

- (1) Kim likes bagels.

Of course, there is the possibility to front the object as in (2) but this is a special, non-local construction that is not the topic of this chapter but is treated in [Borsley & Crysmann \(2019\)](#), Chapter 14 of this volume.



- (2) Bagels, Kim likes.

This chapter deals with scrambling (the local reordering of arguments) and with alternative placements of heads (called *head movement* in some theories). Examples of the former are the subordinate clauses in (3) and an example of the latter is given in (4):

- (3) a. [weil] der Mann dem Kind das Buch gibt (German)  
because the.NOM man the.DAT child the.ACC book gives
- b. [weil] der Mann das Buch dem Kind gibt  
because the.NOM man the.ACC book the.DAT child gives
- c. [weil] das Buch der Mann dem Kind gibt  
because the.ACC book the.NOM man the.DAT child gives
- d. [weil] das Buch dem Kind der Mann gibt  
because the.ACC book the.DAT child the.NOM man gives
- e. [weil] dem Kind der Mann das Buch gibt  
because the.DAT child the.NOM man the.ACC book gives
- f. [weil] dem Kind das Buch der Mann gibt  
because the.DAT child the.ACC book the.NOM man gives
- (4) Gibt der Mann dem Kind das Buch? (German)  
gives the.NOM man the.DAT child the.ACC book  
'Does the man give the child the book?'

(3) shows that in addition to the unmarked order in (3a) (see Höhle (1982) on the notion of unmarked order), five other argument orders are possible in sentences with three-place verbs. As with the examples just given, I will use German if a phenomenon does not exist in English. Section 6.2 discusses examples from Warlpiri, a language having even freer constituent order.

(4) shows that the verb is placed in initial position in questions in German. This contrasts with the verb-final order in the subordinate clause in (3a), which has the same order as far as the arguments are concerned. This alternation of verb placement is usually treated as head movement in the transformational literature (Bach 1962; Bierwisch 1963: 34; Reis 1974; Thiersch 1978: Chapter 1). Declarative main clauses in German are V2 clauses and the respective fronting of the pre-verbal constituent is usually treated as a non-local dependency (see Borsley & Crysmann (2019), Chapter 14 of this volume). Hence, V2 sentences will not be handled here.

The following sections explore the theoretical options within the HPSG framework for dealing with these phenomena. I first discuss the separation of grammar rules into an immediate dominance part and a linear precedence component in Section 2 and then flat vs. binary branching structures (Section 3). While flat structures allow verbs to be ordered clause-finally or clause-initially, this is not the case for binary branching structures, since only sisters can be ordered. So, for (3a) one would get the bracketing in (5a). If *das Buch* ‘the book’ and *gibt* ‘gives’ are ordered in a different order, (5b) results.

- (5) a. [weil] [der Mann [dem Kind [das Buch gibt]]]  
because the.NOM man the.DAT child the.ACC book gives
- b. \* [weil] [der Mann [dem Kind [gibt das Buch]]]  
because the.NOM man the.DAT child gives the.ACC book

Hence, local reordering is not sufficient to get clause-initial verb order and therefore, proposals with binary branching structures are usually paired with HPSG’s analogue of what is head-movement in transformational theories. These are explained in Section 5. Section 6 introduces an extension to standard HPSG developed by Reape (1994): constituent order domains. Such constituent order domains allow for discontinuous constituents and have been used to account for languages like Warlipri (Donohue & Sag 1999). In contrast, Section 7 shows how such languages can be analyzed without admitting discontinuous constituents.

## 2 ID/LP format

HPSG was developed out of Generalized Phrase Structure Grammar (GPSG) and Categorial Grammar. The ideas concerning linearization of daughters in a local tree were taken over from GPSG (Gazdar, Klein, Pullum & Sag 1985). In GPSG a separation between immediate dominance and linear precedence is assumed. So, while in classical phrase structure grammar, a phrase structure rule like (6) states that the NP[nom], NP[dat] and NP[acc] have to appear in exactly this order, this is not the case in GPSG and HPSG:

- (6)  $S \rightarrow NP[nom] \ NP[dat] \ NP[acc] \ V$

The HPSG schemata corresponding to the immediate dominance rule (ID rule) in (6) do not express information about ordering. Instead, there are separate linear precedence (LP) rules (also called linearization rules). A schema like (6) licenses 24 different orders: the six permutations of the three arguments that were shown in (3) and all possible placements of the verb (to the right of NP[acc], between

NP[dat] and NP[acc], between NP[nom] and NP[dat], to the left of NP[nom]). Orders like NP[nom], NP[dat], V, NP[acc] are not attested in German and hence these orderings have to be filtered out. This is done by linearization rules, which can refer to features or to the function of a daughter in a schema. (7) shows some examples of linearization rules:

- (7) a.  $X < V$   
 b.  $X < V[\text{INI}-]$   
 c.  $X < \text{Head } [\text{INI}-]$

The first rule says that all constituents have to precede a V in the local tree. The second rule says that all constituents have to precede a V that has the INITIAL value  $-$ . One option to analyze German would be the one that was suggested by Uszkoreit (1987) within the framework of GPSG: one could allow for two linearization variants of finite verbs. So in addition to the  $\text{INI}-$  variant of verbs there could be a  $\text{INI}+$  variant and this variant would be linearized initially. This reduces the number of permutations licensed by (6) and LP rules to 12: verb-initial placement and 6 permutations of the NPs and verb-final placement with 6 permutations of the arguments. The ID rule in (6) together with the two linearization rules linearizing the verb in initial or final position therefore licenses the same orders as the following twelve phrase structure rules would do:

- (8) a.  $S \rightarrow \text{NP[nom]} \text{ NP[acc]} \text{ NP[dat]} \text{ V}$   
 $S \rightarrow \text{NP[nom]} \text{ NP[dat]} \text{ NP[acc]} \text{ V}$   
 $S \rightarrow \text{NP[acc]} \text{ NP[nom]} \text{ NP[dat]} \text{ V}$   
 $S \rightarrow \text{NP[acc]} \text{ NP[dat]} \text{ NP[nom]} \text{ V}$   
 $S \rightarrow \text{NP[dat]} \text{ NP[nom]} \text{ NP[acc]} \text{ V}$   
 $S \rightarrow \text{NP[dat]} \text{ NP[acc]} \text{ NP[nom]} \text{ V}$
- b.  $S \rightarrow V \text{ NP[nom]} \text{ NP[acc]} \text{ NP[dat]}$   
 $S \rightarrow V \text{ NP[nom]} \text{ NP[dat]} \text{ NP[acc]}$   
 $S \rightarrow V \text{ NP[acc]} \text{ NP[nom]} \text{ NP[dat]}$   
 $S \rightarrow V \text{ NP[acc]} \text{ NP[dat]} \text{ NP[nom]}$   
 $S \rightarrow V \text{ NP[dat]} \text{ NP[nom]} \text{ NP[acc]}$   
 $S \rightarrow V \text{ NP[dat]} \text{ NP[acc]} \text{ NP[nom]}$

Note that we do not need a linearization rule for every ID rule. For example, in a grammar with rules for intransitive, transitive, and ditransitive verbs, head ordering is taken care of by general LP rules of the type in (7b) applying to the respective ID rules. The LP rule in (7c) is even more general than (7b) in that it does not mention the part of speech but instead refers to the function of the

constituent. The rule says that a head that has the `INI` value ‘–’ has to be linearized to the right of all other elements in the local tree. Hence, it also applies to adjectives, nouns, and prepositions and their dependents.

This treatment of constraints on linearization has an advantage that was already pointed out by researchers working in GPSG: it captures the generalizations regarding linearization. For instance, the order of verbs with respect to their arguments is the same in embedded sentences in German, independent of the finiteness of the verb:

- (9) a. dass er dem Mann das Buch gab  
that he.NOM the.DAT man the.ACC book gave  
‘that he gave the man the book’
- b. dass er versucht, [dem Mann das Buch zu geben]  
that he.NOM tried the.DAT man the.ACC book to give  
‘that he tried to give the man the book’

This is also true for the relative order of dative and accusative object in (9). The constraints regarding linearization hold across rules. By factoring these constraints out, the generalizations can be captured. See [Uszkoreit \(1987\)](#) for weighted constraints for the ordering of constituents in the *Mittelfeld*.

Furthermore, cross-linguistic generalizations about constituent structure can be captured. For example, the two phrase structure rules in (10) would be needed for head-initial and head-final languages, respectively:

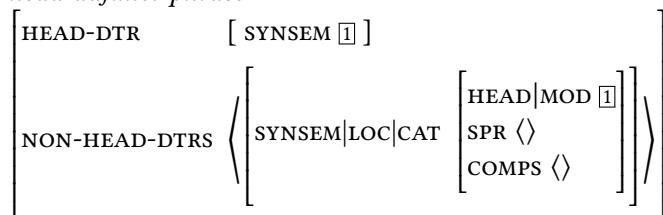
- (10) a.  $VP \rightarrow V NP NP$
- b.  $VP \rightarrow NP NP V$

In an ID/LP framework only one ID rule is needed to describe both sorts of languages. The linearization of the head is factored out of the rules.

Similarly, HPSG has just one schema for Head-Adjunct structures, although languages like English allow adjuncts to precede or follow the head they modify. Schema 1 does not say anything about the order of the daughters.

### Schema 1 (Head-Adjunct Schema)

*head-adjunct-phrase*  $\Rightarrow$



There is a head daughter and a list of non-head daughters. The respective daughters are specified as the value of a feature or as an element in a list but they are not ordered with respect to each other in the schema. Ordering is taken care of by two LP rules saying that adjuncts marked as pre-modifiers (e.g., attributive adjectives) have to precede their head while those that are marked as post-modifiers (noun-modifying prepositions) follow it:

- (11) a. Adjunct[PRE-MODIFIER +] < Head  
 b. Head < Adjunct[PRE-MODIFIER -]

In general, there are two options for two daughters: head-initial and head-final order. Examples are given in (12):<sup>1</sup>

- (12) a. head-initial: example:
- |  |   |
|--|---|
| $\begin{bmatrix} \text{PHON} & [1] \oplus [2] \\ \text{HEAD-DTR} & \left[ \begin{bmatrix} \text{PHON } [1] \end{bmatrix} \right] \\ \text{NH-DTRS} & \left( \left[ \begin{bmatrix} \text{PHON } [2] \end{bmatrix} \right] \right) \end{bmatrix}$ | $\begin{bmatrix} \text{PHON} & \langle \text{squirrel}, \text{from}, \text{America} \rangle \\ \text{HEAD-DTR} & \left[ \begin{bmatrix} \text{PHON } \langle \text{squirrel} \rangle \end{bmatrix} \right] \\ \text{NH-DTRS} & \left( \left[ \begin{bmatrix} \text{PHON } \langle \text{from, America} \rangle \end{bmatrix} \right] \right) \end{bmatrix}$ |
|--|---|
- b. head-final: example:
- |  |  |
|--|--|
| $\begin{bmatrix} \text{PHON} & [2] \oplus [1] \\ \text{HEAD-DTR} & \left[ \begin{bmatrix} \text{PHON } [1] \end{bmatrix} \right] \\ \text{NH-DTRS} & \left( \left[ \begin{bmatrix} \text{PHON } [2] \end{bmatrix} \right] \right) \end{bmatrix}$ | $\begin{bmatrix} \text{PHON} & \langle \text{grey}, \text{squirrel} \rangle \\ \text{HEAD-DTR} & \left[ \begin{bmatrix} \text{PHON } \langle \text{squirrel} \rangle \end{bmatrix} \right] \\ \text{NH-DTRS} & \left( \left[ \begin{bmatrix} \text{PHON } \langle \text{grey} \rangle \end{bmatrix} \right] \right) \end{bmatrix}$ |
|--|--|

When linearization rules enforce head-initial order, as in the case of modification by a PP in English, the PHON value of the head daughter is concatenated with the PHON value of the non-head daughter, and if the order has to be the other way around as in the case of adjectives modifying nouns, the non-head daughter is concatenated with the head daughter. An adjective is specified as PRE-MODIFIER + and a preposition as PRE-MODIFIER -. Since these features are head-features (see **chapters/wherever** Chapter ?? of this volume on head features), they are also accessible at the level of adjective phrases and prepositional phrases.

For languages with free variation in head-adjunct order, it would suffice to not state any LP rule and one would get both orders with the same Head-Adjunct schema. So, the separation of immediate dominance and linear precedence allows for an underspecification of order. Therefore HPSG grammarians are not forced

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<sup>1</sup>⊕ (append) is a relational constraint that concatenates two lists.

to assume several different constructions for attested patterns or derivational processes that derive one order from another more basic one.

### 3 Flat and binary branching structures

The previous section discussed LP rules and used flat phrase structure rules for illustration. The corresponding flat structures are also used in HPSG. Schema 2 shows a Head-Complement schema that combines a head with all the complements selected via the COMPS list.<sup>2</sup>

#### Schema 2 (Head-Complement Schema)

*head-complement-phrase*  $\Rightarrow$

SYNSEM LOC CAT COMPS ⟨ ⟩	HEAD-DTR
HEAD-DTR [ SYNSEM LOC CAT COMPS ① ]	
NON-HEAD-DTRS synsem2signs(①)	

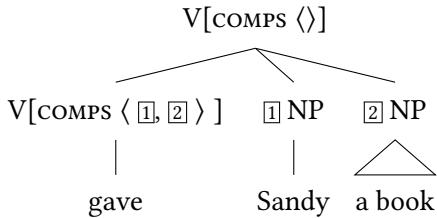
*synsem2signs* is a relational constraint mapping a list of *synsem* objects as they are contained in the *COMPS* list onto a list of objects of type *sign* as they are contained in daughters (see Ginzburg & Sag 2000: 34 for a similar proposal).<sup>3</sup> How this schema can be used to analyze VPs like the one in (13) is shown in Figure 1.

- (13) Kim gave Sandy a book.

HPSG differs from purely phrase structure-based approaches in that the form of a linguistic object is not simply the concatenation of the forms associated with the terminal symbols in a tree (words or morphemes). Every linguistic object has its own phonology representation. So in principle one could design theories in which the combination of *Mickey Mouse* and *sleeps* is pronounced as *Donald*

<sup>2</sup>Ginzburg & Sag (2000: 4) assume a list called DTRS for all daughters including the head daughter. It is useful to be able to refer to specific non-head daughters without having to know a position in a list. For example in head-adjunct structures the adjunct is the selector. So I keep DTRS for a list of ordered daughters and HEAD-DTR and NON-HEAD-DTRS for material that is not necessarily ordered.

<sup>3</sup>In Sign-Based Construction Grammar the objects in valence lists are of the same type as the daughters. A relational constraint would not be needed in this variant of the HPSG theory. Theories working with a binary branching Head-Complement Schema as Schema 3 on page 278 would not need the relational constraint either, since the *synsem* object in the *COMPS* list can be shared with the *SYNSEM* value of the element in the list of non-head daughters directly.

Figure 1: Analysis of the VP *gave Sandy a book* with a flat structure

*Duck laughs.* Of course, this is not done. The computation of the PHON value of the mother is dependent of the PHON values of the daughters. But the fact that the PHON values of a linguistic sign are not necessarily a strict concatenation of the PHON values of the daughters can be used to model languages having a less strict order than English. Pollard & Sag (1987: 168) formulate the Constituent Order Principle, which is given as Principle 1 in adapted form:

### Principle 1 (Constituent Order Principle)

$$\text{phrase} \Rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} \text{PHON order-constituents}(\boxed{1}) \\ \text{DTRS } \boxed{1} \end{bmatrix}$$

DTRS is a list of all daughters including the head daughter (if there is one). This setting makes it possible to have the daughters in the order in which the elements are ordered in the COMPS list (primary object, secondary object, and obliques) and then compute a PHON value in which the secondary object precedes the primary object. French is a language with freer constituent order than English and such flat structures with appropriate reorderings are suggested by Abeillé & Godard (2000). For English the function `order-constituents` would just return a concatenation of the PHON values of the daughters, but for other languages it would be much more complicated. In fact this function and its interaction with linear precedence constraints was never worked out in detail.

Researchers working on English and French usually assume a flat structure (Pollard & Sag 1994: 39–40, 362; Sag 1997: 479; Ginzburg & Sag 2000: 34; Abeillé & Godard 2000) but assuming binary branching structures would be possible as well, as is clear from analyses in Categorial Grammar, where binary combinatory rules are assumed (Ajdukiewicz 1935; Steedman 2000). For languages like German it is usually assumed that structures are binary branching (but see Reape 1994: 156 and Bouma & van Noord 1998: 51). The reason for this is that adverbials

can be placed anywhere between the arguments, as the following example from Uszkoreit (1987: 145) shows:

- (14) *Gestern hatte in der Mittagspause der Vorarbeiter in der Werkzeugkammer dem Lehrling aus Boshaftigkeit langsam zehn schmierige Gußeisenscheiben unbemerkt in die Hosentasche gesteckt.*  
yesterday had during the lunch.break the foreman in the tool.shop the apprentice maliciously slowly ten greasy cast.iron.disks unnoticed in the pocket put  
‘Yesterday during the lunch break, the foreman maliciously put ten greasy cast iron disks slowly into the apprentice’s pocket unnoticed.’

A way to straightforwardly analyze adjunct placement in German and Dutch is to assume that adjuncts can attach to any verbal projection. For example, Figure 2 shows the analysis of (15):

- (15) *weil deshalb jemand gestern dem Kind schnell das Buch gab*  
because therefore somebody yesteray the child quickly the book gave  
‘because somebody quickly gave the child the book yesterday’

The adverbials *deshalb* ‘therefore’, *gestern* ‘yesterday’ and *schnell* ‘quickly’ may attach to any verbal projection. For example, *gestern* could also be placed at the other adjunct positions in the clause.

Binary branching structures with attachment of adjuncts to any verbal projection also account for recursion and hence the fact that arbitrarily many adjuncts can attach to a verbal projection. Of course it is possible to formulate analyses with flat structures that involve arbitrarily many adjuncts (Kasper 1994; van Noord & Bouma 1994; Abeillé & Godard 2000; Bouma et al. 2001), but these analyses involve relational constraints in schemata or in lexical items or an infinite lexicon. In Kasper’s analysis, the relational constraints walk through lists of daughters of unbounded length in order to compute the semantics. In the other three analyses, (some) adjuncts are treated as valents, which may be problematic because of scope issues. This cannot be dealt with in detail here, but see Levine & Hukari (2006) and Chaves (2009) for discussion.

The following schema licenses binary branching head-complement phrases:

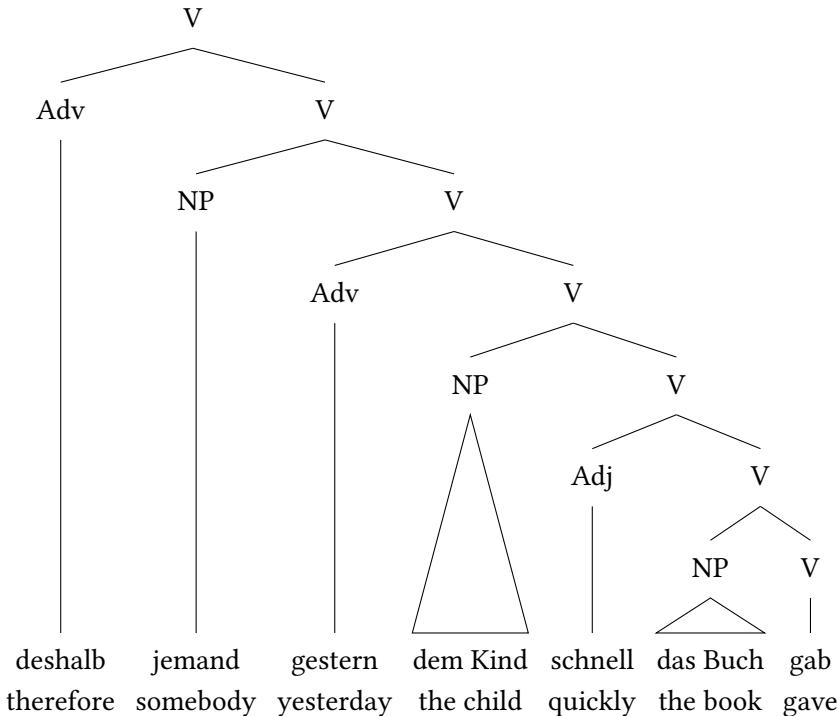


Figure 2: Analysis of [ *weil* ] *deshalb jemand gestern dem Kind schnell das Buch gab* ‘because somebody quickly gave the child the book yesterday’ with binary branching structures

### Schema 3 (Head-Complement Schema (binary branching))

*head-complement-phrase*  $\Rightarrow$

$$\begin{cases} \text{SYNSEM}|\text{LOC}|\text{CAT}|\text{COMPS } \boxed{1} \oplus \boxed{2} \\ \text{HEAD-DTR} & \left[ \text{SYNSEM}|\text{LOC}|\text{CAT}|\text{COMPS } \boxed{1} \oplus \langle \boxed{3} \rangle \oplus \boxed{2} \right] \\ \text{NON-HEAD-DTRS} & \left\langle \left[ \text{SYNSEM } \boxed{3} \right] \right\rangle \end{cases}$$

The COMPS list of the head daughter is split into three lists: a beginning ( $\boxed{1}$ ), a list containing  $\boxed{3}$  and a rest ( $\boxed{2}$ ).  $\boxed{3}$  is identified with the SYNSEM value of the non-head daughter. All other elements of the COMPS list of the head daughter are concatenated and the result of this concatenation ( $\boxed{1} \oplus \boxed{2}$ ) is the COMPS list of the mother node. This schema is very general. It works for languages that allow for scrambling, since it allows an arbitrary element to be taken out of the

COMPS list of the head daughter and realize it in a local tree. The schema can also be “parameterized” to account for languages with fixed word order. For head-final languages with fixed order,  $\boxed{2}$  would be the empty list (= combination with the last element in the list) and for head-initial languages with fixed order (e.g., English),  $\boxed{1}$  would be the empty list (= combination with the first element in the list). Since the elements in the COMPS list are ordered in the order of Obliqueness (Keenan & Comrie 1977; Pullum 1977) and since this order corresponds to the order in which the complements are serialized in English, the example in (13) can be analyzed as in Figure 3.<sup>4</sup> The second tree in the figure is the German

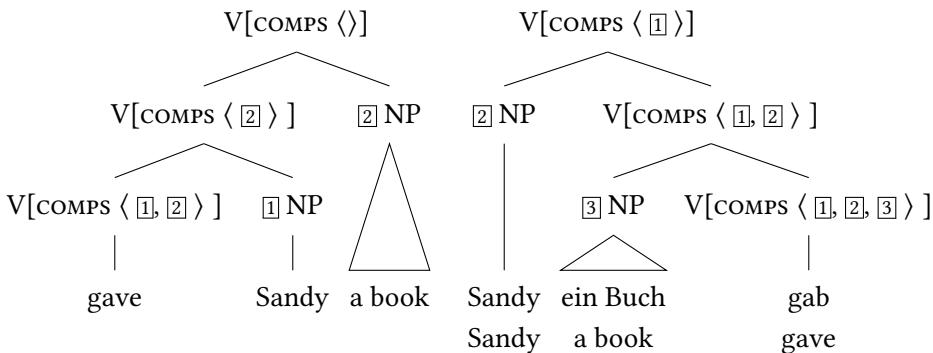


Figure 3: Analysis of the English VP *gave Sandy a book* and the corresponding German verbal projection *Sandy ein Buch gab* with binary branching structures

counterpart of *gave Sandy a book*: the finite verb in final position with its two objects in normal order. Section 4 explains why SOV languages like German and Japanese contain their subject in the COMPS list while SVO languages like English and Romance languages do not.

The alternative to using relational constraints as in Schema 3 is to use sets rather than lists for the representation of valence information (Gunji 1986; Hinrichs & Nakazawa 1989; Pollard 1996; Engelkamp, Erbach & Uszkoreit 1992). The Head-Complement Schema would combine the head with one of its complements. Since the elements of a set are not ordered, any complement can be taken

<sup>4</sup>This structure may seem strange to those working in Mainstream Generative Grammar (MGG, GB/Minimalism). In MGG, different branchings are assumed, since the form of the tree plays a role in Binding Theory. This is not the case in HPSG: Binding is done on the ARG-ST list. See Branco (2019), Chapter 21 of this volume for a discussion of HPSG’s Binding Theory and Borsley & Müller (2019a), Chapter 32 of this volume for a comparison between HPSG and Minimalism.

and hence all permutations of complements are accounted for.

The disadvantage of set-based approaches is that sets do not impose an order on their members, but an order is needed for various subtheories of HPSG (see [Przeipiorkowski \(2019\)](#), Chapter 7 of this volume on case assignment, and [Branco \(2019\)](#), Chapter 21 of this volume on Binding Theory). In the approach proposed above and in [Müller \(2003b; 2015a,b\)](#), the valence lists are ordered but the schema allows for combination with any element of the list. For valence representation and the order of elements in valence lists see [Wechsler, Koenig & Davis \(2019\)](#), Chapter 9 of this volume.

## 4 SVO vs. SOV

The careful reader will have noticed that the COMPS list of *gave* in Figure 3 contains the two objects, while its German counterpart *gab* has three elements in the COMPS list. The rationale behind this is explained in this section.

In principle, one could assume a rule like (6) for SVO languages like English as well. The SVO order would then be accounted for by linearization rules stating that NP[*nom*] precedes the finite verb while other arguments follow it. This would get the facts about simple sentences like (16a) right but leaves the analysis of (16c) open.

- (16) a. Peter reads books.  
      b. Peter often read books.

The generalization about languages like English is that adverbials can attach to the left or to the right of verbs with their objects, that is, to the left or to the right of the VP. Researchers like [Borsley \(1987\)](#) argued that subjects, specifiers, and complements differ in crucial ways and should be represented by special (valence) features. For example, the subject of the VP *to read more books* is not realized but is referred to in Control Theory ([Abeillé 2019](#), Chapter 13 of this volume).

- (17) Peter tries to read more books.

The subject in English main clauses is similar to the determiner in nominal structures, so one way of expressing this similarity is by using the same valence features and the same schema for subject-VP combinations as for determiner-noun combinations.<sup>5</sup> The schema is given here as Schema 4:

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<sup>5</sup>This is non-standard in HPSG. Usually the SUBJECT feature is used for subjects and SPR for

#### Schema 4 (Specifier-Head Schema)

*specifier-head-phrase* ⇒

$$\left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{SYNSEM} | \text{LOC} | \text{CAT} | \text{SPR } \boxed{1} \\ \text{HEAD-DTR} | \text{SYNSEM} | \text{LOC} | \text{CAT} \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{SPR } \boxed{1} \oplus \langle \boxed{2} \rangle \\ \text{COMPS } \langle \rangle \end{array} \right] \\ \text{NON-HEAD-DTRS} \left( \left[ \text{SYNSEM } \boxed{2} \right] \right) \end{array} \right]$$

The last element of the SPR list is realized as the non-head daughter. The remaining list is passed up to the mother node. Note that the non-head daughter is taken from the end of the SPR list. For heads that have exactly one specifier this difference is irrelevant, but in the analysis of object shift in Danish suggested by Müller & Ørsnes (2013), the authors assume multiple specifiers and hence the difference in order of combination is relevant. The head-daughter must have an empty COMPS list. This way it is ensured that verbs form a unit with their objects (the VP) and the subject is combined with the VP, rather than the subject combining with a lexical verb and this combination combining with objects later.

The analysis of the sentence in (18) including the analysis of the NP is given in Figure 4.

- (18) Kim gave Sandy a book.

For German, it is standardly assumed that the subjects of finite verbs are treated like complements (Pollard 1996: 295–296, Kiss 1995: 80) and hence are represented at the COMPS list (as in Figure 3). The assumption that arguments of finite verbs are complements is also made by researchers working in different research traditions (e.g. Eisenberg 1994: 376). By assuming that the subject is listed among the complements of a verb it is explained why it can be placed in any position before, between, and after them. So in summary, German differs from English in the way the arguments are distributed on the valence lists, on the one hand in order to capture the similarity in English between combinations of subjects with VPs and determiners with nouns, and on the other hand to allow German the flexible constituent order it needs. However, HPSG has a more basic representation in which the languages do behave the same: the argument structure represented at the ARG-ST list. The ARG-ST list contains *synsem* objects and is used

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determiners. I follow the German HPSG tradition and use SUBJ for unexpressed subjects. See also Eynde (2019), Chapter 8 of this volume for alternative analyses of nominal structures that do not assume a selection of the determiner by the noun.

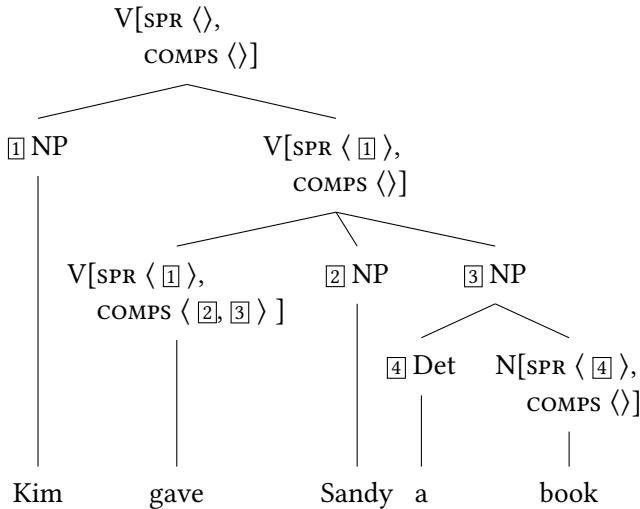


Figure 4: Analysis of *Kim gave Sandy a book* with SPR and COMPS feature and a flat VP structure

for linking (Wechsler, Koenig & Davis 2019, Chapter 9 of this volume), case assignment (Przepiórkowski 2019, Chapter 7 of this volume), and binding (Branco 2019, Chapter 21 of this volume). Ditransitive verbs in German and English have three NP arguments on their ARG-ST and they are linked in the same way to the semantic representation (Müller 2018). (19) shows the mapping from ARG-ST to SPR and COMPS:

(19)	<i>gives</i> (English, SVO language):	<i>gibt</i> (German, SOV language):
	$\begin{bmatrix} \text{SPR} & \langle ① \rangle \\ \text{COMPS} & ② \\ \text{ARG-ST} & \langle ① \text{ NP} \rangle \oplus ② \langle \text{NP}, \text{NP} \rangle \end{bmatrix}$	$\begin{bmatrix} \text{SPR} & \langle \rangle \\ \text{COMPS} & ① \\ \text{ARG-ST} & ① \langle \text{NP}, \text{NP}, \text{NP} \rangle \end{bmatrix}$

In SVO languages, the first element of the ARG-ST list is mapped to SPR and all others to COMPS and in languages without designated subject positions all ARG-ST elements are mapped to COMPS.

Having explained scrambling in HPSG and the order of subjects in SVO languages, I now turn to “head movement”.

## 5 Head movement vs. constructional approaches assuming flat structures

The Germanic languages signal the clause type by verb position. All Germanic languages with the exception of English are V2 languages: the finite verb is in second position in declarative main clauses. The first position can be filled by any other constituent, for example a subject, objects, or adverbials. (20) shows an example from the V2 language German and its English translation.

- (20) Eigentlich mag ich Katzen sehr. (German)  
 actually like I cats really  
 'I actually really like cats.'

The fronted material is not necessarily from the matrix clause, clause boundary crossing non-local dependencies are possible. The same holds for questions with *w* phrases.

Yes/no questions are formed by putting the verb in initial position:

- (21) Magst du Katzen? (German)  
 like you cats  
 'Do you like cats?'

English is a so-called *residual V2 language*, that is, there are some constructions that are parallel to what is known from V2 languages. For example, while declarative clauses are in base order (SVO), questions follow the pattern that is known from other Germanic languages with the finite verb in second position.<sup>6</sup>

- (22) What<sub>i</sub> will Kim read \_<sub>i</sub>?

Analyses assuming flat structures (or flat linearization domains, see Section 6) usually treat alternative orders of verbs in Germanic languages as linearization variants (Reape 1994; Kathol 2001; Müller 1995; 2003b; Bjerre 2006), but this is not necessarily so, as Bouma and van Noord's analysis of Dutch clauses show (Bouma & van Noord 1998: 62, 71). The alternative to verb placement as linearization is something that is similar to verb movement in Government & Binding: an empty element takes the position of the verb in its canonical position and the

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<sup>6</sup>SVO is not V2 although the verb is in second position in SVO sentences. Languages can be categorized into SOV, SVO, VSO, OSV, OVS, and VOS languages and into V2 or non-V2 languages. These two dimensions are independent. For example, Danish is an SVO language that is V2, while German is SOV and V2 (Haider 2019). See Müller (2019) for discussion and the analysis of this variation in HPSG.

verb is realized in initial or – if something is realized before the finite verb – in second position. The following subsection deals with such approaches in more detail. Subsection 5.2 deals with a constructional approach.

## 5.1 Head movement approaches

Building on work by Jacobson (1987) in the framework of Categorial Grammar, Borsley (1989) showed that in addition to the analysis of auxiliary inversion in English that was suggested in GPSG (Gazdar et al. 1985), an analysis that is similar to the movement-based analysis in GB is possible in HPSG as well. Head movement analyses in GPSG and HPSG are concerned with the verb placement in pairs such as the one in (23) rather than with adverb placement as in GB analyses by Pollock (1989) and Cinque (1999).

- (23) a. Will Kim get the job?  
b. Kim will get the job.

The technique that is used in Borsley's analysis is basically the same that was developed by Gazdar81 for the treatment of nonlocal dependencies in GPSG. An empty category is assumed and the information about the missing element is passed up the tree until it is bound off at an appropriate place (that is, by the fronted verb). Note that the heading of this section contains the term *head movement* and I talk about traces, but it is not the case that something is actually moved. There is no underlying structure with a verb that is transformed into one with the verb fronted and a remaining trace in the original position of the verb. Instead, the empty element is a normal element in the lexicon and can function as the verb in the respective position. The analysis of (23a) is shown in Figure 5. A special variant of the auxiliary is licensed by a unary rule. The unary rule has as a daughter the auxiliary as it appears in canonical SVO order as in (23b). It licenses an auxiliary selecting a full clause in which the daughter auxiliary (with the LOCAL value [2]) is missing. The fact that the auxiliary is missing is represented as the value of DOUBLE SLASH (DSL). The value of DSL is a *local* object, that is, something that contains syntactic and semantic information ([2] in Figure 5). DSL is a head feature and hence available everywhere along a projection path (see Borsley & Abeillé (2019), Chapter 1 of this volume for the Head Feature Principle). The empty element for head movement is rather simple:

check reference to  
Chapter 1.

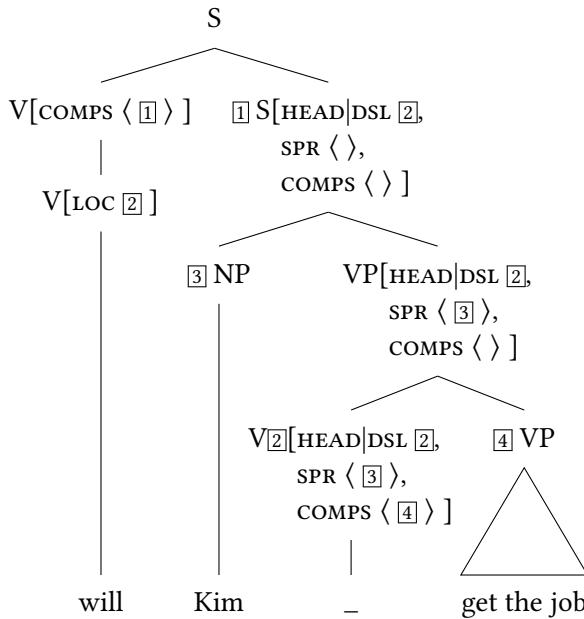


Figure 5: Analysis of English auxiliary constructions as head-movement following Borsley (1989)

- (24) empty element for head movement:

<i>word</i>	$\langle \rangle$
PHON	$\langle \rangle$
SYNSEM LOC	$\boxed{1} \left[ \text{CAT HEAD DSL } \boxed{1} \right]$

It states that there is an empty element that has the local requirements that correspond to its DSL value. For cases of verb movement it says: I am a verb that is missing itself.

Such head-movement analyses are assumed by most researchers working on German (Kiss & Wesche 1991: Section 4.7; Oliva 1992; Netter 1992; Kiss 1993; Frank 1994; Kiss 1995; Feldhaus 1997, Meurers 2000; Müller 2005a; 2017) and also by Bouma & van Noord (1998: 62, 71) in their work on Dutch, by Müller & Ørsnes (2015) in their grammar of Danish and by Müller (2019) for Germanic in general.

## 5.2 Constructional approaches

The alternative to head-movement-based approaches is a flat analysis with an alternative serialization of the verb. This was already discussed with respect to German, but I want to discuss English auxiliary constructions here, since they have figured prominently in linguistic discussions.<sup>7</sup> In the analysis of (25) shown in Figure 6, the auxiliary *did* selects for the subject *Kim* and a VP *get the job*.

- (25) Did Kim get the job?

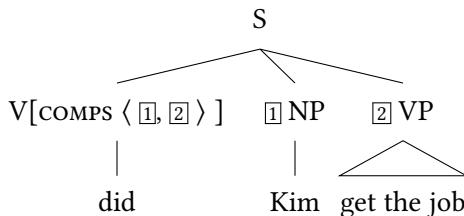


Figure 6: Analysis of English auxiliary constructions according to Sag et al. (2020)

The tree in Figure 6 is licensed by a schema combining a head with its subject ([1]) and its VP complement ([2]) in one go.<sup>8</sup> As has been common in HPSG since the mid-1990s (Sag 1997), phrasal schemata are organized in type hierarchies and the general schema for auxiliary-initial constructions has the type *aux-initial-cxt*. Fillmore (1999) and Sag et al. (2020) argue that there are various usages of auxiliary-initial constructions and assign the respective usages to subconstructions of the general auxiliary-initial construction. Technically this amounts to stating subtypes of *aux-initial-cxt*. For example, Sag et al. (2020) posit a subtype *polar-int-cl* for polar interrogatives like (26a) and another subtype *auxinitial-excl-cl* for exclamatives like (26b).

- (26) a. Are they crazy?  
b. Are they crazy!

Chomsky (2010) compared the various clause types used in HPSG with the – according to him – much simpler Merge-based analysis in Minimalism. Minimal-

<sup>7</sup>For a discussion including French verb placement see Abeillé & Godard (1997) and Kim & Sag (2002).

<sup>8</sup>An alternative is to assume a separate valence feature for the subject (SUBJ) and a schema that combines the head with the element in the SUBJ list and the elements in the COMPS list (Ginzburg & Sag 2000: 36).

ism assumes just one very general schema for combination (External Merge is basically equivalent to our Schema 3 above, see Müller (2013)), so this rule for combining linguistic objects is very simple, but this does not help in any way when considering the facts: there are at least five different meanings associated with auxiliary initial clauses (polar interrogative, blessings/curses, negative imperative, exclamatives, conditionals) and these have to be captured somewhere in a grammar. One way is to state them in a type hierarchy as is done in some HPSG analyses and in Sign-Based Construction Grammar (SBCG), another way is to use implicational constraints that assign meaning with respect to actual configurations (see Section 5.3), and a third way is to do everything lexically. The only option for Minimalism is the lexical one. This means that Minimalism has to either assume as many lexical items for auxiliaries as there are types in HPSG or to assume empty heads that contribute the meaning that is contributed by the phrasal schemata in HPSG (Borsley 2006: Section 5; Borsley & Müller 2019b). The latter proposal is generally assumed in Cartographic approaches (Rizzi 1997). Since there is a fixed configuration of functional projections that contribute semantics, one could term these Rizzi-style analyses *Crypto-Constructional*.

Having discussed a lexical approach involving an empty element and a phrasal approach that can account for the various meanings of auxiliary inversion constructions, I turn now to a mixed approach in the next section and show how the various meanings associated with certain patterns can be integrated into accounts with rather abstract schemata for combinations like the one described in Section 5.1.

### 5.3 Mixed approaches

The situation with respect to clause types is similar in German. Verb first sentences can be yes/no questions (27a), imperatives (27b), conditional clauses (27c), and declarative sentences with topic drop (27d).

- (27) a. Kommt Peter? (German)  
comes Peter  
‘Is Peter coming?’
- b. Komm!  
come
- c. Kommt Peter, komme ich nicht.  
comes Peter come I not  
‘If Peter comes, I won’t come.’

- d. Kommt. (Was ist mit Peter?)  
comes what is with Peter  
'What about Peter?' 'He is coming.'

Verb second sentences can be questions (28a), declarative sentences (28b), or imperatives (28c).

- (28) a. Wer kommt? (German)  
who comes
- b. Peter kommt.  
Peter comes
- c. Jetzt komm!  
now come  
'Come now!'

While one could try and capture this situation by assuming surface order-related clause types, such approaches are rarely used in HPSG (but see [Kathol \(2001\)](#) and [Wetta \(2011\)](#), and see Section 6.4.2 on why such approaches are doomed to failure). Rather, researchers assumed binary branching head-complement structures together with verb movement (for references see the end of Section 5.1).<sup>9</sup>

As was explained in Section 5.1, the head movement approaches are based on lexical rules or unary projections. These license new linguistic objects that could contribute the respective semantics. In analogy to what [Borsley \(2006\)](#) has discussed with respect to extraction structures, this would mean that one needs seven versions of fronted verbs to handle the seven cases in (27) and (28), which would correspond to the seven phrasal types that would have to be stipulated in phrasal approaches. But there is a way out of this: one can assume one lexical item with underspecified semantics. HPSG makes it possible to use implicational constraints referring to a structure in which an item occurs. Depending on the context, the semantics contributed by a specific item can be further specified. Figure 7 shows the construction-based and the lexical-rule-based analysis in the abstract for comparison. In the construction-based analysis, the daughters contribute  $x$  and  $y$  as semantic values and the whole construction adds the construction meaning  $f$ . In the lexical-rule- or unary-projection-based analysis, the lexical rule/unary projection adds the  $f$  and the output of the rule is combined compositionally with the other daughter. Now, implicational constraints can be used to determine the exact contribution of the lexical item ([Müller 2016](#)). This

<sup>9</sup>I assumed linearization domains (see Section 6) for ten years and then switched to the head-movement approach ([Müller 2005a,b; 2017](#)).

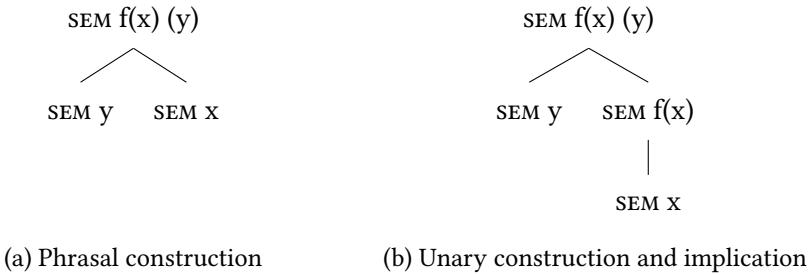


Figure 7: Construction-based, phrasal approach and approach with implicational constraint

is shown with the example of a question in Figure 8. The implication says: when

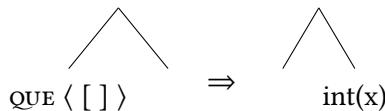


Figure 8: Implication for interrogative sentences

the configuration has the form that there is a question pronoun in the left daughter, the output of the lexical rule gets question semantics. Since HPSG represents all linguistic information in the same attribute value matrix (AVM), such implicational constraints can refer to intonation as well and hence, implications for establishing the right semantics for V1 questions (27a) vs. V1 conditionals (27c) can be formulated.

## 6 Constituent order domains and linearization

There is an interesting extension to standard HPSG that opens up possibilities for analyses that are quite different from what is usually done in theoretical linguistics: Mike Reape (1991; 1992; 1994) working on German suggested formal tools that allow for the modeling of discontinuous constituents.<sup>10</sup> His original motivation was to account for scrambling of arguments of verbs forming verbal complexes, but this analysis was superseded by Hinrichs and Nakazawa's analysis (Hinrichs & Nakazawa 1989; 1994) since purely linearization-based approaches

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<sup>10</sup>See also Wells (1947), Dowty (1996), and Blevins (1994) for proposals assuming discontinuous constituents in other frameworks.

are unable to account for agreement and the so-called remote passive (Kathol 1998: Section 5.1, Section 5.2; Müller 1999: Chapter 21.1). Nevertheless, Reape's work was taken up by others and was used for analyzing German (Kathol & Pollard 1995; Kathol 2000; Müller 1995; 1996; 2004; Wetta 2011; 2014). As will be discussed below in Section 6.4, there were reasons for abandoning linearization-based analyses of German assuming discontinuous constituents (Müller 2005b; 2017) but constituent order domains still play a major role in analyzing ellipsis (Nykiel & Kim 2019, Chapter 20 of this volume) and coordination (Abeillé & Chaves 2019, Chapter 17 of this volume). Bonami, Godard & Marandin (1999) show that complex predicate formation does not account for subject-verb inversion in French and suggest a domain-based approach. Bonami & Godard (2007), also working on French, treat sentential adverbs in a domain-based approach.

## 6.1 A special representational layer for constituent order

The technique that is used to model discontinuous constituents in frameworks like HPSG goes back to Mike Reape's work on German (1991; 1992; 1994). Reape uses a list called DOMAIN to represent the daughters of a sign in the order in which they appear at the surface of an utterance. (29) shows an example in which the DOM value of a headed-phrase is computed from the DOM value of the head and the list of non-head daughters.

$$(29) \quad \text{headed-phrase} \Rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} \text{HEAD-DTR} | \text{DOM } \boxed{1} \\ \text{NON-HEAD-DTRS } \boxed{2} \\ \text{DOM} & \boxed{1} \bigcirc \boxed{2} \end{bmatrix}$$

The symbol '○' stands for the *shuffle* relation. *shuffle* relates three lists A, B and C iff C contains all elements from A and B and the order of the elements in A and the order of the elements of B is preserved in C. (30) shows the combination of two sets with two elements each:

$$(30) \quad \langle a, b \rangle \bigcirc \langle c, d \rangle = \langle a, b, c, d \rangle \vee \\ \langle a, c, b, d \rangle \vee \\ \langle a, c, d, b \rangle \vee \\ \langle c, a, b, d \rangle \vee \\ \langle c, a, d, b \rangle \vee \\ \langle c, d, a, b \rangle$$

The result is a disjunction of six lists. *a* is ordered before *b* and *c* before *d* in all of these lists, since this is also the case in the two lists  $\langle a, b \rangle$  and  $\langle c, d \rangle$  that have

been combined. But apart from this, *b* can be placed before, between, or after *c* and *d*.

On the linearization-based approach, every word comes with a domain value that is a list that contains the word itself:

- (31) Domain contribution of single words, here *gibt* ‘gives’:

$$\boxed{1} \left[ \begin{array}{ll} \text{PHON} & \langle \text{gibt} \rangle \\ \text{SYNSEM} & \dots \\ \text{DOM} & \langle \boxed{1} \rangle \end{array} \right]$$

The description in (31) may seem strange at first glance, since it is cyclic, but it can be understood as a statement saying that *gibt* contributes itself to the items that occur in linearization domains.

The constraint in (32) is responsible for the determination of the PHON values of phrases:

$$(32) \text{ phrase} \Rightarrow \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{PHON } \boxed{1} \oplus \dots \oplus \boxed{n} \\ \text{DOM } \left\langle \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{sign} \\ \text{PHON } \boxed{1} \end{array} \right], \dots, \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{sign} \\ \text{PHON } \boxed{n} \end{array} \right] \right\rangle \end{array} \right]$$

It states that the PHON value of a sign is the concatenation of the PHON values of its DOMAIN elements. Since the order of the DOMAIN elements corresponds to their surface order, this is the obvious way to determine the PHON value of the whole linguistic object.

Figure 9 shows how this machinery can be used to license binary branching structures with discontinuous constituents in the sentence *dass dem Kind ein Mann das Buch gibt* ‘that a man gives the child the book’. Words or word sequences that are separated by commas stand for separate domain objects, that is,  $\langle \text{das}, \text{Buch} \rangle$  contains the two objects *das* and *Buch* and  $\langle \text{das Buch}, \text{gibt} \rangle$  contains the two objects *das Buch* and *gibt*. The important point to note here is that the arguments in the tree are combined with the head in the order accusative, dative, nominative, although the elements in the constituent order domain (i.e. in the list of DOMAIN elements and in the surface sentence) are realized in the order dative, nominative, accusative, rather than nominative, dative, accusative, which is what one might expect based on the order in which they are combined in the tree. This is possible since the formulation of the computation of the DOM value using the shuffle operator allows for discontinuous constituents. The node for *dem Kind das Buch gibt* ‘the child the book gives’ is discontinuous: *ein Mann*

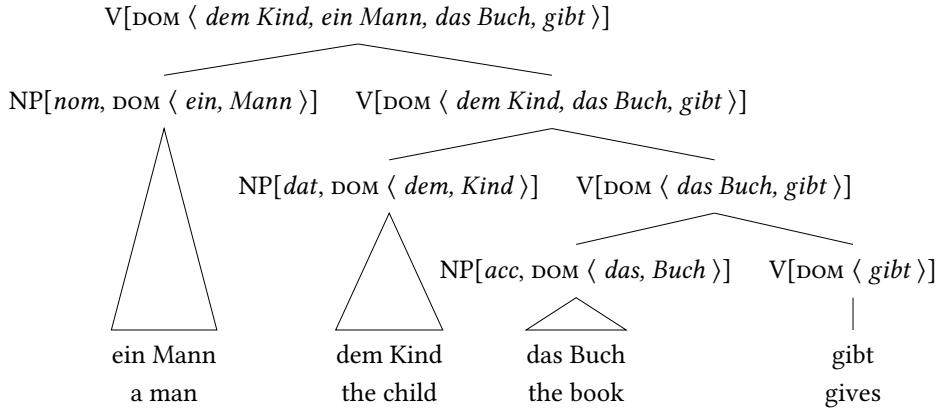


Figure 9: Analysis of *dass dem Kind ein Mann das Buch gibt* ‘that a man gives the child the book’ with binary branching structures and discontinuous constituents. The tree shows the order of combination, which does not correspond to the linearization of the DOMAIN objects.

‘a man’ is inserted into the domain between *dem Kind* ‘the child’ and *das Buch* ‘the book’. This is more obvious in Figure 10, which has a serialization of NPs that corresponds to their order.

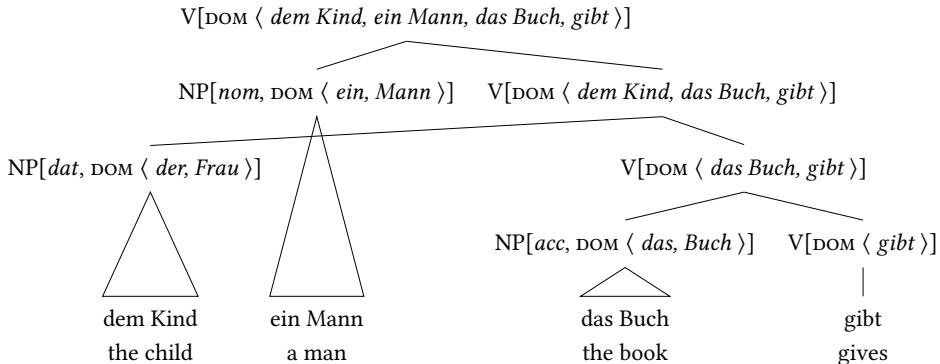


Figure 10: Analysis of *dass dem Kind ein Mann das Buch gibt* ‘that a man gives the child the book’ with binary branching structures and discontinuous constituents, more clearly showing the discontinuity

## 6.2 Absolutely free

While German is more striking than English in terms of constituent order, languages like Warlpiri are even more so, since they have much freer constituent order. In Warlpiri the auxiliary has to be in first or in second position (Donohue & Sag 1999: 8), but apart from this, even parts of what are noun phrases in German and English can appear separated from each other. For example, the two parts of the NP *Kurdujarrarlu witajarrarlu* ‘child small’ may appear discontinuously since they are marked with the same case:

- (33) Kurdu-jarra-rlu ka-pala maliki wajili.pi-nyi wita-jarra-rlu.  
 child-DU-ERG PRES-3DU.SBJ dog.ABS chase-NPST small-DU-ERG  
 ‘Two small children are chasing the dog.’ or  
 ‘Two children are chasing the dog and they are small.’

Donohue & Sag (1999) develop an analysis for this that simply liberates domain elements and inserts them into the next higher domain. (34) shows how this is formalized:

- (34) *liberating-phrase*  $\Rightarrow$
- $$\begin{cases} \text{DOM} & \delta_0 \bigcirc \delta_1 \bigcirc \dots \bigcirc \delta_n \\ \text{HEAD-DTR} & \left[ \text{DOM } \delta_0 \right] \\ \text{NON-HEAD-DTRS} & \left( \left[ \text{DOM } \delta_1 \right], \dots, \left[ \text{DOM } \delta_n \right] \right) \end{cases}$$

Rather than inserting the complete daughters into the domain of the mother as in (29), the DOM values of the daughters are shuffled into the domain of the mothers. So instead of having the NPs in the same domain as the verb as in the German example in the previous section, one has all the parts of NPs in the next higher domain. Hence, a single nominal element being placed in front of the auxiliary in second position is explained without difficulty. Figure 11 shows Donohue & Sag’s (1999) analysis of a version of (33) with the VP constituents *maliki wajilipinyi* ‘dog chase’ serialized after *witajarrarlu* ‘small’. Here *Kurdujarrarlu* ‘child’ and *witajarrarlu* ‘small’ form an NP. They contribute two independent domain objects (1 and 3) to the domain of the mother. The second element in this domain has to be the auxiliary (2), 1 is realized initially and 3 follows the auxiliary.

We have seen so far an analysis that inserts complete objects into the domain of the mother (the analysis of German) and an analysis that inserts all domain objects of objects into the domain of the mother (the analysis of Warlpiri), and

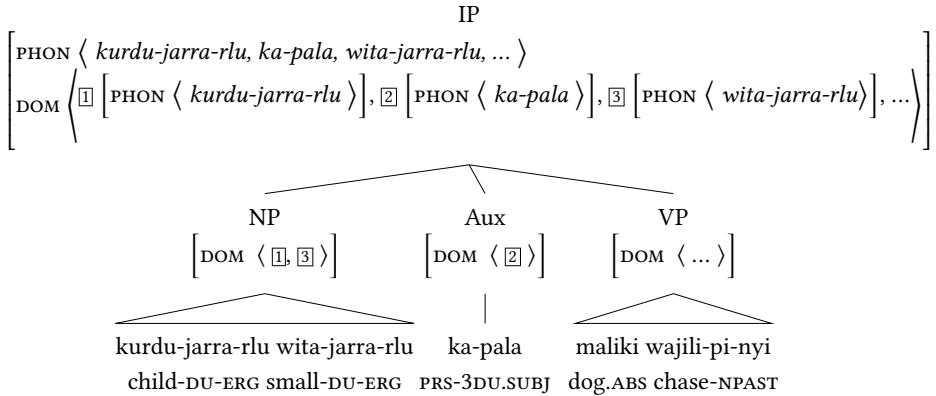


Figure 11: Analysis of free constituent order in Warlpiri according to Donohue & Sag (1999)

in the next subsection I want to look at an intermediate case, so-called *partial compaction*.

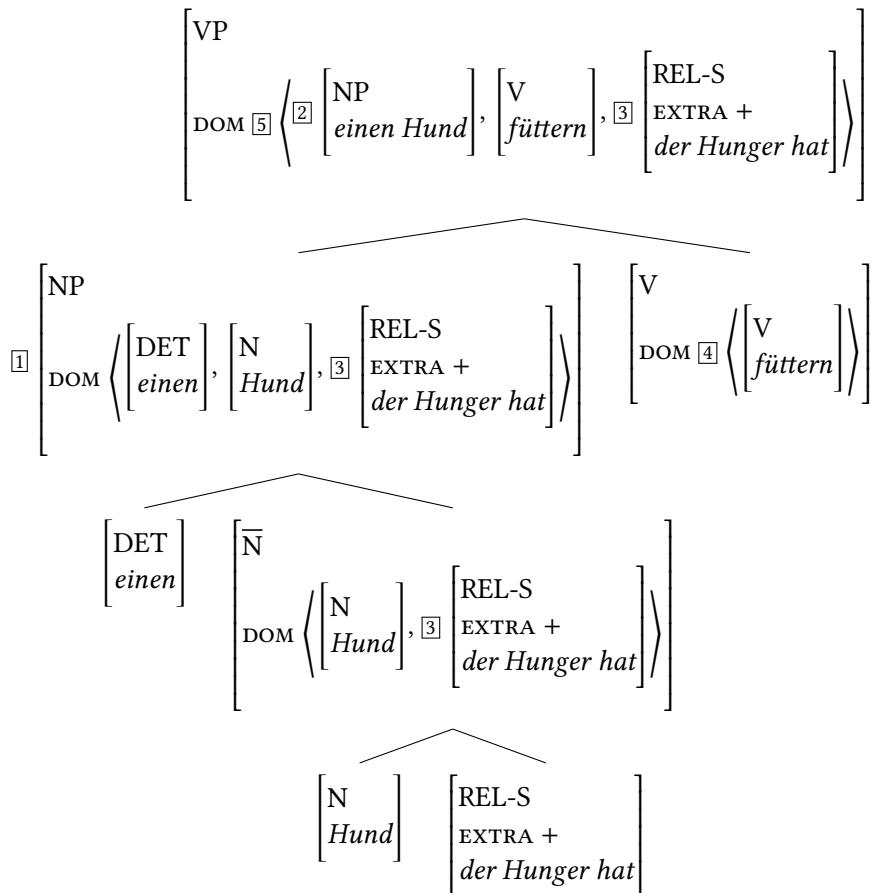
### 6.3 Partial compaction (extraposition)

Kathol & Pollard (1995) develop an analysis of extraposition that is a mix of the strategies discussed in the two previous subsections: most of one NP object is inserted into the domain of the mother as a single object, while only those parts that are extraposed are liberated and inserted as individual domain objects into the domain of the mother.<sup>11</sup> Kathol & Pollard's analysis of (35) is given in Figure 12.<sup>12</sup>

- (35) einen Hund füttern, der Hunger hat (German)  
 a dog feed that hunger has  
 'feed a dog that is hungry'

<sup>11</sup>This analysis of extraposition is not the only option available in HPSG. I explain it here since it shows the flexibility of the domain approach. The more common analysis of extraposition is one that is parallel to the SLASH-based approach to extraction that is explained in Borsley & Crysmann (2019), Chapter 14 of this volume. Since constraints regarding locality differ for fronting to the left and extraposition to the right, a different feature is used (EXTRA). See Keller (1995) and Müller (1999: Section 13.2) for discussion. More recent approaches assume the projection of semantic indices (Kiss 2005) to be able to solve puzzles like Link's (1984) hydra sentences and even more recent proposals mix index projection and EXTRA projection (Crysmann 2013).

<sup>12</sup>The figure is taken over from Kathol & Pollard. Words in italics are the object language. Part of speech or category labels are provided at the top of AVMs.



p-compaction([1], [2], ⟨ [3] ⟩)

$$[5] = \langle [2] \rangle \bigcirc \langle [3] \rangle \bigcirc [4]$$

Figure 12: Analysis of extraposition via partial compaction of domain objects according to [Kathol & Pollard \(1995\)](#)

*einen Hund, der Hunger hat* ‘a dog who is hungry’ consists of three domain objects: *einen* ‘a’, *Hund* ‘dog’, and *der Hunger hat* ‘who is hungry’. The two initial ones are inserted as one object (the NP *ein Hund* ‘a dog’) into the higher domain and the relative clause is liberated. While the formation of the new domain at the mother node is relatively straightforward in the cases discussed so far, a complex relational constraint is needed to split the relative clause ([3]) from the other domain objects and construct a new domain object that has the determiner and the noun as constituents ([2]). Kathol and Pollard have a relational constraint called

*compaction* that builds new domain objects for insertion into higher domains. *partial compaction* takes an initial part of a domain and forms a new domain object from this, returning the remaining domain objects for separate insertion into the higher domain. Due to space limitations, this constraint will not be discussed here, but see Müller (1999: 244) for a refined version of Kathol and Pollard's constraint. The effect of partial compaction in Figure 12 is that there is a new object [2] and a list containing the remaining objects, in the example ⟨[3]⟩. A list containing the new object ⟨[2]⟩ and the list containing the remaining objects ⟨[3]⟩ are shuffled with the domain list of the head [4]. Since the relative clause is now in the same domain as the verb, it can be serialized to the right of the verb.

So, this subsection showed how examples like (35) can be analyzed by allowing for a discontinuous constituent consisting of an NP and a relative clause. Rather than liberating all daughters and inserting them into the domain of the mother node as in the Warlpiri example, determiner and noun form a new object, an NP, and the newly created NP and the relative clause are inserted into the domain of the mother node. This explains why determiner and noun have to stay together while the relative clause may be serialized further to the right.

## 6.4 Problems with order domains

Constituent order domains may seem rather straightforward since linearization facts can be handled easily. I assumed constituent order domains and discontinuous constituents for German myself for over a decade (Müller 1995; 2004). However, there are some problems that seem to suggest that a traditional GB-like head-movement approach is the better alternative. In what follows I want to discuss just two problematic aspects of linearization approaches: spurious ambiguities and apparently multiple frontings.

### 6.4.1 Partial fronting and spurious ambiguities

Kathol (2000) suggests an analysis with binary branching structures in which all arguments are inserted into a linearization domain and can be serialized there in any order, provided no LP rule is violated. Normally one would have the elements of the COMPS list in a fixed order, combine the head with one element from the COMPS list after another, and let the freedom in the DOM list be responsible for the various attested orders. So, both sentences in (36) would have analyses in which the verb *erzählt* 'tells' is combined with *Geschichten* 'stories' first and then *Geschichten erzählt* 'stories tells' is combined with *den Wählern* 'the voters'. Since

the verb and all its arguments are in the same linearization domain they can be ordered in any way, including the two possibilities in (36):

- (36) a. weil er den Wählern Geschichten erzählt (German)  
       because he the voters stories tells  
       ‘because he tells the voters stories’  
   b. weil er Geschichten den Wählern erzählt  
       because he stories the voters tells

The problem with this approach is that examples like (37) show that grammars have to account for fronted combinations of any of the verb and any of its objects to the exclusion of the other:

- (37) a. Geschichten erzählen sollte man den Wählern nicht. (German)  
       stories tell should one the voters not  
       ‘One should not tell the voters such stories.’  
   b. Den Wählern erzählen sollte man diese Geschichten nicht.  
       the voters tell should one these stories not

Kathol (2000: Section 8.9) accounts for examples like (37) by relaxing the order of the objects in the valence list. He uses the shuffle operator in the valence representation:

- (38)  $\langle \text{NP}[nom] \rangle \oplus (\langle \text{NP}[dat] \rangle \bigcirc \langle \text{NP}[acc] \rangle)$

This solves the problem with examples like (37) but it introduces a new one: sentences like (36) now have two analyses each. One is the analysis we had before and another one is the one in which *den Wählern* ‘the voters’ is combined with *erzählt* ‘tells’ first and the result is then combined with *Geschichten* ‘stories’. Since both objects are inserted into the same linearization domain, both orders can be derived. So we have too much freedom: freedom in linearization and freedom in the order of combination. The proposal that I suggested in Müller (2005a: Section 2.1; 2017: Section 2.2.1) and which is implemented in Schema 3 above has just the freedom in the order of combination and hence can account for both (36) and (37) without spurious ambiguities.

#### 6.4.2 Surface order, clause types, fields within fields, and empty elements

Kathol (2001) develops an analysis of German that uses constituent order domains and determines the clause types on the basis of the order of elements in such domains. He suggests the topological fields 1, 2, 3, and 4, which correspond to the traditional topological fields *Vorfeld* ‘prefield’, *linke Satzklammer*

‘left sentence bracket’, *Mittelfeld* ‘middle field’, *rechte Satzklammer* ‘right sentence bracket’. Domain objects may be assigned to these fields, and they are then ordered by linearization constraints stating that objects assigned to 1 have to precede objects of type 2, type 3, and type 4. Objects of type 2 have to precede type 3, and type 4 and so on. For the *Vorfeld* and the left sentence bracket, he stipulates uniqueness constraints saying that at most one constituent may be of this type. This can be stated in a nice way by using the linearization constraints in (39):

- (39) a.  $1 < 1$   
      b.  $2 < 2$

This trick was first suggested by [Gazdar et al. \(1985: 55, Fn. 3\)](#) in the framework of GPSG and it works because, if there were two objects of type 1, then each one would be required to precede the other one, resulting in a violation of the linearization constraint. So in order to avoid such constraint violation there must not be more than one 1.

[Kathol \(2001\)](#) assumes the following definition for V2 clauses:

$$(40) \quad V2\text{-clause} \Rightarrow \underset{\text{DOM}}{\left[ \begin{matrix} S[fin] \\ [1], \left[ \begin{matrix} 2 \\ V[fin] \end{matrix} \right], \dots \end{matrix} \right]}$$

This says that the constituent order domain starts with one element assigned to field 1, followed by another domain object assigned to field 2. While this is in accordance with general wisdom about German, which is a V2 language, there are problems for entirely surface-based theories: German allows for multiple constituents in front of the finite verb. (41) shows some examples:

- (41) a. [Zum zweiten Mal] [die Weltmeisterschaft] errang Clark 1965 ... <sup>13</sup>  
           to.the second time the world.championship won Clark 1965  
           ‘Clark won the world championship for the second time in 1965.’  
      b. [Dem Saft] [eine kräftige Farbe] geben Blutorangen. <sup>14</sup>  
           the.DAT juice a.ACC strong color give blood.oranges  
           ‘Blood oranges give the juice a strong color.’

<sup>13</sup>(Beneš 1971: 162)

<sup>14</sup>Bildhauer & Cook (2010) found this example in the *Deutsches Referenzkorpus* (DeReKo), hosted at Institut für Deutsche Sprache, Mannheim: <http://www.ids-mannheim.de/kl/projekte/korpora>, 2018-09-13.

Müller (2003a) extensively documents this phenomenon. The categories that can appear before the finite verb are almost unrestricted. Even subjects can be fronted together with other material (Bildhauer & Cook 2010: 72; Bildhauer 2011: 371). The empirical side of these apparent multiple frontings was further examined in the Collective Research Center 632, Project A6, and the claim that only constituents depending on the same verb can be fronted together (Fanselow 1993; Hoberg 1997: 1634) was confirmed (Müller 2017: Chapter 3). A further insight is that the linearization properties of the fronted material (NPs, PPs, adverbs, adjectives) correspond to the linearization properties they would have in the *Mittelfeld*. The example in (42) is even more interesting. It shows that there can be a right sentence bracket (the particle *los*) and an extraposed constituent (something following the particle: *damit*) before the finite verb (*geht* ‘goes’):

- (42) *Los damit geht es schon am 15. April.*<sup>15</sup> (German)  
 off there.with goes it PRT on 15. April  
 4 5 2 3 3 3  
 'The whole thing starts on April 15th.'

As far as topology is concerned, this sentence corresponds to sentences with VP-fronting and extraposition like the one in (43) discussed in Reis (1980: 82).

- (43) [Gewußt, daß du kommst,] haben wir schon seit langem. (German)  
known that you come have we PART since long  
'We have known for a while that you are coming.'

In (43) *gewußt*, *dass du kommst* ‘known that you come’ forms a VP in which *gewußt* is the right sentence bracket and *daß du kommst* ‘that you come’ is extraposed. We have the same situation in (42) with *los* ‘off’ and *damit* ‘there.with’, except that one would not want to claim that *damit* ‘there.with’ depends on *los* ‘off’.

In Kathol's system, *los* would be of type 4 and *damit* would have to be of type 5 (an additional type for extraposed items). Without any modification of the general system, we would get a 4 and a 5 ordered before a 2 (a right sentence bracket and a postfield preceding the left sentence bracket), something that is ruled out by Kathol's linearization constraints.

Müller (2002), still working in a domain-based framework, developed an analysis assuming an empty verbal head to explain the fact that the fronted constituents have to depend on the same verb and that there is a separate topological area that is independent of the remaining clause. So, *los* and *damit* are

<sup>15</sup>taz, 01.03.2002, p. 8.

domain objects within a larger domain object placed in the prefield. Wetta (2011) suggests an analysis in which two or more constituents are compacted into one domain object, so *los* and *damit* would form one object that is inserted into the domain containing the finite verb. However, this begs the question of what kind of object it is that is formed. Section 6.3 dealt with partial compaction of NPs. Some of the elements from an NP domain were liberated and other elements were fused into a new object that had the same category as the object containing all material, namely NP. But the situation with examples like (41) and (43) is quite different. We have a particle and a pronominal adverb in (43) and various other combinations of categories in the examples collected by Müller (2003a) and Bildhauer (2011). It would not make sense to claim that the fronted object is a particle or a pronominal adverb. Note that it is not an option to leave the category of the fronted object unspecified, since HPSG comes with the assumption that models of linguistic objects are total, that is, maximally specific (King 1999, see also Richter (2019), Chapter 3 of this volume). Leaving the category and valence properties of the item in the prefield unspecified would make such sentences infinitely ambiguous. Of course Wetta could state that the newly created object is a verbal projection, but this would just be stating the effect of the empty verbal head within a relational constraint, which I consider less principled than stating the empty element.

However, the empty verbal head that I stated as part of a linearization grammar in 2002 comes as a stipulation, since its only purpose in the grammar of German was to account for apparent multiple frontings. Müller (2005b; 2017) drops the linearization approach and assumes head-movement instead. The empty head that is used for accounting for the verb position in German can also be used to account for apparent multiple frontings. The analysis is sketched in (44):

- (44) a. [VP [Zum zweiten Mal] [die Weltmeisterschaft] \_V ]<sub>i</sub> errang  
           to.the second time the world.championship       won  
           Clark 1965 \_i \_j.  
           Clark 1965
- b. [VP *Los* \_V *damit*]<sub>i</sub>   *geht*<sub>j</sub> es schon am 15. April \_i \_j.  
       off      there.with goes it PRT   on 15. April  
       ‘The whole thing starts on the 15th April.’

Space precludes going into all the details here, but the analysis treats apparent multiple frontings parallel to partial verb phrase frontings. A lexical rule is used for multiple frontings which is a special case of the head-movement rule that was discussed in Section 5.1. So, apparent multiple frontings are analyzed with means

that are available to the grammar anyway. This analysis allows us to keep the insight that German is a V2 language and it also gets the same-clause constraint and the linearization of elements right. As for (44b): *los damit* ‘off there.with’ forms a verbal constituent placed in the *Vorfeld* and within this verbal domain, we have the topological fields that are needed: the right sentence bracket for the verbal particle and the verbal trace and the *Nachfeld* for *damit* ‘there.with’. See Müller (2005a,b; 2017) for details.

This paper so far has discussed the tools that have been suggested in HPSG to account for constituent order: flat vs. binary branching structures, linearization domains, head-movement via DSL. I showed that analyses of German relying on discontinuous constituents and constituent order domains are not without problems and that head-movement approaches with binary branching and continuous constituents can account for the data. I also demonstrated in Section 6.2 that languages like Warlpiri that allow for much freer constituent order than German can be accounted for in models allowing for discontinuous constituents. The following section discusses a proposal by Bender (2008) that shows that even languages like the Australian free constituent order languages can be handled without discontinuous constituents.

## 7 Free constituent order languages without order domains

Bender (2008) discusses the Australian language Wambaya and shows how phenomena parallel to those treated by Donohue & Sag (1999) can be handled without discontinuous constituents. Bender assumes that all arguments of a head are projected to higher nodes even when they are combined with the head; that is, arguments are not canceled off from valence lists. See also Meurers (1999); Przeźiórkowski (1999) and Müller (2008) for earlier non-cancellation approaches.<sup>16</sup> The example (33) from Section 6.2 can be recast with continuous constituents as shown in Figure 13. The figure shows that arguments are not removed from the valence representation after combination with the head. Rather they are marked as satisfied:  $\text{[]}$ . Since they are still in the representation, schemata may refer to them. Bender suggests a schema that identifies the MOD value of an element that could function as an adjunct in a normal head-adjunct structure with an element in the valence representation. In Figure 13, the MOD value of the second ergative nominal *wita-jarra-rlu* ‘small’ is identified with an argument of the auxiliary verb (1). The adjunct hence has access to the referential index of the argument and

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<sup>16</sup>Higginbotham (1985) and Winkler (1997) make similar suggestions with regard to the representation of theta roles.

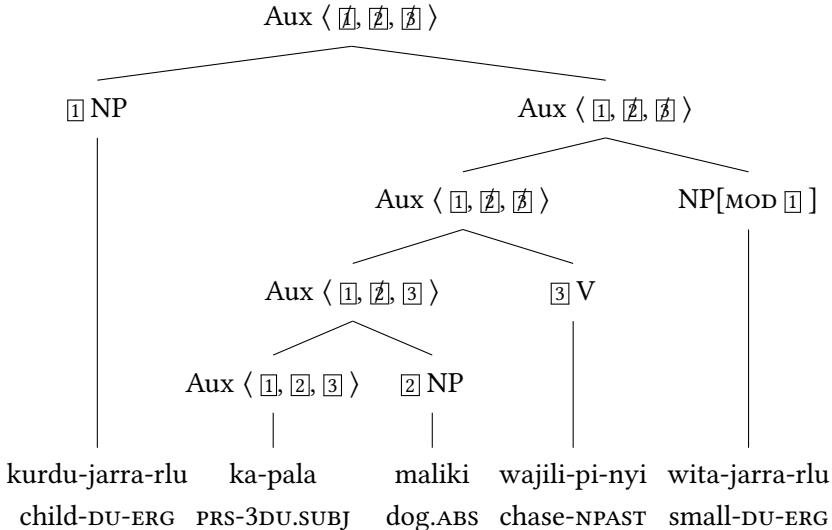


Figure 13: Analysis of free constituent order in Warlpiri using non-cancellation

it is therefore guaranteed that both parts of the noun phrase refer to the same discourse referent. The NP for *kurdu-jarra-rlu* is combined with the projection of the auxiliary to yield a complete sentence. Since [1] does not only contain the semantic index and hence information about number (the dual) but also case information, it is ensured that distributed noun phrases have to bear the same case. Since information about all arguments are projected along the head path, [2] would also be available for an adjunct referring to it. So in the place of *wita-jarra-rlu* ‘small-DU-ERG’ we could also have another adjunct referring to *maliki* ‘dog.ABS’. This shows that even languages with constituent order as free as the Australian languages can be handled within HPSG without assuming discontinuous constituents.

## 8 Summary

A major feature of constraint-based analyses is that when no constraints are stated, there is freedom. The paper discussed the order of head and adjunct: if the order of head and adjunct is not constrained, both orders are admitted.

This paper explored general approaches to constituent order in HPSG. On the one hand, there are approaches to constituent order assuming flat constituent

structure, allowing permutation of daughters as long as no LP constraint is violated. On the other hand, there are approaches assuming binary branching structures. Approaches that assume flat structures can serialize the head to the left or to the right or somewhere between other daughters in the structure. Approaches assuming binary branching have to use other means. One possibility is “head movement”, which is analyzed as a series of local dependencies by passing information about the missing head up along the head path. The alternative to head movement is linearization of elements in special linearization domains, allowing for discontinuous constituents. I showed that there are reasons for assuming head-movement for German and how even languages with extremely free constituent order can be analyzed without assuming discontinuous constituents.

There is also the work on heaviness and lightness, to account for the (reduced) mobility of various categories: bare nominals in various languages, certains pronouns (A&G 1999a), certains adverbs (AG2004a-u-French; Abeillé & Godard 1997), negation (Abeillé & Godard 2001), and attributive adjectives (AG99b-u-French). In various papers, Abeillé and Godard propose a three valued WEIGHT feature to account for light, middle-weight and heavy constituents (AG2004a-u-French; Abeillé & Godard 2000). The LP rules ususally apply to middle weight ones. The light/heavy distinction is also relevant for the Complex predicate chapter, but it should definitely be mentioned, maybe as a subsection or word order/constituent order since it is part of what LFG people call X° syntax.

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# Chapter 11

## Clitics

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## 1 Introduction

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Berthold Crysman & Gerald Penn. 2019. Clitics. In Stefan Müller, Anne Abeillé, Robert D. Borsley & Jean-Pierre Koenig (eds.), *Head-Driven Phrase Structure Grammar: The handbook*, 315–316. Berlin: Language Science Press.

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orci. Donec faucibus metus dui, nec iaculis purus pellentesque sit amet. Sed fermentum lorem non augue cursus, eu accumsan risus ullamcorper. Suspendisse rhoncus magna vitae enim pellentesque, eget porttitor quam finibus. Nunc ultricies turpis at quam vehicula, at tempus justo molestie. Proin convallis augue ut turpis cursus rhoncus. Donec sed convallis justo. Sed sed massa pharetra ex aliquet eleifend. finality

## **Abbreviations**

## **Acknowledgements**

# Chapter 12

## Complex predicates

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### 1 What are Complex Predicates?

#### 1.1 Definition

The term *complex predicate* does not have a universally accepted definition. In the HPSG tradition, a complex predicate (CP) is composed of two or more words, which are predicates, of which one is a verb, head of the construction, and the other belongs to diverse categories: non-finite verb, noun, adjective, preposition. Both predicates merge their argument structures: the head inherits the arguments of its complement.

To take an example, tense auxiliaries and the participle in Romance languages are two different words, since they can be separated by adverbs, as in (1), but



the two verbs belong to the same clause, and, more precisely, the syntactic arguments belong to one argument structure. We admit that the property of monoclausality can manifest itself differently in different languages ([Butt \(2010\)](#), *pace* [Haspelmath \(2016\)](#)). In the case of Romance auxiliary constructions, the first verb (the auxiliary) hosts the clitics which pronominalize the arguments of the main predicate: corresponding to the NP complement in (1a) the pronominal clitic *l(e)* is hosted by the auxiliary *a* (1b), (1c). This contrasts with the construction of a control verb such as *vouloir* ('to want') in French, where the clitic corresponding to the argument of the infinitive is hosted by the infinitive:

- (1) a. Paul a rapidement lu son livre. (French)  
‘Paul has quickly read his book.’
  - b. Paul l'a rapidement lu.  
Paul it-has quickly read
  - c. \* Paul a rapidement le-lu.
- (2) a. Paul veut lire son livre.  
‘Paul wants to read his book.’
  - b. Paul veut le lire.  
Paul wants to it-read
  - c. \* Paul le veut lire.<sup>1</sup>

Complex predicates are sometimes given a semantic definition: the two elements constitute one predicate which describes one situation. However, a semantic definition is not sufficient. It is true that the head verb tends to add tense, aspectual or modal information while the other element describes a situation type. Thus, in (1), the two verbs jointly describe one situation, the auxiliary adding tense and aspect information. But the semantics of a complex predicate is not always different from that of ordinary verbal complements. Thus, there is no evident semantic distinction depending on whether the Italian restructuring verb *volere* ('want') is the head of a complex predicate (3a) or not (3b).

- (3) a. Anna lo vuole comprare. (Italian, [Monachesi 1998](#))  
Anna it wants to-buy  
‘Anna wants to-buy it.’

---

<sup>1</sup>Possible in an earlier stage of French.

- b. Anna vuole comprarlo.  
 Anna wants to-buy-it  
 'Anna wants to buy it.'

In other cases, the term is used to describe the complex content of a word. For instance, the verb *dance* has been analyzed as incorporating the noun *dance* and considered a complex predicate (Hale & Keyser 1997). In the sense adopted here, complex predicates involve at least two words.

It is more difficult to distinguish CPs from *Serial verb constructions* (SVC) which are composed of verbs which belong to the same clause (4). However, following Haspelmath (2016), there are a number of differences: (i) SVC are sequences of verbs, and cannot involve various categories, contrary to CP. (ii) These verbs are independent of each other: they have the same form and meaning when they occur outside the SVC, and they do not involve predicate argument relationship between them, in particular infinitival complements and causative constructions are excluded (see 3a). (iii) Finally, they tend to each describe a subevent, being frequently directionals or resultatives (Prince 2017), while a tense auxiliary as in the French example in (1) is not associated with a subevent.

- (4) Òzó sàán rrá ógbà.  
 Ozo jump cross fence  
 'Ozo jumped over the fence.' (edo, Haspelmath 2016)

## 1.2 Constructions based on complex predicates

Complex predicates enter into a number of constructions across languages. The following have been particularly studied in HPSG:

- Tense auxiliaries, the copulas and predicative verbs, restructuring verbs, and certain causative and perception verbs in Romance languages (Abeillé & Godard 2002; 2005; 2010; Abeillé et al. 1998; Monachesi 1998);
- Coherent constructions in German and Dutch, headed by tense auxiliaries, copulas, certain raising and control verbs, certain verbs with predicative complements, and particle verbs (De Kuthy & Meurers 2001; Hinrichs & Nakazawa 1994; 1998; Kathol 1998; Kiss 1994; Meurers 2002; Müller 2002; Bouma & van Noord 1998; Rentier 1994);
- Korean auxiliaries, control verbs and causative verb *ha* (Chung 1998; Kim 2016; Sells 1991; Yoo 2003);

- Light verb constructions (combination of a semantically light verb with a predicate belonging to diverse categories) in Persian (Bonami & Samvelian 2010; Müller 2010; Samvelian 2012; Samvelian & Faghiri 2016) and Korean (Choi & Wechsler 2002; Kim 2016; Lee 2001; Ryu 1993).

In this chapter, we examine some of these constructions which illustrate different aspects of the phenomenon of complex predicates.

## 2 The basic mechanism in HPSG: Argument inheritance

In HPSG, complex predicates are analyzed in the following way: one of the predicates is the head of the construction, and it inherits the (syntactic) arguments of the other predicate, that is, its complements and, possibly, its subject. We illustrate this phenomenon with tense auxiliaries in French (Abeillé & Godard 2002). The phenomenon is called *argument inheritance*, *attraction*, *composition* or *sharing*.

In French, auxiliary constructions consist of a tense auxiliary (*avoir* or *être*) followed by a past participle and its complements as illustrated in (1). The auxiliary is the head: it bears inflectional affixes (for tense and person), like any other verb; in (1), it has the form of a present indicative, 3<sup>rd</sup> person; it is in the indicative, as expected in a declarative sentence. It hosts pronominal clitics, like verbal heads in a general way (1b), (1c). Moreover, it can be gapped alone (5d), while the participle can only be gapped with the auxiliary (5e), (5f); this is expected if the auxiliary is the head, since it behaves like *pense* in (5a) and (5b), while the participle behaves like the infinitive.

- (5)
- Lola pense acheter des pommes, et Alice (pense) cueillir des pêches.  
'Lola is thinking of buying apples, and Alice (is thinking of) picking peaches.'
  - Lola pense acheter des pommes, et Alice (pense acheter) des pêches.  
'Lola is thinking of buying apples, and Alice (is thinking of picking) peaches.'
  - \* Lola pense cueillir des pommes et Alice pense des pêches.  
'Lola is thinking of picking apples and Alice is thinking of (picking) peaches.'
  - Lola a acheté des pommes, et Alice (a) acheté des pêches.  
'Lola has bought apples, and Alice (has) bought picked peaches.'

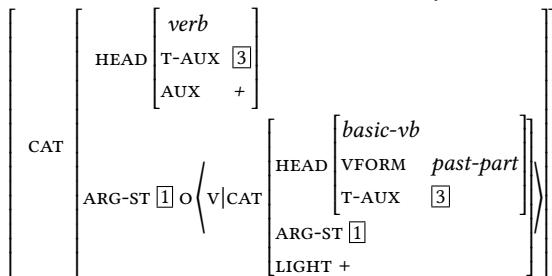
- e. Lola a acheté des pommes, et Alice (a acheté) des pêches.  
 ‘Lola has bought apples, and Alice (has bought) peaches.’
- f. \*Lola a acheté des pommes, et Alice a des pêches.  
 Lola has bought apples, and Alice has peaches

The auxiliary construction in French is a CP: The clitic corresponding to a complement of the participle is hosted by the auxiliary (it is said to “climb”), as in (1); moreover, it occurs in bounded dependencies such as the infinitival complement of adjectives like *facile* ‘easy’, whose nominal complement is unexpressed (6a). This unexpressed complement can be that of a participle (6c), but not that of an embedded infinitive (6b).

- (6) a. Cette technique est impossible à maîtriser en un jour. (French)  
 ‘This technique is impossible to master in one day.’
- b. \*Cette technique est impossible à promettre de maîtriser en un jour.  
 This technique is impossible to promise to master in one day
- c. Cette technique est impossible à avoir maîtrisé en un jour.  
 This technique is impossible to have mastered in one day

The syntactic description of the auxiliary *avoir* is given in (7):<sup>2</sup>

- (7) Lexeme of the French tense auxiliary *avoir*



The auxiliary takes the participle as its complement, from which it inherits its syntactic arguments. The value for ARG-ST uses the shuffle operator O, which allows the elements of the lists to be reordered (Reape 1994). Thus, it is the auxiliary itself, as head of the construction, which is responsible for argument inheritance:

<sup>2</sup>The feature [AUX ±] indicates whether the infinitival can occur before the negative adverb (*pas, jamais*) or not. The feature T-AUX ensures that the appropriate auxiliary (*avoir* or *être*) combines with a participle: it has the same value for the auxiliary and the participle, and is defined lexically.

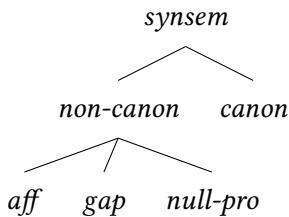
the phenomenon is lexically driven. These arguments are realized as indicated in (8) (see Ginzburg & Sag 2000: for the Argument Realization Principle). The argument structure contains canonical and non-canonical elements, but the valence only contains canonical ones. The valents in turn are realized are the subject and the complements (and, possibly, the specifier for nouns).

(8) Argument Realization (Bonami & Samvelian 2015)

$$\text{word} \Rightarrow \left[ \text{ss} | \text{LOC} | \text{CAT} \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{ARG-ST } \boxed{1} \text{ o list}(\text{non-canon}) \\ \text{VAL } \boxed{1} \text{ list}(\text{canon}) \end{array} \right] \right]$$

The arguments are *synsems*, which can have different subtypes as in (9). Usually, they are not specified on the lexeme description, but they are on words. Thus, (8) says that if an argument is non-canonical, it stays on the argument list, but is not realized as a valent.

(9) *synsem* hierarchy:



In (1a), the participle *lu* selects the argument *son livre*, which is inherited by the auxiliary *a*. Accordingly, it is realized as the complement of the auxiliary *a* in (1a). The structure is as in Figure 1.

Romance clitics are analyzed as affixes (Miller & Sag 1997). As arguments, they are inherited by the auxiliary. A morphological function may apply to verbs containing affixes in their argument list, including auxiliaries, which induces a certain morphology: a value of FORM (final form) different from that of I-FORM (inflected form). Hence the description of *l'a* in *l'a lu* differs from that of *a* in *a lu* (10) (Abeillé et al. 1998).

Add example with glosses and translation, add glosses in tree

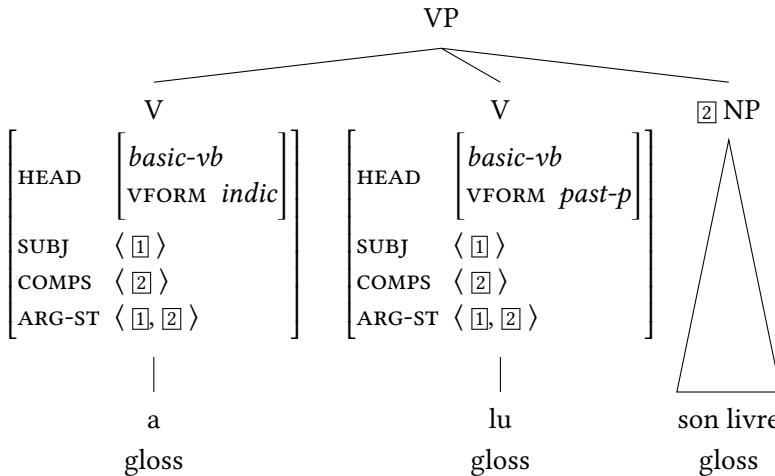
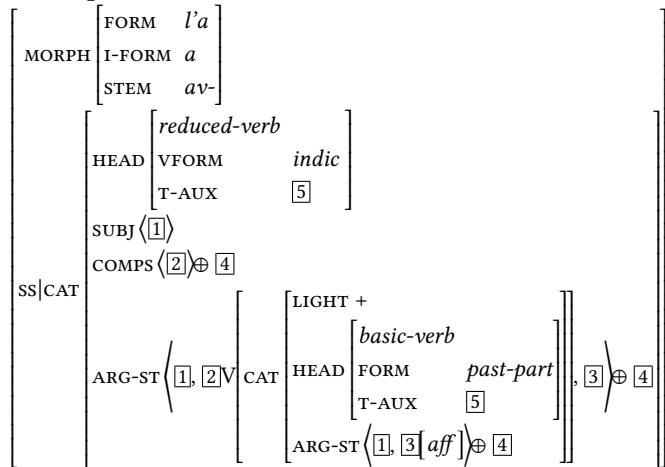


Figure 1: Add caption

(10) Description of *l'a* in *l'a lu*:

In (10), the complements of the auxiliary are the participle [2], and the list [4]; the argument list contains in addition [3], an affix, 3<sup>rd</sup> person, masculine singular. In the sequence *l'a lu*, as in (1b), [4] is the empty list; in the sequence *l'a lu à son père* ‘has read it to his father’, [4] is the PP complement.

This description is sufficient to ensure that the clitic is always realized on the auxiliary in French, and not on the participle: *Paul l'a lu* contrasts with \**Paul a le-lu*. In French, past participles never host clitics, which we assume to be a morphological property. But, in Italian, past participles may host clitics, although

never when they combine with the auxiliary. To account for this, we distinguish between basic verbs, with no cliticized argument, and reduced verbs, with at least one cliticized argument which belongs to the argument list, but not to the COMPS list. The verb complement of *avoir* is specified as *basic-verb* (see (7), (10)). We distinguish between *basic-verbs* and *reduced-verbs*. Basic verbs can have arguments typed as affixes, but not cliticized, while reduced verbs have at least one cliticized argument: present in the argument list, but not in the complement list. The complement of *avoir* is specified as *basic-verb* (see (7), (10)).

### 3 Different structures for complex predicates: Restructuring verbs in Romance languages

In addition to tense auxiliaries, Romance languages have Restructuring verbs as heads of complex predicates. A comparison of their properties illustrates an important aspect of the phenomenon: argument inheritance is compatible with different syntactic structures, in this case, a flat structure, and a verbal complex (Abeillé & Godard 2010).

#### 3.1 Romance Restructuring verbs

Certain verbs in Romance Languages, called *Restructuring verbs*, exhibit two behaviors: either as ordinary verbs taking a VP complement or as complex predicates (Aissen & Perlmutter 1983; Rizzi 1982). They are: modal verbs, aspectuals, or movement verbs. However, it must be kept in mind that this behavior is lexical: verbs which are close semantically may not be heads of CPs.

Several properties show that they head CPs. First, clitic climbing, which is optional (while it is obligatory with tense auxiliaries):

- gloss and  
translate  
everything
- (11) a. Giovanni *le* vuole mangiare.  
Giovanni vuole mangiar*le*. (Italian)
  - b. Juan *las* quiere comer.  
Juan quiere comer*las*. (Spanish)
  - c. O Joān quere-*as* comer.  
O Joān quer comê-*las*. (Portuguese)
  - d. En Joan *les* vol menjar.  
En Joan vol menjar-*les*. (Catalan)  
'John want to eat them.' (Abeillé & Godard 2010)

Second, the medio-passive or middle *si* construction, where the verb hosts the reflexive clitic *si* or *se* and the subject corresponds to the object of the active construction (12a), with an interpretation close to that of passive (12b). The construction is possible with restructuring verbs (12c), but not with ordinary verbs taking an infinitival complement (12d).

- (12) a. Giovanni stira queste camicie facilmente. (Italian)  
     ‘Giovanni irons these shirts easily.’  
     b. Queste camicie si stirano facilmente.  
     ‘These shirts iron easily.’  
     c. Queste camicie si possono stirare facilmente.  
     ‘These shirts can be ironed easily.’  
     d. \*Queste camicie si paiono stirare facilmente.  
     ‘These shirts appear to be ironed easily.’

Third, their acceptability in bounded dependencies, as illustrated in (6) for tense auxiliaries, and (13) for Restructuring verbs. (13b) relies on *cominciare* being a Restructuring verb, while *promettere* is not (13c).

- (13) a. Questa canzone è facile da apprendere.  
     ‘This song is easy to learn.’  
     b. Questa canzone è facile da cominciare a apprendere.  
     ‘This song is easy to begin to learn.’  
     c. \*Questa canzone è facile da promettere a apprendere  
     ‘This song is easy to promise to learn.’

Finally, the possibility of preposing the verbal complement of a Restructuring verb disappears when there is evidence of a complex predicate. For the sake of simplification, we now concentrate on Italian and Spanish. The data in (14), with a VP, contrast with those in (15), where the head verb inherits a cliticized complement of the infinitival. Preposing of the verbal complement is associated with pronominalization (*lo*) in Italian (14a) not in Spanish (14b), and is more natural in contrastive contexts in Spanish. The infinitive cannot be preposed if its argument is cliticized onto the head verb (15).

- (14) Does he want to talk to Mary?  
     a. – Parlare a Maria, certamente lo vuole.

- b. – Hablarle a María, seguramente quiere (pero no a su madre).  
 ‘Talk to Maria, certainly he wants to (but not to her mother).’
- (15) a. \*Parlare, certamente glielo vuole.  
 b. \*Hablar, le quiere (pero no mucho tempo).

We assume that Restructuring verbs have two possible descriptions: as ordinary verbs taking an infinitival VP complement, or as heads of complex predicates. They are related by the Argument Composition Lexical Rule (16) (Monachesi 1998).

- (16) Argument Composition Lexical Rule for Romance restructuring verbs:

$$\left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{HEAD } \textit{verb} \\ \text{LIGHT } + \\ \text{SUBJ } \langle \text{NP } [\text{IND } i] \rangle \\ \text{COMPS } \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{HEAD } \left[ \begin{array}{l} \textit{verb} \\ \text{VFORM } \textit{inf} \end{array} \right] \\ \text{SUBJ } \langle \text{NP } [\text{IND } i] \rangle \\ \text{COMPS } \langle \rangle \end{array} \right] \end{array} \right] \mapsto \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{COMPS } \left\langle \begin{array}{l} \textit{basic-verb} \\ \text{COMPS } \boxed{2} \end{array} \right\rangle \oplus \boxed{2} \end{array} \right]$$

The left hand side represents a verb taking a VP complement. The identity of indices for the expected subjects of the verb and its infinitival complement indicates that they are control or raising verbs; the verbal complement is saturated for its complements. The right hand side represents the head of a complex predicate: it inherits the expected complement(s) of the infinitival complement (list  $\boxed{2}$ ). The categorization of the infinitive as *basic verb* ensures that it does not host cliticized complements, and the feature [LIGHT +], shared with the input, that it has not combined with complements (see below).

The complement of adjectives such as ‘easy’ in RL is a bounded dependency: they take an unsaturated infinitival complement which expects a complement coindexed with its subject. Complex predicates can occur in this construction because they inherit the complement of their complement. In (13a), *apprendere* is expecting an object, co-indexed with *questa conzone*. In (13b), *cominciare* inherits the expected complement of *apprendere*, a configuration which is similar to that of (13a).

The medio-passive verb is also the result of a Lexical Rule, which takes a transitive verb like *stirare* (12a) to give a verb whose subject corresponds to the expected object of the input verb, and acquires a clitic SE (realized *si* or *se* in the different languages) as in (12b) (Monachesi 1998). While a verb taking a VP complement like Italian *potere* cannot be the input to this rule, since it lacks an NP

object, the corresponding verb which is the output of LR (16) can if it inherits a nominal complement from the infinitive, as in (12c). The verb *potere* as in *Giovanni può stirare queste camicie*, which inherits *queste camicie* from *stirare*, is the input to Rule (16), giving the verb which occurs in (12c).

### 3.2 The structure of CP constructions: Verbal complex and flat structure

Argument composition is compatible with different structures. In Romance Languages, complex predicates enter either a flat structure, or a verbal complex. We contrast Italian and Spanish.<sup>3</sup>

The impossibility of Preposing illustrated in (15) shows that the sequence of the complement verb and its complements does not form a constituent (a VP) when there is a complex Predicate, a point made by Rizzi (1982) for Italian, on the basis of a series of constructions (pied-piping, clefting, Right Node Raising, complex NP shift). However, regarding other properties, the two languages do not behave in the same way. Note that in Spanish, there is variation among speakers: we illustrate here Spanish-1 variety. The presence of a clitic on the head verb indicates that there is a complex predicate.

First, adverbs occur between the Restructuring verb and the infinitive in Italian (17a), but not in Spanish-1 in a general way (17b) (a few adverbs, such as *casi* ‘nearly’, *ya* ‘already’, *apenas* ‘barely’ are possible).

- (17) a. Giovanni *lo vuole spesso leggere*. (Italian)
  - b. \* Juan *lo quiere a menudo leer*. (Spanish-1)
  - c. Juan quiere a menudo leer*lo*.
- ‘John wants to often read it.’

Second, an inverted subject NP can occur between the two verbs of a complex predicate in Italian, but not in Spanish-1. The subject can occur postverbally in interrogative sentences. In Italian, it can occur between the two verbs with a special prosody, and with speaker’s variation (Salvi 2010) (18a). In Spanish-1, it is not possible (except for the pronominal subject) (Suñer 2010) (18b), while it can occur between the verb and an infinitival VP complement (18c).

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<sup>3</sup>In Portuguese complex predicate constructions are also a flat structure, but with different ordering constraints from Italian; in Spanish-2, they are similar to Portuguese. Complex predicates with verbs which have only one structure also distribute between these two structures: tense auxiliaries in French, Italian, Portuguese as well as Romanian modal *a putea* ‘can’ are the head of a flat structure, while Spanish-1 and Romanian tense auxiliaries enter a verbal complex (Abeillé & Godard 2010).

- (18) a. % Lo comincia MARIA a capire, il problema, oppure no?  
‘Maria, she’s beginning to understand it, the problem, yes or no.’  
b. \*? Lo comienza Juan a comprender?  
c. Comienza Juan a comprenderlo?  
‘Is John beginning to understand it?’

Finally, Italian heads of complex predicates can have scope over the coordination of infinitives with their complements (19a), while this is not the case in Spanish-1 (19b) (from Abeillé & Godard 2010). Again, the presence of the clitic on the head verb (*lo vuole*, *le volvió*) shows that this is a complex predicate construction.

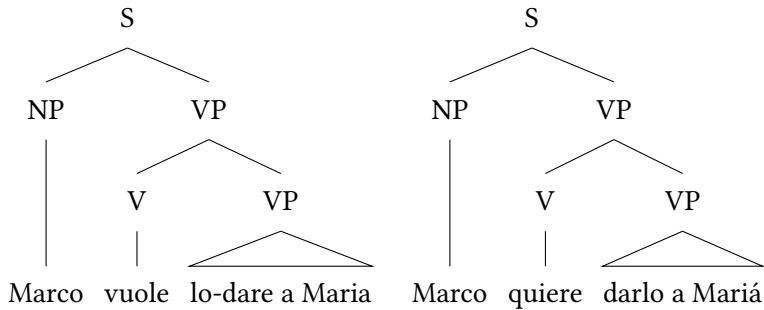
- (19) a. Giovanni lo vuole comprare subito e dare a Maria  
Giovanni it wants buy immediately and give to Maria  
‘Giovanni wants to buy it immediately and give it to Maria.’  
b. \* Le volvió a pedir un autografo y a hacer  
to-him started again to ask an autograph and to make  
proposiciones  
propositions  
‘He started again to ask him for an autograph and to make propositions to him’

Constituency tests such as preposing (15) show that the verbal complement is not a VP. The verbal complex, in which the two verbs form a constituent without the complements is well-suited to account for the absence of adverbs (in a general way) and of subject NPs, if such combinations exclude non-verbal elements and adverbs (in general). This constraint can be captured by the feature [LIGHT +],<sup>4</sup> which has been used in Romance languages for other phenomena as well (Abeillé & Godard 2005; 2010). Hence, complex predicate constructions in Spanish-1 contain a verbal complex, while they represent a flat structure in Italian.

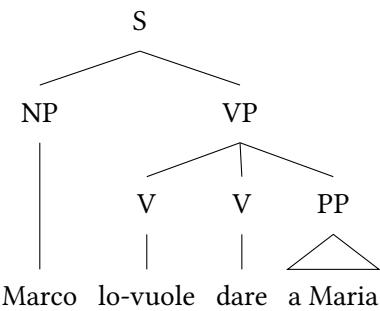
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<sup>4</sup>The feature [LIGHT ±] is used rather than the feature WEIGHT as in Abeillé and Godard; it substitutes for [LEX ±] used in HPSG formalizations of German (Bonami & Webelhuth 2013). The adverbs admissible in the Spanish-1 verbal complex are light.

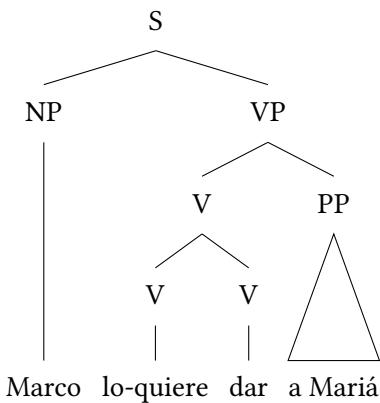
- (20) a. VP complement:



- b. Flat structure:



- c. Verbal complex:



The possibility of the coordination in (19a) has been viewed as an argument in favor of a VP complement. However, if such sequences can be analyzed as coordinations of VP, they can also be Non Constituent Coordinations (NCC) (*John gives a book to Maria and discs to her brother*). So, the question is: why is (19b) not

an acceptable NCC in Spanish? We propose that coordinations are subject to a general constraint in Romance languages: the parallel elements of the coordination must be at the same syntactic level, otherwise the acceptability is degraded. An example is the contrast between (21a) and (21b) in Spanish. In (21b), the constituent *[de Camus]* in the second conjunct is at the same level as *[el libro de Proust]*, but not at the same level as *[de Proust]*, with which it is parallel.

Add gloss  
and trans-  
lation

- (21) a. Juan da [el libro de Proust] [a Mariá] y [el (libro) de Camus] [a Pablo].  
(Spanish)
- b. ?? Juan da [el libro de Proust] [a Mariá] y [de Camus] [a Pablo].

### 3.3 Analysis of Romance CP constructions in HPSG

The complex predicate in Italian is a flat structure (20b), while it is a verbal complex construction in Spanish (20c). Abeillé & Godard (2005) do not propose a special phrase for dealing with verbal complexes, but treat them as a subtype of head-complements-phrases. The difference between flat structure and verbal complex is attributed to the feature [LIGHT ±] and linearization constraints. The head-complements-phrase is as follows:

- (22) a. *Head-Complements-phrase* ⇒
- $$\left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{MOTHER|SS|CAT} \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{HEAD } \boxed{1} \\ \text{COMPS } \langle \rangle \end{array} \right] \\ \text{HEAD-DTR|SS|CAT} \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{HEAD } \boxed{1} \\ \text{LIGHT +} \\ \text{COMPS } \boxed{2} \text{ o } \boxed{3} \end{array} \right] \\ \text{NON-HEAD-DTRS } \boxed{2} \text{ non-empty list} \end{array} \right]$$
- b.  $\left[ \text{phrase} \left[ \text{LIGHT +} \right] \right] \Rightarrow \left[ \text{DTRS} \left[ \text{LIGHT +} \right] \right]$

The head-complements-phrase is usually saturated for the expected complements, but this constraint can be violated, notably in the case of a verbal complex. In this case, the infinitive combines with a head verb without being saturated, and the head verb is not saturated for the complements it inherits from the infinitive. The requirement is passed up because of the Generalized Head Feature Principle (Ginzburg & Sag 2000), which says that the *synsem* of the phrase is identical to that of the head daughter by default (each phrase description says in what way they differ).

The LIGHT feature is appropriate both for words and phrases; it has ordering as well as structural consequences. Words can be light or non-light; lexical

verbs (finite verbs, participles or infinitives without complements) are light. Most phrases are non-light, but phrases made up of light elements can be light or non light; if the phrase is light, the daughters are light (22b). Accordingly, a verbal complex, made up of two lexical verbs can be light: this allows it to be the head of the VP (see (22a)).

In order to enforce the verbal complex in Spanish-1, we assume an additional constraint on the non-light head-complements-phrase in this language, which does not exist in Italian (or French).

- (23) *Head-complements-phrase* [LIGHT –]  $\Rightarrow$  [NON-HEAD-DTRS list([LIGHT –])]  
 (Spanish)

Constraint (23) says that all the complements in a non-light phrase must be non-light. This precludes a light complement such as a (bare) infinitive from occurring at the same level as an NP or a PP, for instance, which are non-light, contrary to what happens in the flat structure in (20b).

In order to prevent a verbal complex in Italian (and French), we assume a different additional constraint (which differs from that in Abeillé & Godard (2005)).

- (24) *Head-complements-phrase* [LIGHT +]  $\Rightarrow$  [[NON-HEAD-DTRS list([HEAD non-verbal])] (Italian)]

The Verbal Complex has to be light, since it is the head of the VP (see (22b)). Since it is made of verbal constituents, it is excluded by constraint (24) in Italian.<sup>5</sup>

Romance languages follow the general constraints on ordering in head-complements-phrases in non-final languages. They are given here informally. Constraint (26) implies that the infinitival complement in complex predicates (or the participle for the auxiliary constructions), precedes the complements it subcategorizes for.<sup>6</sup>

- (25) The head DTR precedes the complements (Romance languages)

- (26) [V [COMPS < 1[ADV –]>]] precedes 1. (Romance languages)

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<sup>5</sup>Note that head-only phrases are non-light.

<sup>6</sup>The feature [ADV –] excludes adverbial complements from the ordering rule: they may precede the past participle as in *Paul s'est bien comporté* (Paul SE-is well behaved, 'Paul has behaved well').

## 4 Complex predicates and word order

In certain languages, a complex predicate construction signals itself by properties of word order. This is the case for instance in German (De Kuthy & Meurers 2001; Hinrichs & Nakazawa 1994; 1998; Kathol 1998; Kiss 1994; Meurers 2002; Müller 2002) and Dutch (Bouma & van Noord 1998; Rentier 1994), as well as Korean (Chung 1998; Kim 2016; Sells 1991; Yoo 2003).

### 4.1 Coherent and incoherent constructions in German

Verbs with an infinitival complement in German enter into so-called incoherent or coherent constructions: in the first case, they combine with a VP (saturated for its complements), but not in the second case (Bech 1955). We speak of constructions rather than verbs, because, although the constructions are triggered by lexical properties of verbs, many verbs can be constructed either way. Verbs entering coherent constructions, obligatorily or optionally, belong to different classes: tense auxiliaries, modals, subject and object raising, object control verbs, the copulas and predicative constructions (see Müller 2002).

Incoherent constructions are constructions where a verb takes a (saturated) VP complement. They are illustrated by the combination of *überreden* with the infinitival complement in (27). They allow for VP fronting as in (27a), VP extraposition as in (27b), and VP relatives such as (27c), where the infinitival complement is “pied-piped” with the relative pronoun (examples from Hinrichs & Nakazawa 1998).<sup>7</sup>

- (27) a. [Das auto zu kaufen] wird Peter Maria *überreden*.  
to buy the car will Peter Maria persuade  
'Peter will persuade Maria to buy the car.'
- b. ... dass Peter Maria *überredet*, [das Auto zu kaufen].  
that Peter persuade Marie, the car to buy  
'... that Peter persuade Maria to buy the car.'
- c. Das ist das Auto, das zu kaufen er Peter *überreden* wird.  
that is the car, which to buy he Peter persuade will  
'That is the car, which he will persuade Peter to buy.'

On the other hand, coherent constructions, of which the combination of the auxiliary *wird* or the raising verb *scheinen* with an infinitival complement are

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<sup>7</sup>The verb taking the VP complement is underlined.

typical examples, do not allow for VP extraposition (28b), (28d) (from Müller 2002), or VP relatives (28e), (28f).<sup>8</sup>

- (28) a. ... dass Karl das Buch lesen *wird*  
           that Karl the book read will  
           ‘... that Karl will read the book’  
 b. \* ... dass Karl *wird* das Buch lesen  
 c. ... weil     Karl das Buch zu lesen *scheint*  
           because Karl the book to read seems  
           ‘... because Karl seems to read the book’  
 d. \* ... weil Karl *scheint* das Buch zu lesen  
 e. \* Das ist das Buch das lesen Karl *wird*.  
 f. \* Das ist das Buch das zu lesen Karl *scheint*.  
     ‘This is the book that Karl will read.’

Similarly, scrambling of the complements is possible in a coherent construction, not in an incoherent one. In (29a) and (29c), the complements of *sehen* or *überreden*, respectively, do not mix. In (29b), *Peter*, the complement of *sehen*, occurs between *das Auto*, which is the complement of *kaufen*, and *kaufen*. Such a word order is possible with *sehen*, not *überreden* (29d) (examples from Hinrichs & Nakazawa 1998).

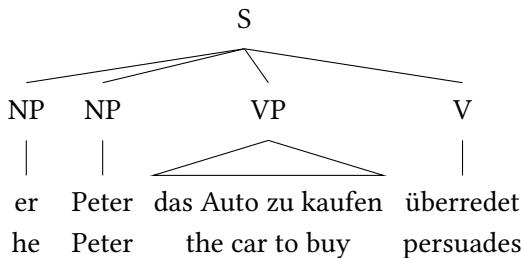
- (29) a. ... dass er [Peter] [das Auto kaufen] sehen wird  
           that he Peter the car buy see will  
           ‘that he will see Peter buy the car’  
 b. ... dass er das Auto Peter kaufen sehen wird  
 c. ... dass er [Peter] [das Auto zu kaufen] überreden wird  
           that he Peter the car to buy persuade will  
           ‘that he will persuade Peter to buy the car’  
 d. \* ... dass er das Auto Peter zu überreden wird

These data point to the following analysis: incoherent constructions involve a saturated VP complement (30a), while coherent constructions do not: they form a complex predicate, with a verb inheriting the complements of its complement. We assume here a verbal complex, a structure largely accepted for German (30b).

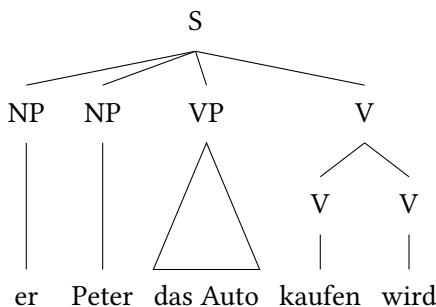
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<sup>8</sup>The head verb of the coherent construction is underlined. We leave aside fronting of a verbal complement in a coherent construction, because the data are less straightforward (De Kuthy & Meurers 2001; Müller 2002).

- (30) a. Incoherent construction (embedded clause)



- b. Coherent construction (embedded clause)



## 4.2 Coherent constructions in HPSG

One might wonder whether it is possible to analyze the data in terms of word order instead of structure: a verb governing a coherent construction would trigger a modification of the ordering domain. More precisely, it would induce domain union of the two ordering domains associated with the two verbal projections (Reape 1994), thus allowing the order in (29b), for instance, while the structure would remain the same (as in (30a)). The existence of the remote (or long) passive goes against such an analysis (Kathol 1998; Müller 2002). A complex predicate construction can be passivized in such a way that the subject (in the nominative case) of the passive auxiliary corresponds to the object of the active infinitive complement. An (impersonal) passive construction like (31a) with an infinitival VP containing an accusative object (*den Wagen*) alternates with a coherent construction such as (31b), with a corresponding nominative (*der Wagen*).

- (31) a. ... weil oft versucht wurde, [den Wagen zu reparieren]

because often tried was the car to repair

'... because many attempts were made to repair the car'

- b. ... weil der Wagen oft zu reparieren versucht wurde

In (31b), there is no infinitival VP, as shown by the occurrence of the adverb *oft*, which modifies *versucht*, between *der Wagen* and *zu reparieren*.

The German verbal complex, like the Spanish-1 one, instantiates a light head-complements-phrase. Thus, the two elements are light (22b). The constraint in (32b) renders explicit that in a verbal complex, the head inherits the complements of its complement. This complement can itself be a verbal complex (as in (29b)).<sup>9</sup>

Except for the verbal complex, we adopt here a flat structure for German (Uszkoreit 1987; Pollard 1996).<sup>10</sup> German differs from RL in not distinguishing structurally between the subject and the complements: they occur at the same level, can be interspersed, and are introduced by the same phrasal constraint. For this reason, it is useful to use the feature VAL (for valence, that is, the subject and the complements) in the description of lexemes and words, distinguishing the subject via the feature XARG on the lexemes, and the complements by COMPS only when it is necessary (Sag 2012). Thus, coherent constructions obey two phrasal constraints: the Head-Valents-phrase and the verbal-complex-phrase.

- (32) a. *Head-Valents-phrase*  $\Rightarrow$
- $$\left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{MOTHER} \mid \text{SS} \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{CAT} \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{VAL } \langle \rangle \\ \text{LIGHT } - \end{array} \right] \\ \text{HEAD-DTR} \mid \text{SS} \mid \text{CAT} \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{LIGHT } + \\ \text{VAL } \textit{nelist } [1] \end{array} \right] \\ \text{NON-HD-DTRS } [1] \end{array} \right] \end{array} \right]$$
- b. *Verbal-Complex-phrase (German)*  $\Rightarrow$
- $$\left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{MOTHER} \mid \text{SS} \mid \text{CAT} \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{VAL } [1] \oplus [2] \\ \text{LIGHT } + \end{array} \right] \\ \text{HD-DTR} \mid \text{SS} \mid \text{CAT} \mid \text{VAL } [1] \oplus \langle [3] \rangle \oplus [2] \\ \text{NON-HD-DTRS } [3] \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{verb} \\ \text{LIGHT } + \\ \text{COMPS } [2] \end{array} \right] \end{array} \right]$$

The two phrases differ by the value of LIGHT, and also in that (32a) allows for a number of daughters while (32b) allows just for one non-head daughter, a verbal complex as illustrated in (29a) corresponding to a multi-level structure. The

<sup>9</sup>The representations of a verbal complex across RL, German and Korean, are homogenized. There is no need for XCOMP (Müller 2002) or GOV (Chung 1998) to distinguish this complement from the others in addition to specifying inheritance as in (32b) (Bonami & Webelhuth 2013).

<sup>10</sup>Alternatively, the structure can be represented as a hierarchy of binary branching structures, with a flat linearization domain (Müller 2002).

syntactic descriptions of the passive auxiliary *werden* and of *sehen* (in a coherent construction) are as in (33). *Sehen* is associated with two different descriptions: it has a incoherent version (no inheritance of valents) and a coherent one, which can be related via a lexical rule in the manner of Romance restructuring verbs as in (16).

- (33) a. *werden* (passive auxiliary):

$$\left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{XARG } \langle 1 \rangle \\ \text{VAL } \langle 1 \rangle, V \left[ \text{passive-part, LIGHT +, VAL } \langle 1 \rangle \oplus 2 \right] \oplus 2 \end{array} \right]$$

- b. *sehen* (coherent version):

$$\left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{X-ARG } \langle NP_i \rangle \\ \text{VAL } \langle NP_i, NP_k, V \left[ inf, \text{VAL } \langle NP_k \rangle \oplus 2 \right] \oplus 2 \end{array} \right]$$

We leave aside the placement of the head verb in the German clause, which is a question in itself. In a verbal complex, the head is ordered after the complement.

The structure of (29b) is illustrated in Figure 2.

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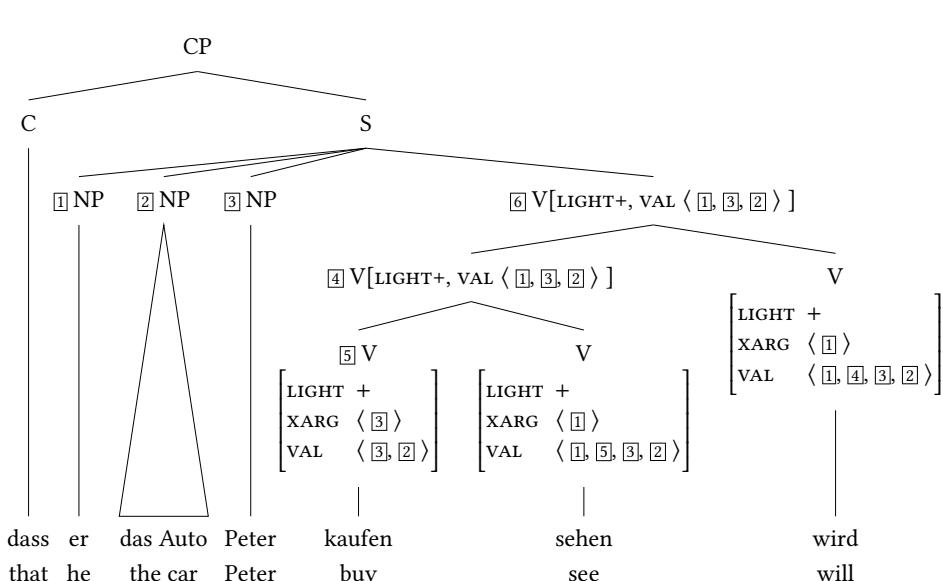


Figure 2: Analysis of *dass er das Auto Peter kaufen sehen wird*

In Figure 2, the verb [6] is a verbal complex, whose head is *wird*, which inherits the complements of its complement [4], also a verbal complex; the head of [4] is *sehen*, which identifies its subject (or xarg) with that of *wird* (see (33a)), and inherits the complement of its complement *kaufen*, that is [2], in addition to its

other complement ③ (see (33b)); the verbal complex ④ inherits its valence from its head, minus the complement which is saturated (⑤).

## 4.3 Argument inheritance in Korean

### 4.3.1 Scrambling in Korean

Korean resembles German in that a complex predicate signals itself mainly by word order properties. Complex predicates are formed from auxiliaries, control verbs, and causative *ha*. We follow in particular Chung (1998), from which the examples are borrowed.

Korean auxiliaries semantically resemble aspectual or modal verbs rather than tense auxiliaries. They include such verbs as *iss* ‘to be in the process/state of’, *chiwu* ‘to do resolutely’, *siph* ‘want’, but also the verb of negation *anh* ‘not’. Scrambling with auxiliaries is illustrated in (34). In (34b) the subject of the auxiliary *issta* (*Mary-ka*) occurs between the embedded verb (*ilke*) and its complement (*chayk-ul*).

- (34) a. Mary-ka ku chayk-ul ilke pokō issta.  
           Mary-NOM the book-ACC read try be.in.the.process.of-DECL  
           ‘Mary is giving the book a trial reading.’  
       b. Ku chayk-ul Mary-ka ilke pokō issta.

Control verbs such as *seltuk* ‘persuade’ (35a), (35b), *cisi* ‘order’ (object control), *yaksok* ‘promise’, *sito* ‘try’ (subject control) (35c), (35d), as well as causative *ha*, also allow valents of the embedded verb to be interleaved with their own valents, as in (35b) and (35d).

- (35) a. Mary-ka John-hantley [ku chayk-ul ilkulako] seltukhayssta.  
           Mary-NOM John-DAT the book-ACC read persuade-past-DECL  
           ‘Mary persuaded John to read the book.’  
       b. Ku chayk-ul Mary-ka John-hantley ilkulako seltukhayssta.  
           the book-ACC Mary-NOM John-DAT read-will persuade-PAST-DECL  
           ‘Mary persuaded John to read the book.’  
       c. Mary-ka John-hantley [ku chayk-ul pilyecwu-kesstako]  
           Marie-NOM John-DAT the book-ACC lend-will  
           yaksokhayssta.  
           promise-PAST-DECL  
           ‘Mary promised John to lend the book.’

- d. Ku chayk-ul John-hantley Mary-ka pilyecwu-kesstako  
 the book-ACC John-DAT Marie-NOM lend-will  
 yaksokhayssta.  
 promise-PAST-DECL  
 ‘Mary promised John to lend the book.’

These data can be explained in two ways: either the auxiliary or the control verb always takes a VP complement, and scrambling is due to linearization (the domains of the two verbs being unioned), or there is a complex predicate: the complement of the embedded verb (the book) is inherited by the auxiliary or the control verb, and, assuming a flat structure for the Korean sentence (with a head-valents-phrase as in (32a)), it occurs at the same level as the subject. As in German, long passivization is possible, which cannot be accounted for by appeal to linearization and domain union.

Certain auxiliary and control verbs can be passivized, so that the expected complement of the embedded verb becomes the subject of the construction: *malssengmanhun so-ka* is subject of the passive auxiliary *ci-esta* in (36b) and *ku cengchayk-i* is subject of the passive of *order* in (37b).

- (36) a. Ku mongpwu-ka malssengmanhun so-lul phala  
 The farmer-NOM troublesome cow-ACC sell  
 chiw-essta.  
 do.resolutely-PAST-DECL  
 ‘The farmer resolutely sold the troublesome cow.’
- b. Malssengmanhun so-ka (ku nongpwu-eyuyhay) phala  
 troublesome cow-NOM the farmer-by sell  
 chiwe ci-essta.  
 do.resolutely passive-PAST-DECL  
 ‘The troublesome cow was resolutely sold (by the farmer).’

- (37) a. Nay-ka Mary-hantley ku cengchayk-ul sihaynghalako  
 I-NOM Mary-DAT the policy-ACC carry.out  
 cisihayssta.  
 order-PAST-DECL  
 ‘I ordered Mary to carry out the policy.’
- b. Ku cengchayk-i naey-uyhaye Mary-hantley sihaynghalako  
 the policy-NOM I-by Mary-DAT carry.out

cisi-toy-essta.  
order-PASS-PAST-DECL  
(lit. the policy was ordered by me for Mary to carry out)

Since passivization only affects the complement of the verb which is itself passivized, it follows that *malssengmanhun so-lul* is the complement of the auxiliary in (36a), and *ku cengchayk-ul* the complement of the control verb in (37a).<sup>11</sup>

### 4.3.2 The structures of CP in Korean

In Korean, the structure of a complex predicate formed on an auxiliary contrasts with that formed on a control verb. Auxiliaries are the head of a verbal complex (as in German complex predicates), while control verbs can either take a saturated VP complement, or be the head of a flat structure (like Restructuring verbs in Italian).

A characteristic property of Korean auxiliary constructions is that nothing can separate the two verbs. While an NP may occur after the verbs in a construction called afterthought (38a), this is not possible for the embedded verb alone (38b) or with its complement (38c), and no parenthetical expression can intervene as shown by *hayekan* in (39b) (examples from Chung 1998). This behavior follows if the two verbs form a verbal complex (see section 3.2).

- (38) a. Mary-ka mekko issta, sakwa-lul.  
           Mary-NOM eat    be.in.the.process.of-DECL apple-ACC  
           ‘Mary is in the process of eating an apple.’  
       b. \* Mary-ka sakwa-lul issta, mekko  
       c. \* Mary-ka issta, sakwa-lul mekko

- (39) a. Mary-ka hayekan sakwa-lulmekko issta.  
Mary-NOM anyway apple-ACC eat be.in.the.process.of-DECL  
'Anyway, Mary is eating an apple.'  
b. \* Mary-ka sakwa-lulmekko hayekan issta

Korean has a Verbal-Complex-phrase similar to (32b). In Korean, this structure characterizes the class of auxiliaries. This is captured by the head feature AUX: auxiliaries are [AUX +], while the other verbs are [AUX -]. Moreover, unlike the

<sup>11</sup>More complicated data, showing that the case of the inherited complement depends on the agentivity of the combination of auxiliary *siph* with its verbal complement, can be explained if the auxiliary and the verbal complement form a verbal complex (Yoo 2003).

head of a verbal complex in German, which can be a control verb (like *sehen*), they inherit the whole argument structure of their complement. Note the use of ‘o’, the shuffle operator, which allows to reorder the elements of the two lists.

(40) *Verbal-Complex-phrase* (Korean)  $\Rightarrow$

MOTHER SS CAT	$\left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{AUX +} \\ \text{LIGHT +} \\ \text{VAL } \boxed{1} \end{array} \right]$
HEAD-DTR SS CAT	$\left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{AUX +} \\ \text{LIGHT +} \\ \text{VAL } \boxed{1} \circ \langle \boxed{2} \rangle \end{array} \right]$
NON-HEAD-DTRS	$\left( \begin{array}{l} \text{verb} \\ \boxed{2} \text{ LIGHT +} \\ \text{VAL } \boxed{1} \end{array} \right)$

An auxiliary such as *iss* ‘to be in the process of’ has the following syntactic description:

(41)  $\left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{HEAD } [\text{AUX +}] \\ \text{LIGHT +} \\ \text{VAL } \langle \text{V } [\text{VFORM } ko, \text{ LIGHT +}, \text{ VAL } \boxed{1}] \rangle \circ \boxed{1} \end{array} \right]$

The auxiliary *iss* takes as its complement a light verb which is constrained to end in *-ko* (different auxiliaries put different syntactic and semantic restrictions on their verbal complement, (Yoo 2003)), from which it inherits its valence. The sentence in Korean is generally assumed to have a flat structure, which corresponds to the Head-Valents-phrase in (32a). The structure of (34a), with a series of two auxiliaries, is similar to (2). *Issta* takes as its complement *ilke pokō*, whose head is *pokō*, and which is also a verbal complex. *Pokō*, being an auxiliary like *iss* (41), takes as its complement the verb *ilke*, from which it inherits its valence, which is transmitted to the verbal complex *ilke pokō*; *ilke pokō* saturates the verbal complement expected by *issta*, and transmits its valence to the head auxiliary. The structure is schematized in Figure 3.

Contrary to auxiliaries, control verbs such as *seltuk* (35) or *cisi* (37) can be separated from their verbal complement, for instance by the adverb in (42a). They also allow for the infinitive and its complement to form a VP constituent as in (42b), where they constitute an afterthought. Thus, control verbs are analyzed in the same way as Italian Restructuring verbs: they can take a saturated VP complement, or be the head of a complex predicate. They contrast with Korean Raising verbs which only take a VP complement.

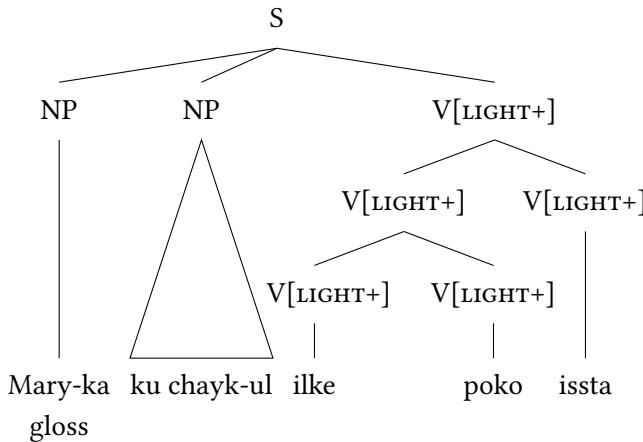


Figure 3: Add caption

- (42) a. Mary-ka ku mwuncey-lul phwulye-ko (kkuncilkkikey)  
     Mary-NOM the problem-ACC solve         ceaselessly  
     sitohayssta  
     try-PAST-DECL  
     ‘Mary tried (ceaselessly) to solve the problem.’
- b. Mary-ka sitohayssta, [ku mwuncey-lul phwulye-ko].
- c. Ku chayk-ul Mary-ka ilkulako sitohayssta.  
     The book-ACC Mary-NOM read         try-PAST-DECL  
     ‘Mary tried to read the book.’
- d. Ku chayk-ul Mary-ka ilkulako John-hantley seltukhayssta.  
     The book-ACC Mary-NOM read     John-DAT     persuade-PAST-DECL  
     ‘Mary persuaded John to read the book.’

The scrambling data, together with the possibility of long passivization, show that there is a complex predicate (section 4.3.1). For instance, the subject of the head verb (*Mary-ka*) comes between the complement of the infinitive and the infinitive in (42c), (42d). More precisely, there is no verbal complex in this case: the two verbs do not have to be contiguous, but can be separated, for instance by a complement as in (42d) (*John-hantley*). Thus, they are the head of a flat structure as in Figure 4 corresponding to (42d).

As stated in the description of verbal complexes in Korean (40), the head of the structure is [AUX +]. Since control verbs are [AUX -], they cannot enter

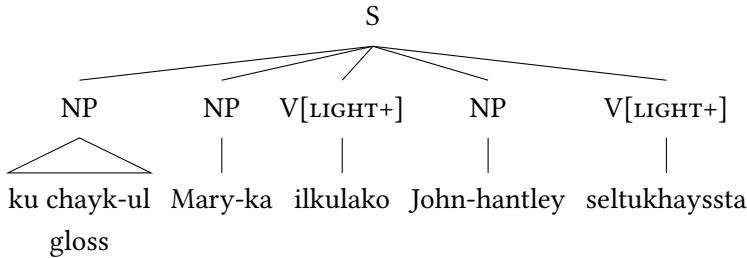


Figure 4: Add caption

verbal complexes, and the structure for complex predicates is a flat Head-Valents-phrase, as described in (32a).

The head comes last in Korean, except in the afterthought construction (42b), which requires an additional mechanism. This is true in the verbal complex, in the embedded VP and in the flat structure, as well. The alternative ordering for (42a) \**Mary-ka [phwulye-ko] [ku mwuncey-lul] sitohaysssta*, where the verb *phwulye-ko* precedes its complement *ku mwuncey-lul* is thus impossible. In (42d), the NP *John-hantley* can follow the complement verb *ilkulako* because it is the complement of the head verb *seltukhaysssta*, not of *ilkulako*. We can state the constraint informally as in (43).

- (43) X precedes the HEAD

Chung (1998) extends the possibility of inheritance to adjuncts, as well as to constructions with a S complement, which are somewhat marginal. The behavior of adjuncts is easily accounted for, if adjuncts can be treated as complements (Bouma et al. 2001) by a verb. For the second case, Chung proposes a flat structure, in which the valents and (lexical) verbs are all sisters. In this analysis, the definition of a complex predicate, which relies on a syntactic relation between words can still be maintained (but see Lee 2001: for a different proposal based on linearization).

## 5 Light verb constructions in Persian: Syntax and morphology, syntax and semantics

Light verb constructions, where the head is a verb and the second predicate belongs to different categories, depending on the language and the construction, allow us to focus on other aspects of complex predicates. Such constructions are

frequent in different languages (see Choi & Wechsler 2002; Lee 2001: for noun-verb combinations in Korean). We focus on Persian (Bonami & Samvelian 2010; Müller 2010; Samvelian 2012), examining two aspects: morphosyntactic and semantic.

Persian complex predicates are multiword expressions. More precisely, they are lexemes which are realized by several words (Bonami & Samvelian 2010). To solve the morphosyntactic and semantic problems, we rely crucially on the same property of HPSG as in the preceding syntactic cases, that is, the view of heads as sharing information with their expected complements.

## 5.1 Complex predicates and derivational processes

Although complex predicates have properties expected of the combination of words (they can be separated by the future auxiliary, for instance), they give rise to agent nominalization. Examples (44) show that although no agent noun can be derived from the verb *kon* ‘do’, an agent noun can be derived from the complex predicate formed with the verb *kon* and the adjective *bāz* ‘open’.

- (44) a. *kon* ‘do’, \**kon-ande* ‘do-er’
- b. *bāz kon-ande* ‘opener’

We follow Müller (2010), who exploits the possibility for a derived word to keep track of its formation via a daughter. Thus, the verb part of *bāz kon-ande* is the target of a nominalization rule, and is combined with an affix (-*ande*), but this is possible only if it is waiting for the adjective complement. The agent nominalization rule takes the verb as input and gives a noun which refers to the expected subject of the verb, and, syntactically takes as its complement (inherited from the verb) the adjectival predicate. This is represented in (5) (adapted from Müller 2010).

The content of the verb *kon* in the complex predicate *bāz kon* is a cause relation, with the state expressed by the adjective (noted as [5]) as a result. The derived N is thus the opener.

## 5.2 The Semantics of Light verb constructions

Although Persian complex predicates can be viewed as lexemes, the nominal element and the verb in noun-verb combinations behave nevertheless as two independent syntactic units ((Karimi-Doostan 1997; Megerdoomian 2002; Samvelian 2012)). All inflection is prefixed or suffixed on the verb, as is the negation in (45),

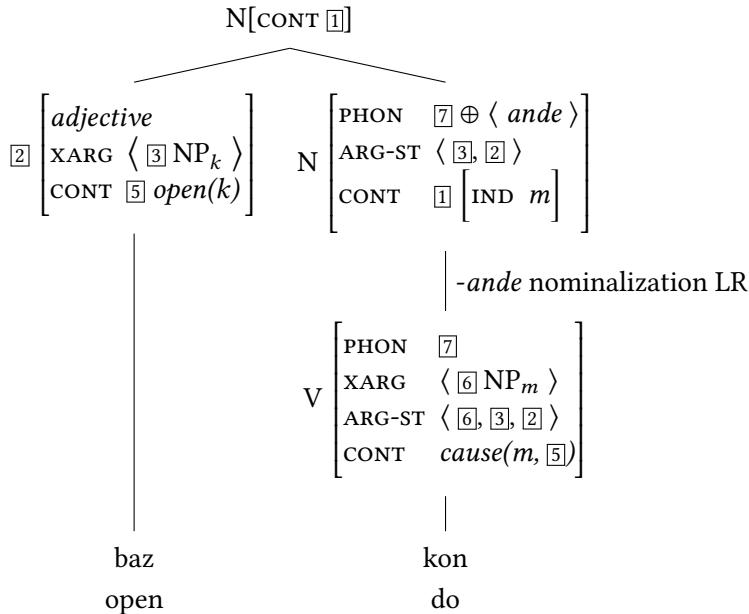


Figure 5: Insert caption

and never on the noun. The two elements can be separated by pronominal clitics, the future auxiliary, or even by clearly syntactic constituents, like the complement in (45). Both the noun and the verb can be coordinated, as shown in (46) and (47) respectively. The noun can be extracted, as in the topicalization in (48). CPs can be passivized. In this case, the nominal element of the CP (*tohmat* in (49a)) becomes the subject of the passive construction (49b), as does the object of a transitive construction. Finally, the noun can be modified (50). The nominal part of the CP is underlined in the examples.

- (45) *Dast* be *gol-hā* na-*zan*.  
hand to flower-PL NEG-strike.PRS  
'Don't touch the flowers.'
- (46) *Mu-hā=yaš=rā boros yā šāne zad*.  
hair-PL=3SG=RA brush or comb strike.PAST.3SG  
'(S)he brushed or combed her hair'

- (47) Omid *sili* zad        va xord.  
       Omid slap hit.PAST.3SG and strike.PAST.3SG  
       ‘Omid gave and received slaps.’
- (48) *Dast* goft-am [be *gol-hā* — na-zan].  
       hand said-1SG to flower-PL — NEG-strike.PRS  
       ‘I told you not to touch the flowers.’
- (49) a. Maryam be Omid *tohmat* zad.  
          Maryam to Omid slander strike.PAST.3SG  
          ‘Maryam slandered Omid.’  
       b. be Omid *tohmat* zade šod.  
          to Omid slander hit.PP become.PAST.3SG  
          ‘Omid was slandered.’
- (50) [In *xabar=e* mohem]=rā be mā dād  
       this news=EZ important=RA to us give.PAST.3SG  
       ‘(S)he gave us this important piece of news.’

Nevertheless, there is evidence that the verb and the noun may share one argument structure. For instance, in 51b the verb *dādan* and the noun *āb* take together a direct object.

- (51) a. Maryam be bāqče āb dād  
          Maryam to garden water give.PAST.3SG  
          ‘Maryam watered the gadern.’  
       b. Maryam bāqče=rā āb dād  
          Maryam garden-DOM water give.PAST.3SG  
          ‘Maryam watered the gadern.’

Persian complex predicates do not have a homogeneous semantics. The general idea is that the verb serves to turn a noun into a verb (Bonami & Samvelian 2010), but there is a spectrum, going from a semantically compositional combination, with the head taking as its argument the content of its complement, like in Romance languages CP (see section §3) or “causative” predicates formed with an adjective, like *bāz kardan* ‘to open’ (open do) (see section 5.1), to idioms whose

semantics is not predictable from the components. Such is the case of *dast zadan* (*be*) ‘to begin’ (hand strike):<sup>12</sup>

- (52) kārgar-ān be e'tesāb dast zad-and  
 worker-PL to strike hand strike.PAST-3PL  
 ‘The workers went on strike.’

We begin with idioms illustrated by *dast zadan*, following analyses in Müller (2010), which draw on Goldberg (1996), Nunberg et al. (1994), and Sag (2007): the head of the idiom is an item in the lexicon, with special selection properties and the appropriate meaning for the idiom. More precisely, the verb is associated with an idiomatic reading, an i-relation which arises in the special combination; it selects its complement via the lexical identifier or LID feature, which is associated with lexemes in the lexicon, and contains morpho-syntactic as well as semantic information (Sag 2007; 2012). The lexical entry for the verb *zadan* ‘to hit’ in the idiomatic combination *dast zadan* ‘to start’ is given in (53):

- (53) Lexical entry of *zadan* ‘strike’ in *dast zadan* ‘to start’

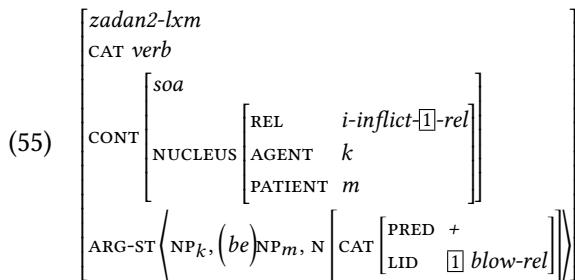
<i>zadan1-lxm</i>
CAT verb
CONT
soa
NUCLEUS
REL <i>i-start-rel</i>
AGENT <i>k</i>
THEME <i>m</i>
ARG-ST
NP <sub><i>k</i></sub> , (be)NP <sub><i>m</i></sub> , N
CAT
LID <i>dast</i>

The same mechanisms can be used to describe the intermediate cases. We illustrate three cases, drawing on the detailed study of the verb *zadan* ‘to strike’ in Samvelian (2012). They show different ways in which the noun takes preeminence over the verb. The meaning of the verb can be close to a basic meaning that it has outside the light verb construction; the noun contributes to a more specific interpretation, and the meaning of the verb is absorbed into that of the noun. This is the case for the light verb construction involving *zadan* ‘to strike’ and a noun describing a type of blow, for instance, *lagad* ‘kick’, *sili* ‘slap’. So *lagad zadan* simply means ‘to kick’.

<sup>12</sup>Note that the combination *dast zadan* has several meanings. When used with a PP argument introduced by *be* ‘to’, it either means ‘to touch’ or ‘to start’. In its intransitive use, it means ‘to clap’.

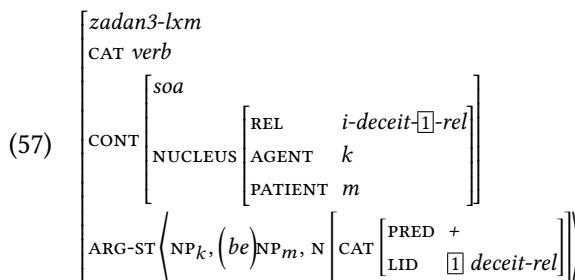
- (54) olāq be Omid lagad zad  
 donkey to Omid kick strike.PAST.3SG  
 ‘The donkey kicked Omid.’

The description of *zadan* (here, *zadan-2*) when it combines with a noun depicting a type of blow is as in (55).



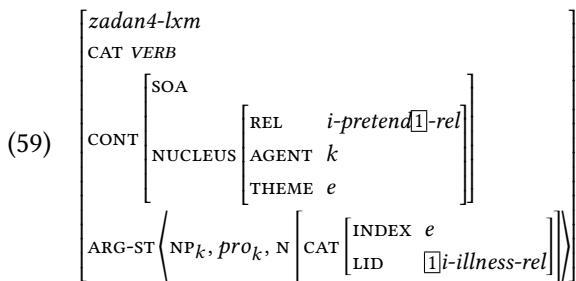
In other cases, the meaning of the noun takes over: the construction is similar to a derivation rule, and converts the noun into a verb with the same meaning, 57. When *zadan* combines with a noun describing a kind of fraud or deception, the complex predicate means ‘deceive’ in the way described more precisely by the noun.

- (56) Hālā mā kalak be=hešun mi-zan-im  
 Now we deceit to=them IPFFV-strike.PRS-3PL  
 ‘Now, it is our turn to deceive them.’



Finally, there are also cases where the meaning of the noun is preserved, but a new meaning emerges for the verb, in a non predictable manner. When *xod=rā zadan* (lit. self strike) combines with a subset of nouns describing illnesses, handicaps or problematic states (like stupidity, ignorance), it means ‘to pretend, feign’ the illness or state in question.

- (58) Maryam xod=rā be divanegi zad  
 Maryam self=RA to madness strike.PAST.3SG  
 ‘Maryam feigned madness.’



Not all nouns for illnesses and problematic states can occur in this complex predicate. To account for this, we indicate that the noun, too, has an idiomatic meaning, an *i-rel*, in addition to its usual meaning, and only the nouns which have such an *i-rel* can participate in the complex Predicate with *xod=rā zadan*. Here, the case is close to that of an idiom, but the noun does not have a special meaning: it is special in that not all nouns with a comparable semantics can form such a complex Predicate with *xod=rā zadan*.

## Acknowledgements

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# Chapter 13

## Control and raising

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### 1 Introduction

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## **Abbreviations**

## **Acknowledgements**

## Chapter 14

# Unbounded Dependencies

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Put abstract here.

### 1 Introduction

Since Ross (1967) and Chomsky (1977) it has been clear that many languages have a variety of constructions involving an unbounded (or long distance) dependency (henceforth UD). *Wh*-interrogatives and relative clauses are important examples, but, as we will see, there are many others. Typically these constructions contain a gap in the sense that a dependent is missing and some distinctive higher structure, and neither can appear without the other. The following illustrate:

- (1) a. What did you put *GAP* on the table?  
b. \* You put *GAP* on the table?  
c. \* What did you put it on the table?

In (1a) there is a gap (indicated by the underscore) in prepositional object position and the distinctive higher structure involves the interrogative pronoun *what* and the pre-subject auxiliary *did*. (1b), where the gap is present but not the distinctive higher structure, is ungrammatical, as is (1c), where the distinctive higher structure appears but not the gap.



The interrogative pronoun *what* in (1a) is what is known as a filler, a constituent in a non-argument position with the properties of the gap. But the distinctive higher structure does not always include a filler. English relative clauses may or may not have a filler.

- (2) the book [(which) you put GAP on the table]

As we will see below, there are also UD constructions which never have a filler.

When there is a filler in a UD construction, it normally has all the properties of the associated gap. Thus, in the following, filler and the gap are of the same category:

- (3) a. [NP Who] did Kim talk to GAP (NP)?  
b. [PP To whom] did Kim talk GAP (PP)?  
c. [AP How long] is a piece of string GAP (AP)?  
d. [AdvP How quickly] did you do it GAP (AdvP)?

They typically match in other respects as well. For example, if they are nominal, they match in number, as the following illustrate:

- (4) a. [NP[sg] Which student] do you think GAP (NP[sg]) knows the answer?  
b. [NP[pl] Which students] do you think GAP (NP[pl]) know the answer?

In languages with grammatical gender or morphological case, they also share these properties.

In addition to syntactic properties, unbounded dependencies also establish matching of semantic properties: i.e. in (1), the filler *what* is understood to fill an argument role of *put*, just as an in situ complement would.

The term unbounded is used here because the gap and the distinctive higher structure with which it is associated can be indefinitely far apart. The following illustrate:

- (5) a. What does she regret that she put GAP on the table?  
b. What did she say she regrets that she put GAP on the table?  
c. What do you think she says she regrets that she put GAP on the table?

There are, however, some restrictions here commonly referred to as island phenomena. These are discussed by Chaves (2019), Chapter 16 of this volume.

There are a few further points that we should make at the outset. We have focused so far on UD constructions where an obligatory dependent, a subject or

complement, is missing. But UDCs are certainly not restricted to subjects and complements. There are examples where the filler has an adjunct role such as (3d) or the following:

- (6)  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Where} \\ \text{When} \\ \text{How} \\ \text{Why} \end{array} \right\}$  did you talk to Lee GAP?

There are also UD constructions with no gap at all. Instead they have a so-called resumptive pronoun (RP). The following Welsh example with the RP in bold illustrates:

- (7) Pa ddyn werthodd Ieuan y cefyl iddo **fo**?  
 which man sell.PAST.3SG Ieuan the horse to.3SGM he  
 ‘Which man did Ieuan sell the horse to?’

Finally, we should note that there are some cases where filler and gap do not match.

- (8) a. Kim will sing, which Lee won’t GAP.  
 b. \* Which won’t Lee GAP?

In (8a) the filler which is a nominal expression, but the gap is a non-finite VP. The *wh*-interrogative in (8b) shows that it is not normally possible to have a nominal filler associated with a VP gap, but in (8a) it is fine.

We explore the HPSG approach to these matters in the following pages. In Section 2, we outline the basic HPSG approach to UDs. Then in Section 3, we focus on the nature of gaps, i.e. the bottom of the dependency, and in Section 4 we look more closely at the middle of UDs. In Section 5, we consider the top of UDs and highlight the variety of UD constructions. In Section 6, we look at resumptive pronouns. Then, in Section 7, we consider some further aspects of *wh*-interrogatives, including pied-piping and *wh*-in-situ phenomena, and, in Section 8, we take a look at filler-gap mismatches. Finally in Section 9, we summarize the chapter, followed by an appendix comparing HPSG to SBCG.

## 2 The basic approach

An analysis of UDs needs an account of gaps, of the structures at the top of UDs, and of the connection between them. Central to the HPSG approach is

the feature SLASH, occasionally called GAP in some recent works, which provides information about the presence of UD gaps inside a constituent.<sup>1</sup> Much HPSG work assumes the feature geometry in Figure 1, following (Pollard & Sag 1994):

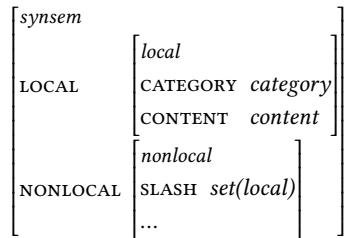


Figure 1: HPSG feature geometry: nonlocal and local features

As this indicates, SLASH is part of the value of the feature NONLOCAL. Its value is a set of local feature structures. If we use traditional categories labels as abbreviations for local feature structures, we can say that a constituent containing an NP gap is [SLASH {NP}], a constituent containing a PP gap is [SLASH {PP}], and so on.

Turning to gaps, a central question is whether there is a phonologically empty element in the constituent structure or nothing at all. Both positions have been developed within HPSG, but probably the view that there is nothing at all in constituent structure is the more widely assumed position. We will adopt that for now and return to the issues in Section 3. Assuming this position, (1a) repeated here as (9), will contain a V with just a single complement sister, namely the predictive PP *on the table*.

- (9) What did you put GAP on the table?

Because the V contains an NP gap, it will be [SLASH {NP}], and so will the constituents that contain it with the exception of the complete sentence. Thus, we have the schematic structure illustrated in Figure 2.

Figure 2: Extraction by SLASH feature percolation

Obviously, we need to ask what ensures that the SLASH feature plays just the right role here. First, however, we need to say more about gaps.

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<sup>1</sup>The basic approach derives from the earlier Generalized Phrase Structure Grammar (GPSG) framework (Gazdar et al. 1985) and can be traced back to Gazdar (1981). The feature's name equally derives from this heritage, referring to the GPSG notation whereby X/Y stand for a category X containing a gap of category Y.

On the view of gaps we are focusing on here they are only represented in ARG-ST lists. Thus, the preposition *to* in (9) has a gap in its ARG-ST list but nothing in its COMPS list and therefore, no complement in constituent structure. Gaps have the feature make up given in Figure 3:

$$\begin{bmatrix} \text{LOCAL} & \boxed{1} \\ \text{NONLOCAL} & \left[ \text{SLASH } \{\boxed{1}\} \right] \end{bmatrix}$$

Figure 3: Representation of gaps

Thus, *to* in (9) will have an element of this form in an ARG-ST list where  $\boxed{1}$  is NP.

Returning now to SLASH, a widely assumed approach involves the following assumptions:

- (10)    a. The SLASH value of a head is normally the same as the union of the SLASH values of its arguments.
- b. The SLASH value of a phrase is normally the same as that of its head.

We will consider how these ideas are formalized in Section 4. For now we will just discuss their implications for the analysis of (9). Essentially they mean that it has the following more elaborate analysis:

Figure 4: Head-driven SLASH feature percolation

Clause (10a) is responsible for the SLASH values on P and both V's, while clause (10b) is responsible for the SLASH values on PP, VP and the lower S. This approach to the distribution of SLASH crucially involves heads and is commonly said to be head-driven.

The lower S in Figure 2 and 4 is the head of the higher S, but they do not have the same value for SLASH. This is because they represent the top of the dependency. If information about gaps was available above the top of the dependency, it would be possible to have another filler higher in the tree as in (11).

- (11) \* What do you wonder what Kim saw GAP?

The top of the dependency in Figures 2 and 4 is a head-filler-phrase and the constraint on head-filler phrases needs to ensure that the higher S is [SLASH {}]. One might propose the following constraint:

This says that a head-filler-phrase is SLASH {} and has a head daughter which is a phrase with a single local feature structure in its SLASH set and a non-head daughter whose LOCAL value is the local feature structure in the SLASH set of the

$$head-filler-ph \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} SLASH & \{\} \\ HD-DTR & \boxed{1} \left[ \begin{matrix} phrase \\ SLASH \{ \boxed{2} \} \end{matrix} \right] \\ DTTS & \langle [LOCAL \boxed{2}], \boxed{1} \rangle \end{bmatrix}$$

Figure 5: Head-filler phrase (singleton SLASH set)

head. Standardly, however, a slightly more general constraint is assumed along the following lines:

$$head-filler-ph \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} SLASH & \boxed{3} \\ HD-DTR & \boxed{1} \left[ \begin{matrix} phrase \\ SLASH \{ \boxed{2} \} \cup \boxed{3} \end{matrix} \right] \\ DTTS & \langle [LOCAL \boxed{2}], \boxed{1} \rangle \end{bmatrix}$$

Figure 6: Head-filler phrase

This allows the SLASH set of the head to contain more than one member and any additional members form the SLASH set of the whole phrase. This is necessary for an example like (12) from Chaves (2012) where indices are used to link fillers and gaps.

- (12) This is the person who<sub>j</sub> I can't remember [which papers]<sub>j</sub> I sent copies of GAP<sub>j</sub> to GAP<sub>i</sub>.

Examples of this form often seem unacceptable, but this is probably a processing matter, see Chaves 2012, section 3 for discussion. See also Section 6 for long relativisation with resumption in Hausa or Modern Standard Arabic.

### 3 More on gaps

We now look more closely at the nature of gaps. The central question here is: what exactly are gaps? We noted in the last section that it has been widely assumed that gaps are only represented in ARG-ST lists but that some HPSG work assumes that they are empty categories, often called traces. There is a third possibility which might be considered, namely that gaps are represented in ARG-ST lists and in VALENCE lists, i.e. SUBJ and COMPS lists, but not in constituent structures. However, it seems that this position has rarely been considered. One complicating factor is that there seem to be differences between complement gaps

and both subject and adjunct gaps. A consequence of this is that the question ‘what are gaps?’ could have different answers for different sorts of gaps, and in fact different answers have sometimes been given.

Complement gaps seem to have had rather more attention than subject or adjunct gaps, perhaps because there are many different kinds of complements, hence many different kinds of complement gaps. We will look first at complement gaps, and in particular, the gap in (1). repeated here as (13).

- (13) What did you put GAP on the table?

Probably the most widely assumed position is that gaps are only represented in ARG-ST lists (see Sag 1997; Bouma et al. 2001; Ginzburg & Sag 2001; Sag 2010). On this view, the verb *put* will have the following somewhat simplified structure:

Figure 7: Representation of a slashed preposition (traceless)

We ignore the COMPS feature and the issue of what ensures that the verb here has the same SLASH value as the gap. We will discuss the latter in the next section.

The view that gaps are empty categories was a feature of early HPSG work, notably Pollard & Sag (1994), and it has been assumed in some more recent work e.g. Levine & Hukari (2006); Borsley (2009; 2013b); Müller (2014). On this view, the VP will have the following structure:

Figure 8: Representation of a slashed PP (with trace)

Again we ignore the COMPS feature and how the PP here has the same SLASH value as the gap.

It is not easy to choose between these two approaches. One argument in favour of the first view, advanced, for example, in Bouma et al. (2001), is that it makes it unsurprising that a gap cannot be one conjunct of a coordinate structure, as in the following:

- (14) a. \* Which of her books did you find both [[a review of GAP] and GAP]?  
 b. \* Which of her books did you find [GAP and [a review of GAP]]?

It is not obvious why this should be impossible if gaps are empty categories.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup>Coordination is a problem for any empty category, not just the empty categories that represent gaps in some HPSG work. Various empty categories have been proposed in the HPSG literature, most prominently the empty relativiser of Pollard & Sag (1994). Sag et al. (2003: sec. 15.3.5) propose that African American Vernacular English has a phonologically empty form of the copula.

A second argument in favour of a traceless approach comes from languages which morphologically treat slashed transitives on a par with intransitives, like Hausa (Crysman 2005) or Mauritian Creole French (Henri 2010). In Hausa and Mauritian, verbs morphologically register whether a direct object is realised locally or not: in both languages, a “short” form is used with locally realised direct objects, whereas the long form is used with intransitives as well as in the case of object extraction.

- (15) Sun hūtā.

3PL.CMPL rest.A

‘They rested.’

- (16) a. Sun rāzānā.

3PL.CMPL terrorise.A

‘They terrorised (someone).’

(Newman 2000: 632)

- b. Sun rāzānā fařar-hūlā.

3PL.CMPL terrorise.c civilian(s)

‘They terrorised the civilians.’

(Newman 2000: 632)

- c. Fařar-hūlā nè sukā rāzānā.

civilian(s) FOC 3PL.CMPL terrorise.A

‘The civilians, they terrorised.’

Hausa verbs are lexically transitive or intransitive, and they are classified into one of seven morphological grades.<sup>3</sup> Intransitives only have a single form (A-form), which is characterised by a long vowel (in grade 1), cf. (15). Transitives, however, display an alternation depending on the mode of realisation of the direct object: if used intransitively, they pattern with intransitive in using the A-form (=long vowel in grade 1), but with an in-situ direct object (16a), they obligatorily surface in the C-form (16b), which has a short vowel in grade 1. Once the direct object is extracted, we find the long vowel A-form again, in parallel to the intransitive use of transitives and true intransitives: in sum, the morphology

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This analysis requires some mechanism to prevent this form from appearing as a conjunct. It is likely that a mechanism that can do this will also prevent the empty categories that represent gaps from being conjuncts.

<sup>3</sup>We restrict discussion here to grade 1, although the syntactic pattern is systematic across grades, only giving rise to different patterns of exponence. See the Hausa grammars by Newman (2000) and Jaggar (2001) for details, and Crysman (2005) for evidence in favour of a morphological treatment.

of Hausa treats complement extraction on a par with argument suppression or lexical intransitives, i.e. as if the direct object complement simply was not there. Similar observations appear to hold for Mauritian (Henri 2010). Thus, if nonlocal realisation corresponds to lexical valence reduction, the Hausa (and Mauritian) facts are straightforwardly accounted for, whereas the generalisation would be lost, if gaps were considered phonologically empty syntactic elements.

However, the lexical approach to argument extraction has some possibly non-trivial implications for other lexical sub-theories of HPSG that make crucial reference to valence lists, which includes lexical theories of agreement and case. This is because gaps will not be present on the valence lists of word-level signs. E.g., the theory of ergativity proposed by Manning & Sag (1999) in terms of linking patterns between ARG-ST and valence lists is actually formulated as constraints on lexemes, since e.g. the linking of the highest argument to the first element on COMPS (=ergative subject) needs to be specified independently of whether this argument is realised by a local or a non-local dependency. The same holds of course for the linking of objects in accusative languages.<sup>4</sup>

Similar considerations apply to agreement: if agreement treats local and non-local arguments alike, it is clear that agreement controllers cannot be identified in a general fashion in terms of the valence features of word-level signs: thus, if agreement relations need make reference to valence rather than argument structure, this can only be established at the level of lexemes. The relevant evidence comes from languages, where the highest argument on ARG-ST does not necessarily correspond to the highest grammatical function, i.e SUBJ valence: while some ergative languages display agreement with the highest argument on ARG-ST, like e.g. Udi (Harris 1984), Archi (Kibrik 1994) shows agreement with the absolute argument, suggesting that SUBJ is the right place to establish the relation (Crys-mann 2009). In Nias, we find agreement with SUBJ in the realis, and with the least oblique argument in the irrealis (ARG-ST). Finally, in Welsh, we observe a parallelism in the agreement between subjects of finite verbs and the objects of prepositions and non-finite verbs: according to Borsley (1989), a unified treatment can be given if subjects of finite verbs are the first element on COMPS, an assumption that directly captures Welsh VSO word order.<sup>5</sup>

Given the broad empirical support for valence lists as one of the loci of case and

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<sup>4</sup>Incidentally, Crys-mann (2009) exploits the fact that extracted arguments do not appear on the valence lists of word-level signs and formulates local case assignment for Nias as a constraint on *word*, effectively exempting topicalised arguments from objective case assignment.

<sup>5</sup>Borsley (2016) argues on rather different grounds that agreement in the Caucasian language Archi involves constraints on constituent structure, which will favour a trace-based perspective on extraction.

agreement constraints, it is clear that these constraints must hold for lexemes, not words under a traceless, lexical perspective of unbounded dependencies.

We turn now to subject gaps. Here a central question is: how similar or how different are they to complement gaps? The following illustrate a well-known contrast, which suggests that they may be significantly different:

- (17) a. Who do you think Kim saw GAP?
  - b. Who do you think GAP saw Kim?
- (18) a. Who do you think that Kim saw GAP?
  - b. \*Who do you think that GAP saw Kim?

The examples in (17) show that a gap is possible in object position in a complement clause whether or not it is introduced by *that*. In contrast, the examples in (18) suggest that a gap is only possible in subject position in a complement clause if it is not introduced by *that*. Pollard & Sag (1994) approach this contrast by stipulating that gaps cannot appear in subject position. This accounts for the ungrammaticality of examples like (18b). Examples like (18a) are allowed by allowing verbs like *think* to take a VP complement and have a non-empty value for SLASH. Ginzburg & Sag (2001) offer a very different account, in which subject gaps appear both in ARG-ST list and SUBJ lists. They suggest that examples like (18b) are ungrammatical because *that* cannot combine with a constituent which has a non-empty SUBJ list.

An important fact about subject gaps is that they are not completely impossible in a complement clause introduced by *that*. In particular, they are acceptable if *that* is followed by an adverbial constituent. The following illustrates:

- (19) Who did you say that tomorrow GAP would regret his words?

Ginzburg & Sag (2001) offer an account of such examples, but Levine & Hukari (2006) argue that it is unsatisfactory. More generally, they argue that subject gaps are like complement gaps in various respects and therefore should have the same basic analysis. They propose an analysis with an empty category for both types of gap. Thus, their approach differs both from the widely assumed approach, which has no empty categories, and the approach of Pollard and Sag, which has them in complement position but not in subject position.

We turn now to adjunct gaps. It is not obvious that there is a gap in examples like (6) repeated as (20), because no obligatory constituent is missing.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>6</sup>This position has initially been taken in Pollard & Sag (1994).

- (20)  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Where} \\ \text{When} \\ \text{How} \\ \text{Why} \end{array} \right\}$  did you talk to Lee GAP?

However, Hukari & Levine (1995) show that such examples may display what are often called extraction path effects , certain phonological or morphosyntactic phenomena which appear between a gap and the associated higher structure (see the discussion of example (24) on page 367). Hence, it seems that they must involve a filler-gap dependency, on a par with examples with a complement gap.

Of course there are a variety of positions that are compatible with this conclusion. Bouma et al. (2001) and Ginzburg & Sag (2001: 168, fn. 2) propose that verbal adjuncts are optional extra complements. On this view, the gaps in the examples in (20) are complement gaps. Levine (2003) and Levine & Hukari (2006) argue against this approach with examples like the following:

- (21) In how many seconds flat do you think that [Robin found a chair, sat down, and took off her logging boots]?

This is a query about the total time taken by three distinct events. Levine and Hukari propose that a fairly traditional analysis of verbal adjuncts in which they are modifiers of VP and combine this with the assumption that gaps are empty categories. The interpretation of examples like (21) follows straightforwardly on this analysis. If indeed argument extraction contrasts with adjunct extraction in terms of whether the gap is introduced lexically (on ARG-ST) or phrasally, this may provide a direct account of the fact that the use of a resumptive strategy in extraction is by and large restricted to arguments. As discussed by Crysman & Reintges (2014), resumptives are obligatory for arguments in Coptic, whereas gap-type extraction is the only possibility for modifiers.

A rather different approach is developed in Chaves (2009). Like Levine & Hukari (2006), he assumes that verbal adjuncts are modifiers of VP, but he rejects the idea that gaps are empty categories. He shows in particular that the possibility for a filler to correspond to a group is neither limited to adjunct extraction nor to events, but may also be observed with NP complements whose gaps are properly contained within each conjunct, as shown by the following examples:

- (22) a. Setting aside illegal poaching for a moment, how many sharks<sub>i+j</sub> do you estimate [[GAP<sub>i</sub> died naturally] and [GAP<sub>j</sub> were killed recreationally]]?

- b. [[Which pilot]<sub>i</sub> and [which sailor]<sub>j</sub>] will Joan invite GAP<sub>i</sub> and Greta entertain GAP<sub>j</sub> (respectively)?

He suggests that the treatment of coordination must be relaxed in such a way as to permit the creation of group individuals and group events on the mother's SLASH where the daughters' SLASH values contain the individual or event variables of the group's members. This provides an account of complement extraction as in (22), but it also provides a straightforward account of the cumulative scoping facts in (21).

## 4 The middle of the dependency

In the middle of an unbounded dependency we typically have a phrase (or a clause) with the same value for SLASH as a non-head daughter. As we noted in Section 2, it is widely assumed that this relation is mediated by the head daughter. The SLASH value of a head is normally the same as that of its arguments, and the SLASH value of a phrase is normally the same as that of its head. However, as we will see, this head-driven approach to the distribution of SLASH hasn't always been adopted.

Central to the head-driven approach is the SLASH Amalgamation Principle, which we can formulate as follows, following Ginzburg & Sag (2001: 199):

$$word \rightarrow / \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{SLASH } \boxed{1} \cup \dots \cup \boxed{n} \\ \text{ARG-ST } \left( \left[ \text{SLASH } \boxed{1} \dots \text{SLASH } \boxed{n} \right] \right) \end{array} \right]$$

Figure 9: SLASH Amalgamation Principle

This is a default constraint, as indicated by the '/'. Essentially, it says that by default by default the SLASH value of a word is the union of the SLASH values of its arguments. Being merely a default constraint will accommodate examples like the following:

- (23) The professor is hard [to talk to GAP].

Here, the adjective *hard* takes an infinitival complement with a non-empty SLASH feature but should not have a non-empty SLASH feature itself since the complement is the top of the dependency.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>7</sup>The non-local nature of *tough*-constructions appears to be a peculiarity of English: similar constructions in German and French do exist, but they feature local (passive-like) dependencies.

To ensure that the SLASH value of a phrase is normally the same as that of its head, much work employs a Slash Inheritance Principle, which stipulates that a phrase and its head have the same value for SLASH except at the top of a dependency (see, e.g. Bouma et al. 2001: 20). An alternative approach developed in Ginzburg & Sag (2001) uses the Generalized Head Feature Principle for this purpose. This says that a headed-phrase and its head daughter have the same SYNSEM values unless some other constraint requires something different. Among other things this ensures that a headed-phrase and its head daughter normally have the same value for SLASH.

One argument in favour of a head-driven approach to the distribution of SLASH is so-called extraction path effects, certain phonological or morphosyntactic phenomena which appear between a gap and the associated higher structure (see Hukari & Levine 1995; Bouma et al. 2001:3.2). Irish provides one of many examples that have been discussed. In Irish, the verbal particle *goN* only occurs with structures that do not contain gaps, while *aL* only occurs between a filler and a gap. The following illustrate:<sup>8</sup>

- (24) a. Shíl      mé goN    mbeadh    sé ann.  
           thought I    VPART would-be he there  
           'I thought that he would be there.'  
       b. An fear aL    shíl      mé aL      bheadh    ann.  
           the man VPART thought I    VPART would-be there  
           'the man that I thought would be here'

Within a head-driven approach to SLASH this is just a contrast between a verb which is [SLASH {}] and a verb which is [SLASH {[ }]}] and is completely unproblematic.

Early HPSG assumed an approach to SLASH which was not head-driven (see Pollard & Sag 1994: chapter 4), and related approaches are assumed in Levine & Hukari (2006) and Chaves (2012). A problem with a head-driven approach is that it says nothing about examples where an unbounded dependency crosses the boundary of a non-headed phrase such as a coordinate structure. Thus, it does not deal with examples of asymmetric coordination like the following:

- (25) a. How much can you [drink GAP] and [still stay sober]]?

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See Abeillé et al. (1998) and Aguilera-Multner (2018) for French, as well as Müller (2002) for German.

<sup>8</sup>In some accounts these particles are taken to be complementizers. The N indicates that *go* triggers nasal mutation while L indicates that *a* triggers lenition,

- b. How many lakes can we [[destroy GAP] and [not arouse public antipathy]]?

Early HPSG (Pollard & Sag 1994) accounts for the distribution of SLASH by means of the Nonlocal Feature Principle, and related principles are proposed by Levine & Hukari (2006: 354) and Chaves (2012). These principles ensure that the SLASH value of a phrase reflects the SLASH values of all its daughters (using set union) and apply equally to headed and non-headed structures. Thus, the examples in (25) are no problem for these latter approaches. However, they seem to require some extra element to handle extraction path effects. So it is not easy to choose between these approaches and the head-driven approach.

A further point that we should emphasize here is that both approaches to the distribution of SLASH allow structures like the following:

Figure 10: Across-the-board (ATB) extraction: conflation of SLASH values

In other words, both allow more than one daughter of a phrase with a non-empty SLASH value to have the same value. This means that we expect structures in which a single filler is associated with more than one gap. Thus, examples like the following are no problem:

- (26) a. What did Kim [[ cook GAP for two hours] and [eat GAP in four minutes]]?
- b. Which person did you [invite GAP [without thinking GAP would actually come]]?

(26a), where the two gaps are in a coordinate structure is standardly said to be a case of across-the-board extraction. (26b) is traditionally seen as involving an ordinary gap followed by a parasitic gap. However, for HPSG all these gaps have essentially the same status (see Levine & Hukari 2006 and Chaves 2012 for extensive discussion).

## 5 The top of the dependency: The diversity of unbounded dependency constructions

We now look more closely at the top of unbounded dependencies. This is where diversity of unbounded dependency constructions resides. They are largely the same at the bottom of the dependency and in the middle, but at the top of the dependency they differ from each other in a variety of ways. We noted at the outset

that the distinctive higher structure in an unbounded dependency construction may contain a filler but does not always. In other words, it may be a head-filler-phrase, but it may not, and there are a number of other possibilities. Moreover, head-filler-phrases can have quite different properties in different constructions.

In the introduction to this chapter we mentioned *wh*-interrogatives and relative clauses as two examples of unbounded dependency constructions. In English the former always involve a head-filler-phrase,<sup>9</sup> while the latter sometimes do but sometimes don't. There are *wh*-relatives and non-*wh*-relatives of various kinds. English *wh*-interrogatives and *wh*-relatives look quite similar. They seem to involve many of the same lexical items: *who*, *which*, *when*, *where*, *why*, and, as the following show both may be finite or non-finite:

- (27) a. Who should I talk to GAP?
- b. I wondered [who to talk to GAP].
  
- (28) a. someone [who I should talk to GAP]
- b. someone [to whom to talk GAP]

But there are differences. *Wh*-interrogatives but not *wh*-relatives allow *what* and *how*:

- (29) a. What did Kim say GAP?
- b. \* the thing [what Kim said GAP]
  
- (30) a. How did Lee do it GAP ]
- b. \* the way [how Lee did it GAP]

In *wh*-interrogatives, *which* combines with a following nominal except in cases of ellipsis. Thus, in (5), repeated here as (31), *book* is necessary unless it is clear that books are under discussion.

- (31) Which book did Kim buy GAP?

Notice also that non-finite *wh*-relatives only allow a PP as a filler. Thus, (32) is not possible as an alternative to (28c).

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<sup>9</sup>On some analyses of example like the following, *who* is just a subject and not a filler:

(i) Who knows the answer?

However, for other work this is a filler just like the *wh*-elements in the text.

- (32) \* someone [who to talk to GAP]

Thus, the fillers in the two constructions differ in a number of ways. The heads also differ in that *wh*-interrogatives have auxiliary + subject order in main clauses (unless the *wh*-phrase is the subject), something which does not occur in *wh*-relatives.

*Wh*-interrogatives and *wh*-relatives are not the only unbounded dependency constructions that involve a head-filler phrase. Topicalization sentences such as the following are another:

- (33) a. BEER I like GAP.  
 b. To LONDON I went GAP.

Unlike *wh*-interrogatives and *wh*-relatives, these are always finite. Also required to be finite are what have been called *the*-clauses Borsley 2004; Sag 2010; Borsley 2011, the components of comparative correlatives such as (34).

- (34) The more I read GAP, the more I understand GAP.

*The*-clauses have the unusual property that they may contain the complementizer *that*:

- (35) The more that I read GAP, the more that I understand GAP.

Obviously, this is not possible in *wh*-interrogatives and *wh*-relatives.

- (36) a. \* I wonder [who that Lee saw GAP].  
 b. \* the man [who that Lee saw GAP]

Within HPSG the obvious approach to the sorts of facts we have just highlighted involves a number of subtypes of the type *head-filler-phrase*, as in Figure 11.

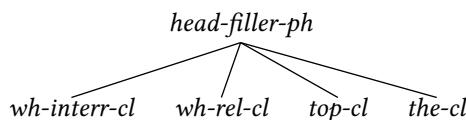


Figure 11: Hierarchy of head-filler phrases

As was noted in chapter 1, much HPSG work assumes two distinct sets of phrase types. Assuming this positon, *wh-interr-cl* will not just be a subtype of

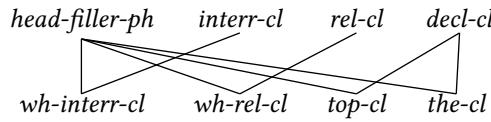


Figure 12: Hierarchy of extraction clause types (preliminary)

*head-filler-ph* but also a subtype of *interr-cl*, the type *wh-rel-cl* will also be a subtype of *rel-cl*, and *top-cl* and *the-cl* will both be subtypes of *decl-cl*. This gives the type hierarchy in Figure 12

Constraints on *interr-cl* will capture the properties that all interrogatives share, most obviously interrogative semantics. Constraints on *rel-cl* will capture what all relatives have in common, especially modifying an appropriate nominal constituent.<sup>10</sup> Finally, constraints on *decl-cl* will capture the properties on declaratives, especially declarative semantics. Constraints on *wh-interr-cl* and *wh-rel-cl* will ensure that their fillers take the appropriate form. Constraints on *top-cl* and *the-cl* will restrict their fillers and also require their heads to be finite. Further complexity is probably necessary to handle all the facts noted above. To ensure that non-finite *wh*-relatives only allow a PP filler while finite *wh*-relatives allow either an NP or a PP filler it is probably necessary to postulate two subtypes of *wh-rel-cl*. As for the fact that *the*-clauses may contain the complementizer *that*, one way to deal with this is to postulate a subtype of *head-filler-ph*, *standard-head-fill-ph* with *wh-interr-cl*, *wh-rel-cl*, and *top-cl* as its subtypes. This new type will be subject to a constraint preventing its head from containing a complementizer. The type *the-cl* will not be a subtype of this new type and hence will be able to contain a complementizer (see Borsley 2011 for discussion). All this suggests the type hierarchy in Figure 13. This is complex, but then the facts are complex,

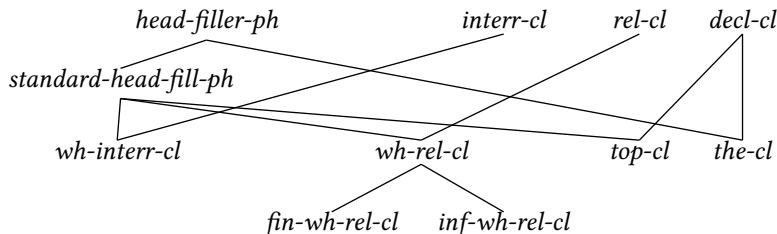


Figure 13: Hierarchy of extraction clause types (final)

as we have seen. Crucially, such a hierarchy allows a straightforward account of

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<sup>10</sup>Non-restrictive relatives can also modify various kinds of non-nominal constituents. See Arnold (2004) and Arnold & Borsley (2008).

both the similarities and the differences among these constructions.

We turn now to cases where there is no filler. We start with the so-called tough construction, exemplified by (23), repeated here as (37).

- (37) The professor is hard [to talk to GAP].

Here, there is a gap following the preposition *to*, and the initial NP *the professor* is understood as the object of *to*. But this NP is not a filler but a subject. Like any subject it is preceded by an auxiliary in an interrogative:

- (38) Is the professor hard [to talk to GAP]?

Moreover, it is clear that it cannot share a local feature structure with the gap since it is in a position associated with nominative case whereas the gap is in a position associated with accusative case. This suggests that adjectives like *hard* may take an infinitival complement with a SLASH value containing a nominal local feature structure which is coindexed with its subject. The coindexing will ensure that the subject has the right interpretation without getting into difficulties over case. It seems, then, that we need something like the lexical description in Figure 14 in order to account for *hard* in examples like (37) and (38):

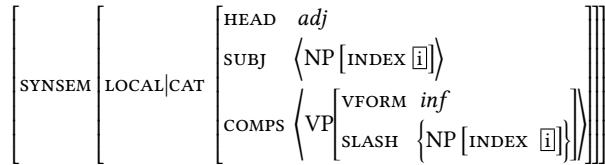
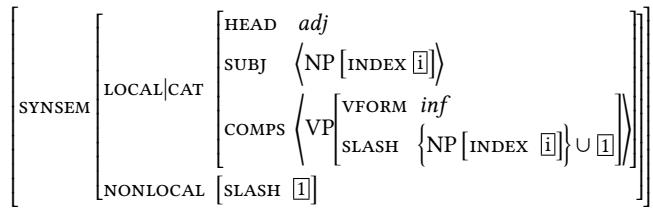


Figure 14: Lexical representation of *tough* adjectives (preliminary)

But there is more to be said here. *Hard* and its infinitival complement are the top of a dependency. It is essential that the AP *hard to talk to* should not have the same SLASH value as the infinitival complement *to talk to*. How this should be prevented depends on what approach is assumed to the distribution of SLASH values. However, if this involves a default SLASH Amalgamation Principle of the kind discussed in Section 4, it is a fairly simple matter. A default SLASH Amalgamation Principle ensures that the SLASH value of a word is normally the same as the SLASH value of its arguments. We can override the principle in the present case by giving adjectives like *hard* lexical descriptions of the following form: This ensures that SLASH value of such adjectives is the SLASH value of the infinitival complement minus the NP that is coindexed with its subject. Where this NP is the only item in the complement's SLASH value, the adjective will be [SLASH

Figure 15: Lexical representation of *tough* adjectives (final)

$\{\}$ , and so will the AP that it heads. However, it is possible to have an additional item in the SLASH value, as in the following well-known example:

- (39) Which violin is this sonata [easy to play GAP on GAP]?

Here, *which violin* is understood as the object of *on* and *this sonata* as the object of *play*. The infinitival complement *to play on* will have two items in its SLASH set, one associated with *which violin* and one associated with *this sonata*. The constraint in Figure 15 will ensure that only the former appears in the SLASH set of *easy* and hence only this appears in the SLASH set of *easy to play on*.

The term lexical binding of SLASH is often applied to situations like this in which a lexical item makes some structure the top of a dependency. This is a plausible approach to adjectives like *hard* and also to adjectives modified by *too* or *enough*, as in the following:

- (40) Lee is too important for you to talk to.

- (41) Lee is important enough for you to talk to.

Lexical binding is also a plausible approach to relative clauses which have not a filler but a complementizer. This may include English *that* relatives such as that in (42) (although some HPSG work, e.g. Sag (1997), has analysed *that* as a relative pronoun and hence a filler):

- (42) the man [that you talked to GAP]

If relative *that* is a complementizer, and complementizers, are heads, as in much HPSG work, it can be given a lexical description like the one in Figure 16: This says that *that* takes a finite clause as its complement and modifies an NP, that the SLASH value of the clause includes an NP which is coindexed with the

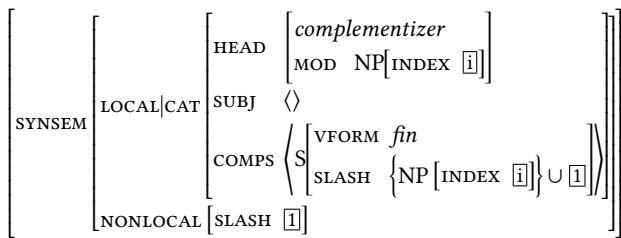


Figure 16: Lexical representation of relative complementiser *that*

antecedent noun selected via MOD, and that any additional members of the complement's SLASH set form the SLASH set of *that*. Normally there will be no other members and *that* will be [SLASH {}].<sup>11</sup>

Further issues arise with zero relatives, which contain neither a filler nor a complementizer, such as the following English example:

- (43) the man [you talked to GAP]

For Sag (1997), these are one type of non-*wh*-relative and are required to have a MOD value coindexed with an NP in the SLASH value of the head daughter. But an issue arises about semantics. Assuming the main verb in a zero relative has the same semantic interpretation as elsewhere, a zero relative will have clausal semantics and not the modifier semantics that one might think is necessary for a nominal modifier. Sag's solution is to propose a special subtype of *head-adjunct-phrase* called *head-relative-phrase*, which allows a relative clause with clausal semantics to combine with a nominal and be interpreted in the right way. One might well wonder how satisfactory this approach is.

Sag (2010) shows that it is a simple matter to assign modifier semantics to a relative clause where the basic clause is the daughter of some other element, as it is when there is a filler or a complementizer. The basic clause can have clausal semantics and the mother can have modifier semantics. This suggests that zero relatives too might be analysed as daughters of another element with modifier semantics. One might do this, as Sag (2010: 531) notes, with a special unary branching phrase type (Müller 1999b: sec. 10.3.2). Alternatively, one might postulate a phonologically null counterpart of relative *that*.<sup>12</sup>

<sup>11</sup>This is essentially the approach that is taken to relatives in Modern Standard Arabic in Alqurashi & Borsley (2012).

<sup>12</sup>This is the approach that is taken to zero relatives in Modern Standard Arabic in Alqurashi & Borsley (2012).

There are various other issues about the top of the dependency. Consider, for example, cleft sentences such as (44).

- (44) It was on the table that he placed the book GAP.

Clefts consist of *it*, a form of *be*, a focused constituent, and a clause with a gap. In (44) the focused constituent is a PP and so is the gap. It looks, then, as if the focused constituent shares its main properties with the gap in the way that a filler would. However, there are also clefts where it is clear that the focused constituent does not share an index with the gap. Consider e.g. the following:

- (45) It's me that GAP likes beer.

Here the focused constituent is first person singular, but the gap is third person singular, as shown by the form of the following verb. Given the standard assumption that person, number and gender features are a property of indices, it follows that they cannot have the same index. There are important challenges here.

Agreement in German may shed some more light on this:

- (46) a. Da habe ich, der/die sonst immer rechtzeitig  
there have.1SG I who.SG.M/who.SG.F otherwise always on.time  
kommt, doch tatsächlich verschlafen.  
come.3SG, indeed verily overslept  
'I, who is otherwise always on time, have indeed overslept.'
- b. Da habe ich, der ich sonst immer rechtzeitig  
there have.1SG I who.SG.M I otherwise always on.time  
komme, doch tatsächlich verschlafen.  
come.1SG, indeed verily overslept  
'I, who is otherwise always on time, have indeed overslept.'

In (46a), we find a reduced agreement pattern in number and gender between the relative pronoun and the antecedent noun, to the exclusion of person. Within the relative clause, however, we find full person/number subject agreement on the verb. In (46b), however, the relative pronoun is post-modified by the pronoun *ich* 'I', triggering full agreement with both the antecedent noun and the embedded verb. French, by contrast, observes full agreement of all three INDEX features:

- (47) C'est moi qui suis venu(e).  
it's me who am come.M/F  
'It's me who came.'

Thus, relative pronouns and complementisers seem to differ cross-linguistically as to the features which undergo agreement with the antecedent.

Also quite challenging are free relatives. They look rather like head-filler-phrases. The initial constituent of a free relative behaves like a filler, reflecting the properties of the gap.

- (48) whichever student you think knows/\*know the answer

- (49) whichever students you think know/\*knows the answer

But the initial constituent also behaves like a head, determining the distribution of the free relative.

- (50) a. Kim will buy what(ever) Lee buys.

- b. \* Kim will buy where(ever) Lee goes.

- (51) a. Kim will go where(ever) Lee goes.

- b. \* Kim will go what(ever) Lee buys.

In case languages like German, the matching effect generally includes case specifications (Müller 1999a).

Most work on free relatives has assumed that it is a filler and not a head (Groos & van Riemsdijk 1981; Grosu 1989) or a head and not a filler (Bresnan & Grimshaw 1978). But the obvious suggestion is that it is both a filler and a head, a position espoused in Huddleston & Pullum (2002). This idea can be implemented within HPSG by analysing free relatives and head-filler-phrases as subtypes of filler-phrase, as follows:

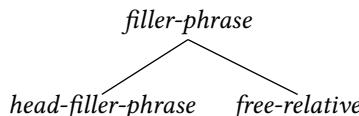


Figure 17: Hierarchy of filler phrases

Filler-phrase will be subject to a constraint like that proposed earlier for head-filler-phrases except that it will say nothing about the head-daughter. Head-filler-phrases will be subject to a constraint identifying the second daughter as the head, while free-relatives will be subject to a constraint identifying the first daughter as the head (among other things).<sup>13</sup>

<sup>13</sup>The constraint on free relatives will also need to ensure that the first daughter takes the appropriate form and that the second daughter is finite.

Naturally, there may be complications here. German, for example, has some free relatives in which the case of the *wh*-element differs from that which the position of the free relative leads one to expect. This looks like a problem for the idea that the initial constituent is a head, but it may not be if heads and the associated phrases only share syntactic properties by default, as in much HPSG work.<sup>14</sup>

## 6 Resumptive pronouns

Ever since Vaillette (2001), resumption has been treated as an unbounded dependency within HPSG, on a par with SLASH dependencies, rather than as a case of anaphoric binding. The main motivation for treating resumption similar to extraction lies with the fact that in a variety of languages dependencies involving a pronominal at the bottom of the dependency behave similarly to UDCs involving a gap at the extraction site.

Vaillette (2001) investigates resumption in Hebrew and shows on the basis of across-the-board (ATB) extraction, parasitic gaps, and crossover that resumptive dependencies are indistinguishable from gap dependencies except for their reduced sensitivity to extraction islands. In order to reconcile the UDC-like properties of resumption with the difference in island sensitivity, he introduces a dedicated non-local feature RESUMP. While using separate features for resumptives and gaps easily makes them distinguishable for the purposes of island constraints, it certainly has the drawback that formulation of the ATB constraint becomes quite cumbersome. The following example illustrates mixing of gaps and resumptives in ATB extraction in Hebrew:

- (52) kol profesor<sub>*i*</sub> še dani roce lehazmin GAP<sub>*i*</sub> aval lo maarix ?oto<sub>*i*</sub>  
           every professor that Dani wants to-invite       but not esteems him  
           maspik  
           enough  
           ‘every professor that Dani wants to invite but doesn’t respect enough’ (Sells  
           1984: 78)

Subsequent work on Persian (Taghvaipour 2005), Welsh (Borsley 2013a) and Hausa (Crysman 2012) essentially follows Vaillette, using ATB extraction as

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<sup>14</sup>Müller (1999a) pursues a rather different approach to free relatives: In order to reconcile mismatches between the case requirement that is internal to the relative clause and the one that is selected for the free relative as whole, he suggests a unary schema that mediates between the different case requirements.

the main indicator for treating resumptive dependencies similar to gap dependencies. What all these works have in common, though, is that they rely on a single non-local feature, namely SLASH for both types of dependencies. In particular these works suggest that mixing of strategies, as illustrated in (52) for Hebrew and in (58) for Hausa, suggests that both extraction strategies should be captured using a single non-local feature, i.e. SLASH. Despite this commonality, however, approaches differ as to how gap and resumptive dependencies are distinguished, if at all.

In his work on Welsh unbounded dependencies, *Borsley (2010)* observes that the choice between gap and resumptive is essentially determined by properties of the immediate environment of bottom of the dependency: i.e. while possessors of nouns and complements of prepositions require a resumptive element when extracted, subjects, as well as direct objects of finite and non-finite verbs only extract by means of filler-gap dependencies. Thus, the distribution of gaps vs. resumptives is practically disjoint.

Furthermore, he reports evidence that resumptives and gaps also pattern alike with respect to island constraints: while extraction out of the clausal complement in a complex NP is fine, with either a gap or a resumptive at the bottom, extraction out of a relative leads to ungrammaticality, again, independent of whether we find a gap or a resumptive.

- (53) Dyma 'r dyn y credodd Dafydd [y si [y  
here-is the man PRT believe.PAST.3S Dafydd the rumour PRT  
gwelodd Mair (o)]].  
see.PAST.3S Mair he  
'Here's the man who David believed the rumour that Mair saw.'
- (54) Dyma 'r dyn y credodd Dafydd [y si [y  
here-is the man PRT believe.PAST.3SG Dafydd the rumour PRT  
cest ti 'r llythyr 'na ganddo (fo)]].  
get.PAST.2SG you the letter DEM with.3S.M him  
'Here's the man who David believed the rumour that you got that letter  
from.'
- (55) \* Dyma 'r ffenest darais i ['r bachgen [dorrodd (hi)  
that-is the window hit.PAST.1S I the boy break.PAST.3S (she)  
ddoe]].  
yesterday

Moreover, with respect to the across-the-board (ATB) constraint resumptives and

gaps show the same behaviour as observed for Hebrew, easily permitting mixing. In addition, Welsh also has certain extraction path effects which are the same in gap and resumptive dependencies (see [Borsley 2010](#): for details).

Given that the distribution of gaps and resumptives is regulated by the locally selecting head at the bottom of the dependency and that there is no need to distinguish the two types of dependencies along the extraction path (middle), [Borsley \(2010\)](#) formulates what is probably the most simple and straightforward approach to resumption. In essence, he proposes “that we need structures in which a slashed preposition or noun has not a slashed argument but a pronominal argument coindexed with its slashed value”. Consequently he extends SLASH AMALGAMATION to optionally include a SLASH element coindexed with an unslashed pronominal argument. This move licenses Welsh resumptives in a structure like the one in Figure 18 below:

Figure 18: Representation of Welsh resumptives

Thus, the only difference between gaps and resumptives on his account is that the former give rise to a reentrancy of an element in SLASH with a LOCAL value on ARG-ST, whereas the latter merely involve reentrancy of INDEX values (between an NP *local* on SLASH and an NP *synsem* on ARG-ST).

The respective distribution of gaps and resumptives are finally accounted for by means of constraints on the binding theoretical status of the element at the bottom of the dependency, i.e. *ppro* for resumptives and *npro* for gaps.

Borsley’s decision to locate the resumptive function on the selecting head, rather than on the pronominal not only provides a good match for the Welsh data, but it also addresses McCloskey’s generalisation ([McCloskey 2002](#)) that resumptives are always the ordinary pronouns, since no lexical ambiguity between slashed and unslashed pronouns is involved here.

In contrast to Borsley, who developed his theory of resumption on the basis of a language where the distribution of gaps vs. resumptives is entirely regulated by the immediate local environment and no difference in island sensitivity could be observed, [Crysman \(2012\)](#) developed an alternative account for Hausa, a language where the distributions of gaps and resumptives partially overlap at the bottom of the dependency and where resumptive dependencies observe different locality constraints when compared to filler-gap dependencies.

Hausa patterns with a number of resumptive languages, including Welsh, in that use of a resumptive is obligatory for complements of a preposition or the possessor of a noun. With direct and indirect objects, however, both resumptives and gaps are possible:

- (56) a. mutànèn dà sukà ki sayar wà GAP dà àbinci sukà fita  
 men REL 3.P.CPL refuse sell to with food 3.P.CPL left  
 'the men they refused to sell food to left.' (Jaggar 2001)
- b. mutànèn dà sukà ki sayar musù dà àbinci sukà fita  
 men REL 3.P.CPL refuse sell to.them with food 3.P.CPL left  
 'the men they refused to sell food to left.' (Jaggar 2001)

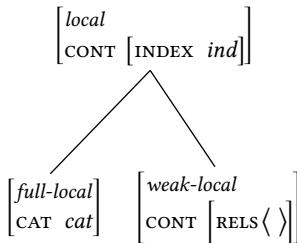
In (56), both a bare dative marker *wà* 'to' is possible (with a gap), and a dative pronoun *musù* 'to.them'.

Moreover, gap and resumptive dependencies do behave differently with respect to strong islands: while extraction out of a relative clause or *wh*-island is impossible for gap dependencies, relativisation out of these islands is perfectly fine with resumptives.

- (57) Gà tābōbīn<sub>j</sub> dà Àli ya san mùtumìn<sub>i</sub> dà zâi<sub>i</sub> yī<sub>i</sub>  
 here.is cigarettes REL Ali 3.S.M.CPL know man REL 3.S.M.FUT do  
 musù<sub>j</sub> / \*wà GAP<sub>j</sub> kwâlī<sub>i</sub>  
 to.them / to box  
 'Here are the cigarettes that Ali knows the man that (he) will make a box  
 for.' (Tuller 1986)

Crysman further emphasises that relativisation (which may escape strong islands) resembles anaphoric relations, whereas filler-gap dependencies, as observed with *wh*-fronting, give rise to a matching effect. He therefore correlates relative complementisers and resumptives with minimal INDEX sharing, whereas filler-head structures, as well as gaps will require sharing of entire LOCAL values: while filler-head structures impose this stricter constraint at the top of the dependency, gaps obviously do so at the bottom. In order to express constraints on locality, Crysman (2012) proposes that SLASH elements (of type *local*) should be distinguished as to their weight: while the type *local* always minimally includes indexical information, its subtypes *full-local* and *weak-local* differ as to the amount of additional information that must or must not be present. For *full-local*, which is appropriate for *synsem*, this includes categorial and full semantic information, whereas exactly this information is excluded for *weak-local*.

The hierarchy of *local* types provides for the possibility that *local* types on SLASH may only be partially specified: while gaps and filler-head structure require full reentrancy of a (*full-local*) LOCAL value, resumptives may be non-committal with respect to the weight distinction, only imposing the minimal index-sharing constraint. This ensures that both resumptives and gaps can be found at

Figure 19: Hierarchy of *local* (Crysman 2012)Figure 20: Hierarchy of *synsem* objects (Crysman 2012)

the bottom of a strong UDC with e.g. a *wh*-filler. Conversely, islands can narrow down the nature of SLASH elements to only pass on a SLASH set of *weak-local*, such that resumptives, but not gaps will be licensed at the bottom in the case of long relativisation.

Underspecification of *local* at the bottom of a resumptive dependency easily permits mixing of gap and resumptive strategies in ATB extraction, as illustrated by the example below:

- (58) [àbōkī-n-ā]<sub>i</sub> dà [[na ziyartā GAP<sub>i</sub>] àmmā [bàn sàmē friend-L-1.S.GEN REL 1.S.CPL visit but 1.S.NEG.CPL find shì<sub>i</sub> à gidā ba]] 3.S.M.DO at home NEG  
'my friend that I visited but did not find at home' (Newman 2000: 539)

The obvious question is of course how these two approaches can be harmonised in order to yield a unified HPSG theory of resumption. It is clear that the theory advanced by Crysman (2012) makes a more fine-grained distinction with regard to SLASH elements and should therefore be able to trivially account for languages where there is no difference in locality restrictions between resumptive and gap dependencies. In the case of Welsh, it will suffice to strengthen the constraints of strong islands, such as relative clauses to block passing of any *local* on SLASH, rather than merely restricting to *weak-local*. The other area where the theories need to be brought closer together concerns the issue of McCloskey's generalisation, which is straightforwardly derived by a syntactic theory of resumption, such as Borsley's. Some work in this direction has already been done: Crysman (2016) suggests replacing his original ambiguity approach with an underspecification approach, essentially following Borsley (2010) in locating the disambiguation between pronoun and resumptive function on the selecting

head. While there are still differences of implementation, general agreement has been obtained that it should indeed be the head that decides on the pronominal's function, whether this is done via disjunctively amalgamating the index of a pronominal argument (Borsley 2010; Alotaibi & Borsley 2013), or else via a more elaborate system of *synsem* types that integrates more nicely with standard SLASH amalgamation (Crysman 2016).

Similar consensus has been reached with respect to the need to have more fine-grained control on locality, again irrespective of implementation details: while Alotaibi & Borsley (2013) exploited constraints on case marking in order to capture the difference in locality of resumptives and gaps in Modern Standard Arabic, the weight-based analysis by Crysman (2017) provides a more principled account of the data, essentially obviating stipulative nominative case assignment that fails to correspond to any overtly observable case marking.

Some questions still remain: Taghvaipour (2005) claims that in Persian, the distribution of gaps vs. resumptives is partly determined by the constructional properties of the top of the dependency, showing different patterns for non-restrictive, restrictive and free relative clauses, and suggests that constructional properties of the top need to be transmitted via SLASH. However, percolation of constructional information across the tree appears to does not play nicely with basic assumptions of locality within HPSG. It remains to be seen how the case of Persian can be analysed within the scope of the theories outlined above.

Another case study that deserves integration into the current HPSG theory of resumption concerns so-called hybrid chains in Irish (Assmann et al. 2010): in this language, the most deeply embedded complementisers register the difference between gaps and resumptives at the bottom, yet complementisers further up can switch between “resumptive marking” and “gap marking”. While the authors use a single SLASH feature for both types of dependency, the objects on this set remain incompatible, thereby necessitating a great deal of disjunction. In order to bring this analysis fully in line with current HPSG, underspecification techniques may be fruitfully explored.

## 7 More on *wh*-interrogatives

### 7.1 Pied piping

So far, we have concentrated on unbounded dependencies as witnessed by extraction, captured in HPSG by SLASH feature inheritance. Another type of unbounded dependency is featured by pied-piping, as illustrated in (59) and (60), taken from

Ginzburg & Sag (2001).

- (59) a. I wonder [[*what*] inspired them].
  - b. I wonder [[*whose* cousin] ate the pastry].
  - c. I wonder [[*whose* cousin's dog] ate the pastry].
  - d. I wonder [[to *whom*] they dedicated the building]
- (60) a. the book [[*which*] inspired them]
  - b. the person [[*whose* cousin] ate the pastry]
  - c. the person [[*whose* cousin's dog] ate the pastry]
  - d. the person [[to *whom*] they dedicated the building]

In (59) the *wh*-word, a pronoun or determiner, that marks the (embedded) *wh*-interrogative clause may be arbitrarily deeply embedded inside the filler.

With relative clauses, as witnessed by (60), the relative pronoun may be embedded inside the filler, and, again, arbitrarily deep. Furthermore, regardless of the level of embedding, the relative pronoun is coreferent with the antecedent noun, such that a mechanism is called for that can establish this token identity in a non-local fashion. This is most evident in languages where relative undergo agreement with the antecedent noun, as e.g. in German:

- (61) a. das Buch [das mich inspirierte]  
DEF.N.S book(N).S REL.N.S me inspired  
'the book that inspired me'
- b. die Person [die mich inspirierte]  
DEF.F.S person(F).S REL.F.S me inspired  
'the person that inspired me'
- c. das Buch [[*dessen/\*deren* Einband] mir gefiel ]  
DEF.N.S book(N).S REL.N.S.POSS cover me pleased  
'the book the cover of which I like'
- d. die Autorin [[*deren/dessen* Roman] mir gefiel ]  
DEF.F.S author(F).S REL.F.S.POSS novel me pleased  
'the (female) author whose novel I liked'

In order to capture the fact that the filler of a *wh*-clause must contain a *wh*-word, or that the relative pronoun contained within the filler of a relative must be structure-share its INDEX with the antecedent noun, HPSG builds on previous

work in GPSG (Gazdar et al. 1985), postulating the non-local features QUE/WH and REL. Pollard & Sag (1994) have proposed a single NONLOCAL Feature Principle that generalises from SLASH feature percolation to inheritance of QUE and REL, defining the value of each non-local feature of the mother as the set union of the nonlocal features of the daughters. See, however, Sag (1997) and Ginzburg & Sag (2001) for head-driven formulation of nonlocal feature percolation.

One observation regarding pied piping in languages such as English or German pertains to the fact that *wh*-words tend to surface in the left periphery of the filler. Ginzburg & Sag (2001) suggest that amalgamation of QUE/WH is restricted to the least oblique element on ARG-ST. This enables them to rule out (62b) while still being able to account for standard pied-piping with prepositional phrases (59d).

- (62) a. I wonder [[whose picture] was on display].  
b. \*I wonder [[my picture of whom] was on display].

Indeed, from a cross-linguistic perspective, pied-piping of prepositions appears to be the far less marked option when compared to preposition stranding, which appears to be a peculiarity of English. This is supported not only by the ban on preposition stranding in German and many other languages (or its restriction to *avec/sans* ‘with’/‘without’ in French), but it is also corroborated by the distribution of resumptives (see section 6).

To summarise, pied piping in HPSG is understood as a phenomenon that involves a second unbounded dependency: in addition to a SLASH dependency between the pied-piped filler and the extraction site, just like the ones we have discussed throughout this chapter, QUE or REL establish dependencies within the filler itself.

## 7.2 Multiple *wh*-questions

While in languages such as English only one *wh*-phrase may be fronted per interrogative clause (and typically one phrase is indeed fronted), it is nevertheless possible to ask multiple questions, with additional *wh*-phrases remaining in situ, as witnessed by *what* in (63).

- (63) Who asked who saw what?

According to the theory of Ginzburg & Sag (2001), only fillers in interrogative clauses are *wh*-marked, and *wh*-marking serves to ensure that a *wh*-quantifier contained in the filler is interpreted as a parameter of the local interrogative

clause. In situ *wh*-phrases, by contrast, are still quantifiers, so they may scope higher than their syntactic position suggests. Ginzburg & Sag (2001) follow Pollard & Sag (1994) in adopting a Cooper storage, which enables them to have the in situ *wh*-quantifier in (63) retrieved either as a parameter of the embedded interrogative clause, or as a parameter of the matrix question. The WH feature thus not only ensures that a *wh*-interrogative is marked as such by a filler containing a *wh*-word, but it also fixes the semantic scope of ex-situ *wh*-phrases to their syntactic scope.<sup>15</sup> In situ *wh*-quantifiers, by contrast, are permitted to take arbitrarily wide scope.

In Slavic languages such as Russian or Serbo-Croatian (Penn 1999), there does not appear to be a constraint on the number of simultaneously fronted *wh*-phrases, as illustrated by the example in (64).

- (64) a. Ko koga si mislio da je voleo?  
           who whom CL-2s thought Comp CL-3s loved  
           ‘Who did you think loved whom?’ (Penn 1999)  
       b. \*Ko si koga mislio da je voleo?

Given that HPSG’s nonlocal features, and in particular SLASH and QUE/WH, are set valued, multiple *wh*-fronting is a rather expected property. In fact, the grammar of English interrogatives as proposed by Ginzburg & Sag (2001) specifically stipulates that there be only a singleton WH set, and that head-filler structures cannot be recursive.

The point where Slavic multiple fronting poses a challenge is its interaction with second position clitics: it seems, as witnessed by the contrast in (64) that multiple fronted *wh*-phrases are treated as a constituent, as far as linearisation is concerned. Penn (1999) proposes a topological analysis based on extended word order domains (Reape 1990; Kathol 2000) in order to reconcile multiple fronted constituents with the second position property: in essence, multiple fillers are assigned to the same initial topological field and linearisation of clitics proceeds relative to that same initial field.

### 7.3 Wh-in-situ

In the previous subsections, as in most of this chapter, we have capitalised on ex situ *wh*-constructions. However, even in languages like English, and even more in French, we do find constructions with clear interrogative semantics where

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<sup>15</sup>Kathol (1998) uses the QUE feature in his analysis of partial *wh*-fronting in German.

nonetheless the *wh*-phrase stays in situ. Moreover, in languages such as Japanese or Coptic Egyptian in situ realisation is the norm, rather than the exception. In this subsection we shall therefore discuss how HPSG's theory of unbounded dependencies has been put to use to account for this phenomenon.

In languages such as English, where standard *wh*-interrogatives are signalled by a *wh*-phrase ex situ (i.e. by a *wh*-filler), Ginzburg & Sag (2001) identify two types of in situ *wh*-questions in English: so called reprise (or “echo”) questions, which typically mimic the syntax and semantics of the speech act they are modelled on (e.g. an assertion, an order etc.), and direct in situ interrogatives, the latter being more strongly restricted pragmatically.

However, *wh* in situ may even be an unmarked, or even the default option for the expression of *wh*-interrogatives: Johnson & Lappin (1997), studying Iraqi Arabic, made the important observation that *wh*-fronting is optional in this language, posing a challenge for transformational models at the time. In Iraqi Arabic, a *wh*-interrogative may be realised ex situ, as in (65a) or in situ, as in (65b).

- (65) a. Mona shaafat meno?  
Mona saw whom  
‘Who did Mona see?’  
b. Meno shaafat Mona?  
Who saw Mona  
‘Who did Mona see?/Who saw Mona?’ (Johnson & Lappin 1997)

They propose a straightforward analysis within HPSG, suggesting to drop what can be regarded as a parochial constraint of English and related languages and allow QUE feature percolation from the right clausal daughter.

What is more, they note that *wh* in situ and ex situ strategies do observe different locality restrictions, thereby lending further support to a difference in the type of nonlocal feature involved. While nonlocal feature percolation for in situ *wh*-constructions cannot escape finite clauses (cf. the contrast in (66a,b)).

- (66) a. Mona raadat tijbir Su'ad tisa'ad meno?  
Mona wanted to.force Su'ad to.help who  
‘Who did Mona want to force Su'ad to help?’  
b. \*Mona tsawwarat Ali ishtara sheno?  
Mona thought Ali bought what  
c. Sheno tsawwarit Mona Ali ishtara?  
what thought Mona Ali bought  
‘What did Mona think Ali bought?’ (Johnson & Lappin 1997)

However, ex situ *wh*-interrogatives, involving a SLASH dependency, are obviously not subject to this restriction, as witnessed by (66c).

Yet, even this constraint, while valid for Iraqi Arabic, must be considered language-specific: Crysman & Reintges (2014) study Coptic Egyptian, where *wh* in situ is the norm. They observe that the scope of an in situ *wh*-phrase is determined by the position of a relative complementiser and note that it can easily escape finite clauses, as shown in (67).

- (67) ere əm=meeʃe tʃo: əmmɔ=s [tʃe ang nim]?  
 REL DEF.PL=crowd say PREP=3F.SG that I who  
 ‘Who do the crowds say that I am?’ (Luke 9, 18)

In their analysis, they build on Johnson & Lappin (1997), yet suggest that QUE percolation in this language may be as unrestricted as SLASH percolation.

## 8 Filler-gap mismatches

As noted in the introduction, there are unbounded dependency constructions in which looks like a filler does not match the associated gap. In this section we will look briefly at two examples of such mismatches.

An interesting type of example is what Arnold & Borsley (2010) call auxiliary-stranding relative clauses (ASRCs). The following illustrate:

- (68) a. Kim will sing, which Lee won’t GAP.  
 b. Kim has sung, which Lee hasn’t GAP.  
 c. Kim is singing, which Lee isn’t GAP.  
 d. Kim is clever, which Lee isn’t GAP.  
 e. Kim is in Spain, which Lee isn’t GAP.  
 f. Kim wants to go home, which Lee doesn’t want to GAP.

*Which* in these examples appears to be the ordinary nominal *which*, but the gap is a VP in (68a), (68b), (68c) and (68f), an AP in (68d), and a PP in (68e). One response to these data might be to propose that *which* in such examples is not the normal nominal *which* but a pronominal counterpart of the categories which appear as complements of an auxiliary, mainly various kinds of VP. It is clear, however, that ordinary VP complements of an auxiliary cannot appear as fillers in a relative clause, as shown by the (b) examples in the following:

- (69) a. This is the book, which Kim will read GAP.

- b. \* This is the book, [read which] Kim will GAP.
- (70) a. This is the book, which Kim has read GAP.  
b. \* This is the book, [read which] Kim has GAP.
- (71) a. This is the book, which Kim is reading GAP.  
b. \* This is the book, [reading which] Kim is GAP.

Thus, this does not seem a viable approach.

[Arnold & Borsley \(2010\)](#) propose that these examples involve a special kind of gap. As noted above, in a normal gap the LOCAL value and the SLASH value match. However, as [Webelhuth \(2008\)](#) noted, there is no reason why we should not under some circumstances have what he calls a ‘dishonest gap’, one whose LOCAL value and SLASH value do not match. Developing this approach, [Arnold & Borsley \(2010\)](#) propose that when an auxiliary has an unrealized complement, the complement optionally has a certain kind nominal as the value of SLASH, which is realized as relative *which*. When SLASH has the empty set as its value, the result is an auxiliary complement ellipsis sentence. When SLASH has the nominal value, we have a dishonest gap because the value of LOCAL is whatever the auxiliary requires, normally a VP of some kind, and the result is an ASRC.

A rather different type of example, discussed by among others [Bresnan \(2001\)](#), [Bouma et al. \(2001\)](#), and [Webelhuth \(2012\)](#), is the following:

- (72) That he might be wrong, he didn't think of GAP.

Here, the apparent filler is a clause, but as the following shows, only an overt NP and not an overt clause is possible in the position of the gap.

- (73) a. He didn't think of the matter.  
b. \* He didn't think of that he might be wrong.

The most detailed HPSG discussion of such examples is [Webelhuth \(2012\)](#). He argues on the basis of examples like the following that initial clauses cannot be associated with a clausal gap:

- (74) a. He was unhappy [that Sue was late again].  
b. \* [That Sue was late again] he was unhappy.
- (75) a. Mary informed Bill [that Sue was late again].  
b. \* [That Sue was late again] Mary informed Bill.

- (76) a. It seems [that John is guilty].  
       b. \* [That John is guilty] it seems.

Thus, initial clauses can only be associated with a nominal gap. Bouma et al. (2001: 25–26) propose an analysis in which an NP gap has an S in its SLASH value. In other words, they propose a dishonest gap. Webelhuth (2012) argues against this approach and proposes an analysis in which an S[SLASH {NP}] in which the NP has a clausal interpretation can combine with a finite clause. Thus, Figure 21 gives the schematic structure for (72).

Figure 21: “Dishonest” gap

On this analysis, the initial clause is not a filler, and the construction is not a head-filler phrase. However, the analysis involves a normal unbounded dependency except at the top. In contrast the Arnold and Borsley analysis of ASRCs outlined earlier involves a normal unbounded dependency except at the bottom.

## 9 Concluding remarks

The preceding pages have among other things highlighted the fact that there are some unresolved issues in the HPSG approach to unbounded dependencies. In particular, there is disagreement about whether or not gaps are empty categories and about whether or not the middle of a dependency is head-driven. It is important, therefore, to emphasize that a number of matters seem reasonably clear. In particular it is generally accepted that unbounded dependencies involve a set- or list-valued feature called SLASH or in some recent work GAP. It is also generally accepted that this is true of all types of unbounded dependencies including those with a filler and those without, those with a gap and those with a resumptive pronoun, and both standard dependencies, where filler and gap match, and dependencies with some kind of mismatch. Finally, it is generally accepted that the hierarchies of phrase types that are a central feature of HPSG provide an appropriate way to capture both the similarities among the many unbounded dependency constructions and the variety of ways in which they differ. The general approach seems to compare quite favourably with the approaches that have been developed within other approaches.

## Appendix: Unbounded dependencies in Sign-Based Construction Grammar

This chapter has concentrated on the approach to unbounded dependencies that has been developed with construction-based HPSG. As has been discussed in a number of chapters, a version of HPSG called Sign-Based Construction Grammar (SBCG) was developed in the 2000s, which differs from construction-based HPSG in a number of ways (Sag 2012). Among other things, this has a somewhat different treatment of unbounded dependencies. In this appendix, we outline the main ways in which SBCG is different in this area.

Unlike construction-based HPSG, SBCG makes a fundamental distinction between signs and constructions. Constructions are objects which associate a mother sign (MTR) with a list of daughter signs (DTRS), one of which may be a head daughter (HD-DTR). They take the following form:

$$(77) \quad \begin{bmatrix} cx \\ MTR & sign \\ DTRS & list(sign) \\ HD-DTR & sign \end{bmatrix}$$

Constructions are utilized by the Sign Principle, which can be formulated as follows:

- (78) Signs are well formed if either
- they match some lexical entry, or
  - they match the mother of some construction.

Constructions and the Sign Principle are features of the SBCG which are lacking in construction-based HPSG. Hence, they are complications. But they allow simplifications. In particular, they allow a simpler notion of sign without the features DTRS and HD-DTR. This in turn allows to the framework to dispense with synsem and local objects. The ARG-ST feature and the VALENCE feature, which replaces SUBJ and COMPS, take lists of signs and not synsem objects as their value. More importantly in the present context, the GAP feature, which replaces SLASH, takes as its value a list of signs and not local objects.

One might suppose that this view of GAP would entail that a filler and the associated gap have all the same syntactic and semantic properties unlike within construction-based HPSG, where they only share the syntactic and semantic properties that are part of a local object and hence not the wh feature in *wh*-

interrogatives. However, the framework allows constraints to stipulate that certain objects are the same except for some specified features. The constraint of the filler-head-construction, which corresponds to HPSG's head-filler-phrase, stipulates that the sign that is the filler is identical to the sign in the GAP list of its sister except for the value of the WH feature and the REL feature used in relative clauses. Thus, filler and gap differ in the same way in SBCG and construction-based HPSG but for different reasons.

At the bottom of dependency things are rather different. The SBCG analysis allows a member of the ARG-ST list of a lexical head to appear not as a member of the word's VALENCE list but as member of its GAP list. We can illustrate with read in the following examples:

- (79) a. I will read the book.  
       b. Which book will you read?

In (79a) read has the values in (80) for the three features:

(80)	<table style="margin-left: 10px; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="border-right: 1px solid black; padding-right: 10px;">ARG-ST</td><td><math>\langle [1]NP, [2]NP \rangle</math></td></tr> <tr> <td style="border-right: 1px solid black; padding-right: 10px;">VALENCE</td><td><math>\langle [1], [2] \rangle</math></td></tr> <tr> <td style="border-right: 1px solid black; padding-right: 10px;">GAP</td><td><math>\langle \rangle</math></td></tr> </table>	ARG-ST	$\langle [1]NP, [2]NP \rangle$	VALENCE	$\langle [1], [2] \rangle$	GAP	$\langle \rangle$
ARG-ST	$\langle [1]NP, [2]NP \rangle$						
VALENCE	$\langle [1], [2] \rangle$						
GAP	$\langle \rangle$						

Here, ARG-ST and VALENCE have the same value and the value of GAP is the empty list. In (79b) the three features have the following values:

(81)	<table style="margin-left: 10px; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="border-right: 1px solid black; padding-right: 10px;">ARG-ST</td><td><math>\langle [1]NP, [2]NP \rangle</math></td></tr> <tr> <td style="border-right: 1px solid black; padding-right: 10px;">VALENCE</td><td><math>\langle [1] \rangle</math></td></tr> <tr> <td style="border-right: 1px solid black; padding-right: 10px;">GAP</td><td><math>\langle [2] \rangle</math></td></tr> </table>	ARG-ST	$\langle [1]NP, [2]NP \rangle$	VALENCE	$\langle [1] \rangle$	GAP	$\langle [2] \rangle$
ARG-ST	$\langle [1]NP, [2]NP \rangle$						
VALENCE	$\langle [1] \rangle$						
GAP	$\langle [2] \rangle$						

Here, the second member of the ARG-ST list appears not in the VALENCE but in the GAP list. This is rather different from HPSG. As discussed in Section 2, HPSG gaps have a non-empty SLASH value. Here, gaps are just ordinary signs which appear in a GAP list and not in a VALENCE list.

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# Chapter 15

## Relative Clauses in HPSG

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We provide an extended discussion of analyses of relative clauses (prototypically clauses with a noun modifying function) and related constructions that have appeared in the HPSG literature. The basic theoretical approaches are presented (specifically, the lexical “head-driven” approach associated with earlier work in HPSG, and the more recent constructional approach), followed by descriptions of analyses of different kinds of relative clause across a range of typologically diverse languages (notably Arabic, English, French, German, Japanese, and Korean). Phenomena discussed include *wh*-relatives, relatives headed by complementisers, “bare” relatives, non-restrictive relatives, extraposition of relative clauses, relative clause-like constructions that function as complements, various kinds of “dependent noun” and “pseudo” relative clause, and free (headless) relatives.

### 1 Introduction

The goal of this paper is to give an overview of HPSG analyses of relative clauses. Relative clauses are, typically, sentential constructions that function as nominal modifiers, like the italicised part of (1), for example.

- (1) *The person to whom Kim spoke yesterday claimed to know nothing.*

Relative clauses have been an important topic in HPSG: not only as the focus on a considerable amount of descriptive and theoretical work across a range of languages, but also in terms of the theoretical development of the framework.



Notably, Sag’s (1997) analysis of English relative clauses was the first fully developed realisation of the constructional approach involving cross-classifying phrase types that has dominated work in HPSG in the last two decades, and was thus the first step towards the development of Sign-based Construction Grammar (cf. Müller (2019b), Chapter 36 of this volume).

The basic organisation of the discussion is as follows. Section 2 introduces basic ideas and overviews the main analytic techniques that have been used, focusing on one kind of relative clause. Section 3 looks at other kinds of relative clause in a variety of languages. Section 4 looks at a variety of constructions which have some similarity with relative clauses, but which are in some way untypical (e.g. clauses that resemble relative clauses, but which are not nominal modifiers, or which are not adjoined to the nominals they modify). Section 5 provides a conclusion.

## 2 Basic ideas and approaches

This section introduces basic ideas and intuitions about relative clauses, viewed from an HPSG perspective (Section 2.1), then introduces the two main approaches that have been taken in HPSG: the lexical approach of Pollard & Sag (1994) which makes use of phonologically empty elements (Section 2.2), and the constructional approach of Sag (1997), which makes phonologically empty elements unnecessary (Section 2.3). Section 2.4 presents some interim conclusions, and provides some discussion of some brief discussion alternative approaches.

### 2.1 Basic ideas and intuitions

Relative clauses are, prototypically, sentential constructions which modify a nominal. (2) is an example of one kind of English relative clause, which we will call a “wh-relative”. In (3) it is used as a modifier of the nominal *person* (the *antecedent* of the relative clause).

- (2) to whom Kim spoke yesterday
- (3) The person to whom Kim spoke yesterday claimed to know nothing.

Syntactically, this kind of relative clause consists of a preposed *wh*-phrase (*to whom*), i.e. a phrase containing a relative pronoun (*whom*), and a clause with a missing constituent — a gap (the complement of *speak*: *Kim spoke* \_\_\_\_ *yesterday*). This is often called the *relativised constituent*. Semantically, in (2) the interpretation of the relative clause is *intersective*: (2) denotes the intersection of the set

of people and the set of entities that Kim spoke to. Getting this interpretation involves combining the descriptive content of the antecedent nominal and the propositional content of the relative clause, and equating the referential indices of the nominal and the relative pronoun, to produce something along the lines of “the set of  $x$  where  $x$  is a person and Kim spoke to  $x$ ”.

Not all relative clauses have these properties, but they provide a good starting point. In the remainder of this section, we will show, in broad terms, how these properties can be accounted for.

As regards their function and distribution, relative clauses are subordinate clauses, which can be captured by assuming they have a HEAD feature like [MC –], “MAIN-CLAUSE minus”. They are naturally assumed to be adjuncts: their distribution as nominal adjuncts can be dealt with by assuming that (like other adjuncts) they indicate the sort of head they can modify via a feature like MOD or SELECT (cf. chapters/ChXXX Chapter ?? of this volume on the treatment of adjuncts). That is, relative clauses such as (2) will be specified as in (4a), whereas adjunct clauses headed by a subordinator like *because* (as in *We're late because it's raining*) will be specified as (4b), and normal, non-adjunct, clauses will typically be specified as (4c):

- (4)    a.  $\left[ \text{SYNSEM} | \text{LOC} | \text{CAT} | \text{HEAD} | \text{MOD} \left[ \text{LOC} | \text{CAT} | \text{HEAD noun} \right] \right]$
- b.  $\left[ \text{SYNSEM} | \text{LOC} | \text{CAT} | \text{HEAD} | \text{MOD} \left[ \text{LOC} | \text{CAT} | \text{HEAD verb} \right] \right]$
- c.  $\left[ \text{SYNSEM} | \text{LOC} | \text{CAT} | \text{HEAD} | \text{MOD none} \right]$

With this in hand, we will look in more detail at the internal structure of this kind of relative clause (Section 2.1.1), and at the relation between the relative clause and its antecedent (Section 2.1.2).

### 2.1.1 The internal structure of the relative clause

As regards internal structure, it is characteristic of *wh*-relatives that they consist of a preposed *wh*-phrase, and a clause containing a gap. The dependency between the *wh*-phrase and the associated gap is potentially unbounded, as can be seen from examples like (5).

- (5) the person to whom [ Sam said [ Kim intended [ to speak — yesterday]]]

As regards the *wh*-phrase, it is notable that it must be preposed — English does not allow examples like (6a) without a relative phrase, or (6b) where the relative phrase is *in situ*.

- (6)    a. \*a person Kim spoke to her yesterday

- b. \*a person Kim spoke to whom yesterday

Despite being forbidden *in situ*, the preposed *wh*-phrase behaves in some respects as though it occupied the gap. For example, in the examples above *to whom* satisfies the subcategorisation requirements of *speak*, and makes a semantic contribution in the gapped clause. Assuming some kind of co-indexation relation between the antecedent and the *wh*-phrase, the same behaviour can be seen with subject-verb agreement, as in (7a), and binding, as in (7a):

- (7) a. a person who [ everyone thinks [ \_\_\_ is/\*are weird ]]  
b. a person who [ everyone thinks [ \_\_\_ hates herself/\*her ]]

In fact, this dependency between the *wh*-phrase and the gap appears to be a typical filler-gap dependency, with the *wh*-phrase as the filler, which can be handled by standard SLASH inheritance techniques (see Borsley & Crysmann (2019), Chapter 14 of this volume), so that these properties are accounted for.

In examples like (2) the *wh*-phrase must contain a relative pronoun. Here we have another apparently unbounded dependency, because the relative pronoun can be embedded arbitrarily deeply inside the *wh*-phrase (example (8d) is due to Ross 1967):

- (8) a. the person [to [whose friends]] Kim spoke \_\_\_  
b. the person [to [[whose children's] friends]] Kim spoke \_\_\_  
c. the person [to [the children [of [whose friends]]]] Kim spoke \_\_\_  
d. books [the height [of [the letters [on [the covers [of which ]]]]]] the government regulates \_\_\_

This dependency between a relative pronoun and the phrase that contains it is often called “*wh*-percolation”, “relative percolation”, or, following Ross (1967), “pied-piping”. We will talk about *relative inheritance*.

Notice that as well as being unbounded, relative inheritance resembles SLASH inheritance in that the “bottom” of the inheritance path (i.e. the actual relative pronoun, or the gap in a filler-gap dependency) is typically not a head (e.g. *whom* is not the head of *to whom*). Moreover, though examples involving multiple independent relative pronouns are rather rare in English (i.e. there are few, if any, relative clauses parallel to interrogatives like *Who gave what to whom?*) they exist in other languages, so it is reasonable to assume that relative inheritance involves a set of some kind.<sup>1</sup> This motivates the introduction of a REL feature

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<sup>1</sup>Examples of languages which allow multiple relative pronouns include Hindi (e.g. Srivastav 1991) and Marathi (e.g. Dhongde & Wali 2009: Ch7). See Pollard & Sag (1994: 227–232) for

which is subject to the same kind of formal mechanisms as SLASH.<sup>2</sup>

The idea is that a relative pronoun will register its presence by introducing a non-empty REL value, which will be inherited upwards until it reaches the preposed *wh*-phrase at the top of the relative clause (equivalently: a relative clause introduces a non-empty REL value on its *wh*-phrase daughter that is inherited downwards till it is realised as a relative pronoun). Within the *wh*-phrase, REL inheritance can be handled by the same sort of formal apparatus as is used for handling SLASH inheritance. Blocking REL inheritance from carrying a REL element upwards beyond the top of relative clause can be achieved with the same formal apparatus as is used to block SLASH inheritance from carrying information about a gap higher than the level at which the associated filler appears.<sup>3</sup>

Co-indexation of the antecedent nominal and the relative pronoun can be achieved simply if the REL value contains an index which is shared by both the antecedent and the relative pronoun. As regards the relative pronoun, at the “bottom” of the REL dependency, this can be a matter of lexical stipulation: relative pronouns can be lexically specified as having a REL value that contains their INDEX value, roughly as in (9a), which we abbreviate to (9b).<sup>4</sup>

(9)	a.	$\left[ \begin{array}{c} \text{SYNSEM} \\ \text{LOC} \\ \text{NON-LOC} \end{array} \middle  \begin{array}{c} \left[ \begin{array}{c} \text{CAT} \\ \text{CONT} \\ \text{INHER REL} \end{array} \middle  \begin{array}{c} [\text{HEAD noun}] \\ [\text{INDEX } \boxed{1}] \\ \{\boxed{1}\} \end{array} \right] \end{array} \right]$
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HPSG analyses. In English, multiple relative pronouns occur in cases of co-ordination (e.g. *the person with whom or for whom you work*), but they are not independent (they relate to the same entity). [Kayne \(2017\)](#) gives some English examples that appear to involve multiple relative pronouns, but they are rather marginal.

<sup>2</sup>The assumption that relative inheritance should be treated as involving an unbounded dependency (i.e. handled with a NON-LOCAL feature, like SLASH), has been challenged in [Van Eynde \(2004\)](#) ([Van Eynde](#) argues it should be treated as local dependency).

<sup>3</sup>In case it is not obvious why further upwards inheritance of a REL value would be problematic, notice that while a relative clause can contain a *wh*-phrase, it cannot be a *wh*-phrase, e.g. it cannot function as the filler in a relative clause. Suppose, counter-factually, the REL value of *who* could be inherited beyond the relative clause *to whom Kim spoke*, so that e.g. *a person to whom Kim spoke* was marked as [REL  $\{\boxed{1}\}$ ]. This phrase would be able to function as the *wh*-phrase in a relative clause like \*[*a person to whom Kim spoke*] *Sam recognised* —, which would be able to combine with a noun specified as [INDEX  $\boxed{1}$ ] to produce something like \**a person [[a person to whom Kim spoke]] Sam recognised* —.

<sup>4</sup>Here, and below, we will abbreviate attribute paths where no confusion arises, and use a number of other standard abbreviations, in particular, we write INDEX values as subscripts on nouns and NPs. We use N to indicate a noun with an empty COMPS list, i.e. one which has combined with its complements, if any, and NP for a  $\bar{N}$  with an empty SPEC (SPECIFIER) list (e.g. a combination of determiner and a  $\bar{N}$ ). Similarly, we use PP to abbreviate a phase consisting of a preposition and its complement, VP for a phrase consisting of verb with its complements, and S for a phrase consisting of a subject and a VP.

- b.  $\bar{N}_{\boxed{1}} \left[ \text{REL } \{\boxed{1}\} \right]$

This index can then be inherited upwards via the **REL** value to the level of the *wh*-phrase. At the top, the index of the antecedent can be accessed via the **MOD** value of the relative clause: this is simply a matter of replacing the specification of the **MOD** value in (4a) with that in (10a), abbreviated as in (10b), where  $\boxed{1}$  is the index that appears in the **REL** value of the associated *wh*-phrase.<sup>5</sup>

- (10) a.  $\left[ \text{SYNSEM} | \text{LOC} | \text{CAT} | \text{HEAD} | \text{MOD} \left[ \text{LOC} \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{CAT } [\text{HEAD } \textit{noun}] \\ \text{CONT } [\text{INDEX } \boxed{1}] \end{array} \right] \right] \right]$   
 b.  $S \left[ \text{MOD } \bar{N}_{\boxed{1}} \right]$

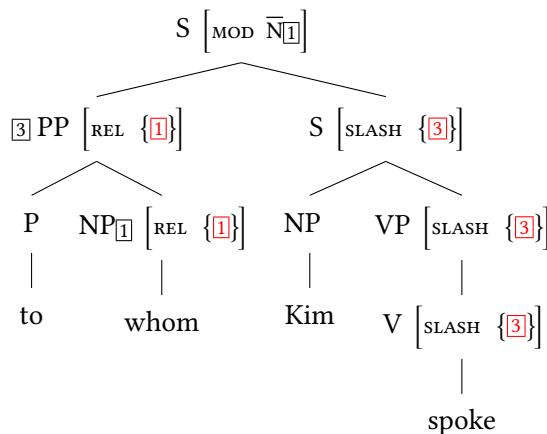


Figure 1: Representation of *to whom Kim spoke*.

Schematically, then, *wh*-relatives should have structures along the lines of Figure 1. The top structure here is a head-filler structure. Notice how **SLASH** inheritance ensures the relevant properties of the PP are shared by lower nodes so that the subcategorization requirements of the verb can be satisfied, with the PP being interpreted as a complement of the verb (equivalently: **SLASH** inheritance ensures that the gap caused by the missing complement of *speak* is registered on higher nodes until it is filled by the PP). Similarly, **REL** inheritance means that the

<sup>5</sup>We assume, for simplicity, that the value of **REL** is a set of indices. This is consistent with e.g. Pollard & Sag (1994) and Sag (1997), but not with Ginzburg & Sag (2000: 188), who assume it is a set of *parameters*, that is, indices with restrictions (a kind of *scope-object*), like the **QUE** attribute which is used for *wh*-inheritance in interrogatives. It is not clear that anything important hangs on this.

INDEX of the relative pronoun appears on higher nodes so that it can be identified with the INDEX of the antecedent noun, via the MOD value of the highest S (equivalently: the index of the antecedent nominal appears on lower nodes down to the relative pronoun, so that the nominal and the relative pronoun are co-indexed).

As regards (CONTENT, the effect of this will be to give the relative clause *to whom<sub>i</sub> Kim spoke* an interpretation along the lines of *Kim spoke to whom<sub>i</sub>*, where *i* is the index of its antecedent. In terms of standard HPSG semantics, this “internal” content (i.e. the content associated with a verbal head with its complements and modifiers) is a *state-of-affairs (soa)*, and can be represented as in (11a), abbreviated to (11b):<sup>6</sup>

- (11) a. 
$$\begin{bmatrix} soa \\ NUC \left[ \begin{matrix} speak\_to \\ SPEAKER & Kim \\ ADDRESSEE & \boxed{1} \end{matrix} \right] \end{bmatrix}$$
  
          b. *speak\_to(Kim, 1)*

There are restrictions on what can occur as the preposed *wh*-phrase in a relative clause, as can be seen in (12). To a first approximation, NPs and PPs are fine in English, but VPs and Ss are not.<sup>7</sup>

- (12) a. the person [NP who] we want Kim to speak to \_\_\_\_  
      b. the person [PP to whom] we want Kim to speak \_\_\_\_  
      c. \* the person [VP speak to whom] we want Kim to \_\_\_\_  
      d. \* the person [VP to speak to whom] we want Kim \_\_\_\_  
      e. \* the person [S Kim to speak to whom] we want \_\_\_\_

It is rather natural to interpret this as indicating restrictions on relative inheritance (i.e. pied-piping in relative clauses) – e.g. as indicating that while relative inheritance from NP to PP (and through an upward chain of NPs and PPs, as in (8d)), is permitted, it is blocked by VP and S nodes. This can be achieved by requiring that the REL value on VP and S nodes to be empty (cf. the Clausal REL Prohibition of Pollard & Sag 1994: 220). While important, these restrictions are

<sup>6</sup>In fact (17) is already somewhat abbreviated: [SPEAKER *Kim*] is an abbreviation for a structure including an index, and a BACKGROUND restriction on that index indicating that it stands in the *naming* relation to the name *Kim*.

<sup>7</sup>This is a considerable simplification: e.g. English allows VPs like that in (12d) so long as they function as subjects, so *person to speak to whom is a privilege* is allowed. German allows REL inheritance to VP more freely than English, and an analogue of (12d) is grammatical in German. See De Kuthy (1999), Hinrichs & Nakazawa (1999) and Müller (1999b) for discussion and HPSG analyses.

poorly understood and we will have nothing to say about them here, except to emphasise that they are different from the restrictions on QUE inheritance (i.e. pied-piping in interrogatives). For example, QUE-inheritance is not possible from the complement of a noun, but REL inheritance is fine, so *some pictures of whom* is not possible as the focus of a question, as in (13), but is fine as the initial phrase of a relative clause, as in (14):

- (13) \*I wonder [some pictures of whom] they were admiring.  
(14) the children [some pictures of whom] they were admiring

Notice that REL and QUE also differ in other ways: e.g. as Sag (2010: 490–493) emphasises, there are *wh*-words that can function as interrogative pronouns, but not as relative pronouns (i.e. which have non-empty QUE values, but empty REL values), and *vice versa*. For example, *how* and (in standard English) *what* function as interrogative pronouns, but not relative pronouns, as the following show (as Sag 2010: 493 puts it, there is “no morphological or syntactic unity underlying the concept of an English *wh*-expression”):<sup>8</sup>

- (15) a. I wonder how she did it. (interrogative)  
b. \*the way how she did it (relative)
- (16) a. I wonder what (things) she bought. (interrogative)  
b. \*the book what (things) she bought (relative)

With this overview of the internal structure of a relative clause in place, we now turn to relation between the relative clause and the nominal it modifies (its antecedent).

### 2.1.2 The relative clause and its antecedent

The combination of a relative clauses and the nominal it modifies is traditionally regarded as a head-adjunct structure, where the nominal is the head and the relative clause is the adjunct, as in Figure 2.

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<sup>8</sup>See also Müller (1999a: 81–85) on differences between interrogative and relative pronouns in German. Several non-standard English dialects allow NP *what* as a relative pronoun like *which* (cf. non-standard %*the book what she bought*, vs standard *the book which she bought*), no dialect allows determiner *what* as a relative pronoun (though it is fine as an interrogative, as can be seen in (16a)). Sag (2010: 491, note 10) suggests that NP *which* is only ever a relative pronoun (an apparent counter-example like *Which did you buy?* involves determiner *which* with an elliptical noun.)

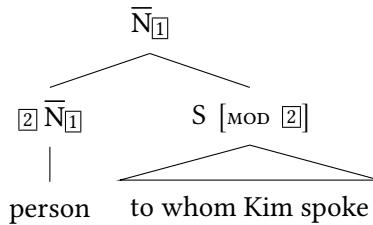


Figure 2: A relative clause and its antecedent.

The content we want for a modified nominal such as *person to whom Kim spoke*, as for an unmodified nominal such as *person*, is a *restricted index*, i.e. in HPSG terms a *scope-object* – an INDEX and a RESTR (RESTRICTION) set (a set of objects of type *fact*).<sup>9</sup> For *person*, this is as in (17), abbreviated as in (18), for *person to whom Kim spoke* it is as in (19), abbreviated as in (20).

- (17)
- $$\left[ \begin{array}{l} \textit{scope-obj} \\ \text{INDEX } \boxed{1} \\ \text{RESTR } \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \textit{fact} \\ \text{PROP|SOA } \left[ \begin{array}{l} \textit{soa} \\ \text{NUC } \left[ \begin{array}{l} \textit{person} \\ \text{INSTANCE } \boxed{1} \end{array} \right] \end{array} \right] \end{array} \right\} \end{array} \right]$$
- (18)  $\boxed{1} : \{\textit{person}(\boxed{1})\}$

- (19)
- $$\left[ \begin{array}{l} \textit{scope-obj} \\ \text{INDEX } \boxed{1} \\ \text{RESTR } \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \textit{fact} \\ \text{PROP|SOA } \left[ \begin{array}{l} \textit{soa} \\ \text{NUC } \left[ \begin{array}{l} \textit{person} \\ \text{INSTANCE } \boxed{1} \end{array} \right] \end{array} \right], \\ \textit{fact} \\ \text{PROP|SOA } \left[ \begin{array}{l} \textit{soa} \\ \text{NUC } \left[ \begin{array}{l} \textit{speak\_to} \\ \text{SPEAKER } \textit{Kim} \\ \text{ADDRESSEE } \boxed{1} \end{array} \right] \end{array} \right] \end{array} \right\} \end{array} \right]$$

- (20)  $\boxed{1} : \{\textit{person}(\boxed{1}), \textit{speak\_to}(Kim, \boxed{1})\}$

<sup>9</sup>In Pollard & Sag (1994), *scope-objects* were called *nom-objects*, and restrictions were sets of *parameterized states of affairs* (*psoas*), rather than *facts*. The difference reflects the more comprehensive semantics of Ginzburg & Sag (2000), which involves different kinds of *message* (e.g. *proposition*, *outcome*, and *question*, as well as *fact*). For our purposes, this is just a minor change in feature geometry: *facts* contain Pollard & Sag style *state-of-affairs* content as the value of the PROP | SOA path, as can be seen in (17).

To get the content of *person to whom Kim spoke* from the content of *person* is a matter of producing a *scope-object* whose index is the index of *person* (and the relative pronoun), and whose restrictions are the union of the restrictions of *person* with a set containing a *fact* corresponding to the *state-of-affairs* that is the content of the relative clause. Unioning the restrictions gives the intersective interpretation.

Conceptually, this is straightforward, but there is technical difficulty: the structure in Figure 2 is a head-adjunct structure, and in such structures the content should come from the adjunct daughter, the relative clause. That is, for “external” semantic purposes (purposes of semantic composition) relative clauses should have *scope-object* content, but as we have seen their “internal” content is a *soa*. So some special apparatus will be required, as will appear in the following discussion.<sup>10</sup>

This should give the reader an idea of the general shape of an approach to relative clauses like (2) using HPSG apparatus. In the following sections we will make this more precise by outlining the two main approaches that have been taken to the analysis of relative clauses in HPSG: the lexical approach of Pollard & Sag (1994: Chapter 5), which makes use of phonologically empty elements, and the constructional approach of Sag (1997), which does not.<sup>11</sup>

## 2.2 The lexical approach of Pollard & Sag (1994)

The idea that relative clauses have a lexical head is appealing for some kinds of relative clause in many languages (see below, e.g. Section 3.2, Section 3.3), but it is

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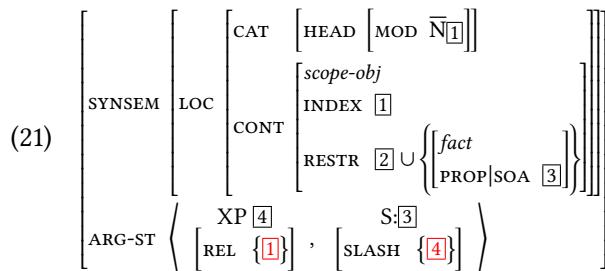
<sup>10</sup>Though the details are HPSG specific, this is a general problem, regardless of semantic theory.

For example, in a setting using standard logical types, relative clauses *qua* clauses (saturated predications) might be assigned type *t*, but in order to act as nominal modifiers this predicative semantics must be converted into “attributive” (noun-modifying) semantics, i.e. logical type  $\langle et, et \rangle$ . See, e.g. Sag (2010: 521–524) where an HPSG syntax is combined with a conventional predicate-logic based semantics for relative clauses.

<sup>11</sup>Müller (1999a) presents what might be considered a third approach, which resembles Sag (1997) in avoiding empty elements, but uses a rule schema for German relative clauses rather than constructional apparatus of phrasal types (see Müller 1999a: 95 for details). The overview of HPSG in Müller & Machicao y Priemer (2019) also presents a rule schema for relative clauses (*loc cit* Section 6.1). Rule schemas were a crucial piece of apparatus in the framework of Pollard & Sag (1994), but they have fallen out of favour with the rise of construction based analyses since Sag (1997). A rule schema is essentially just a phrasal type — that is, a type describing constraints on a mother and daughters — with the difference that unlike phrasal types, rule schemas do not stand in inheritance relations, so it is not possible to factor out generalisations in the way of construction based analyses. This is not an issue for Müller, who claims that a description of restrictive relatives in German requires only a single schema (Müller 1999a: 74).

problematic for relative clauses like (2) – there is no obvious candidate to serve as the head. This is clearly problematic for a lexical, “head-driven” approach, such as HPSG. Building on an approach originally proposed by Borsley (1989), the analysis proposed in Pollard & Sag (1994: Chapter 5), overcomes this problem by assuming that relative clauses involve a phonologically empty head, which Pollard & Sag call R (“relativiser”), and which projects an RP (that is, a relative clause).

R is lexically specified to be a nominal modifier (i.e. [MOD noun]) which takes two arguments. The first is an XP, the *wh*-phrase, with a REL value which contains the index of the antecedent nominal. The second is sentential, and constrained to have a SLASH value that includes the XP. With some simplifications and some minor modifications to fit the framework we assume here, this is along the lines of (21) (cf. Pollard & Sag 1994: 216). Here XP [4] is intended to mean an XP whose LOCAL value is [4], and S:[3] means a clause (a saturated verb – i.e. one with empty SUBJ and COMPS specifications) whose CONTENT is [3]. The [2] that appears in the value of RESTR is intended to be the RESTR set of the antecedent nominal (this should be specified as part of the MOD value, but we have not done this, in the interests of readability).



Standard schemas for combining heads with arguments will produce structures like the RP in Figure 3, which (since MOD is a head feature) will inherit the MOD feature from R, and hence combine with a nominal like *person* in a head-adjunct phrase to produce the structure in Figure 3.<sup>12</sup>

This captures the properties described above, and resolves the issues mentioned in the following way.

The first argument of R is specified as [REL {1}]. Thus, it must contain a relative pronoun. Moreover, (21) specifies that the first argument must correspond to a gap in the second argument. Hence cases like (6) where there is no *wh*-phrase, or where the *wh*-phrase is *in situ*, are excluded.

<sup>12</sup>Here again we have used PP [4] to indicate a PP whose LOCAL value is [4].

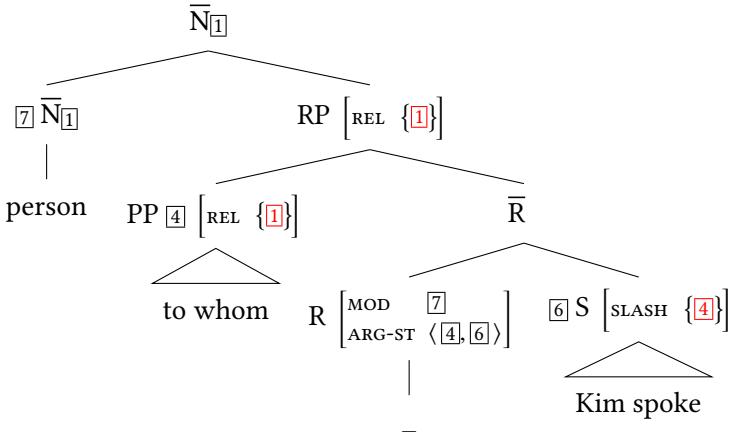


Figure 3: A Pollard & Sag (1994) style structure involving a finite *wh*-relative clause.

Since R, not the slashed S, is the head of RP, there is no problem of mismatch between the content of the S and the relative clause: R is lexically specified as having *fact* (i.e. *scope-object*) content incorporating the “internal” content of its complement clause (tagged 3) in the appropriate way. This *fact* content will be projected to RP by normal principles of semantic composition relating to heads, complements, and subjects, and RP will produce the right content by unioning the restrictions that come from the head nominal with this *fact* content.

This leaves the question of how upwards inheritance of the REL and SLASH values can be prevented. The same method is used for both. The idea is that for features like REL and SLASH (non-local features) the value on the mother is the union of the values on the daughters, less any indicated as being discharged (“bound-off”) on the head daughter (the values that are bound-off in this way are specified as elements of the value of a TO-BIND attribute). Thus, R can be specified so as to discharge the SLASH value on its S sister (so that  $\bar{R}$  is [SLASH {}]), and we can ensure that the topmost  $\bar{N}$  is [REL {}], so long as its head  $\bar{N}$  daughter is specified as binding-off the REL value on RP. This specification can be imposed by stipulation in the MOD value of R. See Pollard & Sag (1994: 164) for details.

The approach can be extended to deal with other kinds of relative clause by positing alternative forms of empty relativiser (see below and Pollard & Sag 1994: Chapter 5).

The great attraction of the approach is that, apart from R, it requires no special apparatus of any kind. On the other hand, it requires the introduction of a novel

part of speech (R), and the need to posit phonologically empty elements for which there is no independent evidence. Reservations about this lead Sag to develop the constructional approach presented in Sag (1997).<sup>13</sup>

### 2.3 The constructional approach of Sag (1997)

The analysis of English relative clauses in Sag (1997) is constructional and completely dispenses with phonologically empty elements.<sup>14</sup> It involves three main constructions: one for combining relative clauses and nominals, and two for relative clauses themselves. One of these is the standard construction for head-filler phrases. The other involves a number of sub-constructions specific to relative clauses, which are treated as a subtype of *clause* (alongside e.g. *declaratives* and *imperatives*). These are outlined (with some simplifications and minor adjustments) in Figure 4.<sup>15</sup>

The *rel-cl* clause type is associated with the constraints in (22), which simply state that relative clauses are subordinate clauses ([MC -]) that modify nouns and have *propositional* content, and that they do not permit subject-aux inversion ([INV -]).<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>13</sup> One detail we ignore here concerns the analysis of “subject” relatives: relative clauses where the relative phrase is a grammatical subject inside the relative clause, as in (i):

- (i) person who spoke to Kim

Pollard & Sag (1994) treat such examples specially (cf. Pollard & Sag 1994: 218–219), using the “Subject Extraction Lexical Rule” (SELRL) which in essence permits a VP to replace an S in an ARG-ST in the presence of a gap, Pollard & Sag (1994: 174), so that R combines with a VP rather than an S. But this is not an essential part of the analysis of relative clauses: it is motivated by quite independent theoretical considerations (specifically, the assumption that gaps are associated only with non-initial members of ARG-ST lists — cf. the “Trace-Principle”, Pollard & Sag (1994: 172)). Hence we ignore it here.

<sup>14</sup> See Müller (2019b), Chapter 36 of this volume, for broader discussion of the constructional approach to HPSG.

<sup>15</sup> See Kim & Sells (2008: Chapter 11) for an introductory overview of English relative clauses on similar lines to Sag (1997). Sag (2010: 521–524) outlines an approach which is stated using the Sign-based Construction Grammar style notation (Boas & Sag 2012). Apart from the semantics (which is formulated using conventional  $\lambda$ -calculus apparatus), it is generally compatible with the earlier analysis described here. One simplification we make here is that we follow the more recent work (e.g. Sag 2010: 523) and do not distinguish subject and non-subject finite relative clauses: Sag (1997) follows Pollard & Sag (1994) in treating them differently (cf. footnote 13; and see Sag 1997: 452–454), but it is not clear how important this is in the framework of Sag (1997).

<sup>16</sup> Giving relative clauses *propositional* content puts them on a par with other kinds of clause, and is not very different from Pollard & Sag’s assumption that clauses have *state-of-affairs* content (since *propositions* are simply semantic objects which contain a SOA).

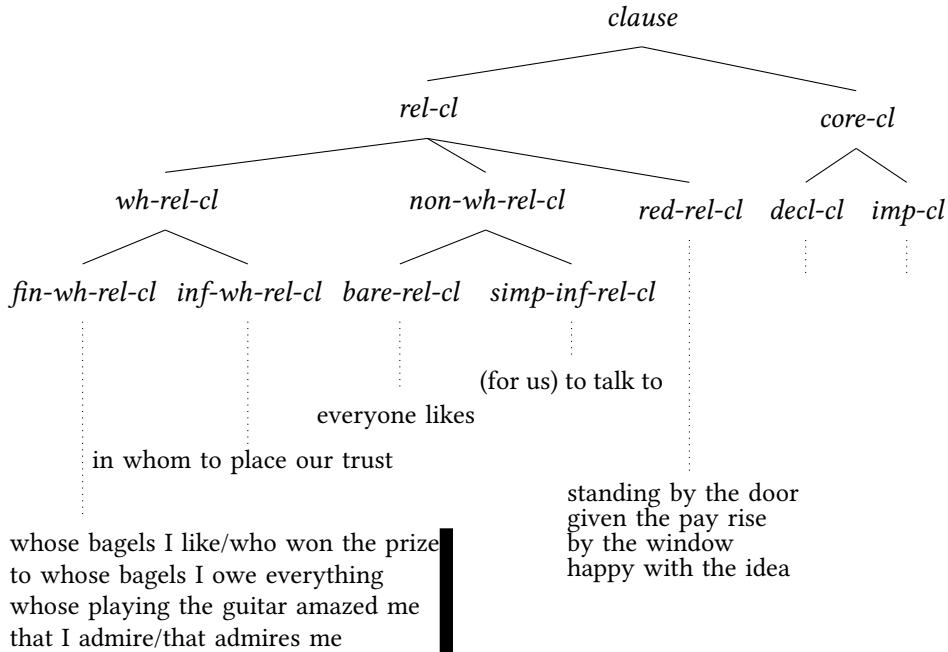


Figure 4: Type hierarch for *clause*, based on Sag (1997).

$$(22) \quad rel-cl \Rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} MC & - \\ HEAD & \begin{bmatrix} INV & - \\ MOD & [HEAD \ noun] \end{bmatrix} \\ CONT & proposition \end{bmatrix}$$

Relative clauses such as that in (2) are what Sag calls *fin-wh-rel-cl*, a sub-type of *wh-rel-cl*. This is associated with the constraints in (23). In words: *wh*-relatives are a subtype of relative clause (as stated in the type hierarchy in Figure 4), where the non-head daughter is required to have a REL value which contains the INDEX of the antecedent.<sup>17</sup>

<sup>17</sup>For simplicity and to avoid distractions, we have presented *wh*-relatives as  $\bar{N}$  modifiers in (23). This is a conventional assumption, because standard methods of semantic composition ensure that the content of the relative clause is included in the restrictions of a quantificational determiner (as in *every person to whom Kim spoke*), but it is not Sag's analysis. Instead he takes *wh*-relatives to be NP modifiers, which allows him to account for facts about the ordering of *wh*-relatives and bare relatives, see Sag (1997: 465–469). Kiss (2005: 293–294) gives a number of arguments in favour of this view, for example, the existence of what Link (1984) called “hydras”, like (i), where the relative clause must be interpreted as modifying the coordinate structure consisting of the conjoined NPs.

$$(23) \quad wh\text{-}rel\text{-}cl \Rightarrow \begin{cases} \text{HEAD} & \left[ \text{MOD } \bar{N}[1] \right] \\ \text{NON-HD-DTRS} & \left( \left[ \text{REL } \{1\} \right] \right) \end{cases}$$

The framework assumed in Sag (1997) allows multiple inheritance of constraints from different dimensions (cf. chapters/ChXXXX Chapter ?? of this volume). As well as inheriting properties in the clausal dimension, expressions of type *fin-wh-rel-cl* are also classified in the phrasal dimension as belonging to a sub-type of head-filler phrase (*hd-fill-ph*), thus inheriting constraints as in (24).<sup>18</sup>

$$(24) \quad hd\text{-}fill\text{-}ph \Rightarrow \begin{cases} \text{SLASH} & [2] \\ \text{HD-DTR} & \begin{cases} \text{HEAD } verbal \\ \text{SLASH } \{1\} \uplus [2] \end{cases} \\ \text{NON-HD-DTRS} & \left( \left[ \text{LOCAL } [1] \right] \right) \end{cases}$$

In words: they are *verbal* – e.g. clausal – phrases where the SLASH value of the head daughter is the SLASH value of the mother plus the LOCAL value of the non-head daughter (equivalently, the SLASH value of the mother is the SLASH value of the head daughter less the LOCAL value of the non-head daughter). Head-filler phrases are a sub-type of another phrase type (*head-nexus-phrase*) which specifies identity of content between mother and head daughter.

Putting these together with a constraint that requires clauses to have empty REL values will license local trees like that in Figure 5 for a finite relative clause (*fin-wh-rel-cl*) like (2) (simplifying, and disregarding most empty and irrelevant attributes).<sup>19</sup> The REL specification on the non-head daughter (the PP) in (23) ensures the presence of a *wh*-phrase, and the fact that this is a head-filler phrase ensures that the *wh*-phrase cannot be *in situ* (cf. (6), above); the [REL {}] on the daughter S excludes the possibility of additional relative pronouns inside the S (i.e. the possibility of multiple relative pronouns, cf. *\*(the person) to whom Kim*

- 
- (i) The boy<sub>i</sub> and the girl<sub>j</sub> who<sub>i+j</sub> dated each other are Kim's friends.

Sag's analysis requires a different approach to semantic composition to that assumed here, e.g. one using Minimal Recursion Semantics (MRS, Copestake et al. 2005) or Lexical Resource Semantics (LRS, Richter & Sailer 2004) – see, in particular Walker (2017), where such an approach is worked out in detail using LRS.

<sup>18</sup>The  $\uplus$  symbol here signifies *disjoint union*. This is like normal set union, except that it is undefined for pairs of sets that share common elements. Here, the intention is that restrictions are distributed between the noun and the clause, so the restrictions associated with the noun do not include the restrictions associated with the clause, and *vice versa*.

<sup>19</sup>This assumption about REL values is one of many minor technical differences between Sag (1997) and Pollard & Sag (1994), where the non-empty REL value is inherited upwards to RP, and is discharged there. This means that for Pollard & Sag, but not for Sag (1997), a *wh*-relative clause is a REL marked clause.

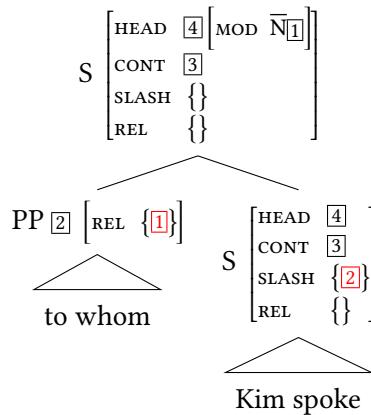


Figure 5: A Sag (1997) style structure for a finite *wh*-relative clause.

*spoke about whom*). REL inheritance will carry the index of the antecedent down into the PP, guaranteeing the presence of a relative pronoun co-indexed with any nominal that this relative clause is used to modify. Further upwards inheritance of this REL value is prevented by a requirement that all clauses (including relative clauses) have empty REL values.<sup>20</sup> The SLASH specification on the head S daughter will ensure that the LOCAL value of the PP is inherited lower down inside the S, so that the subcategorisation requirements of *speak* can be satisfied, and the right content produced for this S (and passed to the mother S, because this is a head-filler phrase).

The task of combining a nominal and a relative clause (in particular, identifying indices and unioning restrictions) involves a further phrase type *head-relative-phrase*, as in (25).

<sup>20</sup>Sag's account of the propagation of REL values is a special case of the apparatus that is now standardly assumed for propagation of all non-local features, SLASH, WH (i.e. QUE), and BACKGROUND (Ginzburg & Sag 2000: Ch5). Upwards inheritance is handled by a constraint on *words* that says that (by default) the REL value of a word is the union of the REL values of its arguments. In the absence of a lexical head with arguments (e.g. in *of whom* and *of whose friends* if *of* is treated simply as a marker) the REL value on a phrase is that of its head daughter (the "Wh-Inheritance Principle", WHIP), see Sag (1997: 449). Since these are only default principles, they can be overridden, e.g. by the requirement that clauses have empty REL values.

(25) <i>head-relative-phrase</i> $\Rightarrow$	<table border="0" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 20px;">HEAD</td><td><i>noun</i></td></tr> <tr> <td>CONT</td><td> <table border="0" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 20%;">INDEX</td><td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;"><math>\boxed{2}</math></td><td style="width: 70%;"></td></tr> <tr> <td>RESTR</td><td style="text-align: center;"><math>\boxed{3} \uplus \left\{ \begin{array}{l} fact \\ PROP \quad \boxed{4} \end{array} \right\}</math></td><td></td></tr> </table> </td></tr> <tr> <td>HD-DTR</td><td> <table border="0" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 20%;">INDEX</td><td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;"><math>\boxed{2}</math></td><td style="width: 70%;"></td></tr> <tr> <td>RESTR</td><td style="text-align: center;"><math>\boxed{3}</math></td><td></td></tr> </table> </td></tr> <tr> <td>NON-HD-DTR</td><td> <table border="0" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 20%;">CONT</td><td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;"><math>\boxed{4}</math></td><td style="width: 70%;"></td></tr> </table> </td></tr> </table>	HEAD	<i>noun</i>	CONT	<table border="0" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 20%;">INDEX</td><td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;"><math>\boxed{2}</math></td><td style="width: 70%;"></td></tr> <tr> <td>RESTR</td><td style="text-align: center;"><math>\boxed{3} \uplus \left\{ \begin{array}{l} fact \\ PROP \quad \boxed{4} \end{array} \right\}</math></td><td></td></tr> </table>	INDEX	$\boxed{2}$		RESTR	$\boxed{3} \uplus \left\{ \begin{array}{l} fact \\ PROP \quad \boxed{4} \end{array} \right\}$		HD-DTR	<table border="0" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 20%;">INDEX</td><td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;"><math>\boxed{2}</math></td><td style="width: 70%;"></td></tr> <tr> <td>RESTR</td><td style="text-align: center;"><math>\boxed{3}</math></td><td></td></tr> </table>	INDEX	$\boxed{2}$		RESTR	$\boxed{3}$		NON-HD-DTR	<table border="0" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 20%;">CONT</td><td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;"><math>\boxed{4}</math></td><td style="width: 70%;"></td></tr> </table>	CONT	$\boxed{4}$	
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In words, this specifies a nominal construction (i.e. one whose head is a noun), whose CONTENT is the same as that of its head daughter, except that the content of the non-head-daughter (the relative clause) has been added to its restriction set. (Thus, it is this construction that takes care of the mismatch between the “internal”, propositional, CONTENT of the relative clause itself, and its “external” contribution of restrictions on the nominal it modifies). Since *head-relative-phrases* are a subtype of *head-adjunct-phrase*, which requires the MOD value of the non-head to be identical to the SYNSEM value of the head (Sag 1997: 475), this will give rise to structures like that in Figure 6.<sup>21</sup>

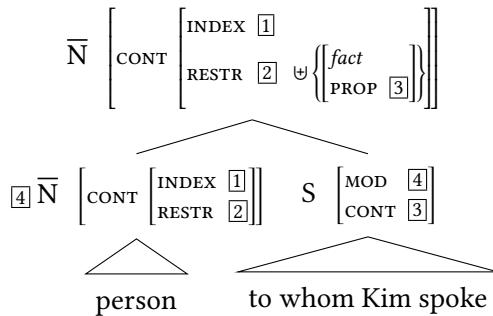


Figure 6: Sag’s (1997) analysis of a relative clause plus its antecedent.

From a purely formal point of view the *head-relative-phrase* construction is not strictly necessary. It would be possible to build its semantic effects into the *rel-cl* construction, so that the structure in Figure 6 would be an entirely normal head-adjunct phrase where the content comes from the adjunct daughter. There

<sup>21</sup>This is not the normal semantics associated with head-adjunct phrases (where the content is simply the content of the adjunct daughter). This could be dealt with by introducing a separate sub-type of *head-adjunct-ph* which deals with content in this way: *head-adjunct-ph* itself would impose no constraints on content. Notice that we again follow Ginzburg & Sag (2000) in taking restrictions to be sets of *facts* (Sag 1997 assumes they are sets of *propositions*). Nothing hangs on this.

are two arguments against this. One is that it would require the relative clause to have nominal (i.e. *scope-object*) content, which is somewhat at odds with its status as a clause. The other is that it would push the semantic mismatch into the relative clause itself. That is, semantically, relative clauses like *to whom Kim spoke* would no longer be normal head-filler phrases where CONTENT is shared between head and mother. Perhaps neither argument is compelling – in fact, the discussion of relative clauses in Sag (2010) suggests essentially this approach (Sag 2010: 522).

## 2.4 Interim Conclusions

The discussion so far has focused on one kind of relative clause, sketched the basic ideas and intuitions behind the HPSG approach, and outlined the two main approaches: that of Pollard & Sag (1994) and that of Sag (1997). At some levels they seem very different (e.g. in the use of phonologically empty lexical heads vs. the use of constructions), and there are differences in terms of low level technical details (e.g. precisely which phrases are specified as having empty REL values, and in the precise way inheritance of SLASH and REL values is terminated). But in other respects they are very similar: for the most part the same features are used in ways that are not radically different.

More significantly, the approaches involve a common view of the relation between relative clause and antecedent: the view that the relative clause is adjoined to the antecedent, with the relation between the antecedent and the relativised constituent within the relative clause being one of co-indexation (a more or less anaphoric relation): a view that can be traced back to Chomsky (1977).

Outside HPSG this style of analysis stands in contrast to two others: the *raising* analysis (see *inter alia* Schachter 1973; Vergnaud 1974; Kayne 1994), and the *matching* analysis (see *inter alia* Chomsky 1965; Lees 1961; Sauerland 1998). Under the raising analysis, the relative clause contains a DP of the form *which+noun*, which is preposed to the beginning of the clause; then the noun is moved out of the relative clause (“raised”) to combine with a determiner, which selects both the noun and the relative clause. According to the matching analysis, the relative clause is adjoined to the antecedent, as in the adjunction analysis, but, as in the raising analysis, the relative clause contains a DP *which+noun*, which is preposed to the beginning of the clause; the noun is not raised, but the noun is deleted under identity with the antecedent nominal.

Neither analysis has any appeal from an HPSG perspective: as normally understood, both are fundamentally derivational in nature, presupposing at least two levels of syntactic structure. Moreover, many of the motivations usually

cited are absent given standard HPSG assumptions (e.g. arguments from binding theory which taken be taken as indicating the presence of *wh*-phrase inside the relative clause fall out naturally without this assumption given the argument-structure based account of binding theory which is standard in HPSG, see Wechsler, Koenig & Davis (2019), Chapter 9 of this volume). More important, as discussed in Webelhuth et al. (2018), both face numerous empirical difficulties and miss important generalisations which are unproblematic for the style of analysis described here.<sup>22</sup>

### 3 Varieties of relative clause

In this section we will look at how the approaches introduced above have been adapted and extended to deal with other kinds of relative clause in a variety of languages.<sup>23</sup> Section 3.1 looks at other kinds of relative clauses which involve a relative pronoun, notably ones which do not involve a finite verb. Section 3.2 and Section 3.3 look at relative clauses which do not involve relative pronouns: Section 3.2 looks at relative clauses which can be analysed as involving a complementiser; Section 3.3 looks at “bare” relatives, which involve neither relative pronouns nor complementisers. Section 3.4 looks at non-restrictive relative clauses, which lack the intersective semantics associated with prototypical relative clauses.

One dimension of variation among relative clause constructions which we will discuss only in passing relates to whether, in the case of relative clauses that involve a filler-gap construction, the gap is genuinely absent phonologically (as in the examples we have looked at so far), or whether it is realised as a full pronoun (a so-called *resumptive pronoun*) as in (26) from Alqurashi & Borsley (2012: 28), or the English example in (27) – the resumptive pronouns are indicated in bold.

- (26) wajadtu l-kitab-a [llaði tuhib-hu Hind-un] (Arabic)  
 found.1.SG DEF-book-ACC that.M.SG like.3.F.SG-3.M.SG Hind-NOM  
 ‘I found the book that Hind likes.’

<sup>22</sup>For example, for example, both analyses treat *wh*-words like *who*, *what* and *which* and their equivalents as determiners, whereas in fact they behave like pronouns. Case assignment appears to pose a fundamental problem for the raising analysis, since it seems to predict that the case properties of the antecedent NP should be assigned “downstairs” inside the relative clause. But they never are. (see Webelhuth et al. 2018).

<sup>23</sup>In addition to the phenomena and languages we discuss, the HPSG literature includes more or less detailed treatments of relative clauses in Bulgarian (Avgustinova 1996), German (Müller 1999a,b; Müller & Machicao y Priemer 2019), Hausa (Crysmann 2016), Polish (Mykowiecka et al. 2003; Bolc 2005), and Turkish (Güngördü 1996).

- (27) This is the road which I don't know where it goes.

The analysis of resumptive pronouns is discussed elsewhere in this volume (chapters/ChYYYY Chapter ?? of this volume), and while they are an important feature of relative clause constructions in many languages (see e.g. Vaillette 2001; Vaillette 2002; Taghvaipour 2005; Abeillé & Godard 2007; Alotaibi & Borsley 2013), the issues seem to be similar in all constructions involving unbounded dependencies, and not specific to relative clauses.

### 3.1 Wh-relatives

Finite *wh*-relatives in English have been discussed above (Section 2). English also allows *wh*-relatives which are headed by non-finite verbs, such as (28); (29) is a similar example from French.

- (28) a person [on whom to place the blame]  
(29) un paon [dans les plumes duquel] mettre le courrier (French)  
a peacock in the feathers of.which to.place the mail  
'a peacock in whose feathers to place the mail'

Non-finite relatives were not discussed by Pollard & Sag (1994), but Sag's (1997) constructional approach provides a straightforward account. It involves distinguishing two sub-types of *hd-fill-ph*: a finite subtype which has an empty SUBJ list, and a non-finite subtype whose SUBJ list is required to contain just a PRO (that is, a pronominal that is not syntactically expressed as a syntactic daughter). This requirement reflects the fact that non-finite *wh*-relatives do not allow overt subjects:

- (30) \*a person [on whom (for) Sam to place the blame]

The relative clause in (28) receives a structure like that in Figure 7. Apart from the finite specification, this differs from the finite *wh*-relative in (5) above only in the presence of the PRO on the SUBJ list.<sup>24</sup>

The exclusion of overt subjects is not peculiar to non-finite relatives (it is shared by non-finite interrogatives, cf. *I wonder on whom (\*for Sam) to put the*

<sup>24</sup>The use of *Sinf* in Figure 7 is an approximation. First, S is standardly an abbreviation for something of type *verb* with empty SUBJ and COMPS values, and here there is a non-empty SUBJ. Second, Sag would have CP instead of S here, reflecting his analysis of *to* as a complementiser rather than an auxiliary verb, as is often assumed in HPSG analyses (e.g. Ginzburg & Sag 2000: 51–52). S and CP are not very different (both *verb* and *comp* are subtypes of *verbal*), but Sag is careful to treat *to* as a *comp* and non-finite *wh*-relatives as CPs because this gives a principled basis for excluding overt subjects.

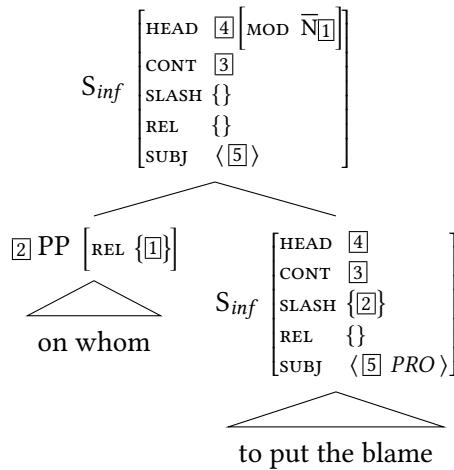


Figure 7: Sag's (1997) analysis of a non-finite *wh*-relative clause (*inf-wh-rel-cl*).

*blame*), but non-finite *wh*-relatives are subject to the apparently idiosyncratic restriction that the *wh*-phrase must be a PP:

- (31) a. \* a person who(m) to place the blame on (relative)  
      b. I wonder who(m) to place the blame on (interrogative)

The relevant constraints can be stated directly — roughly as in (32) (disregarding constraints that are inherited from elsewhere). In words these constraints say that a non-finite head-filler phrase must have an unexpressed subject, and a non-finite *wh*-relative clause is a non-finite head-filler phrase whose non-head daughter is a PP.

- (32) a. *inf-hd-fill-ph*  $\Rightarrow$  [HD-DTR [HEAD [VFORM *non-finite*]], SUBJ ⟨PRO⟩]  
      b. *inf-hd-fill-rel-cl*  $\Rightarrow$  *inf-hd-fill-ph* & [NON-HD-DTRS ⟨PP⟩]

### 3.2 Complementizer relatives

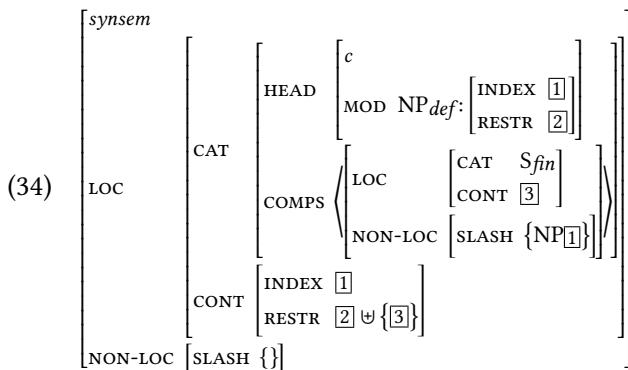
As well as *wh*-relatives, which involve relative pronouns, there are cases of relative clauses which appear to be headed by what is plausibly analysed as a complementiser. In this section we look first at Arabic, where a complementiser

analysis has been proposed, then at English, where such an analysis seems possible for some cases, but where it is controversial, and an interesting construction in French.<sup>25</sup>

### 3.2.1 Arabic

Alqurashi & Borsley (2012) argue that in Arabic finite relatives the word *?allaði* ‘that’ (transliterated as *llaði* in (33), from Alqurashi & Borsley 2012: 27) and its inflectional variants should be analysed as a complementiser, with a SYNSEM value roughly as in (34).<sup>26</sup>

- (33) jaa?a l-walad-u llaði qaabala l-malik-a. (Arabic)  
 came.3.M.SG DEF-boy-NOM that.M.SG met.3.M.SG DEF-king-ACC  
 ‘The boy who met the king came.’



According to this, *?allaði* will combine with a slashed finite sentential complement, to produce a phrase which will modify a definite NP. When it combines with that NP, its content will have the same INDEX as the NP, and the restrictions

<sup>25</sup>There are also cases which involve a relative pronoun *and* a complementiser, as in the following from Hinrichs & Nakazawa’s (2002) discussion of Bavarian German:

- (i) der Mantl (den) wo i kaffd hob (Bavarian German)  
 the coat which that I bought have  
 ‘the coat which I bought’

Hinrichs & Nakazawa (2002) analyse these as *wh*-relatives, even when the relative pronoun is omitted, as it can be under certain circumstances.

<sup>26</sup>Here *S<sub>fin</sub>* means a finite clause (a *verb* which is COMPS and SUBJ saturated) NP<sub>def</sub> in the MOD means a fully saturated definite nominal whose CONTENT is given after the colon. According to (34) the content of the *S<sub>fin</sub>* is merged with the restrictions of this modified NP. This is imprecise: as discussed above, what should be merged is a *fact* constructed from the content of the *S<sub>fin</sub>*.

of the NP combined with the propositional content of the sentential complement. The SLASH value on the sentential complement means that it will contain a gap (or a resumptive pronoun) which also bears the same index.

Notice that there is no role for a REL feature here (obviously, since there is no relative pronoun). The presence of the SLASH value indicates that Alqurashi & Borsley assume that Arabic relatives involve an unbounded dependency (i.e. that the gap or resumptive pronoun may be embedded arbitrarily deeply within the relative clause). In *wh*-relatives, as described above, the unbounded dependency is what Pollard & Sag (1994: 155) call a “strong” unbounded dependency, i.e. one that is terminated by at the top by a filler (the *wh*-phrase), in a head-filler phrase. This is not the case here – here there is no filler, and upward inheritance of the gap is halted by the head *?allaði* itself (cf. its own empty SLASH specification). That is, Arabic relatives (and complementiser relatives generally) are normal head-complement structures, involving what Pollard & Sag (*loc cit*) call a “weak” unbounded dependency construction (like English purpose clauses and *tough*-constructions).<sup>27</sup>

Since *?allaði* shows inflections agreeing with the antecedent NP for NUMBER, GENDER, and CASE, different forms will impose additional restrictions on the modified NP (e.g. the form transliterated as *llaði* in (33) will add to (34) the additional requirement that the NP which is modified must be masculine singular).

Notice that Alqurashi & Borsley’s account is entirely lexical: no constructional apparatus is used at all. Hahn (2012) argues for a constructional alternative.<sup>28</sup>

### 3.2.2 English

A similar analysis could be proposed for English *that*-relatives as in (35). However, this is controversial: Pollard & Sag (1994) treat some uses of *that* as simply a marker (i.e. the realisation of a MARKING feature whose value is *that*, as opposed to *unmarked*), and others as a relative pronoun, see Pollard & Sag (1994: 221–222). Sag (1997: 462–464) prefers to treat *that* as a relative pronoun.<sup>29</sup>

<sup>27</sup> Alqurashi & Borsley (2012: 42) assume that the SLASH inheritance is governed by a default principle, so the empty SLASH specification on *?allaði* prevents upwards inheritance. The same effect could be achieved with an appropriate TO-BIND specification.

<sup>28</sup> Arabic also has finite relatives that do not have an overt relativiser (and which occur with indefinite antecedents). Alqurashi & Borsley analyse these as involving a phonetically null complementiser. In addition, Arabic also has non-finite and free relatives, which have received some attention. See Melnik (2006); Haddar et al. (2009); Zalila & Haddar (2011); Hahn (2012); Crysmann & Reintges (2014) for further discussion.

<sup>29</sup> Pollard & Sag (1994) treat instances of *that* in relative clauses involving relativisation of a top level subject, like (35a), as a relative pronoun. In other relative clauses, in particular those

- (35) a. person that \_\_\_\_ admires Kim  
b. person that everyone thinks \_\_\_\_ admires Kim

On Pollard & Sag's (1994) analysis, some support for a relative pronoun analysis comes from coordination. It is possible to coordinate *that* relatives with normal *wh*-relatives quite freely, as in (36). This is a natural consequence if the REL value of the coordinate structure is shared by both conjuncts (implying that both conjuncts contain relative pronouns, of course).<sup>30</sup>

- (36) a book [that/which you own or that/which you can borrow]

Potential evidence against this, and in favour of a complementiser (or perhaps marker) style analysis would be that *that* differs from normal relative pronouns in not allowing pied-piping, cf. (37b).

- (37) a. the person that I spoke to \_\_\_\_  
b. \*the person to that I spoke \_\_\_\_

Sag (1997: 464) and Pollard & Sag (1994: 220) argue that this restriction is compatible with a relative pronoun analysis on the assumption that *that* has nominative case, so that it cannot occur as e.g. the complement of a preposition. Notice also that *who* (which is generally regarded as a relative pronoun) follows the same pattern:

- (38) a. the person who I spoke to \_\_\_\_  
b. \*the person to who I spoke \_\_\_\_

However, this response is not very convincing. What (37) and (38) show is that *that* and *who* cannot appear as complement of a preposition, but can be associated with a gap that is complement of a preposition. But this is inconsistent with them being fillers in a head-filler phrase, where SLASH inheritance ensures

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involving relativisation of embedded subjects, like (35b), or non-subjects, *that* is treated as a marker, meaning that such clauses are treated as instances of bare relatives. It is hard to find clear empirical evidence against this, but an analysis which provides a uniform treatment of English *that*-relatives is clearly more appealing.

<sup>30</sup>The same argument can be made given Sag's (1997) assumptions, but it is less direct. Recall that, on Sag's (1997) analysis, relative clauses have empty REL values, so a coordination of relative clauses will have an empty REL value too (cf. above Section 2.3, especially Footnote 19). For Sag (1997) the argument relies on the assumption that all and only *wh*-relatives are NP modifiers, rather than  $\bar{N}$  modifiers as we have presented them here (cf. Footnote 17). Since coordination involves identity of MOD values, data like (36) show that *that*-relatives must be NP modifiers, and consequently must be *wh*-relatives, i.e. must contain a relative pronoun (namely, *that*).XXXXX

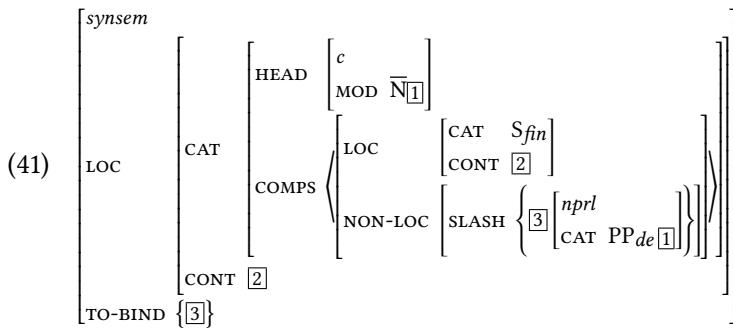
identity between the LOCAL values of filler and gap (including, of course CASE): if *that* and *who* are nominative, then they should not be compatible with non-nominative gaps, such as we see in (37a) and (38a). But if they are not fillers, then they must be heads (or markers). Developing an analysis along these lines is beyond the scope of this paper, but it is worth pointing out that it would not involve a radical change to the analyses described above (for example, modifying Sag's (1997) analysis might involve creating a new subtype of *rel-cl* for *that* and *who* relatives, separate from *wh-rel-cl*, and new lexical entries for *that* and *who*, but could otherwise use the same apparatus, and produce the same distribution of properties).

### 3.2.3 French

Besides *wh*-relatives, French has relatives introduced by complementisers: *que* 'that' and *dont* 'of-which'. *Dont*-relatives present something of a challenge, which is addressed in Abeillé & Godard (2007). *Dont* is generally analysed as a complementiser introducing finite relatives (Godard 1992). It can introduce a relative with a PP<sub>de</sub> gap (i.e. a gap that could be occupied by a PP marked with the preposition *de* 'of'). The contrast between the grammatical (39a) and the ungrammatical (39b) arises because whereas *parler* 'talk' in (39a) takes a PP<sub>de</sub> complement, *comprendre* 'understand' in (39b) takes an NP complement, and so cannot contain a gap licensed by *dont*, as can be seen in (40a) and (40b).

- (39) a. un problème dont on a parlé (French)  
a problem of-which one has talked  
'a problem that we have talked about'
  - b. \* un problème dont on résoudra (French)  
a problem of-which one will.resolve  
'intended: a problem that we will resolve'
- (40) a. On a parlé d' un problème. (French)  
One has talked of a problem  
'We have talked about a problem.'
  - b. \* On résoudra d' un problème. (French)  
One will.resolve of a problem

Abeillé & Godard suggest a lexical entry for *dont* with a SYNSEM value along the lines of (41).



In words: *dont* is a complementiser that takes a finite S complement, and heads a phrase that can act as an  $\bar{N}$  modifier. *Dont* itself has no inherent semantic content (its CONTENT is just that of its complement S). The complement S is associated with a SLASH value that contains a  $PP_{de}$  which is co-indexed with the antecedent nominal, as specified in the MOD value. The TO-BIND value simply prevents this SLASH element being inherited upwards beyond the phrase headed by *dont*. This SLASH element is non-pronominal (*nprl*) — that is, a genuine gap, rather than a resumptive pronoun.<sup>31</sup>

Given this, one might expect that it is generally impossible for a *dont*-relative to have an NP as the relativised constituent, but this is not the case. It is in fact possible providing the relativised constituent is realised by an overt pronoun (i.e. a resumptive pronoun) and is somewhere inside the complement of (some) propositional attitude and communication predicates. For example, in (42) the pronoun *le* represents the relativised constituent, which appears in the complement of *être certain* ‘be sure’.<sup>32</sup>

<sup>31</sup> Abeillé & Godard (2007) assume that gaps and resumptive pronouns are associated with distinct subtypes of local value: *plr* (pronominal) for pronouns and *nprl* (non-pronominal) for genuine gaps. The relevance of this will appear directly.

<sup>32</sup> One might consider an alternative analysis where *dont* is associated with a  $PP_{de}$  gap dependent of *certain*, and the resumptive pronoun is a normal anaphoric pronoun — this would correspond to a main clause along the lines of *Paul is sure, of this problem, that we will resolve it*. One problem with this alternative is that this sort of  $PP_{de}$  dependent is not very good with *certain*, see (i). Another is that it would not explain the fact that the personal pronoun is obligatory — (ii), with no personal pronoun, is ungrammatical, though semantically coherent:

- (i) ?? Paul est certain de ce problème qu’ on le résoudra. (French)  
Paul is sure of this problem that one it will.solve.
- (ii) \* un problème dont [Paul est certain que tout va se résoudre]  
a problem of-which Paul is sure that everything goes itself to.solve (French)

- (42) un problème dont [Paul est certain [qu' on le résoudra]] (French)  
 a problem of-which Paul is sure that one it will.solve  
 'a problem that Paul is sure that we will solve'

Unsurprisingly, the presence of a resumptive pronoun is associated with immunity to island constraints. So, for example, in (43) we have a relative where the relativised constituent is within a relative clause inside an embedded NP, which is impossible for a genuine gap.

- (43) un problème dont [Paul est certain [qu' il y a [quelqu'un qui le résoudra ]]] (French)  
 a problem of-which Paul is sure that there is someone that it will.solve

'a problem such that Paul is sure that there is someone who will solve it'

What is surprising, however, is that the path between *dont* and the predicate that licenses the resumptive is sensitive to island constraints. To see this, compare the grammatical (42) and (43) with the ungrammatical (44). All involve a *dont* relative containing a resumptive pronoun licensed by *être certain*, but in (44) *être certain* is separated from *dont* by an island boundary (*être certain* is inside a relative clause).

- (44) \* un problème dont il y a [quelqu'un qui est certain qu' on le résoudra] (French)  
 a problem of-which there is someone who is sure that one it will.solve

In short, though the dependency between the licensing predicate and the resumptive pronoun can cross island boundaries, the dependency between the licensing predicate and *dont* cannot. Abeillé & Godard's (2007) account of this is that while the dependency between the licensing predicate and the relativised constituent involves inheritance of a resumptive element, that between the licensing predicate and *dont* involves inheritance of a gap. They suggest that this should be dealt with by a lexical rule along the lines of (45):

- (45) Lexical Rule for Propositional attitude predicates in French

$$\left[ \text{COMPS} \left( \left[ \text{SLASH} \left\{ \begin{array}{c} \text{CP} \\ \boxed{1} \left[ \text{prl} \right. \\ \text{CONT} | \text{INDEX} \quad \boxed{2} \left. \right] \end{array} \right\} \right) \oplus \dots \right] \mapsto \left[ \begin{array}{c} \text{SLASH} \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{c} \text{nprl} \\ \text{CAT PPde} \boxed{2} \end{array} \right\} \\ \text{TO-BIND} \quad \left\{ \boxed{1} \right\} \end{array} \right]$$

In words, the left-hand side of this describes a lexeme that takes a CP complement with a SLASH value containing pronominal (*prl*) elements (that is, a CP that can

contain resumptive pronouns). The effect of the rule is to provide a lexical entry that binds-off the resumptive pronoun, and introduces an  $PP_{de}$  gap co-indexed to the resumptive pronoun. That is, the sort of gap that can legitimately be associated with *dont*. Thinking from the top down, this rule produces a predicate that can appear in a context with an inherited requirement for a  $PP_{de}$  gap (e.g. a relative clause headed by *dont*), and convert this into a requirement for a resumptive pronoun further down. Thinking from the bottom up, the predicate can bind-off a resumptive pronoun, and replace it with a gap dependency.<sup>33</sup>

### 3.3 Bare relatives

Not all languages realise relative clauses using relative pronouns or complementisers. In this section we will discuss HPSG analyses of what we will call *bare relatives* in Japanese and Korean (Section 3.3.1) and in English, where they are often called “*that-less*” relatives (Section 3.3.2). The absence of relative pronouns means there is no question of pied-piping, hence no role for a REL feature in these constructions.

#### 3.3.1 Bare relatives in Japanese and Korean

Japanese relative clauses corresponding to (2) contain a gap, but are otherwise similar to normal clauses, cf. (46) (from Sirai & Gunji 1998: 18); in Korean they are distinguished by special marking on the topmost verb – cf. the *-nun* affix on *sayngkakha* “think” in (47) (from Kim 2016b: 285).

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<sup>33</sup>As Abeillé & Godard (2007) point out, the facts are not quite as simple as this. In particular there is an interesting complication involving coordination. It is possible for a *dont*-clause containing a predicate like *être certain* to involve a coordinate structure, where one conjunct contains a  $PP_{de}$  gap and the other contains a pronoun, as in (i) (the second conjunct here contains the pronominal *y* ‘to-it’; the English translation is intended to make it clear that the second conjunct is in the scope of *être certain*).

- (i) un problème dont Paul est certain [que nous avons parlé —] [et que  
a problem of-which Paul is sure that we have spoken and that  
nous y reviendrons plus tard] (French)  
we to-it will.come back more late  
Lit: ‘a problem of which Paul is sure that we have spoken and that he is sure that  
we will come back to it later’

Dealing with this involves a formal complication that we leave aside here. See Abeillé & Godard (2007).

- (46) Naomi-ga — *i* yon-da hon<sub>*i*</sub> (Japanese)  
 Naomi-NOM read-PAST book  
 ‘the book (that) Naomi read’
- (47) [motwu-ka [Kim-i — *i* ilk-ess-ta-ko] sayngkakha-nun]  
 everyone-NOM Kim-NOM read-PST-DECL-COMP think-PRES.MOD  
 chayk<sub>*i*</sub> (Korean)  
 book  
 ‘the book (that) everyone thinks Kim read’

Evidence for a gap in these examples is that it is not possible to put an overt NP in place of the gap (e.g. putting *sore-wo* ‘it-ACC’ in (46), or *sosel-u* ‘novel-ACC’ in (47) renders them ungrammatical).<sup>34</sup>

Sirai & Gunji (1998) provide a non-constructional account of Japanese bare relatives like (46). They show how an account that uses SLASH inheritance could work, but their actual proposal is SLASH-less. They assume that the tense affixes are heads of verbal predication, and operate via “predicate composition” – by inheriting the subcategorisation requirements of the associated verb. The adnominal tense affixes are special in that a) they are specified as nominal modifiers, and b) they inherit the subcategorisation requirements of the associated verb, less an NP that is co-indexed with the modified nominal. (A lexical equivalent of this could be implemented with a lexical rule which removes an element from a verb’s ARG-ST and introduces a MOD value containing a nominal with the corresponding index). Of course, a SLASH-less account like this will only deal with cases of local relativization – where the relativised NP is an argument of the highest verb. Sirai & Gunji argue that cases of non-local relativization, like (48), should be treated as involving null-pronominals (which are a common feature of Japanese). They suggest that the requirement that the modified noun and the pronoun be co-indexed should be captured via a pragmatic condition that requires the relative clause be “about” the modified noun.

- (48) [Ken-ga [Eiko-ga — *i* yon-da] to sinzitei-ru] hon<sub>*i*</sub> (Japanese)  
 Ken-NOM Eiko-NOM read.PAST COMP believe-PRES book  
 ‘the book that Ken believes Eiko read’

Kim (2016b) provides a constructional analysis for Korean which resembles Sag’s (1997) analysis of English – see also Kim (1998a); Kim & Yang (2003). He

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<sup>34</sup> As well as these “standard” relatives, Korean and Japanese both have other kinds of relative construction, notably what are sometimes called *internally headed* relatives, and so-called *pseudo-relatives*, which are briefly discussed below. See Section 4.2.2.

suggests that Korean allows verb lexemes to be realised as “modifier verbs” (*v-mod*) subject to a constraint along the lines of (49) — these are verbs that can head a subordinate clause ([MC -]) which modifies a nominal (N).<sup>35</sup>

$$(49) \quad \left[ \begin{array}{c} \text{HEAD} \\ \text{MC} \\ \text{MOD} \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \text{verb} \\ - \\ \text{noun} \end{array} \right]$$

He also proposes a construction (the *head-relative-mod* construction, see Kim 2016b: 290) to combine a structure headed by such a modifier verb with a head nominal, along the lines of (50).<sup>36</sup>

$$(50) \quad \textit{hd-relative-mod-phrase} \Rightarrow \left[ \begin{array}{ll} \text{HEAD} & \text{noun} \\ \text{SLASH} & \{\} \\ \text{HD-DTR} & [2] N[1] \\ \text{NON-HD-DTRS} & \left\{ S \left[ \begin{array}{c} \text{HEAD} | \text{MOD} \\ \text{SLASH} \end{array} [2] \right] \right\} \end{array} \right]$$

In words: a nominal structure can consist of a head noun, and a clause headed by a modifier verb containing an NP gap which is co-indexed with the head noun. The empty SLASH value on the mother is necessary to prevent the gap being inherited upwards. The SLASH value on the S daughter ensures the presence of an appropriate gap, the MOD value on the S daughter ensures that it is headed by a verb with the right morphology. It will license structures like that in Figure 8. Kim does not discuss the semantics, but it would be straightforward to add constraints to this construction along the lines of those presented above.

### 3.3.2 Bare relatives in English

English also has bare relative clauses, both finite, as in (51a), and non-finite as in (51b):

- (51) a. the cakes Kim bought \_\_
- b. some cakes (for Sam) to eat \_\_

In English, there is no obvious motivation for suggesting a special sub-type of “relative clause heading” verb, so an alternative way of licensing noun-modifying

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<sup>35</sup>Different sub-types of *v-mod* are associated with different tense affixes. (49) differs from Kim’s formulation, e.g. Kim’s formulation involves a POS (part-of-speech) feature and he assumes that MOD is list valued (see Kim 2016b: 285). This is not important here.

<sup>36</sup>Again, our formulation is slightly different from Kim’s for the sake of consistency with the rest of our presentation.

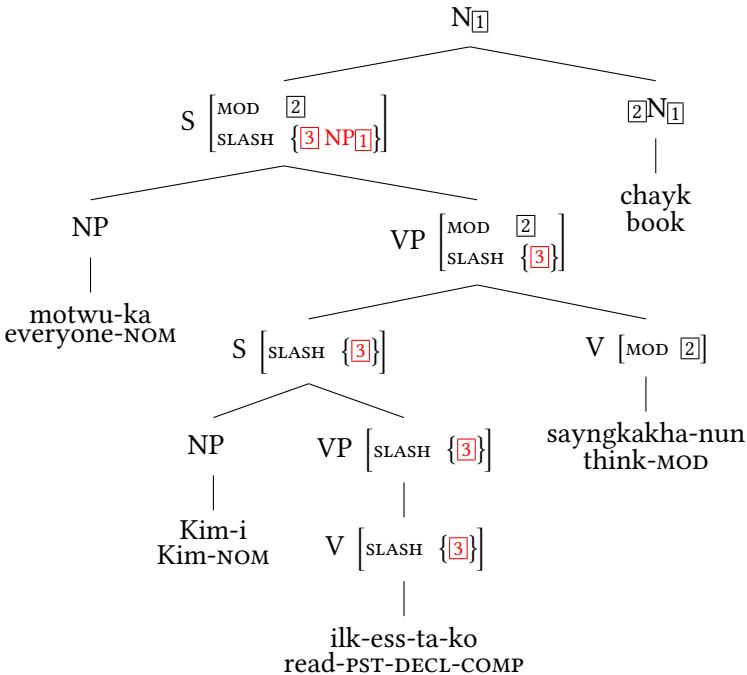


Figure 8: A Korean relative clause, based on Kim (2016b: 295).

clauses with appropriate SLASH values is required. In Pollard & Sag (1994) this was the role of an empty relativiser similar to that described above, differing only in taking a single argument – a slashed clause (see Pollard & Sag 1994: 222; recall that the relativiser discussed above takes two arguments: a *wh*-phrase, and a slashed clause). This gives structures like that in Figure 9.<sup>37</sup>

In Sag (1997) the task of licensing such bare relatives is carried out by a construction (an immediate subtype of *rel-cl*) as in (52). In words: a relative clause can be a noun-modifying clause whose head daughter contains an NP gap that is co-indexed with the modified nominal.

<sup>37</sup>According to Pollard & Sag (1994: 222), the clausal argument of this single argument version of R can either be bare, as here, or marked by *that*. Thus, terminological accuracy demands the observation that for Pollard & Sag some instances of *that*-relatives are actually “bare” in the sense of containing neither a relative pronoun nor a complementiser (though others, in particular those involving relativisation of a top level subject, are analysed as containing a version of *that* which is actually a relative pronoun). See above Footnote 29.

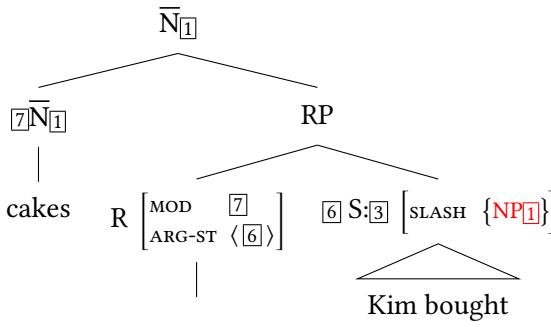


Figure 9: A Pollard & Sag (1994) style structure for an English bare relative.

$$(52) \quad non\text{-}wh\text{-}rel\text{-}cl \Rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} \text{HEAD} & \left[ \text{MOD} \left[ \text{HEAD } \bar{N}_1 \right] \right] \\ \text{SLASH} & \{ \} \\ \text{HD-DTR} & \left[ \text{SLASH } \{ \text{NP}\boxed{1} \} \right] \end{bmatrix}$$

This licenses structures like that in Figure 10.<sup>38</sup>

This differs from Kim's proposal for Korean in where the SLASH value is bound-off: in particular, where Kim's analysis involves a nominal and a slashed S, Sag's involves a nominal and an *unslashed* S — the clause is [SLASH {}], it is the VP which is [SLASH {NP}]. This reflects the fact that in English the gap in the relative clause cannot be the subject, accounting for the contrast in (53).<sup>39</sup>

- (53) a. \* person spoke to Sam  
 b. person who spoke to Sam

<sup>38</sup>Sag also proposes a subtype of (52) to deal with non-finite bare relatives, like (i), which he calls *simple infinitival relatives*, cf. *simp-inf-rel-cl* in Figure 4. See Sag (1997: 469). Abeillé et al. (1997) includes discussion of a similar construction in French — ‘infinitival *à*-relatives’, like (ii):

- |  |          |
|--|----------|
| (i) book (for Sam) to read<br>(ii) un livre à lire<br>a book to read | (French) |
|--|----------|

Neither discussion addresses the special modal semantics associated with non-finites, e.g. (i) means something like “books that Sam can (or should) read”.

<sup>39</sup>Examples like (53a) are acceptable in some non-standard dialects of English. Sag suggests this is not problematic, since they could be analysed as reduced relatives (see Sag 1997: 471), but see immediately below where we cast doubt on this. If we are right, then the non-standard dialects would have something like (50) instead of (52).

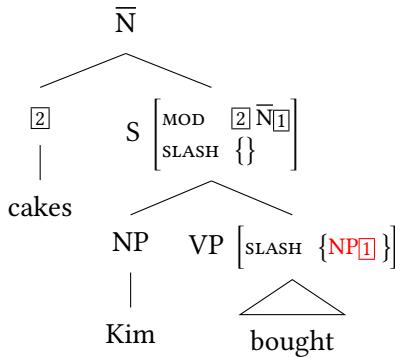


Figure 10: A Sag (1997) style structure for an English bare relative.

The issue of where upwards termination of SLASH inheritance should occur highlights the impossibility of having an entirely lexical and non-constructional account of bare relatives that does not employ empty elements. At first glance, a purely lexical approach might seem simple: since all we need is to create clauses specified as [MOD  $\bar{N}$ ] which contain a co-indexed gap, all we seem to need is verbs specified as in (54).

(54)	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>HEAD</td><td> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>verb</td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>MOD</td><td><math>\bar{N}[1]</math></td></tr> </table> </td></tr> <tr> <td>COMPS</td><td>{PP}</td></tr> <tr> <td>SLASH</td><td>{NP[1]}</td></tr> </table>	HEAD	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>verb</td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>MOD</td><td><math>\bar{N}[1]</math></td></tr> </table>	verb		MOD	$\bar{N}[1]$	COMPS	{PP}	SLASH	{NP[1]}
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verb											
MOD	$\bar{N}[1]$										
COMPS	{PP}										
SLASH	{NP[1]}										

In the absence of special constructions or empty elements, this would license structures like that in Figure 10, except that the upwards inheritance of the SLASH value will not be terminated, allowing an additional spurious filler for the gap, as in (55):<sup>40</sup>

- (55) \*That book<sub>i</sub>, I enjoyed [ the book<sub>i</sub> Kim read \_\_\_\_<sub>i</sub> ]

There is one class of exceptions to this – that is, phrases which might be analysed as relative clauses for which a purely lexical account *is* possible. Examples involving participial phrases and a variety of other post-nominal modifiers, notably APs and PPs, are often called *reduced relatives*, and analysed as a type of

<sup>40</sup>The SLASH based analysis of Japanese relatives outlined in Sirai & Gunji (1998) manages to avoid this problem, without either special constructions or empty elements, but it is not fully lexical, because it assumes tense affixes combine with the associated lexical verb in the syntax (hence the affix is able to block higher inheritance of the gap introduced by the lexical verb).

relative clause. Sag (1997: 471) follows this tradition (*red-rel-cl* in Figure 4). What this comes down to is the assumption that such examples involve clauses containing predicative phrases with PRO subjects, co-indexed with the nominals they modify.

- |      |  |                            |
|------|--|----------------------------|
| (56) | a. a person standing by the door             | (VP- <i>pres-part</i> )    |
|      | b. a train recently arrived at platform four | (VP- <i>past-part</i> )    |
|      | c. a person given a pay rise                 | (VP- <i>passive-part</i> ) |
|      | d. a person in the doorway                   | (PP)                       |
|      | e. a person fond of children                 | (AP)                       |

It is not obvious to us what is gained by treating these as relative clauses introduced by a special construction. A lexical account seems at least as appealing, where the relevant properties of the phrases (e.g. noun modifying semantics) are projected directly from lexical entries for the head words. The reason such a non-constructional approach is possible is that such examples involve neither relative pronouns nor genuine gaps, so there are neither REL nor SLASH dependencies to terminate.<sup>41</sup> This approach seems particularly appealing in the cases like (56e), which would be analysed as just involving an attributive adjective (*fond*) which happens to take a complement, along the lines of (57), where {...} stands for the restrictions the adjective itself imposes. But we think a similar account of verbal participles and prepositions is equally plausible.<sup>42</sup>

(57)	$\begin{array}{c} \text{HEAD} \left[ \text{MOD} \left[ \begin{array}{c} \textit{noun} \\ \text{INDEX } [1] \\ \text{RESTR } [2] \end{array} \right] \right] \\ \text{CONT} \left[ \begin{array}{c} \text{INDEX } [1] \\ \text{RESTR } [2] \uplus \{ \dots \} \end{array} \right] \end{array}$
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Notice that in (57) we omit mention of the SUBJ. If we assume the noun-modifying entry is derived from a predicative entry, there are two obvious alternatives: a) that the predicative subject is suppressed; or b) that it is constrained to be unexpressed (i.e. PRO). In the latter case, the two approaches are very similar, the only difference being whether examples like those in (56) are classified as clausal. It is not clear whether this has empirical consequences.

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<sup>41</sup>This argument does not necessarily carry over to languages which allow relativisation of non-subjects in reduced relatives, such as Arabic. See Melnik (2006: 241).

<sup>42</sup>For example, Müller (2002: 159–164) deals with adjectival passive participles in this way.

### 3.4 Non-restrictive (supplemental) relatives

The examples of relative clauses considered so far have been *restrictive relatives* (RRCs); they are interpreted as restricting the denotation of their antecedent to a subset of what it would be without the relative clause. So-called *supplemental*, *supplementary*, *appositive*, or *non-restrictive* relatives (NRCs) are different. They do not affect the interpretation of any associated nominal, and are generally interpreted with wide scope, much like independent utterances. For example, if *who understand logic* is read as an NRC as in (58a) it will be interpreted outside the scope of *Kim thinks*.

- (58) a. Kim thinks linguists, who understand logic, are clever. (NRC)  
       b. Kim thinks linguists who understand logic are clever. (RRC)

NRCs are often set off intonationally, and are subject to a number of surface morphosyntactic restrictions in English. In particular, they must be finite and contain a *wh*-pronoun, witness the ungrammaticality of (59a) and (59b).<sup>43</sup>

- (59) a. \*Kim, for Sandy to speak to, will arrive later.  
       b. \*Kim, (that) Sandy spoke to, will arrive later.

The analysis of non-restrictives has attracted some attention in the HPSG literature.<sup>44</sup>

Where RRCs are typically nominal modifiers, NRCs are compatible with a wide range of antecedents. Holler (2003) provides an analysis of German non-restrictives which are adjoined to S, as in (60). Her account uses a version of the empty relativiser from Pollard & Sag (1994) whose MOD value specifies a clausal (rather than nominal) target for modification, and looks for an appropriate antecedent for its first argument (the *wh*-phrase) among the discourse referents

<sup>43</sup>More extensive discussion of differences between NRCs and RRCs can be found in Arnold (2007).

<sup>44</sup>Bilbīie & Laurens (2009) discuss what they call *verbless relative adjuncts*, such as (i), in French and Romanian:

- (i) Trois personnes, [parmi lesquelles Jean], sont venues. (French)  
       three people(FEM) among which.FEM John AUX come  
       ‘Three people, among which John, have come.’

These have non-restrictive semantics, and some similarities with relative clauses, but Bilbīie & Laurens point out significant differences, and argue for an analysis that treats them rather differently, as a distinct construction.

contributed by the modification target (for example, the discourse referent corresponding to the proposition expressed by the main clause in (60)). The relative pronoun is thus treated rather like a normal pronoun.

- (60) Anna gewann die Schachpartie, was Peter ärgerte. (German)  
Anna won the game of chess which Peter annoyed  
'Anna won the game of chess, which annoyed Peter.'

Arnold (2004) provides an analysis of English non-restrictives of all kinds. This analysis also takes the relative pronouns involved in NRCs to be much like normal pronouns, but accounts for the syntactic restrictions by making minor modifications to constructions given in Sag's (1997) analysis of restrictives. It assumes a uniform syntax for restrictives and NRCs, but provides a way for relative clauses to combine with their heads in two semantically distinct ways, either restrictively (in the normal way) or non-restrictively (making their semantic contribution at the same level as the root clause, accounting for the wide-scope interpretation). The fact that supplementary relatives are required to be finite and contain a *wh*-pronoun can then be simply stated (e.g. non-restrictive semantics entails a non-head daughter which is a *fin-wh-rel-cl*).<sup>45</sup> Likewise, the wider range of antecedents available to NRCs can be captured by relaxing the [MOD noun] constraint associated with *rel-cl* (so in principle all kinds of relative clause are compatible with any antecedent), and adding it as requirement associated with restrictive semantics.

The approach to NRCs developed in Arnold (2004) is *syntactically integrated* – NRCs are treated as normal parts of the syntactic structure on a par with restrictive relatives. On the face of it, examples like (61b) are problematic for such an approach:

- (61) a. What did Jo think?  
b. You should say nothing, which is regrettable.

When uttered in the context provided by (61a), the interpretation of (61b) is that it is regrettable that *Jo thinks* you should say nothing. This has been taken as an indication that the interpretation of NRCs requires antecedents that are not syntactically realised and only available at a level of conceptual structure (see Blakemore 2006). However, Arnold & Borsley (2008) show that this is incorrect,

<sup>45</sup>As stated, given Sag's (1997) assumption that *that*-relatives are a variety of *wh*-relative, this wrongly predicts that supplemental *that*-relatives should normally be allowed. One way round this is to adopt a different analysis of *that*, but Arnold (2004) also considers an analysis whereby *that* has a different kind of REL value from "real" relative pronouns.

and in fact a syntactically integrated account combined with the approach to ellipsis and fragmentary utterances of Ginzburg & Sag (2000) makes precisely the right predictions in this case and in a range of others.

Arnold & Borsley (2010) look at NRCs where the antecedent is a VP, and where the gap is the complement of an auxiliary, as in (62).

- (62) Kim has ridden a camel, which Sam never would \_\_\_\_.

This is unexpected, because such examples seem to involve an NP filler (*which*) being associated with a gap in a position where an NP is generally impossible, cf. \**Sam never would that activity*. Arnold & Borsley consider a number of analyses, including an analysis which treats *which* as a potential VP, and an analysis which introduces a special relative clause construction. However, they argue that the best analysis is one which relates examples like (62) to cases of VP ellipsis (as in *Kim has ridden a camel but Sam never would*), which involve the VP argument of an auxiliary verb being omitted from its COMPS list. The idea is that auxiliary verbs allow such an elided VP argument to have (optionally) a SLASH value that contains an appropriately co-indexed NP. If such a SLASH value is present, normal SLASH amalgamation and inheritance will yield (62) as a normal relative clause, without further stipulation.

NRCs normally follow their antecedents. However, as Lee-Goldman (2012) observes, there are some special cases where the NRC precedes the antecedent. Such cases involve the relative pronouns *which* and *what* with antecedents that have clausal interpretations, i.e. either actual clauses, as in (63a) and (63b), or other expressions interpreted elliptically as with *later* in (63c).

- (63) a. It may happen now, or — *which would be worse* — it may happen later.  
 b. It may happen now, or — *which would be worse* — later.  
 c. It may happen now. *What is worse*, it may happen later.

Lee-Goldman provides a constructional account. It makes use of a feature RELZR, introduced by Sag (2010), which is shared between a relative clause and its filler daughter, and whose value reflects the identity of the relative pronoun (so possible values include *which*, *what*, etc.). Cases like (63c) are dealt with simply by means of a special construction which combines a *what*-relative clause with its antecedent in the desired order. The account of cases like (63a) and (63c) makes use of the idea of constituent order domains for linearisation originally proposed by Reape (e.g. Reape (1994), and Müller (2019a), Chapter 10 of this volume). The relevant construction combines a phrase whose RELZR value is *which* (e.g. *which would be worse*) with a clause whose constituent order DOMAIN has a coordinator

as its first element (e.g. the DOMAIN associated with *or it may happen later*) and produces a phrase where the DOMAIN value of the *which* phrase appears after the coordinator and before the remainder of the clause, giving the desired result.<sup>46</sup>

## 4 Other functions, other issues

For reasons of space, we have so far restricted the notion *relative clause* to the typical case: clauses which are nominal modifiers, adjoined to nominals. This ignores a number of relevant phenomena, notably the fact that relative clauses are not necessarily nominal modifiers, and the possibility that even when they function as nominal modifiers they need not be adjoined to nominals. In this section we will provide some discussion of these issues. Section 4.1 will briefly review HPSG analyses of cases where relative clauses are not adjoined to nominals. Section 4.2 will overview HPSG approaches on cases where clauses resembling relative clauses are not nominal modifiers.<sup>47</sup>

### 4.1 Extraposition

As noted above, relative clauses are typically nominal modifiers, and typically adjoined to the nominals they modify. However, this is not invariably the case: under certain circumstances relative clauses can be *extraposed*, as in (64), where the relative clauses (emphasised) have been extraposed from the subject NP to the end of the clause.

- (64) a. Someone might win *who does not deserve it*.  
b. Something happened then (*that*) *I can't really talk about here*.  
c. Something may arise *for us to talk about*.

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<sup>46</sup>Lee-Goldman handles the wide scope interpretation of NRCs by implementing a multidimensional notion of CONTENT inspired by Potts (2005). He also extends the analysis described here to deal with cases of *as*-parentheticals (e.g. *As most of you are aware, we have been under severe stress lately*), arguing that *as* should be analysed as a relativiser, and that such clauses should be analysed as relative clauses.

<sup>47</sup>Among the other phenomena we have neglected, one should mention *amount* relatives (e.g. Grosu & Landman 2017), that is, relative clauses where what is modified semantically is not a nominal, but an *amount* related to the nominal, as for example in (i) where the relative clause gives information about the *amount* of wine, rather than the wine itself.

- (i) It would take me a year to drink the wine [that Kim drinks on a normal night].

Several different approaches to extraposition have been proposed in the HPSG literature.

One approach uses the idea of constituent order domains, mentioned briefly in Section 3.4 above (and see Müller (2019a), Chapter 10 of this volume). The idea is that an extraposed relative clause is composed with its antecedent nominal in the normal way as regards syntax and semantics, but that rather than being *compacted* into a single DOMAIN element, the nominal and the relative clause remain as separate DOMAIN elements, with the effect that that relative clause can be *liberated* away from the nominal, so that its phonology is contributed discontinuously from the phonology of the nominal, as in the examples in (64). See e.g. Nerbonne (1994), and Kathol & Pollard (1995) for details.

A second approach treats extraposition as involving a non-local dependency, introducing a non-local feature, typically called something like EXTRA, which functions much like other non-local features (e.g. SLASH). The idea is that a relative clause can make its semantic contribution as a nominal modifier “downstairs”, but rather than being realised as a syntactic DAUGHTER (sister to the nominal), the relevant properties (e.g. the LOCAL features) are added to the EXTRA list of the head, and inherited up the tree until they are discharged from the EXTRA list by the appearance of an appropriate phrase-final daughter constituent, which contributes its phonology in the normal way, but makes no semantic contribution. Thinking from the top downwards, this is equivalent having a construction which allows a relative clause to appear e.g. as sister to a VP (as in (64a)) without affecting the VP’s syntax or semantics, so long as it is pushed onto the EXTRA list of the VP, from where it will be inherited downwards until a nominal occurs which it can be interpreted as modifying (the apparatus needed to deal with the “bottom” of the dependency might be a family of lexical items derived by lexical rule, or a non-branching construction). See e.g. Keller (1995); Bouma (1996); Müller (1999a); Müller (2004); Crysmann (2005); Crysmann (2013).

A third approach is suggested in Kiss (2005), and adopted in Crysmann (2004) and Walker (2017). This approach exploits the more flexible approach to semantic composition provided by Minimal Recursion Semantics (MRS, Copestake et al. 2005), in the case of Kiss (2005), and Lexical Resource Semantics (LRS, Richter & Sailer 2004) in Walker (2017). The idea is that an extraposed relative clause appears as a normal syntactic daughter in its surface position, but the notion of semantic modification is generalised so that rather than the index of a modifying phrase being identified with that of a sister constituent (as standardly assumed), it may be identified with that of any suitable constituent *within* the sister. That is, adjuncts can be interpreted as modifying not just their sisters, but anything

contained in their sisters – words and phrase to which they have no direct syntactic connection. This is implemented by means of a set valued ANCHORS feature, which is inherited upwards in the manner of a non-local feature, and which allows access to the indices of constituents from lower down. The flexibility of semantic composition afforded by MRS and LRS means that the right interpretations can be obtained.

A number of authors have argued for the superiority of an approach using EXTRA-style apparatus (e.g. Müller (2004) and Crysman (2013)), but in terms of theoretical costs and benefits there seems to be little to choose between these alternatives — the first and third approaches rely on particular approaches to constituent order and semantic composition, while EXTRA-style analyses involve only on the more commonplace apparatus of non-local features (though with the added cost of special constructions or lexical operations to introduce and remove elements from EXTRA lists). Empirically, there are several issues that all approaches deal with more or less successfully (for example, the Right Roof Constraint from Ross 1967 that prevents extraposition beyond the clause, cf. (65b)). However, a more significant factor may be how well different accounts integrate with analyses of extraposition involving other kinds of adjunct and complement (e.g. complement clauses, as in (66)), capturing similarities and differences (see e.g. Crysman 2013).

- (65) a. [That someone might win *who does not deserve it*] is irrelevant.  
b. \* [That someone might win] is irrelevant *who does not deserve it*.
- (66) The question then arises *whether we should continue in this way*.

## 4.2 Other functions

In this section we will briefly discuss phenomena involving clauses whose internal structures resemble relative clauses but which do not function as nominal modifiers.<sup>48</sup>

<sup>48</sup>One omission here is discussion of *relative-corelative* constructions, which can be found in Hindi and Marathi, *inter alia*, and which were given an analysis in Pollard & Sag (1994: 227–232). These involve the paratactic combination of a clause that contains one or more relative pronouns, and what looks like a main clause containing coreferential pronouns, something like ‘which boy<sub>i</sub> saw which girl<sub>j</sub>, he<sub>i</sub> proposed to her<sub>j</sub>’ (meaning *the boy who saw the girl proposed to her*). Pollard & Sag’s analysis involves associating a set of indices in the REL value of the first clause, which are realised by relative pronouns in the normal way, and an identical set of indices as encoded as the value of a CORRELATIVE feature in the main clause, which are realised by normal pronouns.

#### 4.2.1 Complement clauses

Perhaps the most obvious cases of this kind involve clauses with the internal structure of a relative clause which occur as complements, rather than adjuncts. The following are some examples.<sup>49</sup>

- (67) a. This story is the \*(most) interesting *that we have heard*.
- b. diejenige Frau \*(*die dort steht*) (German)  
the.that woman who there stands  
'the very woman who is standing there'
- c. It was Kim *that solved the problem*.
- d. It was from Kim *that we got the news*.
- e. On l' a vu qui s'enfuyaient (French)  
We him have seen who run.away.IMPERF  
'We saw him running away'

In (67a) we have what looks like a *that* relative which is plausibly analysed as the complement of the superlative (notice that omitting the superlative makes (67a) ungrammatical).

The German example in (67b) exemplifies the *diejenigen* class of determiners, which require a complement that looks like a relative clause (and is analysed as such in Walker (2017)).

In (67c) we have a so-called *it*-cleft, a construction which features a clause resembling a relative clause, but rather than adding information about an associated nominal (as it would if it were a normal relative clause), the clause is interpreted as providing a presupposition ("someone/something solved the problem"), for an associated focus phrase (here the nominal *Kim*, so the interpretation is roughly "... and that person/thing was Kim"). Notice that the focus phrase need not be nominal (e.g. in (67d) it is a PP *from Kim*), again this is unlike normal (restrictive) relatives clauses (which are nominal modifiers).<sup>50</sup> In HPSG, following Pollard & Sag (1994: 260–262), *it*-clefts have typically been analysed as involving a lexical entry for *be* that takes an *it* subject, and two complements: an XP and an S which is marked as containing an XP gap. This makes *it*-clefts look rather different from relative clauses (the only real similarity being the existence of an

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<sup>49</sup>Another case where a relative clause should be analysed as a complement is discussed in Arnold & Lucas (2016).

<sup>50</sup>Notice also that *that*-relatives are usually incompatible with proper name antecedents, but proper names are perfectly acceptable as the focus of an *it*-cleft with a *that*-clause, as in (67c) (Huddleston & Pullum 2002: 1416-1417).

unbounded dependency). One problem is that is not clear how this approach can be extended to examples like (68), where we seem to have an NP focus (*Sam*) which is not directly associated with an XP gap — we have instead a PP gap that seems to be associated with a normal relative phrase filler (*on whom*), i.e. where the similarity of the clefted clause to a relative clause is quite strong. It is not obvious how this problem should be dealt with.

- (68) It was Sam [on whom she particularly focused her attention — ].

The French example in (67e) contains a so-called *predicative relative clause* (PRC).<sup>51</sup> Such clauses have the superficial form of a finite relative clause, but differ from them syntactically, semantically, and pragmatically. Koenig & Lambrecht (1999) analyse them as a form of *secondary predicate* (cf. *running away* in English *We saw them running away*). Syntactically, they are restricted to post-verbal positions, and are only permitted with certain kinds of verb (notably verbs of perception, like *voir* ‘see’, and discovery, like *trouver* ‘find’), and the relative pronoun must be a top level subject. Semantically, they are subject to constraints on tense, modality and negation (there must be temporal overlap between the perception/discover event and the event reported in the relative clause, and the relative clause content cannot be either modal or negative). Pragmatically, their content must be asserted (rather than presupposed). Koenig & Lambrecht provide an analysis which treats PRCs as REL marked clauses with both an internal and an external subject (instances of *head-subject-ph* which have a non-empty SUBJ value), and which can consequently function as secondary predicates.

#### 4.2.2 Dependent noun and pseudo-relative constructions

The following exemplifies a Korean structure that contains what looks superficially like a relative clause:

- (69) Kim-u [[sakwa-ka cayngpan-wi-ey iss-nun] kes]-ul mek-ess-ta.  
Kim-TOP apple-NOM tray-TOP-LOC exist-MOD KES-ACC eat-PST-DECL  
(Korean)

‘Kim ate an apple which was on the tray.’

Here what is traditionally called a *dependent noun* (*kes*) is preceded by a clause whose verb bears the morphological marking that is characteristic of relative clauses (the *-nun* affix).<sup>52</sup>

<sup>51</sup>The French term is *proposition relative dépendante attribut* (Sandfeld 1965).

<sup>52</sup>Japanese has a similar construction, involving the nominalising particle *no*, which has received some attention in the HPSG literature (e.g. Kikuta 1998; 2001; 2002). A difference is that there

However, unlike a normal relative clause, this “dependent” clause does not contain a gap, instead it contains what might be regarded as the semantic head of the construction (in this case, *sakwa-ka* ‘apple’), notice that the clause+*kes* constituent satisfies the selection restriction of the verb *mek-ess-ta* ‘ate’; this is what motivates the translation and explains why such clauses are often regarded as “internally headed” relatives. Kim (2016b: 303–317) notes a number of differences between *kes*-clauses and normal relatives (e.g. *kes*-clauses do not allow the full range of relative affixes to appear), and suggests these clauses are better analysed as complements of *kes*. See also Kim (1996), Chan & Kim (2002), Kim (2016a), and references there.<sup>53</sup>

Another Korean structure that has some similarity with relative clauses is the so-called *pseudo-relative* construction, exemplified in (70).<sup>54</sup>

- (70) [komwu-ka tha-nun] naymsay (Korean)  
 rubber-NOM burn-MOD smell  
 ‘the smell that characterises the burning of rubber’

There is again no gap in the relative clause; again, only one kind of marking is allowed on the verb (only past tense *-un*); and only a limited range of nouns allow this kind of relative clause; this makes them rather like complement clauses. However, it is less plausible to think of a noun like *naymsay* ‘smell’ taking a com-

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is no special morphology on the clause in Japanese, as noted above, in Section 3.3.1.

<sup>53</sup> Pollard & Sag (1994: 232–236) discuss a number of cases of what appear to be more plausible instances of *internally headed* relatives from a number of languages (Lakhota, Dogon, and Quechua); the following is from Dogon:

- (i) [ya inde mi we go] yimaa boli. (Dogon)  
 yesterday person 1sg see.PN.Ø DEF die.PSP go.PN.3sg  
 ‘The person I saw yesterday is dead.’

Here we have a determiner *go* preceded by a clause containing what would be the external head of a standard relative clause (in this case *inde* ‘person’). The key difference between this and the Korean case is the absence here of any obvious clause external nominal like *kes* which can be treated as the head which takes the relative clause as a complement. Pollard & Sag (1994: 234) suggest (following Culy 1990) that NPs like that in (i) involve an exocentric construction, but no empty elements (neither an empty nominal, nor an empty relativiser). The NP consists of a determiner and a nominal, where the nominal consists of just a clause whose REL value contains the index of the nominal. This REL value is inherited downwards into the clause where it is identified with the index of one of the NPs, here the index of *inde* ‘person’: the effect of this is that the index of *inde* ‘person’ becomes the index of the whole NP (This ignores a number of technical and empirical issues to do with the inheritance and binding-off of REL values).

<sup>54</sup> A similar construction can be found in Japanese, cf. Kikuta (1998; 2001; 2002); Chan & Kim (2002).

plement (unlike *kes*), and these clauses are like prototypical relative clauses in not allowing topic marking. Kim suggests this is a special construction where the relation of head noun and relative clause is that the noun describes the perceptive result of the situation described by the clause (e.g. the smell is the perceptive result of the rubber burning. See Kim (1998b); Yoon (1993); Chan & Kim (2002); Cha (2005); Kim (2016b)).

#### 4.2.3 Free relatives

Perhaps the most significant case of a clause type that resembles a relative clause but which does not function as a nominal modifier consists of the so-called *free (headless, or fused) relatives*, exemplified in (71). These have received considerable attention in the HPSG literature.

- (71) a. She ate *what I suggested*.  
b. She ate *whatever I suggested*.  
c. She put it *where I suggested*.

As these examples suggest, free relatives can be interpreted as involving either definite descriptions, as in (71a) “the thing that I suggested”, or universal quantification, as in (71b) “everything that I suggested”. They can also have adverbial or prepositional interpretations, as in (71c) “in the place that I suggested”. The interpretation is related to the choice of *wh*-phrase. There are some special restrictions. For example, in English free relatives must be finite, as can be seen from (72a), and there are restrictions on what *wh*-words are allowed (e.g. *what* is permitted, as in (71a), but *which* is not, witness (72b)).

- (72) a. \*She ate *what to cook*.  
b. \*She ate *which I suggested*.

Free relatives resemble prototypical *wh*-relatives (and interrogative clauses) in containing a gap, and an initial *wh*-phrase in which is interpreted as filling the gap. They differ from interrogatives in having the external distribution of NPs or PPs rather than clauses (for example in (71a) *what I suggested* is the complement of *eat*, and in (71c) *where suggested* is a complement of *put*, neither of which allow clausal complements). They differ from prototypical relative clauses in not being associated with a nominal antecedent. They can contain relative pronouns which are not permitted in normal *wh*-relatives, notably the *-ever* pronouns, *whatever*, *whoever*, etc, and *what*, witness the ungrammaticality of the following:<sup>55</sup>

<sup>55</sup> *What* is not a relative pronoun in standard English, but it is in some other varieties, and (73b) is grammatical in those.

- (73) a. \*She ate the thing(s) *whatever I suggested*.  
       b. \*She ate the things(s) *what I suggested*.

In general the possibilities of relative inheritance (pied-piping) in free relatives are dramatically reduced compared to prototypical relatives and interrogatives. For example in English, relative inheritance is not possible from the complement of a preposition, as can be seen from (74b):

- (74) a. Try to describe *what you talked about*.  
       b. \*Try to describe *about what you talked*.

In fact, in English relative inheritance only seems to be possible from *wh*-phrases in in pre-nominal position (determiners and genitive NPs), as in (75), and (77a) below.<sup>56</sup>

- (75) They will steal *what(ever) things they can carry*.

As with prototypical relatives, the initial *wh*-phrase in a free relative has to satisfy restrictions imposed “downstairs” in the relative clause (i.e. restrictions that follow from the location of the gap). In addition, however, it seems that with free relatives the *wh*-phrase is also sensitive to restrictions imposed from the outside the relative clause — the *wh*-phrase of a free relative has to be of the appropriate category for the position where the free relative appears. For example, as a first approximation, a free relative with *what* is only possible where an NP is possible, and a free relative with *where* is only possible where a locative PP is possible. This is the so-called *matching effect* in free relatives.<sup>57</sup>

One interesting instance of this involves case marking. Consider, for example, the German data in (76). These show a free relative in a position which requires nominative case marking, containing a relative pronoun whose role within the relative clause requires nominative marking. Since *wer* ‘who’ is nominative, all is well. By contrast, in (76b) while the nominative *wer* satisfies the requirements within the relative clause, there is a case conflict because the free relative as a whole is the complement of a verb *vertrauen* ‘trust’ that requires a dative complement. The result is ungrammatical. Examples like (76c) show a complication. Here again there is a case conflict: within the relative clause, the relative pronoun is required to be accusative (complement of *empfehlen* ‘recommend’), and

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<sup>56</sup>Other languages are less restrictive, e.g. Müller (1999a: 57) gives German examples analogous to (74b). See Footnote 59.

<sup>57</sup>In fact, things are more complicated. For example, in *He walked to [where his horse was waiting]*, we have a free relative with *where* in an NP position (object of a preposition) rather than a PP position. See e.g. Kim (2017) for discussion.

the free relative as a whole is in a nominative position. However, the result is grammatical, presumably because the morphological form of the neuter relative pronoun *was* ‘what’ can realise either nominative or accusative case (unlike the masculine *wer*).

- (76) a. Wer schwach ist, muss klug sein. (German)  
who.NOM weak is must clever be  
'Whoever is weak must be clever.'
- b. \*Wer klug ist, vertraue ich immer. (German)  
who.NOM clever is trust I ever  
intended: 'I trust whoever is clever.'
- c. Was du mir empfiehlst, macht einen guten Eindruck.  
what.NOM/ACC you me recommend makes a good impression  
(German)  
'What you recommend me makes a good impression.'

The agreement properties of free relatives are somewhat surprising, and reveal a potential complication in the matching effect. Notice that in (77a) the *wh*-phrase, *whoever's dogs*, is plural, and triggers plural agreement on the verb in relative clause.

- (77) a. [[Whoever's <sub>sg</sub> dogs]<sub>pl</sub> are running around]<sub>sg</sub> is in trouble.  
b. Whoever is/\*are running around (is in trouble).

This is not surprising since *whoever's dogs* is headed by a plural noun (*dogs*). However, the free relative as a whole triggers singular agreement, consistent with the agreement properties coming from the relative pronoun — *whoever* is singular, as can be seen from (77b). This is also consistent with the semantics: the free relative in (77a) denotes the person whose dogs are running around, not the dogs (in this it resembles an NP like *anyone whose dogs are running around*, which involves a normal relative clause construction).<sup>58</sup> This shows a complication of the matching effect: it seems that within clause requirements are reflected on the initial *wh*-phrase (*whoever's dogs* is the subject of the relative), but the external distribution reflects the properties of the relative word (*whoever*). Of course, the fact that relative inheritance is so limited in free relatives means that usually the *wh*-phrase consists of just the *wh*-word, so that is very difficult to tease these

<sup>58</sup>This is not a universal property: Borsley (2008) notes that examples in Welsh resembling (77a) are interpreted as meaning that the dogs are in big trouble, not the owner.

things apart.<sup>59</sup>

Following Müller (1999a) on German, free relatives have received considerable attention in the HPSG literature, with analyses dealing with a variety of languages, including: Arabic (Alqurashi 2012; Hahn 2012), Danish (Bjerre 2012; 2014), English (Kim & Park 1996; Kim 2001; Wright & Kathol 2003; Francis 2007; Yoo 2008; Kim 2017), German (Hinrichs & Nakazawa 2002; Kubota 2003), Persian (Taghvaipour 2005), and Welsh (Borsley 2008).

The central analytic problem is this: leaving aside the complication arising from case syncretism and relative inheritance just mentioned, the existence of matching effects has suggested to some (e.g. Kubota (2003)) that the *wh*-phrase should be the head of the free relative, because the distribution of free relatives depends on the properties of the *wh*-phrase. So, for example, the NP *what* would be the head of *what I suggested*. But this is inconsistent with *what* being the filler of the gap in *what I suggested* (i.e. the missing object of *suggested*), because in a normal filler-gap construction the filler is *non-head*. If, instead, we assume that *what* is primarily the filler of the gap in the free relative, then we should assume that the clause *I suggested* — is the head of the free relative — and the distributional properties of the free relative are unexplained.

#### 4.2.4 Pseudo-clefts and transparent free relatives

Two constructions that show some similarity with free relatives, and have received some attention in the HPSG literature, are *specification pseudo-clefts*, exemplified in (78), and so-called *transparent free relatives* (TFRs), exemplified in (79).

- (78) a. A new coat is [what Kim will be wearing].
- b. [What Kim will be wearing] is a new coat.
- c. [What she did] was cut her hair.

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<sup>59</sup>Müller (1999a: 90) discusses the following German example of a free relative with an initial PP containing the nominal relative word *wem* ‘whom’ (i.e. showing relative inheritance to PP):

(i) Ihr könnt beginnen, [mit wem ihr (beginnen) wollt].  
           you can start      with whom you start      want  
           ‘You can start with whoever you like.’

He observes that the free relative functions as a PP, just like *mit wem*, and in the variant where the parenthesised instance of *beginnen* is present, the within clause role is also that of a PP. However, *mit* here is a non-predicative preposition, so the index associated with the PP is just that of the *wh*-word that it contains, so it is still not possible to fully distinguish the properties of the *wh*-phase and the properties of the *wh*-word it contains.

- d. [What she did not bring] was any wine.
- (79) a. She replied in [what anyone would consider — a belligerent tone].  
b. Her reply was [what anyone would consider — belligerent].

Specificational pseudo-clefts typically consist of a *wh*-clause, *be*, and a *focal phrase* (e.g. *any wine* in (78d)). The focal phrase corresponds to a gap in the *wh*-clause (e.g. in (78d) *any wine* is interpreted as the missing object of *bring*). They raise a number of issues that are not typical of relative clauses, notably the existence of *connectivity effects* whereby the focal phrase behaves as though it was part of the *wh*-clause (e.g. in (78d) the negative polarity item *any* is licensed by the negation in the *wh*-clause). Beyond this, it is not obvious whether the *wh*-clauses should be analysed as related to interrogatives, as in Yoo (2003), or as related to free relatives, as in Gerbl (2007).<sup>60</sup>

In TFRs the relative appears to function somewhat like a parenthetical modifier of a *nucleus* (e.g. *a belligerent tone* in (79a)), which seems to provide the head properties of the phrase as a whole – so for example the TFR in (79a) has the characteristics of an NP, that in (79b) has those of an AP (it is a natural starting point to assume the nucleus is internal to the relative clause, since otherwise one has the puzzle of a relative clause which is both incomplete and occurs before the head it modifies). TFRs are in some ways even more restricted than other kinds of relative (only *what* is allowed as the relative expression), but in others less restricted (e.g. free relatives have the external distribution of NPs, but the TFR in (79b) has the distribution of an AP, like its nucleus *belligerent*). Some approaches to TFRs employ novel kinds of structure (e.g. *grafts*, cf. van Riemsdijk 2006), but Yoo (2008) and Kim (2011) provide HPSG analyses which capture the relevant properties using existing apparatus with only minor adjustments.

## 5 Conclusion

The analysis of relative clauses has been important in the theoretical evolution of HPSG, notably in the development of constructional approach involving inheritance from cross classifying dimensions of description. Empirically, relative

<sup>60</sup>It can be difficult to distinguish this kind of pseudo-cleft from cases involving a normal free relative. An example like *What she is wearing is a mess* is superficially similar to (78b), but it involves a free relative. Notice, for example, it can be paraphrased with a normal NP plus relative clause (as “The thing that she is wearing is a mess”) and *what* can be replaced with *whatever*. It does not have a paraphrase with an *it*-cleft or a simple proposition – it cannot be paraphrased as “It is mess that she is wearing” or “She is wearing a mess”.

clauses have been the focus of a significant amount of descriptive work in a variety of typologically diverse languages. Our goal in this paper has been exposition and survey rather than argumentation towards particular conclusions, but, perhaps paradoxically given what we have just said, we think one conclusion that clearly emerges is that, from an HPSG perspective at least, *relative clauses are not a natural kind*. There is *nothing* one can say that will be true of everything that has been described as a “relative clause” in the literature. As regards internal structure, some are *head-filler* structures (*wh*-relatives), while others are *head-complement* structures (complementiser relatives, some kinds of bare relative); correspondingly, some involve relative pronouns (hence a `REL` feature), some do not. It is true that most involve some kind of `SLASH` dependency, but this is hardly unique to relative clauses, and even this does not hold of the dependent noun and pseudo-relatives mentioned in Section 4.2.2. There is no semantic unity — while restrictive relatives are noun-modifiers, non-restrictives function more like independent clauses, and free relatives have nominal or adverbial semantics. Similarly, as regards external distribution: prototypical relatives are noun modifiers, and appear in *head-adjunct-ph* structures, but expressions with similar internal structure occur as complements (e.g. free relatives, clefts, and complements of superlative adjectives).

We do not think it is a bad thing that this conclusion should emerge from a discussion of HPSG approaches. Rather, it suggests to us that an approach that tries to impose unity will end up being procrustean. In fact, discussion of relative clauses seems to us to show some of the best features of HPSG — the analyses we have summarised are generally well formalised, carefully constructed (detailed, precise, and coherent), and both empirically satisfying and insightful, with relatively few *ad hoc* assumptions or special stipulations. The discussion shows how the expressivity and flexibility of the descriptive machinery of the framework are compatible with a wide range of phenomena across a range of languages.

## Abbreviations

- AP, XP, PP, NP, VP, CP, S, DP, PRO (standard linguistic abbreviations)
- RP – a phrase headed by the empty relativiser R – put in the index?
- SELR – Subject Extraction Lexical Rule
- MRS – Minimal Recursion Semantics
- LRS – Lexical Resource Semantics

- WHIP – Wh-Inheritance Principle
- NRC – non-restrictive relative clause
- RRC – restrictive relative clause
- PRC – predicative relative clause
- TFR – transparent free relative

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# Chapter 16

## Island phenomena and related matters

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Extraction constraints on long-distance dependencies – so-called *islands* – have been the subject of intense linguistic and psycholinguistic research for the last half century. Despite of their importance in syntactic theory, the heterogeneity of island constraints has posed many difficult challenges to linguistic theory, across all frameworks. The HPSG perspective of island phenomena is that they are unlikely to be due to a unitary syntactic constraint given the fact that virtually all such island constraints have known exceptions. Rather, it is more plausible that island constraints result from a combination of independently motivated syntactic, semantic, pragmatic and processing phenomena. The present chapter is somewhat different from others in this volume in that its focus is not on HPSG analyses of some phenomena, but rather on the nature of the phenomena itself. This is because there is evidence that most of the phenomena are not purely grammatical, and to that extent independent from HPSG or indeed any theory of grammar. One may call this view of island phenomena ‘minimalist’ in the sense that much of it does not involve formal grammar.

### 1 Introduction

This chapter provides an overview of various island effects that have received attention from members of the HPSG community. I begin with the extraction constraints peculiar to coordinate structures, because they not only have a special status in the history of HPSG, but also because they illustrate well the non-unitary nature of island constraints. I then argue that, at a deeper level, some of these constraints are in fact present in many other island types, though not necessarily all. For example, I take it as relatively clear that *factive islands* are purely pragmatic in nature (Oshima 2007), as are *negative islands* (Kroch 1989;



Szabolcsi & Zwarts 1993; Abrusán 2011; Fox & Hackl 2006; Abrusán & Specator 2011), although one can quibble about the particular technical details of how such accounts are best articulated. Similarly, the *NP Constraint* in the sense of Horn (1972) is likely to be semantic-pragmatic in nature (Kuno 1987; Godard 1988; Davies & Dubinsky 2009). Conversely, I take it as relatively uncontroversial that the *Clause Non-Final Incomplete Constituent Constraint* is due to processing difficulty (Hukari & Levine 1991; Fodor 1992). See also Kothari (2008) for evidence that ‘bridge’ verb effects in filler-gap dependencies are partly due to lack of contextualization.

In the present chapter I focus on islands that have garnered more attention from members of the HPSG community, and that have caused more controversy cross-theoretically. My goal is to provide an overview of the range of explanations that have been proposed to account for the complex array of facts surrounding islands, and to show that no single unified account is likely.

## 2 Background

As already detailed in Borsley & Crysmann (2019), Chapter 14 of this volume, HPSG encodes filler-gap dependencies in terms of a set-valued feature SLASH. Because the theory consists of a feature-based declarative system of constraints, virtually all that goes on in the grammar involves constraints stating which value a given feature takes. By allowing SLASH sets to be unified (or unioned), it follows that constructions in which multiple gaps are linked to the same filler are trivially obtained, as in (1).

- (1)
  - a. Which celebrity did [the article insult \_ more than it praised \_]?
  - b. Which celebrity did you expect [[the pictures of \_] to bother \_ the most]?
  - c. Which celebrity did you [inform \_ [that the police was coming to arrest \_]]?
  - d. Which celebrity did you [compare [the memoir of \_] [with a movie about \_]]?
  - e. Which celebrity did you [hire \_ [without auditioning \_ first]]?
  - f. Which celebrity did you [[meet \_ at a party] and [date \_ for a few months]]?

But another advantage of encoding the presence of filler-gap dependencies as a feature is that certain lexical items and constructions can easily impose idiosyn-

cratic constraints on SLASH values. For example, to account for languages that do not allow preposition stranding, it suffices to state that prepositions are necessarily specified as [SLASH {}]. Thus, their complements cannot appear in SLASH instead of COMPS. The converse also occurs. Certain uses of the verb *assure*, for example, are lexically required to have one complement in SLASH rather than in COMPS. Thus, extraction is obligatory as (2) shows.

- (2) a. \* I can assure you him to be the most competent.
- b. Who<sub>i</sub> can you assure me \_i to be the most competent?  
(Kayne 1980).

As we shall see, it would be rather trivial to impose the classic island constraints in the standard syntactic environments in which they arise.<sup>1</sup> The problem is that island effects are riddled with exceptions which defy purely syntactic accounts of the phenomena. Hence, HPSG has generally refrained from assuming that islands are syntactic, in contrast to mainstream linguistic theory.

### 3 The Coordinate Structure Constraint

Ross (1967) first observed that coordinate structures impose various constraints on long-distance dependencies, shown in (3), collectively dubbed the *Coordinate Structure Constraint*. For perspicuity, I follow Grosu (1973a) in referring to (i) as the *Conjunct Constraint* and to (ii) as the *Element Constraint*.

- (3) COORDINATE STRUCTURE CONSTRAINT (CSC):

In a coordinate structure, (i) no conjunct may be moved, (ii) nor may any element contained in a conjunct be moved out of that conjunct ... unless each conjunct properly contains a gap paired with the same filler.

The *Conjunct Constraint* (CC) is illustrated by the unacceptability of the extractions in (3.1). No such constraint is active in other constructions like those in (5) and (6), for example.

- (4) a. \* Which celebrity did you see [Priscilla and \_]?  
(cf. with ‘Did you see Priscilla and Elvis?’)
- b. \* Which celebrity did you see [\_ and Priscilla]?  
(cf. with ‘Did you see Elvis and Priscilla?’)

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<sup>1</sup>In such a view, island effects could perhaps result from grammaticalized constraints, induced by parsing and performance considerations (Pritchett 1991; Fodor 1978; 1983a).

- c. \* Which celebrity did you see [ \_ or/and a picture of \_ ]?  
(cf. with ‘Did you see Elvis or/and a picture of Elvis?’)
  - (5) a. Which celebrity did you see Priscilla with \_ ?  
(cf. with ‘Did you see Priscilla with Elvis?’)
  - b. Which celebrity did you see \_ with Elvis?  
(cf. with ‘Did you see Priscilla with Elvis?’)
- (6) a. Which celebrity is Kim as tall as \_ ?
- b. Which celebrity did you say Robin arrived earlier than \_ ?

In HPSG accounts of extraction that assume the existence of traces (Pollard & Sag 1994; Levine & Hukari 2006) the CC must be stipulated at the level of the coordination construction, by stating that conjuncts cannot be empty elements.<sup>2</sup> On the other hand, the CC follows immediately in a traceless account of filler-gap dependencies (Sag & Fodor 1994; Bouma et al. 2001; Ginzburg & Sag 2000; Sag 2010) since there is simply nothing to conjoin in (3.1), and thus nothing else needs to be said about conjunct extraction; see Sag (2000) for more criticism of traces.

HPSG’s traceless account of the CC is semantic in nature, in a sense. Coordinators like *and*, *or*, *but* and so on are not regarded as heads that select arguments, and therefore have empty ARG-ST and valence specifications. And given that HPSG assumes that the signs that can appear in a given lexical head SLASH values are valents, then it follows that the signs that coordinators combine with cannot instead be registered in the coordinator’s SLASH feature. Hence, words like *and* have no valents, no arguments and therefore no conjunct extraction. Incidentally, adnominal adjectives cannot be extracted either, for exactly the same reason, as they are not selected by any head, and therefore are not listed in any ARG-ST list.

In order to allow certain adverbials to be extractable, Ginzburg & Sag (2000) assume that those adverbials are members of ARG-ST. See Levine & Hukari (2006) for more on adverbial extraction, and see Borsley & Crysmann (2019), Chapter 14 of this volume for further discussion.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>2</sup>See however Levine (n.d.: 317–318) for the claim that each conjunct must contain at least one stressed syllable. Given that traces are phonologically silent, nothing is there to bear stress and the CC is obtained. This raises the question of why no such stress constraint exists in P-stranding, for example, or indeed in any kind of extraction.

<sup>3</sup>The empirical facts are less clear when it comes to adnominal PPs, however. Even PPs that are usually regarded as modifiers can sometimes be extracted, as in *From which shelf am I not*

Let us now turn to the *Element Constraint*, illustrated in (7). As before, the constraint appears to be restricted to coordination structures, as no oddness arises in the comitative counterparts like (8), or in comparatives like (9).<sup>4</sup>

- (7) a. \* Which celebrity did you see [Priscilla and a picture of \_]?  
(cf. with ‘Did you see Priscilla and a picture of Elvis?’)
  - b. \* Which celebrity did you see [a picture of \_ and Priscilla]?  
(cf. with ‘Did you see a picture of Elvis and Priscilla?’)
- (8) a. Which celebrity did you see [the brother of \_ with Priscilla]?  
b. Which celebrity did you see [Priscilla with the brother of \_]?
- (9) a. Which celebrity did [[you enjoy the memoir of \_ more] than [any other non-fiction book]]?  
b. Which celebrity did you say that [[the sooner we take a picture of \_], [the quicker we can go home]]?

The ATB exception to the CSC is illustrated by the acceptability of (10), where each conjunct hosts a gap, linked to the same filler. As already noted above in (1), the fact that multiple gaps can be linked to the same filler is not unique to coordination.

- (10) a. Which celebrity did you buy [[a picture of \_ and a book about \_]]?  
b. Which celebrity did you [[meet \_ at a party] and [date \_ for a few months]]?

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*supposed to read any books?* In many such extractions the PP can alternatively be parsed as VP modifier, which complicates judgements.

<sup>4</sup> Although Winter (2001: 83) and others claim that coordination imposes semantic scope islands, Chaves (2007: §3.6) shows that this is not the case, as illustrated in examples like those below.

- (i) a. The White House is very careful about this. An official representative [[will personally read each document] and [reply to every letter]].  
( $\forall \text{ doc-letter} > \exists \text{ representative} / \exists \text{ representative} > \forall \text{ doc-letter}$ )
- b. We had to do this ourselves. By the end of the year, some student [[had proof-read every document] and [corrected each theorem]].  
( $\forall \text{ doc-theorem} > \exists \text{ student} / \exists \text{ student} > \forall \text{ doc-theorem}$ )
- c. Your task is to document the social interaction between [[each female] and [an adult male]].  
( $\forall \text{ female} > \exists \text{ adult male} / \exists \text{ adult male} > \forall \text{ female}$ )

Gazdar (1981) and Gazdar et al. (1985) assumed that the coordination rule requires SLASH values to be structure-shared across conjuncts and the mother node, thus predicting both the Element Constraint and the ATB exceptions. The failure of movement-based grammar to predict multiple gap extraction facts was also seen as a major empirical advantage of GPSG/HPSG. A similar constraint is assumed in Pollard & Sag (1994: 202) and Beavers & Sag (2004: 60), among others, illustrated in (11). See Abeillé & Chaves (2019), Chapter 17 of this volume for more discussion about coordination.

(11) COORDINATION CONSTRUCTION (abbreviated)

$$\text{coordinate-phr} \rightarrow \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{SYNSEM} \mid \text{NONLOCAL} \mid \text{SLASH } \boxed{1} \\ \text{DTRS} \left( \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{SYNSEM} \mid \text{NONLOCAL} \mid \text{SLASH } \boxed{1} \\ \text{SYNSEM} \mid \text{NONLOCAL} \mid \text{SLASH } \boxed{1} \end{array} \right] \right) \end{array} \right]$$

Because the SLASH value  $\boxed{1}$  is structure-shared between the mother and the daughters in (11), all three nodes must bear the same SLASH value. This predicts the CSC and the ATB exceptions straightforwardly. The failure of mainstream Chomskyan grammar to predict these and related multiple gap extraction facts in a precise way is regarded as one of the major empirical advantages of HPSG over movement-based accounts.

But the facts about extraction in coordination structures are more complex than originally assumed, and than (11) allows for. A crucial difference between the Conjunction Constraint and the Element Constraint is that the latter is only in effect if the coordination has a symmetric interpretation (Ross 1967; Goldsmith 1985; Lakoff 1986; Levin & Prince 1986), as in (12).<sup>5</sup>

- (12) a. Here's the whiskey which I [[went to the store] and [bought \_]].  
     b. Who did Lizzie Borden [[take an ax] and [whack \_ to death]]?  
     c. How much can you [[drink \_] and [still stay sober]]?

The coordinate status of (12) has been questioned since Ross (1967). After all, if these are subordinate structures rather than coordinate structures, then the possibility for non-ATB long-distance dependencies ceases to be exceptional. But as Schmerling (1972), Lakoff (1986), Levine (2001) and Kehler (2002) point out,

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<sup>5</sup>In asymmetric coordination, the order of the conjuncts has a major effect on the interpretation. Thus, *Robin jumped on a horse and rode into the sunset* does not mean the same as *Robin rode into the sunset and jumped on a horse*. Conversely, in symmetric coordination the order of the conjuncts has no interpretational differences, as illustrated by the paraphrases *Robin drank a beer and Sue ate a burger* and *Sue ate a burger and Robin drank a beer*.

there is no empirical reason to assume that the examples in (12) are anything other than coordination structures.

Another reason to reject the idea that the SLASH values of the daughters and the mother node are simply equated in ATB extraction is the fact that sometimes multiple gaps are ‘cumulatively’ combined into a ‘pluralic gap’.<sup>6</sup> As an example, consider the extractions in (13). There are two possible interpretations for such extractions: one in which the *ex situ* signs (i.e. the gap signs) and the filler phrase are co-indexed, and therefore co-referential, and a second reading in which the two *ex situ* phrases are not co-indexed even though they are linked to the same filler phrase. Rather, the filler phrase refers to a plural referent composed by the referents of the *ex situ* signs, as indicated by the subscripts in (13). For different speakers, the preferred reading is the former, and in other cases, the latter, often depending on the example.

- (13) a. [What]<sub>{i,j}</sub> did Kim eat  $_i$  and drink  $_j$  at the party?  
(answer: ‘Kim ate pizza and drank beer’)
- b. [Which city]<sub>{i,j}</sub> did Jack travel to  $_i$  and Sally decide to live in  $_j$ ?  
(answer: ‘Jack traveled to London and Sally decided to live in Rome’)
- c. [Who]<sub>{i,j}</sub> did the pictures of  $_i$  impress  $_j$  the most?  
(answer: ‘Robin’s pictures impressed Sam the most’)
- d. [Who]<sub>{i,j}</sub> did the rivals of  $_i$  shoot  $_j$ ?  
(answer: ‘Robin’s rivals shot Sam’)
- e. [Who]<sub>{i,j}</sub> did you send nude photos of  $_i$  to  $_j$ ?  
(answer: ‘I sent photos of Sam to Robin’)

In conclusion, the non-ATB exceptions in (12) suggest that the coordination rule should not constrain SLASH at all, as argued for in Chaves (2003). Rather, the Element Constraint, its ATB exceptions in (10a,b) and the asymmetric non-ATB exceptions in (12) are more likely to be the consequence of an independent semantic-pragmatic constraint that requires the filler phrase to be ‘topical’ relative to the clause (Lakoff 1986; Kuno 1987; Kehler 2002; Kubota & Lee 2015). Thus, if the coordination is symmetric, then the topicality requirement distributes over each conjunct, to require that the filler phrase be topical in each conjunct. Consequently, extraction must be ATB in symmetric coordination. No distribution needs to take place in asymmetric coordination, and thus both ATB and non-ATB

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<sup>6</sup>See for example Munn (1998; 1999), Postal (1998: 136, 160), Kehler (2002: 125), Gawron & Kehler (2003), Zhang (2007), Chaves (2012a), and Vicente (2016).

extraction is licit in asymmetric coordination. For an attempt to transfer some of Kuno's and Kehlers' insights into HPSG see Chaves (2003). In the latter proposal, the coordination rule is like most other rules in the grammar in that it says nothing about the SLASH values of the mother and the daughters, along the lines of Levine & Hukari (2006: 354). In other words, the constraints on SLASH in (11) are unnecessary. Rather, pragmatics is the driving force behind how long-distance dependencies propagate one or more conjuncts, depending on the coordination being interpreted symmetrically or not. See Abeillé & Chaves (2019), Chapter 17 of this volume for more discussion.

Let us take stock. The CSC does not receive a unitary account in modern HPSG, given that the Conjunct Constraint and the Element Constraint are of a very different nature. Whereas the former does not admit ATB extraction, and is predicted by a traceless analysis, the latter allows ATB extraction as seen by the contrast between (3.1c) and (10). Upon closer inspection, the Element Constraint and the ATB exceptions are semantic-pragmatic in nature. As we shall see, a similar conclusion is plausible for various other island phenomena.

## 4 Complex NP Constraint

The Complex NP Constraint concerns the difficulty in extracting out of complex NPs formed with either relative clauses (14) or complement phrases (15).

- (14)    a. \* [What]<sub>i</sub> does Robin know [someone who has <sub>\_i</sub>]?  
              (cf. with 'Does Robin know someone who has a drum kit?')  
    b. \* [Which language]<sub>i</sub> did they hire [someone [who speaks <sub>\_i</sub>]]?  
              (cf. with 'Did they hire someone who speaks Arabic?')
  
- (15)    a. \* [Which book]<sub>i</sub> do you believe the claim [that Robin plagiarized <sub>\_i</sub>]?  
              (cf. with 'Do you believe the claim that Robin plagiarized *this book*?')  
    b. \* What<sub>i</sub> did you believe [the rumor [that Ed disclosed <sub>\_i</sub>]]?  
              (cf. with 'Did you believe [the rumor [that Ed disclosed *that*]]?')

It is tempting to prevent extractions out of adnominal clauses by simply stipulating that the SLASH value of the modifier must be empty, as (4) illustrates. Perhaps, along the lines of Fodor (1978; 1983b), Berwick & Weinberg (1984), and Hawkins (1999; 2004), processing difficulties lead to the grammaticalization of such a constraint, effectively blocking any modified head from hosting any gaps.

- (16) HEAD-MODIFIER CONSTRUCTION (abbreviated)

$$\text{head-mod-phr} \rightarrow \left[ \begin{array}{c} \text{HEAD-DTR } \boxed{1} \\ \text{DTRS} \left( \boxed{1}, \left[ \text{SYNSEM} \left[ \begin{array}{c} \text{LOC} \mid \text{MOD } \boxed{1} \\ \text{NONLOC} \mid \text{SLASH } \{ \} \end{array} \right] \right] \right) \end{array} \right]$$

However, the robustness of the CNPC has been challenged by various counterexamples over the years (Ross 1967; Pollard & Sag 1994; Kluender 1998; Postal 1998; Sag et al. 2007). The sample in (17) involves acceptable extractions from NP-embedded complement CPs (some of which are definite), and (18) involves acceptable extractions from NP-embedded relative clauses.<sup>7</sup>

- (17)    a. The money which I am making [the claim [that the company squandered \_]] amounts to \$400,000.  
(Pollard & Sag 1994: 206, 207)
  - b. Which rebel leader did you hear [rumors [that the CIA assassinated \_] ]?
  - c. Which company did Simon spread [the rumor [that he had started \_] ]?
  - d. What did you get [the impression [that the problem really was \_] ]?  
(Kluender 1998)
- (18)    a. This is the kind of weather<sub>i</sub> that there are [many people [who like \_i] ].  
(Erteschik-Shir & Lappin 1979)
  - b. Violence is something<sub>i</sub> that there are [many Americans [who condone \_i] ].  
(McCawley 1981: 108)
  - c. There were several old rock songs<sub>i</sub> that she and I were [the only two [who knew \_i] ].  
(Chung & McCloskey 1983)
  - d. This is the chapter<sub>i</sub> that we really need to find [someone [who understands \_i] ].  
(Kluender 1992: 238)

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<sup>7</sup>Counterexamples to the CNPC can be found in a number of languages, including Japanese and Korean (Kuno 1973; Nishiguchi 1999), Ahan (Saah & Goodluck 1995), Danish (Erteschik-Shir 1973: Chapter 2), Swedish (Allwood 1976; Engdahl 1982) Norwegian (Taraldsen 1982) and Romance languages (Cinque 2010). In some languages that support verb constructions, the CNPC is not active, which goes with the analysis as complex predicates Abeillé & Vivès (2019).

- e. Which diamond ring did you say there was [nobody in the world [who could buy  $_i$ ]]?  
(Pollard & Sag 1994: 206)
- f. John is the sort of guy that I don't know [a lot of people [who think well of  $_i$ ]].  
(Culicover 1999: 230)

In the above counterexamples, the relative clauses contribute to the main assertion of the utterance, rather than expressing background information. For example, (18a) asserts ‘There are many people who like this kind of weather’ rather than ‘This the kind of weather’, and so on. Some authors have argued that it is precisely because such relatives express new information that the extraction can escape the embedded clause (Erteschik-Shir & Lappin 1979; Kuno 1987; Deane 1992; Goldberg 2013). If this is correct, then the proper account of CNPC effects is not unlike that of the CSC. In both cases, the information structural status of the clause that contains the gap is crucial to the acceptability of the overall long-distance dependencies.<sup>8</sup>

In addition to pragmatic constraints, Kluender (1992; 1998) proposed that processing factors also influence the acceptability of CNPC violations. Consider for example the acceptability hierarchy in (19); more specific filler phrases increase acceptability, whereas the presence of more specific phrases between the filler and the gap seem to cause increased processing difficulty, and therefore lower the acceptability of the sentence. The symbol ‘<’ reads as ‘is less acceptable than’.

- (19) a. What do you need to find the expert who can translate  $_i$ ? <  
b. What do you need to find an expert who can translate  $_i$ ? <  
c. What do you need to find someone who can translate  $_i$ ? <  
d. Which document do you need to find an expert who can translate  $_i$ ?

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<sup>8</sup>Although it is sometimes claimed that such island effects are also active in logical form and semantic scope (May 1985; Ruys 1993; Fox 2000; Sabbagh 2007; Bachrach & Katzir 2008), there much reason to be skeptical. For example, the universally quantified noun phrase in (i) is embedded in a relative clause can have wide scope over the indefinite *someone*, constituting a semantic CNPC violation. Note that these relatives are not presentational, and therefore are not specially permeable to extraction.

- (i) a. We were able to find someone who was an expert on each of the castles we planned to visit. (Copstake et al. 2005: 304)  
b. John was able to find someone who is willing to learn every language that we intend to study. (Chaves 2014)

There is on-line sentence processing evidence that CNPC violations with more informative fillers are more acceptable and are processed faster at the gap site than violations with less informative fillers (Hofmeister & Sag 2010), as in (20).

- (20) a. ? Who did you say that nobody in the world could ever depose \_?
- b. Which military dictator did you say that nobody in the world could ever depose \_?

The same difference in reading times is found in sentences without CPNP violations, in fact. For example, (21b) was found to be read faster at *encouraged* than (21a). Crucially, that critical region of the sentence is not in the path of any filler-gap dependency.

- (21) a. The diplomat contacted the dictator who the activist looking for more contributions encouraged to preserve natural habitats and resources.
- b. The diplomat contacted the ruthless military dictator who the activist looking for more contributions encouraged to preserve natural habitats and resources.

Given that finite tensed verbs can be regarded as definite, and infinitival verbs as indefinite (Partee 1984), and given that finiteness can create processing difficulty (Kluender 1992; Gibson 2000), then acceptability clines like (22) are to be expected. See Levine & Hukari (2006: Chapter 5) and Levine (n.d.: 308) for more discussion.

- (22) a. Who did you wonder what Mary said to \_? <
- b. Who did you wonder what to say to \_? <
- c. Which of the people at the party did you wonder what to say to \_?

## 4.1 On D-Linking

The amelioration caused by more specific (definite) *wh*-phrases as in (19d), (20b) and (22c) has been called a ‘D-Linking’ effect (Pesetsky 1987; 2000). It purportedly arises if the set of possible answers is pre-established or otherwise salient. But there are several problems with the D-Linking story. First, there is currently no non-circular definition of D-Linking; see Pesetsky (2000: 16), Ginzburg & Sag (2000: 247–250), Chung (1994: 33, 39) and Levine & Hukari (2006: 242, 268–271). Second, the counterexamples above are given out of the blue, and therefore cannot evoke any preexisting set of referents, as D-Linking requires. Furthermore,

nothing should prevent D-Linking with a bare *wh*-item, as Pesetsky himself acknowledges, but on the other hand there is no experimental evidence that context can lead to D-linking of a bare *wh*-phrase (Sprouse 2007; Villata et al. 2016).<sup>9</sup>

Kluender & Kutas (1993), Sag et al. (2007), Hofmeister (2007b), Hofmeister (2007a) and Hofmeister & Sag (2010) argue that more definite *wh*-phrases improve the acceptability of extractions because they resist memory decay better than indefinites, and are compatible with fewer potential gap sites. In addition, Kroch (1989) and Levine & Hukari (2006: 270) point out that D-Linking amelioration effects may simply result from the plausibility of background assumptions associated with the proposition.

## 4.2 On memory limitations

Sprouse et al. (2012a) use *n*-back and serial recall tasks to argue that there is no evidence that working memory limitations correlate with island acceptability, and therefore that the ‘processing-based’ account of islands put forth by Kluender (1992; 1998), Kluender & Kutas (1993), Hofmeister & Sag (2010) and others is unfounded. To be sure, it cannot be stressed enough that the accounts in Kluender (1992) and Hofmeister & Sag (2010) are not strictly based on performance, and involve other factors as well, most notably plausibility and pragmatic factors. See in particular Hofmeister et al. (2013: 49), where it is argued that at least some extraction constraints may be due to a combination of syntactic, semantic, pragmatic, and performance factors. Basically, if the correct location of a gap is syntactically, semantically, or pragmatically highly unlikely in that particular utterance, then it is less likely for the sentence to be acceptable. Indeed, there is independent experimental evidence that speakers attend to probabilistic information about the syntactic distribution of filler-gap dependencies (van Schijndel et al. 2014), and that gap predictability is crucial for on-line processing of islands (Michel 2014).<sup>10</sup> But as Sprouse et al. (2012b) point out, there is no reason to believe that *n*-back and serial recall tasks are strongly correlated to working memory capacity to begin with. Second, one of the main points of Hofmeister

<sup>9</sup>For more detailed criticism of D-Linking see Hofmeister et al. (2007).

<sup>10</sup>More broadly, there is good evidence that speakers deploy probabilistic information when processing a variety of linguistic input, including words (Altmann & Kamide 1999; Arai & Keller 2013; Creel et al. 2008; DeLong et al. 2005; Kutas & Hillyard 1984), lexical categories (Gibson 2006; Levy & Keller 2013; Tabor et al. 1997), syntactic structures (Levy et al. 2012; Lau et al. 2006; Levy 2008; Staub & Clifton 2006), semantics (Altmann & Kamide 1999; Federmeier & Kutas 1999; Kamide et al. 2003), and pragmatics (Ni et al. 1996; Mak et al. 2008; Roland et al. 2012).

& Sag (2010) is that the literature on experimental island research has not systematically controlled for multiple factors that can impact the processing and comprehension of complex sentences. If the experimental items are excessively complex, then readers are more likely to give up understanding the utterances and subtler effects will not be measurable. Phillips (2013b), however, regard such concerns as irrelevant. Although it is unclear to what extent expectations and processing constraints contribute to island effects, it is likely that they play some role in CNPC effects, as well as other island types discussed below.

## 5 Right Roof Constraint

Rightward movement is traditionally regarded as being clause bounded. Such *Right Roof Constraint* (Ross 1967) effects are illustrated in (23), in which a phrase appears *ex situ* in a position to the right of its *in situ* counterpart; see Akmajian (1975), Baltin (1978), and Stowell (1981), among others.

- (23) a. \* I [met a man [who knows  $_i$ ] yesterday] [all of your songs] $_i$ .
- b. \* [[That a review  $_i$  came out yesterday] is catastrophic] [of this article] $_i$ .
- c. \* It was believed  $_x$  that [there walked into the room]  $_y$  [by everyone] $_x$  [a man with long blond hair] $_y$ .  
(Rochemont 1992)

When treated as a form of extraction, rightward movement has been predominantly accounted for via a feature EXTRA(POSED) (Keller 1995; van Noord & Bouma 1996; Van Eynde 1996; Keller 1994; Müller 1999; Kim & Sag 2005), rather than by SLASH. Thus, RRC island effects can be easily modeled by stipulating that the EXTRA value of an S node must be empty. One way to do so is to state that any S dependent (valent or adjunct) must be [EXTRA {}]. Thus, no extraposed element may escape its clause. However, the oddness of (23) may not be due any such syntactic stipulation, given the acceptability of counterexamples like (24). Note that the adverbial interveners in such examples do not require parenthetical prosody. Conversely, even strong parenthetical prosody on the adverbs in (23) fails to improve those data.

- (24) a. I've [been requesting [that you pay back  $_i$ ] [ever since May]] [the money I lent to you a year ago].  
(Kayne 2000: 251)

- b. I've [been wanting to [meet someone who KNOWS \_] [ever since I was little]] [exactly what happened to Amelia Earhart].
- c. I've been wondering if it is possible \_] [for many years now] [for anyone to memorize the Bible word for word].  
(Chaves 2014: 861)

The durative semantics of *I've been wanting/requesting/wondering* raises an expectation about the realization of a durative adverbial expression like *ever since* or *for many years* that provides information about the durative semantics of the main predicate. Hence, the adverb is cued by the main predication, in some sense, and coheres much better in a high attachment than with a lower one.

The fact that the RRC is prone to exceptions has been noted by multiple authors as the sample in (25) illustrates. In all such cases, a phrase is right-extracted from an embedded clause, which should be flat out impossible if extraposition is clause-bounded. Again, the adverbial interveners in (25) do not require any special prosody, which means that these data cannot be easily discarded as parenthetical insertions.

- (25) a. I have [wanted [to know \_] for many years] [exactly what happened to Rosa Luxemburg].  
(attributed to Witten 1972 in Postal 1974: 92n)
- b. I have [wanted [to meet \_] for many years] [the man who spent so much money planning the assassination of Kennedy].  
(attributed to Janet Fodor (p.c.) in Gazdar 1981: 177)
- c. Sue [kept [regretting \_] for years] [that she had not turned him down].  
(Van Eynde 1996)
- d. She has been [requesting that he [return \_] [ever since last Tuesday]] [the book that John borrowed from her last year].  
(Kayne 2000: 251)
- e. Mary [wanted [to go \_] until yesterday] [to the public lecture].  
(Howard Lasnik 2007 course handout<sup>11</sup>)

Further evidence against a syntactic account of RRC comes from corpora (Müller 2004; 2007) and experimental findings (Strunk & Snider 2008; 2013), which confirm that extraposition does not always obey island constraints. The counterexamples in (26a–c) are adapted from Strunk & Snider (2008) and Strunk & Snider (2013), and those in (26d–f) are from Chaves (2014: 863).

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<sup>11</sup><http://ling.umd.edu/~lasnik/LING819%202007/Multiple%20Sluicing%20819%20.pdf>; Retr. 2009.

- (26) a. [In [what noble capacity \_]] can I serve him [that would glorify him and magnify his name]?
- b. We drafted [a list of basic demands \_] last night [that have to be unconditionally met or we will go on strike].
- c. For example, we understand that Ariva buses have won [a number of contracts for routes in London \_] recently, [which will not be run by low floor accessible buses].
- d. Robin bought [a copy of a book \_] yesterday [about ancient Egyptian culture].
- e. I'm reading [a book written by a famous physicist \_] right now, [who was involved in the Manhattan Project].
- f. I saw [your ad in a magazine \_] yesterday [on the table at the dentist office].

Grosu (1973b), Gazdar (1981) and Stucky (1987) argued that the RRC is the result of performance factors such as syntactic and semantic parsing expectations and memory resource limitations, not grammar proper. Indeed, we now know that there is a general well-known tendency for the language processor to prefer attaching new material to the more recent constituents (Frazier & Clifton 1996; Gibson et al. 1996; Traxler et al. 1998; Fodor 2002; Fernández 2003). Indeed, eye-tracking studies like Staub et al. (2006) indicate that the parser is reluctant to adopt extraposition parses. This explains why extraposition in written texts is less common in proportion to length of the intervening material (Uszkoreit et al. 1998): the longer the structure, the bigger the processing burden. Crucially, however, the preference for the closest attachment can be weakened by many factors (Fernández 2003; Desmet et al. 2006; De Vicenzi & Job 1993; Carreiras 1992). For example, Levy et al. (2012) show that relative clause extraposition creates significant processing difficulty when compared with non-extraposed counterparts of the same sentences, but that a preceding context that sets up a strong expectation for a relative clause modifying a given noun can facilitate comprehension of an extraposed relative clause modifying that noun. In other words, in spite of a larger processing burden, some extrapositions can be made easier to process by parsing expectations.

A detailed account of extraposition island phenomena does not exist in any framework, as far as I am aware. But the line of inquiry first proposed by Grosu (1973b), Gazdar (1981) and Stucky (1987), and later experimentally supported by Levy et al. (2012), Strunk & Snider (2008), and Strunk & Snider (2013) seems to be on the right track. If so, then there is no syntactic constraint on EXTRA.

Rather, RCC effects are to a large extent the result of difficulty in integrating the extraposed phrase in its *in situ* position.

### 5.1 Freezing

A related island phenomenon also involving rightward displacement, first noted in Ross (1967: 305), is *Freezing*: leftward extraction (27a) and extraposition (27b) cause low acceptability when they interact, as seen in (28). In (28a) there is extraction from an extraposed PP, in (28b) there is extraction from an extraposed NP, and in (28c) an extraction from a PP crossed with direct object extraposition.

- (27) a. Who<sub>j</sub> did you [give [a picture of <sub>\_j</sub>] [to Robin]]?  
b. Did you [give <sub>\_i</sub> [to Robin] [a picture of my brother]<sub>i</sub>]?
- (28) a. \* Who<sub>j</sub> did you [give a picture <sub>\_i</sub>] [to Robin] [of <sub>\_j</sub>]<sub>i</sub>?  
b. \* Who<sub>j</sub> did you [give <sub>\_i</sub> [to Robin] [a picture of <sub>\_j</sub>]<sub>i</sub>]?  
c. \* Who<sub>j</sub> did you [give <sub>\_i</sub> [to <sub>\_j</sub>] [a picture of my brother]<sub>i</sub>]?

Fodor (1978: 457) notes that (28c) has a syntactically highly probable temporary alternative parse in which *to* combines with the NP *a picture of my brother*. The existence of this local ambiguity likely disrupts parsing, especially as it occurs in a portion of the sentence that contains two gaps in close succession. Indeed, constructions with two independent gaps in close proximity are licit, but not trivial to process, as seen in (29), specially if the extraction paths cross (Fodor 1978), as in (29b).

- (29) a. \* This is a problem which<sub>i</sub> John<sub>j</sub> is difficult to talk to <sub>\_j</sub> about <sub>\_i</sub>.  
b. \* Who<sub>j</sub> can't you remember which papers<sub>i</sub> you sent copies of <sub>\_i</sub> to <sub>\_j</sub>?

A similar analysis is offered by Hofmeister et al. (2015: 477), who note that constructions like (28c) must cause increased processing effort since the point of retrieval and integration coincides with the point of reanalysis. The existence of a preferential alternative parse that is locally licit but globally illicit can in turn lead to a “digging-in” effect (Ferreira & Henderson 1991; 1993; Tabor & Hutchins 2004), in which the more committed the parser becomes to a syntactic parse, the harder it is to backtrack and reanalyze the input. The net effect of these factors is that the correct parse of (28c) is less probable and therefore harder to identify than that of (28b), which suffers from none of these problems, and is regarded to

be more acceptable than (28c) by Fodor (1978: 453) and others. See Chaves (2018) for experimental evidence that speakers can adapt and to some extent overcome some of these parsing biases.

Finally, prosodic and pragmatic factors are likely also at play in (28), as in the RRC. Huck & Na (1990) show that when an unstressed stranded preposition is separated from its selecting head by another phrase, oddness ensues for prosodic reasons. Finally, Huck & Na (1990) and Bolinger (1992) also argue that freezing effects are also in part due to a pragmatic conflict created by extraposition and extraction: *wh*-movement has extracted a phrase leftward, focusing interest on that expression, while at the same time extraposition has moved a constituent rightward, focusing interest on that constituent as well. Objects tend to be extraposed when they are discourse new, and even more so when they are heavy (Wasow 2002: 71). Therefore, the theme phrase *a picture of John* in (28c) is strongly biased to be discourse new, but this clashes with the fact that an entirely different entity, the recipient, is leftward extracted, and therefore is the *de facto* new information that the open proposition is about. No such mismatch exists in (28a) or (28b), in contrast, where the extraposed theme is more directly linked to the entity targeted by leftward extraction.

## 6 Subject islands

Extraction out of subject phrases like (30) is broadly regarded to be impossible in several languages, including English (Ross 1967; Chomsky 1973), an effect referred to as a *Subject Island* (SI). This constraint is much less severe in languages like Japanese, German, and Spanish, among others (Stepanov 2007; Jurka et al. 2011; Goodall 2011; Sprouse et al. 2015; Fukuda et al. 2018; Polinsky et al. 2013).

- (30) a. \* Who did stories about terrify John?  
(Chomsky 1977: 106)
- b. \* Who was a picture of laying there?  
(Kayne 1981: 114)
- c. \* Who do you think pictures of would please John?  
(Huang 1982: 497)
- d. \* Who does the claim that Mary likes upset Bill?  
(Lasnik & Saito 1992: 42)
- e. \* Which candidate were posters of all over the town?  
(Lasnik & Park 2003)

However, English exceptions were noticed early on, and have since accumulated in the literature. In fact, for Ross (1967), English extractions like (31a) are not illicit, and more recently Chomsky (2008: 147) has added more such counterexamples. Other authors noted that certain extractions from subject phrases are naturally attested, as in (31b,c). Indeed, Abeillé et al. (2018) shows that extractions like those in (31c) are in fact acceptable to native speakers, and that no such island effect exists in French either.<sup>12</sup>

- (31) a. [Of which cars]<sub>i</sub> were [the hoods  $\_i$ ] damaged by the explosion?  
(Ross 1967: 4.252)
- b. They have eight children [of whom]<sub>i</sub> [five  $\_i$ ] are still living at home.  
(Huddleston et al. 2002: 1093)
- c. Already Agassiz had become interested in the rich stores of the extinct fishes of Europe, especially those of Glarus in Switzerland and of Monte Bolca near Verona, [of which]<sub>i</sub>, at that time, [only a few  $\_i$ ] had been critically studied.  
(Santorini 2007)

English exceptions to the SI constraint are not restricted to PP extractions, however. Although Ross (1967) claimed NP extractions from NP subjects like (32) are illicit, it was arguably premature to generalize from such a small sample.

- (32) a. The hoods of these cars were damaged by the explosion.  
b. \*Which cars were the hoods of damaged by the explosion?  
(Ross 1967)

Indeed, a number of authors have noted that some NP extractions from subject NPs are either passable or fairly acceptable, as illustrated in (33). See also Pollard & Sag (1994: 195, ft. 32), Postal (1998), Sauerland & Elbourne (2002: 304), Culicover (1999: 230), Levine & Hukari (2006: 265), Chaves (2012b: 470, 471), and Chaves & Dery (2014).

- (33) a. [What]<sub>i</sub> were [pictures of  $\_i$ ] seen around the globe?  
(Kluender 1998: 268)
- b. It's [the kind of policy statement]<sub>i</sub> that [jokes about  $\_i$ ] are a dime a dozen.  
(Levine et al. 2001: 204)

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<sup>12</sup>For completeness, other authors argue that PP extractions from NP subjects are illicit, such as Lasnik & Park (2003: 653), among many others.

- c. There are [certain topics]<sub>i</sub> that [jokes about \_i] are completely unacceptable.  
(Levine & Sag 2003: 252, ft. 6)
- d. [Which car]<sub>i</sub> did [some pictures of \_i] cause a scandal?  
(Jiménez–Fernández 2009: 111)
- e. [What]<sub>i</sub> did [the attempt to find \_i] end in failure?  
(Hofmeister & Sag 2010: 370)
- f. [Which president]<sub>i</sub> would [the impeachment of \_i] cause outrage?  
(Chaves 2012b)
- g. I have a question<sub>i</sub> that [the probability of you knowing the *answer to* \_i] is zero.  
(Chaves 2013)

Whereas SI violations involving subject CPs are not attested, those involving infinitival VP subjects like (34) are. See Chaves (2012b: 471) for more natural occurrences.

- (34) a. The eight dancers and their caller, Laurie Schmidt, make up the Farmall Promenade of nearby Nemaha, a town<sub>i</sub> that [[to describe \_i as tiny] would be to overstate its size].  
(Huddleston et al. 2002: 1094, ft.27)
- b. In his bedroom, [which]<sub>i</sub> [to describe \_i as small] would be a gross understatement, he has an audio studio setup.
  - c. They amounted to near twenty thousand pounds, [which]<sub>i</sub> [to pay \_i] would have ruined me. (Benjamin Franklin, William Temple Franklin and William Duane. 1834. Memoirs of Benjamin Franklin, vol 1. p.58)

Incidentally, subject phrases are not extraposition islands either, as in (35). See also Guéron & May (1984). Odd examples like \*[Pictures \_] frighten people [of John] from Drummond (2009), are more likely due to a digging-in effect, caused by speakers assuming that the subject is syntactically and semantically complete by the end of the verb phrase.

- (35) a. [The circulation of a rumor \_i] has started [that Obama will not seek re-election]<sub>i</sub>.
- b. [A copy of a new book \_i] arrived yesterday [about ancient Egyptian culture]<sub>i</sub>.

- c. [Concerns about the deaths  $_i$ ] were raised [of two diplomatic envoys recently abducted in Somalia] $_i$ .

## 6.1 Clausal Subject Constraint

Let us now consider SI effects involving more complex subjects. Infinitival subject clauses seem to impose no SI constraint, an observation going back to [Kuno & Takami \(1993\)](#), but noted elsewhere a few times:

- (36) a. This is something [which] $_i$  – for you to try to understand  $_i$  – would be futile.  
([Kuno & Takami 1993: 49](#))
- b. I just met Terry’s eager-beaver research assistant [who] $_i$  – for us to talk to  $_i$  about any subject other than linguistics – would be absolutely pointless.  
([Levine & Hukari 2006: 265](#))
- c. There are [people in this world] $_i$  that – for me to describe  $_i$  as despicable – would be an understatement.  
([Chaves 2012b: 471](#)).

Infinitival subjects contrast dramatically with finite subjects. The latter are renowned for being particularly hard to extract from, as in (37). [Ross \(1967\)](#) dubbed this extreme kind of SI the *Sentential Subject Constraint* (SSC). See also [Chomsky \(1973\)](#), [Huang \(1982\)](#), [Chomsky \(1986\)](#), and [Freidin \(1992\)](#).<sup>13</sup>

- (37) a. \* [Who] $_i$  did [that Maria Sharapova beat  $_i$ ] surprise everyone?  
(cf. with ‘That Maria Sharapova beat Serena Williams surprised everyone’)
- b. \* [Who] $_i$  did [that Robin married  $_i$ ] surprise you?  
(cf. with ‘Did that Robin married Sam surprise you?’)

There are some functional reasons for why clausal SI violations may be so strong. First, subject clauses are notorious for being particularly difficult to process, independent of extraction. Clausal subjects are often stylistically marked

<sup>13</sup>That said, [Chaves \(2013\)](#) reports that some native speakers find SSC violations like (i) to be fairly acceptable, again raising some doubt about the robustness of English SI effects:

- (i) [Which actress] $_i$  does [whether Tom Cruise marries  $_i$ ] make any difference to you?

and difficult to process, as (38a) illustrates. Thus, it is extremely hard to embed a clausal subject within another clausal subject, even though such constructions ought to be perfectly grammatical, like (38b, c). In addition, it is known that tense can induce greater processing costs (Kluender 1992; Gibson 2000).

- (38) a. That the food that John ordered tasted good pleased him.  
(Cowper 1976; Gibson 1991)
- b. \* That that Jill left bothered Sarah surprised Max.  
(Kimball 1973)
- c. \* That that the world is round is obvious is dubious.  
(Kuno 1974)

Interestingly, clausal subjects become more acceptable if extraposed as shown in (39). The explanation offered by Fodor et al. (1974: 356–357) is that speakers tend to take the initial clause in the sentence to be the main clause. Thus, *that* is taken to be the subject, but the remainder of the structure does not fit this pattern. Thus, a sentence like (39a) causes increased processing load because it has a different structure than the parser expects. This processing problem does not arise in the counterpart in (39b).<sup>14</sup>

- (39) a. ?That [it is obvious that [the world is round]] is dubious.
- b. It is dubious that [it is obvious that [the world is round]].  
(Kuno 1974)

Indeed, Fodor & Garrett (1967), Bever (1970), and Frazier & Rayner (1988) also show that extraposed clausal subject sentences like (40a) are easier to process than their *in-situ* counterparts like (40b). Not surprisingly, the former are much more frequent than the latter, which explains why the parser would expect the former more than the latter.

- (40) a. It surprised Max that Mary was happy.
- b. That Mary was happy surprised Max.

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<sup>14</sup>See Gibson (2006) for online evidence that the word *that* is preferentially interpreted as a determiner even in syntactic contexts where it cannot be a determiner. The use of ‘determiner’ corresponds to the traditional term, referring to a certain category of prenominal constituent rather than to the whole nominal phrase including the noun and all its dependents. Gibson’s evidence suggests that both top-down (syntactic) expectations are independent from bottom-up (lexical) frequency-based expectations in sentence processing. Thus, clausal subject phrase starting with the complementizer *that* is likely to be misparsed as a matrix clause with sentence-initial pronominal or determiner *that*.

Note that embedded conditionals like (41a) are also exceedingly difficult to parse, although perfectly syntactically well-formed. However, such structures can become more acceptable with fewer embeddings to strain working memory, and with judicious use of prosodic cues that indicate the relevant structure, as illustrated by the acceptability of (41b). This is evidence that the oddness of (41) is at least in part due to performance.

- (41) If – if every time it snowed there was no school – then there wouldn't be classes all winter.

If we add a filler-gap dependency to a sentence that already is complex by virtue of having a clausal subject, the resulting structure may be too difficult to parse. This point is illustrated by the contrast in (42).

- (42) a. ?\* What does that he will come prove?  
b. What does his coming prove?  
*(Lewis 1993)*

As argued by [Davies & Dubinsky \(2009\)](#), the low acceptability of extraction in subject-auxiliary inversion sentences with clausal subjects is more likely to be the result of extragrammatical factors than of grammatical conditions. For example, not all extractions like (43b) are unacceptable, as [Delahunty \(1983: 382–387\)](#) and [Davies & Dubinsky \(2009: 115\)](#) point out.

- (43) a. That the food that John ordered tasted good pleased me.  
b. \* Who did that the food that John ordered tasted good please \_ ?

The evidence discussed so far suggests that sentences involving extraction and clausal subjects are odd at least in part due to the likely cumulative effect of various sources of processing complexity. Sentences with sentential subjects are unusual structures, which can mislead the parser into the wrong analysis. A breakdown in comprehension can occur because the parser must hold complex incomplete phrases in memory while processing the remainder of the sentence. The presence of a filler-gap dependency will likely only make the sentence harder to process. It is independently known that the more committed the parser becomes to a syntactic parse, the harder it is to reanalyze the string ([Ferreira & Henderson 1991; 1993; Tabor & Hutchins 2004](#)). For example, unless prosodic or contextual cues are employed to boost the activation of the correct parse, (6.1) will be preferentially misanalyzed as having the structure [NP [V [NP]]].

- (44) Fat people eat accumulates.

The garden-path effect that the digging-in causes in example (45) serves as an analogy for what may be happening in particularly difficult subject island violations. In both cases, the sentences have exactly one grammatical analysis, but that parse is preempted by a highly preferential alternative which ultimately cannot yield a complete analysis of the sentence. Thus, without prosodic cues indicating the extraction site, sentences like (45) induce a significant digging-in effect as well.

- (45) a. \* Which problem will a solution to be found by you?  
 b. \* Which disease will a cure for be found by you?

This also explains why SI violations like (46) are relatively acceptable: the processing cost of an NP-embedded causal is smaller than the processing cost incurred by processing a clausal subject.<sup>15</sup> Clausal subjects are unusual structures, inconsistent with the parser expectations (Fodor et al. 1974), and the presence of filler-gap dependency in an NP-embedded clausal subject is less likely to cause difficulty for the parse to go awry than a filler-gap dependency in a clausal subject.<sup>16</sup>

- (46) a. [Which puzzle]<sub>i</sub> did the fact that nobody could solve <sub>\_i</sub> astonish you the most?  
 b. [Which crime]<sub>i</sub> did the fact that nobody was accused of <sub>\_i</sub> astonish you the most?  
 c. [Which question]<sub>i</sub> did the fact that none of us could answer <sub>\_i</sub> surprise you the most?  
 d. [Which joke]<sub>i</sub> did the fact that nobody laughed at <sub>\_i</sub> surprise you the most?

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<sup>15</sup>For claims that NP-embedded clausal SI violations are illicit see Lasnik & Saito (1992: 42), Phillips (2006: 796), and Phillips (2013a: 67).

<sup>16</sup>Clausen (2010; 2011) provide experimental evidence that complex subjects cause a measurable increase in processing load, with and without extraction. Moreover, it is known that elderly adults have far more difficulty repeating sentences with complex subjects than sentences with complex objects (Kemper 1986). Similar difficulty is found in timed reading comprehension tasks (Kynette & Kemper 1986), and in disfluencies in non-elderly adults (Clark & Wasow 1998). Speech initiation times for sentences with complex subjects are also known to be longer than for sentences with simple subjects (Ferreira 1991; Tsiamtsiouris & Cairns 2009), and sentences with center-embedding in subjects are harder to process than sentences with center-embedding in objects (Amy & Noziet 1978; Eady & Fodor 1981). Finally, Garnsey (1985), Kutas et al. (1988), and Petten & Kutas (1991) show that the processing of open-class words, particularly at the beginning of sentences, require greater processing effort than closed-class words.

## 6.2 Accounts of SI effects

This complex array of effects suggests that the SI constraint is not due to a single factor (Chomsky 2008; Chaves 2013; Jiménez–Fernández 2009), be it grammatical or otherwise. One possibility is that SIs are partly due to pragmatic and processing constraints, perhaps not too different from those that appear to be active in the island effects discussed so far. As Kluender (2004: 495) notes: “Subject Island effects seem to be weaker when the *wh*-phrase maintains a pragmatic association not only with the gap, but also with the main clause predicate, such that the filler-gap dependency into the subject position is construed as of some relevance to the main assertion of the sentence”. Indeed, many authors (Erteschik-Shir 1981; Van Valin 1986; Kuno 1987; Takami 1992; Deane 1992; Goldberg 2013) have argued that extraction is in general restricted to the informational focus of the proposition, and that SIs (among others) are predicted as a consequence. In a nutshell, since subjects are typically reserved for topic continuity, subject-embedded referents are unlikely to be the informational focus of the utterance. Although it is not easy to construct sentences where a dependent of the subject can be easily deemed as the informational focus, it is by no means impossible. For instance, (47a) is particularly acceptable because whether or not an impeachment causes outrage crucially depends on who is impeached (cf. with *Would the impeachment of Donald Trump cause outrage?*). Similarly, in (47b) whether or not an attempt failed or succeeded crucially depends on what was attempted (cf. with *The attempt to find the culprit ended in failure*).

- (47) a. Which President would [the impeachment of \_] cause outrage?  
(Chaves 2012b)
- b. What did [the attempt to find \_] end in failure?  
(Hofmeister & Sag 2010: 370)

Although experimental research has confirmed that sentences with SI violations tend to be less acceptable than grammatical controls (Sprouse 2009; Goodall 2011; Crawford 2011; Clausen 2011; Sprouse et al. 2015), and that their acceptability remains consistently low during repeated exposition (Sprouse 2009; Crawford 2011), other research has found that the acceptability of SI violations is not consistently low, and can be made to increase significantly (Hiramatsu 2000; Clausen 2011; Chaves & Dery 2014; Chaves 2012a). This mixed evidence is consistent with the idea that SI effects are very sensitive to the particular syntax, semantics, and pragmatics of the utterance in which they occur. If the items are too complex, or stylistically awkward, or presuppose unusual contexts, then SI effects

are strong. For example, if the extraction is difficult to process because the sentence gives rise to local garden-path and digging-in effects, and is pragmatically infelicitous in the sense that the extracted element is not particularly relevant for the proposition (i.e. unlikely to be what the proposition is about) or comes from the presupposition rather than the assertion, then we obtain a very strong SI effect. Otherwise, the SI effect is weaker, and in some cases nearly non-existent like (47), (34), or the pied-piping examples studied by Abeillé et al. (2018). The latter involve relative clauses, in which subjects are not strongly required to be topics, in contrast to the subjects or main clauses.

This approach also explains why subject-embedded gaps often become more acceptable in the presence of a second non-island gap: since the two gaps are co-indexed, then the fronted referent is trivially relevant for the main assertion, as it is predicated by the main verb. For example, the low acceptability of (48a) is arguably caused by the lack of plausibility of the described proposition: without further contextual information, it is unclear how the attempt to repair an unspecified thing  $x$  is connected to the attempt causing damage to a car.

- (48) a. \* What did [the attempt to repair  $\_$ ] ultimately damage the car?  
 b. What did [the attempt to repair  $\_$ ] ultimately damage  $\_$ ?  
 (Phillips 2006)

The example in (48a) becomes more acceptable if it is contextually established that  $x$  is a component of the car. In contrast, (48b) is felicitous even out-of-the-blue because it conveys a proposition that is readily recognized as being plausible according to world knowledge: attempting to fix  $x$  can cause damage to  $x$ . If Subject Island effects are indeed contingent on how relevant the extracted subject-embedded referent is for the assertion expressed by the proposition, then a wide range of acceptable patterns is to be expected, parasitic or otherwise. This includes cases like (49), where both gaps are in SI environments. As Levine & Sag (2003), Levine & Hukari (2006: 256) and Culicover (2013: 161) note, cases like (49) should be completely unacceptable, contrary to fact.

- (49) This is a man who [friends of  $\_$ ] think that [enemies of  $\_$ ] are everywhere.

The conclusion that SI effects are contingent on the particular proposition expressed by the utterance and its pragmatics thus seems unavoidable (Chaves & Dery 2019). In order to test this hypothesis, Chaves & Dery (2019) examine the acceptability of sentences like (50), which crucially express nearly-identical truth conditions and have equally acceptable declarative counterparts. This way, any

source of acceptability contrast must come from the extraction itself, not from the felicity of the proposition.

- (50) a. Which country does the King of Spain resemble [the President of \_]?  
b. Which country does [the President of \_] resemble the King of Spain?

The results indicate that although the acceptability of the SI counterpart in (50b) is initially significantly lower than (50a), it gradually improves. After eight exposures, the acceptability of near-truth-conditionally-equivalent sentences like (50) becomes non-statistically different. What this suggests is that SI effects are at least in part probabilistic: the semantic, syntactic and pragmatic likelihood of a subject-embedded gap likely matters for how acceptable such extractions are. This is most consistent with the claim that – in general – extracted phrases must correspond to the informational focus of the utterance (Erteschik-Shir 1981; Van Valin 1986; Kuno 1987; Takami 1992; Deane 1992; Goldberg 2013), and in particular with the intuition that SI violations are weaker when the extracted referent is relevant for the main predication (Kluender 2004: 495).

## 7 Adjunct islands

Ross (1967) and Cattell (1976) noted that adjunct phrases often resist extraction, as illustrated in (51), a phenomenon usually referred to as *The Adjunct Island Constraint* (AIC).

- (51) a. \* What<sub>i</sub> did John die [whistling \_i]?  
b. \* What<sub>i</sub> did John build [whistling \_i]?  
c. \* Which club<sub>i</sub> did John meet a lot of girls [without going to \_i]?  
(Cattell 1976: 38)  
d. \* Who<sub>i</sub> did Mary cry [after John hit \_i]?  
(Huang 1982: 503)

Although a constraint on SLASH could effectively ban all extraction from adjuncts, the problem is that the AIC has a long history of exceptions, noted as early as Cattell (1976: 38), and by many others since, including Chomsky (1982: 72), Engdahl (1983), Hegarty (1990: 103), Cinque (1990), Pollard & Sag (1994), Culicover (1997: 253), and Borgonovo & Neeleman (2000). A sample of representative counterexamples is provided in (52).

- (52) a. Who did he buy a book [for \_]?

- b. Who would you rather [sing with \_]?
- c. What temperature should I wash my jeans [at \_]?
- d. That's the symphony that Schubert [died without finishing \_].
- e. Which report did Kim [go to lunch without reading \_]?
- f. A problem this important, I could never [go home without solving \_ first].
- g. What did he [fall asleep complaining about \_]?
- h. What did John [drive Mary crazy trying to fix \_]?
- i. Who did you [go to Girona in order to meet \_]?
- j. Who did you go to Harvard [in order to work with \_]?

Exceptions to the AIC include tensed adjuncts, as noted by Grosu (1981: 88), Deane (1991: 29), Kluender (1998), Levine & Hukari (2006: 287), Goldberg (2006: 144), Chaves (2012b: 471), Truswell (2011: 175, ft.1) and others. A sample is provided in (53).<sup>17</sup>

- (53) a. These are the pills that Mary died [before she could take \_].  
 b. This is the house that Mary died [before she could sell \_].  
 c. The person who I would kill myself [if I couldn't marry \_] is Jane.  
 d. Which book will Kim understand linguistics better [if she reads \_]?  
 e. This is the watch that I got upset [when I lost \_].  
 f. Robin, Pat and Terry were the people who I lounged around at home all day [without realizing were \_ coming for dinner].  
 g. Which email account would you be in trouble [if someone broke into \_]?  
 h. Which celebrity did you say that [[the sooner we take a picture of \_], [the quicker we can go home]]?

To be sure, some of these sentences are complex and difficult to process, which in turn can lead speakers to prefer the insertion of an “intrusive” resumptive

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<sup>17</sup>Truswell (2011) argues that the AIC and its exceptions are best characterized in terms of event-semantic constraints, such that the adjunct must occupy an event position in the argument structure of the main clause verb. However, recent experimental research has been unable to validate Truswell's acceptability predictions (Kohrt et al. 2018), and moreover, such an account incorrectly predicts that extractions from tensed adjuncts is impossible (Truswell 2011: 175, ft. 1).

pronoun at the gap site, but they are certainly more acceptable than the classic tensed AIC violations examples like Huang's (51d). Acceptable tensed AIC violations are more frequent in languages like Japanese, Korean, and Malayalam.

Like Subject Islands, AIC violations sometimes improve “parasitically” in the presence of a second gap as in (54). First of all, note that these sentences express radically different propositions, and so there is no reason to assume that all of these are equally felicitous. Second, note that (54a, c) describe plausible states of affairs in which it is clear what the extracted referent has to do with the main predication and assertion, simply because of the fact that *document* is predicated by *read*. In contrast, (54b) describes an unusual state of affairs in that it is unclear what the extracted referent has to do with the main predication *read the email*, out of the blue. Basically, what does reading emails have to do with filing documents?

- (54) a. Which document did John read \_ before filing \_?  
b. \*Which document did John read the email email before filing \_?  
c. Which document did John read \_ before filing a complaint?

If AIC violations were truly only salvageable parasitically, then counterexamples like (55a) should not exist. As Levine & Sag (2003) and Levine & Hukari (2006: 256) note, both gaps reside in island environments and should be completely out and less acceptable than (55b, c), contrary to fact.

- (55) a. What kinds of books do [the authors of \_] argue about royalties [after writing \_]?  
b. \*What kinds of books do [authors of \_] argue about royalties after writing malicious pamphlets?  
c. \*What kinds of books do authors of malicious pamphlets argue about royalties [after writing \_]?

In (55a), there is no sense in which the gap inside the subject is parasitic on the gap inside the adjunct, or vice-versa – under the assumption that neither gaps is supposed to be licit without the presence of a gap outside an island environment. In conclusion, the notion of parasitic gap is rather dubious. See Levine & Hukari (2006) for a more in-depth discussion of parasitism and empirical criticism of null resumptive pronoun accounts.

As in the case of other island phenomena discussed so far, it is doubtful that any purely syntactic account can describe all the empirical facts. Rather, extractions out of adjuncts are licit to the degree that the extracted referent can be interpreted as being relevant for the assertion.

## 8 Superiority effects

Contrasts like those below have traditionally been taken to be due to a constraint that prevents a given phrase from being extracted if another phrase in a higher position can be extracted instead (Chomsky 1973; 1980). Thus, the highest *wh*-phrase is extractable, but the lowest is not.

- (56) a. Who \_ saw what?
- b. \* What did who see \_ ?
  
- (57) a. Who did you persuade \_ to buy what?
- b. \* What did you persuade who to buy \_ ?

Several different kinds of exceptions to this *Superiority Constraint* (SC) have been noted in the literature. First, it is generally recognized that *which*-phrases are immune to the SC:

- (58) a. I wonder which book which of our students read \_ over the summer?
- b. Which book did which professor buy \_ ?

Pesetsky (1987) proposed to explain the lack of SC effects in (58) by stipulating that *which*-phrases are interpreted as indefinites which do not undergo LF movement. Rather, they require “D-linking” and obtain wide scope via an entirely different semantic mechanism called unselective binding. In order for a phrase to be D-linked, it must be associated with a salient set of referents. But as Ginzburg & Sag (2000: 248ff.) note, there is no independent evidence for saliency interpretational differences between *which* and other *wh*-phrases like *what* and *who*. For example, it is implausible that speakers have a specific referent in mind for the *which*-phrases in examples like (59).

- (59) a. I don’t know anything about cars. Do you have any suggestions about which car – if any – I should buy when I get a raise?
- b. I don’t know anything about cars. Do you have any suggestions about what – if anything – I should buy when I get a raise?  
(Ginzburg & Sag 2000: 248)

Furthermore, there are acceptable SC violations involving multiple *wh*-questions such as those in (60). See Bolinger (1978), Kayne (1983) and Pesetsky (1987):

109) for more such examples and discussion.<sup>18</sup>

- (60) a. Who wondered what WHO was doing \_ ?
- b. What did WHO take \_ WHERE?
- c. Where did WHO take WHAT \_ ?

Finally, there are also SC violations that involve echo questions like (61) and reference questions like (62). See Ginzburg & Sag (2000: Chapter 7) for a detailed argumentation that echo questions are not fundamentally different, syntactically or semantically, from other uses of interrogatives.

- (61) a. What did Agamemnon break?
  - b. What did WHO break \_ ?
- (62) a. What did he break?
  - b. What did WHO break \_ ?

There are two different, yet mutually consistent, possible explanations for SC effects in HPSG circles. One potential factor concerns processing difficulty (Arnon et al. 2007). Basically, long-distance dependencies where a *which*-phrase is fronted are generally more acceptable and faster to process than those where *what* or *who* if fronted, presumably because the latter are semantically less informative, and thus decay from memory faster, and are compatible with more potential gap sites before the actual gap. The second potential factor is prosodic in nature. Drawing from insights by Ladd (1996: 170–172) about the English interrogative intonation, Ginzburg & Sag (2000: 251) propose that in a multiple *wh*-interrogative construction, all *wh*-phrases must be in focus except the first. Crucially, focus is typically – but not always – associated with clearly discernible pitch accent. Thus, (56) and (57) are odd because the second *wh*-word is unaccented. In this account, a word like *who* has two possible lexical descriptions, shown in (63).

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<sup>18</sup>Fedorenko & Gibson (2010) and others have found no evidence that the presence of a third *wh*-phrase improves the acceptability of a multiple interrogative, even with supporting contexts. However, the examples in (60) require peculiar intonation phrasings and contours, which may be difficult to elicit with written stimuli.

- (63) a. *Ex situ* interrogative *who*:

PHON	$\langle \text{who}/\text{WHO} \rangle$	
	$\left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{CAT} \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{HEAD noun} \\ \text{SPR } \langle \rangle \\ \text{COMPS } \langle \rangle \end{array} \right] \\ \text{LOC } \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{CONT} \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{IND } i \\ \text{RESTR } \{ \} \end{array} \right] \\ \text{STORE } \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \boxed{1} \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{IND } i \\ \text{RESTR } \{ \text{person}(i) \} \end{array} \right] \end{array} \right\} \end{array} \right]$	
SYNSEM	$\left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{NONLOC} \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{WH } \{ \boxed{1} \} \\ \text{REL } \{ \} \\ \text{SLASH } \{ \} \end{array} \right] \end{array} \right]$	
ARG-ST	$\langle \rangle$	

- b. Optionally *ex situ* interrogative *who*:

PHON	$\langle \text{WHO} \rangle$	
	$\left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{CAT} \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{HEAD noun} \\ \text{SPR } \langle \rangle \\ \text{COMPS } \langle \rangle \end{array} \right] \\ \text{LOC } \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{CONT} \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{IND } i \\ \text{RESTR } \{ \} \end{array} \right] \\ \text{STORE } \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{IND } i \\ \text{RESTR } \{ \text{person}(i) \} \end{array} \right\} \end{array} \right]$	
SYNSEM	$\left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{NONLOC} \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{WH } \{ \} \\ \text{REL } \{ \} \\ \text{SLASH } \{ \} \end{array} \right] \end{array} \right]$	
ARG-ST	$\langle \rangle$	

Since only the (optionally accented) lexical entry in (63a) is specified with a non-empty WH value, the theory of extraction proposed in Ginzburg & Sag (2000) predicts that (63a) must appear *ex situ*. In contrast, the accented lexical entry in (63b) is can appear *in situ*. For more discussion see Levine & Hukari (2006: 261).

A related range of island phenomena concern extraction from *whether*-clauses, which is traditionally assumed to be forbidden, as (64) illustrates.

- (64) a. \* Which movie did John wonder whether Bill liked \_ ?  
 b. \* Which movie did John ask why Mary liked \_ ?

But again, the oddness of (64) is unlikely to be due to syntactic constraints, given the existence of passable counterexamples like (65).

- (65) a. He told me about a book which I can't figure out whether to buy  
\_\_\_\_\_ or not.  
(Ross 1967)
- b. Which glass of wine do you wonder whether I poisoned \_\_\_\_\_?  
(Cresti 1995: 81)
- c. Who is John wondering whether or not he should fire \_\_\_\_\_?
- d. Which shoes are you wondering whether you should buy \_\_\_\_\_?  
(Chaves 2012b)

As noted by Kroch (1989), the reduced acceptability of an example like (66a) is better explained simply by noting the difficulty of accommodating its presupposition in (66b).

- (66) a. How much money was John wondering whether to pay?  
b. There was a sum of money about which John was wondering  
whether to pay it.

## 9 The Left Branch Condition

Ross (1967) discovered that the leftmost constituent of an NP cannot be extracted, as in (67), a constraint he dubbed as the *Left Branch Condition* (LBC).<sup>19</sup>

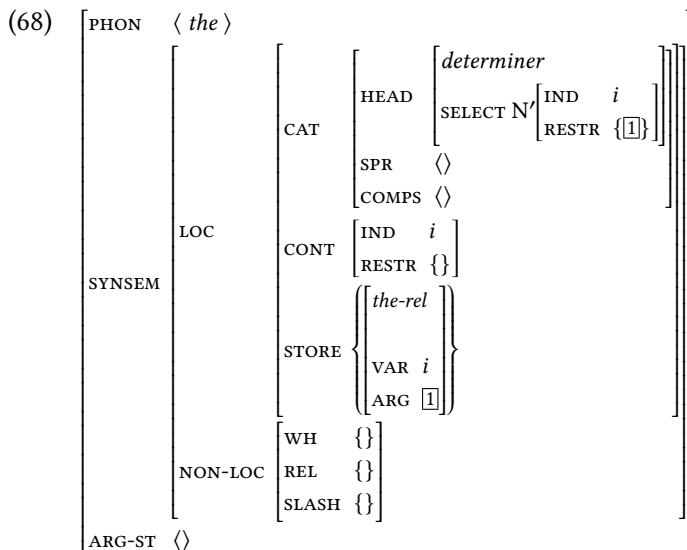
- (67) a. \* Whose<sub>i</sub> did you meet [ \_\_\_\_<sub>i</sub> friend]?  
(cf. with 'You met whose friend?')  
b. \* Which<sub>i</sub> did you buy [ \_\_\_\_<sub>i</sub> book]?  
(cf. with 'You bought which book?')  
c. \* How much<sub>i</sub> did you find [ \_\_\_\_<sub>i</sub> money]?  
(cf. with 'You found how much money?')

These facts are accounted for in versions of HPSG like Sag (2012) where Determiner Phrases (DPs) are not valents of the nominal head. If the DP is not listed in the argument structure of the nominal head, then there is no way for the DP to appear in SLASH. Rather, the DP selects the nominal head:

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<sup>19</sup> As in other island environments discussed above, the LBC is not operative in constraining semantic scope, as illustrated below.

(i) Someone took a picture of each student's bicycle.  
(Copestake et al. 2005: 303)



Analogously, in Sag (2012: 133), genitive DPs combine with nominal heads and bind their X-ARG index via a dedicated construction, not as valents. For example, in nominalizations like *Kim's description of the problem* the DP *Kim's* is not a valent of *description*, and therefore the genitive DP cannot appear in SLASH. Rather, genitive DPs are instead constructionally co-indexed with the agent role of the noun *description* via X-ARG. Moreover, the clitic *s* in *Kim's* must lean phonologically on the NP it selects, and therefore cannot be stranded for independently motivated phonological reasons, predicting the oddness of *\*It was Kim who I read 's description of the problem*.

There are various languages which do not permit extraction of left branches from noun phrases, but have a particular PP construction that appears to allow LBC violations. This is illustrated below in (9), with French data.

- (69) a. Combien<sub>i</sub> a-t-il vendu [<sub>i</sub> de livres]?  
       how-many has-he sold      of books  
       ‘How many books did he sell?’
- b. Quels<sub>i</sub>      avez-vous acheté [<sub>i</sub> livres]?  
       how-many have-you bought   books  
       ‘How many books have you bought?’

But the LBC violation is only apparent. The *de livres* is in fact a post-verbal de-N' nominal, and thus no LBC violation occurs in (9a). See Abeillé et al. (2004) for details. Finally, Ross (1967) also noted that some languages do not obey the LBC

at all. A small sample is given in (70). However, the languages in question lack determiners, and therefore it is possible that the extracted phrase is has a similar independent status to the French *de-N'* phrase in (9).

- (70) a. Jaką<sub>i</sub> kupiłeś [ \_<sub>i</sub> książkę]  
what you-bought book  
'Which book did you buy?' (Polish)
- b. Cju<sub>i</sub> citajes [ \_<sub>i</sub> knigu]?  
whose you-are-reading book  
'whose book are you reading?' (Russian)
- c. Ki-nek<sub>i</sub> akarod, hogy halljam [ \_<sub>i</sub> a hang-já-t]?  
who-DAT you-want that I-hear the voice-POSS.3SG-ACC  
'Whose voice do you want me to hear?' (Hungarian)

## 10 The Complementizer Constraint

Perlmutter (1968) noted that subject phrases have different extraction properties than that of object phrases, as illustrated in (71). The presence of the complementizer hampers extraction of the subject, but not of the complement.<sup>20</sup>

- (71) a. \* [Who]<sub>i</sub> did Tom say (?that) \_<sub>i</sub> had bought the tickets?  
b. \* [Who]<sub>i</sub> do you believe (?that) \_<sub>i</sub> got you fired?  
c. [The things]<sub>i</sub> that they believe (?that) \_<sub>i</sub> will happen are disturbing to contemplate.  
d. \* [Who]<sub>i</sub> did you ask if \_<sub>i</sub> bought the tickets?  
e. \* [Who]<sub>i</sub> do you expect for \_<sub>i</sub> to fire you?

Bresnan (1977) and others also noted that Complementizer Constraint effects can be reduced in the presence of an adverbial intervening between the complementizer and the gap:

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<sup>20</sup>There is no evidence that the Complementizer Constraint applies at the semantic level, however. The subject phrase of the embedded clause that can outscope the subject phrase of the matrix:

- (i) a. Some teacher claimed that each student had cheated.  
b. Every teacher claimed that a student had cheated.

- (72) a. [Who]<sub>i</sub> did Tom say that – as far he could remember – <sub>\_i</sub> had bought the tickets?  
 b. [Who]<sub>i</sub> do you believe that – for all intents and purposes – <sub>\_i</sub> got you fired?  
 c. [Who]<sub>i</sub> do you think that after years and years of cheating death <sub>\_i</sub> finally died?

In Bouma et al. (2001) and Ginzburg & Sag (2000), extracted arguments are typed as *gap-ss* rather than *canon-ss*. Only the latter are allowed to correspond to *in situ* signs and to reside in valence lists. However, subject extraction is different. If a subject phrase is extracted, then the list SUBJ contains the respective *gap-ss* sign. If one assumes that the lexical entry for the complementizer *that* requires S complements specified as [SUBJ ⟨ ⟩] then the oddness of (71) follows. For Bouma et al. (2001) and Ginzburg & Sag (2000), the adverbial circumvention effect in (72) is the result of assuming that the construction which allows the adverb to combine with the clause forces the mother node to be [SLASH { }], a rather *ad-hoc* account.<sup>21</sup>

A simpler account of the Complementizer Constraint has emerged recently, however, in principle compatible with any theory of grammar. For Kandybowicz (2006; 2009) and others, the Complementizer Constraint is prosodic in nature. Complementizers must cliticize to the following phonological unit, but if a pause is made at the gap site then the complementizer cannot do so. Accordingly, if the pronunciation of *that* is produced with a reduced vowel [ðət] rather than [ðæt] then the Complementizer Constraint violations in (71) improve in acceptability. Though promising, Ritchart et al. (2016) found no experimental evidence for amelioration of the Complementizer Constraint effects either with phonological reduction of the complementizer or with contrastive focus. Further research is needed to determine the true nature of Complementizer Constraint effects.

## 11 Island circumvention via ellipsis

Ellipsis somehow renders island constraints inactive, as in (73). A deletion-based analysis of such phenomena such as Merchant (2001) relies on moving the *wh*-phrase before deletion takes place, but since movement is assumed to be sensitive to syntactic island constraints, the prediction is that (73) should be illicit, contrary to fact.

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<sup>21</sup>Except that in French, when the subject of the complement CP is extracted, the complementizer is *qui* instead of *que*, which could easily be captured by such an account.

- (73) a. Terry wrote an article about Lee and a book about someone else from East Texas, but we don't know who<sub>i</sub> (\*Terry wrote an article about <sub>\_i</sub> Lee and a book about <sub>\_i</sub>).  
[CSC violation]
- b. Bo talked to the person who discovered something, but I still don't know what<sub>i</sub> (\*Bo talked to the person who discovered <sub>\_i</sub>).  
[CNPC violation]
- c. That he'll hire someone is possible, but I won't divulge who<sub>i</sub> (\*that he'll hire <sub>\_i</sub> is possible).  
[SSC violation]
- d. She bought a rather expensive car, but I can't remember how expensive (\*she bought a <sub>\_</sub> car).  
[LBC violation]

The account adopted in HPSG is one in which remnants are assigned an interpretation based on the surrounding discourse context (Ginzburg & Sag 2000; Culicover & Jackendoff 2005; Jacobson 2008; Sag & Nykiel 2011). See Nykiel & Kim (2019), Chapter 20 of this volume for more detailed discussion. In a nutshell, the *wh*-phrases in (73) are “coerced” into a proposition-denoting clause via a unary branching construction that taps into contextual information. This straightforwardly explains not only why the antecedent for the elided phrase need not correspond to overt discourse – e.g. sluices like *What floor?* or *What else?* – but also why the examples in (73) are immune to island constraints: there simply is no island environment to begin with, and thus, no extraction to violate it.

## 12 Conclusion

HPSG remains relatively agnostic about many island types, given the existence of robust exceptions. It is however clear that many island effects are not purely due to syntactic constraints, and are more likely the result of multiple factors, including pragmatics, semantics and processing difficulty. To be sure, it is yet unclear how these factors can be brought together are articulate an explicit and testable account of island effects. In particular, it is unclear how to combine probabilistic information with syntactic, semantic and pragmatic representations, although one fruitful avenue of approach to this problem may be via *Data-Oriented Parsing* (Neumann & Flickinger 2003; 2015; Arnold & Linardaki 2007; Bod et al. 2003;

Bod 2009).

From its inception, HPSG has been meant to be compatible with models of language comprehension and production (Sag 1992; Sag & Wasow 2010; 2015), but not much work has been dedicated to bridging these worlds; see Wasow (2019), Chapter 27 of this volume. The challenge that island effects posit to any theory of grammar is central to linguistic theory and cognitive science: how to integrate theoretical linguistics and psycholinguistic models of on-line language processing so that fine-grained predictions about variability in acceptability judgements across nearly isomorphic clauses can be explained.

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# Chapter 17

## Coordination

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Coordination is a central topic for feature-based phrase structure grammars. Following GPSG which provided the first formal analysis of unlike coordination, HPSG has developed detailed analyses of different coordination constructions in a variety of unrelated languages. Central to the HPSG analyses are two main ideas : (i) coordination structures are unheaded phrases, (ii) coordinate daughters display some kind of parallelism, which is captured by feature sharing ; from these ideas, specific properties can be derived, regarding extraction and agreement for instance. Many HPSG analyses also agree that coordination is a cover term for a wide variety of different constructions, which can be viewed as different subtypes of coordinate phrases, which can be cross-classified with other subtypes of the grammar (nominal or not, with ellipsis or not etc.) We present the description of various coordination phenomena, and show that HPSG can account for their subtle properties, while integrating them in the general organization of the grammar.

### 1 Introduction

A great deal of research has been dedicated to the topic of coordination structures in the last 70 years, spanning a multitude of different approaches in many different theoretical frameworks. With regard to the linguistic problems, research questions abound. In the realm of syntax there is much debate concerning the role of coordination lexemes, the existence of null coordinators, the syntactic relationship between conjuncts, the peculiar extraction phenomena that certain coordination structures exhibit, the necessary properties that allow two different structures to be coordinated, the relation between coordination structures



and comparative and subordination structures, peculiar ellipsis phenomena than can optionally occur, the various patterns of agreement that obtain in nominal coordination structures, the distribution and syntactic realization of the lexemes either and or, etc.. In the realm of semantics, the issues are no less complex, and the debate no less lively. There are many questions pertaining to how exactly the meaning of coordination structures is construed.

Among the first attempts to offer a precise formalization of the syntax and semantics of coordination is the seminar work of [Gazdar \(1980\)](#). Other seminal work soon followed, including the demonstration that phrase structure grammar offered a way to model filler-gap dependencies and certain island constraints ([Gazdar 1981](#)). In particular, Gazdar's account showed how long-distance dependencies involving multiple gaps linked to the same filler phrase could be modeled straightforwardly, something that mainstream movement-based models still struggle to this day. Finally, there was also in-depth examinations of a number of complex empirical phenomena like [Gazdar et al. \(1982\)](#), which proved highly influential in the genesis of Generalized Phrase-Structure Grammar, and later, of HPSG. Coordination thus has a special place in the history of HPSG, and still figures in many theoretical arguments within generative grammar given the extremely challenging phenomena it poses for linguistic theory. Nevertheless, there is no clear consensus, even within HPSG, about how to analyze coordination. For example, in some accounts the coordinator expression is a weak head, whereas in others it is a marker. Coordinate structures are binary branching in some accounts but not so in others. Finally, in some accounts non-constituent coordination involves some form of deletion, but in others no deletion operation is assumed. In this chapter we survey the empirical arguments and formal accounts of coordination, with special focus on its morphosyntax.

## 2 Headedness

The head of a construction is traditionally defined as the unit which determines the syntactic distribution and the meaning of the whole, and it also often the case that a dependent can be omitted, fronted, or extraposed while the head cannot ([Zwicky 1985](#)). In coordination constructions something very different occurs. First, the category and distribution of a coordinate phrase is typically collectively determined by the conjuncts, not one particular conjunct nor by the coordination particle. Thus, an S coordination yields an S, a VP coordination yields a VP and

so on, for virtually all categories.<sup>1</sup> This is perhaps clearer in cases like (1), where expressions such as *simultaneously*, *both*, *together* can be used to show that the entire bracketed string is interpreted as a complex unit denoting a plurality.

- (1) a. [[Tom sang]<sub>s</sub> and [Mia danced]<sub>s</sub>]<sub>s</sub> simultaneously.
- b. Often [[Kim goes to the beach]<sub>VP</sub> and [Sue goes to the city]<sub>VP</sub>]<sub>VP</sub>.
- c. Sue [[read the instructions]<sub>VP</sub> and [dried her hair]<sub>VP</sub>]<sub>VP</sub>, in twenty seconds.
- d. You can't simultaneously [[drive a car]<sub>VP</sub> and [talk on the phone]<sub>VP</sub>]<sub>VP</sub>.
- e. Simultaneously [[shocked]<sub>A</sub> and [saddened]<sub>A</sub>]<sub>A</sub>, Robin decided to go home.
- f. Robin is both [[tall]<sub>A</sub> and [thin]<sub>A</sub>]<sub>A</sub>.
- g. [[Tom]<sub>NP</sub> and [Mia]<sub>NP</sub>]<sub>NP</sub> agreed to jump into the water together.

Generally, a coordinate structure has the same grammatical function and category as the conjuncts: given a number of conjuncts of category *X*, the distribution of the coordinate constituent that is obtained is again the same as of an *X* constituent, what Pullum & Zwicky (1986) refer as ‘Wasow’s Generalization’. In particular, this is what allows coordination to apply recursively:

- (2) a. [[Tom and Mary]<sub>NP</sub> or [Mia and Sue]<sub>NP</sub>]<sub>NP</sub> got married.
- b. I can either [[sing and dance]<sub>VP</sub> or [sing and play the guitar]<sub>VP</sub>]<sub>VP</sub>.
- c. Either [[John went to Paris and Kim went to Brussels]<sub>s</sub> or [none of them ever left home]<sub>s</sub>]<sub>s</sub>.

Another piece of evidence in favor of a non-headed analysis comes from the fact that there is no typological correlation between the position of the coordinator and the head directionality Zwart (2005). For example, in Zwart’s survey of 136 languages where half are verb-final and half are verb-initial languages, verb-final languages overwhelmingly employ initial conjunction strategies. In particular, 119 of these languages have exclusively initial conjunctions, 12 languages exhibit both initial and final conjunctions, and only 4 have exclusively final conjunctions.

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<sup>1</sup>The exceptions include expletive pronouns (e.g. \**It and there is no use*), which cannot be coordinated, and in fact coordinator expressions themselves, e.g. \**You ordered a coffee and or or a tea?* The oddness of the former is presumably due to the fact that expletives are devoid of any meaning, and the oddness of the latter may be due to the conjuncts being of the wrong semantic type. See §5 for more on lexical coordination.

Finally, Coordination is also special in that the relationship between conjuncts is unlike adjunction (Levine 2001). Whereas adjuncts can in principle be displaced, conjuncts do not have any mobility, as (3) illustrates.

- (3) a. Because/Since Jane likes music, Tom learned to play the piano.  
b. \* And Jane likes music, Tom learned to play the piano.

Thus, no conjunct can usually be said to be a dependent, or secondary. For example, reversing the order of the conjuncts in (4) causes no major change in meaning. Neither daughter can be said to be the head because no subordination dependency is established between conjuncts.

- (4) a. Sam ordered a burger and Robin ordered a pizza.  
b. Robin ordered a pizza and Sam ordered a burger.

To be sure, there are certain coordination structures which do not have such symmetric interpretations, as noted by Ross (1967); see also Goldsmith (1985), Lakoff (1986), and Levin & Prince (1986). Regardless, such constructions retain many of the properties that characterize coordinate structures, and therefore are likely coordinate just the same (Kehler 2002: Ch.5).

- (5) a. Robin jumped on a horse and rode into the sunset.  
b. Robin rode into the sunset and jumped on a horse.

For these reasons, HPSG adopts a rather traditional non-headed analysis of coordination, an approach going back to Bloomfield (1933: 195) and Ross (1967), and later adopted in many other frameworks such as Pesetsky (1982), Gazdar (1980), Huddleston et al. (2002a: 1275), among many others. See Borsley (1994), Borsley & Jones (2005) and Chaves (2007: Ch.2) for more discussion about previous claims in the literature that coordination structures are headed. Finally, we note that the HPSG account is in agreement with Chomsky (1965: 196), who argued against postulating complex syntactic representations without direct empirical evidence:<sup>2</sup>

It has sometimes been claimed that the traditional coordinate structures are necessarily right-recursive (Yngve, 1960) or left-recursive (Harman, 1963, p. 613, rule 3i). These conclusions seem to me equally unacceptable. Thus to

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<sup>2</sup>In more recent times Chomskyan theorizing has assumed that all structures should be binary branching purely on conceptual ‘economy’ grounds; see Johnson & Lappin (1999) for criticism.

assume (with Harman) that the phrase “a tall, young, handsome, intelligent man” has the structure [[[tall young] handsome] intelligent] man] seems to me no more justifiable than to assume that it has the structure [tall [young [handsome [intelligent man]]]]. In fact, there is no grammatical motivation for any internal structure, [...] The burden of proof rests on one who claims additional structure beyond this (Chomsky 1965: 196,197)

As we shall see, the empirical evidence suggests that the simplest and most parsimonious structure for coordination is neither left- nor right-recursive. In this chapter we discuss how coordination is analyzed in HPSG, as well as issues that it faces.

### 3 On the Syntax of Coordinate Structures

In this paper we refer to expressions like *and*, *either*, *or*, *but*, *let alone*, etc. as **coordinators** and the phrases that a coordinator can combine with as **coordinands**. Thus, in ‘A or B’ both A and B are coordinands and ‘or’ is the coordinator.

There are a wide range of coordination strategies in the languages of the world Haspelmath (2007). In some languages no coordinand is accompanied by any coordinator (syndenton coordination; as in *We came, we saw, we conquered*), or one of the conjuncts is accompanied by a coordinator (monosyndenton coordination; as in *We came, we saw, and we conquered*). Other strategies involve marking multiple coordinands with a coordinator (polysyndenton coordination; *We came, and we saw, and we conquered*) or all coordinands (omnisyndenton coordination; *Either you come or you go*). All of these are schematically depicted in (6); Drellishak & Bender (2005a) for more discussion about how to accommodate such typological patterns in a computational HPSG platform.

- |     |   |                 |
|-----|---|-----------------|
| (6) | a. A, B, C                                      | (asyndenton)    |
|     | b. A, B, <i>coord</i> C                         | (monosyndenton) |
|     | c. A <i>coord</i> B <i>coord</i> C              | (polysyndenton) |
|     | d. <i>coord</i> A <i>coord</i> B <i>coord</i> C | (omnisyndenton) |

Finally, a single coordination strategy often serves to coordinate all types of constituent phrases, but in many languages different coordination strategies only cover a subset of the types of phrases in the language. For example, in Japanese the suffix *to* is used for nominal coordination and *te* is used for other coordinations.

In what follows we start by focusing on monosyndeton coordination. There are three possible structures one can assign to such coordinations, as Figure 1 illustrates. The binary branching approach goes back to Yngve (1960), and is used in HPSG work such as Pollard & Sag (1994), Yatabe (2002a), Crysmann (2003), Beavers & Sag (2004), Drellishak & Bender (2005a), Abeillé (2005), and Borsley & Jones (2005), Chaves (2007), Chaves (2012b), among others. The flat branching approach has also been assumed in HPSG, albeit less frequently. See for example Sag et al. (2003) and Sag (2003).

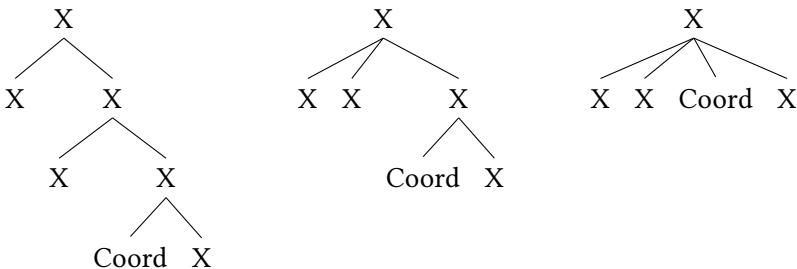


Figure 1: Three possible headless analyses of coordination

The binary branching analysis requires two different rules, informally depicted in (7), and a special feature to prevent the coordinator to recursively apply to the last coordinand, e.g. *\*Robin and and and Kim*. Otherwise, the two rules are unremarkable and are handled by the grammar like any other immediate dominance schema. See for example Beavers & Sag (2004) for a formalization.

- (7) a.  $X_{crd+} \rightarrow Coord \ X_{crd-}$   
 b.  $X \rightarrow X_{crd-} \ X_{crd+}$

Notice that the hierarchical structure is not the same as the one advocated by Kayne (1994), Johannessen (1998): they both argue that coordination follows X-bar theory and that the conjunction is the head of the construction (see HPSG and Minimalism chapter for discussion). In HPSG, even though one of the conjuncts (or more) may combine with a conjunction, this subconstituent is not the head of the construction, which is considered as unheaded. The two analyses are contrasted in Figure 2.

Similarly, the flat analysis where the coordinator and the coordinand attach to each other requires two rules well (where  $n \geq 1$ ):

- (8) a.  $X_{crd+} \rightarrow Coord \ X_{crd-}$

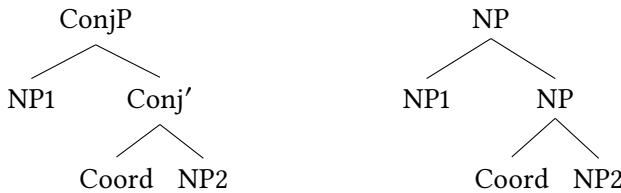


Figure 2: Binary-branching analyses of coordination, headed and non-headed

$$\text{b. } X \rightarrow X_{crd-}^1 \dots X_{crd-}^n X_{crd+}$$

However, the flat analysis requires only one rule, and no special features at all, as (3) illustrates.

$$(9) \quad X \rightarrow X^1 \dots X^n \text{ Coord } X_{n+1}$$

That said, there are some reasons for assuming that the coordinator does in fact combine with the coordinand, as in (3). First, in some languages of the world the coordinator is a bound morpheme instead of a free morpheme. For example, in Abelam (Papua New Guinea), verbs can be coordinated by adding one of a set of suffixes to one of the coordinands, usually the prior one. And similarly, in Kanuri (Nilo-Saharan) verb phrases are coordinated by marking the first verb with the a conjunctive form affix. In languages like Telugu (Dravidian) the coordination of proper names is marked by the lengthening of their final vowels (Drellishak & Bender 2005b):

- (10) kamala<sub>a</sub> wimalaa poDugu  
 Kamala Vimala tall  
 'Kamala and Vimala are tall'

Second, as Ross (1967) originally noted, the natural intonation break occurs before the coordination lexeme rather than between the coordinator and the coordinand, so that a prosodic constituent is formed. Although prosodic phrasing is not generally believed to always align with syntactic phrasing, the fact that the coordinator prosodifies with the coordinand suggests that it forms a unit with it.

The analysis in Figure 3 can be formalized in HPSG as shown in (11), using parametric lists (Pollard & Sag 1994) to enforce that all conjuncts structure-share the morphosyntactic information. The type *n(on)e(mpty)-list* corresponds to a list that has at least one member, and when used parametrically as in (11) it in

addition requires that every member of the list must bear the features [SYNSEM [CAT 1]].

(11) COORDINATION CONSTRUCTION (preliminary)

$$coord\text{-}phr \rightarrow \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{SYNSEM } [\text{CAT } 1] \\ \text{DTRS } \left( \left[ \text{SYNSEM } [\text{CAT } 1] \right] \right) \oplus \text{ne-list} \left( \left[ \text{SYNSEM } [\text{CAT } 1] \right] \right) \end{array} \right]$$

The constraint forcing all daughters to be of the same category is excessive, as we shall see below, and this will have to undergo a revision. For now, we are focusing on standard coordinations.

In order to account for the fact that different kind of coordination strategies are possible, Mouret (2005) defines three subtypes of *coord-phr*, assuming a lexical feature COORD to distinguish between coordination types:<sup>3</sup>

$$\begin{aligned} (12) \quad simple\text{-}coord\text{-}phr &\rightarrow \left[ \text{DTRS } \left( \left[ \text{COORD } \text{nil} \right] \right) \oplus \text{ne-list} \left( \left[ \text{COORD } 1\text{crd} \right] \right) \right] \\ omnisyndetic\text{-}coord &\rightarrow \left[ \text{DTRS } \text{ne-list} \left( \left[ \text{COORD } 1\text{crd} \right] \right) \right] \\ asyndetic\text{-}coord &\rightarrow \left[ \text{DTRS } \text{ne-list} \left( \left[ \text{COORD } \text{none} \right] \right) \right] \end{aligned}$$

Here, we assume that the value of COORD must be typed as *coord*, and that the latter has various sub-types as shown in Figure 3.

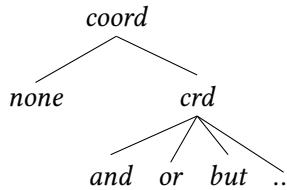


Figure 3: Coordinator sub-types

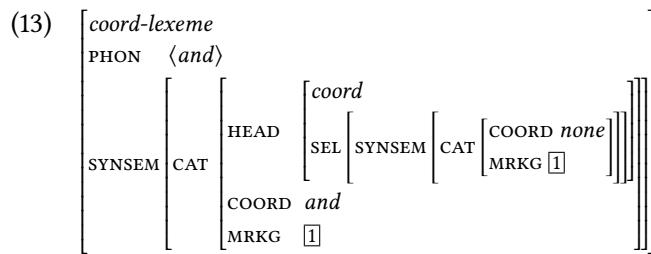
Thus, simple (monosyndeton and polysyndeton) coordinations are those where all but the first coordinand are allowed combine with a coordinator, omnisyndeton coordinations are those where all coordinands have combined with a coordinator, and likewise, asyndeton coordinations are those where none of the coordinands have combined with a coordinator.

<sup>3</sup>Mouret's formulation is slightly different in that the relevant feature is instead called CONJ, and a slightly different type hierarchy is assumed, with negative constraints like CONJ ≠ nil are employed instead of COORD crd. The current formulation is more in line with standard practice of avoiding negative constraints. Similar liberty is taken in subsequent constraints, for exposition purposes.

We turn to the analysis of coordinators. In other words, what exactly are words like *and*, *or*, and others, and how do they combine with coordinands?

### 3.1 The status of coordinator expressions

In HPSG, coordinators are sometimes analyzed as markers (Beavers & Sag 2004; Drellishak & Bender 2005a). In such a view, the coordinator's lexical entry does not select any arguments, since it has no arguments. In (3.1) we show the lexical entry for the conjunction, using current HPSG feature geometry. Note that the MRKG value of the coordinator is the same as the coordinand's. Thus, if *and* coordinates S nodes that are MRKG *that* (i.e. CPs) then the result will be an S that is also MRKG *that*, and so on, for any given value of MRKG.<sup>4</sup>



This sign imposes constraints on the head sign it combines with via the feature SEL, the same feature that allows other markers and adjuncts in general to combine with their hosts. The syntactic construction that allows such elements with their selected heads is the Head-Functor Construction in (3.1). Since the second daughter is the head, the value of the mother's HEAD feature will have to be the same as the head daughter's, as per the Head Feature Principle.

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<sup>4</sup>The semantics and pragmatics of conjunction or of coordination more broadly is a particularly complex topic to which we cannot do justice here, especially when it comes to interactions with other phenomena such as scope and collective, distributive, and reciprocal readings. See the Koenig & Richter (2019), Chapter ?? of this volume for more discussion and in particular Copstake et al. (2005), Fast (2005), Chaves (2007: ch.4–6), Chaves (2012b), Chaves (2012a), Chaves (2009), and Park (2019) for HPSG work that specifically focuses on the semantics of coordination.

(14)	$head\text{-}func\text{-}cxt \rightarrow \begin{cases} \text{SYNSEM} \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{CAT} \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{VAL } \boxed{0} \\ \text{COORD } \boxed{1} \\ \text{MRKG } \boxed{3} \end{array} \right] \end{array} \right] \\ \text{HD-DTR } \boxed{2} \\ \text{DTRS } \left( \begin{array}{l} \text{SYNSEM} \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{CAT} \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{SEL } \boxed{2} \\ \text{COORD } \boxed{1} \\ \text{MRKG } \boxed{3} \end{array} \right] \end{array} \right], \boxed{2} \left[ \text{SYNSEM} \left[ \text{CAT} \left[ \text{VAL } \boxed{0} \right] \right] \right] \end{array} \right) \end{cases}$
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Thus, the conjunction projects an NP when combined with an NP, an AP when combined with an AP, etc., as Figure 4 illustrates.

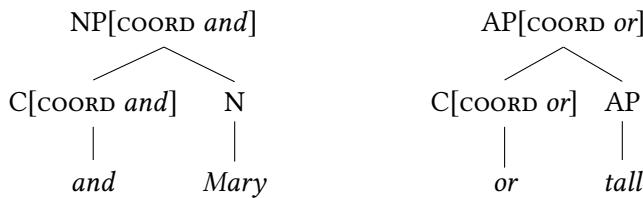


Figure 4: Coordinate marking constructions

An alternative HPSG account that yields almost the same representation through different means is adopted by Abeillé (2003), Abeillé (2005), Mouret (2007) and Bilbie (2017) and others, instead takes coordinators to be *weak heads*, i.e. heads which inherit most of their syntactic properties from their complement, like argument-marking prepositions, for example. Thus, the coordinator combines with coordinands via the same headed constructions that license non-coordinate structures. It preserves the Marking feature when conjuncts are themselves marked. The conjunction takes the adjacent conjunct as a complement. This captures its being first in head initial languages like English, and its final position in head final languages like Japanese.

- (15) a. Kim [and Lee] (English)  
      b. Lee-to Kim (Japanese)  
          ‘Kim and Lee’

Since it is a weak head, it inherits most of its syntactic features (HEAD, MARKING, XARG) from its complement, and adds its own COORD feature. The relevant constraint over all such coordinator lexemes is shown in (16).

(16)	<i>coord-lexeme</i>
	PHON <i>(and)</i>
	SYNSEM $\left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{CAT} \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{HEAD } \boxed{0} \\ \text{COORD } \textit{and} \\ \text{MRKG } \textit{none} \end{array} \right] \\ \vdots \end{array} \right]$
	ARG-ST $\boxed{1} \oplus \left\langle \begin{array}{l} \text{SYNSEM} \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{CAT} \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{HEAD } \boxed{0} \\ \text{XARG } \boxed{1} \\ \text{MRKG } \boxed{2} \end{array} \right] \\ \vdots \end{array} \right] \end{array} \right\rangle$

The ‘weak head’ analysis is illustrated in Figure 5. Here, the category of the coordinator, the conjunct and of the mother node are the same, because the coordinator’s head value is lexically required to be structure-shared with the head value of its valents.

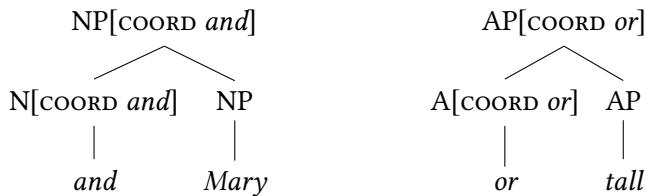


Figure 5: Coordinate weak-head constructions

Before moving on, we note that the ‘weak head’ analysis of coordinators makes certain problematic predictions that the marker analysis in (3.1) does not make. Since coordinands are selected as arguments in the former approach, additional assumptions need to be made in order to prevent Principle extraction of conjuncts as in (3.1). If coordinands are in ARG-ST then they are expected to be extractable (see Borsley & Crysmann (2019), Chapter 14 of this volume and Chaves (2019), Chapter 16 of this volume).

- (17) \* Which boy did you compare Robin and \_ ?  
 (cf. with *which boy did you compare Robin with \_ ?*)

For this reason, the members of ARG-ST of the coordinator are typed as *canonical* by Abeillé (2003), to prevent their extraction, analogously to how prepositions in most languages must prevent their complements from being extracted, unlike English and a few other languages. See Abeillé (2006) for a weak head analysis of certain French prepositions.

### 3.2 Correlative coordination

Having discussed standard coordination structures, we now move on to cases where multiple inter-dependent coordinators are present, such as *either ... or ...*, *neither ... nor ...*, and *both ... and ...*. Given the linearization flexibility of the first coordinator, they can be analyzed in English as adverbials rather than as true coordinators:

- (18)
  - a. Either Fred bought a cooking book or he bought a gardening magazine.
  - b. Fred either bought a cooking book or he bought a gardening magazine.
  - c. Fred can either buy a cooking book or he can buy a gardening magazine.
- (19)
  - a. John will read both the introduction and the conclusion.
  - b. John will both read the introduction and the conclusion.

In French, as in other Romance languages, the conjunction itself can be reduplicated, and it is obligatory for some conjunctions (*soit ‘or’* in French) (Mouret 2007; Bilbīie 2017):

- (20)
  - a. Jean lira et l'introduction et la conclusion.  
Jean read.fut and the introduction and the conclusion
  - b. \* Jean et lira l'introduction et la conclusion.  
Jean and read.fut the introduction and the conclusion
  - c. Jean lira \*(soit) l'introduction soit la conclusion.  
Jean read.fut or the introduction or the conclusion

Thus, there are different structures for different types of correlative, as Figure 6 illustrates. The one on the left is for correlatives that exhibit adverbial properties and the one on the right is for correlatives that do not. See Bilbīie (2008) for arguments that both types are attested in Romanian.

The correlative coordinate structure on the right is covered by (12), since it requires the COORD feature to be the same for all conjuncts.

### 3.3 Comparative correlatives

When there is no overt conjunction, it is not always clear whether a binary clause construction is coordinate or not. Comparative correlatives such as (21) have been analyzed as coordinate by Culicover & Jackendoff (1999) for English and as universally subordinate by den Dikken (2006).

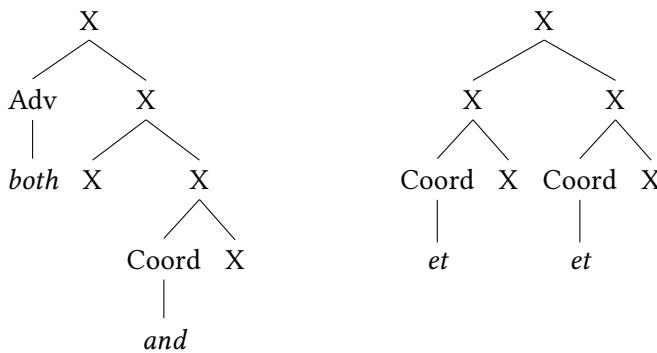


Figure 6: Two possible structures for correlative coordination

- (21) The more I read, the more I understand.

On the semantic side, the interpretation is something like: ‘if I read more, I understand more’. Abeillé (2006), Abeillé & Borsley (2008) propose that they are coordinate in some languages, and subordinate in others. In English, one can add the adverb *then*, whereas in French, one can add the conjunction *et* (‘and’). In English, the first clause can also be used as a standard adjunct (22).

- (22) a. The more I read, then the more I understand.  
 b. Plus je lis (et) plus je comprends.  
     More I read (and) more I understand.  
 c. I understand more, the more I read.

As shown by Culicover & Jackendoff (1999: 549–550), the second clause show matrix clause properties, not the first one:

- (23) a. The more we eat, the angrier you get, don’t you?  
 b. \* The more we eat, the angrier you get, don’t we?

Syntactic parallelism seems to be stricter in French, for example clitic inversion or extraction must take place out of both clauses at the same time (Abeillé & Borsley 2008):

- (24) a. Paul a peu de temps: aussi plus vite commencera-t-il, plus vite  
 Paul has little of time so more fast start.FUT-he more fast  
 aura-t- il fini.  
 aux.FUT he finish.PPART  
 ‘Paul has little time left: so the faster he starts, the faster he will

finish'

- b. C'est un livre que plus tu lis, plus tu apprécies.  
this is a book COMP more you read.2SG, more you appreciate.2SG  
'This is a book that the more you read the more you like.'

In Spanish, they come in two varieties: one that can be analyzed as subordinate (a) and one that can be analyzed as coordinate (b). These are illustrated in (25a,b), respectively.

- (25) a. Cuanto más leo, (tanto) más entiendo.  
how-much more read.1SG, (that-much) more understand.1SG  
'The more I read, the more I understand'  
b. Más leo (y) más entiendo.  
more read.1SG (and) more understand.1SG  
'The more I read, the more I understand'  
(Abeillé et al. 2006)

Be they coordinate or subordinate, they are special kinds of construction: they are binary, with a fixed order : the meaning changes if the order is reversed (a). The internal structure of each clause is also special. In English, it must start with 'the' and a comparative phrase (b), which may belong to a long distance dependency (c), and can be analyzed as extracted. Each clause must be finite and allow for copula omission (d).

- (26) a. The more I understand, the more I read.  
b. \* I understand (the) more, I read (the) more.  
c. The more I manage to read, the more I start to understand.  
d. The more intelligent the students, the better the marks.

Comparative clauses are a special subtype of finite clause, starting with a comparative phrase. Abeillé et al. (2006), Borsley (2011) define a CORREL feature which is a LEFT EDGE feature (see the EDGE feature in Bonami et al. (2004) for French liaison). Assuming a degree word *the*, which can only appear as a specifier of a comparative word, Borsley (2011) defines *the*-clause as a subtype of head-filler-phrase with [CORREL *the*]; see also Sag (2010).

Comparative correlatives belong to a more general class of (binary) correlative constructions, including *as ... so ...*, and *if ... then ...* constructions in (Borsley

2004; Borsley 2011)<sup>5</sup> Correlative constructions can be defined as follows, where *correl-construction* is a sub-type of *declarative-clause* and the feature CORREL introduces a *correl* type hierarchy analogous to that of *coord* in Figure 3 above. The construction in (27) thus states that all correlative constructions have in common the fact that both daughters are marked by a special expression.

$$(27) \quad \text{correl-construction} \rightarrow \begin{cases} \text{SYNSEM } \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{CAT } [\text{HEAD } \textit{finite}] \\ \text{CORREL } \textit{none} \end{array} \right] \\ \text{DTRS } \left( \begin{array}{l} \text{SYNSEM } \left[ \text{CAT } [\text{CORREL } \textit{corr-mrk}] \right] \\ \text{SYNSEM } \left[ \text{CAT } [\text{CORREL } \textit{corr-mrk}] \right] \end{array} \right) \end{cases}$$

Naturally, *correl-construction* has various sub-types, each imposing particular patterns of correlative marking, including coordinate correlatives. More specifically, this family of constructions comes in two varieties: asymmetric (for the subordinate ones, like English comparative correlatives and Spanish type a correlatives), and symmetric for coordinate ones, like French comparative correlatives and Spanish type b correlatives). The symmetric subtype inherits from clausal-coordination-phrase, while the asymmetric one inherits from the head-adjunct-phrase as seen in Figure 7.

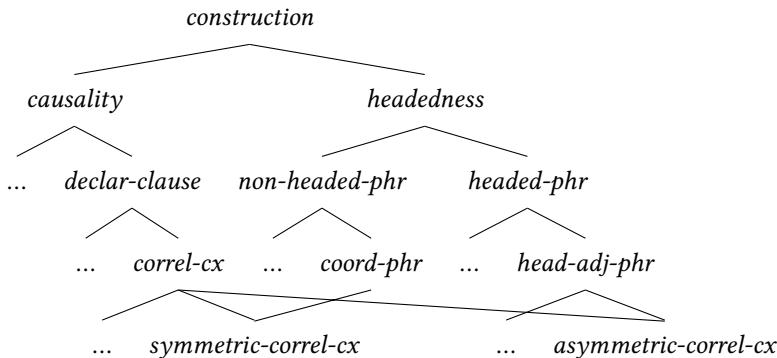


Figure 7: Type hierarchy for correlative constructions

Thus, asymmetric English comparative correlatives can be defined as in (28), where *the* is a sub-type of *corr-mrk* (i.e. is a coordinate marker).

<sup>5</sup>This does not handle Hindi type correlatives, which differ in that only the first clause is introduced by a correlative word, and the first clause is mobile and optional; see Pollard & Sag (1994: 228) for an analysis.

$$(28) \quad \text{asymmetric-cc-cx} \rightarrow \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{HD-DTR } \boxed{1} \\ \text{DTRS} \left( \begin{array}{l} \text{SYNSEM} \left[ \text{CAT} \left[ \text{CORREL } \textit{the} \right] \right], \\ \boxed{1} \text{ SYNSEM} \left[ \text{CAT} \left[ \text{CORREL } \textit{the} \right] \right] \end{array} \right) \end{array} \right]$$

Similarly, symmetric French comparative correlatives can be defined as in (29), where *et* and *compar* are subtypes of *corr-mrk* and *none* is the sub-type of *correl* indicating the absence of correlative marking.

$$(29) \quad \text{symmetric-cc-cx} \rightarrow \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{DTRS} \left( \begin{array}{l} \text{SYNSEM} \left[ \text{CAT} \left[ \text{CORREL } \textit{compar} \right] \right], \\ \text{SYNSEM} \left[ \text{CAT} \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{COORD } \textit{none} \vee \textit{et} \\ \text{CORREL } \textit{compar} \end{array} \right] \right] \end{array} \right) \end{array} \right]$$

A more complete analysis would take into account the semantics as well (Sag 2010). From a syntactic point of view, HPSG seems to be in a good position to handle both the general properties and the idiosyncrasy of the CC construction, as well as its crosslinguistic variation. See Borsley (2011) for a comparison with a tentative minimalist analysis.

## 4 Phrasal coordination and feature resolution

### 4.1 Feature sharing between coordinands

The coordination construction in (11) requires the value of CAT to be structure-shared across the coordinands and the mother node. Given the large number of features within CAT, such a constraint makes a series of predictions and mispredictions. For example, this entails that all valence constraints are identical. Thus, in VP coordination all nodes have an empty COMPS list and share exactly the same singleton SUBJ list, as illustrated in Figure 8. Thus, nothing needs to be said from the semantic composition side: the verbs will have to share exactly the same referent for their subject. The same goes for any other combination of categories, of whatever part-of-speech.

All the unsaturated valence arguments become one and the same for all coordinands, and it becomes impossible to have daughters with different subcategorization information. For example, if one daughter requires a complement while the other does not, CAT identity is impossible. This correctly rules out a coordination of VP and V categories like the one in (30a), or S and VP as in (30b):

- (30) a. \* Fred [read a book]<sub>COMP⟨⟩</sub> and [opened]<sub>COMP⟨NP⟩</sub>.

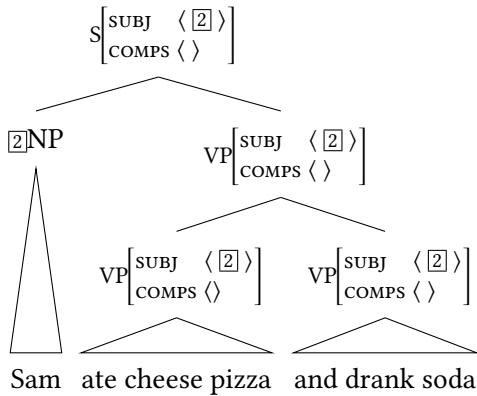


Figure 8: Valence identity in coordination

- b. \* Fred [she has a hat]<sub>SUBJ<></sub> and [smiled]<sub>SUBJ<NP></sub>.

But there is other information in CAT besides valence. For example, the head feature VFORM encodes the verb form, not tense or aspectual information. The coordination of inconsistent VFORM values is ruled out as ungrammatical as seen in (31), while consistent values of VFORM are accepted as illustrated by (32).

- (31) a. \* Tom [whistled]<sub>VFORM fin</sub> and [walking]<sub>VFORM prp</sub>.
  - b. \* Sue [buy something]<sub>VFORM prs</sub> and [came home]<sub>FORM fin</sub>.
- (32) a. Tom [is married]<sub>VFORM fin</sub> and [bought a house in the suburbs]]<sub>VFORM fin</sub>■
  - b. Sue [buys groceries here]<sub>VFORM fin</sub> and [could be interested in working with us]<sub>VFORM fin</sub>.
  - c. Dan [protested for two years]<sub>VFORM fin</sub> and [will keep on protesting]<sub>VFORM fin</sub>■

Yet another feature that resides in the CAT value of verbal expressions is the head feature INV, which indicates whether a given verbal expression is invertible or not. Hence, inverted structures cannot be coordinated with non-inverted ones:

- (33) a. [Sue has sung in public]<sub>INV-</sub> and [Kim has tap-danced]<sub>INV-</sub>?
  - b. \* [Sue has sung in public]<sub>INV-</sub> and [has Kim tap-danced]<sub>INV+</sub>?
- (34) a. [Elvis is alive]<sub>INV-</sub> and [there was a CIA conspiracy]<sub>INV-</sub>?
  - b. \* [Elvis is alive]<sub>INV-</sub> and [was there a CIA conspiracy]<sub>INV+</sub>?

But the inverted clause precedes the non-inverted one, then such coordinations become somewhat more acceptable. In fact, Huddleston et al. (2002b: 1332-3) note attested cases like (35).

- (35) Did you make your own contributions to a complying superannuation fund and your assessable income is less than \$31,000?

A similar problem arises for the feature AUX, which distinguishes auxiliary verbal expressions from those that are not auxiliary:

- (36) a. [I stayed home]<sub>AUX-</sub> but [Fred could have gone fishing]<sub>AUX+.</sub>  
b. [Tom went to NY yesterday]<sub>AUX-</sub> and [he will return next Tuesday]<sub>AUX+.</sub> ■  
c. Fred [sang well]<sub>AUX-</sub> and [will keep on singing]<sub>AUX+.</sub>

However, this problem vanishes in the account of the English Auxiliary System detailed in Sag et al. (2020), since in that analysis the feature AUX does not indicate whether the verb is auxiliary or not. Rather, the value of AUX for auxiliary verbs is resolved by the construction in which the verb is used. Since all the constructions in (36) are canonical VPs (e.g. non-inverted), then all the conjuncts in (36) are specified as AUX-, in the Sag et al. (2020) analysis.

Similarly, argument-marking PPs cannot be coordinated with modifying-PPs simply because the former are specified with different PFORM and SELECT values. This explains the contrast in (37). The first PP is the complement that *rely* selects but the second is a modifier. Thus, they have different CAT values and cannot be coordinated.

- (37) a. Kim relied on Mia on Sunday.  
b. \* Kim relied on Mia and on Sunday.

Consequently, it is in general not possible to coordinate argument marking PPs headed by different prepositions, simply because they bear different PFORM values as shown in (38).

- (38) a. \*Kim depends [[on Sandy]<sub>PFORM on</sub> or [to Fred]<sub>PFORM to</sub> ].  
b. \*Kim is afraid [[of Sandy]<sub>PFORM of</sub> and [to Fred]<sub>PFORM to</sub> ].

Similarly, adjectives that are specified as PRED+ cannot be coordinated with PRED- adjectives, without stipulation:

- (39) a. \* I became [former]<sub>PRED-</sub> and [happy]<sub>PRED+.</sub>

- b. \* He is [happy]<sub>PRED+</sub> and [Fred]<sub>PRED-</sub>.
- c. \* [Mere]<sub>PRED-</sub> and [happy]<sub>PRED+</sub>, Fred rode on into the sunset.

Since case information is also part of CAT, it follows that conjuncts must be consistent as in (40).<sup>6</sup> Many other examples of CAT mismatches exist, but the foregoing list suffices to illustrate the breadth of predictions that follow from the feature geometry of CAT and the constraints imposed by the coordination construction.

- (40) a. \* I saw [her<sub>acc</sub> and he<sub>nom</sub>].  
 b. \* He likes [she<sub>nom</sub> and me<sub>acc</sub>].

Of course, mispredictions also exist. We already discussed one, concerning the feature INV, but there are others. For example, requiring that the GAP value of the coordinands be the same readily predicts Coordinate Structure Constraint effects like (41) and (42), but it incorrectly rules out asymmetric coordination violation cases like (43). See Goldsmith (1985), Lakoff (1986), and Levin & Prince (1986) for more examples and discussion.

- (41) a. [To him]<sub>1NP</sub> [Fred gave a football \_]<sub>GAP⟨1⟩</sub> and [Kim gave a book \_]<sub>GAP⟨1⟩</sub>  
 b. \* [To him]<sub>1NP</sub> [Fred gave a football \_]<sub>GAP⟨1⟩</sub> and [Kim gave me a book]<sub>GAP⟨⟩</sub>  
 c. \* [To him]<sub>1NP</sub> [Fred gave a football to me]<sub>GAP⟨⟩</sub> and [Kim gave a book \_]<sub>GAP⟨1⟩</sub>
- (42) a. It offers [something]<sub>1NP</sub> [that every kid wants \_]<sub>GAP⟨1⟩</sub> and [that every parent tries to help their child to achieve \_]<sub>GAP⟨1⟩</sub>  
 b. \* It offers [something]<sub>1NP</sub> [that every kid wants \_]<sub>GAP⟨1⟩</sub> and [that every parent tries to help their child to achieve it]<sub>GAP⟨⟩</sub>  
 c. \* It offers [something]<sub>1NP</sub> [that every kid wants it]<sub>GAP⟨⟩</sub> and [that every parent tries to help their child to achieve \_]<sub>GAP⟨1⟩</sub>
- (43) a. [Who]<sub>1NP</sub> did Sam [[pick up the phone]<sub>GAP⟨⟩</sub> and [call \_i]<sub>GAP⟨1⟩</sub>?  
 b. What was the maximum amount<sub>1</sub> that I can [contribute \_i]<sub>GAP⟨1⟩</sub> and [still get a tax deduction]<sub>GAP⟨⟩</sub>?

---

<sup>6</sup>There are nonetheless collocational cases where the distribution of pronouns defies this pattern, due to presumably prescriptive forces; see Grano (2006) and Lohmann (2014).

Chaves (2012b) argues that, since there are no independent grounds to assume that asymmetric coordination is anything other than coordination, the coordination construction must not impose GAP identity across conjuncts. Rather, the Coordinate Structure Constraint, and its asymmetric exceptions are best analyzed as pragmatic in nature, as Kehler (2002) argues. See Borsley & Crysmann (2019), Chapter 14 of this volume for more discussion. In practice this means that the coordination construction should impose identity of some of the features in CAT, though not all.

Like in the case of locally specified valents, the category of the extracted phrase is also structure-shared in coordination. Hence, case mismatches like (44) are correctly ruled out.

- (44) a. \* [Him]<sub>acc</sub>, [all the critics like to praise\_]<sub>GAP⟨NPacc⟩</sub> but [I think\_ would probably not be present at the awards]<sub>GAP⟨NPnom⟩</sub>

There are, however, cases where the case of the ATB-extracted phrase can be syncretic as in (4.1), due to Levine et al. (2001).

- (45) a. Robin is someone who<sub>i</sub> even [good friends of <sub>\_i</sub>] believe <sub>\_i</sub> should be closely watched.  
 b. We went to see [a movie]<sub>1|nom\_acc</sub> [which the critics praised\_]<sub>GAP⟨1⟩</sub> but [that Fred said\_ would probably be too violent for my taste]<sub>GAP⟨1⟩</sub>

The feature CASE is responsible for identifying the case of nominal expressions. Pronouns like *him* are specified as *acc(usative)*, and pronouns like *I* are *nom(inative)*, and expressions like *who* or *Robin* are left underspecified for case. According to Levine et al. (2001: 207), the case system of English involves the hierarchy in Figure 9.

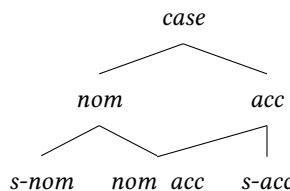


Figure 9: Type hierarchy of (structural) case assignments

Verbs subcategorize for *s-nom* NP subjects and *s-acc* NP complements. Most nouns and some pronouns like *who* and *what* are underspecified for case, and

thus typed as *case*, which makes them consistent with both nominative and accusative positions. Hence, *a movie* can be simultaneously required to be consistent with s-NOM and s-ACC, by resolving into syncretic type *nom\_acc*, which is a subtype of both *s-nom* and *s-acc*. Pronouns like *him* and *her* are specified as *acc* and therefore are not compatible with the *nom\_acc* type. The same goes for *nom* pronouns like *he* and *she*, etc. Hence, the problem of case syncretism is easily solved.

## 4.2 Coordination and agreement

Another thorny issue for syntactic theory and coordination structures concerns agreement. According to Pollard & Sag (1994), agreement information is introduced by the INDEX feature in semantics, not morphosyntax. Hence, different expressions with inconsistent person, gender and number specifications are free to combine. But Wechsler & Zlatic (2003) have also argued that there should be a distinct feature called CONCORD, which is morphosyntactic in nature (See Wechsler (2019), Chapter 6 of this volume). The motivation for this move, is that there are languages, like Serbo-Croatian, which display hybrid agreement:

- (46) Ta               dobra           deca       su           doš-l-a  
       that.SING-FEM goodSING.FEM children AUX3-PL comePPRT.PN  
       ‘Those good children came’  
       (Wechsler & Zlatic 2003: 51)

The collective noun *deca* ('children') triggers feminine singular (morphosyntactic) agreement on NP-internal items, in this case the determiner *ita* ('that') and the adjective *dobra* ('good'). This is a problem for a locality theory of agreement. On the other hand, there are other HPSG analyses that argue that what appears to be closest conjunct agreement is in fact agreement with the whole coordinate NP, which has additional features inherited from the first and last conjuncts. feature. (Villavicencio et al. 2005) propose two additional features: LAGR (for the left most conjunct) and RAGR (for the right most conjunct) for determiner and (attributive) adjective agreement in Romance, which involves the CONCORD feature. Semantic agreement (i.e. Concord), on the other hand, is seen in the verb *su*, which is inflected for third person plural, in agreement with the semantic properties of the subject *deca*. The two kinds of agreement are also visible in English:

- (47) a. This/\*These committee made a decision.

- b. The committee have/has made a decision.

This predicts that inconsistent CONCORD specifications are not possible:

- (48) \* These committee have arrived and has made a decision.

Since (morphosyntactic) agreement is not recorded in CAT, it follows that the resolution of agreement information in coordination must be processed elsewhere in the grammar. There are usually strict and non-trivial constraints involved in determining what the agreement of the mother node is given that of the coordi-nands. We turn to this problem below.

### 4.3 Agreement

In case of conjuncts with conflicting agreement values, resolution strategies are observed crosslinguistically. For example, a coordination with a 1st person is 1st, and a coordination with 2nd person (and no 1st person) is 2nd person:

- (49) a. Paul and I like ourselves.  
b. Paul and you like yourselves.

In gender marking languages, coordination with conflicting gender values is often resolved to the masculine, at least for animates (Corbett 1991). This is illustrated in (50), for Portuguese.

- (50) a. o homem e a mulher modernos  
the.MSG man.MSG and the.FSG woman.FSG modern.MPL  
'the modern man and woman'  
b. morbidez e morte prematuras  
mobidity.FSG and death.FSG premature.FPL premature morbidity and  
death  
(Villavicencio et al. 2005: 433)

To keep unification as a combining operation, Sag (2003) proposes that 1st person is a supertype of 2nd person which is itself a supertype of 3rd person. Addressing gender resolution, Gabriel & Crysmann (2018) propose a list-based encoding of person and gender values, and list concatenation as a combining operation. They crucially distinguish between a feature itself and its resolution potential. Masc has a non empty list and fem has an empty list, the coordination of *masc* and *fem* yields a non empty list, hence *masc*. Person uses two lists ME

and YOU, 1st person has a non empty ME list, 2d person has an empty ME list and a non empty YOU list, 3rd person has both empty lists. This enables person and gender resolution by list concatenation over conjuncts, and it has been implemented in a LKB grammar of French.

#### 4.3.1 Closest Conjunct agreement

As observed by Corbett (1991), many languages including Romance, Celtic, Semitic and Bantu languages, also have another strategy, namely partial agreement with only one conjunct, the one closest to the target, called closest conjunct agreement (CCA). In the following example, again from Portuguese, the determiner and prenominal adjective agree with the first Noun (a) and the postnominal adjective with the last Noun (b).

- (51) a. suas próprias reações ou julgamentos  
his.FPL own.FPL reactions.FPL or judgements.MPL  
'his own reactions or judgements'  
(Villavicencio et al. 2005: 435)
- b. Esta canção anima os corações e mentes  
This.FSG song.FSG animates the.MPL hearts.MPL and minds.FPL  
brasileiras.  
Brazilian.FPL  
'This song animates Brazilian hearts and minds'  
(Villavicencio et al. 2005: 437)

For French determiners and attributive adjectives, An & Abeillé (2017), (Abeillé et al. 2018) show on the basis of corpus data and experiments that number agreement may also obey CCA. As far as gender is concerned, prenominal adjectives always obey CCA while postnominal ones half of the time (in contemporary French). In (a), the determiner can be singular (CCA) or plural (resolution), while in (b), CCA (feminine Det) is obligatory. In (c), the postnominal adjective can be masculine (resolution) or feminine (CCA), with the same meaning.

- (52) a. Votre/ Vos nom et prénom  
your.SG/PL name.MSG and first name.MSG  
'your name and first name'  
(An & Abeillé 2017)

- b. Certaines / \*Certains régions et départements  
certain.FPL/\*MPL region.FPL and department.MPL  
'certain regions and departments'  
(Abeillé et al. 2018)
- c. Des départements et régions importants/importantes  
some department.MPL and region.FPL important.MPL/FPL  
'some important departments and regions'

As proposed by Wechsler & Zlatic (2003), HPSG distinguishes two agreement features: CONCORD is used for morphosyntactic agreement and INDEX is used for semantic agreement (see Wechsler (2019), Chapter 6 of this volume). Moosally (1999) proposes an account of single conjunct predicate-argument agreement in Ndebele, which she analyses as INDEX agreement. She has a version of the following constraint that shares the Index value of the (nominal) coordination with that of the last conjunct:

$$(53) \quad nom\text{-}coord\text{-}phrase \rightarrow \left[ \begin{array}{c} \text{INDEX } \boxed{1} \\ \text{DTRS } \langle [\ ] , \dots , [\text{INDEX } \boxed{1}] \rangle \end{array} \right]$$

But in other languages, such as Welsh, there is evidence that the INDEX of the coordinate structure is resolved, even though predicate-argument agreement is controlled by the closest conjunct.

- (54) Dw i a Gwenllian heb gael ein talu.  
be.1SG I and Gwenllian.3SG without get Cl.1PL pay  
'Gwenllian and I have not been paid'  
(Sadler 2003, 12)

This is why (Borsley 2009) proposes that CCA is superficial in Welsh and uses linearization domain to handle partial agreement (between the initial verb and the first conjunct, which are not sisters). On the other hand, determiner and (attributive) adjective agreement in Romance involves the CONCORD feature. (Villavicencio et al. 2005) propose two additional features: LAGR (for the left most conjunct) and RAGR (for the right most conjunct). Nouns have the same value for CONCORD, LAGR and RAGR.

$$(55) \quad nom\text{-}coord\text{-}ph \rightarrow \left[ \begin{array}{c} \text{HEAD } \left[ \begin{array}{c} \text{LAGR } \boxed{1} \\ \text{RAGR } \boxed{2} \end{array} \right] \\ \text{DTRS } \langle [\text{LAGR } \boxed{1}] , \dots , [\text{RAGR } \boxed{2}] \rangle \end{array} \right]$$

$$(56) \quad noun \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} \text{LAGR} & \boxed{1} \\ \text{RAGR} & \boxed{1} \\ \text{CONCORD} & \boxed{1} \end{bmatrix}$$

Attributive adjectives constrain the agreement features of the noun they modify (via the MOD feature). One may distinguish two types for prenominal and postnominal adjectives, by the binary LEX ± feature (Sadler & Arnold 1994) or by the WEIGHT light/non-light feature (Abeillé & Godard 1999). In this perspective, each has its agreement pattern, which we simplify as follows, using ‘∨’ to express a disjunction of feature values:

$$(57) \quad prenominal-adj \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} \text{CONCORD } \boxed{1} \\ \text{SEL} & \begin{bmatrix} \text{LAGR } \boxed{1} \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$(58) \quad postnominal-adj \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} \text{CONCORD } \boxed{1} \vee \boxed{2} \\ \text{SEL} & \begin{bmatrix} \text{CONCORD } \boxed{1} \\ \text{RAGR } \boxed{2} \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix}$$

In the absence of coordination, these constraints apply vacuously, since CONCORD, LAGR and RAGR all share the same values. If CCA needs to take place to the right and to the left, it is difficult to handle in Minimalism which views agreement as a directional operation between a target (with uninterpretable features) and a c-commanded probe (with interpretable features).

## 5 Lexical coordination

While conjuncts have often been assumed to be phrasal (see for example Kayne (1994) and Bruening (2018) a.o.), Abeillé (2006) gives several arguments in favor of lexical coordination. In some contexts, words are allowed but not full phrases. In English, it is the case with prenominal adjectives and postverbal particles. See Abeillé (2006) for similar examples with various categories in different languages. Most English attributive adjectives are prenominal unless they have a complement. Although the prenominal position is not allowed for full AP, it is possible for coordinate adjectives.

- (59) a. A tall / proud man
- b. \* A [taller than you] man
- c. \* A [proud of his work] man
- d. A [big and tall] man

As observed by Pollard & Sag (1987), a particle may project a PP after the nominal complement, but not before; but coordination is possible, at least for some speakers.

- (60) a. Paul turned (\*completely) off the radio.  
b. Paul turned the radio (completely) off.  
c. Paul was turning [on and off] the radio all the time.

While phrasal coordination can conjoin unlike categories (see below), it is not the case with lexical coordination:

- (61) a. Paul is [head of the school] [and proud of it].  
b. # Paul is [head and proud] of the school.

Semantically, lexical coordination is more constrained than phrasal coordination. With *and*, two lexical verbs, sharing a preverbal clitic in French, must share the same verbal root, and in Spanish, they must refer to the same event (Bosque 1986).

- (62) a. Je te [dis et redis] que tu as tort.  
I you tell and retell that you have wrong  
'I'm telling you that you are wrong'  
b. # Je te [dis et promets] que tu as tort.  
I you tell and promise that you have wrong  
'I'm telling and promising you that you are wrong'  
c. Lo [compro y vendio] en una sola operacion.  
It buy.1SG and sell.1SG in a single operation  
'I buy and sell it in one single operation'  
d. \*Lo compro hoy y vendio mañana.  
It buy.1SG today and sell.1SG tomorrow  
'I buy it today and sell it tomorrow'

Some apparent cases of lexical coordination may be analyzed as Right-Node Raising (Beavers & Sag 2004). They differ semantically and prosodically, however: with typical Right-Node Raising, the two conjuncts must stand in contrast to one another, and do not have to refer to the same event. With Right-Node Raising there must be a prosodic boundary at the ellipsis site (see Chaves (2014) and Nykiel & Kim (2019), Chapter 20 of this volume). In French, the first conjunct cannot end with a clitic article or with a weak preposition as in (63b,c),

- (63) a. Tout le monde dit et je te promets [que tu as tort].  
          ‘everyone says and I promise you [that you are wrong]’
- b. \* Paul cherche le, et Marie connaît la responsable.  
          ‘Paul looks for the.MSG and Marie knows the.FSG responsible’
- c. \* Paul parle de, et Marie discute avec Woody Allen.  
          ‘Paul speaks of and Marie talks with Woody Allen’

No such boundary occurs before the conjunction in lexical coordination. Thus, in French, clitic articles or weak prepositions can be conjoined, with a shared argument (Abeillé 2006):

- (64) a. Paul cherche [le ou la] responsable  
          Paul looks for the.MSG or the.FSG responsible  
          ‘Paul is looking for the man or woman in charge’
- b. Un film [de et avec] Woody Allen  
          a film by and with Woody Allen
- c. ?? un film [de mais sans] Woody Allen  
          a film by but without Woody Allen

Not all conjunctions are felicitous with lexical coordination; *but*, for example is less felicitous than *and* or *or*. Analyzing the conjunction as a ‘weak’ head (see above), the sub-type for lexical coordination has to allow for the coordination of items waiting for complements: the conjunction (this is done by concatenation of ARG-ST lists as it is for complex predicates, see Godard & Samvelian (2019), Chapter 12 of this volume). It thus inherits all the dependents of the word it combines with.

$$(65) \quad lex-coord \rightarrow \begin{cases} \text{HEAD } \boxed{0} \\ \text{WEIGHT } \boxed{3} light \\ \text{ARG-ST } \boxed{1} \oplus \left( \begin{cases} \text{HEAD } \boxed{0} \\ \text{WEIGHT } \boxed{3} \\ \text{ARG-ST } \boxed{1} \oplus \boxed{2} \end{cases} \right) \oplus \boxed{2} \end{cases}$$

The construct resulting from the coordination of lexical elements has hybrid properties: as a syntactic construct, it must be a phrase, but it also behaves as a word: coordinate verbs behave as lexical heads, coordinate adjectives may occur in positions ruled out for phrases. To overcome this apparent paradox, Abeillé (2006) analyses it as an instance of “light” phrase, following the WEIGHT theory of Abeillé & Goodard (2000) and Abeillé & Goodard (2004). Light elements can

be words or phrases, and can have a restricted mobility (see Müller (2019), Chapter 10 of this volume). For example prenominal modifiers can be constrained to be [WEIGHT light]. In this theory, light phrases can be coordinate phrases or head-adjunct phrases, provided all their daughters are light as Figure 10 illustrates.

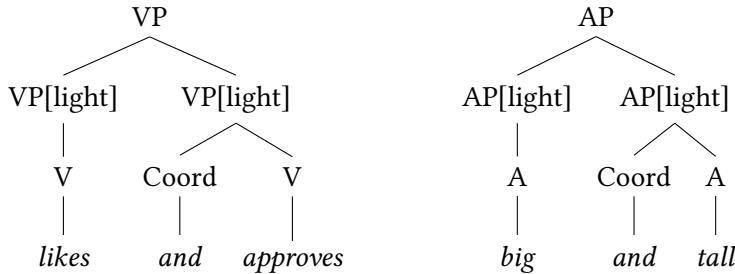


Figure 10: Examples of lexical coordination

## 6 Coordination of unlike categories

The coordination construction in (11) requires that the categories being coordinated are the same. However, there is some evidence that this requirement is excessive. Consider the coordinations in (66), from Gazdar et al. (1985), Bayer (1996), Huddleston et al. (2002b), among others. Such data pose a classic syntactic problem: what is the part of speech and categorial status of the bracketed constituents?

- (66)    a. Kim is [alone and without money].  
              [AP & PP]
- b. Pat is [a Republican and proud of it].  
              [NP & AP]
- c. Jack is [a good cook and always improving].  
              [NP & VP]
- d. What I would love is [a trip to Fiji and to win \$10,000].  
              [NP & VP]
- e. That was [a rude remark and in very bad taste].  
              [NP & PP]
- f. Chimpanzees hunt [frequently and with an unusual degree of success].  
              [AdvP & PP]

- g. I'm planning [a four-month trip to Africa and to return to York afterwards].  
 [NP & VP]

As Jacobson (1987) pointed out, it is clear that the features of the mother are not simply the intersection of the features of the conjuncts. Verbs like *remain* are compatible with both AdjP and NP complements whereas *grew* is only compatible with AdjPs. This is shown in (67). Crucially, however, the information associated with the phrase *wealthy and a Republican* somehow allows *grew* to detect the presence of the nominal, as (68a) illustrates, even when the verbs are coordinated, as in (68b–d)

- (67) a. Kim remained/grew wealthy.  
 b. Kim remained/\*grew a Republican.
- (68) a. Kim remained/\*grew [wealthy and a Republican].  
 b. Kim grew and remained wealthy.  
 c. \* Kim grew and remained a Republican.  
 d. \* Kim grew and remained [wealthy and a Republican].

A number of influential accounts in Type-logical grammar (Morrill 1990; 1994; Bayer 1996) have used one of the rules of inference from propositional calculus in order to deal with coordination of unlikes phenomena, namely, disjunction introduction (or addition): from  $P$  one can infer  $P \vee Q$ . Thus, by assuming that categories like NP, PP and so on can also be disjunctive, the grammar allows an expression of type ‘NP’ to lead a double life as an ‘ $\text{NP} \vee \text{PP}$ ’ expression, or the type ‘AP’ to be taken as an ‘ $\text{AP} \vee \text{PP} \vee \text{NP}$ ’ and so on. This kind of approach has been adopted in various forms into HPSG, see for example Daniels (2002) and Yatabe (2004). Related work aims to achieve the same result using type-underspecification, such as Sag (2002). Other, more exploratory work, views coordination of unlike categories as the result of parts-of-speech being gradient and phenomenal rather than hard-coded into the type signature (Chaves 2013). In the latter work, all coordination of unlikes boils down to coordination of like categories.

Other work, like Crysmann (2000), Yatabe (2002b), Beavers & Sag (2004), Chaves (2006) argue that coordination of unlikes can be explained by a deletion operation that omits the left periphery of non-initial conjuncts, illustrated in (69).

- (69) a. Tom gave a book to Mary, and gave a magazine to Sue.

- b. He drinks coffee with milk at breakfast and ~~drinks coffee with~~ cream in the evening.  
(Hudson 1984)
- c. There was one fatality yesterday, and there were two others on the day before.  
(Chaves 2007: 339).
- d. I see the music as both going backward and going forward.  
[<http://pdxjazz.com/dave-holland>; 20 December 2010]

In such a view, (66) are verbal coordinations where the verb (or the verb and the subject) has been deleted (e.g. *Kim is alone and is without money*). The problem is that left-periphery ellipsis cannot fully explain coordination of unlikes phenomena. For example, there is no elliptical analysis of data like (70). Levine (2011) offers arguments against the coercion account of Chaves (2006), and against the existence of left-periphery ellipsis. See Yatabe (2012) for a reply.

- (70)    a. Simultaneously shocked and in awe, Fred couldn't believe his eyes.  
      b. Both tired and in a foul mood, Bob packed his gear and headed North.  
            (Chaves 2006)  
      c. Both poor and a Republican, *no one* can possibly be.  
      d. Dead drunk and yet in complete control of the situation, *no one* can be.  
            (Levine 2011)

Further problems for an ellipsis account of coordination of unlikes phenomena are posed by the position of the correlative coordinators *both*, *either* and *neither* in (71).

- (71)    a. Isn't this both illegal and a safety hazard?  
      b. It's both odd and in very poor taste to have a fake wedding.  
      c. Who's neither tired nor in a hurry?  
      d. Isn't she either drunk or on medication?

If (71a) is an elliptical coordination like *isn't this both illegal and isn't this a safety hazard*, then the location of *both* is unexpected. Instead of occurring before the first conjunct, it is realized inside the first conjunct. Crucially, the non-elided counterparts are not grammatical, e.g. \**isn't this both illegal and isn't this a safety hazard*? The same issue is raised by (71b,c). In an elliptical account one would

have to stipulate that *both* can only float in the presence of ellipsis, which is unmotivated. Finally, see [Mouret \(2007\)](#) for an extensive discussion in favor of a non elliptical analysis of unlike coordination, based on correlative coordination. In sum, left-periphery ellipsis does not offer a complete account of coordination of unlikes, and underspecification accounts are more promising.

## 7 Non-constituent Coordination

The fact that not all coordination of unlike categories can be reduced to deletion does not entail that deletion is impossible, or that no phenomena involve deletion. Consider for example the constructions in (72), all of which involve non-canonical (i.e. non-constituent) coordination, some of which were already discussed above. We refer the reader to [Nykiel & Kim \(2019\)](#), Chapter 20 of this volume for more discussion about other types of ellipsis.

- (72) a. Tom gave a book to Mary, and a magazine to Sue.  
(Argument Cluster Coordination)
- b. Tom loves – and Mary absolutely hates – spinach dip.  
(Right-Node Raising)
- c. Tom knows how to cook pizza, and Fred – spaghetti.  
(Gapping)

Some authors regard Argument Cluster Coordination as elliptical ([Yatabe 2001](#); [Crysman 2004](#); [Beavers & Sag 2004](#)) others regard such phenomena as base-generated ([Mouret 2006a](#)). In the former, phonological material in the left periphery of the non-initial conjunct that is identical to phonological material in the left periphery of the initial conjunct is allowed to be not present in the mother node. This can be achieved by adding the constraints in (73) to the coordination construction, here shown in the binary-branching format, for perspicuity. Some accounts operate directly on PHON, others apply to DOM elements instead. See [Müller \(2019\)](#), Chapter 10 of this volume.

$$(73) \quad coord-phr \Rightarrow \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{PHON } [1 \oplus 2 \oplus 3] \\ \text{DTRS } \left( \left[ \text{PHON } [1 \oplus 2]_{ne-list} \right], \left[ \text{PHON } [1 \oplus 3]_{ne-list} \right] \right) \end{array} \right]$$

If  $[1]$  is resolved as the empty list then no ellipsis occurs, but if  $[1]$  is non-empty then ellipsis occurs, as illustrated in Figure 11. In other formulations, what is elided are morphophonological linearization domain units; see [Chaves \(2008\)](#).

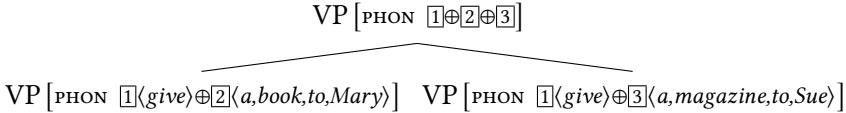


Figure 11: Analysis of ‘*give a book to Mary and give a magazine to Sue*’

This approach is motivated by the existence of ambiguity in sentences like (74), from Beavers & Sag (2004) and Chaves (2006). Because (74a) involves a one-time predicate, the ellipsis must include the subject phrase, otherwise the interpretation is such that the same two trees are cut down twice. In contrast, (74b) does not involve a one-time predicate, and thus is it possible for the ellipsis to simply involve the verb.

- (74) a. Two trees were cut down by Robin in July and by Alex in September.  
 (Two trees were cut down by Robin in July and ~~two trees were cut down~~ by Alex in September.)
- b. Two trees were photographed by Robin in July and by Alex in September.  
 (Two trees were photographed by Robin in July and ~~photographed by~~ Alex in September)

In the non-elliptical analysis of such data, the missing material is recovered from the preceding conjunct. For example, Mouret proposes a rule along the lines of (7). Here, a new head feature CLUSTER is introduced, which takes as its value the list of synsem description of the daughters.

$$(75) \quad ac\text{-}cx \Rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} \text{HEAD } [\text{CLUSTER } \langle [1] \dots [n] \rangle] \\ \text{DTRS } \langle [\text{SYNSEM } 1], \dots, [\text{SYNSEM } n] \rangle \end{bmatrix}$$

Mouret defines argument-clusters as instances of some underspecified non-headed construction *ac-cx* with one daughter or more. The construction is valence saturated. He also postulates a lexical rule that allow a ditransitive verb to take a CLUSTER as complement (this rule will also allow clusters for complements and adjuncts, assuming the latter are included in the COMPS list).

$$(76) \quad [\text{COMPS } \langle [\text{CAT } 1] \dots [\text{CAT } n] \rangle] \Rightarrow \left[ \text{COMPS } \left\langle \begin{array}{c} \text{COORD } + \\ \text{CLUSTER } \langle [\text{CAT } 1] \dots [\text{CAT } n] \rangle \end{array} \right\rangle \right]$$

This approach is motivated by non clausal conjunctions (*as well as*, *ainsi que*), which are possible in Argument Cluster Coordination, but cannot conjoin tensed VPs:

- (77) a. John gave a book to Mary as well as a magazine to Sue.
- b. \*John gave a book to Mary as well as gave a magazine to Sue.
- c. Paul offrira un disque à Marie ainsi qu'un livre à Jean.  
‘Paul will.offer a record to Mary as well as a book to Jean’  
(Abeillé & Goodard 1996)

Another argument is the placement of correlative conjunctions: the first conjunction in (a) must be postverbal; this shows that Argument Cluster Coordination does not include the first verb. The examples below are from Mouret (2006b: 254).

- (78) a. Jean a donné et un livre à Marie et un magazine à Sue.  
‘Jean has given both a book to Marie and a magazine to Sue’
- b. Paul compte offrir et un disque à Marie et un livre à Jean.  
Paul is.planning.to offer and a record to Marie and a book to Jean
- c. \*Paul compte et offrir un disque à Marie et un livre à Jean.  
‘Jean is.planning and to.offer a record to Marie and a book to Jean’

Another argument is negation placement, which is a case of constituent negation (Mouret 2006b: 253):

- (79) a. Paul offrira un disque à Marie et (non) pas un livre à Jean.  
‘Paul will offer a record to Marie and not a book to Jean’
- b. Paul gave a record to Mary and not a book to Bill.
- c. \*Paul gave a record to Mary and not gave a book to Bill.

A syntactic and non-elliptical account of Right-Node Raising is harder to maintain given that this phenomenon does not seem to be sensitive to syntactic structure as (80) shows. See Bresnan (1974), Wexler & Culicover (1980: 299), Grosu (1981: 45), and McCawley (1982), and Sabbagh (2007: 382,ft.30) for more data and discussion.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>7</sup>Steedman (1985; 1990; 2001) and Dowty (1988: 183) claim that Right-Node Raising is bounded, nonetheless. For example, Dowty (1988) argues that \**an idea that, and a robot which [can solve this problem]* is evidence for islands in RNR. But as Phillips (1996: 95) points out, this oddness is explained by semantic factors: it is impossible to semantically contrast *that* (which

- (80) a. I know a man who SELLS and you know a person who BUYS [pictures of Elvis Presley].  
b. John wonders when Bob Dylan WROTE and Mary wants to know when he RECORDED [his great song about the death of Emmet Till].  
c. Politicians WIN WHEN THEY DEFEND and LOSE WHEN THEY ATTACK [the right of a woman to an abortion].  
d. Lucy CLAIMED that – but COULDN'T SAY exactly when – [the strike would take place].  
e. I found a box IN which and Andrea found a blanket UNDER which [a cat could sleep peacefully for hours without being noticed].

Another source of evidence against syntactic and non-elliptical accounts of Right-Node Raising comes is that this phenomenon can involve lexical structure, as (81) illustrates

- (81) a. Please list all publications of which you were the SOLE or co-[author].  
*(Huddleston et al. 2002b: 1325, ft. 44).*  
b. It is neither UN- nor OVERLY [patriotic] to tread that path.  
c. The EX- or CURRENT [smokers] had a higher blood pressure.  
*(Chaves 2008)*  
d. The NEURO- and COGNITIVE [sciences] are presently in a state of rapid development (...) [opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/2011/12/25/the-future-of-moral-machines/?hp]  
e. Are you talking about A NEW or about AN EX-[boyfriend]?

Elliptical accounts of Right-Node Raising are proposed by Beavers & Sag (2004), Yatabe (2004), Chaves (2014) and others. The rule in (82) illustrates the account adopted by Chaves (2014) and Shiraishi et al. (2019) in simplified format.<sup>8</sup> In a nutshell, the M(ORPHO-)P(HONOLOGY) feature introduces two list-valued features, namely PHON(OLOGY) and L(EXICAL-)ID(ENTIFIER). The former encodes phonological content, including phonological phrasing information, whereas the latter is used to individuate lexical items semantically (i.e. the value of LID is a list of semantic frames that canonically specify the meaning of a lexeme).

is semantically vacuous) with *which*. Steedman (2001: 17) argues that RNR exhibits islands effects by claiming that *I hope that I will meet the woman WHO WROTE and you expect to interview the consortium THAT PUBLISHED [that novel about the secret life of legumes]* is ungrammatical. In our experience, informants do not systematically share this judgment.

<sup>8</sup>See Chaves (2014) for more details about how ‘cumulative’ Right-Node Raising is modeled by this rule, i.e. cases like *Mia lost – and Fred spent – (a total of) \$10.000*.

$$(82) \quad rpe-cx \Rightarrow \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{PHON } [L_1 \oplus R_1 \oplus R_2 \oplus R_3] \\ \text{SYNSEM } [0] \\ \\ \text{DTRS } \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{MP } [L_1 \oplus L_2 \left( \begin{array}{l} \text{PHON } [p_1] \\ \text{LID } [1] \end{array} \right), \dots, \begin{array}{l} \text{PHON } [p_n] \\ \text{LID } [n] \end{array} \right) \oplus \\ \quad [R_1 \oplus R_2 \left( \begin{array}{l} \text{PHON } [p_1] \\ \text{LID } [1] \end{array} \right), \dots, \begin{array}{l} \text{PHON } [p_n] \\ \text{LID } [n] \end{array} \right) \oplus [R_3] \\ \text{SYNSEM } [0] \end{array} \right\} \end{array} \right]$$

Requiring PHON identity ensures that the Right-Node Raising construction only targets strings that are phonologically independent, and have the same surface form, ruling out (83). Stressed pronouns, affixes that correspond to independent prosodic words, and compound parts can be RN Raised because they are independent prosodic units in their local domains. See [Swingle \(1995\)](#) for more discussion.

- (83) a. He tried TO PERSUADE but he couldn't CONVINCE [THEM] / \*[them].  
     \* I think that I'D and I know that PAT'LL [buy those portraits of Elvis].  
     \* They've always WANTED a – and so I've GIVEN THEM a – [coffee grinder]■  
     \* I bought EVERY RED and Jo liked SOME BLUE [t-shirt].

Conversely, LID identity prevents homophonous strings that have fundamentally different semantics from being Right-Node Raised, as in (84). In such cases, oddness arises because in general the same phrase cannot simultaneously have two meanings, except in puns ([Zaenen & Karttunen 1984](#): 316).

- (84) a. \* Randy SAW and Rene has BEEN [flying planes].  
     b. \* Jo WILL and Sandy BUILT THE [drive].  
         ([Milward 1994](#))  
     c. \* Mary FED and Tom ENJOYED [the lamb].  
         (adapted from [Buitelaar \(1998: 64\)](#))  
     d. \* Robin SWUNG and Leslie TAMED [an unusual bat].  
         ([Levine & Hukari 2006: 156](#))  
     e. \* We need new BLACK- and FLOOR[boards].  
         ([Artstein 2005](#))  
     f. \* We caught BUTTER- and FIRE[flies].  
         ([Chaves 2008](#))  
     g. \* There stood a ONE- and WELL-[armed man].  
         ([Chaves 2014](#))

At the same time, LID identity does not go as far as requiring co-referentiality of the shared material. This is as intended given ambiguous examples like *Chris LIKES and Bill LOVES [his bike]*. The account of Right-Node Rasing is illustrated below.

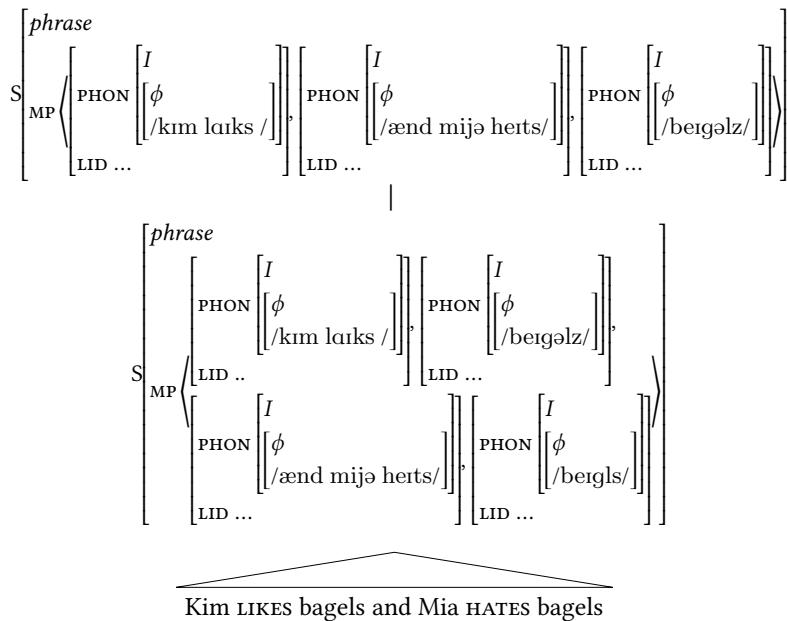


Figure 12: Analysis of *Kim likes, and Mia hates, bagels*

Note that this is a unary-branching rule, which means that it can in principle apply to any phrasal node, which allows the account to scale to non-coordinate RNR:

- (85)    a. It's interesting to compare the people who **LIKE** with the people who **DISLIKE** [the power of the big unions].  
 (Hudson 1976: 550)
- b. Anyone who **MEETS** really comes to **LIKE** [our sales people].  
 (adapted from Williams (1990))
- c. Spies who learn **WHEN** can be more valuable than those able to learn **WHERE** [major troop movements are going to occur].
- d. Politicians who fought **FOR** may well snub those who have fought **AGAINST** [chimpanzee rights].  
 (Postal 1994)

- e. Those who voted AGAINST far outnumbered those who voted FOR [my father's motion].  
(Huddleston et al. 2002b: 1344)
- f. If there are people who OPPOSE then maybe there are also some people who actually SUPPORT [the hiring of unqualified workers].  
(Chaves 2014)

In the example in Figure 12 the sub-list  $\boxed{R_3}$  is resolved as the empty list, but this need not be so. When the latter sublist is not resolved as the empty we obtain discontinuous Right-Node Raising cases like (86), where the RN<sub>Raised</sub> expression is followed by extra material.

- (86) a. The blast UPENDED and NEARLY SLICED [an armored Chevrolet Suburban] in half.  
 b. During the War of 1982, American troops OCCUPIED and BURNED [the town] to the ground.  
 c. Please move from the exit rows if you are UNWILLING or UNABLE [to perform the necessary actions] without injury.  
 d. The troops that OCCUPIED ended up BURNING [the town] to the ground.

Finally, let us now turn our attention to Gapping, as in *Robin likes Sam and Tim – Sue*. There are elliptical accounts of Gapping (Chaves 2006) as well as direct-interpretation accounts where the missing material is recovered from the preceding linguistic context (Mouret 2006a; Mouret 2006b; Abeillé et al. 2014; Park 2019); See Nykiel & Kim (2019), Chapter 20 of this volume. The latter is illustrated in Figure 13, in simplified format. Basically, the Question Under Discussion (QUD) of the first clause is  $\lambda y. \lambda x. \exists e(like(x, y))$  which is information that shared across the clausal daughters as ①. This allows the second conjunct to combine the two NPs with the verbal semantics, and recover the propositional meaning.

Like RNR, Gapping is not restricted to coordinate structures as (87) illustrates, and so the rule that derives REF is not specific to coordination. Thus, the rule that allows a gapped clause to follow a non-gapped clause is not specific to coordination. See Park (2019) for more details and discussion.

- (87) a. Robin speaks French better than Leslie – German.  
 b. My purpose here is not to resolve the crucial disagreement between two prominent theoreticians in a way that one would be declared true while the other one – false.

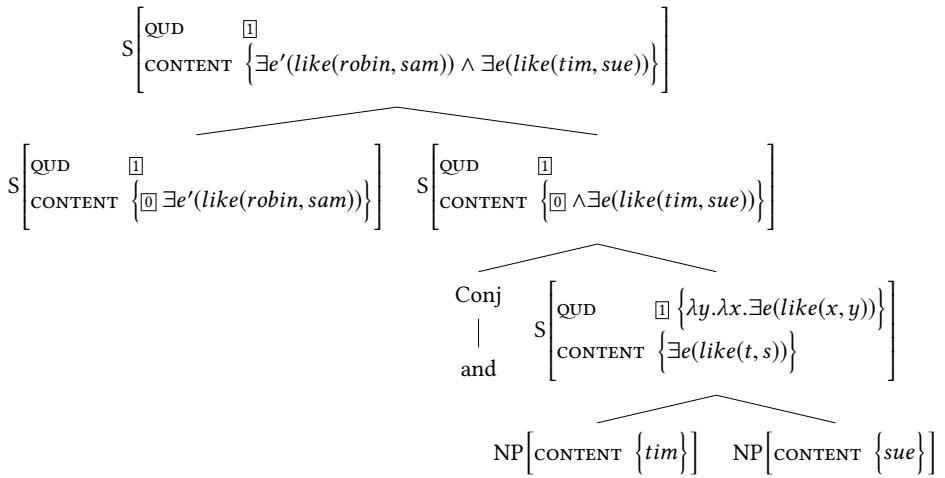


Figure 13: Analysis of *Robin likes Sam and Tim – Sue* (abbreviated)

- c. The keynote of their relationship was set when Victoria, already a reigning queen, had to propose to Albert, rather than he – to her.
  - d. The public remembers all that and usually recognizes us before we – them.
- (Park 2019: §2)

## 8 Conclusion

Coordination is a pervasive phenomenon in all natural languages. Despite intensive research in the last 70 years, its empirical properties continue to challenge most linguistic theories : the coordination lexemes play a crucial role but do not behave like usual syntactic heads, the conjuncts do not need to be identical but display some parallelism relations and can be in unlimited number, some non constituent sequences can be coordinated, peculiar ellipsis phenomena can optionally occur, etc. We have shown how HPSG offer precise detailed analyses of various coordinate constructions for a wide variety of languages, factoring out the common properties shared by other constructions and the properties specific to coordination.

Central to the HPSG analyses are two main ideas : (i) coordination structures are non-headed phrases and come with different subtypes ; (ii) the parallelism between coordinate daughters is captured by feature sharing ; from these ideas,

specific properties can be derived, regarding extraction and agreement for instance. Nevertheless, there is no clear consensus about some remaining issues. In some accounts, the coordinator is a weak head, whereas in others it is a marker. Coordinate structures are binary branching in some accounts but not so in others. Agreement is always local (with the whole coordinate phrase) in some account, whereas locality is abandoned by others to account for Closest Conjunct agreement. Finally, in some accounts non-constituent co-ordination involves some form of deletion, but in others no deletion operation is assumed.

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# Chapter 18

## Idioms

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This chapter first sketches basic empirical properties of idioms. The state of the art before the emergence of HPSG is presented, followed by a discussion of four types of HPSG approaches to idioms. A section on future research closes the discussion.

### 1 Introduction

In this chapter, I will use the term *idiom* interchangeably with the broader terms such as *phraseme*, *phraseologism*, *phraseological unit*, or *multiword expression*. This means, that I will subsume under this notion expressions such as prototypical idioms (*kick the bucket* ‘die’), support verb constructions (*take advantage*), formulaic expressions (*Good morning!*), and many more.<sup>1</sup> The main focus of the discussion will, however, be on prototypical idioms, as these have been in the center of the theoretical development.

I will sketch some empirical aspects of idioms in Section 2. In Section 3, I will present the theoretical context within which idiom analyses arose in HPSG. An overview of the development within HPSG will be given in Section 4. Desiderata for future research are mentioned in Section 5, before I close with a short conclusion.

### 2 Empirical domain

In the context of the present handbook, the most useful characterization of idioms might be the definition of *multiword expression* from Baldwin & Kim (2010).

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<sup>1</sup>I will provide a paraphrase for all idioms at their first mention. They are also listed in the appendix, together with their paraphrase and a remark on which aspects of the idiom are discussed in the text.



For them, any combination of words counts as a multiword expression if it is syntactically complex and shows some degree of *idiomaticity* (i.e., irregularity), be it lexical, syntactic, semantic, pragmatic, or statistical.<sup>2</sup> I speak of a “combination of words” in the sense of a *substantive* or *lexically filled idiom*, which contrasts with *formal* or *lexically open idioms* (Fillmore et al. 1988).

Baldwin & Kim’s criteria can help us structure the data presentation in this section, expanding them where it seems suitable. My expansions concern the aspect known as *fixedness* in the phraseological tradition as in Fleischer (1997).<sup>3</sup>

For Baldwin & Kim (2010), *lexical idiosyncrasy* concerns expressions with words that only occur in an idiom, so-called *phraseologically bound words*, or *cranberry words* (Aronoff 1976). Examples include *make headway* ‘make progress’, *take umbrage* ‘take offence’, *in a trice* ‘in a moment/very quickly’.<sup>4</sup> For such expressions, the grammar has to make sure that the bound word does not occur outside the idiom, i.e., we need to prevent combinations such as (1b).<sup>5</sup>

- (1) a. They fixed the problem in a trice.  
b. \* It just took them a trice to fix the problem.

We can expand this type of idiosyncrasy to include a second important property of idioms. Most idioms have a fixed inventory of words. In their summary of this aspect of idioms, Gibbs & Colston (2007: 827–828) include the following examples: *kick the bucket* means ‘die’, but *kick the pail*, *punt the bucket*, or *punt the pail* do not have this meaning. However, some degree of lexical variation seems to be allowed, as the idiom *break the ice* ‘relieve tension in a strained situation’ can be varied into *shatter the ice*.<sup>6</sup> So, a challenge for idiom theories is to

<sup>2</sup>In the phraseological tradition, the aspect of *lexicalization* is added (Fleischer 1997; Burger 1998). This means that an expression is stored in the lexicon. This criterion might have the same coverage as *conventionalization* used in Nunberg et al. (1994). These criteria are addressing the mental representation of idioms as a unit and are, thus, rather psycholinguistic in nature.

<sup>3</sup>Baldwin & Kim (2010) describe idioms in terms of syntactic fixedness, but they seem to consider fixedness a derived notion.

<sup>4</sup>See <https://www.english-linguistics.de/codii/>, accessed 2019-09-03, for a list of bound words in English and German (Trawiński et al. 2008).

<sup>5</sup>Tom Wasow (p.c.) points out that there are attested uses of many alleged bound words outside their canonical idiom, as in (i). Such uses are, however, rare and restricted.

- (i) Not a trice later, the sounds of gunplay were to be heard echoing from Bad Man’s Rock. (COCA)

<sup>6</sup>While Gibbs & Colston (2007), following Gibbs et al. (1989), present this example as a lexical variation, Glucksberg (2001: 85), from which it is taken, characterizes it as having a somewhat

guarantee that the right lexical elements are used in the right constellation.

*Syntactic idiomticity* is used in Baldwin & Kim (2010) to describe expressions that are not formed according to the productive rules of English syntax, following Fillmore et al. (1988), such as *by and large* ‘on the whole/everything considered’, *trip the light fantastic* ‘dance’.

In my expanded use of this notion, this also subsumes irregularities/restrictions in the syntactic flexibility of an idiom, i.e., the question whether an idiom can occur in the same syntactic constructions as an analogous non-idiomatic combination. In Transformational Grammar, such as Weinreich (1969) and Fraser (1970), lists of different syntactic transformations were compiled and it was observed that some idioms allow for certain transformations but not for others. This method has been pursued systematically in the framework of *Lexicon-Grammar* (Gross 1982).<sup>7</sup> Sag et al. (2002) distinguish three levels of fixedness: *fixed*, *semi-fixed*, and *flexible*. Completely fixed idioms include *of course*, *ad hoc* and are often called *words with spaces*. Semi-fixed idioms allow for morphosyntactic variation such as inflection. These include some prototypical idioms (*trip the light fantastic*, *kick the bucket*) and complex proper names. In English, semi-flexible idioms show inflection, but cannot easily be passivized, nor do they allow for parts of the idiom being topicalized, see (2).

- (2) a. Alex kicked / might kick the bucket.
- b. \* The bucket was kicked by Alex.
- c. \* The bucket, Alex kicked.

Flexible idioms pattern with free combinations. For them, we do not only find inflection, but also passivization, topicalization, pronominalization of parts, etc. Free combinations include some prototypical idioms (*spill the beans* ‘reveal a secret’, *pull strings* ‘exert influence/use one’s connections’), but also collocations (*brush one’s teeth*) and light verbs (*make a mistake*).

The assumption of two flexibility classes is not uncontroversial: Horn (2003) distinguishes two types among what Sag et al. (2002) consider flexible idioms. Fraser (1970) assumes six flexibility classes, looking at a wide range of syntactic operations. Ruwet (1991) takes issue with the cross-linguistic applicability of the

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different aspect of an “abrupt change in the social climate”. Clear cases of synonymy under lexical substitution are found with German *wie warme Semmeln/Brötchen/Schrippen weggehen* (lit.: like warm rolls vanish) ‘sell like hotcakes’ in which some regional terms for rolls can be used in the idiom.

<sup>7</sup>See Laporte (2018) for a recent discussion of applying this method for a classification of idioms.

classification of syntactic operations. Similarly, Schenck (1995) claims that for languages such as Dutch and German, automatic/meaningless syntactic processes other than just inflection are possible for semi-fixed idioms, such as verb-second movement and some types of fronting.

The analytic challenge of syntactic idiomaticity is to capture the difference in flexibility in a non-ad hoc way. It is this aspect of idioms that has received particular attention in Mainstream Generative Grammar (MGG),<sup>8,9</sup> but also in the HPSG approaches sketched in Section 4.

*Semantic idiomaticity* may sound pleonastic, as, traditionally, an expression is called idiomatic if it has a conventional meaning that is different from its literal meaning. Since I use the terms idiom and idiomticity in their broad senses of phraseological unit and irregularity, respectively, the qualification *semantic idiom(aticity)* is needed.

One challenge of the modelling of idioms is capturing the relation between the literal and the idiomatic meaning of an expression. Gibbs & Colston (2007) give an overview of psycholinguistic research on idioms. Whereas it was first assumed that speakers would compute the literal meaning of an expression and then derive the idiomatic meaning, evidence has been accumulated that the idiomatic meaning is accessed directly.

Wasow et al. (1984) and Nunberg et al. (1994) explore various semantic relations for idioms, in particular *decomposability* and *transparency*. An idiom is *decomposable* if its idiomatic meaning can be distributed over its component parts in such a way that we would arrive at the idiomatic meaning of the overall expression if we interpreted the syntactic structure on the basis of such a meaning assignment. The idiomatic meaning of the expression *pull strings* can be decomposed by interpreting *pull* as *exploit/use* and *strings* as *connections*. The expressions *kick the bucket* and *saw logs* ‘snore’ are not decomposable.

An idiom is *transparent* if there is a synchronically accessible relation between the literal and the idiomatic meaning of an idiom. For some speakers, *saw logs* is transparent in this sense, as the noise produced by this activity is similar to a snoring noise. For *pull strings*, there is an analogy to a puppeteer controlling the puppets’ behavior by pulling strings. A non-transparent idiom is called *opaque*.

Some idioms do not show semantic idiomaticity at all, such as collocations (*brush one’s teeth*) or support verb constructions (*take a shower*). Many body-part expressions such as *shake hands* ‘greet’ or *shake one’s head* ‘decline/negate’

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<sup>8</sup>I follow Culicover & Jackendoff (2005: 3) in using the term *Mainstream Generative Grammar* to refer to work in Minimalism and the earlier Government & Binding framework.

<sup>9</sup>See the references in Corver et al. (2019) for a brief up-to-date overview of MGG work.

constitute a more complex case: They describe a conventionalized activity and denote the social meaning of this activity.<sup>10</sup>

In addition, we might need to assume a *figurative* interpretation. For some expressions, in particular proverbs or cases like *take the bull by the horns* ‘approach a problem directly’) we might get a figurative reading rather than an idiomatic reading. Glucksberg (2001) explicitly distinguishes between idiomatic and figurative interpretations. In his view, the above-mentioned case of *shatter the ice* would be a figurative use of the idiom *break the ice*. While there has been a considerable amount of work on figurativity in psycholinguistics, the integration of its results into formal linguistics is still a desideratum.

*Pragmatic idomaticity* covers expressions that have a *pragmatic point* in the terminology of Fillmore et al. (1988). These include complex formulaic expressions (*Good morning!*). There has been little work on this aspect of idomaticity in formal phraseology.

The final type of idomaticity is *statistical idomaticity*. Contrary to the other idomaticity criteria, this is a usage-based aspect. If we find a high degree of co-occurrence of a particular combination of words that is idiosyncratic for this combination, we can speak of a statistical idomaticity. This category includes *collocations*. Baldwin & Kim (2010) mention *immaculate performance* as an example. Collocations are important in computational linguistics and in foreign-language learning, but their status for theoretical linguistics and for a competence-oriented framework such as HPSG is unclear.

This discussion of the various types of idomaticity shows that idioms do not form a homogeneous empirical domain but rather are defined negatively. This leads to the basic analytical challenge of idioms: while the empirical domain is defined by absence of regularity in at least one aspect, idioms largely obey the principles of grammar. In other words, there is a lot of regularity in the domain of idioms, while any approach still needs to be able to model the irregular properties.

### 3 Predecessors to HPSG analyses of idioms

In this section, I will sketch the theoretical environment within which HPSG and HPSG analyses of idioms have emerged.

The general assumption about idioms in MGG is that they must be represented as a complex phrasal form-meaning unit. Such units are inserted *en bloc* into the

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<sup>10</sup>The basic reference for the phraseological properties of body-part expressions is Burger (1976).

structure rather than built by syntactic operations. This view goes back to Chomsky (1965: 190). With this unquestioned assumption, arguments for or against particular analyses can be constructed. To give just one classical example, Chomsky (1981) uses the passivizability of some idioms as an argument for the existence of Deep Structure, i.e., a structure on which the idiom is inserted holistically. Ruwet (1991) and Nunberg et al. (1994) go through a number of such lines of argumentation showing their basic problems.

The holistic view on idioms is most plausible for idioms that show many types of idiosyncrasy at the same time, though it becomes more and more problematic if only one or a few types of idiosyncrasy are attested. HPSG is less driven by analytical pre-decisions than other frameworks; see Borsley & Müller (2019), Chapter 32 of this volume. Nonetheless, idioms have been used to motivate assumptions about the architecture of linguistic signs in HPSG as well.

Wasow et al. (1984) and Nunberg et al. (1994) are probably the two most influential papers in formal phraseology in the last decades. While there are many aspects of Nunberg et al. (1994) that have not been integrated into the formal modelling of idioms, there are at least two insights that have been widely adapted in HPSG. First, not all idioms should be represented holistically. Second, the syntactic flexibility of an idiom is related to its semantic decomposability. In fact, Nunberg et al. (1994) state this last insight even more generally:<sup>11</sup>

We predict that the syntactic flexibility of a particular idiom will ultimately be explained in terms of the compatibility of its semantics with the semantics and pragmatics of various constructions. (Nunberg et al. 1994: 531)

Wasow et al. (1984) and Nunberg et al. (1994) propose a simplified first approach to a theory that would be in line with this quote. They argue that, for English, there is a correlation between syntactic flexibility and semantic decomposability in that non-decomposable idioms are only semi-flexible, whereas decomposable idioms are flexible, to use our terminology from Section 2. This idea has been directly encoded formally in the idiom theory of Gazdar et al. (1985: Chapter 7), who define the framework of *Generalized Phrase Structure Grammar* (GPSG).

Gazdar et al. (1985) assume that non-decomposable idioms are inserted into sentences *en bloc*, i.e., as fully specified syntactic trees which are assigned the idiomatic meaning holistically. This means that the otherwise strictly context-free grammar of GPSG needs to be expanded by adding a (small) set of larger

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<sup>11</sup>Aspects of this approach are already present in Higgins (1974) and Newmeyer (1974).

trees. Since non-decomposable idioms are inserted as units, their parts cannot be accessed for syntactic operations such as passivization or movement. Consequently, the generalization about semantic non-decomposability and syntactic fixedness of English idioms from Wasow et al. (1984) is implemented directly.

Decomposable idioms are analyzed as free combinations in syntax. The idiomaticity of such expressions is achieved by two assumptions: First, there is lexical ambiguity, i.e., for an idiom like *pull strings*, the verb *pull* has both a literal meaning and an idiomatic meaning. Similarly for *strings*. Second, Gazdar et al. (1985) assume that lexical items are not necessarily translated into total functions but can be partial functions. Whereas the literal meaning of *pull* might be a total function, the idiomatic meaning of the word would be a partial function that is only defined on elements that are in the denotation of the idiomatic meaning of *strings*. This analysis predicts syntactic flexibility for decomposable idioms, just as proposed in Wasow et al. (1984).

Nunberg et al. (1994: 511–514) show that the connection between semantic decomposability and syntactic flexibility is not as straightforward as suggested. They say that, in German and Dutch, “noncompositionality of idioms is syntactically versatile” (Nunberg et al. 1994: 514). Similar observations have been brought forward for French in Ruwet (1991). Bargmann & Sailer (2018) and Fellbaum (2019) argue that even for English, passive examples are attested for non-decomposable idioms such as (3).

- (3) Live life to the fullest, you never know when the bucket will be kicked.  
(Fellbaum 2019: 756)

The current state of our knowledge of the relation between syntactic and semantic idiosyncrasy is that the semantic idiomaticity of an idiom does have an effect on its syntactic flexibility, though the relation is less direct than assumed in the literature based on Wasow et al. (1984) and Nunberg et al. (1994).

## 4 HPSG analyses of idioms

HPSG does not make a core-periphery distinction; see Müller (2014). Consequently, idioms belong to the empirical domain to be covered by an HPSG grammar. Nonetheless, idioms are not discussed in Pollard & Sag (1994) and their architecture of grammar does not have a direct place for an analysis of idioms.<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>12</sup>This section follows the basic structure and argument of Sailer (2012) and Richter & Sailer (2014).

They situate all idiosyncrasy in the lexicon, which consists of lexical entries for basic words. Every word has to satisfy a lexical entry and all principles of grammar; see [Davis & Koenig \(2019\)](#), Chapter ?? of this volume.<sup>13</sup> All properties of a phrase can be inferred from the properties of the lexical items occurring in the phrase and the constraints of grammar.

In their grammar, [Pollard & Sag \(1994\)](#) adhere to the *Strong Locality Hypothesis* (SLH), i.e., all lexical entries describe leaf nodes in a syntactic structure and all phrases are constrained by principles that only refer to local (i.e., *synsem*) properties of the phrase and to local properties of its immediate daughters. This hypothesis is summarized in (4).

(4) Strong Locality Hypothesis (SLH)

The rules and principles of grammar are statements on a single node of a linguistic structure or on nodes that are immediately dominated by that node.

This precludes any purely phrasal approaches to idioms. Following the heritage of GPSG, we would assume that all regular aspects of linguistic expressions can be handled by mechanisms that follow the SLH, whereas idiomticity would be a range of phenomena that may violate it. It is, therefore, remarkable that a grammar framework that denies a core-periphery distinction would start with a strong assumption of locality, and, consequently, of regularity.

This is in sharp contrast to the basic motivation of Construction Grammar, which assumes that constructions can be of arbitrary depth and of an arbitrary degree of idiosyncrasy. [Fillmore et al. \(1988\)](#) use idiom data and the various types of idiosyncrasy discussed in Section 2 as an important motivation for this assumption. To contrast this position clearly with the one taken in [Pollard & Sag \(1994\)](#), I will state the *Strong Non-locality Hypothesis* (SNH) in (5).

(5) Strong Non-locality Hypothesis (SNH)

The internal structure of a construction can be arbitrarily deep and show an arbitrary degree of irregularity at any substructure.

The actual formalism used in [Pollard & Sag \(1994\)](#) and [King \(1989\)](#) – see [Richter](#)

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<sup>13</sup>I refer to the lexicon in the technical sense as the collection of lexical entries, i.e., as *descriptions*, rather than as a collection of lexical items, i.e., linguistic signs. Since [Pollard & Sag \(1994\)](#) do not discuss morphological processes, their lexical entries describe full forms. If there is a finite number of such lexical entries, the lexicon can be expressed by a *Word Principle*, a constraint on words that contains a disjunction of all such lexical entries. Once we include morphology, lexical rules, and phrasal lexical entries in the picture, we need to refine this simplified view.

(2019), Chapter 3 of this volume – does not require the strong versions of the locality and the non-locality hypotheses, but is compatible with weaker versions. I will call these the *Weak Locality Hypothesis* (WLH), and the *Weak Non-locality Hypothesis* (WNH); see (6) and (7) respectively.

(6) Weak Locality Hypothesis (WLH)

At most the highest node in a structure is licensed by a rule of grammar or a lexical entry.

According to the WLH, just as in the SLH, each sign needs to be licensed by the lexicon and/or the grammar. This precludes any *en bloc*-insertion analyses, which would be compatible with the SNH. According to the WNH, in line with the SLH, a sign can, however, impose further constraints on its component parts, that may go beyond local (i.e., *synsem*) properties of its immediate daughters.

(7) Weak Non-locality Hypothesis (WNH)

The rules and principles of grammar can constrain – though not license – the internal structure of a linguistic sign at arbitrary depth.

This means that all substructures of a syntactic node need to be licensed by the grammar, but the node may impose idiosyncratic constraints on which particular well-formed substructures it may contain.

In this section, I will review four types of analyses developed within HPSG in a mildly synchronic order: First, I will discuss a conservative extension of Pollard & Sag (1994) for idioms (Krenn & Erbach 1994) that sticks to the SLH. Then, I will look at attempts to incorporate constructional ideas more directly, i.e., ways to include a version of the SNH. The third type of approach will exploit the WLH. Finally, I will summarize recent approaches, which are, again, emphasizing the locality of idioms.

#### 4.1 Early lexical approaches

Krenn & Erbach (1994), based on Erbach (1992), present the first comprehensive HPSG account of idioms. They look at a wide variety of different types of German idioms, including support verb constructions. They only modify the architecture of Pollard & Sag (1994) marginally and stick to the Strong Locality Hypothesis. They base their analysis on the apparent correlation between syntactic flexibility and semantic decomposability from Wasow et al. (1984) and Nunberg et al. (1994). Their analysis is a representational variant of the analysis in Gazdar et al. (1985).

To maintain the SLH, Krenn & Erbach (1994) assume that the information available in syntactic selection is slightly richer than what has been assumed in Pollard & Sag (1994): First, they use a lexeme-identification feature, LEXEME, which is located inside the INDEX value and whose value is the semantic constant associated with a lexeme. Second, they include a feature THETA-ROLE, whose value indicates which thematic role a sign is assigned in a structure. In addition to standard thematic roles, they include a dummy value *nil*. Third, as the paper was written in the transition phase between Pollard & Sag (1987) and Pollard & Sag (1994), they assume that the selectional attributes contain complete *sign* objects rather than just *synsem* objects. Consequently, they can assume selection for phonological properties and internal constituent structure, which we could consider a violation of the SLH.

The effect of these changes in the analysis of idioms can be seen in (8) and (9). In (8), I sketch the analysis of the syntactically flexible, decomposable idiom *spill the beans*. There are individual lexical items for the idiomatic words.<sup>14</sup>

(8)	a.	$\begin{bmatrix} \text{PHON} & \langle \text{spill} \rangle \\ \text{SYNSEM} & \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{CAT} \quad \left[ \text{SUBCAT} \left( \langle \text{NP}, \text{NP} \left[ \text{LEXEME beans}_i \right] \rangle \right) \right] \\ \text{CONT} \quad \left[ \text{REL } \text{spill}_i \right] \end{array} \right] \end{bmatrix}$
	b.	$\begin{bmatrix} \text{PHON} & \langle \text{beans} \rangle \\ \text{SYNSEM} & \left[ \text{CONTENT} \left[ \text{INDEX} \left[ \text{LEXEME beans}_i \right] \right] \right] \end{bmatrix}$

The LEXEME values of these words can be used to distinguish them from their ordinary, non-idiomatic homonyms. Each idiomatic word comes with its idiomatic meaning, which models the decomposability of the expression. The lexical items satisfying the entries in (8) can undergo lexical rules such as passivization.

The idiomatic verb *spill* selects an NP complement with the LEXEME value *beans\_i*. The lexicon is built in such a way that no other word selects for this LEXEME value. This models the lexical fixedness of the idiom.

The choice of putting the lexical identifier into the INDEX guarantees that it is shared between a lexical head and its phrase, which allows for syntactic flexibility inside the NP. Similarly, the information shared between a trace and its

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<sup>14</sup>We do not need to specify the REL value for the noun *beans*, as the LISTEME and the REL value are usually identical.

antecedent contains the INDEX value. Consequently, participation in unbounded dependency constructions is equally accounted for. Finally, since a pronoun has the same INDEX value as its antecedent, pronominalization is also possible.

I sketch the analysis of a non-decomposable, fixed idiom, *kick the bucket*, in (9). In this case, there is only a lexical entry of the syntactic head of the idiom, the verb *kick*. It selects the full phonology of its complement. This blocks any syntactic processes inside this NP. It also follows that the complement cannot be realized as a trace, which blocks extraction.<sup>15</sup> The special THETA-ROLE value *nil* will be used to restrict the lexical rules that can be applied. The passive lexical rule, for example, would be specified in such a way that it cannot apply if the NP complement in its input has this theta-role.

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With this analysis, Krenn & Erbach (1994) capture both the idiosyncratic aspects and the regularity of idioms. They show how it generalizes to a wide range of idiom types. I will briefly mention some problems of the approach, though.

There are two problems for the analysis of non-decomposable idioms. First, the approach is too restrictive with respect to the syntactic flexibility of *kick the bucket*, as it excludes cases such as *kick the social/figurative bucket*, which are discussed in Ernst (1981). Second, it is built on equating the class of non-decomposable idioms with that of semi-fixed idioms. As shown in my discussion around example (3), this cannot be maintained.

There are also some undesired properties of the LEXEME value selection. The index identity between a pronoun and its antecedent would require that the subject of the relative clause in (10) has the same INDEX value as the head noun *strings*. However, the account of the lexical fixedness of idioms is built on the assumption that no verb except for the idiomatic *pull* selects for an argument with LEXEME value *strings<sub>i</sub>*.<sup>16</sup>

<sup>15</sup>See Borsley & Crysmann (2019), Chapter 14 of this volume for details on the treatment of extraction in HPSG.

<sup>16</sup>Pulman (1993) discusses the analogous problem for the denotational theory of Gazdar et al. (1985).

- (10) Parky pulled the strings that got me the job. (McCawley 1981: 137)

Notwithstanding these problems, the analytic ingredients of Krenn & Erbach (1994) constitute the basis of later HPSG analyses. In particular, a mechanism for lexeme-specific selection has been widely assumed in most approaches. The attribute THETA-ROLE can be seen as a simple form of an *inside-out* mechanism, i.e., as a mechanism of encoding information about the larger structure within which a sign appears.

## 4.2 Phrasal approach

With the advent of constructional analyses within HPSG, starting with Sag (1997), it is natural to expect phrasal accounts of idioms to emerge as well, as idiomativity is a central empirical domain for Construction Grammar; see Müller (2019), Chapter 36 of this volume. In this version of HPSG, there is an elaborate type hierarchy below *phrase*. Sag (1997) also introduces *defaults* into HPSG, which play an important role in the treatment of idioms in constructional HPSG. The clearest phrasal approach to idioms can be found in Riehemann (2001), which incorporates insights from earlier publications such as Riehemann (1997) and Riehemann & Bender (1999). The overall framework of Riehemann (2001) is constructional HPSG with *Minimal Recursion Semantics* (Copestake et al. 1995; 2005); see also Koenig & Richter (2019), Chapter ?? of this volume.

For Riehemann, idioms are phrasal units. Consequently, she assumes a subtype of *phrase* for each idiom, such as *spill-beans-idiomatic-phrase* or *kick-bucket-idiomatic-phrase*. The proposal in Riehemann (2001) simultaneously is phrasal and obeys the SLH. To achieve this, Riehemann (2001) assumes an attribute WORDS whose value contains all words dominated by a phrase. This makes it possible to say that a phrase of type *spill-beans-idiomatic-phrase* dominates the words *spill* and *beans*. This is shown in the relevant type constraint for the idiom *spill the beans* in (11).<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>17</sup>The percolation mechanism for the feature WORDS is rather complex. In fact, in Riehemann (2001: Section 5.2.1) the idiom-specific words appear within a c-WORDS value and the other words are dominated by the idiomatic phrase in the value of an attribute OTHER-WORDS, both of which together form the value of WORDS. While all the values of these features are subject to local percolation principles, the fact that entire words are percolated undermines the locality intuition behind the SLH.

- (11) Constraint on the type *spill-beans-idiomatic-phrase* from Riehemann (2001: 185):

$$\text{WORDS} \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \textit{spill-beans-ip} \\ \left[ \begin{array}{l} \textit{i_spill} \\ \dots \text{LISZT} \left( \begin{array}{l} \textit{i_spill_rel} \\ \text{UNDERGOER } \boxed{1} \end{array} \right) \end{array} \right] \trianglelefteq \left[ \dots \text{LISZT} \left( \begin{array}{l} \textit{_spill_rel} \end{array} \right) \right], \\ \left[ \begin{array}{l} \textit{i_beans} \\ \dots \text{LISZT} \left( \begin{array}{l} \textit{i_beans_rel} \\ \text{INST } \boxed{1} \end{array} \right) \end{array} \right] \trianglelefteq \left[ \dots \text{LISZT} \left( \begin{array}{l} \textit{_beans_rel} \end{array} \right), \dots \right] \end{array} \right\}$$

The WORDS value of the idiomatic phrase contains at least two elements, the idiomatic words of type *i\_spill* and *i\_beans*. The special symbol “ $\trianglelefteq$ ” used in this constraint expresses a default. It says that the idiomatic version of the word *spill* is just like its non-idiomatic homonym, except for the parts specified in the left-hand side of the default. In this case, the type of the words and the type of the semantic predicate contributed by the words are changed. Riehemann (2001) only has to introduce the types for the idiomatic words in the type hierarchy but need not specify type constraints on the individual idiomatic words, as these are constrained by the default statement within the constraints on the idioms containing them.

As in the account of Krenn & Erbach (1994), the syntactic flexibility of the idiom follows from its free syntactic combination and the fact that all parts of the idiom are assigned an independent semantic contribution. The lexical fixedness is a consequence of the requirement that particular words are dominated by the phrase, namely the idiomatic versions of *spill* and *beans*.

The appeal of the account is particularly clear in its application to non-decomposable, semi-flexible idioms such as *kick the bucket* (Riehemann 2001: 212). For such expressions, the idiomatic words that constitute them are assumed to have an empty semantics and the semantics of the idiom is contributed as a constructional semantic contribution only by the idiomatic phrase. Since the WORDS list contains entire words, it is also possible to require that the idiomatic word *kick* be in active voice and/or that it take a complement compatible with the description of the idiomatic word *bucket*. This analysis captures the syntactically regular internal structure of this type of idioms and is compatible with the occurrence

of modifiers such as *proverbial*. At the same time, it prevents passivization and excludes extraction of the complement.

Riehemann's approach clearly captures the intuition of idioms as phrasal units much better than any other approach in HPSG. However, it faces a number of problems. First, the integration of the approach with constructional HPSG is done in such a way that the phrasal types for idioms are cross-classified in complex type hierarchies with the various syntactic constructions in which the idiom can appear. This allows Riehemann to account for idiosyncratic differences in the syntactic flexibility of idioms, but the question is whether such an explicit encoding misses generalizations that should follow from independent properties of the components of an idiom and/or of the syntactic construction – in line with the quote from Nunberg et al. (1994) on page 566.

Second, the mechanism of percolating dominated words to each phrase is not compatible with the intuitions of most HPSG researchers. Since no empirical motivation for such a mechanism aside from idioms is provided in Riehemann (2001), this idea has not been pursued in other papers.

Third, the question of how to block the free occurrence of idiomatic words, i.e., the occurrence of an idiomatic word without the rest of the idiom, is not solved in Riehemann (2001). While the idiom requires the presence of particular idiomatic words, the occurrence of these words is not restricted.<sup>18</sup> Note that idiomatic words may sometimes be found without the other elements of the idiom – evidenced by expressions such as in *bucket list* ‘list of things to do before one dies’. Such data may be considered as support of Riehemann’s approach; however, the extent to which we find such free occurrences of idiomatic words is extremely small.<sup>19</sup>

Before closing this subsection, I would like to point out that Riehemann (2001) and Riehemann & Bender (1999) are the only HPSG papers on idioms that address the question of statistical idiomticity, based on the variationist study in Bender (2000). In particular, Riehemann (2001: 297–301) proposes phrasal constructions for collocations even if these do not show any lexical, syntactic, semantic, or prag-

<sup>18</sup>Since the problem of free occurrences of idiomatic words is not an issue for parsing, versions of Riehemann’s approach have been integrated into practical parsing systems (Villavicencio & Copestake 2002); see Bender & Emerson (2019), Chapter 28 of this volume. Similarly, the approach to idioms sketched in Flickinger (2015) is part of a system for parsing and machine translation. Idioms in the source language are identified by bits of semantic representation – analogous to the elements in the WORDS set. This approach, however, does not constitute a theoretical modelling of idioms; it does not exclude ill-formed uses of idioms but identifies potential occurrences of an idiom in the output of a parser.

<sup>19</sup>See the discussion around (1) for a parallel situation with bound words.

matic idiosyncrasy but just a statistical co-occurrence preference. She extends this into a larger plea for an *experience-based HPSG*. Bender (2000) discusses the same idea under the notions of *minimal* versus *maximal* grammars, i.e., grammars that are as free of redundancy as possible to capture the grammatical sentences of a language with their correct meaning versus grammars that might be open to a connection with usage-based approaches to language modelling. Bender (2000: 292) sketches a version of HPSG with frequencies/probabilities attached to lexical and phrasal types.<sup>20</sup>

### 4.3 Mixed lexical and phrasal approaches

While Riehemann (2001) proposes a parallel treatment of decomposable and non-decomposable idioms – and of flexible and semi-flexible idioms – the division between fixed and non-fixed expressions is at the core of another approach, the *two-dimensional theory of idioms*. This approach was first outlined in Sailer (2000) and referred to under this label in Richter & Sailer (2009; 2014). It is intended to combine constructional and collocational approaches to grammar.

The basic intuition behind this approach is that signs have internal and external properties. All properties that are part of the feature structure of a sign are called *internal*. Properties that relate to larger feature structures containing this sign are called its *external* properties. The approach assumes that there is a notion of *regularity* and that anything diverging from it is *idiosyncratic* – or idiomatic, in the terminology of this chapter.

This approach is another attempt to reify the GPSG analysis within HPSG. Sailer (2000) follows the distinction of Nunberg et al. (1994) into non-decomposable and non-flexible idioms on the one hand and decomposable and flexible idioms on the other. The first group is considered internally irregular and receives a constructional analysis in terms of a *phrasal lexical entry*. The second group is considered to consist of independent, smaller lexical units that show an external irregularity in being constrained to co-occur within a larger structure. Idioms of the second group receive a collocational analysis. The two types of irregularity are connected by the *Predictability Hypothesis*, given in (12).

- (12) Predictability Hypothesis (Sailer 2000: 366):

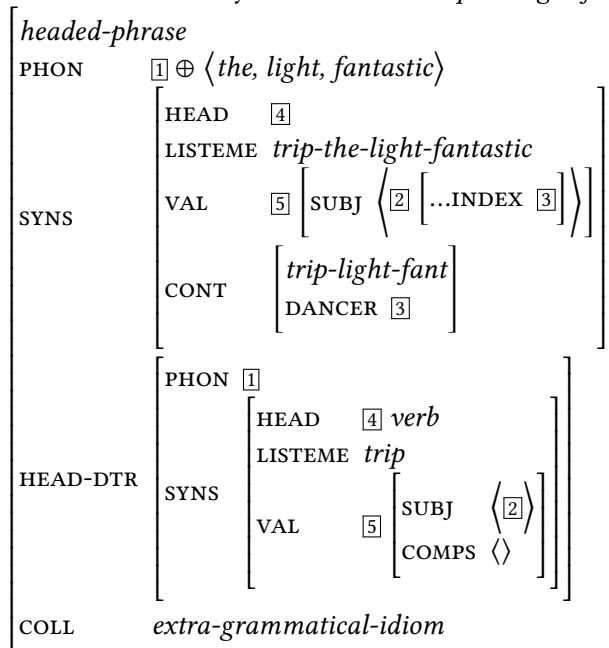
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<sup>20</sup>An as-yet unexplored solution to the problem of free occurrence of idiomatic words within an experience-based version of HPSG could be to assign the type *idiomatic-word* an extremely low probability of occurring. This might have the effect that such a word can only be used if it is explicitly required in a construction. However, note that neither defaults nor probabilities are well-defined part of the formal foundations of theoretical work on HPSG; see Richter (2019), Chapter 3 of this volume.

For every sign whose internal properties are fully predictable, the distributional behavior of this sign is fully predictable as well.

In the most recent version of this approach, Richter & Sailer (2009; 2014), there is a feature *COLL* defined on all signs. The value of this feature specifies the type of internal irregularity. The authors assume a cross-classification of regularity and irregularity with respect to syntax, semantics, and phonology – ignoring pragmatic and statistical (ir)regularity in their paper. Every basic lexical entry is defined as completely irregular, as its properties are not predictable. Fully regular phrases such as *read a book* have a trivial value of *COLL*. A syntactically internally regular but fixed idiom such as *kick the bucket* is classified as having only semantic irregularity, whereas a syntactically irregular expression such as *trip the light fantastic* is of an irregularity type that is a subsort of syntactic and semantic irregularity, but not of phonological irregularity. Following the terminology of Fillmore et al. (1988), this type is called *extra-grammatical-idiom*. The phrasal lexical entry for *trip the light fantastic* is sketched in (13), adjusted to the feature geometry of Sag (1997).

- (13) Phrasal lexical entry for the idioms *trip the light fantastic*:



In (13), the constituent structure of the phrase is not specified, but the phonol-

ogy is fixed, with the exception of the head daughter's phonological contribution. This accounts for the syntactic irregularity of the idiom. The semantics of the idiom is not related to the semantic contributions of its components, which accounts for the semantic idiosyncrasy.

Soehn (2006) applies this theory to German. He solves the problem of the relatively large degree of flexibility of non-decomposable idioms in German by using underspecified descriptions of the constituent structure dominated by the idiomatic phrase.

For decomposable idioms, the two-dimensional theory assumes a collocational component. This component is integrated into the value of an attribute `REQ`, which is only defined on *coll* objects of one of the irregularity types. This encodes the Predictability Hypothesis. The most comprehensive version of this collocational theory is given in Soehn (2009), summarizing and extending ideas from Soehn (2006) and Richter & Soehn (2006). Soehn assumes that collocational requirements can be of various types: a lexical item can be constrained to co-occur with particular *licensors* (or collocates). These can be other lexemes, semantic operators, or phonological units. In addition, the domain within which this licensing has to be satisfied is specified in terms of syntactic barriers, i.e., syntactic nodes dominating the externally irregular item.

To give an example, the idiom *spill the beans* would be analyzed as consisting of two idiomatic words *spill* and *beans* with special `LISTEME` values *spill-i* and *beans-i*. The idiomatic verb *spill* imposes a lexeme selection on its complement. The idiomatic noun *beans* has a non-empty `REQ` value, which specifies that it must be selected by a word with `LISTEME` value *spill-i* within the smallest complete clause dominating it.

The two-dimensional approach suffers from a number of weaknesses. First, it presupposes a notion of regularity. This assumption is not shared by all linguists. Second, the criteria for whether an expression should be treated constructionally or collocationally are not always clear. Idioms with irregular syntactic structure need to be analyzed constructionally, but this is less clear for non-decomposable idioms with regular syntactic structure such as *kick the bucket*.

#### 4.4 Recent lexical approaches

Kay et al. (2015) marks an important re-orientation in the analysis of idioms: the lexical analysis is extended to all syntactically regular idioms, i.e., to both decomposable (*spill the beans*) and non-decomposable idioms (*kick the bucket*).<sup>21</sup> Kay

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<sup>21</sup>This idea has been previously expressed within a Minimalist perspective in Everaert (2010).

et al. (2015) achieve a lexical analysis of non-decomposable idioms by two means: (i), an extension of the HPSG selection mechanism, and (ii), the assumption of semantically empty idiomatic words.

As in previous accounts, the relation among idiom parts is established through lexeme-specific selection, using a feature LID (for *lexical identifier*). The authors assume that there is a difference between idiomatic and non-idiomatic LID values. Only heads that are part of idioms themselves can select for idiomatic words.

For the idiom *kick the bucket*, Kay et al. (2015) assume that all meaning is carried by the lexical head, an idiomatic version of *kick*, whereas the other two words, *the* and *bucket* are meaningless. This meaninglessness allows Kay et al. to block the idiom from occurring in constructions which require meaningful constituents, such as questions, *it*-clefts, middle voice, and others. To exclude passivization, the authors assume that the English passive cannot apply to verbs selecting a semantically empty direct object.

The approach in Kay et al. (2015) is a recent attempt to maintain the SLH as much as possible. Since the SLH has been a major conceptual motivation for Sign-based Construction Grammar, Kay et al.'s paper is an important contribution showing the empirical robustness of this assumption.

Bargmann & Sailer (2018) propose a similar lexical approach to non-decomposable idioms. They take as their starting point the syntactic flexibility of semantically non-decomposable idioms in English and, in particular, in German. There are two main differences between Kay et al.'s paper and Bargmann & Sailer's: (i), Bargmann & Sailer assume a collocational rather than a purely selectional mechanism to capture lexeme restrictions of idioms, and (ii), they propose a redundant semantics rather than an empty semantics for idiom parts in non-decomposable idioms. In other words, Bargmann & Sailer (2018) propose that both *kick* and *bucket* contribute the semantics of the idiom *kick the bucket*. Bargmann & Sailer argue that the semantic contributions of parts of non-decomposable, syntactically regular idioms are the same across languages, whereas the differences in syntactic flexibility are related to the different syntactic, semantic, and pragmatic constraints imposed on various constructions. To give just one example, while there are barely any restrictions on passive subjects in German, there are strong discourse-structural constraints on passive subjects in English.

Both Kay et al. (2015) and Bargmann & Sailer (2018) attempt to derive the (partial) syntactic inflexibility of non-decomposable idioms from independent properties of the relevant constructions. As such, they subscribe to the programmatic statement of Nunberg et al. (1994) quoted on page 566. In this respect, the extension of the lexical approach from decomposable idioms to all syntactically regular

expressions has been a clear step forward.

Findlay (2017) provides a recent discussion and criticism of lexical approaches to idioms in general, which applies in particular to non-decomposable expressions. His reservations comprise the following points. First, there is a massive proliferation of lexical entries for otherwise homophonous words. Second, the lexical analysis does not represent idioms as units, which might make it difficult to connect their theoretical treatment with processing evidence. Findlay refers to psycholinguistic studies, such as Swinney & Cutler (1979), that point to a faster processing of idioms than of free combinations. While the relevance of processing arguments for an HPSG analysis are not clear, I share the basic intuition that idioms, decomposable or not, are a unit and that this should be part of their linguistic representation.

## 5 Where to go from here?

The final section of this article contains short overviews of research that has been done in areas of phraseology that are outside the main thread of this chapter. I will also identify desiderata.

### 5.1 Neglected phenomena

Not all types of idioms or idiomaticity mentioned in Section 2 have received an adequate treatment in the (HPSG) literature. I will briefly look at three empirical areas that deserve more attention: neglected types of idiom variation, phraseological patterns, and the literal and non-literal meaning components of idioms.

Most studies on idiom variation have looked at verb- and sentence-related syntactic constructions, such as passive and topicalization. However, not much attention has been paid to lexical variation in idioms. This variation is illustrated by the following examples from Richards (2001: 184, 191).

- (14) a. The Count gives everyone the creeps.
- b. You get the creeps (just looking at him).
- c. I have the creeps.

In (14), the alternation of the verb seems to be very systematic – and has been used by Richards (2001) to motivate a lexical decomposition of these verbs. A similar argument has been made in Mateu & Espinal (2007) for similar idioms in Catalan. We are lacking systematic, larger empirical studies of this type of substitution, and it would be important to see how it can be modelled in HPSG.

One option would be to capture the *give-get-have* alternation(s) with lexical rules. Such lexical rules would be different from the standard cases, however, as they would change the lexeme itself rather than just alternating its morpho-syntactic properties or its semantic contribution.

In the case mentioned in footnote 6, the alternation consists of substituting a word with a (near) synonym and keeping the meaning of the idiom intact. Again, HPSG seems to have all the required tools to model this phenomenon – for example, by means of hierarchies of *lexical-id* values. However, the extent of this phenomenon across the set of idioms is not known empirically.

Concerning syntactic variation, the nominal domain has not yet received the attention it might deserve. There is a well-known variation with respect to the marking of possession within idioms. This has been documented for English in Ho (2015), for Modern Hebrew in Almog (2012), and for Modern Greek and German in Markantonatou & Sailer (2016). In German, we find a relatively free alternation between a plain definite and a possessive; see (15a). This is, however, not possible with all idioms; see (15b).

- (15) a. Alex hat den / seinen Verstand verloren.  
Alex has the his mind lost  
'Alex lost his mind.'
- b. Alex hat \*den / ihren Frieden mit der Situation gemacht.  
Alex has the her peace with the situation made  
'Alex made her peace with the situation.'

We can also find a free dative in some cases, expressing the possessor. In (16a), a dative possessor may co-occur with a plain definite or a coreferential possessive determiner; in (16b), only the definite article but not the possessive determiner is possible.

- (16) a. Alex hat mir das / mein Herz gebrochen.  
Alex has me.DAT the my heart broken  
'Alex broke my heart.'
- b. Alex sollte mir lieber aus den / \*meinen Augen gehen.  
Alex should me.DAT rather out of the my eyes go  
'Alex should rather disappear from my sight.'

While they do not offer a formal encoding, Markantonatou & Sailer (2016) observe that a particular encoding of possession in idioms is only possible if it

would also be possible in a free combination. However, an idiom may be idiosyncratically restricted to a subset of the realizations that would be possible in a corresponding free combination. A formalization in HPSG might consist of a treatment of possessively used definite determiners, combined with an analysis of free datives as an extension of a verb's argument structure.

Related to the question of lexical variation are *phraseological patterns*, i.e., very schematic idioms in which the lexical material is largely free. Some examples of phraseological patterns are the *Incredulity Response Construction* as in *What, me worry?* (Akmajian 1984; Lambrecht 1990), or the *What's X doing Y?* construction (Kay & Fillmore 1999). Such patterns are of theoretical importance as they typically involve a non-canonical syntactic pattern. The different locality and non-locality hypotheses introduced above make different predictions. Fillmore et al. (1988) have presented such constructions as a motivation for the non-locality of constructions, i.e., as support of a SNH. However, Kay & Fillmore (1999) show that a lexical analysis might be possible for some cases at least. Kay & Fillmore provide a detailed lexical analysis of the *What's X doing Y?* construction.

Borsley (2004) looks at another phraseological pattern, the *the X-er the Y-er* construction, or *comparative correlative construction*. Borsley analyzes this construction by means of two special (local) phrase structure types: one for the comparative *the*-clauses, and one for the overall construction. He shows that (i), the idiosyncrasy of the construction concerns two levels of embedding and is, therefore, non-local; however, (ii), a local analysis is still possible. This approach raises the question of whether the WNH is empirically vacuous since we can always encode a non-local construction in terms of a series of idiosyncratic local constructions. Clearly, work on more phraseological patterns is needed to assess the various analytical options and their consequences for the architecture of grammar.

A major charge for the conceptual and semantic analysis of idioms is the interaction between the literal and the idiomatic meaning. I presented the basic empirical facts in Section 2. All HPSG approaches to idioms so far basically ignore the literal meaning. This position might be justified, as an HPSG grammar should just model the structure and meaning of an utterance and need not worry about the meta-linguistic relations among different lexical items or among different readings of the same (or a homophonous) expression. Nonetheless, this issue touches on an important conceptual point. Addressing it might immediately provide possibilities to connect HPSG research to other disciplines and/or frameworks like cognitive linguistics, such as in Dobrovolskij & Piirainen (2005), and psycholinguistics.

## 5.2 Challenges from other languages

The majority of work on idioms in HPSG has been done on English and German. As discussed in Section 4.4, the recent trend in HPSG idiom research necessitates a detailed study of individual syntactic structures. Consequently, the restriction to two closely related languages limits the possible phenomena that can be studied concerning idioms. It would be essential to expand the empirical coverage of idiom analyses in HPSG to as many different languages as possible. The larger degree of syntactic flexibility of French, German, and Dutch idioms (Ruwet 1991; Nunberg et al. 1994; Schenk 1995) has led to important refinements of the analysis in Nunberg et al. (1994) and, ultimately, to the lexical analyses of all syntactically regular idioms.

Similarly, the above-mentioned data on possessive alternations only become prominent when languages beyond English are taken into account. Modern Greek, German, and many others show the type of external possessor classified as a European areal phenomenon in Haspelmath (1999). It would be important to look at idioms in languages with other types of external possessors.

In a recent paper, Sheinfux et al. (2019) provide data from Modern Hebrew that show that opacity and figurativity of an idiom are decisive for its syntactic flexibility, rather than decomposability. This result stresses the importance of the literal reading for an adequate account of the syntactic behavior of idioms. It shows that the inclusion of other languages can cause a shift of focus to other types of idioms or other types of idiomaticity.

To add just one more example, HPSG(-related) work on Persian such as Müller (2010) and Samvelian & Faghiri (2016) establishes a clear connection between complex predicates and idioms. Their insights might also lead to a reconsideration of the similarities between light verbs and idioms, as already set out in Krenn & Erbach (1994).

As far as I can see, the following empirical phenomena have not been addressed in HPSG approaches to idioms, as they do not occur in the main object languages for which we have idiom analyses, i.e., English and German. They are, however, common in other languages: the occurrence of clitics in idioms (found in Romance and Greek); aspectual alternations in verbs (Slavic and Greek); argument alternations other than passive and dative alternation (such as anti-passive, causative, inchoative, etc. (in part found in Hebrew and addressed in Sheinfux et al. 2019); and displacement of idiom parts into special syntactic positions (focus position in Hungarian).

Finally, so far, idioms have usually been considered as either offering irregular structures or as being more restricted in their structures than free combinations.

In some languages, however, we find archaic syntactic structures and function words in idioms that do not easily fit these two analytic options. To name just a few, Lødrup (2009) argues that Norwegian used to have an external possessor construction similar to that of other European languages, which is only conserved in some idioms. Similarly, Dutch has a number of archaic case inflections in multiword expressions (Kuiper 2018: 129), and there are archaic forms in Modern Greek multiword expressions. It is far from clear what the best way would be to integrate such cases into an HPSG grammar.

## 6 Conclusion

Idioms are among the topics in linguistics for which HPSG-related publications have had a clear impact on the field and have been widely quoted across frameworks. This handbook article aimed at providing an overview over the development of idiom analyses in HPSG. There seems to be a clear development towards ever more lexical analyses, starting from the holistic approach for all idioms in Chomsky’s work, to a lexical account for all syntactically regular expressions. Notwithstanding the advantages of the lexical analyses, I consider it a basic problem of such approaches that the unit status of idioms is lost. Consequently, I think that the right balance between phrasal and lexical aspects in the analysis of idioms has not yet been fully achieved.

The sign-based character of HPSG seems to be particularly suited for a theory of idioms as it allows one to take into consideration syntactic, semantic, and pragmatic aspects and to use them to constrain the occurrence of idioms appropriately.

## Appendix: List of used idioms

Some idioms do not show semantic idiomaticity at all, such as collocations (*brush one’s teeth*) or support verb constructions (*take a shower*). Many body-part expressions such as *shake hands* or *shake one’s head* constitute a more complex case. They describe a conventionalized activity and denote the social meaning of this activity (Burger 1976).

## English

idiom	paraphrase	comment
break the ice	relieve tension in a strained situation	non-decomposable
brush one's teeth	clean one's teeth with a tooth brush	collocation, no idiomaticity
give s.o. the creeps	make s.o. feel uncomfortable	systematic lexical variation
Good morning!	(morning greeting)	formulaic expression
immaculate performance	perfect performance	statistical idiomaticity
in a trice	in a moment	bound word: <i>trice</i>
kick the bucket	die	non-decomposable
make headway	make progress	bound word: <i>headway</i>
pull strings	exert influence/use one's connections	flexible
saw logs	snore	transparent, non-decomposable, semi-flexible
shake hands	greet	body-part expression
shake one's head	decline/negate	body-part expression, possessive idiom
take a shower	clean oneself using a shower	collocation, light verb construction
take umbrage	take offence	bound word: <i>umbrage</i>
shake hands	greet	body-part expression
shake one's head	decline/negate	body-part expression
shit hit the fan	there is trouble	subject as idiom component, transparent/figurative, non-decomposable
shoot the breeze	chat	non-decomposable
spill the beans	reveal a secret	flexible
take a shower	to shower	collocation
take the bull by the horns	approach a problem directly	figurative expression
trip the light fantastic	dance	syntactically irregular

**German**

idiom	gloss	translation	comment
den/seinen Verstand verlieren	the/one's mind lose	lose one's mind	alternation of possessor marking
jdm. das Herz brechen	s.o. the heart break	break s.o.'s heart	dative possessor and possessor alternation
jdm. aus den Augen gehen	s.o. out of the eyes go	disappear from s.o.'s sight	dative possessor, restricted possessor alternation
seinen Frieden machen mit	one's peace make with	make one's peace with	no possessor alternation possible
wie warme Semmeln/ Brötchen/Schrippen weggehen	like warm rolls vanish	sell like hotcakes	parts can be exchanged by synonyms

## Abbreviations

GPSG	Generalized Phrase Structure Grammar (Gazdar et al. 1985)
SLH	Strong Locality Hypothesis, see page 568
SNH	Strong Non-locality Hypothesis, see page 568
WLH	Weak Locality Hypothesis, see page 569
WNH	Weak Non-locality Hypothesis, see page 569

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# Chapter 19

## Negation

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Each language has a way to express (sentential) negation that reverses the truth value of a certain sentence, but employs language-particular expressions as well as grammatical strategies. There are four main types of negative in expressing sentential negation: adverbial negative, morphological negative, auxiliary negative verb, and preverbal negative. This chapter discusses HPSG analyses for these four strategies in marking sentential negation.

### 1 Modes of expressing negation

There are four different types of negative markers in expressing negation in languages: morphological negative, auxiliary negative verb, adverbial negative, and clitic-like preverbal negative (see Dahl 1979; Payne 1985; Dryer 2005). Each of these types is illustrated in the following:<sup>1</sup>

- (1) a. Ali elmalar-i ser-me-di-Ø. (Turkish)  
Ali apples-ACC like-NEG-PST-3SG  
'Ali didn't like apples.'
- b. sensayng-nim-i o-ci anh-usi-ess-ta. (Korean)  
teacher-HON-NOM come-CONN NEG-HON-PST-DECL  
'The teacher didn't come.'

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<sup>1</sup>The abbreviations used here include ACC (accusative), CAUS (causative), COND (conditional), CONN (connective), COP (copula), DECL (declarative), DEL (delimiter), FUT (future), GEN (genitive), HON (honorific), INF (infinitival), NEG (negative), NOM (nominative), NPST (non-past), PASS (passive), PERF (perfective), PRES (present), PST (past), PROG (progressive), SG (singular), and so forth.



- c. Dominique (n')écrivait pas de lettre. (French)  
Dominique wrote NEG of letter  
'Dominique did not write a letter.'
- d. Gianni non legge articoli di sintassi. (Italian)  
Gianni NEG reads articles of syntax  
'Gianni doesn't read syntax articles.'

As shown in (1a), languages like Turkish have typical examples of morphological negatives where negation is expressed by an inflectional category realized on the verb by affixation. Meanwhile, languages like Korean employ a negative auxiliary verb as in (1b).<sup>2</sup> The negative auxiliary verb here is marked with the basic verbal categories such as agreement, tense, aspect, and mood, while the lexical, main verb remains in an invariant, participle form. The third major way of expressing negation is to use an adverbial negative. This type of negation, forming an independent word, is prevalent in English and French, as given in (1c). In these languages, negatives behave like adverbs in their ordering with respect to the verb. The fourth type is to introduce a preverbal negative in expressing sentential negation. The negative marker in Italian in (1d), preceding a finite verb like other types of clitics in the language, belongs to this type.

In analyzing these four main types of sentential negation, there have been two main strands: derivational vs. nonderivational views. The derivational view has claimed that the positioning of all of the four types of negatives is basically determined by the interaction of movement operations, a rather large set of functional projections including NegP, and their hierarchically fixed organization.<sup>3</sup> In particular, to account for the fact that unlike English, only French allows main or lexical verb inversion as in (1c), Pollock (1989; 1994) and a number of subsequent researchers have interpreted these contrasts as providing critical motivation for the process of head movement and the existence of functional categories such as MoodP, TP, AgrP, and NegP (see Belletti 1990; Zanuttini 1991; 1997; 2001; Chomsky 1991; 1993; 1995; Lasnik 1995; Haegeman 1995; 1997; Vikner 1997; Zeijlstra 2015). Within the derivational view, it has thus been widely accepted that the variation between French and English can be explained only in terms of the respective properties of verb movement and its interaction with a view of clause structure organized around functional projections.

<sup>2</sup>Korean is peculiar in that it has two ways to express sentential negation: a negative auxiliary (a long form negation) and a morphological negative (a short form negation) for sentential negation. See Kim (2000; 2016) and references therein for detail.

<sup>3</sup>The term "negator" or "negative marker" is a cover term for any linguistic expression functioning as sentential negation.

Departing from the derivational view, the non-derivational, lexicalist view requires no uniform syntactic category (e.g., Neg or NegP) for the different types of negatives. This view allows negation to be realized in different grammatical categories, e.g., a morphological suffix, an auxiliary verb, or an adverbial expression. For instance, the negative *not* in English is taken to be an adverb like other negative expressions in English (e.g., *never*, *barely*, *hardly*). This view has been suggested by Jackendoff (1972), Baker (1991), Ernst (1992), Abeillé & Godard (1997), Kim (2000), and Warner (2000). In particular, Kim & Sag (1996), Abeillé & Godard (1997), Kim (2000), and Kim & Sag (2002) develop analyses of sentential negation in English, French, Korean, and Italian within the framework of HPSG, showing that the postulation of Neg and its projection NegP creates more empirical and theoretical problems than it solves (see Newmyer 2006 for this point). In addition, there has been substantial work on negation in other languages within the HPSG framework, which does not resort to the postulation of functional projections or movement operations to account for the various distributional possibilities of negation (see Przepiórkowski & Kupś 1999; Borsley & Jones 2000; Przepiórkowski 2000; Kupś & Przepiórkowski 2002; De Swart & Sag 2002; Borsley & Jones 2005; Crowgey 2010; Bender & Lascarides 2013a).

In what follows, I review the HPSG analyses of these four main types of negation, focusing on the distributional possibilities of these four types of negatives in relation to other main constituents of the sentence. When necessary, the chapter also discusses implications for the theory of grammar.<sup>4</sup> I start with the HPSG analyses of adverbial negatives in English and French, which have been most extensively studied in transformational grammars. The chapter then moves to the discussion of morphological negatives, negative auxiliary verbs, and preverbal negatives. The chapter also reviews the HPSG analyses of phenomena like genitive negation and negative concord which are sensitive to the presence of negative expressions. The final section concludes this chapter.

## 2 Adverbial negative

### 2.1 Two key factors

The most extensively studied type of negation is the adverbial negative, which we find in English and French. There are two main factors that determine the position of an adverbial negative: the finiteness of the verb and its intrinsic properties, namely whether it is an auxiliary or a lexical verb (see Kim 2000; Kim &

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<sup>4</sup>This chapter grows out of 18; Kim (2000).

Sag 2002).<sup>5</sup>

The first crucial factor that affects the position of adverbial negatives in English and French concerns the finiteness of the lexical verb. English shows us how the finiteness of a verb influences the surface position of the adverbial negative *not*:

- (2) a. Kim does not like Lee.
  - b. \* Kim not likes Lee.
  - c. \* Kim likes not Lee.
- (3) a. Kim is believed [not [to like Mary]].
  - b. \* Kim is believed to [like not Mary].

As seen from the data above, the negation *not* precedes an infinitive verb, but cannot follow a finite lexical verb (see Baker 1989; 1991; Ernst 1992). French is not exceptional in this respect. The finiteness also affects the distributional possibilities of the French negative *pas* (see Abeillé & Godard 1997; Kim & Sag 2002; Zeijlstra 2007):

- (4) a. Robin n'aime pas Stacy.  
      Robin (n')likes NEG Stacy  
      ‘Robin does not like Stacy.’
  - b. \* Robin ne pas aime Stacy.
- (5) a. Ne pas parler Français est un grand désavantage en ce cas.  
      ne NEG to.speak French is a great disadvantage in this case  
      ‘Not speaking French is a great disadvantage in this case.’
  - b. \* Ne parler pas Français est un grand désavantage en ce cas.

The negator *pas* cannot precede the finite verb but must follow it. But its placement with respect to the nonfinite verb is the reverse image. The negator *pas* should precede the infinitive verb.

The second important factor that determines the position of adverbial negatives concerns the presence of an auxiliary or lexical verb. Modern English displays a clear example where this intrinsic property of the verb influences the position of the English negator *not*: the negator cannot follow a finite lexical verb, but when the finite verb is an auxiliary verb, this ordering is possible.

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<sup>5</sup>German also employs an adverbial negative *nicht*, which behaves quite differently from the negative in English and French. See Müller (2016) for a detailed review of the previous theoretical analyses of German negation.

- (6) a. \* Kim left not the town.  
     b. Kim has not left the town.  
     c. Kim is not leaving the town.

The placement of *pas* in French infinitival clauses also illustrates that the intrinsic property of the verb affects the position of the adverbial negative *pas*:

- (7) a. Ne pas avoir de voiture dans cette ville rend la vie difficile.  
      ‘Not having a car in this city makes life difficult.’  
     b. N'avoir pas de voiture dans cette ville rend la vie difficile.
- (8) a. Ne pas être triste est une condition pour chanter des chansons.  
      ‘Not being sad is a prerequisite condition for singing songs.’  
     b. N'être pas triste est une condition pour chanter des chansons.

The negator *pas* can either follow or precede the infinitive auxiliary verb in French, though the acceptability of the ordering in (7b) and (8b) is restricted to certain conservative varieties.

In capturing the distributional behavior of such adverbial negatives in English and French, as noted earlier, the derivational view (exemplified by Pollock 1989 and Chomsky 1991) has relied on the notion of verb movement and functional projections. The most appealing aspect of this view (initially at least) is that it can provide an analysis of the systematic variation between English and French. By simply assuming that the two languages have different scopes of verb movement – in English only auxiliary verbs move to a higher functional projection, whereas all French verbs undergo the same process – the derivational view could explain why the French negator *pas* follows a finite verb, unlike the English negator. In order for this system to succeed, nontrivial complications are required in the basic components of the grammar, e.g., rather questionable subtheories (see Kim 2000 and Kim & Sag 2002 for detailed discussion).

Meanwhile, the nonderivational, lexicalist analyses of HPSG license all surface structures by the system of phrase types and constraints. That is, the position of adverbial negatives is taken to be determined not by the respective properties of verb movement, but by their lexical properties, the morphosyntactic (finiteness) features of the verbal head, and independently motivated Linear Precedence (LP) constraints, as we will see in the following discussion.

## 2.2 Constituent negation

When English *not* negates an embedded constituent, it behaves much like the negative adverb *never*. The similarity between *not* and *never* is particularly clear in nonfinite verbal constructions (participle, infinitival, and bare verb phrases), as illustrated in (30) and (31) (Klima 1964; Baker 1989; 1991).

- (9) a. Kim regrets [never [having read the book]].
  - b. We asked him [never [to try to read the book]].
  - c. Duty made them [never [miss the weekly meeting]].
- (10) a. Kim regrets [not [having read the book]].
  - b. We asked him [not [to try to read the book]].
  - c. Duty made them [not [miss the weekly meeting]].

French *ne-pas* is no different in this regard. *Ne-pas* and certain other adverbs precede an infinitival VP:

- (11) a. [Ne pas [repeindre sa maison]] est une négligence.  
    ne not paint one's house is a negligence  
    ‘Not painting one’s house is negligent.’
- b. [Régulièrement [repeindre sa maison]] est une nécessité.  
    regularly to.paint one's house is a necessity  
    ‘Regularly painting one’s house is a necessity.’

To account for these properties, Kim (2000) and Kim & Sag (2002) regard *not* and *ne-pas* not as heads of their own functional projection, but rather as adverbs that modify nonfinite VPs. The lexical entries for *ne-pas* and *not* include the information shown in (12).<sup>6</sup>

(12)	<table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 10px;">FORM</td><td><math>\langle \text{not/ne-pas} \rangle</math></td></tr> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 10px;">SYN HEAD</td><td> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 10px;"><math>\left[ \begin{matrix} \text{adv} \\ \text{MOD } \langle \text{VP}[\text{nonfin}]: \boxed{2} \rangle \end{matrix} \right]</math></td></tr> </table> </td></tr> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 10px;">SEM</td><td> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 10px;"><math>\left[ \begin{matrix} \text{RESTR} \\ \left[ \begin{matrix} \text{PRED } \text{neg-rel} \\ \text{ARG1 } \boxed{2} \end{matrix} \right] \end{matrix} \right]</math></td></tr> </table> </td></tr> </table>	FORM	$\langle \text{not/ne-pas} \rangle$	SYN HEAD	<table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 10px;"><math>\left[ \begin{matrix} \text{adv} \\ \text{MOD } \langle \text{VP}[\text{nonfin}]: \boxed{2} \rangle \end{matrix} \right]</math></td></tr> </table>	$\left[ \begin{matrix} \text{adv} \\ \text{MOD } \langle \text{VP}[\text{nonfin}]: \boxed{2} \rangle \end{matrix} \right]$	SEM	<table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 10px;"><math>\left[ \begin{matrix} \text{RESTR} \\ \left[ \begin{matrix} \text{PRED } \text{neg-rel} \\ \text{ARG1 } \boxed{2} \end{matrix} \right] \end{matrix} \right]</math></td></tr> </table>	$\left[ \begin{matrix} \text{RESTR} \\ \left[ \begin{matrix} \text{PRED } \text{neg-rel} \\ \text{ARG1 } \boxed{2} \end{matrix} \right] \end{matrix} \right]$
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<sup>6</sup>Here we assume that both languages distinguish *fin(ite)* and *nonfin(ite)* verb forms, but that certain differences exist regarding lower levels of organization. For example, *prp* (*present participle*) is a subtype of *fin* in French, whereas it is a subtype of *nonfin* in English.

The lexical information in (12) specifies that *not* and *ne-pas* modify a nonfinite VP and that this modified VP serves as the semantic argument of the negation. This simple lexical specification correctly describes the distributional similarities between English *not* and French *ne-pas*, licensing the structure in Figure 1.

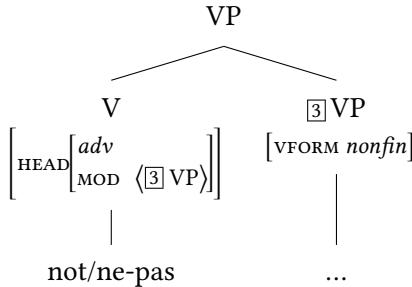


Figure 1: Structure of constituent negation

This structure implies that with the LP (linear precedence) rule specifying a modifier precedes the head modifies, both *ne-pas* and *not*, like other adverbs of this type, precede the VPs that they modify while not separating an infinitival verb from its complements, as observed in the following data:

- (13) a. [Not [speaking English]] is a disadvantage.  
b. \* [Speaking not English] is a disadvantage.
- (14) a. [Ne pas VP[*inf*][parler français]] est un grand désavantage en ne not VP[*inf*][to.speak French] is a great disadvantage in ce cas.  
this case  
b. \* [Ne parler pas français] est un grand désavantage en ce cas.

Interacting with the LP constraint, the lexical specification in (12) ensures that the constituent negation precede the VP it modifies. This predicts the grammaticality of (13a) and (35), where *ne-pas* and *not* are used as VP[*nonfin*] modifiers. (13b) and (14b) are ungrammatical, since the modifier fails to appear in the required position – i.e., before all elements of the nonfinite VP.

The HPSG analyses sketched here have thus recognized the fact that finiteness plays a crucial role in determining the distributional possibilities of negative adverbs. Its main explanatory resource has basically come from the proper lexical specification of these negative adverbs. The lexical specification that *pas* and *not*

both modify nonfinite VPs has sufficed to predict their occurrences in nonfinite clauses.

### 2.3 Sentential negation

With respect to negation in finite clauses, there are important differences between English and French. As we have noted earlier, it is a general fact of French that *pas* must follow a finite verb, in which case the verb optionally bears negative morphology (*ne*-marking):

- (15) a. Dominique (n')aime pas Alex.  
b. \*Dominique pas aime Alex.

In English, *not* must follow a finite auxiliary verb, not a lexical (or main) verb:

- (16) a. Dominique does not like Alex.  
b. \*Dominique not does like Alex.  
c. \*Dominique likes not Alex.

In contrast to the distribution of *not* in nonfinite clauses as constituent negation, its distribution in finite clauses concerns sentential negation. The need to distinguish the two types of negation can be found from scope possibilities in an example like (17) (see Klima 1964; Baker 1989; Warner 2000).<sup>7</sup>

- (17) The president could not approve the bill.

Negation here could have the two different scope readings paraphrased in (43).

- (18) a. It would be possible for the president not to approve the bill.  
b. It would not be possible for the president to approve the bill.

The first interpretation is constituent negation; the second is sentential negation. As noted, sentential *not* may not modify a finite VP, different from the adverb *never*:

- (19) a. Lee never/\*not left. (cf. Lee did not leave.)  
b. Lee will never/not leave.

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<sup>7</sup>Warner (2000) and Bender & Lascarides (2013b) discuss scopal interactions of negation with auxiliaries (modals) and quantifiers within the system of Minimal Recursion Semantics (MRS).

The contrast in these two sentences shows one clear difference between *never* and *not*. The negator *not* cannot precede a finite VP, though it can freely occur as a nonfinite VP modifier.

Another distributional difference between *never* and *not* is found in the VP ellipsis construction. Observe the following contrast (Kim & Sag 2002):

- (20) a. Mary sang a song, but Lee never could \_.  
       b. \* Mary sang a song, but Lee could never \_.  
       c. Mary sang a song, but Lee could not \_.

The data here indicate that *not* behaves differently from adverbs like *never* in finite contexts, even though the two behave alike in nonfinite contexts. The adverb *never* is a true diagnostic of a VP-modifier, and we use contrasts between *never* and *not* to reason about what the properties of the negator *not* must be.

We saw the lexical representation for constituent negation *not* in (12) above. Unlike the constituent negator, the sentential negator *not* typically follows a finite auxiliary verb. In this respect, *too*, *so*, and *indeed* also behave alike:

- (21) a. Kim will not read it.  
       b. Kim will too/so/indeed read it.

These expressions are used to reaffirm the truth of the sentence in question and follow a finite auxiliary verb. This implies that the sentential *not* in English form a group of adverbs that combine with a preceding auxiliary verb (see Kim 2000).

With the observation of such properties, the HPSG analyses of Abeillé & Godard (1997), Kim (2000), and Warner (2000) have taken this group of adverbs ( $\text{Adv}_I$ ) including the sentential negation *not* to function as the complement of a finite auxiliary verb via the following lexical rule:

- (22) NEGATIVE ADVERB-COMPLEMENT LEXICAL RULE:

$$\left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{fin-aux} \\ \text{SYN} \left[ \text{HEAD } \left[ \text{AUX} + \text{VFORM } \textit{fin} \right] \right] \\ \text{VAL|COMPS } L \end{array} \right] \mapsto \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{neg-fin-aux} \\ \text{SYN} \left[ \text{HEAD } \left[ \text{AUX } + \text{VFORM } \textit{fin} \right] \right. \\ \left. \text{NEG } + \right. \\ \text{VAL|COMPS } \langle \text{ADV}_I \rangle \oplus L \end{array} \right]$$

This lexical rule specifies that when the input is a finite auxiliary verb, the output is a neg-finite auxiliary ( $\text{fin-aux} \rightarrow \text{neg-fin-aux}$ ) that selects  $\text{Adv}_I$  as an additional complement. This would then license a structure like in Figure 5.

As shown in Figure 5, the negative finite auxiliary verb *could* selects two complements, the negator *not* and the VP *approve the bill*. The finite auxiliary then

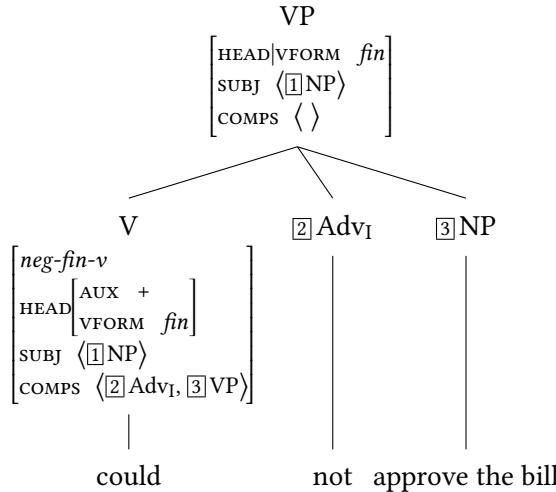


Figure 2: Structure of sentential negation

combines with these two complements, creating a well-formed head-complement construct. By treating *not* as both a modifier (constituent negation) and a lexical complement (sentential negation), we thus can account for the scope differences in (17) with the following two possible structures:

- (23) a. The president could [not [approve the bill]].  
 b. The president [could] [not] [approve the bill].

In (23a), *not* functions as a modifier to the base VP, while in (23b), whose partial structure is given in Figure 5, it is a sentential negation that functions as the complement of the finite auxiliary with a wide scope reading.

The present analysis can also offer us a simple way to account for various other phenomena, including the VP ellipsis discussed in (20). The point was that unlike *never*, the sentential negation can host a VP ellipsis. The VP ellipsis after *not* is possible, given that any VP complement of an auxiliary verb can be unexpressed, as specified by the following lexical rule (**kim:00**):

- (24) PREDICATE ELLIPSIS LEXICAL RULE:

$$\left[ \begin{array}{l} aux-v-lxm \\ ARG-ST \langle [1]XP, [2]YP \rangle \end{array} \right] \mapsto \left[ \begin{array}{l} aux-ellipsis-wd \\ COMPS \langle \rangle \\ ARG-ST \langle [1]XP, [2]YP[pro] \rangle \end{array} \right]$$

What the rule in (24) tells us is that an auxiliary verb selecting two arguments can be projected into an elided auxiliary verb whose second argument is realized as a small *pro*. Note that this argument is not mapped onto the syntactic grammatical function COMPS. This would then license the structure in Figure 3:

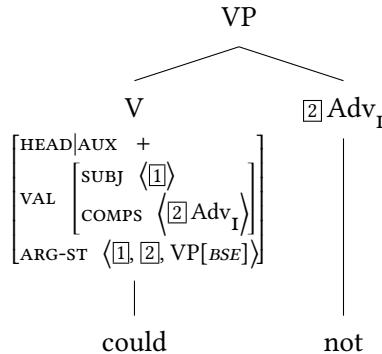


Figure 3: A licensed VP ellipsis structure

As represented in Figure 3, the auxiliary verb *could* forms a well-formed head-complement construct with *not* while its VP[*bse*] is unrealized (see Kim 2000; Kim & Sells 2008 for detail). The sentential negator *not* can “survive” VP ellipsis because it can be licensed in the syntax as the complement of an auxiliary, independent of the following VP. However, an adverb like *never* is only licensed as a modifier of VP. Thus if the VP were elided, we would have the hypothetical structure like the one in Figure 4: the adverb *never* modifies a VP through the feature

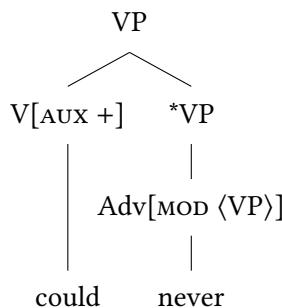


Figure 4: Ill-formed structure of the head-mod construction

MOD, which guarantees that the adverb requires the head VP that it modifies. In

an ellipsis structure, the absence of such a VP means that there is no VP for the adverb to modify. In other words, there is no rule licensing such a combination – predicting the ungrammaticality of *\*has never*, as opposed to *has not*.

The HPSG analysis just sketched here can be easily extended to French negation, whose data we repeat here.

- (25) a. \* Robin ne pas aime Stacy.  
Robin ne NEG likes Stacy  
'Robin does not like Stacy.'  
b. Robin (n')aime pas Stacy.  
Robin (n')likes NEG Stacy  
'Robin does not like Stacy.'

Unlike the English negator *not*, *pas* must follow the finite verb. Such a distributional contrast has motivated verb movement analyses (see Pollock 1989; Zanutini 2001). By contrast, the present HPSG analysis is cast in terms of a lexical rule that maps a finite verb into a verb with a certain adverb like *pas* as an additional complement. The idea of converting modifiers in French into complements has been independently proposed by Miller (1992) and Abeillé & Godard (1994) for French adverbs including *pas*. Building upon this previous work, Abeillé & Godard (1997) and Kim (2000) allow the adverb *pas* to function as a syntactic complement of a finite verb in French.<sup>8</sup> This output verb *neg-fin-v* then allows the negator *pas* to function as the complement of the verb *n'aime*, as represented in Figure 5.

The analysis also explains the position of *pas* in finite clauses. The placement of *pas* before a finite verb in (25a) is unacceptable, since *pas* here is used not as a nonfinite VP modifier, but as a finite VP modifier. But due to the present analysis which allows *pas*-type negative adverbs to function as the complement of a finite verb, *pas* in (25b) can function as the sister of the finite verb *aime*.

Given that the conditional, imperative, subjunctive, and even present participle verb forms in French are finite, the construction analysis also predicts that *pas* cannot precede any of these verb forms:

- (26) a. Si j'avais de l'argent, je ne achèterais pas.  
'If I had money, I would not buy a car.'  
b. \* Si j'avais de l'argent, je ne pas achèterais.

<sup>8</sup>Following Abeillé & Godard (1994), we could assume *ne* to be an inflectional affix which can be optionally realized in the output of the lexical rule in Modern French.

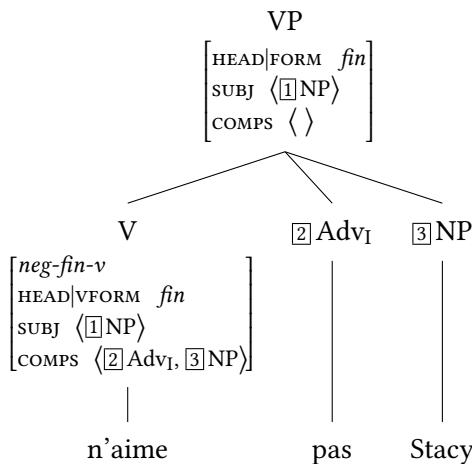


Figure 5: Partial structure of (25b)

- (27) a. Ne mange pas ta soupe.  
'Don't eat your soup!'
- b. \* Ne pas mange ta soupe.
- (28) a. Il est important que vous ne répondiez pas.  
'It is important that you not answer.'
- b. \* Il est important que vous ne pas répondiez.
- (29) a. Ne parlant pas Français, Stacy avait des difficultés.  
'Not speaking French, Stacy had difficulties.'
- b. \* Ne pas parlant Français, Stacy avait des difficultés.

Note that this analysis allows us to reduce the differences between French and English negation to a matter of lexical properties. The negators *not* and *pas* are identical in that they both are VP[*nonfin*]-modifying adverbs. But they are different with respect to which verbs can select them as complements: *not* can be the complement of a finite auxiliary verb, whereas *pas* can be the complement of any finite verb. So the only difference is the morphosyntactic value [AUX +], and this induces the difference in positioning the negators in English and French.

### 3 Morphological negative

As noted earlier, languages like Turkish and Japanese employ morphological negation in which the negative marker behaves like a suffix. Consider the Turkish and Japanese examples in the following:

- (30) a. Git-me-yeceğ-∅-im  
go-NEG-FUT-COP-1SG  
'(I) will not come.'
- b. kare-wa kinoo kuruma-de ko-na-katta.  
he-TOP yesterday car-INST come-NEG-PST  
'He did not come by car yesterday.'

As the examples illustrate, the sentential negation of Turkish and Japanese employ morphological suffixes *-me* and *-na*, respectively. It is possible to state the ordering of these morphological negative markers in configurational terms by assigning an independent syntactic status to them. But it is too strong a claim to take the negative suffix *-me* or *-na* to be an independent syntactic element, and to attribute its positional possibilities to syntactic constraints such as verb movement and other configurational notions (see Kelepir 2001 for Turkish and Kato 1997; 2000 for Japanese). In these languages, the negative affix acts just like other verbal inflections in numerous respects. The morphological status of these negative markers comes from their morphophonemic alternation. For example, the vowel of the Turkish negative suffix *-me* shifts from open to closed when followed by the future suffix, as in *gel-mi-yecke* 'come-NEG-FUT'. Their strictly fixed position also indicates their morphological constituenthood. Though these languages allow a rather free permutation of syntactic elements (scrambling), there exist strict ordering restrictions among verbal suffixes including the negative suffix, as can be seen from the following examples:

- (31) a. tabe-sase-na-i/\*tabe-na-sase-i  
eat-CAUS-NEG-NPST
- b. tabe-rare-na-katta/\*tabe-na-rare-katta  
eat-PASS-NEG-PST
- c. tabe-sase-rare-na-katta/\*tabe-sase-na-rare-katta  
eat-CAUS-PASS-NEG-PST

The ordering of the negative affix is a matter of morphology. If it were a syntactic concern, then the question would arise as to why there is an obvious contrast in

the ordering principles of morphological and syntactic constituents, i.e., why the ordering rules of morphology are distinct from the ordering rules of syntax. The simplest explanation for this contrast is to accept the view that morphological constituents including the negative marker are formed in the lexical component and hence have no syntactic status (see Kim 2000 for detailed discussion).

This being noted, it is more reasonable to assume that the placement of a negative affix is regulated by morphological principles, i.e., by the properties of the morphological negative affix itself. Przepiórkowski & Kupśc (1999) and Przepiórkowski (2000; 2001) discuss aspects of Polish negation which is realized as the prefix *nie* to a verbal expression. Przepiórkowski (2000) focuses on the non-local genitive of negation in Polish, where the object argument is not accusative but genitive-marked with the presence of negative marker as in (32a). The assignment of genitive case to the object is also effective in the unbounded relation as shown in (32b):

- (32) a. Nie lubię Marii/\*Marię.  
not like-1st.SG Mary-GEN/Mary-ACC  
'I don't like Mary.'
- b. Mogę nie chcieć tego napisać.  
may-1st.SG not want-INF this-GEN write-INF  
'I may not want to write this.'

To account for this kind of phenomena, Przepiórkowski (2000) develops an HPSG-based analysis with the assumption that the combination of the negative morpheme with the verb stem introduces the feature NEG. This feature tightly interacts with the mechanism of argument composition and construction-based case assignment (or satisfaction).

The process of adding a negative morpheme to a lexeme can be modeled straightforwardly by a lexical rule given in the following (see Kim 2000; Crowgey 2012):

- (33) NEGATIVE WORD FORMATION LEXICAL RULE:

$$\left[ \begin{array}{l} v-lxm \\ \text{FORM } \langle \boxed{1} \rangle \\ \text{SEM } \boxed{2} \end{array} \right] \mapsto \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{neg-v-lxm} \\ \text{FORM } \langle F_{\text{neg}}(\boxed{1}) \rangle \\ \text{SYN } | \text{HEAD } | \text{POL } \text{neg} \\ \text{SEM } \left[ \text{RESTR } \left( \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{PRED } \langle \text{neg-rel} \rangle \\ \text{ARG1 } \boxed{2} \end{array} \right] \right) \right] \end{array} \right]$$

As shown here, any verb lexeme can be turned into a verb with the negative morpheme attached. The language-particular rule will ensure that an appropriate

negative morpheme is attached to the lexeme. For instance, the suffix *-ma* for Turkish and *-na* for Japanese will be attached to the verb lexeme, generating the verb forms in (30a).

This morphological analysis can be extended to the negation of languages like Libyan Arabic, as discussed in Borsley & Krer (2012). The language has a bipartite realization of negation, the proclitic *ma-* and the enclitic *-š*:

- (34) la-wlaad ma-mšuu-š              li-l-madrsa.  
           the-boys NEG-go.PST.3.PL-NEG to-the-school  
           ‘The boys didn’t go to the school.’

As Borsley & Krer (2012) did, we could take these clitics as affixes and generate a negative word as follows:<sup>9</sup>

$$(35) \quad \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{FORM } \langle mšuu \rangle \\ \text{SEM } | \boxed{2} \end{array} \right] \mapsto \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{FORM } \langle ma-mšuu-š \rangle \\ \text{SYN } | \text{HEAD } | \text{POL } neg \\ \text{SEM } \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{RESTR} \left( \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{PRED } neg-rel \\ \text{ARG1 } \boxed{2} \end{array} \right] \right) \end{array} \right] \end{array} \right]$$

The only thing we need to define here is the function  $F_{neg}$  in the language that allows the attachment of the prefix *ma-* and the suffix *-š* to the verb stem *mšuu*.<sup>10</sup>

The lexicalist HPSG analyses sketched here have been built upon the thesis that autonomous (i.e., non-syntactic) principles govern the distribution of morphological elements (Bresnan & Mchombo 1991). The position of the morphological negation is simply defined in relation to the verb stem it attaches to. There are no syntactic operations such as head-movement or multiple functional projections in forming a verb with the negative marker.<sup>11</sup>

## 4 Negative auxiliary verb

Another way of expressing sentential negation, as noted earlier, is to employ a negative auxiliary verb. Some head-final languages like Korean and Hindi employ negative auxiliary verbs. Consider a Korean example:

<sup>9</sup>The formulation given in Borsley & Krer (2012) is slightly different from the one given here, but both have the same effects.

<sup>10</sup>Borsley & Krer (2012) note that the suffix *-š* is not realized when a negative clause includes an n-word or an NPI (negative polarity item). See Borsley & Krer (2012) for further details.

<sup>11</sup>The lexical-rule-based approach here can be extended to a construction-based HPSG approach or a constructionist approach. See Sag (2012) and Hilpert (2016) for a construction-based approach to morphological processes.

- (36) John-un ku chayk-ul ilk-ci anh-ass-ta.  
 John-TOP that book-ACC read-CONN NEG-PST-DECL  
 'John did not read the book.'

The negative auxiliary in head-final languages like Korean typically appears clause-finally, following the invariant form of the lexical verb. In head-initial SVO languages, however, the negative auxiliary almost invariably occurs immediately before the lexical verb (Payne 1985). Finnish also exhibits this property (Mitchell 1991):

- (37) Minä e-n puhu-isi.  
 I.NOM NEG-1SG speak-COND  
 'I would not speak.'

These negative auxiliaries have syntactic status: they can be inflected, above all. Like other verbs, they can be marked with verbal inflections such as agreement, tense, and mood.

In dealing with auxiliary negative constructions, most of the derivational approaches have followed Pollock's and Chomsky's analyses in factoring out grammatical information (such as tense, agreement, and mood) carried by lexical items into various different phrase-structure nodes (see, among others, Hagstrom 2002, Han et al. 2007 for Korean, and Vasisht 2000 for Hindi). This derivational view has been appealing in that the configurational structure for English-type languages could be applied even for languages with different types of negation. However, issues arise about how to address the grammatical properties of auxiliary negatives, which are quite different from the other negative forms.

The Korean negative auxiliary displays all the key properties of auxiliary verbs in the language. For instance, the typical auxiliary verbs as well as the negative auxiliary all require the preceding lexical verb to be marked with a specific verb form (VFORM), as illustrated in the following:

- (38) a. ilk-ko/\*-ci siph-ta.  
 read-CONN/CONN would.like-DECL  
 '(I) would like to read.'  
 b. ilk-ci anh-ass-ta.  
 read-CONN NEG-PST-DECL  
 '(I) did not read.'

The auxiliary verb *siph-* in (38a) requires the -ko-marked lexical verb while the negative auxiliary verb *anh-* in (38b) asks for the -ci-marked lexical verb.

In terms of syntactic structure, there are two possible analyses. One is to assume that the negative auxiliary takes a VP complement and the other is to claim that it forms a verb complex with the preceding lexical verb, as represented in Figures 6a and 6b, respectively (Chung 1998a; Kim 2016).

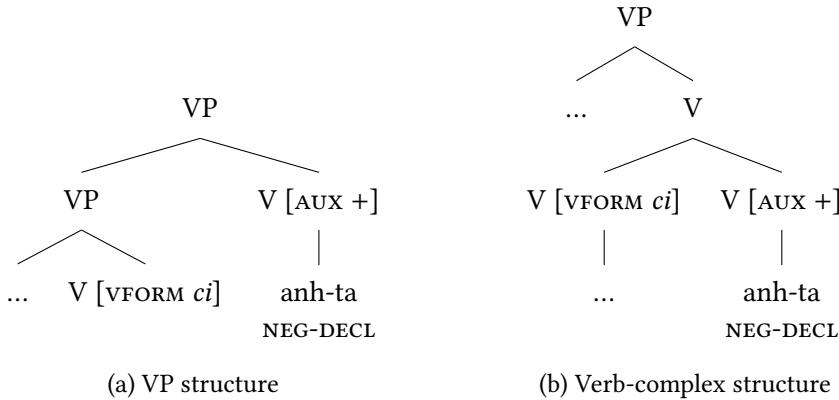


Figure 6: Two possible structures with the negative auxiliary

The distributional properties of the negative auxiliary in the language, however, support a complex predicate structure (cf. Figure 6b) in which the negative auxiliary verb forms a syntactic/semantic unit with the preceding lexical verb. For instance, no adverbial expression, including a parenthetical adverb, can intervene between the main and auxiliary verb, as illustrated by the following Korean example:

- (39) Mimi-nun (yehathun) tosi-lul (yehathun) ttena-ci (\*yehathun)  
 Mimi-TOP anyway city-ACC anyway leave-CONN anyway  
 anh-ass-ta.  
 NEG-PST-DECL  
 ‘Anyway, Mimi didn’t leave the city.’

Further, in an elliptical construction, the elements of a verb complex always occur together. Neither the lexical verb nor the auxiliary verb alone can serve as the fragment answer to the polar question. The two verbs must occur together.

- (40) a. Kim-i hakkyo-eyse pelsse tolawa-ss-ni?  
 Kim-NOM school-SRC already return-PST-QUE  
 ‘Did Kim return from school already?’

- b. ka-ci-to anh-ass-e.  
go-CONN-DEL NOT-PST-DECL  
'(He) didn't even go.'
- c. \*ka-ci-to.  
go-CONN-DEL
- d. \*anh-ass-e.  
NEG-PST-DECL

As shown in (40c) and (40d) here, neither the lexical verb nor the auxiliary verb alone can serve as an independent fragment answer. The two verbs must appear together as given in (40b). These constituent tests indicate that the negative auxiliary forms a syntactic unit with a preceding lexical verb in Korean. Following the HPSG analyses of Bratt (1996), Chung (1998b), and Kim (2016), we could assume that an auxiliary verb forms a complex predicate, licensed by the following construction:

(41) HEAD-LIGHT CONSTRUCTION:

$$\left[ \begin{smallmatrix} hd-light-cxt \\ COMPS L \\ LIGHT + \end{smallmatrix} \right] \rightarrow \boxed{1} \left[ \begin{smallmatrix} LIGHT + \\ COMPS L \end{smallmatrix} \right], H \left[ \begin{smallmatrix} LIGHT + \\ COMPS \langle \boxed{1} \rangle \oplus L \end{smallmatrix} \right]$$

This construction rule means that a LIGHT head expression combines with a LIGHT complement, yielding a light, quasi-lexical constituent (Bonami & Webelhuth 2013). When this combination happens, there is a kind of argument composition: the COMPS value (*L*) of this lexical complement is passed up to the resulting mother. The constructional constraint thus induces the effect of argument composition in syntax, as illustrated by the following example:

The auxiliary verb *anh-ass-ta* 'NEG-PST-DECL' combines with the matrix verb *ilk-ci* 'read-CONN', creating a well-formed head-light construct. Note that the resulting construction metaphorically inherits the COMPS value from that of the lexical complement *ilk-ci* 'read-CONN' in accordance with the structure-sharing imposed on by the HEAD-LIGHT CONSTRUCTION in (41). That is, the HEAD-LIGHT CONSTRUCTION licenses the combination of an auxiliary verb with its lexical verb, while inheriting the lexical verb's complement value as argument composition. The present system thus allows the argument composition at the syntax level, rather than in the lexicon.

The HPSG analyses have taken the negative auxiliary in Korean to select a lexical verb, whose combination forms a verb complex structure. The present analysis implies that there is no upper limit for the number of auxiliary verbs to

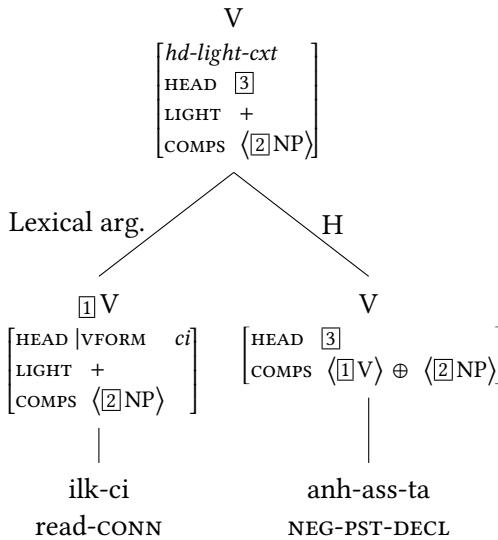


Figure 7: An instance (construct) of the HEAD-LIGHT CONSTRUCTION

occur in sequence, as long as each combination observes the morphosyntactic constraint on the preceding auxiliary expression. Consider the following:

- (42) a. sakwa-lul [mek-ci anh-ta].  
apple-ACC eat-CONN NEG-DECL  
'do not eat the apple'
- b. sakwa-lul [[mek-ko siph-ci] anh-ta].  
apple-ACC eat-CONN wish-CONN NEG-DECL  
'would not like to eat the apple'
- c. sakwa-lul [[[mek-ko siph-e] ha-ci] anh-ta].  
apple-ACC eat-CONN wish-CONN do-CONN NEG-DECL  
'do not like to eat the apple'
- d. sakwa-lul [[[mek-ko siph-e] ha-key] toy-ci] anh-ta].  
apple-ACC eat-CONN wish-CONN do-CONN become-CONN NEG-DECL  
'do not become to like to eat the apple.'

As seen from the bracketed structures, we can add one more auxiliary verb to an existing head-light construct with the final auxiliary bearing an appropriate connective marker. There is no upper limit to the possible number of auxiliary verbs we can add (see Kim 2016 for detailed discussion).

The present analysis in which the auxiliary negative forms a complex predicate structure with a lexical verb can be applied for languages like Basque, as suggested by [Crowgey & Bender \(2011\)](#). They explore the interplay of sentential negation and word order in Basque. Consider their example:

- (43) ez-ditu                    irakurri    liburuak.  
 NEG-3PLO.PRES.3SGS read.PERF book.ABS.PL  
 'has not read books'

Unlike Korean, the negative auxiliary *ez-ditu* precedes the main verb. Other than this ordering difference, just like Korean, the two form a verb complex structure, as represented in Figure 8 (adopted from [Crowgey & Bender 2011](#)):

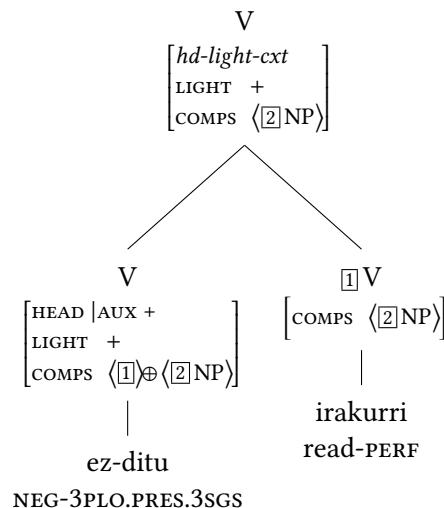


Figure 8: Partial structure of (43)

In the treatment of negative auxiliary verbs, the HPSG analyses have taken the negative auxiliary to be an independent lexical verb whose grammatical (syntactic) information is not distributed over different phrase structure nodes, but rather is incorporated into its precise lexical specifications. In particular, the negative auxiliary forms in many languages a verb complex structure, whose constituenthood is motivated by other independent phenomena.

## 5 Preverbal negative

The final type of sentence negation is preverbal negatives, which we can observe in languages like Italian and Welsh:

- (44) a. Gianni non telefona a nessuno. (Italian)  
Gianni NEG telephones to noone  
'Gianni does not call anyone.'
- b. Dw i ddim wedi gweld neb. (Welsh)  
am I NEG PERF see nobody  
'I haven't seen anybody.'

As seen here, in Italian, the preverbal negative *non*, also called negative particle or clitic, always precedes a lexical verb, whether finite or non-finite, as further attested by the following examples:

- (45) a. Gianni vuole che io non legga articoli di sintassi.  
Gianni wants that I NEG read articles of syntax.  
'Gianni hopes that I do not read syntax articles.'
- b. Non leggere articoli di sintassi è un vero peccato.  
NEG to.read articles of syntax is a real shame  
'Not to read syntax articles is a real shame.'
- c. Non leggendo articoli di sintassi, Gianni trova la linguistica noiosa.  
NEG reading articles of syntax Gianni finds linguistics boring  
'Not reading syntax articles, Gianni finds linguistics boring.'

The derivational view again attributes the distribution of such a preverbal negative to the reflex of verb movement and functional projections (see [Belletti 1990](#); [Zanuttini 1991](#)). This line of analysis also appears to be persuasive in that the different scope of verb movement application could explain the observed variations among typologically and genetically related languages. Such an analysis, however, fails to capture unique properties of preverbal negative in contrast to the morphological negative, the auxiliary negative, and the adverb negative.

[Kim \(2000\)](#) offers an HPSG analysis of Italian and Spanish negation. His analysis takes *non* to be an independent lexical head element, even though it is a clitic. This claim follows the analyses sketched by [Monachesi \(1993\)](#) and [Monachesi \(1998\)](#) assuming that there are two types of clitics, affix-like clitics and word-like clitics: pronominal clitics belong to the former, whereas the bisyllabic clitic *loro* 'to-them' to the latter. Kim's analysis suggests that *non* also belongs to the latter

group.<sup>12</sup> One key difference from pronominal clitics is thus that *non* functions as an independent word. Treating *non* as a word-like element will allow us to capture its word-like properties such as the possibility of stress on the negator and its separation from the first verbal element. However, it is not a phrasal modifier, but an independent particle (or clitic) which combines with the following lexical verb.<sup>13</sup>

- (46) Lexical specifications for *non* in Italian:

FORM	$\langle \text{non} \rangle$
SYN	$\left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{HEAD } \boxed{1} \\ \text{COMPS } \left\langle V \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{HEAD } \boxed{1} \\ \text{COMPS } L \end{array} \right] \right\rangle \oplus L \end{array} \right]$
SEM	$\left[ \text{RESTR } \langle [\text{PRED } \text{neg-rel}] \rangle \right]$

This lexical entry roughly corresponds to the entry for Italian auxiliary verbs (and restructuring verbs with clitic climbing), in that the negator *non* selects a verbal complement and, further, the complement list (L). One key property of *non* is its HEAD value: this value is in a sense undetermined, but structure-shared with the HEAD value of its verbal complement. The value is thus determined by what it combines with. When *non* combines with a finite verb, it will be a finite verb. When it combines with an infinitive verb, it will be an infinitive verb.

In order to see how this system works, let us consider an Italian example where the negator combines with a transitive verb as in the following:

- (47) Gianni non legge articoli di sintassi.  
 Gianni NEG reads articles of syntax  
 'Gianni doesn't read syntax articles.'

When the negator *non* combines with the finite verb *legge* that selects an NP object, the resulting combination will form a verb complex structure given in Figure 9.

Borsley (2006), adopting Kathol's (2000) topological approach, provides a linear-based HPSG approach to capturing the distributional possibilities of negation in Italian and Welsh, which we have seen in (44a) and in (44b), respectively. Borsley (2006) assumes that a negative clause in these languages has a negative element

<sup>12</sup>But one main difference between *non* and *loro* is that *non* is a head element, whereas *loro* is a complement XP. See Monachesi (1998) for further discussion of the behavior of *loro* and its treatment.

<sup>13</sup>See Kim (2000) for detailed discussion.

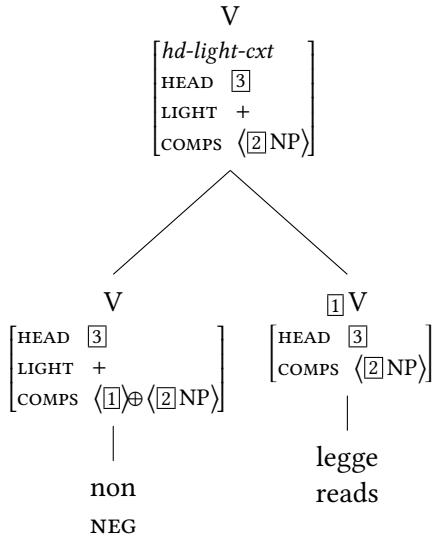


Figure 9: Verb complex structure of (47)

(bearing the feature NEG) in the specified field. Different from BJ:05 selectional approach where a negative expression selects its own complement, this linear-based approach tries to offer a unified approach to the distributional possibilities in three different languages by assigning the negative expression in each language to a specified topological field. The linear-based approach assumes that constituents have an order domain to which ordering constituents apply. [Borsley \(2006\)](#), accepting the analysis of [Kim \(2000\)](#) where *non* is taken to be a type of clitic-auxiliary, posits the following order domain:

$$(48) \quad \text{DOM} \left\langle \left\langle \text{first} \right\rangle \middle| \left\langle \text{Gianni} \right\rangle \right\rangle, \left\langle \text{second} \right\rangle, \left\langle \text{NEG +} \right\rangle, \left\langle \left\langle \text{non} \right\rangle \right\rangle, \left\langle \text{third} \right\rangle, \left\langle \text{telephona} \right\rangle, \left\langle \text{NEG +} \right\rangle, \left\langle \left\langle \text{a nessuno} \right\rangle \right\rangle \right\rangle$$

The only required constraint that [Borsley \(2006\)](#) needs to postulate is that a negative element bearing the positive NEG feature is either in the second or the third field. One advantage of this direction is to allow [Borsley \(2006\)](#) to attribute the properties of Welsh negation to the difference in the domain value of the same NEG element. Unlike Italian, the NEG bearing negative is in the second or the third field, as illustrated in the following domain for the sentence (44b) (from [Borsley 2006](#)):<sup>14</sup>

<sup>14</sup>Different from [Borsley \(2006\)](#), [Borsley & Jones \(2000\)](#) offer a selectional analysis of Welsh

$$(49) \quad \left[ \text{DOM} \left( \left[ \begin{array}{c} \text{second} \\ \langle \text{dw} \rangle \end{array} \right], \left[ \begin{array}{c} \text{third} \\ \langle \text{i} \rangle \end{array} \right], \left[ \begin{array}{c} \text{third} \\ \text{NEG +} \\ \langle \text{ddim} \rangle \end{array} \right], \left[ \begin{array}{c} \text{third} \\ \langle \text{wedi gweld neb} \rangle \end{array} \right] \right) \right]$$

## 6 Other related phenomena

In addition to this work focusing on the distributional possibilities of negation, there has also been work on genitive negation and negative concord.

Przepiórkowski (2000) focuses on the non-local genitive of negation in Polish where the object argument is not accusative but genitive-marked with the presence of negative marker as in (50ab). The assignment of genitive case to the object is also effective in the unbounded relation as shown in (51a) (data from Przepiórkowski 2000):

- (50) a. Lubię Marię  
like-1st.SG Mary-ACC  
'I like Mary.'
- b. Nie lubię Marii/\*Marię  
not like-1st.SG Mary-GEN/Mary-ACC  
'I don't like Mary.'

- (51) a. Janek wydawał się lubić Marię.  
John seemed RM like-INF Mary-ACC  
'John seemed to like Mary.'
- Janek nie wydawał się lubić Marii/Marię.  
John not seemed RM like-INF Mary-GEN/Mary-ACC  
'John did not seem to like Mary.'

To account for this kind of phenomenon, Przepiórkowski (2000) develops an HPSG-based analysis with the assumption that the combination of the negative morpheme *nie* with the verb stem introduces the feature NEG.<sup>15</sup> The case assignment constraint such that a NEG verbal expression assigns the GEN to its non-initial argument ensures that the object NP in (50ab) is GEN-marked (adopted from Przepiórkowski 2000):

---

negation. That is, the finite negative verb selects two complements (e.g., subject and object) while the nonfinite negative verb selects a VP. See Borsley & Jones (2000) for details.

<sup>15</sup>In Polish, negation is realized as the prefix *nie* to a verbal expression (see Przepiórkowski & Kupść 1999; Przepiórkowski 2000; 2001).

- (52) POLISH CASE ASSIGNMENT RULE:

$$\left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{HEAD} \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{verb} \\ \text{NEG } + \end{array} \right] \\ \text{ARG-ST} \langle \text{XP}, \text{YP}[\text{CASE str}] \rangle \end{array} \right] \mapsto [\text{ARG-ST } \langle \text{XP} \rangle \oplus \langle \text{NP}[\text{CASE gen}] \rangle \oplus L]$$

This type constraint will ensure that the object complement of (50a) is GEN-marked due to the negative word *nie*. As for the long distance GEN in (51a), Przepiórkowski (2000) allows the VP complement of raising verbs like *seem* to optionally undergo the lexical argument composition, yielding the following for the matrix verb in (51a):

$$(53) \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{FORM } \langle \text{nie wydawał się} \rangle \\ \text{HEAD} \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{verb} \\ \text{NEG } + \end{array} \right] \\ \text{ARG-ST} \langle \text{NP}, \text{VP}[\text{COMPS} \langle \boxed{1} \text{NP} \rangle] \oplus \langle \boxed{1} \text{NP}[\text{str}] \rangle \rangle \end{array} \right]$$

This lexical specification allows the object NP of the verb to get GEN-marked in accordance with the constraint in (52).<sup>16</sup> In Przepiórkowski's analysis, the feature NEG thus tightly interacts with the mechanism of argument composition and construction-based case assignment (or satisfaction).

Negative concord also concerns negation that we often find in languages like French, Italian, Polish, and so forth. De Swart & Sag (2002) investigates negative concord in French, where multiple occurrences of phonologically negative constituents express either double negation or single negation:

- (54) Personne n'aime personne.

No.one (n')likes no.one

'No one is such that they love no one.' (DN)

'No one likes anyone.' (NC)

The double negation reading in (54) has two quantifiers while the single negation reading is an instance of negative concord, where the two quantifiers merge into one. De Swart & Sag (2002) assume that the information of each quantifier is stored in QSTORE and retrieved at the lexical level in accordance with constraints on the verb's arguments and semantic content. For instance, the verb *n'aime* in (54) will have two different ways of retrieving the QSTORE value as in the following:<sup>17</sup>

<sup>16</sup>When there is no argument composition, the positive verb *lubić* assigns ACC to the object NP.

<sup>17</sup>The QSTORE value contains information roughly equivalent to first order logic expressions like *NOx[Person(x)]*. See De Swart & Sag (2002).

- (55) a. 
$$\begin{bmatrix} \text{FORM } \langle n'aime \rangle \\ \text{ARG-ST} \left\langle \text{NP[STORE } \{1\}, \text{NP[STORE } \{2\} \right\rangle \\ \text{QUANTS} \langle [1], [2] \rangle \end{bmatrix}$$
- b. 
$$\begin{bmatrix} \text{FORM } \langle n'aime \rangle \\ \text{ARG-ST} \left\langle \text{NP[STORE } \{1\}, \text{NP[STORE } \{2\} \right\rangle \\ \text{QUANTS} \langle [1] \rangle \end{bmatrix}$$

In (55ba), the two quantifiers are retrieved, inducing double negation ( $\neg \exists x \neg \exists y [\text{Love}(x,y)]$ ) while in (55bb), the two have a resumptive interpretation in which the two are merged into one ( $\neg \exists x \exists y [\text{Love}(x,y)]$ ).<sup>18</sup> This analysis, coupled with the complement treatment of *pas* as a lexically stored quantifier, can account for why *pas* does not induce a resumptive interpretation with a quantifier (from De Swart & Sag (2002)):

- (56) Il ne va pas nulle part, il va à son travail.  
 ‘He does not go nowhere, he goes to work.’

In this standard French example, De Swart & Sag (2002), accepting the analysis of **kim:00** as *pas* as a complement, specifies the adverbial complement *pas* to be included the negative quantifier in the QUANTS value. This means there would be no resumptive reading for standard French, inducing double negation as in (57):<sup>19</sup>

- (57) 
$$\begin{bmatrix} \text{FORM } \langle ne\;va \rangle \\ \text{ARG-ST} \left\langle \text{Adv}_I[\text{STORE } \{1\}], \text{NP[STORE } \{2\} \right\rangle \\ \text{QUANTS} \langle [1], [2] \rangle \end{bmatrix}$$

Przepiórkowski & Kupśc (1999) and Borsley & Jones (2000) also investigate negative concord in Polish and Welsh and offer HPSG analyses. Consider a Welsh example from Borsley & Jones (2000):

- (58) Nid oes neb yn yr ystafell  
 NOT is no.one in the room  
 ‘There is no one in the room.’

Borsley & Jones (2000), identifying n-words with the feature NC (negative concord), takes the verb *nid oes* to bear the positive NEG value, and specifies the subject *neb yn* to carry the positive NC (negative concord) feature. This selectional

<sup>18</sup>See De Swart & Sag (2002) for detailed formulation of the retrieval condition of stored value.

<sup>19</sup>See De Swart & Sag (2002) for cases where *pas* induces negative concord.

approach, interacting with well-defined features, tries to capture how more than one negative element corresponds to a single semantic negation.<sup>20</sup>

## 7 Conclusion

One of the most attractive consequences of the derivational perspective has been that one uniform category, given other syntactic operations and constraints, explains the derivational properties of all types of negation in natural languages, and can further provide a surprisingly close and parallel structure among languages, whether typologically related or not. However, this line of thinking, first of all, runs the risk of missing the peculiar properties of each type of negation. Each individual language has its own way of expressing negation, and moreover has its own restrictions in the surface realizations of negation which can hardly be reduced to one uniform category.

In the nonderivational HPSG analyses for the four main types of sentential negation that I have reviewed in this chapter, there is no uniform syntactic element, though a certain universal aspect of negation does exist, viz. its semantic contribution. Languages appear to employ various possible ways of negating a clause or sentence. Negation can be realized as different morphological and syntactic categories. By admitting morphological and syntactic categories, we have been able to capture their idiosyncratic properties in a simple and natural manner. Furthermore, this theory has been built upon the lexical integrity principle, the thesis that the principles that govern the composition of morphological constituents are fundamentally different from the principles that govern sentence structures. The obvious advantage of this perspective is that it can capture the distinct properties of morphological and syntactic negation, and also of their distribution, in a much more complete and satisfactory way.

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<sup>20</sup>See Borsley & Jones (2000) for detailed discussion.

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# Chapter 20

## Ellipsis

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This chapter provides an overview of HPSG analyses of ellipsis. The structure of the chapter follows three types of ellipsis, nonsentential utterances, predicate ellipsis, and nonconstituent coordination, with three types of analyses applied to them. The analyses characteristically don't admit silent syntactic material for any ellipsis phenomena with the exception of certain types of nonconstituent coordination.

### 1 Introduction

Ellipsis is a phenomenon that involves a noncanonical mapping between syntax and semantics. What appears to be a syntactically incomplete utterance still receives a semantically complete representation, based on the features of the surrounding context, be the context linguistic or nonlinguistic. The goal of syntactic theory is thus to account for how the complete semantics can be reconciled with the apparently incomplete syntax. One of the key questions here relates to the structure of the ellipsis site, that is, whether or not we should assume the presence of invisible syntactic material. This chapter begins by introducing three types of ellipsis (nonsentential utterances, predicate ellipsis, and nonconstituent coordination) that have attracted considerable attention and received treatment within HPSG. We next overview existing evidence for and against the so-called WYSIWYG ('What You See Is What You Get') approach to ellipsis, where no invisible material is posited at the ellipsis site. Finally, we walk the reader through three types of HPSG analyses applied to the three types of ellipsis presented in section 2.



## 2 Three types of ellipsis

Depending on the type of analysis by means of which HPSG handles them, elliptical phenomena can be broadly divided into three types: nonsentential utterances, predicate ellipsis, and nonconstituent coordination. We overview the key features of these types here before discussing in greater detail how they have been brought to bear on the question of whether there is invisible syntactic structure at the ellipsis site or not. We begin with stranded XPs, which HPSG treats as nonsentential utterances, and then move on to predicate and argument ellipsis, followed by phenomena known as nonconstituent coordination.

### 2.1 Nonsentential utterances

This section introduces utterances smaller than a sentence, which we refer to as nonsentential utterances (NUs). These range from Bare Argument Ellipsis (BAE) (1), including fragment answers (2), to direct or embedded sluicing (3)-(4). Sluicing hosts stranded wh-phrases and has the function of an interrogative clause, while BAE hosts XPs representing various syntactic categories and typically has the function of a declarative clause.<sup>1</sup>

- (1) A: You were angry with them.  
B: Yeah, angry with them and angry with the situation.
- (2) A: Where are we?  
B: In Central Park.
- (3) A: So what did you think about that?  
B: About what?
- (4) A: There's someone at the door.  
B: Who?/I wonder who.

The theoretical question NUs raise is whether they are parts of larger sentential structures or rather nonsentential structures whose semantic and morphosyntactic features are licensed by the surrounding context. To adjudicate between these views researchers have looked for evidence that NUs in fact behave as if they were fragments of sentences. As we will see in section 3, there is evidence to support both of these views. However, HPSG doesn't assume that NUs are underlyingly sentential structures.

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<sup>1</sup>Several subtypes of nonsentential utterances can be distinguished, based on their contextual functions, which we don't discuss here (for a recent taxonomy, see Ginzburg 2011).

## 2.2 Predicate ellipsis and argument ellipsis

The section looks at three constructions whose syntax includes null, hence non-canonical, elements. They are Verb Phrase Ellipsis (VPE), Null Complement Anaphora (NCA), and argument drop (or pro drop). VPE features stranded auxiliary verbs (5) and NCA is characterized by omission of complements to some lexical verbs (6). Argument drop refers to omission of a pronominal subject or an object argument, as illustrated in (7) for Polish.

- (5) A: I didn't ask George to invite you.  
B: Then who did?
- (6) Some mornings you can't get hot water in the shower, but nobody complains.
- (7) Pia późno wróciła do domu. Od razu poszła spać.  
PIA LATE GOT TO HOME RIGHT AWAY WENT SLEEP  
'Anna got home late. She went straight to bed.'

Here the question is whether these null elements should be assumed to be underlyingly present in the syntax of these constructions, and the answer is no.

## 2.3 Nonconstituent coordination

We focus on two instances of nonconstituent coordination, Right Node Raising (RNR) and gapping (Ross 1967), illustrated in (8) and (9) respectively. In RNR, a single constituent located in the right-peripheral position is associated with both conjuncts. In gapping, a finite verb is associated with both (or more) conjuncts but only present in the leftmost one. This results in what appears to be coordination of standard constituents and elements not normally defined as constituents (a stranded transitive verb in (8) and a cluster of subject NP and object NP in (9)).

- (8) Ethan sold and Rasmus gave away all his CDs.
- (9) Ethan gave away his CDs and Rasmus his old guitar.

To handle such constructions the grammar must either be permitted to coordinate noncanonical constituents, to generate coordinated constituents parts of which can undergo deletion, or to coordinate nonsentential utterances. As we will see, HPSG makes use of the latter two options.

### 3 Evidence for and against invisible material at the ellipsis site

This section is concerned with NUs and VPE since this is where the contentious issues arise of where ellipsis is licensed (sections 3.3. and 3.4) and whether there is invisible syntactic material in an ellipsis site (sections 3.1 and 3.2). Below we consider evidence for and against invisible structure found in the ellipsis literature; the evidence is based not only on intuitive judgments, but also experimental and corpus data.

#### 3.1 Connectivity effects

Connectivity effects refer to parallels between NUs and their counterparts in sentential structures, thus speaking in favor of the existence of silent sentential structure. We focus on two kinds here: case-matching effects and preposition-stranding effects (for other examples of connectivity effects, see Ginzburg & Miller 2018). It's been known since Ross (1969) that NUs exhibit case-matching effects, that is, they are typically marked for the same case that is marked on their counterparts in sentential structures. (10) illustrates this for German, where case matching is seen between a wh-phrase functioning as an NU and its counterpart in the antecedent.

- (10) Er will jemandem schmeicheln, aber sie wissen nicht  
HE WILL SOMEONE.DAT FLATTER, BUT THEY KNOW NOT  
wem/\*wen.  
WHO.DAT/\*WHO.ACC  
'He wants to flatter someone, but they don't know whom.'

Case-matching effects are crosslinguistically robust in that they are found in the great majority of languages with overt case marking systems, and therefore, they have been taken as strong evidence for the reality of silent structure. The argument is that the pattern of case matching follows straightforwardly from the silent structure that embeds an NU and matches the structure of the antecedent clause. However, a language like Hungarian poses a problem for this reasoning (see Jacobson 2016). Hungarian has verbs that assign one of two cases to their object NPs with no meaning difference, but case matching is still required between an NU and its counterpart, whichever case is marked on the counterpart. To see this, consider (11) from Jacobson (2016: 356). The verb *hasonlit* assigns either sublative (SUBL) or allative (ALL) case to its object, but if SUBL is selected

for an NU's counterpart, the NU must match this case.

- (11) A: Ki-re hasonlit Péter?  
           WHO.SUBL RESEMBLES PETER  
     A: 'Who does Peter resemble?'  
     B: János-ra/\*János-hoz.  
           JÁNOS.SUBL/\*JÁNOS.ALL  
     B: 'János.'

Jacobson (2016) notes that there is some speaker variation regarding the (un)acceptability of case mismatch here at the same time that all speakers agree that either case is fine in a corresponding nonelliptical response to (11A). This last point is important, because it shows that the requirement of—or at least a preference for—matching case features applies to NUs to a greater extent than it does to their nonelliptical equivalents, challenging connectivity effects.

Similarly problematic for case-based parallels between NUs and their sentential counterparts are some Korean data. Korean NUs can drop case markers more freely than their counterparts in nonelliptical clauses can, a point made in Morgan (1989). Observe the following exchanges:

- (12) A: Nwukwu-ka ku chaek-ul sa-ass-ni?  
           WHO.NOM THE BOOK.ACC BUY.PST.QUE  
     A: 'Who bought the book?'  
     B: Yongsu-ka/Yongsu/\*Yongsu-lul.  
           YONGSU.NOM/YONGSU/\*YONGSU.ACC  
     B: 'Yongsu.'  
     B': Yongsu-ka/\*Yongsu ku chaek-ul sa-ass-e  
           YONGSU.NOM/\*YONGSU THE BOOK.ACC BUY.PST.DECL  
     B': 'Yongsu bought the book'

When an NU corresponds to a nominative subject in the antecedent (as in 12B), it can be either marked for nominative or caseless. However, replacing the same NU with a full sentential answer, as in (12B'), rules out case drop from the subject. This strongly suggests that the case-marked and caseless NUs couldn't have identical source sentences if they were to derive via PF-deletion.<sup>2</sup> Data like these

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<sup>2</sup>Nominative differs in this respect from three other structural cases, dative, accusative and genitive, in that the latter may also be dropped from nonelliptical clauses (see Morgan 1989, Lee 2016, Kim 2016).

led Morgan (1989) to propose that not all NUs have a sentential derivation, an idea later picked up in Barton (1998).

The same pattern is associated with semantic case. That is, in (13), an NU can optionally be marked for comitative like its counterpart in the A-sentence or be caseless. But being caseless is not an option for the NU's counterpart.

- (13) A: Nwukwu-wa/\*nwukwu hapsek-ul ha-yess-e?  
WHO.COM/\*WHO SITTING.TOGETHER.ACC DO.PST.QUE  
A: 'With whom did you sit together?'  
B: Mimi-wa/\*Mimi.  
MIMI.SRC/MIMI  
B: 'With Mimi/\*Mimi.'

The generalization for Korean is then that NUs may be optionally realized as caseless but may never be marked for a different case than is marked on their counterparts.

Overall, case-marking facts show that there is some morphosyntactic identity between NUs and their antecedents, though not to the extent that NUs have exactly the features that they would have if they were constituents embedded in sentential structures. The Hungarian facts also suggest that aspects of the argument structure of the antecedent relating to case licensing are relevant for an analysis of NUs.<sup>3</sup>

The second kind of connectivity effects goes back to Merchant (2001, 2004) and highlights apparent links between wh- and focus movement and the features of NUs. The idea is that prepositions behave the same under wh- and focus movement as they do under clausal ellipsis, that is, they pied-pipe or strand in the same environments. If a language (e.g., English) permits preposition stranding under wh- and focus movement (*With what did Harvey paint the wall?* vs *What did Harvey paint the wall with?*), then NUs may surface with or without prepositions, as illustrated in (14) for sluicing and BAE.

- (14) A: I know what Harvey painted the wall with.  
B: (With) what?/(With) primer.

If there indeed was a link between preposition stranding and NUs, then we would not expect prepositionless NUs in languages without preposition stranding. This expectation is disconfirmed by an ever-growing list of nonpreposition-stranding languages that do feature prepositionless NUs: Brazilian Portuguese

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<sup>3</sup>Hungarian and Korean are in fact not the only problematic languages; for a list, see Vicente (2015).

(Almeida & Yoshida 2007), Spanish and French (Rodrigues et al. 2009), Greek (Molimpakis 2018), Bahasa Indonesia (Fortin 2007), Emirati Arabic (Leung 2014), Russian (Philippova 2014), Polish (Szczegielniak 2008, Nykiel 2013, Sag & Nykiel 2011), Czech (Caha 2011), Bulgarian (Abels 2017), and Serbo-Croatian (Stjepanović 2008, 2012). A few of these studies have presented experimental evidence that prepositionless NUs are acceptable, though — for reasons still poorly understood — they typically don't reach the same level of acceptability as their variants with prepositions do (see Nykiel 2013 for Polish and Molimpakis 2018 for Greek).

It is evident from this research that there is no grammatical constraint on NUs that keeps track of what preposition-stranding possibilities exist in any given language. On the other hand, it doesn't seem sufficient to assume that NUs can freely drop prepositions, given examples of sprouting like (15), in which prepositions are not ommissible (see Chung 2006, 2013 on the inommissibility of prepositions under sprouting). The difference between (14) and (15) is that there is an explicit phrase the NU corresponds to (in the HPSG literature this phrase is termed a Salient Utterance (Ginzburg & Sag 2000) or a Focus-Establishing Constituent (Ginzburg 2012)) in the former but not in the latter.

- (15) A: I know Harvey painted the wall.  
B: \*(With) what?/Yeah, \*(with) primer.

This issue has not received much attention in the HPSG literature, though see Kim (2015).

### 3.2 Island effects

One of the predictions of the view that NUs are underlyingly sentential is that they should respect island constraints on long-distance movement. But as illustrated below, NUs (both sluicing and BAE) exhibit island-violating behavior.<sup>4</sup>

- (16) A: Harriet drinks scotch that comes from a very special part of Scotland.  
B: Where? (Culicover & Jackendoff 2005: 245)
- (17) A: The administration has issued a statement that it is willing to meet with one of the student groups.  
B: Yeah, right—the Gay Rifle Club. (Culicover & Jackendoff 2005: 245)

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<sup>4</sup>Merchant (2004) argued that BAE, unlike sluicing, does respect island constraints, an argument that was later challenged (see e.g. Culicover & Jackendoff 2005, Griffiths & Lipták 2014). However, Merchant (2004) focused specifically on pairs of wh-questions and answers like (2) and ran into the difficulty of testing for island-violating behavior, since a well-formed antecedent couldn't be constructed.

Among Culicover & Jackendoff's (2005: 245) examples of well-formed island-violating NUs are also sprouted NUs (those that correspond to implicit Salient Utterances) like (18)-(19).

- (18) A: John met a woman who speaks French.  
B: With an English accent?
- (19) A: For John to flirt with at the party would be scandalous.  
B: Even with his wife?

Other research assumes that sprouted NUs are one of the two kinds of NUs that respect island constraints, the other kind being contrastive NUs, illustrated in (20) (Chung, Ladusaw & McCloskey 1995, Merchant 2001, Griffiths & Lipták 2014).

- (20) A: Does Abby speak the same Balkan language that Ben speaks?  
B: \*No, Charlie. (Merchant 2001)

Schmeh et al. (2015) explore the acceptability of NUs like (20) compared to NUs introduced by the particle Yes depicted in (21). (20) differs from (21) in terms of discourse function in that it corrects rather than supplement the antecedent, which is signaled by a different response particle.

- (21) A: John met a guy who speaks a very unusual language.  
B: Yes, Albanian. (Culicover & Jackendoff 2005: 245)

Schmeh et al. (2015) find that corrections lower acceptability ratings compared to supplementations and propose that this follows from the fact that corrections induce greater processing difficulty than supplementations do, and hence the acceptability difference between (20) and (21). This finding makes it plausible that the perceived degradation of island-violating NUs could ultimately be attributed to nonsyntactic factors, e.g., the difficulty of successfully computing a meaning for them.

In contrast to NUs, many instances of VPE appear to obey island constraints, as would be expected if there was unpronounced structure from which material was extracted. An example is depicted in (22) (note that the corresponding sluicing NU is fine).

- (22) \*They want to hire someone who speaks a Balkan language, but I don't remember which they do [want to hire someone who speaks *t*].  
(Merchant 2001: 6)

(22) contrasts with well-formed examples like (23) and (24), from Ginzburg & Miller (2018).

- (23) He managed to find someone who speaks a Romance language, but a Germanic language, he didn't [manage to find someone who speaks t].
- (24) He was able to find a bakery where they make good baguette, but croissants, he couldn't [find a bakery where they make good t].

As Ginzburg & Miller (2018) rightly point out, we don't yet have a complete understanding of when or why island effects show up in VPE. Its behavior is at best inconsistent, failing to provide convincing evidence for silent structure.

### 3.3 Structural mismatches

Because structural mismatches are not permitted by NUs (see Merchant 2005, 2013),<sup>5</sup> this section focuses on VPE and developments surrounding the question of which contexts license it. In a seminal study of anaphora, Hankamer and Sag (1976) classified VPE as a surface anaphor with syntactic features closely matching those of an antecedent present in the linguistic context. They argued in particular that VPE is not licensed if it mismatches its antecedent in voice. Compare (25) and (26) from Sag & Hankamer (1984: 327).

- (25) \* The children asked to be squirted with the hose, so we did.
- (26) The children asked to be squirted with the hose, so they were.

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<sup>5</sup>Ginzburg & Miller (2018) cite examples—originally from Beecher (2008)—of sprouting NUs with nominal, hence mismatched, antecedents, e.g., (i).

(i) We're on to the semi-finals, though I don't know who against.

Somewhat similar examples, where NUs appear to take APs as antecedents, appear in COCA:

- (ii) A: Well, it's a defense mechanism. B: Defense against what?
- (iii) Our Book of Mormon talks about the day of the Lamanite, when the church would make a special effort to build and reclaim a fallen people. And some people will say, Well, fallen from what?

The NUs in (ii)–(iii) repeat the lexical heads whose complements are being sprouted (*defense* and *fallen*), that is, they contain more material than is usual for NUs (cf. (i)). It seems that without this additional material it would be difficult to integrate the NUs into the propositions provided by the antecedents and hence to arrive at the intended interpretations.

This proposal places tighter structural constraints on VPE than on other verbal anaphors (e.g., *do it/that*) in terms of identity between an ellipsis site and its antecedent and has prompted extensive evaluation in a number of corpus and experimental studies in the decades following Hankamer & Sag (1976). Below are examples of acceptable structural mismatches reported in the literature, ranging from voice mismatch (27) to nominal antecedents (28) to split antecedents (29).

- (27) This information could have been released by Gorbachev, but he chose not to [release it]. (Hardt 1993: 37)
- (28) Mubarak's survival is impossible to predict and, even if he does [survive], his plan to make his son his heir apparent is now in serious jeopardy. (Miller & Hemforth 2014: )
- (29) Wendy is eager to sail around the world and Bruce is eager to climb Mt. Kilimanjaro, but neither of them can [do the things they want], because money is too tight. (Webber 1978: )

There are two opposing views that have emerged from the empirical work. The first view takes mismatches to be grammatical and connects degradation in acceptability to violation of certain independent discourse (Kehler 2002, Miller 2011, Kertz 2013, Miller & Hemforth 2014, Miller & Pullum 2014) or processing constraints (Kim et al. 2011). Two types of VPE have been identified on this view through corpus work—auxiliary choice VPE and subject choice VPE—each with different discourse requirements with respect to the antecedent (Miller 2011, Miller & Hemforth 2014, Miller & Pullum 2014). The second view assumes that there is a grammatical ban on structural mismatch but violations thereof may be repaired under certain conditions; repairs are associated with differential processing costs compared to matching ellipses and antecedents (Arregui et al. 2006, Grant et al. 2012). If we follow the first view, it is perhaps unexpected that voice mismatch should consistently incur a greater penalty under VPE than when no ellipsis is involved, as recently reported in Kim & Runner (2017). Kim & Runner (2017) stop short of drawing firm conclusions regarding the grammaticality of structural mismatches, but one possibility is that the observed mismatch effects reflect a construction-specific constraint on VPE. HPSG analyses take structurally mismatched instances of VPE to be unproblematic and fully grammatical, while also recognizing construction-specific constraints: discourse or processing constraints formulated for VPE may or may not extend to other elliptical constructions, such as NUs (see Ginzburg & Miller 2018 for this point).

### 3.4 Nonlinguistic antecedents

Like structural mismatches, the availability of nonlinguistic antecedents for an ellipsis points to the fact that it needn't be interpreted by reference to and licensed by a structurally identical antecedent. Although this option is somewhat limited, VPE does tolerate nonlinguistic antecedents, as shown in (30)–(31) (see also Hankamer & Sag 1976, Schachter 1977).

- (30) Mabel shoved a plate into Tate's hands before heading for the sisters' favorite table in the shop. "You shouldn't have." She meant it. The sisters had to pool their limited resources just to get by. (Pullum & Miller 2014, ex. 23)
- (31) Once in my room, I took the pills out. "Should I?" I asked myself. (Pullum & Miller 2014, ex. 22a)

Pullum & Miller (2014) provide an extensive critique of the earlier work on the ability of VPE to take nonlinguistic antecedents, arguing for a streamlined discourse-based explanation that neatly captures the attested examples as well as examples of structural mismatch like those discussed in section 3.3. The important point here is again that VPE is subject to construction-specific constraints which limit its use with nonlinguistic antecedents.

NUs appear in various nonlinguistic contexts as well. Ginzburg & Miller (2018) distinguish three classes of such NUs: sluices (32), exclamative sluices (33), and declarative fragments (34).

- (32) (In an elevator) What floor? (Ginzburg & Sag 2000: 298)
- (33) It makes people "easy to control and easy to handle," he said, "but, God forbid, at what a cost!" (Ginzburg & Miller To appear, ex. 34a)
- (34) BOBADILLA turns, gestures to one of the other men, who comes forward and gives him a roll of parchment, bearing the royal seal. "My letters of appointment." (COCA)

In addition to being problematic from the licensing point of view, NUs like these have been put forward as evidence against the idea that they are underlyingly sentential, because it is unclear what the structure that underlies them would be (see Ginzburg & Sag 2000, Culicover & Jackendoff 2005, Stainton 2006).<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>6</sup>This is not to say that a sentential analysis of fragments without linguistic antecedents hasn't been attempted. For details of a proposal involving a 'limited ellipsis' strategy, see Merchant (2004, 2010).

## 4 Analyses of NUs

It is worth noting at the outset that the analyses of NUs within the framework of HPSG are based on an elaborate theory of dialog (Ginzburg 1994, Ginzburg & Cooper 2004, 2014, Larsson 2002, Purver 2006, Fernández 2006, Fernández & Ginzburg 2002, Fernández et al. 2007, Ginzburg & Fernández 2010, Ginzburg et al. 2014, Ginzburg 2012, 2013) and on a wider range of data than is common practice in the ellipsis literature. Existing analyses of NUs go back to Ginzburg & Sag (2000), who recognize declarative fragments (35) and two kinds of sluicing NUs, direct sluices (36) and reprise sluices (37) (the relevant fragments are bolded). The difference between direct and reprise sluices lies in the fact that the latter are requests for clarification of any part of the antecedent. For instance, in (37) the referent of *that* is unclear to the interlocutor.

- (35) “I was wrong.” Her brown eyes twinkled. “Wrong about what?” “**That night.**” (COCA)
- (36) “You’re waiting,” she said softly. “**For what?**” (COCA)
- (37) “Can we please not say a lot about *that*?” “**About what?**” (COCA)

Ginzburg and Sag (2000: 304) make use of the constraint shown in (38) (we have added information about the MAX-QUD) to generate NUs.

(38)

Head-Fragment Construction

$$\left[ \begin{array}{c} \text{CAT } S \\ \text{CTXT } \left[ \begin{array}{c} \text{MAX-QUD } \lambda\{\pi^i\} \\ \text{SAL-UTT } \left\{ \left[ \begin{array}{c} \text{CAT } \boxed{2} \\ \text{CONT } [\text{IND } i] \end{array} \right] \right\} \end{array} \right] \end{array} \right] \Rightarrow \left[ \begin{array}{c} \text{CAT } \boxed{2} \\ \text{CONT } [\text{IND } i] \end{array} \right]$$

Let us see how this constructional constraint allows us to license NUs and capture their properties, including the connectivity effects we discussed in section 3.1. Note first that any phrasal category can function as an NU, that is, can be mapped onto a sentential utterance as long as it corresponds to a Salient Utterance (SAL-UTT). This means that the head daughter’s syntactic category must match that of a SAL-UTT, which is an attribute supplied by the surrounding context as a (sub)utterance of another contextual attribute—the Maximal Question under Discussion (MAX-QUD). The two contextual attributes SAL-UTT and MAX-QUD are introduced specifically for the purpose of analyzing NUs. The

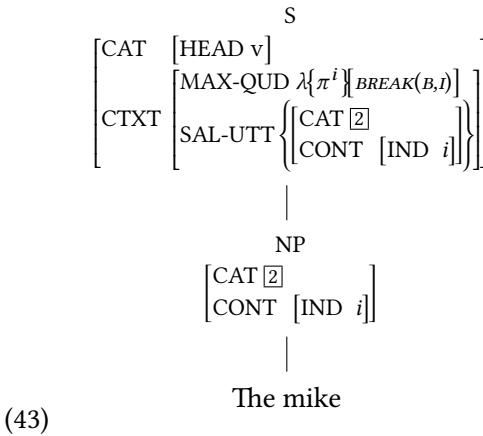
context gets updated with every new question-under-discussion, and MAX-QUD represents the most recent question-under-discussion, while SAL-UTT is the (sub)utterance with the widest scope within MAX-QUD. To put it informally, SAL-UTT represents a (sub)utterance of a MAX-QUD that has not been resolved yet. Its feature CAT supplies information relevant for establishing morphosyntactic identity with an NU, that is, syntactic category and case information, and (38) requires that an NU match this information. Meanwhile, MAX-QUD provides the propositional semantics for an NU and is, typically, a unary question. The content of MAX-QUD can be supplied by linguistic or nonlinguistic context. In the prototypical case, MAX-QUD arises from the most recent wh-question uttered in a given context (39), but can also arise (via accommodation) from other forms found in the context, such as constituents bearing focal accent (40) and constituents in need of clarification (41), or from a nonlinguistic context (42).<sup>7</sup>

- (39) A: What did Barry break?  
B: The mike.
- (40) A: Barry broke the MIKE.  
B: Yes, the only one we had.
- (41) A: Barry broke the mike.  
B: Who?
- (42) (Cab driver to passenger on the way to airport) A: Which airline?

The existing analyses of NUs (Ginzburg 2012, Sag & Nykiel 2011, Kim 2015, Abeillé et al. 2014, Abeillé & Hassamal 2017) are based on Ginzburg and Sag's (2000) constraint. Below we illustrate how it is applied to the declarative fragment in (39).

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<sup>7</sup>Ginzburg (2012) uses the notion of the Dialog Game Board (DGB) to keep track of all information relating to the common ground between interlocutors. The DGB is also the locus of contextual updates arising from each new question-under-discussion that is introduced.



This construction-based analysis, in which dialogue updating plays a key role in the licensing of NUs, can also offer a simple account of sprouting examples like (36).<sup>8</sup> As discussed in Kim (2015), we could take an unrealized oblique argument of the verb *wait* as an instance of indefinite null instantiation (INI) (see Ruppenhofer and Michaelis 2014):

- (44) Lexical entry for *wait*:

FORM ⟨WAIT⟩
ARG-ST ⟨NP <sub>P</sub> PP <sub>X</sub> ⟩
SYN ⟨SUBJ ⟨NP[OVERT]⟩⟩
COMPS ⟨PP[INI]⟩

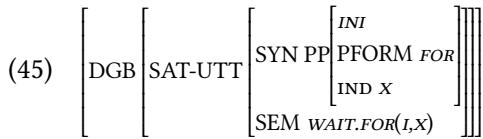
SEM WAIT(*I*, *x*)

The lexical information specifies that the second argument of *wait* can be an unrealized indefinite NP while the first argument needs to be an overt one. Now consider the dialogue in (36). Uttering the sentence *You're waiting?* would then update the DGB with a SAL-UTT represented by the unrealized NP:

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<sup>8</sup>Ginzburg and Sag (2000: 330) suggest a way of analyzing sprouted NUs, such as (i). The implied direct object of *eat* functioning as SAL-UTT here would appear as a noncanonical synsem on the verb's ARG-ST list, but not on the COMPS list, and thereby be able to provide appropriate morphosyntactic identity information.

- (i) A: And what did you do then?  
B: I ate.  
A: What?



The fragment *for what?*, matching this SAL-UTT, projects a well-formed NU in accordance with the Head-Fragment Construction.<sup>9</sup>

The advantages of the nonsentential analyses sketched here follow from their ability to capture limited morphosyntactic parallelism between NUs and SAL-UTT without having to account for why NUs don't behave like constituents of sentential structures. The island-violating behavior of NUs is unsurprising on this analysis, as are attested cases of structural mismatch and situationally controlled NUs.<sup>10</sup> However, some loose ends still remain. (38) currently has no means of capturing certain connectivity effects: it can't rule preposition drop out under sprouting and it incorrectly rules out case mismatch in languages like Hungarian for speakers that do accept it (see discussion around example (11).<sup>11</sup>

## 5 Analyses of predicate/argument ellipsis

The first issue in the analysis of VPE is the status of an elided VP. It is assumed to be a *pro* element due to its pronominal properties (see Lobeck 1995, Lopez 2000, Kim 2006, Aelbrecht and Harwood 2015, Ginzburg and Miller 2018). For instance, VPE applies only to phrasal categories (46–47), can cross utterance boundaries (48), can override island constraints (49–50), is subject to the Backwards Anaphora Constraint (51–52).

- (46) \*Mary will meet Bill at Stanford because she didn't \_ John.

- (47) Mary will meet Bill at Stanford because she didn't \_ at Harvard.

- (48) A: Tom won't leave Seoul soon.  
B: I don't think Mary will \_ either.

- (49) John didn't hit a home run, but I know a woman who did. (CNPC)

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<sup>9</sup>See the detailed analysis of such sprouting examples in Kim (2015).

<sup>10</sup>The rarity of NUs with nonlinguistic antecedents can be understood as a function of how easily a situational context can give rise to a MAX-QUD and thus license ellipsis (see Miller & Pullum 2014 for this point with regard to VPE).

<sup>11</sup>See, however, Kim (2015) for proposals envoking a case hierarchy specific to Korean to explain case mismatch and introducing an additional constraint to block preposition drop under sprouting.

- (50) That Betsy won the batting crown is not surprising, but that Peter didn't know she did \_ is indeed surprising. (SSC)
- (51) \*Sue didn't [e] but John ate meat.
- (52) Because Sue didn't [e], John ate meat.

Argument ellipsis we find in languages like Polish and Korean can also be taken to be ellipsis of a pronominal expression, as in (53).

- (53) Mimi-ka *pro* po-ass-ta.  
Mimi.NOM pro see.PST.DECL  
'Mimi saw (him)'

In accounting for *pro*-drop phenomena, we do not need to posit a phonologically empty pronoun if the level of argument structure is available (see Bresnan 1982). We simply encode the required pronominal properties in the argument structure. In the framework of HPSG, we represent this as the following Argument Realization Constraint allowing mismatch between argument-structure and syntactic-valence features:<sup>12</sup>

- (54) Argument Realization Constraint (ARC):  

$$V\text{-WORD} \Rightarrow \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{SYN} | \text{VAL} \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{SUBJ } \boxed{A} \\ \text{COMPS } \boxed{B} \ominus \text{list}(pro) \end{array} \right] \\ \text{ARG-ST } \boxed{A} \oplus \boxed{B} \end{array} \right]$$

The argument realization here tells us that a *pro* element in the argument structure need not be realized in the syntax. For example, as represented in (55), the transitive verb *po-ass-ta* 'see.PST.DECL' takes a *pro* object NP as its argument and thus the *pro* NP is not instantiated as the syntactic complement of the verb.

- (55) Lexical entry for *po-ass-ta*

$V\text{-WORD}$	$\left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{FORM } \langle \text{PO-ASS-TA} \rangle \\ \text{SYN} \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{HEAD }   \text{VFORM } \text{FIN} \\ \text{VAL} \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{SUBJ } \langle \boxed{1} \rangle \\ \text{COMPS } \langle \rangle \end{array} \right] \end{array} \right] \\ \text{ARG-ST } \langle \boxed{1} \text{NP}, \text{NP}[PRO] \rangle \end{array} \right]$
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<sup>12</sup>Expressions have two subtypes: overt and covert ones, the latter of which has two subtypes, *pro* and *gap*. See Sag (2012) for details.

Similarly, English VPE is analyzed as a language-particular VP *pro* drop phenomenon normally licensed by auxiliary verbs. This idea can be formalized as in (56):

- (56) Aux-Ellipsis Construction:

$$\begin{array}{c} \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{AUX-ELLISSIS-WD} \\ \text{ARG-ST } \langle \boxed{1} \text{XP}, \boxed{2} \text{YP}[\text{PRO}] \rangle \end{array} \right] \\ | \\ \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{AUX-V-LXM} \\ \text{ARG-ST } \langle \boxed{1} \text{XP}, \boxed{2} \text{YP} \rangle \end{array} \right] \end{array}$$

What this tells us is that an auxiliary verb selecting two arguments can be projected into an elided auxiliary verb whose second argument is realized as a small *pro*. Note that this argument is not mapped onto the syntactic grammatical function COMPS. (56) will also project a structure like the one in Figure 1.

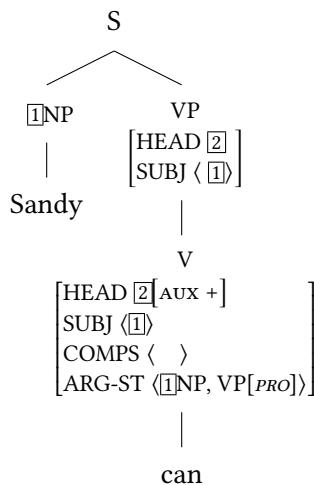


Figure 1: add caption

The head daughter's COMPS list (VP[bse]) is empty because the second element in the ARG-ST is a *pro*.

## **6 Analyses of nonconstituent coordination and gapping**

In this section, we focus on RNR and gapping, whose analyses we address in separate subsections below.

### **6.1 Right Node Raising**

A characteristic property of RNR is that it's the only phenomenon where seemingly incomplete structure has consistently attracted HPSG analyses involving deletion of silent material. All existing analyses of RNR (Abeillé et al. 2016, Beavers & Sag 2004, Chaves 2008, 2014, Crysmann 2003, Yatabe 2001, 2012) agree on this point, although some of this work proposes more than one mechanism for accounting for coordination of nonconstituents (Chaves 2014, Yatabe 2001, 2012, Yatabe & Tam 2018).

The RNR literature engages with the question of what kind of deletion it is that targets shared material, based on the kind of material that may be RNRaised and the range of mismatches permitted between the left and right conjuncts.<sup>13</sup> For instance, Chaves (2014: 839–840) concludes that RNR can't be syntactic deletion because it exhibits various argument-structure mismatches (57–58) and can target material below the word level (59–60).

- (57) Sue gave me—but I don't think I will ever read—[a book about relativity].
- (58) Never let me—or insist that I—[pick the seats].
- (59) We ordered the hard- but they got us the soft-[cover edition].
- (60) Your theory under- and my theory over[generates].

Furthermore, RNR can target strings that are not subject to any known syntactic operations, such as rightward movement (Chaves 2014: 865).

- (61) I thought it was going to be a good but it ended up being a very bad [reception].
- (62) Tonight a group of men, tomorrow night he himself, [would go out there somewhere and wait].

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<sup>13</sup> Although we refer to the material on the left and right as conjuncts, it is been known since Hudson (1976, 1984) that RNR extends to other syntactic environments than coordination (see Chaves (2014) for stressing this point).

- (63) They were also as liberal or more liberal [than any other age group in the 1986 through 1989 surveys].

RNRaised material can also be discontinuous, as in (64–65) (Chaves 2014: 868; citing Whitman 2009: 238–240).

- (64) Please move from the exit rows if you are unwilling or unable [to perform the necessary actions] without injury.
- (65) The blast upended and nearly sliced [an armored Chevrolet Suburban] in half.

This evidence leads Chaves (2014) to propose that: (1) only 'true' RNR should be accounted for via the mechanism of surface-based deletion, (2) this deletion is sensitive to morph form identity, and (3) the targets of RNR are any linearized strings, whether constituents or otherwise. Chaves' (2014: 874) constraint licensing RNR is given in 54. It permits the M(orpho)P(honology) feature of the mother to contain only one instance (represented as  $L_3$  in (66)) of the two morphophonologically identical sequences [FORM  $F_1$ ], ..., [FORM  $F_n$ ] present in the daughters; the leftmost of these sequences undergoes deletion. The final list in the mother,  $L_4$ , may be empty or nonempty, depending on whether RNR is discontinuous.

- (66) Backward periphery deletion construction

$$\left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{PHRASE} \\ \text{MP } L_1:\text{ne-list} \circ L_2:\text{ne-list} \circ L_3 \circ L_4 \end{array} \right] \Rightarrow \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{PHRASE} \\ \text{MP } L_1 \circ \langle [\text{FORM } F_1], \dots, [\text{FORM } F_n] \rangle \circ L_2 \circ L_3 : \langle [\text{FORM } F_1], \dots, [\text{FORM } F_n] \rangle \circ L_4 \end{array} \right]$$

Chaves' (2014) proposal reflects the idea that nonconstituent coordination is a multi-faceted phenomenon, requiring more than one kind of analysis. Indeed, the HPSG literature includes analyses based on NP-ellipsis or A(cross) T(he) B(oard) extrapolation (Chaves 2014) and on phonological vs syntactic deletion (Yatabe 2001, 2012, Yatabe & Tam 2018). Abeillé et al. (2016) argue for a finer-grained analysis of French RNR based on phonological deletion. Their empirical evidence reveals a split between functional and lexical categories in French such that the former permit mismatch between the two conjuncts (where determiners or prepositions differ) under RNR, while the latter don't.

## 6.2 Gapping

HPSG analyses of gapping fall into two kinds: one kind draws on Beavers and Sag's (2004) deletion-based analysis of nonconstituent coordination (Chaves 2009) ■

and the other on Ginzburg and Sag's (2000) analysis of NUs (Abeillé et al. 2014, Park et al. 2018). The latter analyses align gapping with analyses of NUs, as discussed in section 4, more than with analyses of nonconstituent coordination, and therefore gapping could be classified together with other NUs. We use the analysis due to Abeillé et al. (2014) for illustration below.

Abeillé et al. (2014) assume an identity condition on gapping requiring that gapping remnants match major constituents in the antecedent clause, which they term source clause. In other words, gapping remnants are constrained by elements of the argument structure of the verbal head present in the antecedent and absent from the rightmost conjunct, as originally proposed by Hankamer (1971). This identity condition correctly predicts that gapping remnants needn't appear in the same order as their counterparts in the antecedent (67) (see Sag et al. 1985: 156–158), nor are they required to be the same syntactic category as their counterparts (68). However, note that despite the syntactic category mismatch, the NP *an incredible bore* belongs to the subcategorization frame of the predicate *become*.

- (67) A policeman walked in at 11, and at 12, a fireman.

- (68) Pat has become [crazy]<sub>AP</sub> and Chris [an incredible bore]<sub>NP</sub>.

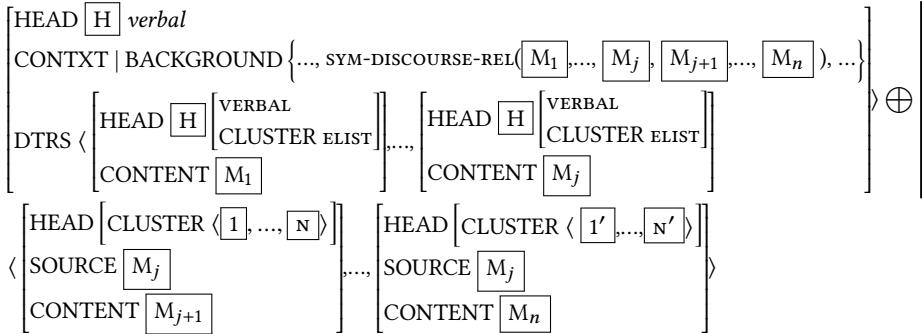
Abeillé et al. (2014) offer additional evidence from Romance (e.g., case mismatch between gapping remnants and their counterparts and even more possibilities of ordering remnants than is the case in English) to strengthen their point that syntactic identity is relaxed under gapping.

The key assumption in Abeillé et al.'s (2014) analysis is that (two or more) gapping remnants form a cluster whose mother has an underspecified syntactic category, that is, is a non-headed phrase. This phrase then serves as the head daughter of a head-fragment phrase, whose syntactic category is also underspecified. This means that there is no unpronounced verbal head in the phrase to which gapping remnants belong. Furthermore, the contextual attribute SAL-UTT introduced for NUs serves to ensure syntactic identity between gapping remnants and their counterparts such that the latter are SAL-UTTs bearing the specification [Major +] as part of their Head feature and being coindexed with the remnants.

With these ingredients of the analysis in place, we reproduce the gapping construction in (69). The construction represents asymmetric coordination in the sense that the daughters include both nonelliptical verbal conjuncts and head-fragment phrases with an underspecified syntactic category. The mother only shares its syntactic category with the nonelliptical conjuncts so that its own category is specified to be verbal.

- (69) Gapping construction

*gapping-ph* → *coord-ph* &



## 7 Summary

This chapter has reviewed three types of ellipsis, nonsentential utterances, predicate ellipsis, and nonconstituent coordination, corresponding to three kinds of analysis within HPSG. The pattern that emerges from this overview is that HPSG favors the ‘what you see is what get’ approach to ellipsis and limits a deletion-based approach, common in the minimalist literature on ellipsis, to a subset of nonconstituent coordination phenomena.

## Abbreviations

NUs Nonsentential utterances

BAE Bare Argument Ellipsis

VPE Verb Phrase Ellipsis

NCA Null Complement Anaphora

SAL-UTT Salient Utterance

MAX-QUD Maximal-Question-under-Discussion

DGB Dialog Game Board

## Acknowledgements

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## **8 Handmade list of references: Fix!**

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# Chapter 21

## Anaphoric Binding

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The interpretation of anaphors depends on their antecedents and respective semantic value. This chapter presents the constraints on the admissible antecedents of nominal anaphors that are based on grammatical relations and structure. The integration into grammar of these anaphoric binding constraints and of the semantic representation of anaphors is also presented here.

### 1 Introduction

In large enough contexts, a nominal anaphoric expression may have more admissible antecedents than the antecedent that happen to be eventually selected to co-specify its interpretation. And when occurring in a given syntactic position, different anaphoric expressions may have different sets of admissible antecedents. This is illustrated in the emblematic examples below, with two anaphoric expressions from English — *herself* and *her* — occurring in the same position, each with different sets of admissible antecedents.

- (1) Mary's friend knows that Paula's sister described Joan to herself / her.

For the expression *herself*, either *Joan* or *Paula's sister* is an admissible antecedent. For *her*, its set of admissible antecedents includes instead *Paula*, *Mary's friend* and *Mary*.

Further examples with two anaphoric expressions occurring in the same position and each with different sets of admissible antecedents are the following:

- (2) Mary's friend knows that Paula's sister saw her / the little girl.



For the expression *the little girl*, either *Paula* or *Mary* is an admissible antecedent. For *her*, its set of admissible antecedents includes additionally *Mary's friend*.

Such differences in terms of sets of admissible antecedents are the basis for the partition of nominal anaphoric expressions into different groups according to their anaphoric capacity. It has been an important topic of research to determine how many such groups or types of anaphoric expressions there are, what expressions belong to which type in each language, and what exactly are the sets of admissible antecedents for each type.

The results of this inquiry have been condensed in a handful of anaphoric binding constraints, or principles, which seek to capture the relative positioning of anaphors and their admissible antecedents in grammatical representations.

From an empirical perspective, these constraints stem from what appears as quite cogent generalisations and exhibit a universal character, given their cross linguistic validity.<sup>1</sup> From a conceptual point of view, in turn, the relations among binding constraints involve non-trivial cross symmetry, which lends them a modular nature and provides further strength to the plausibility of their universal character.<sup>2</sup>

Accordingly, anaphoric binding principles appears as one of the most significant subsets of grammatical knowledge, usually termed as Binding Theory.

This grammar module is presented in this chapter. In the next section, Section 2, the empirical generalisation captured in the binding constraints are introduced, together with the relevant auxiliary notions and parameterisation options.

The key ingredients for the integration of binding constraints into grammar are discussed in Section 3, and a detailed account of this integration is provided in the following Section 4 – which is further illustrated with the support of the working example in the Appendix.

Section 5 is devoted to discuss how the account of anaphoric binding presented in the previous sections ensures a neat interface of grammar with reference processing systems, and thus supports a seamlessly articulation of binding constraints with anaphora resolution.

In the penultimate section, Section 6, additional binding constraints are introduced, that hold from the perspective of the antecedents, rather from the perspective of the anaphors, together with the respective supporting empirical evidence.

The final Section 7 is devoted to underline the design features that emerge as

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<sup>1</sup>(Branco 2000c), *i.a.*

<sup>2</sup>(Branco 2005a).

crucial for an account of the grammar of anaphoric binding constraints, and to provide an outlook to promising avenues for future research that may further enhance our understanding of anaphoric binding and the semantics of nominal anaphors.

## 2 Empirical generalisations

Since the so called integrative approach to anaphora resolution was set up,<sup>3</sup> it is common wisdom that factors determining the antecedents of anaphors divide into filters, or hard constraints, and preferences, or soft constraints. The former exclude impossible antecedents and help to circumscribe the set of admissible antecedents; the latter interact to converge on the eventual antecedent among the admissible antecedents.

So-called binding principles are a notorious subset of hard constraints on anaphora resolution: they capture generalisations concerning the constraints on the relative positioning of anaphors with respect to their admissible antecedents in the grammatical geometry of sentences.

We present below the definition of binding constraints,<sup>4</sup> which resorts to a few auxiliary notions – locality, o-command, o-binding –, whose definition, in turn, are presented right afterwards.

There are four such constraints on the anaphoric capacity of nominals, named Principle A, Z, B and C. They induce a partition of the set of anaphors into four classes. According to this partition, every nominal anaphor is of one of the following anaphoric types: short-distance reflexive, long-distance reflexive, pronoun, or non-pronoun.

The definition of each binding principle in (3)-(6) is paired with an illustrative example with key grammatical contrasts empirically supporting the respective generalisation. In particular, Principle A in (3) is paired with an example with the short-distance reflexive *himself*, Principle Z in (4) is paired with the Portuguese long-distance reflexive *ele próprio*, Principle B in (5) with the pronoun *him*, and Principle C in (6) with the non pronoun *the boy*. These examples will be discussed below right after the definitions of the auxiliary notions have been presented.

<sup>3</sup>The integrative approach to anaphora resolution was set up in (Carbonell & Brown 1988; Rich & LuperFoy 1988; Asher & Wada 1989), and its practical viability was extensively checked out in (Lappin & Leass 1994; Mitkov 1997).

<sup>4</sup>This is the approach to Binding Theory proposed in (Pollard & Sag 1992) and (Pollard & Sag 1994: Chap.6), and subsequent developments in (Xue et al. 1994; Branco 1996; Branco & Marrafa 1997; Manning & Sag 1999; Wechsler 1999; Koenig 1999; Branco & Marrafa 1999; Richter et al. 1999; Golde 1999; Branco 2000c; Kiss 2001; Branco 2002a,c,b) *i.a.*

- (3) **Principle A:** A locally o-commanded short-distance reflexive must be locally o-bound.  
... $X_x \dots [\text{Lee}_i \text{'s friend}]_j$  thinks [[Max<sub>k</sub> 's brother]<sub>l</sub> likes himself<sub>\*x/\*i/\*j/\*k/l</sub>].
- (4) **Principle Z:** An o-commanded long-distance reflexive must be o-bound.  
... $X_x \dots [\text{O amigo do Lee}_i]_j$  acha [que [o irmão do Max<sub>k</sub>]<sub>l</sub>  
the friend of.the Lee thinks that the brother of.the Max  
gosta dele próprio<sub>\*x/\*i/\*j/\*k/l</sub>]. (Portuguese)  
likes of.him self  
'... $X_x \dots [\text{Lee}_i \text{'s friend}]_j$  thinks [[Max<sub>k</sub> 's brother]<sub>l</sub> likes him<sub>\*x/\*i/\*j/\*k</sub> /  
himself<sub>l</sub>]'.
- (5) **Principle B:** A pronoun must be locally o-free.  
... $X_x \dots [\text{Lee}_i \text{'s friend}]_j$  thinks [[Max<sub>k</sub> 's brother]<sub>l</sub> likes him<sub>x/i/j/k/\*l</sub>].
- (6) **Principle C:** A non-pronoun must be o-free.  
... $X_x \dots [\text{Lee}_i \text{'s friend}]_j$  thinks [[Max<sub>k</sub> 's brother]<sub>l</sub> likes the boy<sub>x/i/\*j/k/\*l</sub>].

## 2.1 Binding, coindexation, locality, command and crosslinguistic variation

The empirical generalisations presented above result from linguistic analysis supported by empirical evidence of which the respective examples above are just a few key illustrative cases. These examples will be discussed in detail in the next subsection, thus illustrating the analysis underlying the binding principles above.

The above definition of binding principles is rendered with the help of a few auxiliary notions. For many of these auxiliary notions, their final value or definition is amenable to be set according to a range of options: as briefly exemplified below, this parameterisation may be driven by the particular language at stake, by the relevant predicator selecting the anaphor, by the specific anaphoric form, etc.

These are the definitions of those auxiliary notions:

**Binding O-binding** is such that “ $x$  o-binds  $y$  iff  $x$  o-commands  $y$  and  $x$  and  $y$  are coindexed” (*o-freeness* is non o-binding).<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>5</sup>(Pollard & Sag 1994: 279).

**Coidexation** *Coidexation* is meant to represent an anaphoric link between the expressions with the same index. A starred index, in turn, indicates that the anaphoric link represented is not acceptable, as in the following examples:

- (7) a. John<sub>i</sub> said that Peter<sub>j</sub> shaved himself<sub>\*i/j</sub>.
- b. John<sub>i</sub> said that Peter<sub>j</sub> shaved him<sub>i/\*j</sub>.

Turning to example (5), for instance, *him<sub>k</sub>* and *Max<sub>k</sub>* are coidexed with *k*, thus indicating their anaphoric binding and representing that *Max* is the antecedent of *him*. The starred index *\*l*, in turn, indicates that the coidexation between *Max's brother<sub>l</sub>* and *him<sub>\*l</sub>* is not felicitous, and thus that *Max's brother* is not an admissible antecedent of *him* in (5).

In the examples above, '...X<sub>x</sub>...' represents a generic, extra-sentential antecedent available from the context.

Plural anaphors with so-called split antecedents, that has concomitantly more than one antecedent, are represented with a sum of indexes as a subscript, as exemplified below by *them* being interpreted as referring to John and Mary.<sup>6</sup>

- (8) John<sub>i</sub> told Mary<sub>j</sub> that Kim talked about them<sub>i+j</sub>.

**Locality** The *local domain* of an anaphor results from the partition of sentences and associated grammatical geometry into two zones of greater or less proximity with respect to the anaphor.

Typically, the local domain coincides with the immediate selectional domain of the predicator directly selecting the anaphor. In the following example, the local domain of *him* is explicitly marked within square brackets:

- (9) John knows that [Peter described him].

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<sup>6</sup>When at least one of the antecedents in a split antecedent relation does not comply with the relevant binding principle (and there is at least one that complies with it), the acceptability of that anaphoric link degrades. Apparently, the larger the number of antecedents that violate the binding constraint the less acceptable is the anaphoric link: while both examples below are not fully acceptable, two coidexations out of three, via *j* and *k*, in violation of the Principle B render example b. less acceptable than example a., which has one coidexation only, via *k*, in violation of that binding constraint (Seeley 1993: 313):

- (i) a. ? The doctor<sub>i</sub> told the patient<sub>j</sub> [that the nurse<sub>k</sub> would protect them<sub>i+j+k</sub> during the storm].
- b. ?? The doctor<sub>i</sub> said [that the patient<sub>j</sub> told the nurse<sub>k</sub> about them<sub>i+j+k</sub>].

As for plural reflexives, which in turn comply with Principle A, they accept split antecedents only in exempt positions – on the notion of exemption, see Section 2.3.

In the example in (3), for instance, *Max's brother* is immediately selected by *likes*, the predicate that immediately selects *himself*, while *Lee's friend* is not. Hence, the first is in the local domain of *himself*, while the latter is not.

In some cases, there may be additional requirements that the local domain is circumscribed by the first selecting predicate that happens to be finite, bears tense or indicative features, etc.<sup>7</sup> One such example can be the following:<sup>8</sup>

- (10) a. Jón<sub>i</sub> segir að [Maria<sub>j</sub> elskar sig<sub>\*i/j</sub> ]. (Icelandic)  
 Jón says-IND that Maria loves-IND himself  
 'Jón says that [Maria<sub>j</sub> loves himself<sub>\*i/herself<sub>j</sub></sub>].'
- b. [Jón<sub>i</sub> segir að Maria<sub>j</sub> elski sig<sub>i/j</sub> ].  
 Jón says-IND that Maria loves-SUBJ himself  
 '[Jón<sub>i</sub> says that Maria<sub>j</sub> loves himself<sub>i/herself<sub>j</sub></sub>].'

In the first sentence above, the verb in the embedded clause is Indicative and the local domain of its Direct Object is circumscribed to this clause as the reflexive cannot have the Subject of the upwards clause as its antecedent. The second sentence is identical to the first one except that the mood of the embedded verb is now Subjunctive. This leads to a change in the local domain of the reflexive: it can now have also the upwards Subject as its antecedent, thus revealing that its local domain is determined by the first selecting verb in the Indicative, which happens now to be the verb of the upwards clause.

In some other languages, there are anaphors whose local domain is the immediate selectional domain not of the directly selecting predicate but of the immediately upwards predictor, irrespective of the inflectional features of the directly or indirectly selecting predicates. This seems to be the case of the Greek *o idhios*:<sup>9</sup>

- (11) O Yannis<sub>i</sub> ipe stin Maria [oti o Costas<sub>j</sub> pistevi [oti o Vasilis<sub>k</sub> aghapa ton idhio??<sub>i/j/\*k</sub>]]. (Greek)  
 the Yannis told the Maria that the Costas believes that the Vasilis  
 loves the same.  
 'Yannis<sub>i</sub> told Maria that [Costas<sub>j</sub> believes that [Vasilis<sub>k</sub> loves  
 him??<sub>i/j/\*k</sub>]]:

Languages shows diversity concerning which of these options are materialized and which grammatical and lexical means are brought to bear.<sup>10</sup> Additionally, not

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<sup>7</sup>Vd. (Manzini & Wexler 1987; Koster & Reuland 1991; Dalrymple 1993) for further details.

<sup>8</sup>(Manzini & Wexler 1987: 47).

<sup>9</sup>Alexis Dimitriadis p.c. See also (Latridou 1986; Varlokosta & Hornstein 1993).

<sup>10</sup>(Dimitriadis et al. 2005).

all languages have anaphors of every one of the anaphoric types: For instance, English is not known to have long-distance reflexives.

**Command o-command** is a partial order defined on the basis of the obliqueness hierarchies of grammatical functions, possibly embedded in each other along the relation of subcategorisation: “Y o-commands Z just in case either Y is less oblique than Z; or Y o-commands some X that subcategorises for Z; or Y o-commands some X that is a projection of Z”.<sup>11</sup>

The grammatical function Subject is less oblique than the Direct Object, the Direct Object is less oblique than the Indirect Object, etc., thus establishing a so-called obliqueness hierarchy. The obliqueness hierarchy of grammatical functions is represented in the value of ARG-ST feature in as much as the arguments are ordered from those whose grammatical function is less oblique to those whose function is more oblique. As discussed in detail in Section 4 and in connection with the working example in the Appendix, ARG-ST feature value plays a crucial role in the formalization and explicit integration of binding principles into grammar.<sup>12</sup>

Accordingly, the Subject o-commands the Direct Object, the Direct Object o-commands the Indirect Object, etc.; and in a multi-clausal sentence, the arguments in the upwards clauses o-command the arguments in the successively embedded clauses.

- (12) [[John’s friend] said that [[Peter’s brother] presented [Martin’s cousin] to him]].

In the example above, *John’s friend* o-commands *Peter’s brother*, *Peter*, *Martin’s cousin*, *Martin* and *him*. *Peter’s brother* locally o-commands *Martin’s cousin* and *him*, and (non-locally) o-commands *Martin*. Neither *John*, *Peter*, *Martin* nor *him* is o-commanding any nominal in this example.

In the example of (4), for instance, the Portuguese long-distance reflexive *ele próprio*, which is the Object of the embedded clause, is o-commanded by *o irmão do Max* (Max’s brother), the Subject of that clause, and by *o amigo do Lee* (Lee’s friend), the Subject of the upwards clause. *Lee* and *Max*, in turn, do not o-command this reflexive in this example.

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<sup>11</sup>(Pollard & Sag 1994: 279).

<sup>12</sup>For further discussion of the notion of obliqueness of grammatical functions as well as further references on this topic, see (Pollard & Sag 1987: Section 5.2).

## 2.2 Binding principles

With the definition of the auxiliary notions above in place, the definition of binding principles in (3)-(6) is now complete and it is possible to appreciate how the respective examples instantiate them.

**Principle A** The example in (3) shows that the anaphoric capacity of *himself* complies with the anaphoric discipline captured by Principle A: if it is locally o-commanded, it has to be locally o-bound, i.e. only locally o-commanders can be its admissible antecedents if it happens to be locally o-commanded.

*Max's brother* is in the local domain of *himself* because it is immediately selected by the predicate *likes* which also immediately selects *himself*. Moreover, *Max's brother*, in a Subject position, o-commands *himself*, in an Object position. *Max's brother* is thus a local o-commander of *himself*, and hence it is an admissible antecedent of *himself*.

The other nominals in this example are not local o-commanders of *himself*: both *Lee* and *Lee's friend* are selected by the main clause predictor *thinks*, not by the predictor *likes* which is immediately selecting *himself* and are thus not in its local domain; *Max* in turn, given it is embedded inside the local Subject, it is not immediately selected by the predictor *likes* that is immediately selecting *himself*. Hence, none of the nominals in the sentence other than *Max's brother* happen to be local o-commanders of *himself* and thus are not one of its admissible antecedents.

Also any other antecedent candidate eventually available in the extra-sentential context is not a local o-commander of *himself* and thus it is not one of its admissible antecedents.

Given the anaphoric capacity of *himself* complies with the anaphoric discipline captured by Principle A, it belongs to the class of short-distance reflexives.

In connection with Principle A, it is also worth signalling that it is not the case that only Subjects can be local o-commanders of short-distance reflexives, as illustrated below.

- (13) a. Peter<sub>i</sub> didn't talk to John<sub>j</sub> about himself<sub>i/j</sub>.  
b. About himself<sub>i/j</sub>, Peter<sub>i</sub> didn't talk to John<sub>j</sub>.

In the examples in (13), *John* and *himself* are in the same local domain. Moreover, *John*, in the Object position, is less oblique than *himself*, in the Indirect Object position. Hence, *John* is a local o-commander of the reflexive and qualifies as one of its admissible antecedents, together with *Peter*, in the Subject position.

The absence of contrast between (13a) and (13b) is a central piece of evidence that the command relation for anaphoric binding is based on the obliqueness hierarchy of grammatical functions (o-command) rather than on a configurational hierarchy based on surface syntactic structure (c-command).<sup>13</sup>

**Principle Z** The example in (4) shows that the anaphoric capacity of the Portuguese nominal *ele próprio* complies with the anaphoric discipline captured by Principle Z: if it is o-commanded, it has to be o-bound, i.e. only o-commanders can be its admissible antecedents if it happens to be o-commanded.

*ele próprio* is (locally) o-commanded by *o irmão do Max* because both are selected by the predicate *gosta* and *o irmão do Max* is less oblique than *ele próprio*. *ele próprio* is also o-commanded by *o amigo do Lee* because *o amigo do Lee* is selected by the predicate of the upwards clause *acha*, which selects the embedded clause whose predicate selects *ele próprio*, and *o amigo do Lee* is thus less oblique than *ele próprio* in the composite obliqueness hierarchy.

The other nominals in this example are not o-commanders of *ele próprio*: both *Lee* and *Max* are embedded inside arguments of the relevant predicates *acha* and *gosta* but are not arguments of them. Hence, none of the nominals in the sentence other than *o amigo do Lee* and *o irmão do Max* happen to be o-commanders of *ele próprio* and thus are not one of its admissible antecedents.

Also any other antecedent candidate eventually available in the extra-sentential context is not an o-commander of *ele próprio* and thus it is not one of its admissible antecedents.

Given the anaphoric capacity of *ele próprio* complies with the anaphoric discipline captured by Principle Z, it belongs to the class of long-distance reflexives.

**Principle B** The example in (5) shows that the anaphoric capacity of *him* complies with the anaphoric discipline captured by Principle B: it has to be locally o-free, i.e. its local o-commanders cannot be its admissible antecedents.

In that example, *Max's brother* is the only local o-commander of *him* because *Max's brother* is the only argument of the predicate *likes* other than *him*, and is less oblique than *him*.

The other nominals in this example are not local o-commanders of *him*: neither

<sup>13</sup>Binding principles based on o-command, rather than on c-command as proposed in (Chomsky 1980) and (Chomsky 1986), is a hallmark of the analysis in (Pollard & Sag 1992).

The analysis based on c-command incorrectly predicts that anaphoric links like those in (13b) would not be acceptable, because the admissible antecedents of *himself* do not c-command it (it is *himself* that c-commands them instead).

The analysis based on c-command also incorrectly predicts that the anaphoric link between *himself* and *John* in (13a) would not be acceptable, because *John* does not c-command *himself*.

For a detailed discussion, see (Pollard & Sag 1994: Chap.6).

*Lee's friend, Lee or Max* are immediately selected by *likes*.

Also any other antecedent candidate eventually available in the extra-sentential context is not a local o-commander of *him*.

Hence, in this example all antecedent candidates, sentential and non sentential, are admissible antecedents of *him* except *Max's brother*.

Given the anaphoric capacity of *him* complies with the anaphoric discipline captured by Principle B, it belongs to the class of pronouns.

**Principle C** The example in (6) shows that the anaphoric capacity of *the boy* complies with the anaphoric discipline captured by Principle C: it has to be o-free, i.e. its o-commanders are not admissible antecedents.

In that example, *Lee's friend* and *Max's brother* are the only o-commanders of *the boy*: *Lee's friend* is selected by the predicate of the upwards clause *likes*, which selects the embedded clause whose predicate selects *the boy*; *Max's brother*, in turn, is the only argument immediately selected by the predicate *likes* other than *the boy*; and both *Lee's friend* and *Max's brother* are less oblique than *the boy*. ■

The other nominals in this example are not o-commanders of *the boy*: neither *Lee* or *Max* are immediately selected by *thinks* or *likes*.

Also any other antecedent candidate eventually available in the extra-sentential context is not an o-commander of *the boy*.

Hence, in this example all antecedent candidates, sentential and non sentential, are admissible antecedents of *the boy* except *Lee's friend* and *Max's brother*.

Given the anaphoric capacity of *the boy* complies with the anaphoric discipline captured by Principle C, it belongs to the class of non pronouns.

## 2.3 O-bottom positions: reshuffling and exemption

For the interpretation of an anaphor to be accomplished, an antecedent has to be found for it. Such an antecedent is to be picked from the set of its o-commanders, if the anaphor is a long-distance reflexive, or from the set of its local o-commanders, if it is a short-distance reflexive.

This requirement may not be satisfied in some specific cases, namely when the reflexive occurs in a syntactic position such that it is the least element of its o-command order, in an o-bottom position for short. In such circumstances, it has no o-commander (other than itself, if the o-command relation is formally defined as a reflexive relation) to qualify as its antecedent.

That is the motivation for the conditional formulation of Principles A and Z, in (3) and (4) respectively: a (short/) long-distance reflexive has to be (locally/) o-bound if it is (locally/) o-commanded. In case it is not (locally/) o-commanded,

there is no imposition concerning their admissible antecedents following from Principles A and Z.

**Reshuffling** As a consequence, in some cases, the binding domain for the reflexive which happens to be the least element of its local obliqueness order may be reshuffled, being reset as containing the o-commanders of the reflexive in the domain circumscribed by the immediately upwards predicator.<sup>14</sup> One such case for a nominal domain can be found in the following example:<sup>15</sup>

- (14) a. Gernot<sub>i</sub> dachte, dass Hans<sub>j</sub> dem Ulrich<sub>k</sub> [Marias<sub>l</sub> Bild von Gernot thought that Hans the Ulrich Maria's picture of sich<sub>\*i/\*j/\*k/l</sub>] überreichte. (German)  
self gave  
'Gernot<sub>i</sub> thought that Hans<sub>j</sub> gave Ulrich<sub>k</sub> [Maria<sub>l</sub>'s picture of himself<sub>\*i/\*j/\*k/herself<sub>l</sub>]].'</sub>
- b. Gernot<sub>i</sub> dachte, dass [Hans<sub>j</sub> dem Ulrich<sub>k</sub> ein Bild von sich<sub>\*i/j/k</sub> Gernot thought that Hans the Ulrich a picture of self überreichte].  
gave  
'Gernot<sub>i</sub> thought that [Hans<sub>j</sub> gave Ulrich<sub>k</sub> [a picture of himself<sub>i/j/k</sub>]].'

In the first sentence above, the short-distance reflexive is locally o-commanded by *Maria* and only this nominal can be its antecedent. In the second sentence, the reflexive is the first element in its local obliqueness hierarchy and its admissible antecedents, which form now its local domain, are the nominals in the obliqueness hierarchy of the immediately upwards predicator.

The null subject in languages like Portuguese is another example of a short-distance reflexive that is in an o-bottom position and whose local domain is reshuffled:<sup>16</sup>

- (15) O médico<sub>i</sub> disse-me [que [o director do Pedro<sub>j</sub>]<sub>k</sub> ainda não the doctor told-me that the director of the Pedro yet not reparou [que Ø<sub>\*i/\*j/k</sub> cometeu um erro]]. (Portuguese)  
noticed that made a mistake.  
'The doctor<sub>i</sub> told me [that [Pedro<sub>j</sub>'s director]<sub>k</sub> didn't notice yet [that he<sub>\*i/\*j/k</sub> made a mistake]].'

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<sup>14</sup>(Branco 2005b).

<sup>15</sup>Tibor Kiss p.c., which is a development with regards to his data in (Kiss 2001).

<sup>16</sup>(Branco 2007).

In the example above, as the null reflexive is in an o-bottom position, its local domain gets reshuffled to include the immediately upwards o-commander *Pedro's director*. Once it is thus o-commanded, in accordance do Principle A, the null reflexive cannot take other nominal in the sentence, viz. *the doctor* or *Pedro*, as its admissible antecedent given none of these o-commands it.

**Exemption** In some other cases, this resetting of the binding domain is not available. In such cases, the reflexive is in the bottom of its local obliqueness order and is observed to be exempt of its typical binding regime: the reflexive may take antecedents that are not its o-commanders or that are outside of its local or immediately upward domains,<sup>17</sup> as illustrated in the following example:<sup>18</sup>

- (16) Mary<sub>i</sub> thought the artist had done a bad job, and was sorry that her parents came all the way to Columbus just to see the portrait of herself<sub>i</sub>.

In an exempt position, a reflexive can even have so-called split antecedents, as illustrated in the following example with a short-distance reflexive:<sup>19</sup>

- (17) Mary<sub>i</sub> eventually convinced her sister Susan<sub>j</sub> that John had better pay visits to everybody except themselves<sub>i+j</sub>.

That is an option not available for reflexives in non exempt positions:

- (18) Mary<sub>i</sub> described<sub>j</sub> John to themselves<sub>\*(i+j)</sub>.

Some long-distance reflexives may also be exempt from their binding constraint if they occur in the bottom of their o-command relation. In such cases, they can have an antecedent in the previous discourse sentences or in the context, or a deictic use, as illustrated in the following example:

- (19) [O Pedro e o Nuno]<sub>i</sub> também conhecera ontem a Ana. Eles  
the Pedro and the Nuno also met yesterday the Ana. They  
próprios<sub>i</sub> ficaram logo a gostar muito dela. (Portuguese)  
*próprios* stayed immediately to liking much of her  
'[Pedro and Nuno]<sub>i</sub> also met Ana yesterday. They<sub>i</sub> liked her very much  
right away.'

Such options are not available in non exempt positions.<sup>20</sup>

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<sup>17</sup>(Pollard & Sag 1994: 263).

<sup>18</sup>(Golde 1999: 73).

<sup>19</sup>(Zribi-Hertz 1989: 42).

<sup>20</sup>For further details, vd. (Branco & Marrafa 1999).

- (20) A Ana também conheceu ontem [o Pedro e o Nuno]<sub>i</sub>. Ela  
 The Ana also met yesterday the Pedro and the Nuno. She  
 ficou logo a gostar muito deles próprios<sub>\*i</sub>. (Portuguese)  
 stayed immediately to liking much of them *próprios*  
 'Ana also met [Pedro and Nuno]<sub>i</sub> yesterday. She liked them<sub>\*i</sub> very much  
 right away.'

Admittedly, an overarching interpretability condition is in force in natural languages requiring the “meaningful” anchoring of anaphors to antecedents. Besides this general requirement, anaphors are concomitantly ruled by specific constraints concerning their particular anaphoric capacity, including the sentence-level constraints in (3)-(6), i.e. the binding principles.

When reflexives are in o-bottom positions, an o-commander (other than the reflexive itself) may not be available to function as antecedent and anchor their interpretation. Hence, such specific binding constraints, viz. Principle A and Z, cannot be satisfied in a “meaningful” way and the general interpretability requirement may supervene them. As a consequence, in cases displaying so-called exemption from binding constraints, o-bottom reflexives appear to escape their specific binding regime to comply with such general requirement and its interpretability be rescued.

The anaphoric links of exempt reflexives have been observed to be governed by a range of non sentential factors (from discourse, dialogue, non linguistic context, etc.), not being determined by the sentence-level binding principles in (3)-(6).<sup>21</sup>

## 2.4 o-command: alternations and subject-orientedness

**Alternations** In languages like English, the o-command order can be established over the obliqueness hierarchies of active and passive sentences alike.<sup>22</sup>

- (21) a. John<sub>i</sub> shaved himself<sub>i</sub>.  
 b. John<sub>i</sub> was shaved by himself<sub>i</sub>.

The obliqueness hierarchy of grammatical functions is represented in ARG-ST and in both ARG-ST values of (21a) and of (21b), *John* appears as the Subject and qualifies as a local o-commander of *himself*, and thus as an admissible antecedent of this reflexive.

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<sup>21</sup>For further details, vd. (Kuno 1987; Zribi-Hertz 1989; Golde 1999) among others.

<sup>22</sup>(Jackendoff 1972; Pollard & Sag 1994).

In some other languages, only the obliqueness hierarchy of a given syntactic alternation is available to support the o-command order relevant for binding constraints in both alternations.

This is the case, for example, of the alternation active/objective voice in Toba Batak. In this language, a reflexive in Object position of an active voice sentence can have the Subject as its antecedent, but not vice-versa:<sup>23</sup>

- (22) a. mang-ida      diri-na<sub>i</sub>      si John<sub>i</sub>.      (Toba Batak)  
[ACTIVE-saw himself<sub>OBJECT</sub>]VP PM John<sub>SUBJECT</sub>  
'John<sub>i</sub> saw himself<sub>i</sub>.'
- b. mang-ida      si John<sub>i</sub>      diri-na<sub>\*i</sub>.  
[ACTIVE-saw PM John<sub>OBJECT</sub>]VP himself<sub>SUBJECT</sub>

Taking the objective voice paraphrase corresponding to the active sentence above, the binding pattern is inverted: a reflexive in Subject position can have the Object as its antecedent, but not vice-versa, thus revealing that the obliqueness hierarchy relevant for the verification of its binding constraint remains the hierarchy of the corresponding active voice sentence above:

- (23) a. di-ida      diri-na<sub>\*i</sub>      si John<sub>i</sub>.  
[OBJECTIVE-saw himself<sub>OBJECT</sub>]VP PM John<sub>SUBJECT</sub>  
b. di-ida      si John<sub>i</sub>      diri-na<sub>i</sub>.  
[OBJECTIVE-saw PM John<sub>OBJECT</sub>]VP himself<sub>SUBJECT</sub>  
'John<sub>i</sub> saw himself<sub>i</sub>'.

**Subject-orientedness** o-command may take the shape of a linear or non linear order depending on the specific obliqueness hierarchy upon which it is realised.

In a language like English, the arguments in the subcategorisation frame of a predicator are typically arranged in a linear obliqueness hierarchy.

In some other languages, the obliqueness hierarchy upon which the o-command order is based may happen to be non linear: in the subcategorisation frame of a predicator, the Subject is less oblique than any other argument while the remaining arguments are not comparable to each other under the obliqueness relation. As a consequence, in a clause, a short-distance reflexive with an Indirect Object grammatical function, for instance, may only have the Subject as its antecedent, its only local o-commander.<sup>24</sup>

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<sup>23</sup>(Manning & Sag 1999: 72).

<sup>24</sup>For a thorough argument and further evidence motivated independently of binding facts see (Branco 1996; Branco & Marrafa 1997; Branco 2000c). In some languages, there can be an addi-

This Subject-orientedness effect induced on the anaphoric capacity of reflexives by the non linearity of the o-command relation can be observed in contrasts like the following.<sup>25</sup>

- (24) a. Lars<sub>i</sub> fortalte Jon<sub>j</sub> om seg selv<sub>i/\*j</sub>. (Norwegian)  
 Lars told Jon about self *selv*  
 'Lars<sub>i</sub> told Jon<sub>j</sub> about himself<sub>i/\*j</sub>.'  
 b. Lars<sub>i</sub> fortalte Jon<sub>j</sub> om ham selv<sub>\*i/j</sub>.  
 Lars told Jon about him *selv*  
 'Lars<sub>i</sub> told Jon<sub>j</sub> about him<sub>\*i/j</sub>.'

In the first sentence above, the reflexive cannot have the Direct Object as its antecedent given that the Subject is its only local o-commander in the non linear obliqueness hierarchy. In the second sentence, under the same circumstances, a pronoun presents the symmetric pattern: it can have any co-argument as its antecedent except the Subject, its sole local o-commander.<sup>26</sup>

### 3 Binding Constraints at the Syntax-Semantics Interface

Like other sorts of constraints on semantic composition, binding constraints impose grammatical conditions on the interpretation of certain expressions — anaphors, in the present case — based on syntactic geometry.<sup>27</sup> This should not be seen, however, as implying that they express grammaticality requirements. By replacing, for instance, a pronoun by a reflexive in a sentence, we are not turning a grammatical construction into an ungrammatical one, even if we assign to the reflexive the antecedent adequately selected for the pronoun. In that case, we are just asking the hearer to try to assign to that sentence a meaning that it cannot express, in the same way as what would happen if we asked someone whether he could interpret *The red book is on the white table* as describing a situation where a white book is on a red table.

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tional requirement that the Subject be animate to qualify as a commander to certain anaphors.

On this, see (Huang & Tang 1991; Xue et al. 1994) about Chinese *ziji*, among others.

<sup>25</sup>Lars Hellan p.c. See also (Hellan 1988: 67).

<sup>26</sup>For an analysis of the Subject-orientedness of French *se* resorting to a notion of s-command, see (Abeillé, Godard, Miller, et al. 1998; Abeillé, Godard & Sag 1998).

<sup>27</sup>For a discussion of proposals in the literature that have tried to root binding principles on non-grammatical, cognitive search optimisation mechanisms, and their pitfalls, see (Branco 2000a; 2003; 2004).

In this example, given how they happen to be syntactically related, the semantic values of *red* and *table* cannot be composed in a way that this sentence could be used to describe a situation concerning a red table, rather than a white table.

Likewise, if we take the sentence *John thinks Peter shaved him*, given how they happen to be syntactically related, the semantic values of *Peter* and *him* cannot be composed in a way that this sentence could be used to describe a situation where John thinks that Peter shaved himself, i.e. Peter, rather than a situation where John thinks that Peter shaved other people, e.g. Paul, Bill, etc., or even John himself.

The basic difference between these two cases is that, while in the first the composition of the semantic contributions of *white* and *table* (for the interpretation of their NP *white table*) is constrained by local syntactic geometry, in the latter the composition of the semantic contributions of *John* and *him* (for the interpretation of the NP *him*) is constrained by non-local syntactic geometry.

These grammatical constraints on anaphoric binding should thus be taken as conditions on semantic interpretation given that they delimit (non-local) aspects of meaning composition, rather than aspects of syntactic wellformedness.<sup>28</sup>

These considerations leads one to acknowledge that, semantically, an anaphor should be specified in the lexicon as a function whose argument is a suitable representation of the context — providing a semantic representation of the NPs available in the discourse vicinity —, and delivers both an update of its anaphoric potential — which is instantiated as the set of its grammatically admissible antecedents — and an update of the context, against which other NPs are interpreted.<sup>29</sup> Naturally, all in all, there will be four of such functions available to be lexically associated to anaphors, each corresponding to one of the different four classes of anaphors, in accordance with the four binding constraints A, Z, B or C.<sup>30</sup> ■

<sup>28</sup>This approach is in line with (Gawron & Peters 1990), and departs from other approaches where binding constraints have been viewed as wellformedness conditions, thus belonging to the realm of Syntax: “[they] capture the distribution of pronouns and reflexives” (Reinhart & Reuland 1993: 657).

<sup>29</sup>(Branco 1998b; 2000b; 2002a).

<sup>30</sup>This is in line with (Johnson & Klein 1990) concerning the processing of the semantics of nominals, and also the spirit (but by no means the letter) of the dynamic semantics framework — vd. (Chierchia 1995) and (Stalnaker 1998) *i.a.*

### 3.1 Semantic patterns

For an anaphoric nominal  $w$ , the relevant input context may be represented in the form of a set of three lists of reference markers,<sup>31</sup> A, Z and U. List A contains the reference markers of the local o-command order where  $w$  is included, ordered according to their relative grammatical obliqueness; Z contains the markers of the (local and non local) o-command order where  $w$  is included, i.e. reference markers organised in a possibly multi-clausal o-command relation, based upon successively embedded clausal obliqueness hierarchies; and U is the list of all reference markers in the discourse context, possibly including those not linguistically introduced.

The updating of the context by an anaphoric nominal  $w$  may be seen as consisting simply in the incrementing of the representation of the context, with a copy of the reference marker of  $w$  being added to the three lists above.

The updating of the anaphoric potential of  $w$ , in turn, delivers a representation of the contextualised anaphoric potential of  $w$  in the form of the list of reference markers of its admissible antecedents. This list results from the binding constraint associated to  $w$  being applied to the relevant representation of the context of  $w$ .

Given this setup, the algorithmic verification of binding constraints consists of a few simple operations, and their grammatical specification will consist thus in stating each such sequence of operations in terms of the grammar description formalism.

If the nominal  $w$  is a short-distance reflexive, its semantic representation is updated with A', where A' contains the reference markers of the o-commanders of  $w$  in A.

If  $w$  is a long-distance reflexive, its semantic representation includes Z', such that Z' contains the o-commanders of  $w$  in Z.

If  $w$  is a pronoun, its semantics should include the list of its non-local o-commanders, that is the list  $B=U\setminus(A'\cup[r\text{-mark}_w])$  is encoded into its semantic representation, where r-mark<sub>w</sub> is the reference marker of  $w$ .

Finally if  $w$  is a non-pronoun, its updated semantics keeps a copy of list  $C=U\setminus(Z'\cup[r\text{-mark}_w])$ , which contains the non-o-commanders of  $w$ .

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<sup>31</sup>See (Karttunen 1976; Kamp 1981; Heim 1982; Seuren 1985; Kamp & Reyle 1993) for the notion of reference marker.

### 3.2 Binding principles and other constraints for anaphora resolution

These lists A', Z', B and C collect the reference markers that are antecedent candidates at the light only of the relevant binding constraints, which are relative positioning filters in the process of anaphora resolution.<sup>32</sup> The elements in these list have to be submitted to the other constraints and preferences of this process so that one of them ends up being chosen as the antecedent.

In particular, some of these markers may eventually turn up not being admissible antecedent candidates due to the violation of some other constraints — e.g. those requiring similarity of morphological features or of semantic type — that on a par with binding constraints have to be complied with. For example, in this example *John described Mary to himself*, by the sole constraining effect of Principle A, [r-mark<sub>John</sub>, r-mark<sub>Mary</sub>] is the list of antecedent candidates of *himself*, which will be narrowed down to [r-mark<sub>John</sub>] when all the other filters for anaphora resolution have been taken into account, including the one concerning similarity of morphological features, as *Mary* and *him* do not have the same gender feature value.

In this particular case, separating these two type of filters — similarity of morphological features and binding constraints — seems to be the correct option, required by plural anaphors with so called split antecedents. In an example of this type, such as *John<sub>i</sub> told Mary<sub>j</sub> they<sub>i+j</sub> would eventually get married*, where *they* is resolved against *John* and *Mary*, the morphological features of the anaphor are not identical to the morphological features of each of its antecedents, though the relevant binding constraint applies to each of them.<sup>33</sup>

When a plural anaphor takes more than one antecedent, as in the example above, its (plural) reference marker will end up being semantically related with a plural reference marker resulting from some semantic combination of the markers of its antecedents. Separating binding constraints from other constraints on the relation between anaphors and their antecedents are thus compatible with and justified by proposals for plural anaphora resolution that take into account

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<sup>32</sup>See Branco (1999: Chap.2) for an overview of filters and preferences for anaphora resolution proposed in the literature.

<sup>33</sup>This was noted by (Higginbotham 1983). In this respect, this approach improves on the proposal in (Pollard & Sag 1994), where the token-identity of indices — internally structured in terms of Person, Number and Gender features — is meant to be forced upon the anaphor and its antecedent in tandem with the relevant binding constraint.

For further reasons why token-identity between the reference markers of the anaphor and the corresponding antecedent is not a suitable option for every anaphoric dependency, see the discussion below in Section 5 on the semantic representation of different modes of anaphora.

split anaphora.<sup>34</sup>

### 3.3 Computational tractability

It is also worth noting that the computational tractability of the grammatical compliance with binding principles is ensured given the polynomial complexity of the underlying operations described above.

Let  $n$  be the number of words in an input sentence to be parsed, which for the sake of the simplicity of the argument, and of the worst case scenario, it is assumed to be made only of nominal anaphors, that is every word in that sentence is a nominal anaphor. Assume also that the sets A, Z and U, thus of length  $n$  at worst, are available at each node of the parsed tree via copying or via list appending (more details about these two operations in the next sections), which is a process of constant time complexity.

At worst, the operations involved at each one of the  $n$  leaf nodes of the tree to obtain one of the sets A', Z', B or C are: list copying and list appending operations, performed in constant time; extraction of the predecessors of an element in a list, which is of linear complexity; or at most one list complementation, which can be done in time proportional to  $n \log(n)$ . The procedure of verifying binding constraints in a sentence of length  $n$  is thus of tractable complexity, namely  $O(n^2 \log n)$  in the worst case.<sup>35</sup>

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<sup>34</sup>That is the case e.g. of (Eschenbach et al. 1989). According to this approach, the set of antecedent candidates of a plural anaphor which result from the verification of binding constraints has to receive some expansion before subsequent filters and preferences apply in the anaphora resolution process. The reference markers in that set, either singular or plural, will be previously combined into other plural reference markers: it is thus from this set, closed under the semantic operation of pluralisation (e.g. i-sum a la (Link 1983)), that the final antecedent will be chosen by the anaphor resolver.

<sup>35</sup>For a thorough discussion of alternative procedures for the compliance with binding principles and their drawbacks, see (Branco 2000d), very briefly summarised here:

The verification of binding constraints proposed in (Chomsky 1980; 1981) requires extra-grammatical processing steps of non tractable computational complexity (Correa 1988; Fong 1990), which, moreover, are meant to deliver a forest of indexed trees to anaphor resolvers.

In Lexical Functional Grammar, the account of binding constraints requires special purpose extensions of the description formalism (Dalrymple 1993), which ensures only a partial handling of these constraints.

For accounts of binding principles in the family of Categorial Grammar frameworks, see (Szabolcsi 1989; Hepple 1990; Morril 2000), and for a critical overview, see (Jäger 2001).

## 4 Binding Constraints in the Grammar

In this section, the binding constraints receive a principled integration into formal grammar. For the sake of brevity, we focus on the English language. Given the discussion in the previous sections, the parameterisation for other languages will follow from this example by means of seamless adaptation.

We show how the module of Binding Theory is specified with the description language of HPSG, as an extension of the grammar fragment in the Annex of the foundational HPSG book,<sup>36</sup> following the feature geometry in Ivan Sag’s proposed extension of this fragment to relative clauses,<sup>37</sup> and adopting a semantic component for HPSG based on Underspecified Discourse Representation Theory (UDRT).<sup>38</sup>

As exemplified in (25), this semantic component is encoded as the value of the feature **CONT(ENT)**. This value, of sort *udrs*, has a structure permitting that the mapping into underspecified discourse representations be straightforward.<sup>39</sup>

The value of subfeature **CONDs** is a set of labeled semantic conditions. The hierarchical structure of these conditions is expressed by means of a subordination relation of the labels identifying each condition, a relation that is encoded as the value of **SUBORD**. The attribute **LS** defines the distinguished labels, which indicate the upper (**L-MAX**) and lower (**L-MIN**) bounds for a semantic condition within the overall semantic representation to be constructed.

**ANAPH(ORA) subfeature of CONT(ENT)** The integration of Binding Theory into formal grammar consists of a simple extension of this semantic component for the *udrs* of nominals, enhancing it with the subfeature **ANAPH(ORA)**. This new feature keeps information about the anaphoric potential of the corresponding anaphor *w*.

Its subfeature **ANTEC(EDENTS)** keeps record of how this potential is realised when the anaphor enters a grammatical construction: its value is the list with the antecedent candidates of *w* which comply with the relevant binding constraint for *w*.

And its subfeature **R(EFERENCE)-MARK(ER)** indicates the reference marker of *w*, which is contributed by its referential force to the updating of the context.

**BIND(ING) subfeature of LOC(AL)** On a par with this extension of the **LOC** value, also the **NONLOC** value is extended with a new feature, **BIND(ING)**, with subfeatures **LIST-A**, **LIST-Z**, and **LIST-U**. These lists provide a specification of the relevant

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<sup>36</sup>(Pollard & Sag 1994: Annex).

<sup>37</sup>(Sag 1997).

<sup>38</sup>(Frank & Reyle 1995).

<sup>39</sup>(Reyle 1993).

context and correspond to the lists A, Z and U in the sections above. Subfeature LIST-LU is a fourth, auxiliary list encoding the contribution of the local context to the global, non local context, as explained in the next sections.<sup>40</sup>

## 4.1 Handling the anaphoric potential

**Pronouns: lexical entry** Given this adjustment to the grammatical geometry, the lexical definition of a pronoun, for instance, will include the following SYNSEM value:

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<sup>40</sup>For the sake of readability, the working example in (25) displays only the more relevant features for the point at stake. The NONLOC value has this detailed definition in (Pollard & Sag 1994):

NONLOC	TO-BIND <i>NONLOC1</i>
	INHERITED <i>NONLOC1</i>

And these are the details of the extension we are using, where the information above is coded now as a *udc* object, which keeps record of the relevant non local information for accounting to *u(nbounded) d(ependency) c(onstructions)*:

NONLOC	$\begin{aligned} \text{UDC } & \left[ \begin{aligned} \text{TO-BIND} & \quad \textit{nonloc1} \\ \text{INHERITED} & \quad \textit{nonloc1} \end{aligned} \right] \\ \text{udc } & \left[ \begin{aligned} \text{LIST-A} & \quad \textit{list(refm)} \\ \text{LIST-Z} & \quad \textit{list(refm)} \\ \text{LIST-U} & \quad \textit{list(refm)} \\ \text{LIST-LU} & \quad \textit{list(refm)} \end{aligned} \right] \\ \text{BIND } & \left[ \begin{aligned} \text{bind} & \quad \textit{list(refm)} \end{aligned} \right] \end{aligned}$
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Given this extension, HPSG principles constraining NONLOC feature structure, or part of it, should be fine-tuned with adjusted feature paths in order to correctly target the intended (sub)feature structures.

(25)	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 10%;">LS</td><td><math>\begin{bmatrix} L\text{-MAX } \boxed{1} \\ L\text{-MIN } \boxed{1} \end{bmatrix}</math></td></tr> <tr> <td>SUBORD</td><td>{}</td></tr> <tr> <td>COND<sub>S</sub></td><td><math>\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{LABEL } \boxed{1} \\ \text{DREF } \boxed{2} \end{array} \right\}</math></td></tr> <tr> <td rowspan="2">ANAPH</td><td><math>R\text{-MARK } \boxed{2}</math></td></tr> <tr> <td><math>\begin{bmatrix} \text{ANTEC } \boxed{5} \ principleB(\boxed{4}, \boxed{3}, \boxed{2}) \end{bmatrix}</math></td></tr> <tr> <td rowspan="4">NONLOC BIND</td><td>LIST-A <math>\boxed{3}</math></td></tr> <tr> <td>LIST-Z <math>list(refm)</math></td></tr> <tr> <td>LIST-U <math>\boxed{4}</math></td></tr> <tr> <td>LIST-LU <math>\langle \boxed{2} \rangle</math></td></tr> </table>	LS	$\begin{bmatrix} L\text{-MAX } \boxed{1} \\ L\text{-MIN } \boxed{1} \end{bmatrix}$	SUBORD	{}	COND <sub>S</sub>	$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{LABEL } \boxed{1} \\ \text{DREF } \boxed{2} \end{array} \right\}$	ANAPH	$R\text{-MARK } \boxed{2}$	$\begin{bmatrix} \text{ANTEC } \boxed{5} \ principleB(\boxed{4}, \boxed{3}, \boxed{2}) \end{bmatrix}$	NONLOC BIND	LIST-A $\boxed{3}$	LIST-Z $list(refm)$	LIST-U $\boxed{4}$	LIST-LU $\langle \boxed{2} \rangle$
LS	$\begin{bmatrix} L\text{-MAX } \boxed{1} \\ L\text{-MIN } \boxed{1} \end{bmatrix}$														
SUBORD	{}														
COND <sub>S</sub>	$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{LABEL } \boxed{1} \\ \text{DREF } \boxed{2} \end{array} \right\}$														
ANAPH	$R\text{-MARK } \boxed{2}$														
	$\begin{bmatrix} \text{ANTEC } \boxed{5} \ principleB(\boxed{4}, \boxed{3}, \boxed{2}) \end{bmatrix}$														
NONLOC BIND	LIST-A $\boxed{3}$														
	LIST-Z $list(refm)$														
	LIST-U $\boxed{4}$														
	LIST-LU $\langle \boxed{2} \rangle$														

In this feature structure, the semantic condition in CONDS associated to the pronoun corresponds simply to the introduction of the discourse referent  $_2$  as the value of DREF.

This semantic representation is expected to be further specified as the lexical entry of the pronoun gets into the larger representation of the relevant utterance. In particular, the CONDS value of the sentence will be enhanced with a condition specifying the relevant semantic relation between this reference marker  $_2$  and one of the reference markers in the value  $_5$  of ANTEC. The latter will be the antecedent against which the pronoun will happen to be resolved, and the condition where the two markers will be related represents the relevant type of anaphora assigned to the anaphoric relation between the anaphor and its antecedent.<sup>41</sup>

The anaphoric binding constraint associated to pronouns, in turn, is specified as the relational constraint *principleB*/3 in the value of ANTEC. This is responsible for the realisation of the anaphoric potential of the pronoun as it enters a grammatical construction. When the arguments of this relational constraint are instantiated, it returns list B as the value of ANTEC.

As discussed in Section 3.1, this relational constraint *principleB*/3 is defined to take all markers in the discourse context (in the first argument and given by the LIST-U value), and remove from them both the local o-commanders of the pronoun (included in the second argument and made available by the LIST-A value) and the marker corresponding to the pronoun (in the third argument and given by the DREF value).

<sup>41</sup>More details on the interface with anaphora resolvers and on the semantic types of anaphora in Section 5.

Finally, the contribution of the reference marker of the pronoun to the context is ensured via token-identity between R-MARK and a LIST-LU value.

The piling up of this reference marker in the global LIST-U value is determined by a new HPSG principle specific to Binding Theory, to be detailed in the next Section 4.2.

**Non pronouns and reflexives: lexical entries** The SYNSEM of other anaphors – ruled by principles A, C or Z – are similar to the SYNSEM of pronouns above. The basic difference lies in the relational constraints to be stated in the ANTEC value.

Such constraints – *principleA/2*, *principleC/3* and *principleZ/2* – encode the corresponding binding principles and return the realised anaphoric potential of anaphors according to the surrounding context, coded in their semantic representation under the form of a list in the ANTEC value. Such lists – A', C or Z' – respectively – are obtained by these relational constraints along the lines discussed in Section 3.1.

**Non lexical anaphoric expressions** Note that, for non-lexical anaphoric nominals in English, namely those ruled by Principle C, the binding constraint is stated in the lexical representation of the determiners contributing to the anaphoric capacity of such NPs. Also the reference marker corresponding to an NP of this kind is brought into its semantic representation from the R-MARK value specified in the lexical entry of its determiner.

Accordingly, for the values of ANAPH to be visible in the signs of non lexical anaphors, Clause I of the Semantics Principle in UDRT<sup>42</sup> is extended with the requirement that the ANAPH value is token-identical, respectively, with the ANAPH value of the specifier daughter, in an NP, and with the ANAPH value of the nominal complement daughter, in a subcategorised PP.

**Exemption** Note also that for short-distance reflexives, exemption from the constraining effect of the corresponding Principle A occurs when *PRINCIPLEA(3,2)* returns the empty list as the value of feature ANTEC:<sup>43</sup>

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<sup>42</sup>(Frank & Reyle 1995: 12).

<sup>43</sup>This account applies also to exempt occurrences of long-distance reflexives.

(26)	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 10%;">LS</td><td style="width: 90%;"><math>\left[ \begin{array}{l} L-MAX \quad [1] \\ L-MIN \quad [1] \end{array} \right]</math></td></tr> <tr> <td>SUBORD</td><td>{}</td></tr> <tr> <td>COND'S</td><td><math>\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{LABEL } [1] \\ \text{DREF } [2] \end{array} \right\}</math></td></tr> <tr> <td rowspan="2">ANAPH</td><td style="padding-left: 20px;"><math>R-MARK \quad [2]</math></td></tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;"><math>\left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{ANTEC } [4] \text{ principleA}([3,2]) \end{array} \right]</math></td></tr> <tr> <td rowspan="4">NONLOC BIND</td><td>LIST-A    [3]</td></tr> <tr> <td>LIST-Z    <i>list(refm)</i></td></tr> <tr> <td>LIST-U    <i>list(refm)</i></td></tr> <tr> <td>LIST-LU    ⟨[2]⟩</td></tr> </table>	LS	$\left[ \begin{array}{l} L-MAX \quad [1] \\ L-MIN \quad [1] \end{array} \right]$	SUBORD	{}	COND'S	$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{LABEL } [1] \\ \text{DREF } [2] \end{array} \right\}$	ANAPH	$R-MARK \quad [2]$	$\left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{ANTEC } [4] \text{ principleA}([3,2]) \end{array} \right]$	NONLOC BIND	LIST-A    [3]	LIST-Z <i>list(refm)</i>	LIST-U <i>list(refm)</i>	LIST-LU    ⟨[2]⟩
LS	$\left[ \begin{array}{l} L-MAX \quad [1] \\ L-MIN \quad [1] \end{array} \right]$														
SUBORD	{}														
COND'S	$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{LABEL } [1] \\ \text{DREF } [2] \end{array} \right\}$														
ANAPH	$R-MARK \quad [2]$														
	$\left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{ANTEC } [4] \text{ principleA}([3,2]) \end{array} \right]$														
NONLOC BIND	LIST-A    [3]														
	LIST-Z <i>list(refm)</i>														
	LIST-U <i>list(refm)</i>														
	LIST-LU    ⟨[2]⟩														

This happens if the reference marker of the reflexive  $_2$  is the first element in the relevant obliqueness hierarchy, i.e. it is the first element in the LIST-A value in  $_3$ , thus o-commanding the other possible elements of this list and not being o-commanded by any of them.

As discussed in Section 2.3, given its essential anaphoricity, a reflexive has nevertheless to be interpreted against some antecedent. As in the exempt occurrences no antecedent candidate is identified by virtue of Principle A activation, the anaphora resolver – which will operate then on the empty ANTEC list<sup>44</sup> – has thus to resort to antecedent candidates outside the local domain of the reflexive: this implies that it has to find antecedent candidates for the reflexive which actually escape the constraining effect of Principle A. The anaphora resolver will then be responsible for modelling the behaviour of reflexives in such exempt occurrences, in which case the anaphoric capacity of these anaphors appears as being exceptionally ruled by discourse-based factors.

## 4.2 Handling the context representation

Turning now to the representation of the context, this consists in the specification of the constraints on the values of the attributes LIST-A, LIST-Z, LIST-U and LIST-LU. This is handled by adding an HPSG principle to the grammar, termed the Binding Domains Principle (BDP). This principle has three clauses constraining signs with respect to these four lists of reference markers. A full understanding of their details, presented below, will be facilitated with the working example discussed in detail in the Appendix.

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<sup>44</sup>More details of the interface between grammar and reference processing systems in Section 5.

**Binding Domains Principle, Clause I** Clause I of BDP is responsible for ensuring that the values of LIST-U and LIST-LU are appropriately setup at the different places in a grammatical representation:

(27) **Binding Domains Principle, Clause I**

- i. The LIST-LU value is identical to the concatenation of the LIST-LU values of its daughters in every sign;
- ii. the LIST-LU and LIST-U values are token-identical in a sign of sort *discourse*;
- iii. i. the LIST-U value is token-identical to each LIST-U value of its daughters in a non-NP sign;  
 ii. in an NP sign  $k$ :
  - in Spec-daughter, the LIST-U value is the result of removing the elements of the LIST-A value of Head-daughter from the LIST-U value of  $k$ ;
  - in Head-daughter, the LIST-U value is the result of removing the value of R-MARK of Spec-daughter from the LIST-U value of  $k$ .

By virtue of (i.), LIST-LU collects up to the outmost sign in a grammatical representation — which is of sort *discourse* — the markers contributed to the context by each NP. Given (ii.), this list with all the markers is passed to the LIST-U value at this outmost sign. And (iii.) ensures that this list with the reference markers in the context is propagated to every NP.

Subclause (iii.ii) prevents self-reference loops due to anaphoric interpretation, avoiding what is known in the literature as the i-within-i effect — recall that the R-MARK value of non lexical NPs is contributed by the lexical representation of their determiners, in Spec-daughter position, as noted above.

The HPSG top ontology is thus extended with the new subsort *discourse* for signs:  $sign \equiv word \vee phrase \vee discourse$ . This new type of linguistic object corresponds to sequences of sentential signs. A new Schema 0 is also added to the Immediate Dominance Principle, where the Head daughter is a phonologically null object of sort *context(ctx)*, and the Text daughter is a list of phrases.

As the issue of discourse structure is out of the scope of this chapter, we adopted a very simple approach to the structure of discourses which suffices for the present account of Binding Theory. As discussed in the next Section 7.3, this object of sort *ctx* helps representing the contribution of the non linguistic context to the interpretation of anaphors.

**Binding Domains Principle, Clause II** As to the other two Clauses of the Binding Domains Principle, Clause II and Clause III, they constrain the lists LIST-A and LIST-Z, respectively, whose values keep a record of o-command relations.

BDP-Clause II is responsible for constraining LIST-A:

(28) **Binding Domains Principle, Clause II**

- i. Head/Arguments: in a phrase, the LIST-A value of its head, and of its nominal (or nominal preceded by preposition) or trace Subject or Complement daughters are token-identical;
- ii. Head/Phrase:
  - i. in a non-nominal and non-prepositional sign, the LIST-A values of a sign and its head are token-identical;
  - ii. in a prepositional phrase,
    - if it is a complement daughter, the LIST-A values of the phrase and of its nominal complement daughter are token-identical;
    - otherwise, the LIST-A values of the phrase and its head are token-identical;
  - iii. in a nominal phrase,
    - in a maximal projection, the LIST-A value of the phrase and its Specifier daughter are token-identical;
    - in other projections, the LIST-A values of the phrase and its head are token-identical.

This clause ensures that the LIST-A value is shared between a head-daughter and its arguments, given (i.), and also between the lexical heads and their successive projections, by virtue of (ii.).

**o-command** On a par with this Clause II, it is important to make sure that at the lexical entry of any predicator  $p$ , LIST-A includes the R-MARK values of the subcategorised arguments of  $p$  specified in its ARG-ST value. Moreover, the reference markers appear in the LIST-A value under the same partial order as the order of the corresponding *synsem* in ARG-ST. This is ensured by the following constraints on the lexical entries of predicators:

(29)

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \underset{\text{synsem}}{\left[ \text{LOC} | \text{CONT} | \text{ARG-ST} \left( \dots, [\text{LOC} | \text{CONT} | \text{ANAPH} | \text{R-MARK } \boxed{i}], \dots \right) \right]} \\
 & \longrightarrow \underset{\text{synsem}}{\left[ \text{NONLOC} | \text{BIND} | \text{LIST-A} \left( \dots, \boxed{i}, \dots \right) \right]} \\
 & \underset{\text{synsem}}{\left[ \text{LOC} | \text{CONT} | \text{ARG-ST} \left( \dots, [\text{LOC} | \text{CONT} | \text{ANAPH} | \text{R-MARK } \boxed{k}], \right. \right.} \\
 & \quad \left. \left. \dots, [\text{LOC} | \text{CONT} | \text{ANAPH} | \text{R-MARK } \boxed{l}], \dots \right) \right]} \\
 & \longrightarrow \underset{\text{synsem}}{\left[ \text{NONLOC} | \text{BIND} | \text{LIST-A} \left( \dots, \boxed{k}, \dots, \boxed{l}, \dots \right) \right]}
 \end{aligned}$$

In case a subcategorised argument is quantificational, it contributes also with its VAR value to the make up of LIST-A:<sup>45</sup>

(30)

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \underset{\text{synsem}}{\left[ \text{LOC} | \text{CONT} | \text{ARG-ST} \left( \dots, \left[ \text{LOC} | \text{CONT} | \text{ANAPH} \left[ \begin{array}{cc} \text{R-MARK } \boxed{r} \\ \text{VAR } \boxed{v} \end{array} \right] \right], \dots \right) \right]} \\
 & \longrightarrow \underset{\text{synsem}}{\left[ \text{NONLOC} | \text{BIND} | \text{LIST-A} \left( \dots, \boxed{v}, \boxed{r}, \dots \right) \right]}
 \end{aligned}$$

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<sup>45</sup>More details on this and on the e-type anaphora vs. bound-variable anaphora distinction are discussed in the next sections.

**Binding Domains Principle, Clause III** Finally, BDP-Clause III ensures that LIST-Z is properly constrained:

(31) **Binding Domains Principle, Clause III**

For a sign F:

- i. in a Text daughter, the LIST-Z and LIST-A values are token-identical;
- ii. in a non-Text daughter,
  - i. in a sentential daughter, the LIST-Z value is the concatenation of the LIST-Z value of F with the LIST-A value;
  - ii. in a Head daughter of a non-lexical nominal, the LIST-Z value is the concatenation of L with the LIST-A value, where L is the list which results from taking the list of o-commanders of the R-MARK value, or instead of VAR value when this exists, of its Specifier sister from the LIST-Z value of F;
  - iii. in other, non-filler, daughters of F, the LIST-Z value is token-identical to the LIST-Z value of F.

By means of (i.), this Clause III ensures that, at the top node of a grammatical representation, LIST-Z is set up as the LIST-A value of that sign.

Moreover, given (ii.), it is ensured that LIST-Z is successively incremented at suitable downstairs nodes — those defining successive locality domains for binding, as stated in (ii.i) and (ii.ii) — by appending, in each of these nodes, the LIST-A value to the LIST-Z value of the upstairs node.

**Locality** From this description of the Binding Domains Principle, it follows that the locus in grammar for the parameterisation of what counts as a local domain for a particular language is the specification of BDP–Clauses II and III for that language.

## 5 Interface with Reference Processing Systems

The appropriateness of the grammatical constraints on anaphoric binding presented above extends to its suitable accounting of the division of labor between grammars and reference processing systems, and of the suitable interfacing between them.

### 5.1 Anaphora Resolution

While the grammatical anaphoric binding constraints are specified and verified as part of the global set of grammatical constraints, they provide also for a suit-

able hooking up of the grammar with modules for anaphora resolution.

Feature ANTEC is the neat interface point between them: its value with a list of antecedent candidates that comply with Binding Theory requirements is easily made accessible to anaphor resolvers. This list will be then handled by a resolver where further non grammatical soft and hard constraints on anaphora resolution will apply and will filter down that list until the most likely candidate will be determined as the antecedent.

## 5.2 Reference Processing

The anaphoric binding constraints also provide a convenient interface for anaphoric links of different semantic types — exemplified below — to be handled and specified by reference processing systems:

- (32) a. John<sub>i</sub> said that he<sub>i</sub> would leave soon. (coreference)
- b. Kim<sub>i</sub> was introduced to Lee<sub>j</sub> and a few minutes later they<sub>i+j</sub> went off for dinner. (split anaphora)
- c. Mary could not take [her car]<sub>i</sub> because [the tyre]<sub>i</sub> was flat. (bridging anaphora)
- d. [Fewer than twenty Parliament Members]<sub>i</sub> voted against the proposal because they<sub>i</sub> were afraid of riots in the streets. (e-type anaphora)
- e. [Every sailor in the Bounty]<sub>i</sub> had a tattoo with [his mother's]<sub>i</sub> name on the left shoulder. (bound anaphora)

Example (32a) displays a coreference relation, where *he* has the same semantic value as its antecedent *John*.

A case of split antecedent can be found in (32b) as *they* has two syntactic antecedents and it refers to an entity comprising the two referents of the antecedents.

The referent of *the tyre* is part of the referent of its antecedent *his car* in (32c), thus illustrating a case of so called bridging anaphora (also known as indirect or associative anaphora), where an anaphor may refer to an entity that is e.g. an element or part of the denotation of the antecedent, or an entity that includes the denotation of the antecedent, etc.<sup>46</sup>

In (32d) *they* has a so called non-referential antecedent, *fewer than twenty Parliament Members*, from which a reference marker is inferred to serve as the semantic value of the plural pronoun: *they* refer to those Parliament Members, who

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<sup>46</sup>See (Poesio & Vieira 1998) for an overview.

are fewer than twenty in number, and who voted against the proposal. Example (32d) illustrates a case of e-type anaphora,<sup>47</sup> and this inference mechanism to obtain an antecedent marker from a non referring nominal is described in Section 7.3.

Finally in (32e), though one also finds a quantificational antecedent for the anaphoric expression, the relation of semantic dependency differs to the one in the previous example. The anaphoric expression *his mother* does nor refer to the mother of the sailors of the Bounty. It acts rather in the way of a bound variable of logical languages – for each sailor *s*, *his mother* refers to the mother of *s* – thus exemplifying a case of so called bound anaphora.<sup>48</sup>

Given that the semantic relation between antecedent marker and anaphor marker can be specified simply as another semantic condition added to the CONDS value, a DRT/HPSG representation for the resolved anaphoric link under the relevant semantic type of anaphora is straightforward and the integration of the reference processing outcome into grammatical representation is seamlessly ensured.

For the sake of the illustration of this point, assume that a given reference marker *x* turns out to be identified as the antecedent for the anaphoric nominal *Y*, out of the set of antecedent candidates for *Y* in its ANTEC value. This antecedent *x* can be related to the reference marker *y* of anaphor *Y* by means of an appropriate semantic condition in its CONDS value. Such a condition will be responsible for modelling the specific mode of anaphora at stake.

For instance, coreference will require the expected condition  $y =_{coref} x$ , as exemplified below with the CONT value of the pronoun in (25) extended with a solution contributed by an anaphor resolver, where 7 would be the marker picked up as the plausible antecedent.

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<sup>47</sup>(Evans 1980).

<sup>48</sup>(Reinhart 1983).

(33)	<table border="0" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 10%;">LS</td><td style="border-left: 1px solid black; padding-left: 10px;"><math>\begin{bmatrix} \text{L-MAX } \boxed{1} \\ \text{L-MIN } \boxed{1} \end{bmatrix}</math></td></tr> <tr> <td>SUBORD</td><td><math>\{\boxed{1} = \boxed{6}\}</math></td></tr> <tr> <td>COND</td><td><math>\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{LABEL } \boxed{1} \\ \text{DREF } \boxed{2} \end{array} \right], \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{LABEL } \boxed{6} \\ \text{REL } =_{\text{coref}} \\ \text{ARG1 } \boxed{2} \\ \text{ARG2 } \boxed{7} \end{array} \right] \\ \end{array} \right\}</math></td></tr> <tr> <td>ANAPH</td><td><math>\begin{bmatrix} \text{R-MARK } \boxed{2} \\ \text{ANTEC } \boxed{5}(\dots, \boxed{7}, \dots) \end{bmatrix}</math></td></tr> </table>	LS	$\begin{bmatrix} \text{L-MAX } \boxed{1} \\ \text{L-MIN } \boxed{1} \end{bmatrix}$	SUBORD	$\{\boxed{1} = \boxed{6}\}$	COND	$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{LABEL } \boxed{1} \\ \text{DREF } \boxed{2} \end{array} \right], \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{LABEL } \boxed{6} \\ \text{REL } =_{\text{coref}} \\ \text{ARG1 } \boxed{2} \\ \text{ARG2 } \boxed{7} \end{array} \right] \\ \end{array} \right\}$	ANAPH	$\begin{bmatrix} \text{R-MARK } \boxed{2} \\ \text{ANTEC } \boxed{5}(\dots, \boxed{7}, \dots) \end{bmatrix}$
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SUBORD	$\{\boxed{1} = \boxed{6}\}$								
COND	$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{LABEL } \boxed{1} \\ \text{DREF } \boxed{2} \end{array} \right], \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{LABEL } \boxed{6} \\ \text{REL } =_{\text{coref}} \\ \text{ARG1 } \boxed{2} \\ \text{ARG2 } \boxed{7} \end{array} \right] \\ \end{array} \right\}$								
ANAPH	$\begin{bmatrix} \text{R-MARK } \boxed{2} \\ \text{ANTEC } \boxed{5}(\dots, \boxed{7}, \dots) \end{bmatrix}$								

An instance of bridging anaphora, in turn, may be modelled by *bridg(x, y)*, where *bridg* stands for the relevant bridging function between y and x, and similarly for the other semantic anaphora types.

### 5.3 Coreference Transitivity

It is also noteworthy that the interfacing of grammar with reference processing systems ensured by anaphoric binding constraints provides a neat accommodation of coreference transitivity.

If as a result of the process of anaphora resolution, a given anaphor N and another anaphor B end up being both coreferent with a given antecedent A, then they end up being coreferent with each other. That is, in addition to having marker  $r_a$  as an admissible antecedent in its set of candidate antecedents, that anaphor N has also to eventually have marker  $r_b$  included in that set.

This is ensured by including, in the COND value in (25), semantic conditions that follow as logical consequences from this overall coreference transitivity requirement that is operative at the level of the reference processing system with which grammar is interfaced:  $\forall r_a, r_b ((\boxed{2} =_{\text{coref}} r_b \wedge r_a =_{\text{coref}} r_b) \Rightarrow (\langle r_a \rangle \cup \boxed{5} = \boxed{5}))$ .

An important side effect of this overall constraint is that “accidental” violations of Principle B are prevented, as illustrated with the help of the following example.

- (34) \* The captain<sub>i/j</sub> thinks he<sub>i</sub> loves him<sub>j</sub>.

Given that the Subject of the main clause, *the captain*, does not locally o-command any one of them, either the pronoun *he* or the pronoun *him* can have the nominal phrase *the captain* as antecedent, in compliance with Principle B. By transitivity of anaphoric coreference though, the reference marker of *he* is made to belong to the admissible set of antecedents of *him*, which violates Principle

B. Hence, by the conjoined effect of coreference transitivity and of Principle B, that “accidental” violation of Principle B that would make *he* an (o-commanding) antecedent of *him* in this example is (correctly) blocked.

By the same token, “accidental” violations of Principle C with an analogous pattern as above, but for non pronouns, are prevented:

- (35) \* When John<sub>i/j</sub> will conclude his therapy, [the boy<sub>i</sub> will stop believing [that the patient<sub>j</sub> is a Martian]].

Separately, *the boy* and the *the patient* can have *John* as antecedent, in accordance to Principle C. But *the patient* – because is o-commanded by *the boy* – cannot have *the boy* as antecedent, which, also here, is (correctly) ensured by a conjoined effect of the coreference transitivity requirement and the relevant Principle C.

Accordingly, when the semantic type of anaphora is not one of coreference, no coreference transitivity holds, and there happens no “accidental” violation of Principle C. This is illustrated in the following example with bridging anaphora instead, where two non pronouns, though occurring in the same clause, like in (35), can be (correctly) resolved against the same antecedent – in contrast with that example (35) above, where such possibility is blocked.

- (36) Quando [o robot]<sub>i</sub> concluiu a tarefa, o operador viu que [a when the robot concluded the task, the operator saw that the roda]<sub>i</sub> estava a esmagar [o cabo de alimentação]<sub>i</sub>. (Portuguese) wheel was to smash the cord of power  
'When [the robot]<sub>i</sub> concluded the task, the operator saw that [his<sub>i</sub> wheel] was smashing [his<sub>i</sub> power cord].'

Another range of examples where the semantic type of anaphora is not one of coreference – also with no coreference transitivity holding – and thus also where (correctly) there happens no “accidental” violation of the respective binding principle can be found for reflexives, as illustrated in the following example.

- (37) The captain<sub>i</sub> thinks he<sub>i/j</sub> loves himself<sub>\*i/j</sub>.

The reflexive *himself* can have *he* as antecedent, because the later locally o-commands it, but cannot have *the captain* as antecedent because the later does not locally o-command it. But while the semantic anaphoric relation between *the captain* and *he* is one of coreference, the semantic anaphoric relation between *he*

and *himself* is not, being rather one of bound anaphora.<sup>49</sup> Hence, the coreference transitivity requirement does not apply and the referent of *the captain* does not land into the set of possible antecedents of the reflexive, thus not inducing an “accidental” violation of Principle A. Example (37) can thus felicitously be interpreted as the captain thinking that the agent of loving him is himself, resulting from *himself* having *him* as antecedent and *him* having *the captain* as antecedent.

## 6 Binding Constraints for Antecedents

The Binding Theory presented in this chapter is also serendipitous in terms of improving the accuracy of empirical predictions offered by a formal grammar with respect to anaphoric binding restrictions that are outside the realm of the binding principles in (3)-(6).

Note first that a reference marker introduced by a non quantificational NP can be the antecedent either of an anaphor that it o-commands, as in (38a), or of an anaphor that it does not o-command, as in (38b):

- (38) a. [The captain who knows this sailor]<sub>i</sub> thinks Mary loves him<sub>i</sub>.  
       b. [The captain who knows [this sailor]<sub>i</sub>] thinks Mary loves him<sub>i</sub>.

Differently from a non quantificational NP, which contributes one reference marker to the representation of the context, a quantificational NP contributes two markers that exhibit symmetric features with respect to each other in several respects. The fact that one of them can serve as an antecedent in e-type anaphora, while the other can serve as an antecedent in bound-variable anaphora is certainly one of such symmetries.<sup>50</sup> But there are more.

Let us take a quantificational NP, introduced for instance by the quantifier *every*, acting as an antecedent. This imposes different Number requirements on its anaphors depending on the type of anaphora relation at stake — e-type or bound-variable anaphora — so that the underlying occurrence of each one of the corresponding two markers can be tracked down.

For ease of reference, let us term the marker ensuring e-type anaphora as the e-marker, and the marker ensuring bound anaphora as the v-marker.<sup>51</sup>

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<sup>49</sup>Confluent evidence that reflexives entertain a bound anaphora relation with their antecedents was also observed when their inability to enter split anaphora relations in non exempt positions was noted in Section 2.3.

<sup>50</sup>Extensive discussion of this difference is presented in the Appendix.

<sup>51</sup>In the formalisation presented in the Appendix, an e-marker is the marker in the R-MARK value, introduced by  $\Sigma$ -abstraction, and a v-marker is the marker in the VAR value, introduced by

The contrast below illustrates that, in an e-type anaphoric link, the e-marker stands for a plurality:

- (39) Every sailor<sub>i</sub> has many girlfriends. They<sub>i</sub>/He<sub>\*i</sub> travel(s) a lot.

And the next contrast illustrates that, in a bound-variable anaphoric link, the v-marker is singular:

- (40) Every sailor<sub>i</sub> shaves themselves<sub>\*i</sub>/himself<sub>i</sub>.

The following contrasts can now be considered. An e-marker can be the antecedent of anaphors that it does not o-command, in (41b), but cannot be the antecedent of anaphors that it o-commands, in (41a):

- (41) a. \* [Every captain who knows this sailor]<sub>i</sub> thinks Mary loves them<sub>i</sub>.  
b. [The captain who knows [every sailor]<sub>i</sub>] thinks Mary loves them<sub>i</sub>.

This contrast is symmetric to the contrast for the other reference marker: a v-marker can be the antecedent of anaphors that it o-commands, in (42a), but cannot be the antecedent of anaphors that it does not o-command, in (42b):

- (42) a. [Every captain who knows this sailor]<sub>i</sub> thinks Mary loves him<sub>i</sub>.  
b. \* [The captain who knows [every sailor]<sub>i</sub>] thinks Mary loves him<sub>i</sub>.

As these contrasts are empirically observed as patterns holding for quantificational NPs in general (not only for those introduced by *every*), constraints emerge on which anaphors different markers can be the antecedents of, in case such markers are contributed by quantificational NPs.

E-markers and v-markers of a given quantificational NP induce a partition of the space of their possible anaphors when that NP is acting as an antecedent: a v-marker is an antecedent for anaphors in the set of its o-commanded anaphors, while an e-marker is an antecedent for anaphors in the complement of such set, i.e. in the set of its non o-commanded anaphors.

This implies that on a par with the grammatical constraints on *the relative positioning of antecedents with respect to anaphors* in (3)-(6), there are also grammatical constraints on *the relative positioning of anaphors with respect to their antecedents* when the corresponding markers are introduced by quantificational NPs. Building on the same auxiliary notions, these “reverse” binding constraints receive the following definition as R-Principles E and V:

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the restrictor argument of the determiner.

- (43) **R-Principle E:** An antecedent cannot o-bind its anaphor (in e-type anaphora).

[Every captain who knows [every sailor]<sub>i</sub>]<sub>j</sub> thinks Mary loves them<sub>i/\*j</sub>.

**R-Principle V:** An antecedent must o-bind its anaphor (in bound-anaphora) ■

[Every captain who knows [every sailor]<sub>i</sub>]<sub>j</sub> thinks Mary loves him<sub>\*i/j</sub>.

It is worth noting that these principles account also for what has been observed in the literature as the weak crossover effect.<sup>52</sup> In the example below, displaying a case of weak crossover, the anaphoric link is ruled out by R-Principle V since the quantificational NP *every sailor* does not o-command the pronoun *him*, which is singular and could thus enter only into a bound-anaphora relation.

- (44) \* [The captain who knows him<sub>i</sub>] thinks Mary loves every sailor<sub>i</sub>.

Weak crossover constructions appear thus as a sub-case of the class of constructions ruled out by the binding constraints for antecedents.<sup>53</sup>

## 7 Consolidation and Outlook

With the material presented in the sections above, it emerges that the grammar of anaphoric binding constraints builds on the following key ingredients:

- Interpretation: binding constraints are grammatical constraints on interpretation contributing to the contextually determined semantic value of anaphors – rather than syntactic wellformedness constraints.

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<sup>52</sup>See (Jacobson 2000: Section 2.1) for an extensive overview of accounts of weak crossover. For an account of strong crossover in HPSG see (Pollard & Sag 1994: 279).

<sup>53</sup>To the best of our knowledge, the integration of the reverse anaphoric constraints E and V in (43) into HPSG – like what is obtained in Section 4 above for Principles A-Z in (3)-(6) – was not worked out yet in the literature.

Besides an explicit formal specification of (43) in terms of HPSG, there are also empirical aspects that ask to be worked out in future work. For weak crossover, for instance, it is interesting to note Jacobson's remarks: "... it is well known that weak crossover (WCO) is indeed weak, and that the effect can be ameliorated in a variety of configurations. To list a few relevant observations: WCO violations are much milder if the offending pronoun is within a sentence rather than in an NP; the more deeply one embeds the offending pronoun the milder the WCO effect; WCO effects are ameliorated or even absent in generic sentences; they are milder in relative clauses than in questions [...] For example, the possibility of binding in *Every man's i mother loves him<sub>i</sub>* remains to be accounted for." (Jacobson 2000: 120).

- Lexicalisation: binding constraints are properties of anaphors determining how their semantic value can be composed or co-specified, under a non-local syntactic geometry, with the semantic value of other expressions — rather than properties of grammatical representations of sentences as such: accordingly, the proper place of these constraints in grammar is at the lexical description of the relevant anaphoric units (e.g. the English pronoun *him*, or the Portuguese multiword long distance reflexive *ele próprio*) or the anaphora inducing items (e.g. the English definite article *the* that introduces non-pronouns).
- Underspecification: binding constraints delimit how the anaphoric potential of anaphors can be realised when they enter a grammatical construction — rather than determining the eventual antecedent: on the one hand, this realisation of anaphoric potential is not a final solution in terms of circumscribing the elected antecedent, but a space of grammatically admissible solutions; on the other hand, this realisation of anaphoric potential has to be decided, locally, in terms of non-local information: accordingly, an underspecification-based strategy is required to pack ambiguity and non-locality.
- Articulation: binding constraints are grammatical constraints — rather than anaphora resolvers: accordingly, grammars, where grammatical anaphoric constraints reside, and reference processing systems, where further constraints on the resolution of anaphora reside, are autonomous with respect to each other, and their specific contribution gains from them being interfaced, rather than being mixed up.

Binding principles capture the relative positioning of anaphors and their admissible antecedents in grammatical representations. As noted at the introduction of the present chapter, together with their auxiliary notions, they have been considered one of the most outstanding modules of grammatical knowledge.

From an empirical perspective, these constraints stem from quite cogent generalisations and exhibit a universal character, given the hypothesis of their parameterised validity across anaphoric expressions and natural languages.

From a conceptual point of view, in turn, the relations among binding constraints involve non-trivial cross symmetry that lends them a modular nature and provides further strength to the plausibility of their universal character.

## 7.1 Symmetries

The recurrent complementary distribution of the admissible antecedents of a pronoun and of a short-distance reflexive in the same, non exempt syntactic position, in different languages from different language families, has perhaps been the most emblematic symmetry.

For the sake of convenience, the examples in (3)-(6) are copied to (45)-(48) below. The pair (45) vs. (47), with the anaphoric expressions in the same syntactic position of the same syntactic construction, illustrates the symmetry just mentioned, between reflexives and pronouns, suggestively grasped by comparing the starred and non starred indexes.

- (45) ... $X_x \dots [\text{Lee}_i \text{'s friend}]_j$  thinks [[Max<sub>k</sub> 's brother]<sub>l</sub> likes himself<sub>\*x/\*i/\*j/\*k/l</sub>].
- (46) ... $X_x \dots [\text{O amigo do Lee}_i]_j$  acha [que [o irmão do Max<sub>k</sub>]<sub>l</sub>  
the friend of.the Lee thinks that the brother of.the Max  
gosta dele próprio<sub>\*x/\*i/\*j/\*k/l</sub>]. (Portuguese)  
likes of.him self  
'... $X_x \dots [\text{Lee}_i \text{'s friend}]_j$  thinks [[Max<sub>k</sub> 's brother]<sub>l</sub> likes him<sub>\*x/\*i/\*j/\*k</sub> /  
himself<sub>l</sub>]'.
- (47) ... $X_x \dots [\text{Lee}_i \text{'s friend}]_j$  thinks [[Max<sub>k</sub> 's brother]<sub>l</sub> likes him<sub>x/i/j/k/\*l</sub>].
- (48) ... $X_x \dots [\text{Lee}_i \text{'s friend}]_j$  thinks [[Max<sub>k</sub> 's brother]<sub>l</sub> likes the boy<sub>x/i/\*j/k/\*l</sub>].

But given also the complementary distribution of the admissible antecedents of a long-distance reflexive and of a non pronoun in the same, non exempt syntactic position, a similar symmetry is also found between these two other types of anaphors. This is illustrated by the complementarity of the indexes in (46) vs. (48).

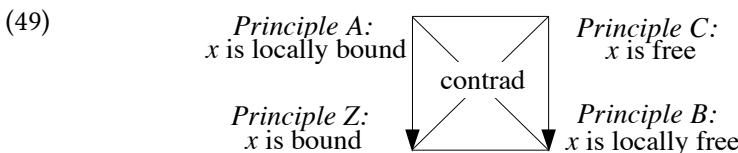
Another double “symmetry” worth noting is the one between short- and long-distance reflexives, on the one hand, and non pronouns and pronouns on the other hand.

Both sorts of reflexives present the same binding regime but over o-command orders whose length is possibly different: the set of admissible antecedents of a short-distance reflexive is a subset of the set of admissible antecedents of a long-distance reflexive in the same, non exempt syntactic position. For a given non-exempt position, the admissible antecedents of a short-distance reflexive are the antecedents that are in the set of admissible antecedents of a long-distance reflexive in that same position and that are local, i.e. are in the local domain. The felicitous (non starred) indexes in (45) are a subset of the felicitous indexes in (46), which illustrates this symmetry.

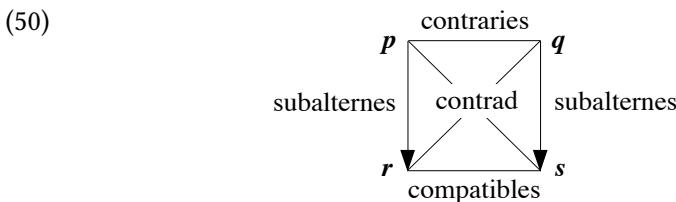
A “symmetry” similar to this one is displayed by non pronouns and pronouns with respect to a given syntactic position: the set of admissible antecedents of a non pronoun is a subset of the set of admissible antecedents of a pronoun. For a given position, the admissible antecedents of a non pronoun are the antecedents that are in the set of admissible antecedents of a pronoun in that same position and that are not o-commanding the pronoun (or non pronoun). The felicitous (non starred) indexes in (48) are a subset of the felicitous indexes in (47).

## 7.2 Quantificational Strength

When these symmetries are further explored, the intriguing observation that emerges with respect to the empirical generalisations in (3)-(6) is that when stripped away from their procedural phrasing and non-exemption safeguards, they instantiate a square of logical oppositions:

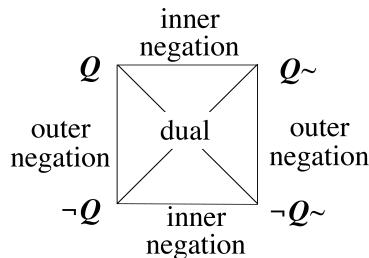


Like in the Aristotelian square of opposition, depicted in (50), there are two pairs of *contradictory* constraints, which are formed by the two diagonals, (Principles A, B) and (C, Z). One pair of *contrary* constraints (they can be both false but cannot be both true) is given by the upper horizontal edge (A, C). One pair of *compatible* constraints (they can be both true but cannot be both false) is given by the lower horizontal edge (Z, B). Finally two pairs of *subcontrary* constraints (the first coordinate implies the second, but not vice-versa) are obtained by the vertical edges, (A, Z) and (C, B).



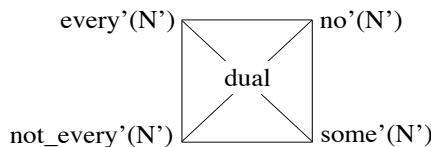
The empirical emergence of a square of oppositions for the semantic values of natural language expressions naturally raises the question about the possible existence of an associated square of duality — and importantly, about the quantificational nature of these expressions.

(51)



It is of note that the classical square of oppositions in (50) is different and logically independent from the square of duality in (51) – with the semantic values of the English expressions *every N*, *no N*, *some N* and *not every N*, or their translational equivalents in other natural languages, providing the classical example of an instantiation of the latter:

(52)



The difference lies in the fact that inner negation, outer negation and duality (concomitant inner and outer negation) are third order concepts, while compatibility, contrariness and implication are second order concepts. As a consequence, it is possible to find instantiations of the square of oppositions without a corresponding square of duality, and vice-versa.<sup>54</sup>

Logical duality has been a key issue in the study of natural language and, in particular, in the study of quantification as this happens to be expressed in natural language. It is a pattern noticed in the semantics of many linguistic expressions and phenomena, ranging from the realm of determiners to the realm of temporality and modality, including topics such as the semantics of the adverbials *still/already* or of the conjunctions *because/although*, etc.<sup>55</sup>

Under this pattern, one recurrently finds groups of syntactically related expressions whose formal semantics can be rendered as one of the operators arranged in a square of duality. Such a square is made of operators that are interdefinable by means of the relations of outer negation, inner negation, or duality. Accordingly, the emergence of a notoriously non trivial square of logical duality between the semantic values of natural language expressions has been taken as a major empirical touchstone to ascertain their quantificational nature.<sup>56</sup>

<sup>54</sup>Vd. (Löbner 1987) for examples and discussion.

<sup>55</sup>(Löbner 1987; 1989; 1999; ter Meulen 1988; Koning 1991; Smessaert 1997).

<sup>56</sup>Vd. (Löbner 1987; van Benthem 1991). While noting that the ubiquity of the square of duality

By exploring these hints, and motivated by the intriguing square of opposition in (49), the empirical generalisations captured in the binding principles were shown to be the effect of four quantifiers that instantiate a square of duality like (51).<sup>57</sup>

For instance, Principle A is shown to capture the constraining effects of the existential quantifier that is part of the semantic value of short-distance reflexives. Like the existential quantifier expressed by other expressions, such as the adverbial *already*,<sup>58</sup> this a phase quantifier. What is specific here is that the quantification is over a partial order of reference markers, the two relevant semi-phases over this order include the local o-commanders and the other reference markers that are not local o-commanders, respectively for the positive and the negative semi-phases, and the so-called parameter point in phase quantification is the reference marker of the eventual antecedent for the anaphoric nominal at stake.

Accordingly, the other three quantifiers – corresponding to the other three binding Principles B, C and Z – are defined by means of this existential one being under external negation (quantifier expressed by pronouns), internal negation (by non pronouns) or both external and internal negation (by long-distance reflexives).

### 7.3 Doubly Dual Nominals

While these findings deepen the rooting of binding constraints into the semantics of anaphoric nominals,<sup>59</sup> more importantly, they also point towards promising research directions with the potential to advance our understanding of the grammar of anaphoric binding, in particular, and more widely, to further our insights into the semantics of nominals, in general.

A shared wisdom is that nominals convey either quantificational or referential force.

The findings introduced above imply that nominals with “primary” referential force (e.g. *John*, *the book*, *he*,...) have also a certain “secondary” quantificational force: they express quantificational requirements – over reference markers, i.e. entities that live in linguistic representations –, but do not directly quantify over

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may be the sign of a semantic invariant possibly rooted in some cognitive universal, (van Benthem 1991: 23) underlined its heuristic value for research on quantification inasmuch as “it suggests a systematic point of view from which to search for comparative facts”.

<sup>57</sup>(Branco 1998a; 2001; 2005a; 2006).

<sup>58</sup>(Löbner 1987).

<sup>59</sup>Their fully-fledged discussion and justification are outside the scope of the present chapter. A thorough presentation can be found in (Branco 2005a).

extra-linguistic entities, like the other “primarily” quantificational nominals (e.g. *every man*, *most students*,...) do.

This duality of semantic behaviour, however, turns out not to be that much surprising if one takes into account a symmetric duality with regards to “primarily” quantificational nominals, which is apparent when they are able to act as antecedents in e-type anaphora. Nominals with “primary” quantificational force have also a certain “secondary” referential force: they have enough referential strength to evoke and introduce reference markers in the linguistic representation that can be picked as antecedents by anaphors — and thus support the referential force of the latter —, but they cannot be used to directly refer to extra-linguistic entities, like the other “primarily” referential terms do.

As a result, the duality quantificational vs. referential nominals appears thus as less strict and more articulated than it has been assumed. Possibly taking indefinite descriptions aside, every nominal makes a contribution in both semantic dimensions of quantification and reference but with respect to different universes. Primarily referential nominals have a dual semantic nature — they are primarily referential (to extra-linguistic entities) and secondarily quantificational (over linguistic entities) —, which is symmetric of the dual semantic nature of primarily quantificational ones — these are primarily quantificational (over extra-linguistic entities) and secondarily referential (to linguistic entities).

## Appendix

In order to illustrate the combined effect of the binding constraints specified in Section 4, as well as the outcome obtained from a grammar that integrates Binding Theory, we work through the example below and the corresponding grammatical representation in Figure 1.

- (53) Every student said [he likes himself].

This is a multi-clausal sentence with two anaphoric nominals in the embedded clause, a pronoun (*he*) and a short-distance reflexive (*himself*), and with a quantificational NP (*every student*) in the upper clause. In this sentence, the reflexive has the pronoun as the only admissible antecedent, and the pronoun, in turn, can either have the quantificational NP as antecedent or be resolved against an antecedent not introduced in the sentence.

Figure 1 presents an abridged version of the grammatical representation produced by the grammar for a discourse that contains only this sentence. The feature structures below the constituency tree correspond to partial grammatical

representations of the leave constituents, while the ones above the tree correspond to partial representations of some of its non terminal nodes.

## Circumscribing the Anaphoric Context

Let us start by considering the representation of the context.

Taking the representation of obliqueness hierarchies first, one can check that in the upper nodes of the matrix clause, due to the effect of BDP–Clause III, the LIST-Z value is obtained from the value of LIST-A, with which it is token-identical, thus comprising the list  $\langle [54], [247] \rangle$ . In the nodes of the embedded clause, in turn, the LIST-Z value is the concatenation of that upper LIST-Z value and the LIST-A value in the embedded clause  $\langle [24], [392] \rangle$ , from which the list  $\langle [54], [247], [24], [392] \rangle$  is obtained.

In any point of the grammatical representation, the LIST-A values are obtained from the subcategorisation frames of the local verbal predators, as constrained by BDP–Clause II and the lexical constraints in (29) and (30). Therefore,  $\langle [24], [392] \rangle$  is the LIST-A value of *likes*, and  $\langle [54], [247] \rangle$  is the LIST-A value of *said*.

Taking into account LIST-LU, as one ascends in the representation of the syntactic constituency, the list gets longer since, by the effect of BDP–Clause I, the LIST-LU value at a given node gathers the reference markers of the nodes dominated by it. Consequently, at the discourse top node, LIST-LU ends up as a list including all reference markers: both those introduced in the discourse by the NPs in the example sentence and  $[415]$ , the one available in the non linguistic context, from which the list  $\langle [415], [54], [247], [24], [392] \rangle$  is the result.

Note that in cases where the discourse contains more than one sentence, BDP–ClauseI (i.) ensures that LIST-LU ends up with all reference markers from every sentence of the discourse.

BDP–Clause I also ensures that this list of all reference markers is passed to the LIST-U value of the top node, and that this LIST-U value is then percolated down to all nodes of the grammatical representation, including the nodes of anaphoric nominals.

## Circumscribing the Anaphoric Potential

To consider the representation of the NPs, we should take a closer look at the leaf nodes in the constituency tree.

**Contribution to the context** Let us consider first how the NPs contribute to the representation of the context.

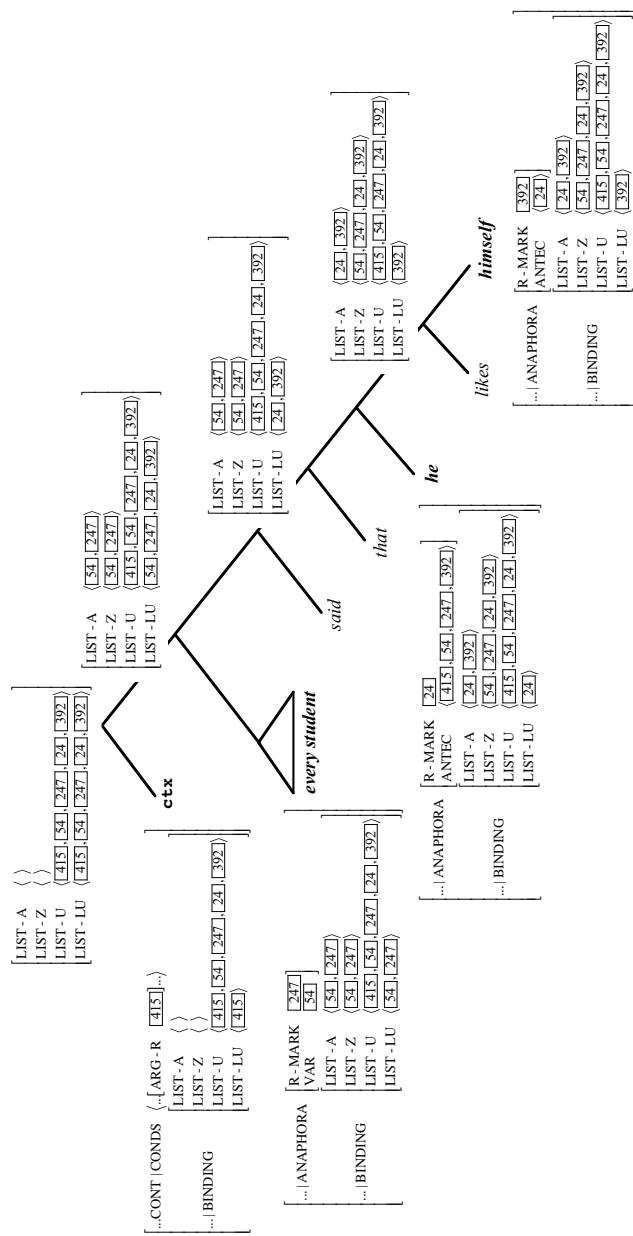


Figure 1: Partial grammatical representation of *Every student said he likes himself.*

Every phrase contributes to the global anaphoric context by passing the tag of its reference marker into its own LIST-LU.

In the case of a quantificational NP, like *every student*, two tags are passed, corresponding to the VAR value [54] — token-identical with the DREF value of the restrictor and providing for bound-variable anaphora interpretations — and the R-MARK value [247] — providing for e-type anaphora.

While the semantic types of anaphora — including bound-variable and e-type anaphora — are addressed in further detail in Section 5.2, it is of note at this point that a DRT account of e-type anaphora is followed here.<sup>60</sup> Accordingly, a quantificational NP contributes a plural reference marker to the semantic representation of the discourse that may serve as the antecedent in (e-type) anaphoric links. In a sentence like *Every bald man snores*, for instance, the quantificational NP contributes the plural reference marker which stands for the bald men that snore. Such marker is introduced in the discourse representation via the application of the DRT Abstraction operator  $\Sigma$ , which takes the restrictor and the nuclear scope of the determiner and introduces the plural marker that satisfies the corresponding semantic conditions.<sup>61</sup>

In order to incorporate such an account of e-type anaphora into Underspecified DRT,<sup>62</sup> the reference marker standing for the plurality satisfying the semantic condition obtained with  $\Sigma$ -abstraction, in the CONDS value of a determiner, is made token-identical with its R-MARK value. The *synsem* of the lexical entry for *every*, for instance, results thus as follows, where [1] is the marker obtained via  $\Sigma$ -abstraction:

---

<sup>60</sup>(Kamp & Reyle 1993: 311ff).

<sup>61</sup>(Kamp & Reyle 1993: 310).

<sup>62</sup>(Frank & Reyle 1995).

LOC CONT	LS	$\begin{bmatrix} L\text{-MAX } \boxed{4} \\ L\text{-MIN } \boxed{5} \end{bmatrix}$
	SUBORD	$\{\boxed{4}>\boxed{3}, \boxed{4}>\boxed{5}, \boxed{8}\geq \boxed{5}\}$
	COND S	$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{LABEL } \boxed{4} \\ \text{REL } \textit{every} \\ \text{RES } \boxed{3} \\ \text{SCOPE } \boxed{5} \end{array} \right\}, \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{LABEL } \boxed{3} \\ \text{DREF } \boxed{2} \end{array} \right\}$
	ANAPH	$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{LABEL } \boxed{8} \\ \text{REL } \Sigma\text{-abstraction} \\ \text{ARG1 } \boxed{2} \\ \text{ARG2 } \boxed{7} \\ \text{DREF } \boxed{1} \end{array} \right\}$
NONLOC BIND	LIST-A	$list(refm)$
	LIST-Z	$list(refm)$
	LIST-U	$list(refm)$
	LIST-LU	$\langle \boxed{2}, \boxed{1} \rangle$

**Contribution by the context** Let us consider now at how the representation of the context is encoded in each NP.

It should be noted that the suitable values of LIST-A, LIST-Z and LIST-U at the different NP nodes are enforced by the combined effect of the three Clauses of BDP.

Due to, respectively, BDP–Clause II (iii.) and BDP–Clause I (iii.i.), LIST-Z and LIST-U values result from token-identity, respectively, with LIST-Z and with LIST-U of the immediately dominating node in the constituency tree — that is the case, for instance, with the lists  $\langle \boxed{54}, \boxed{247} \rangle$  and  $\langle \boxed{415}, \boxed{54}, \boxed{247}, \boxed{24}, \boxed{392} \rangle$  in the non-pronoun *every student* and in the sentential node dominating it.

Due to BDP–Clause II (i.), LIST-A value, in turn, is obtained via token-identity with LIST-A of the subcategorising predicator — that is the case, for instance, with the list  $\langle \boxed{24}, \boxed{392} \rangle$  in the reflexive *himself* and in its predicator *likes*.

**Realisation of anaphoric potential** As to the anaphoric nominals, let us consider how their anaphoric potential is circumscribed in each specific occurrence.

The value of ANTEC is a list that records the grammatically admissible antecedents of the corresponding anaphor at the light of binding constraints.

As the result of the relational constraint *principleA/2*, the semantic representa-

tion of the reflexive *himself* includes the attribute ANTEC with the singleton list ⟨ [24] ⟩ as value, indicating that the only antecedent candidate available in this sentence is the pronoun in the embedded clause whose reference marker is identified as [24] in its own semantic representation.

The semantic representation of the pronoun *he*, in turn, includes the feature ANTEC with a value that is the list of its antecedent candidates, ⟨ [415], [247], [54], [392] ⟩, thus indicating that, in this sentence, the pronoun can be anaphorically linked to every nominal except itself, in line with the relational constraint *principleB/3*.

This ANTEC list includes antecedent candidates for the pronoun that will be dropped out by preferences or constraints on anaphoric links other than just the grammatical binding constraint expressed in Principle B. For instance, the plural reference marker [247], which is the R-MARK value of *every student*, will eventually be excluded by the anaphora resolver given that the singular pronoun *he* cannot entertain an e-type anaphoric link with a universally quantified NP whose reference marker obtained by Σ-abstraction is a plurality.

Also the marker [392] of the reflexive will be eventually discarded from this ANTEC list as a suitable antecedent by the resolver system since this would lead to an interpretive loop where the pronoun and the reflexive would be the sole antecedents of each other.

**Non-linguistic context** Finally, in order to illustrate how the non linguistic context may be represented in the linguistic representation of sentences, in this example, the reference marker [415] was introduced in the semantic representation of the *ctx* node.

The CONDS value of this node is meant to capture the possible contribution of the non-linguistic context at stake for the interpretation of the discourse. Like in the lexical entries of nominals, in the feature representation of *ctx*, the reference marker [415] is integrated in the LIST-LU value. By the effect of BDP–Clause I, this reference marker ends up added to the list of all reference markers, from both the linguistic discourse and the non-linguistic context, which is the shared value of features LIST-LU and LIST-U at the top node in Figure 1.

## Abbreviations

BDP - Binding Domains Principle

DRT - Discourse Representation Theory

HPSG - Head-Driven Phrase Structure Grammar

UDRT - Underspecified Discourse Representation Theory

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## **Part III**

# **Other levels of description**



# Chapter 22

# Morphology

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Université Paris Diderot

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or remove it there

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## 1 Introduction

Duis pulvinar lacus id gravida ornare. Phasellus eu mauris sed tortor maximus condimentum ultrices in leo. Donec non erat nec nulla ullamcorper ornare sed id ex. Integer risus mauris, aliquet vel aliquam sed, feugiat quis nisi. Suspendisse quis nunc a turpis porttitor mollis. In luctus nulla id nunc dapibus, id rhoncus lorem pretium. Nunc eget fringilla velit, semper commodo diam. Suspendisse odio odio, euismod ac ornare sed, tincidunt ac arcu. Pellentesque vitae fringilla orci. Donec faucibus metus dui, nec iaculis purus pellentesque sit amet. Sed fermentum lorem non augue cursus, eu accumsan risus ullamcorper. Suspendisse



rhoncus magna vitae enim pellentesque, eget porttitor quam finibus. Nunc ultricies turpis at quam vehicula, at tempus justo molestie. Proin convallis augue ut turpis cursus rhoncus. Donec sed convallis justo. Sed sed massa pharetra ex aliquet eleifend. finality

## **Abbreviations**

## **Acknowledgements**

# Chapter 23

## Semantics

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This chapter discusses the integration of theories of semantic representations into HPSG. It focuses on those aspects that are specific to HPSG and, in particular, recent approaches that make use of underspecified semantic representations, as they are quite unique to HPSG.

### 1 Introduction

A semantic level of description is more integrated into the architecture of HPSG than in many frameworks (although, in the last couple of decades, the integration of syntax and semantics has become tighter overall; see [Heim & Kratzer \(1998\)](#) for Mainstream Generative Grammar, for example). Every node in a syntactic tree includes all appropriate levels of structure, phonology, syntax, semantics, and pragmatics so that *local* interaction between all these levels is in principle possible within the HPSG architecture. The architecture of HPSG thus follows the spirit of the rule-to-rule approach advocated in [Bach \(1976\)](#) and more specifically [Klein & Sag \(1985\)](#) to have every syntactic operation matched by a semantic operation (the latter, of course, follows the Categorial Grammar lead, broadly speaking). But, as we shall see, only the spirit of the rule-to-rule approach is adhered to, as there can be more than one semantic operation per class of syntactic structures, depending on the semantic properties of the expressions that are syntactically composed. The built-in interaction between syntax and semantics within HPSG is evidenced by the fact that [Pollard & Sag \(1987\)](#), the first book length introduction to HPSG, spends a fair amount of time on semantics and

ontological issues, much more than customary in syntax-oriented books at the time.

But, despite the centrality of semantics within the HPSG architecture, not much comprehensive work on the interface between syntax and semantics was done until the late 90s, if we exclude work on the association of semantic arguments to syntactic valents in the early 90s (see Wechsler, Koenig & Davis (2019), Chapter 9 of this volume). The formal architecture was ripe for research on the interface between syntax and semantics, but few stepped in. Early work on semantics in HPSG investigated scoping issues, as HPSG surface-oriented syntax presents interesting challenges when modeling alternative scope relations. This is what Pollard & Sag (1987) and Pollard & Sag (1994) focus on most. Scope of modifiers is also an area that was of importance and received attention for the same reason both in Pollard & Sag (1994) and Kasper (1997). Ginzburg & Sag (2001) is the first study not devoted to argument structure to leverage the syntactic architecture of HPSG to model the semantics of a particular area of grammar, in this case interrogatives.

The real innovation HPSG brought to the interface between syntax and semantics is the use of underspecification in Minimal Recursion Semantics (Copestake, Flickinger, Malouf, Riehemann & Sag 1995; Egg 1998; Copestake, Lascarides & Flickinger 2001; Copestake, Flickinger, Pollard & Sag 2005) and Lexical Resource Semantics (Richter & Sailer 2004b); see also Nerbonne 1993 for an early use of scope underspecification in HPSG. The critical distinction between grammars as descriptions of admissible structures and models of these descriptions makes it possible to have a new way of thinking about the meaning contributions of lexical entries and constructional entries: underspecification is the other side of descriptions.

## 2 A situation semantics beginning

The semantic side of HPSG was initially rooted in Situation Semantics (Pollard & Sag 1987: Chapter 4). The choice of Situation Semantics is probably somewhat a matter of happenstance and overall nothing too crucial depended on that choice (and other choices have been explored since, as we detail below). Our statement about the Situation Semantics underpinnings of HPSG's early approach to semantics should not be construed as implying the choice was unimportant. There were several interesting aspects of this choice for the study of the interface between syntax and semantics that is integral to any grammatical framework. We briefly mention a few here. A first interesting aspect of this choice is that

the identification of arguments was not through an ordering but via keywords standing for role names, something that made it easier to model argument structure in subsequent work (see Wechsler, Koenig & Davis (2019), Chapter 9 of this volume). A second aspect is the built-in “intensionality” of Situation Semantics. Since atomic formulas in Situation Semantics denote circumstances rather than truth values and circumstances are more finely individuated than truth-values, the need to resort to possible world semantics to properly characterize differences in the meaning of basic verbs, for example, is avoided. A third aspect of Situation Semantics that played an important role in HPSG is parameters. Parameters are variables that can be restricted and sorted thus allowing for an easy semantic classification of types of NPs, something that HPSG’s binding theory makes use of.

Parameters also play an important role in early accounts of quantification; these accounts rely on restrictions on parameters that constrain how variables are anchored, akin to predicative conditions on discourse referents in Discourse Representation Theory (Kamp & Reyle 1993). Restrictions on parameters are illustrated with (1), the (non-empty) semantic content of the common noun *donkey*, where the variable  $\boxed{1}$  is restricted to individuals that are donkeys, as expressed by the value of the attribute REST.<sup>1</sup>

(1)	$\begin{bmatrix} \text{VAR } \boxed{1} \\ \text{REST } \begin{bmatrix} \text{RELN } \textit{donkey} \\ \text{INST } \boxed{1} \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix}$
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Because indices are restricted variables/parameters, the model of quantification proposed in Pollard & Sag (1987: Chapter 4) involves restricted quantifiers. Consider the sentence *Every donkey sneezes* and its semantic representation in (2) (op.cit., p.109).

(2)	$\begin{bmatrix} \text{QUANT } \begin{bmatrix} \text{DET } \textit{forall} \\ \text{IND } \begin{bmatrix} \text{VAR } \boxed{1} \\ \text{REST } \begin{bmatrix} \text{RELN } \textit{donkey} \\ \text{INST } \boxed{1} \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix} \\ \text{SCOPE } \begin{bmatrix} \text{RELN } \textit{sneeze} \\ \text{SNEEZER } \boxed{1} \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix}$
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The subject NP contributes the value of the attribute QUANT, while the verb contributes the value of SCOPE. The quantifier includes information on the type

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<sup>1</sup>In Pollard & Sag (1987), which we discuss here, semantic relations are the values of a RELN-attribute and restrictions are single semantic relations rather than set-valued. To ensure historical accuracy, we use the signature that was used at the time.

of quantifier contributed by the determiner (a universal quantifier in this case) and the index (a parameter restricted by the common noun).

Because HPSG is a sign-based grammar, each constituent includes a PHONOLOGY and SEMANTIC component as well as a SYNTACTIC level of representation (along with other possible levels, e.g. information structure, see [Kuthy \(2019\)](#), Chapter 24 of this volume). Compositionality has thus always been directly incorporated by principles that regulate the value of the mother's SEM attribute, given the SEM values of the daughters and their mode of syntactic combination (as manifested by their syntactic properties). Different approaches to semantics within HPSG propose variants of a semantic principle that constrains this relation. The semantic principle of [Pollard & Sag \(1987: 109\)](#) is stated in English in (3) (we assume for simplicity that there is a single complement daughter; Pollard and Sag define semantic composition recursively for cases of multiple complement daughters).

- (3) a. If the semantic content (1) of the head-daughter is of sort *circumstance* and the semantic content (2) of the complement daughter is of sort *quantifier*, the semantic content of the mother is  
[QUANT [2]  
SCOPE [1]]  
b. Otherwise, the semantic content of the head-daughter and the mother are identical.

The fact that the semantics principle in (3) receives a case-based definition is of note. Since HPSG is monostratal, there is only one stratum of representation (see [Ladusaw 1988](#) for the difference between levels and strata). But the semantic contribution of complement daughters varies. Some complement daughters are proper names or pronouns while others are generalized quantifiers, for example. Since it is assumed that the way in which the meaning of (free) pronouns or proper names combines with the meaning of verbs differs from the way generalized quantifiers combine with the meaning of verbs, the semantic principle must receive a case-based definition. In other words, syntactic combinatorics is less varied than semantic combinatorics. The standard way of avoiding violating compositionality (the fact that semantic composition is a *function*) is to have a case-based definition of the semantic effect of combining a head-daughter with its complements, a point already made in [Partee \(1984\)](#). As (3) shows, HPSG has followed this practice since its beginning. The reason is clear: one cannot maintain a surface-oriented approach to syntax, where syntax is "simpler" to borrow a phrase from [Culicover & Jackendoff \(2005\)](#), without resorting to case-based definitions of the semantic import of syntactic combinatorics.

### 3 Scope relations in HPSG

In Mainstream Generative Grammar, there is an assumption that syntactic constituency reflects semantic constituency at one stratum of representation. In the case of quantifier scope in works like May (1985), this means that quantified expressions are moved out of their surface position and raised to a position where they can receive their proper scope through Quantifier Raising (and/or Quantifier Lowering, see, among others Hornstein 1995). Of course, such a move requires multiple strata, as there is little evidence that quantifier scope affects surface syntactic structure. The semantic principle and the representation of quantifier meanings outlined in Pollard & Sag (1987) and briefly presented in the previous section was not flexible enough to model the relation between single syntactic structures and multiple scopal relations. As Pollard and Sag explicitly recognized, their semantic principle only models left to right scopal relations, i.e. quantifiers that are expressed by a complement (or subject) that is to the left of another complement have wide scope with respect to that quantifier. So-called inverse scope, including the fact that quantifiers in object position can outscope quantifiers in subject position cannot be modeled by the kind of semantic principle they propose. Much of the discussion of semantics within HPSG in the 90s pertains to improving how scope is modeled, both the scope of quantifiers and scope of adjuncts. We discuss each in turn in this section.

#### 3.1 Quantifier scope

HPSG’s “standard” model of the interface between the syntax and semantics of phrases that contain quantifiers until the mid 2000s adapted to HPSG the approach proposed in Cooper (1975; 1983), i.e. so-called Cooper storage: when a quantified expression combines with another expression, the quantifier is put in a store and various scopal relations correspond to the various nodes at which the quantifier can be retrieved from storage. Within HPSG, quantifier storage involves a QSTORE attribute where each quantifier starts and at each node quantifiers are either retrieved (part of the RETRIEVED list) or continue to be on the mother’s QSTORE. The relative scope of quantifiers itself is determined by the ordering of quantifiers on the QUANTS list. The simplified tree in Figure 1 from Pollard & Sag (1994: 324) illustrates the inverse scope reading of an English sentence containing two quantifiers.

Both subject and object quantifiers start with their quantifiers (basically, something very similar to the representation in (2)) in a QSTORE. Since the reading of interest is the one where *a poem* outscopes *every student*, the quantifier intro-

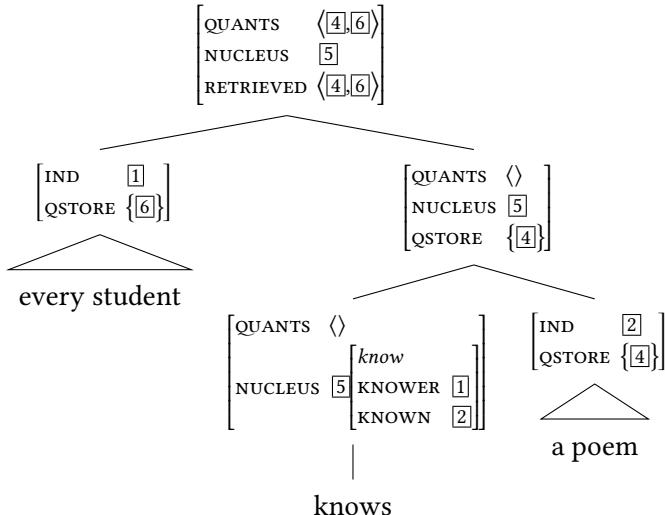


Figure 1: Semantic composition of an English sentence containing two quantifiers

duced by *a poem* cannot be retrieved at the VP level. This is because the value of QUANTS is the concatenation of the value of RETRIEVED with the QUANTS value of the head daughter. Were the quantifier introduced by *a poem* (⟨4⟩) retrieved at the VP level, the sole quantifier retrieved at the S level, the quantifier introduced by *every student*, would outscope it. So, the only way for the quantifier introduced by *a poem* to outscope the quantifier introduced by *every student* is for the former to be retrieved at the S node just like the latter. Simplifying somewhat for presentational purposes, two principles govern how quantifiers are passed on from head-daughter to mothers and how quantifier scope is assigned for retrieved quantifiers; they are stated in (4) (adapted from Pollard & Sag 1994: 322–323).

- (4) a. In a headed phrase, the RETRIEVED value is a list whose set of elements is a subset of the union of the QSTORE of the daughters; the QSTORE value is the relative complement of that set.
- b. In a headed phrase (of sort *psoa*, which stands for parametrized state of affairs), the QUANTS value is the concatenation of the RETRIEVED value and the QUANTS value of the semantic head.

(4a) ensures that quantifiers in storage are passed up the tree, except for those

that are retrieved; (4b) ensures that quantifiers that are retrieved outscope quantifiers that were retrieved lower in the tree. Retrieval at the VP level entails narrow scope of quantifiers that occur in object position; wide scope of quantifiers that occur in object position entails retrieval at the S level. But retrieval at the S level of quantifiers that occur in object position does not entail wide scope, as the order of two quantifiers in the same RETRIEVED list (i.e., retrieved at the same node) is unconstrained. Constraints on quantifier retrieval and scope underdetermines quantifier scope. To ensure that quantifiers are retrieved sufficiently “high” in the tree to bind bound variable uses of pronouns, e.g., *her* in (5), Pollard & Sag propose the constraint in (6).

- (5) One of  $her_i$  students approached [each teacher] $_i$ . (Pollard & Sag 1994: ex.27a)
- (6) A quantifier within a CONTENT value must bind every occurrence of that quantifier’s index within that CONTENT value.

The use of Cooper storage allows for a syntactically parsimonious treatment of quantifier scope ambiguities in that no syntactic ambiguity needs to be posited to account for what is a strictly semantic phenomenon. But, as Pollard and Sag note (p. 328), their model of quantifier scope does not account for the possible narrow scope interpretation of the quantifier *a unicorn* in (7) (the interpretation according to which the speaker does not commit to the existence of unicorns). Raised arguments only occur once, in their surface position, and (4a–b) ensure that quantifiers are never retrieved “lower” than their surface position.

- (7) A unicorn appears to be approaching.

Pollard & Yoo (1998) tackle that problem, as well as take into account the fact that a sentence such as (8) is ambiguous (i.e., the quantifier *five books* can have wide or narrow scope with respect to the meaning of *believe*). As Pollard and Yoo note, since quantifier storage and retrieval is a property of signs, and fillers (see Borsley & Crysmann (2019), Chapter 14 of this volume) only share their LOCAL attribute values with arguments of the head (*read*) in (8), the narrow scope reading cannot be accounted for. (7) and (8), among other similar examples, illustrate some of the complexities of combining a surface-oriented approach to syntax with a descriptively adequate model of semantic composition.

- (8) Five books, I believe John read. (ambiguous)

Pollard & Yoo's solution (p. 419–420) amounts to making quantifier storage and retrieval a property of the LOCAL attribute and to restricting quantifier retrieval to semantically potent heads (so *to* of infinitive VPs cannot be a site for quantifier retrieval). The new feature geometry of *sign* Pollard & Yoo propose is represented in (9). The pool of quantifiers collects the quantifiers on the QSTORE of its selected arguments (members of the SUBJ, COMPS, SPR lists and value of MOD) (except for quantifying determiners and semantically vacuous heads like *to* or *be*) and the constraints in (10) and (11) (Pollard & Yoo 1998: 423) ensure proper percolation of quantifier store values within headed phrases as well as the semantic order of retrieved quantifiers.

- $$(9) \quad \begin{aligned} sign \\ \text{PHONOLOGY } & list(\text{phon\_string}) \\ \text{SYNSEM} & \left[ \begin{array}{ll} \text{LOCAL} & \left[ \begin{array}{ll} \text{CATEGORY } & \text{category} \\ \text{CONTENT } & \text{content} \\ \text{QSTORE } & set(\text{quantifier}) \\ \text{POOL } & set(\text{quantifier}) \end{array} \right] \\ \text{RETRIEVED} & list(\text{quantifier}) \end{array} \right] \end{aligned}$$
- $$(10) \quad sign \rightarrow \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{SYNSEM} | \text{LOC} \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{QSTORE } \boxed{1} \\ \text{POOL } \boxed{2} \end{array} \right] \\ \text{RETRIEVED } \boxed{3} \end{array} \right]$$
- $\wedge$  set-of-elements ( $\boxed{3}, \boxed{4}$ )  $\wedge \boxed{4} \subseteq \boxed{2} \wedge \boxed{1} = \boxed{2} - \boxed{4}$

- (11) a. The pool of the mother of a headed-phrase is identical to the quantifier store of the head daughter.  
 b. For a semantically nonvacuous lexical head, the QUANTS value is token-identical with the RETRIEVED value.

What remains in the QSTORE of a sign is the quantifiers that were in the POOL of (unretrieved) quantifiers minus quantifiers that were retrieved, according to the constraint in (10). Since the POOL of the sign's mother is the QSTORE of its head daughter as per constraint (11a), a quantifier retrieved on a head daughter is not part of the POOL of (unretrieved) quantifiers of the mother.

In a follow-up paper, Przepiórkowski (1998) proposed a strictly lexicalized retrieval mechanism which removes structural ambiguities arising from different possible retrieval sites for quantifiers along a syntactic head path, is compatible with trace-based and traceless analyses of extraction (Pollard & Yoo's analysis only covers trace-based extraction), and shifts all semantic structure under the CONTENT attribute.

### 3.2 Adjunct scope

HPSG phrase structure schemata are built, for a significant part, around headed structures. In the case of the head-complement or head-subject schemata, syntactic headedness and semantic headedness match. The verb is the head of VPs and clauses and the circumstance or state of affairs denoted by verbs typically takes as arguments the indices of its complements or subjects, and more generally part of the CONTENT value of the verb takes as arguments part of the CONTENT value of its dependents. But in the case of head-adjunct structures, syntactic and semantic headedness do not match. The denotation of adjuncts often takes the denotation of heads as arguments. Thus, in (12), fastness is ascribed to Bob's running. Accordingly, the Semantics Principle distinguishes between head-adjunct structures and other structures, as shown in (13) (Pollard & Sag 1994: 56). (The principle we cite does not consider quantifier retrieval we discussed in the previous section.)

- (12) Bob runs fast.
- (13) In a headed phrase, the CONTENT value is token-identical to that of the adjunct daughter if the DTRS value is of sort *head-adj-struc*, and with that of the head daughter otherwise.

Unfortunately, the hypothesis that the content of phrases “projects” from the adjunct in the case of head-adjunct structures leads to difficulties in the case of so-called recursive modification, e.g., (14), as Kasper (1997) shows. The NP in (14) denotes an existential quantifier whose restriction is a plan that is potentially controversial; intuitively speaking, what is potential is the controversiality of the plan, not it being a plan. But, the semantics principle, the syntactic selection of modified expressions by modifiers, and lexical entries for intersective and non-intersective adjectives conspire to lead to the wrong meaning for recursive modification of the kind (14) illustrates.

- (14) A potentially controversial plan

Since *controversial* selects for *plan*, combining their meaning leads to the meaning represented in (15), as *controversial* is an intersective adjective.

$$(15) \begin{bmatrix} nom\text{-}obj \\ INDEX \boxed{1} \\ RESTR \left[ \begin{bmatrix} RELN \ plan \\ INST \ \boxed{1} \end{bmatrix} \& \begin{bmatrix} RELN \ controversial \\ ARG \ \boxed{1} \end{bmatrix} \right] \end{bmatrix}$$

But since adjuncts are the semantic head, the meaning of *potentially controversial plan* will be projected from the meaning of *potentially*, the most deeply embedded adjunct. Now, *potentially* is a conjectural adverb, to adapt to adverbs the classification of adjectives proposed by Keenan & Faltz (1985: 125). Within HPSG, this means that the meaning of *potentially* is a function that takes the meaning of what it modifies as argument, i.e. the meaning represented in (15). But, this leads to the meaning represented in (16), which is the wrong semantics, as a potentially controversial plan is not a potential plan as Kasper (1997: 10–11) points out.

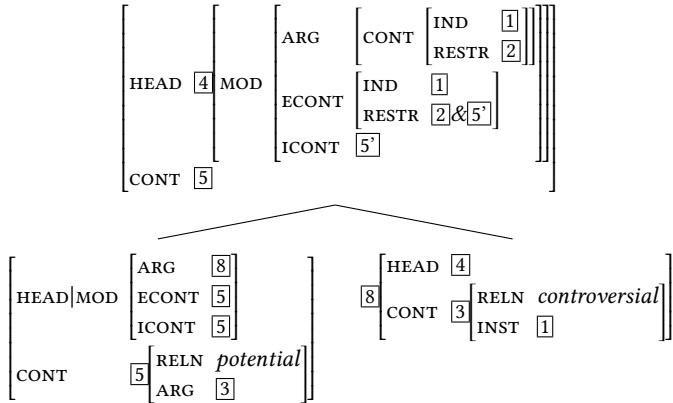
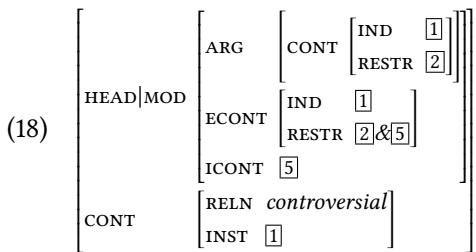
(16)	$  \begin{array}{c}  nom\text{-}obj \\  \text{INDEX } \boxed{1} \\  \text{RESTR} \left[ \begin{array}{c}  \text{RELN } potential \\  \text{ARG} \left[ \begin{array}{c}  \text{RELN } plan \\  \text{INST } \boxed{1}  \end{array} \right] \& \left[ \begin{array}{c}  \text{RELN } controversial \\  \text{ARG } \boxed{1}  \end{array} \right]  \end{array} \right]  \end{array}  $
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The problem with Pollard & Sag's Semantics Principle, when it comes to recursive modification, is clear: semantic selection follows an adjunct path, so to speak, so the most deeply embedded adjunct will have widest scope.

Kasper's solution is to distinguish the inherent meaning of an expression (its regular content) from meanings it may have in a particular construction, its combinatorial semantics (its internal and external content). With respect to prenominal adjuncts, the internal content corresponds to the content of the adjunct's maximal projection, whereas the external content corresponds to the content of the combination of the meaning of the adjunct with what it modifies. The semantic principle is revised to reflect the distinction between internal and external contents and is provided in (17) (Kasper 1997: 19).

- (17) a. The semantic content of a head-adjunct phrase is token-identical to the MOD|ECONT value of the adjunct daughter, and the MOD|ICONT value of the adjunct daughter is token-identical with the adjunct daughter's CONT.
- b. For all other headed phrases, the CONT value is token-identical with the CONT value of the head daughter.

The result of applying the revised semantic principle to *potentially controversial* is provided in Figure 2 and the semantics of *controversial* is provided in (18).

Figure 2: The meaning of *potentially controversial*

Critically, each kind of modifier specifies in its MOD|ECONT value the combinatorial effects it has on the meaning of the modifier and modified combination; the ECONT value contains that result and will be inherited as CONT value by the mother node. Intersective adjectives like *controversial* specify that their combinatorial effect is intersective, as shown in (18); conjectural adverbs like *potentially*, on the other hand, specify their CONT value as the result of applying their meaning to the CONT value of the modified sign. As shown in the left daughter of Figure 2, the resulting CONT value of *potentially* is identified by (17a) with its ICONT value (which is in turn lexically specified as identical with the ECONT value) when *potentially* combines as adjunct daughter with an intersective adjective such as *controversial* in a head-adjunct structure. Moreover, when the depicted phrase *potentially controversial* will combine with a noun such as *plan* in another head-adjunct phrase, 5 and 5' in Figure 2 become identical, again by (17a), thereby also integrating the meaning of *potentially controversial* into the second conjunct of the ECONT|RESTR value of the depicted phrase. Now, since the MOD value of the head in a head-adjunct phrase determines the MOD value of the phrase, it means

that *controversial* determines in its ECONT in combination with its ARG value what it modifies (*plan*) and, ultimately, the CONT value of the entire phrase *potentially controversial plan*, thus ensuring that its intersectivity is preserved even when it combines with a conjectural adverb. Asudeh & Crouch (2002) and Egg (2004) provide more recent solutions to the same problem through the use of a Glue semantics approach to meaning composition within HPSG and semantic underspecification, respectively.

## 4 Sorting semantic objects

One of the hallmarks of HPSG is that all grammatical objects are assigned a sort (see **chapters/formal-foundations** Chapter ?? of this volume for details). This includes semantic objects. Sorting of semantic objects has been used profitably in models of lexical knowledge, in particular in models of argument structure phenomena. We refer the reader to the chapter on argument structure for details and only provide an illustrative example here. Consider the constraint in (19) from Koenig & Davis (2003: 231). It says that all verbs that denote a causal change of state, i.e. are of sort *cause-rel*, link their causer argument to an NP that is the first member of the ARG-ST list. Critically, verbs like *frighten*, *kill*, *calm* have as meanings a relation that is a subsort of *cause-rel* and are subject to this constraint. Sorting lexical semantic relations thus makes for a compact statement of linking constraints. (The chapter on argument structure provides many more instances of the usefulness of sorting semantic relations, a hallmark of HPSG semantics.)

$$(19) \quad \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{CONTENT} \\ \text{CAUSER } \boxed{1} \\ \text{ARG-ST } \langle \text{NP}, \dots \rangle \end{array} \right] \Rightarrow \left[ \text{ARG-ST } \langle \text{NP}_{\boxed{1}}, \dots \rangle \right]$$

Constructional analyses that flourished in the late 1990s also benefited from the sorting of semantic objects. The analysis of clause types in Sag (1997) and Ginzburg & Sag (2001) makes extensive use of the sorting of semantic objects to model different kinds of clauses, as our discussion of the latter in the next section makes clear.

## 5 The advantages of a surface-oriented grammar

Until now we have mostly covered how semantic composition works in an approach where each node in a tree is associated with a meaning and where there is only one stratum and therefore the “location” of an expression in a syntactic

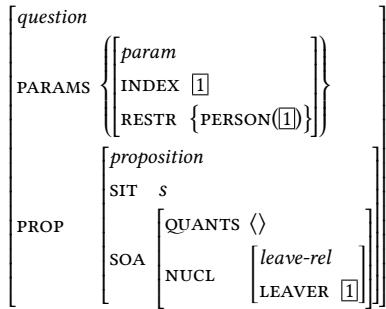
tree does not necessarily correspond to where its meaning is composed: direct object quantifiers, for example, are syntactic sisters of the verb even when they have wide scope over a quantifier in subject position. Although important as a proof that semantic composition can be modeled in a surface-oriented grammar, it is fair to say that HPSG work until the late 1990s does not have too much new insight to contribute to our understanding of the interface between syntax and semantics. This is in no way a slight of that early research in the interface between syntax and semantics. Demonstrating that you can “get things right” without multiple strata is important and work on the relation between lexical meaning and argument structure (see Wechsler, Koenig & Davis (2019), Chapter 9 of this voulmer) is also important in showing that simplicity of syntactic representation does not come at the cost of adequacy. The message was good news: you do not need to make your syntax more complex to make it possible to interface it with semantics. Of course, that was Montague’s point already in the late 1960s and early 1970s (see the collected papers in Montague 1974), but that work was more a proof of concept. Carrying out what is basically the Montagovian agenda with a large scale grammar is more difficult and this is what early work in HPSG, at least retrospectively, seems to have focused on.

The development of a more constructional HPSG in the mid 90s opened up new possibilities for modeling the interface between syntax and semantics. One of them is the ability of rich phrasal constructicons to model the shared semantic combinatorics of quite distinct constructional patterns. This is for example apparent in Sag (1997) where a single modification meaning is assigned to a family of relative constructions that differ markedly syntactically. This is also what Ginzburg & Sag (2001) show with their analysis of interrogatives. But their analysis goes further in demonstrating that there may be advantages to a surface-oriented approach to syntax in that it correctly predicts an effect of the *surface* syntax onto semantics for the interpretation of interrogatives, as we now show.

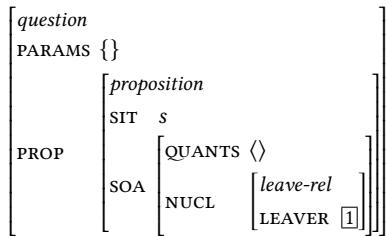
The approach to interrogatives Ginzburg and Sag propose is new in that it does not rely on the traditional Hamblin semantics for questions that the meaning of questions is the set of (exhaustive) answers; see Hamblin (1973) and Groenendijk & Stokhof (1997). Rather, the meaning of questions are propositional abstracts (not sets of propositions). Parameters of the kind that have been part of HPSG approaches to semantics since the beginning are used to model these propositional abstracts. Because the meaning of questions are propositional abstracts, the meaning of *wh*-phrases is not the same as that of generalized quantifiers either; rather, *wh*-phrases introduce a parameter (roughly, the equivalent of a lambda-abstracted variable). (20) and (21) provide examples of the meaning of

*wh*-questions and polar questions, respectively (Ginzburg & Sag 2001: 137), where the AVM that follows  $\mapsto$  is a description of the value of the CONTENT attribute of the expression that precedes  $\mapsto$ . Note that polar questions are modeled as zero-parameter propositional abstracts.

- (20) Who left?  $\mapsto$



- (21) Did someone leave?  $\mapsto$



The meaning assigned to questions illustrated above relies on an ontology of messages (the semantic content a clause expresses) which is richer than the traditional notion of propositional content (as distinct from illocutionary force) in work such as Searle (1969). Questions in this view are not just a speech act (where the propositional content of that act remains a proposition), but rather a particular kind of propositionally constructed message, namely a proposition cum parameters, as shown in Figure 3. Crucially, questions are defined as a parametrized proposition.

Of concern to us here is less the specifics of this ontology of messages (or of the introduction in the universe of discourse of place holders and other abstract objects, as is typical of Situation Semantics) than its role in the interface between syntax and semantics, e.g., the fact that clause types can refer to different kinds of messages. Declarative and interrogative clauses are defined as in (22), where the expression that precedes the colon indicates the sort of the phrase and what follows the colon is an informal representation of properties of the phrase's constituents (AVMs to the left of the arrow are properties of the mother node and

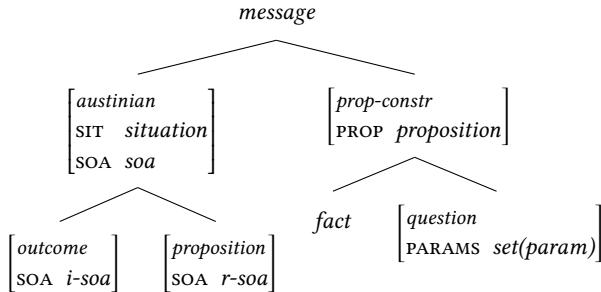


Figure 3: A hierarchy of sorts of messages

what follows the arrow are properties of the daughters), / indicates default identity between information on the mother and daughter nodes in (22a) and “...” in (22b) informally indicates the absence of constraints on daughters on the general *inter-cl* sort.

- (22) a. *decl-cl*:  $\left[ \text{CONT} \left[ \begin{array}{c} \text{austinian} \\ \text{SOA } \boxed{1} \end{array} \right] \right] \rightarrow \text{H} \left[ \text{CONT } / \boxed{1} \right]$   
 b. *inter-cl*:  $[\text{CONT } \text{question}] \rightarrow \dots$

In contrast to earlier approaches to semantics in HPSG where combining a VP with a subject amounted to nothing more than adding the relevant information in the event structure (akin to functional application), this more constructional approach associates a type-shift with the “traditional” subject-predicate construction, from a state of affair description to a proposition. In other words, the analysis of clause-types familiar from traditional grammar plays an explicit role in the grammar, as it is associated with a particular kind of semantic content. Interrogative clauses (clauses of sort *inter-cl*) are partially defined by their message, i.e. as denoting questions. Different kinds of interrogatives (polar interrogatives, *wh*-interrogatives, and *in situ* interrogatives) can then be defined as subsorts of *inter-cl*. Because this constructional analysis of clause types is embedded in a multiple inheritance network of constructions, an elegant model of similarities in syntax that do and do not correspond to similarities in meaning becomes possible. For example, English declaratives, like typical *wh*-interrogatives, can be inverted (and therefore some declaratives are subject-auxiliary-inversion phrases, as in *Under no circumstance will I allow Tobi to go out at night*, see Fillmore 1999) and, conversely, some interrogatives are not (*in situ* interrogatives, in particular), but some must be inverted (polar interrogatives). Embedding a

constructional semantics (i.e., the association of meaning to particular kinds of clauses) in a multidimensional analysis of phrases allows a model that associates meaning to some structures, while recognizing that they need not to. It is similar to some versions of Construction Grammar (see Müller (2019), Chapter 36 of this volume), but is weaker in that it does not require phrasal constructions to be associated with an unpredictable meaning (i.e., with more than the equivalent of functional application in Categorial Grammar-like approaches).

One particularly interesting aspect of the constructional semantics of Ginzburg & Sag (2001) is that it can model differences in scoping possibilities of the parameters associated with *wh*-phrases that occur as fillers of head-filler structures and *wh*-phrases that occur *in situ*. Consider the sentences in (23) and the difference in interpretation they can receive. (The observation is due to Baker 1970; see Ginzburg & Sag 2001: 242–246 for discussion.) Sentence (23a) only has interpretation (24a) and, similarly, sentence (23b) has interpretation (24b).

- (23) a. Who wondered *who* saw what?
- b. Who wondered *what* was seen by who?
- (24) a. For which person *x* and thing *y* did *x* wonder who saw *y*.
- b. For which person *x* and person *z* did *x* wonder which *z* saw what.

The generalization seems to be that the scope of the parameters introduced by *wh*-phrases that occur in filler position (i.e., as (part of) the filler daughter of a head-filler phrase) is constrained by its surface position, but *wh*-phrases that occur *in situ* are not so constrained. Thus, *who* in (23a) (*what* in (23b)) cannot outscope the embedded clause, but *what* in (23a) (*who* in (23b)) can. The explanation for this puzzling observation runs as follows. *Wh*-interrogatives are a subsort of interrogative clauses and head-filler phrases. They are thus subject to the Filler-Inclusion Constraint in (25) that requires the *WH* value of the filler to be a retrieved parameter (i.e., become part of the *PARAMS* set). This constraint ensures that *wh*-phrases that are fillers of a head-filler phrase contribute their parameter in the clause they are fillers of. In contrast, the parameter of *wh*-phrases that remain *in situ* are not so constrained and are thus free to either be retrieved in the clause in which they occur or be retrieved in a higher clause.

- (25) Filler Inclusion Constraint  

$$wh\text{-}inter\text{-}cl: \left[ \text{CONT} \left[ \text{PARAMS } \{\boxed{1}\} \uplus \text{set} \right] \right] \rightarrow \left[ \text{WH } \{\boxed{1}\} \right], H$$

It should be noted that the combination of a constructional and surface-oriented approach to the semantics of interrogatives requires positing several unary branch-

ing constructions whose sole function is to “type-shift” the meaning of the daughter phrase to match the semantic requirements of the phrase it occurs in. Consider the discourses in (26) and (27) (from Ginzburg & Sag 2001: 270, (37) and 280 (63a)), a reprise and non-reprise use, respectively, of *in situ wh*-phrases.

- (26) A: Jo saw absolutely every shaman priest from East Anglia.  
B: Jo saw absolutely every shaman priest from WHERE.
- (27) A: Well, anyway, I'm leaving.  
B: OK, so you'll be leaving WHEN exactly?

We focus on the latter case, which involves an “ordinary” question interpretation, for simplicity. Since B's answer is syntactically a declarative subject-predicate clause, its meaning will be of sort *proposition* (as any head-subject clause that is not a *wh*-subject clause). But the meaning associated with this construction is that of a question. So, we need a unary-branching construction that maps the propositional meaning onto the question meaning, i.e. that retrieves the stored parameter contributed by the *wh*-phrase and makes the CONTENT of the head-subject phrase the value of the PROP attribute of a question. This is what is accomplished by the *is-inter-cl* construction defined in (28), a construction one of whose subsorts is the construction involved in discourse (27) and defined in (29) (the Independent Clause feature value “+” in (28) is meant to rule out *in situ* interrogatives to be embedded interrogatives). Assigning distinct messages to different clause types while maintaining a surface oriented approach requires quite a few such unary branching constructions whose function is strictly semantic.

- (28) *is-inter-cl*:  

$$\left[ \begin{array}{c} \text{IC} \\ \text{CAT} \left[ \begin{array}{c} \text{SUBJ} \\ \langle \rangle \end{array} \right] \\ \text{VFORM } \textit{fin} \end{array} \right] \rightarrow \text{H}[ ]$$
- (29) *dir-is-inter-cl*:  

$$[\text{CONT}|\text{PRO } \boxed{1}] \rightarrow \text{H}[\text{CONT } \boxed{1}]$$

## 6 Semantic underspecification

One of the hallmarks of constraint-based grammatical theories is the view that grammars are *descriptions* of structures and can thus be incomplete, as almost all descriptions are. This is a point that was made clear a long time ago by Martin Kay in his work on unification (see among others Kay 1979). For a long

time, the distinction between (partial) descriptions (possible properties of linguistic structures, what grammars are about) and (complete) described linguistic structures was used almost exclusively in the syntactic component of grammars within HPSG. But starting in the mid 90s the importance of distinguishing between descriptions and described structures began to be appreciated in HPSG's model of semantics, as discussed for example in Nerbonne (1993) and Copestake, Flickinger, Malouf, Riehemann & Sag (1995), and recent work has stressed the importance of the same distinction when modeling inflectional morphology (see Crysmann & Bonami 2016 and Crysmann (2019), Chapter 22 of this volume). Because underspecification, partiality and the like are so critical to HPSG, its inclusion in the model of the semantics of grammar has made recent work in semantics in HPSG quite distinctive from work in semantics within even conceptually related frameworks such as Lexical Functional Grammar (see Bresnan & Kaplan 1982, among others, and Arnold (2019), Chapter 34 of this volume) or variants of Categorial Grammar (see Steedman 1996, among others, and Kubota (2019), Chapter 33 of this volume). Two competing approaches to semantic underspecification have been developed within HPSG, Minimal Recursion Semantics (henceforth, MRS; see Copestake et al. 1995, Copestake et al. 2001, and Copestake et al. 2005 for introductions to MRS) and Lexical Resource Semantics (henceforth, LRS; see Richter & Sailer 2004b,a and Iordăchioia & Richter 2015 for an introduction to LRS). MRS and LRS are not the only two “recent” approaches to assembling the meaning of phrases from lexical “meanings” (or resources). Asudeh & Crouch (2002), for example, show how to apply a glue approach to semantic interpretation to HPSG. Aside from simplification of the Semantics Principle, which , under a glue semantic approach, does not distinguish how to compose meaning on the basis of the semantic type of the daughters, e.g., whether one of the daughters is a quantifier, a glue approach leads to “highly efficient techniques for semantic derivation already implemented for LFG, and which target problems of ambiguity management also addressed by Minimal Recursion Semantics” (p. 1). For reasons of space, we cannot detail Asudeh and Crouch's glue approach here; we concentrate on MRS and LRS as they have been the dominant approaches to semantic composition in HPSG in recent years. But, the existence of yet another approach to semantic interpretation attests of the flexibility of the HPSG architecture when trying to model the interface between syntax and semantics.

## 6.1 Minimal Recursion Semantics

### 6.1.1 Why minimally recursive semantic representations

MRS developed out of computational semantic engineering considerations related to machine translation for face-to-face dialog that started in the early 90s (see Kay et al. 1992 for an overview of the the *Verbmobil* project). As Copestake et al. (1995) argue, syntactic differences between languages can lead to logically equivalent distinct semantic representations when using traditional “recursive” semantic representations. They point out, for example, that the English expression *fierce black cat* and Spanish *gato negro y feroz* would be given distinct semantic representations under standard assumptions, as shown in (30).

- (30) a.  $\lambda x.(\text{fierce}(x) \wedge (\text{black}(x) \wedge \text{cat}(x)))$   
b.  $\lambda x.(\text{cat}(x) \wedge (\text{black}(x) \wedge \text{fierce}(x)))$

These distinct semantic representations would make translating these simple nominal expressions from one language to the other difficult. Furthermore, some sentences may be similarly ambiguous in English and Spanish – for example, sentences that contain generalized quantifiers – , and requiring the semantic disambiguation of these sentences prior to translating them into sentences that contain similar ambiguities is inefficient. Semantic representations should only be as disambiguated as the source language grammar entails. For these reasons and others they detail, Copestake et al. (1995) propose to model the semantics of grammar via semantic representations that are as flat (or non-recursive) as possible. To achieve this minimal recursivity despite the fact that disambiguated scope relations among generalized quantifiers require embedding, they add additional variables or handles that serve as labels to particular relations in the flat list of relations and that can serve as “arguments” of scopal operators. (31) and its underspecified and fully disambiguated semantic representations in (32) illustrate informally and (33) more formally. Subscripts on names of relations in the informal representation stand for labels of the formulas they are part of. Thus, 1 in *every<sub>1</sub>(x, 3, n)* is a label for the entire formula. In the more explicit representation in (33), the label of a formula is written before it and separated from it by a colon (e.g., *h1:every(x,h3,h8)*); variables over labels are simply labels that do not correspond (yet) to labels of formulas (*h8* and *h9*).<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup>Copestake (2007) presents a Neo-Davidsonian version of MRS called R(obust)MRS where arguments of predicates (aside from their event variable) are contributed via independent elementary predication. Copestake shows that RMRS can be profitably used with shallower analyses, “including part-of-speech tagging, noun phrase chunking and stochastic parsers which oper-

- (31) Every dog chased some cat.
- (32)
  - a.  $\text{every}_1(x, 3, n), \text{dog}_3(x), \text{cat}_7(y), \text{some}_5(y, 7, m), \text{chase}_4(e, x, y)$
  - b.  $\text{every}_1(x, 3, 4), \text{dog}_3(x), \text{cat}_7(y), \text{some}_5(y, 7, 1), \text{chase}_4(e, x, y)$
  - c.  $\text{every}_1(x, 3, 5), \text{dog}_3(x), \text{cat}_7(y), \text{some}_5(y, 7, 4), \text{chase}_4(e, x, y)$
- (33)
  - a.  $h1: \text{every}(x, h3, h8), h3: \text{dog}(x), h7: \text{cat}(y), h5: \text{some}(y, h7, h9), h4: \text{chase}(x, y)$
  - b.  $h8 =_{\text{eq}} h4, h9 =_{\text{eq}} h1$
  - c.  $h8 =_{\text{eq}} h5, h9 =_{\text{eq}} h4$

To understand the use of handles consider the expression  $\text{every}_1(x, 3, n)$ . The first argument of the generalized quantifier is the handle numbered 3, which is a label for the formula  $\text{dog}_3(x)$ . The formula that serves as the first argument of *every* is fixed, it is always the meaning of the nominal phrase that the determiner selects for. But to avoid embedding that relation as the restriction of the quantifier and to preserve the desired flatness of semantic representations, the second argument of *every* is not  $\text{dog}_3(x)$ , but the label of that formula (indicated by the subscript 3 on the predication  $\text{dog}_3(x)$ ). Now, in contrast to the quantifier's restriction, which must include the content of the head noun it combines with, the nuclear scope or body of the quantifier is not as restricted. In other words, the semantic representation determined by an MRS grammar of English does not fix the second argument of *every*, represented here as the variable over handles  $n$ . The same distinction applies to *some*: its first argument is fixed to the formula  $\text{cat}_7(y)$ , but its second argument is left underspecified, as indicated by the variable over numbered labels,  $m$ . Resolving the scope ambiguity of the underspecified representation in (32a) amounts to deciding whether *every* takes the formula that contains *some* in its scope or the reverse; in the first case,  $n = 5$ , in the second,  $m = 1$ . Since the formula that encodes the meaning of the verb (namely,  $\text{chase}_4(e, x, y)$ ) is outscoped by the nuclear scope or body of both generalized quantifiers, either constraint will fully determine the relative scope of all formulas in (32). Although it is possible to use a typed feature structure formalism to resolve scope ambiguities, Copestake et al. (1995: 309–311) argue it is more efficient for the relevant resolution process not to be part of the grammar and be left to a separate algorithm.

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ate without detailed lexicon” (p. 73); see Peldszus & Schlangen (2012) for how RMRS allows for the incremental construction of meaning representations in dialogue systems.

### 6.1.2 The nitty-gritty

We now present a brief outline of how MRS works in typed feature structures. First, the content of an expression is of sort *mrs*. Structures of that sort consist in (1) a bag of relations or elementary predication (EPs) (the value of *RELS*), (2) a *HOOK*, which groups together the labels or handles that correspond to elementary predication that have widest local and global scope and the expression's index (these three semantic objects are what is visible to semantic functors), and (3) a set of constraints on handles that restrict or determine the scope of scope-relevant elementray predication (the value of *HCONS* – for handle constraints). Each constraint in the value of *HCONS* consists of a greater or equal relation between handles. A representation of the structure of an object of sort *mrs* is provided in (34).

(34)	$\begin{array}{l} mrs \\ \text{HOOK } \left[ \begin{array}{ll} \text{INDEX } & \text{index} \\ \text{LTOP } & \text{handle} \end{array} \right] \\ \text{RELS } \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{GTOP } \text{handle} \\ \text{list}(relation) \end{array} \right] \\ \text{HCONS } \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{list } (qeq) \end{array} \right] \end{array}$
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Sentence (35) and its (underspecified) *mrs* representation in (36) illustrate how *mrs* structures can be used to capture scope underspecification (see Copestake et al. 2005: p.306).

- (35) Every dog probably sleeps.

(36)	$\begin{array}{l} mrs \\ \text{HOOK } \left[ \begin{array}{l} hook \\ \text{GTOP } \boxed{1} \\ \text{LTOP } \boxed{7} \end{array} \right] \\ \text{RELS } \left[ \begin{array}{l} every\_rel \\ \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{LBL } \boxed{2} \\ \text{ARG0 } \boxed{3} \\ \text{RSTR } \boxed{4} \end{array} \right\}, \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{dog\_rel } \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{LBL } \boxed{6} \\ \text{ARG0 } \boxed{3} \end{array} \right] \\ \text{prbly\_rel } \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{LBL } \boxed{7} \\ \text{ARG1 } \boxed{8} \end{array} \right] \end{array} \right], \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{sleep\_rel } \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{LBL } \boxed{9} \\ \text{ARG1 } \boxed{3} \end{array} \right] \end{array} \right] \\ \text{BODY handle} \\ \text{HCONS } \left[ \begin{array}{l} \left[ \begin{array}{l} qeq \\ \text{HARG } \boxed{1} \\ \text{LARG } \boxed{7} \end{array} \right], \left[ \begin{array}{l} qeq \\ \text{HARG } \boxed{4} \\ \text{LARG } \boxed{6} \end{array} \right], \left[ \begin{array}{l} qeq \\ \text{HARG } \boxed{8} \\ \text{LARG } \boxed{9} \end{array} \right] \end{array} \right] \end{array}$
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Members of *RELS* correspond to the content of lexical entries while members of *HCONS* constrain the relative scope of semantic arguments of members of *RELS*.

Now, although the grammar of English leaves the meaning of (35) underspecified, it *does* constrain some scope relations and the *mrs* in (36) therefore constrains how some elementary predication relate to each other. First, the identity between the value of ARG0 for both the *every\_rel* and *dog\_rel* elementary predication indicates that *every* in (35) quantifies over dogs; [3] is the variable bound by the quantifier. And similarly, the value of ARG1 of *sleep\_rel* is lexically constrained to correspond to the index of the subject, itself constrained to be identical to the value of ARG0 for the *dog\_rel* predication (i.e., [3]). Second, *prbly\_rel* is required to outscope *sleep\_rel* (a  $=_{qe}$  constraint either identifies its HARG or LARG or it constrains its HARG to outscope its ARG). Similarly, the restriction of *every\_rel* is constrained to outscope *dog\_rel* as  $[4] =_{qe} [6]$ . Finally, the global top (the value of GTOP) is constrained to outscope the local top (the value of LTOP). (To simplify, the local top is the handle of the elementary predication that is not a quantifier with the widest scope.) The semantic representation that the grammar of English motivates remains underspecified, as it does not specify what the value of the BODY of *every\_rel* is, in particular whether it is the handle of the *prbly\_rel* or *sleep\_rel* elementary predication. Resolving this scope ambiguity amounts to adding an HCONS that identifies the value of BODY with either handle, i.e., [7] or [9].

Examples that include multiple quantifiers work in a similar way. Take the sentence in (37) and the elementary predication for *every*, *chases*, and *some* (we only include relevant elementary predication and attributes for simplicity). We know that the body of *every\_rel* and *some\_rel* each outscope *chase\_rel* (so  $[1] =_{qe} [3]$  and  $[2] =_{qe} [3]$ , where the left hand side of the equality corresponds to the HARG and the right hand side to the LARG).<sup>3</sup> But, we do not know if *every\_rel* outscopes *some\_rel* or the reverse; adding either HCONS  $[1] =_{qe} [2]$  or  $[2] =_{qe} [1]$  specifies which is the case. (This example illustrates that  $=_{qe}$  is not commutative, as it is meant to encode greater or equal scope.) Figure 4 provides a tree representation of the underspecified outscope relation induced by  $=_{qe}$  constraints; dashed lines indicate that there may be intervening semantic material between the operator and what it outscopes.

- (37) Every dog chases some cat.

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<sup>3</sup>Copestake et al. (2005) do not require the nuclear scope of generalized quantifiers to outscope the predicate denoted by the verb they are syntactic dependents of. Since Lexical Resource Semantics does so – and correctly so, as it seems to be a constraint on the interpretation of English sentences that contain generalized quantifiers – we include additional  $[1] =_{qe} [3]$  and  $[2] =_{qe} [3]$  constraints in the text and their effect in Figure 4 for ease of comparison. Nothing critical hinges on this issue.

(38)	$\begin{bmatrix} every\_rel \\ \text{RESTR } handle \\ \text{BODY } \boxed{1} \end{bmatrix}$	$\begin{bmatrix} some\_rel \\ \text{RESTR } handle \\ \text{BODY } \boxed{2} \end{bmatrix}$	$\begin{bmatrix} chase\_rel \\ \text{LBL } \boxed{3} \end{bmatrix}$
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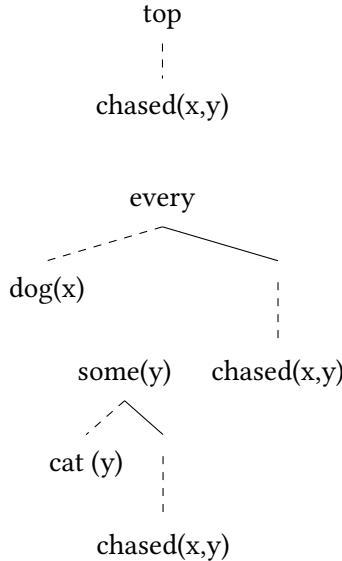


Figure 4: A graphical representation of the underspecified scope relations induced by  $=_{eq}$  constraints for sentence (37)

Semantic composition within MRS is relatively simple and is stated in (39) (Copestake et al. 2005: 313–314); the third clause of this semantic composition rule amounts to a case-based definition, as is true of all Semantics Principles since Pollard & Sag (1987), as different constructions determine differently the HOOK of the head-daughter (Copestake et al. 2005 only discuss intersective and scopal constructions in their paper).<sup>4</sup>

- (39)
1. The RELS value of a phrase is the concatenation (append) of the RELS values of the daughters.
  2. The HCONS of a phrase is the concatenation (append) of the HCONS values of the daughters.

<sup>4</sup>A slot in (39–4) is defined as “a semantic argument position in a word or phrase A that is associated with syntactic constraints on the word or phrase B whose semantics will supply that argument when the relevant grammar rule combines A and B” (Copestake et al. 2005: 313).

3. The HOOK of a phrase is the HOOK of the semantic head daughter, which is determined uniquely for each construction type.
4. One slot of the semantic head daughter of a phrase is identified with the HOOK in the other daughter.

This quite brief description of MRS illustrates what is attractive about it from an engineering point of view. Semantic composition is particularly simple, concatenation of lists (lists of elementary predications and constraints), percolation of the HOOK from the semantic head, and some general constraint on connectedness between the head daughter and the non-head daughter. Furthermore, resolving scope means adding  $=_{eq}$  constraints to a list of  $=_{eq}$ , thus avoiding traversing the semantic tree to check on scope relations. Furthermore, a flat representation makes translation easier, as argued in Copestake et al. (1995), and has several other advantages from an engineering perspective as detailed in Copestake (2009). The ease flat representations provide comes at a cost, though, namely semantic representations are cluttered with uninterpretable symbols (handles) and, more generally, do not correspond to sub-pieces of a well-formed formula. For example, we would expect the value of a quantifier restriction and nuclear scope to be, say, formulas denoting sets (as per Barwise & Cooper 1981), not pointers to or labels of predications. This is not to say that a compositional, “standard” interpretation of MRS structures is not possible (see, for example, Copestake et al. 2001); it is rather that the model-theoretic interpretation of MRS requires adding to the model hooks and holes, abstract objects of dubious semantic import. While it is true, as Copestake et al. point out, that abstract objects have been included in the models of other semantic approaches, DRT in particular (Zeevat 1989), abstract objects in compositional specifications of DRT and other such dynamic semantic approaches are composed of semantically interpretable objects. In the case of DRT, the set of variables (discourse referents) that form the other component of semantic representations (aside from predicative conditions) are anchored to individuals in the “traditional” model theoretic sense. Holes and hooks, on the other hand, are not necessarily so anchored, as labels (handles) do not have any interpretation in the universe of discourse.

$$(40) \quad \begin{bmatrix} every\_rel \\ \text{RESTR } handle \\ \text{BODY } handle \end{bmatrix}$$

An example of the model-theoretic opacity of handles is provided by the compositional semantics of intersective attributive adjectives. The RELS value of *white horse*, for example, is as shown in (41) (after identification of handles due to the

meaning composition performed by the *intersective\_phrase* rule that (intersective) adjectival modification is a subsort of).

$$(41) \quad \text{RELS} \left\langle \begin{array}{c} \left[ \begin{array}{c} \text{white\_rel} \\ \text{LBL } \boxed{1} \\ \text{ARG0 } \boxed{2} \end{array} \right], \left[ \begin{array}{c} \text{horse\_rel} \\ \text{LBL } \boxed{1} \\ \text{ARG0 } \boxed{2} \end{array} \right] \end{array} \right\rangle$$

The fact that the value of `ARG0` is the same for both elementary predications (`\boxed{2}`) is model-theoretically motivated: both properties are predicated of the same individual. The fact that the value of `LBL` is identical (`\boxed{1}`) is also motivated if labels are used to help determine the scope of quantifiers; in a quantifier like *every white horse*, the content of `white` and `horse` have the same scope, they conjunctively serve as the restriction of `every_rel`. But, the identity of the two elementary predications' labels is not *directly* model-theoretically motivated. It is a consequence of the semantic representation language that is used to model the meaning of sentences, not a consequence of the sentences' truth-conditions.

## 6.2 Lexical Resource Semantics

Whereas MRS emphasizes underspecification in semantic representations and expresses the syntax of underspecified representations in HPSG as typed feature structures, LRS focuses primarily on fine-grained linguistic analyses with explicit higher-order logics for meaning representation and utilizes underspecification prominently in the architecture of the syntax-semantics interface. Instead of encoding underspecified representations as denotations of grammar principles, it uses the feature logic itself as a tool for underspecifying fully specific logical representations in the symbolic languages of the literature on formal semantics. This means that a grammar with LRS semantics denotes sets of syntactic structures that comprise unambiguous meaning representations in a standard logical language, but it does so with means of underspecification in the grammar principles, enlisting the techniques which HPSG developed for writing general descriptions in grammar principles in the definition of the relationship between syntactic structure and semantic representation. Grammar principles may admit a large number of structures, which in this case can be multiple semantic representations compatible with one and the same syntactic structure. An LRS analysis may then represent the readings of a sentence with two generalized quantifiers like (31), *every dog chased some cat* (repeated below as (42)) – i.e. the two readings shown in (43) – as distinct possible values of a semantic feature.

(42) Every dog chased some cat.

- (43) a.  $\forall (\lambda x.\text{dog}_w(x), \lambda x.\exists(\lambda y.\text{cat}_w(y), \lambda y.\text{chase}_w(x, y)))$   
 b.  $\exists(\lambda y.\text{cat}_w(y), \lambda y.\forall(\lambda x.\text{dog}_w(x), \lambda x.\text{chase}_w(x, y)))$

The syntactic format of semantic representations is flexible and can be adapted to the purposes of the linguistic analysis at hand. While (43) chooses predicates with an argument for possible worlds, lambda abstraction over the unary predicates which translate the nominal arguments, and categorematic quantifiers of type  $\langle\langle et \rangle\langle\langle et \rangle t \rangle$ , in many contexts less elaborate representations will suffice, and the two readings would be rendered in a notational variant of first order languages. Other phenomena might necessitate more semantic structure. The LRS framework makes a selection of choices available to linguists to decide what is most adequate to spell out a semantic analysis.

### 6.2.1 Basic architecture

Lexical items contribute semantic resources to utterances; every semantic representation of an utterance must use up all and only the semantic resources provided by the lexical items in the utterance in all their legitimate combinations.<sup>5</sup> What is legitimate is determined by semantic principles which restrict at each phrase how the semantic resources of its daughters may be combined. What these restrictions do not rule out is permitted. Scope ambiguities between co-arguments of a verb can be seen as arising from the lack of a principled restriction to the effect that one outscopes the other. In the absence of restrictions, LRS expects ambiguity. As a special property setting LRS apart from other semantic underspecification frameworks, LRS semantics exploits HPSG's notion of structure sharing in its semantic representations by permitting that semantic contributions of different lexemes may in fact be identical. For example, if two words in a clause contribute negation in their meaning, the two negations may in fact turn out to be the same negation, in which case we observe a negative concord reading. The implementation of this idea is based on the fundamental structure-sharing mechanism of HPSG, which is available throughout all levels of grammatical description.

The combinatorial semantics of phrases is encoded with structures of sort *lrs*:

$$(44) \quad \text{SEM} \left[ \begin{array}{ll} lrs \\ \text{EXCONT } me \\ \text{INCONT } me \\ \text{PARTS } list(me) \end{array} \right]$$

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<sup>5</sup>Lexical items may be phrasal.

Signs have an attribute `SEMANTICS` with value `lrs`. External content (`EXCONT`) and internal content (`INCONT`) designate two prominent aspects of the semantics of signs. Both of these attributes have values of sort *meaningful\_expression*, for short *me*. The attribute `EXCONT` contains a term that represents the meaning of the maximal syntactic projection of the sign and is built from semantic material contributed within the projection. The `INCONT` is that part of a lexical sign's representation which is outscoped by any scope-taking operator that it combines with within its syntactic projection. The `PARTS` list records all semantic resources contributed by a given sign. The LRS Projection Principle governs the percolation of these attribute values along the syntactic head path of phrases, whereas the `EXCONT` and `INCONT` principles determine the relationship of the respective attribute values to other semantic attribute values within local syntactic trees. The most important relationships are those of term identity and of subtermhood of one term relative to another or to some designated part of another term. Subterm restrictions are in essence similar to the *qeq* constraints of MRS.

(45) a. LRS Projection Principle

In each phrase,

1. the `EXCONT` values of syntactic head and mother are identical,
2. the `INCONT` values of syntactic head and mother are identical,
3. the list in the `PARTS` value contains all and only the elements of the `PARTS` values of the daughters.

b. INCONT Principle

In each *lrs*, the `INCONT` value is an element of the `PARTS` list and a component of the `EXCONT` value.

c. EXCONT Principle

First, in every phrase, the `EXCONT` value of the non-head daughter is an element of the non-head daughter's `PARTS` list. Second, in every utterance, every subexpression of the `EXCONT` value of the utterance is an element of its `PARTS` list, and every element of the utterance's `PARTS` list is a subexpression of the `EXCONT` value.

The Projection Principle guarantees the percolation of `EXCONT` and `INCONT` values along the head path of syntactic phrases, and it records the semantic resources available at each phrase based on the semantic contributions of their daughters (45a). The `INCONT` Principle and the `EXCONT` Principle manage the properties of the respective attribute values. The term with minimal scope of each lexeme must be contributed by the lexeme itself and must be semantically realized within the representation of the maximal syntactic head projection (45b).

The maximal semantic meaning contribution of a maximal syntactic projection must originate from within that maximal projection, and an utterance (as a distinguished maximal projection) consists of all and only those pieces of semantic representation which are contributed by some lexeme in the utterance (45c). The meaning of an utterance is given by the semantic representation which is its EXCONT value. An ambiguous utterance receives structural analyses that are potentially only distinguished by different EXCONT values of their root node.

The constraints in (45) take care of the integrity of the semantic combinatorics. The task of the clauses of the Semantics Principle is to regulate the semantic restrictions on specific syntactic constructions (as in all previously discussed versions of semantics in HPSG). A quantificational determiner, represented as a generalized quantifier, which syntactically combines as non-head daughter with a nominal projection, integrates the INCONT of the nominal projection as a subterm into its restrictor and requires that its own INCONT (containing the quantificational expression) be identical with the EXCONT of the nominal projection. This clause makes the quantifier take wide scope in the noun phrase and forces the semantics of the nominal head into the restrictor. In (43) we observe the effect of this clause by the placement of the predicate *dog* in the restrictor of the universal and the predicate *cat* in the restrictor of the existential quantifier.

Another clause of the Semantics Principle governs the combination of quantificational NP arguments with verbal projections. If the non-head of a verbal projection is a quantificational NP, the INCONT of the verbal head must be a subexpression of the scope of the quantifier. Since this clause does not require immediate scope, other quantificational NPs which combine in the same verbal projection may take scope in between, as we can again see with the two possible scopings of the two quantifiers in (43), in particular in (43b), where the subject quantifier intervenes between the verb and the object quantifier.

The local semantics of signs is split from the combinatorial *lrs* structures in parallel to the separation of local syntactic structure from the syntactic tree structure. The local semantics remains under the traditional CONTENT attribute, where it is available for lexical selection by the valence attributes. The LOCAL value of the noun *dog* illustrates the relevant structure:

(46)	$\begin{array}{c} \textit{local} \\ \left[ \begin{array}{c} \text{CAT VAL} \quad \left[ \text{SPR} \left\langle \text{Det}_{\boxed{1}} \right\rangle \right] \\ \text{CONTENT} \quad \left[ \begin{array}{c} \text{INDEX DR} \quad \boxed{1} \ x \\ \text{MAIN} \qquad \qquad \text{dog} \end{array} \right] \end{array} \right] \end{array}$
------	---

The attribute DISCOURSE-REFERENT (DR) contains the variable that will be the

argument of the unary predicate *dog*, which is the **MAIN** semantic contribution of the lexeme. The variable, *x*, does not come from the noun but is available to the noun by selection of the determiner by the valence attribute **SPR**. The subscripted tag **[1]** on the **SPR** list indicates the identity of **DR** values of the determiner and the nominal head *dog*. A principle of local semantics says that **MAIN** values and **DR** values are inherited along the syntactic head path.

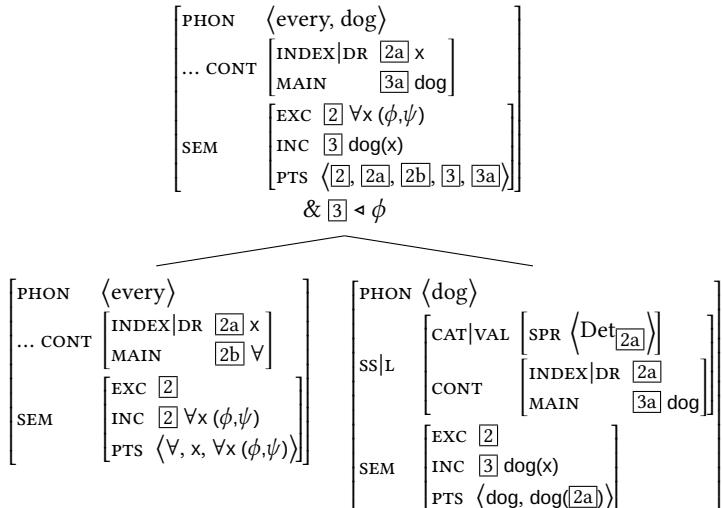


Figure 5: The semantics of *every dog*

The semantics of phrases follows from the interaction of the (lexical) selection of local semantic structures and the semantic combinatorics that results from the principles in (45) and the clauses of the Semantics Principle. For ease of readability, the notation in Figure 5 omits the lambda abstractions from the generalized quantifier and chooses a notation from first order logic, and not all structure sharings between pieces of the logical representation are made explicit in Figure 5. The head noun *dog* contributes (on **PARTS**, **PTS**), the predicate *dog* and the application of the predicate to a lexically unknown argument, **[2a]**, identical with the **DR** value of *dog*. As shown in (46), the **DR** value of the noun is shared with the **DR** value of the selected determiner, which is the item contributing the variable *x* to the representation. In addition, *every* contributes the quantifier and the application of the quantifier to its arguments. The clause of the Semantics Principle which restricts the combination of quantificational determiners with nominal projections identifies the **INC** of *every* with the **EXC** of *dog*, and requires that the **INC** of *dog* (**[3]**) be a subterm of the restrictor of the quantifier, *φ* (notated as '**[3]**' in the diagram).

$\triangleleft \phi'$ , conjoined to the AVM describing the phrase). The identification of the EXC and INC of *every* follows from (45b–c). According to this analysis, the semantic representation of the phrase *every dog* is a universal quantification with *dog(x)* in the restrictor and unknown scope ( $\psi$ ). The scope will be determined when the noun phrase combines with a verb phrase. For example, such a verb phrase could be *barks*, as in Figure 6. If its semantics is represented as a unary predicate *bark*, the predicate and its application to a single argument are contributed by the verb phrase, and local syntactic selection of the subject *every dog* by the verb *barks* identifies this argument as variable  $x$ , parallel to the selection of the quantifier's variable by *dog* above. The relevant clause of the Semantics Principle requires that *bark(x)* be a subterm of  $\psi$ , and the EXC, [2], of the complete sentence receives the value  $\forall x (\text{dog}(x), \text{bark}(x))$  as the only available reading in accordance with the EXCONT Principle.

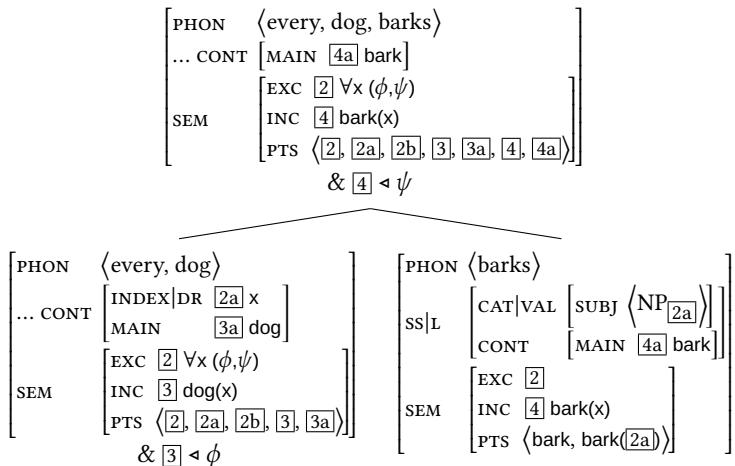


Figure 6: The semantics of *Every dog barks*

In Figure 6, the identity of the restrictor  $\phi$  of the universal quantifier with [3] *dog(x)* and of its scope  $\psi$  with [4] *bark(x)* are determined at utterance level by the lack of other material that could be added to the two arguments of the quantifier. For example, an extraposed relative clause which belongs to *every dog* could consistently contribute its meaning representation to the restrictor, and only the absence of such additional semantic material leads to the inferred identity of [3] with  $\phi$ .

Underspecification of the structure of meaning representations in the clauses of the Semantics Principle and in lexical entries interacts with the possibility of

structure sharing. If two pieces of meaning representation have the same shape and obey compatible structural conditions (as determined by relevant subterm constraints) they can be identical. Even stronger, in certain grammatical constellations, principles of grammar may even require their identity. Lexical underspecification of meaning contributions moreover permits the shared construction of functors such as the construction of a polyadic quantifier from several lexical items in a sentence. These two applications of LRS lead to new possibilities of semantic composition compared to standard compositional semantics in Mainstream Generative Grammar, because functors can be composed in (logical) syntax which cannot be semantically decomposed or cannot be decomposed within the structural limits of a surface-oriented syntax, i.e. a syntactic structure which only reflects syntactic but not semantic composition.

Consider the semantic representation of the Polish sentence *nikt nie przyszedł* ‘nobody came’ in Figure 7.

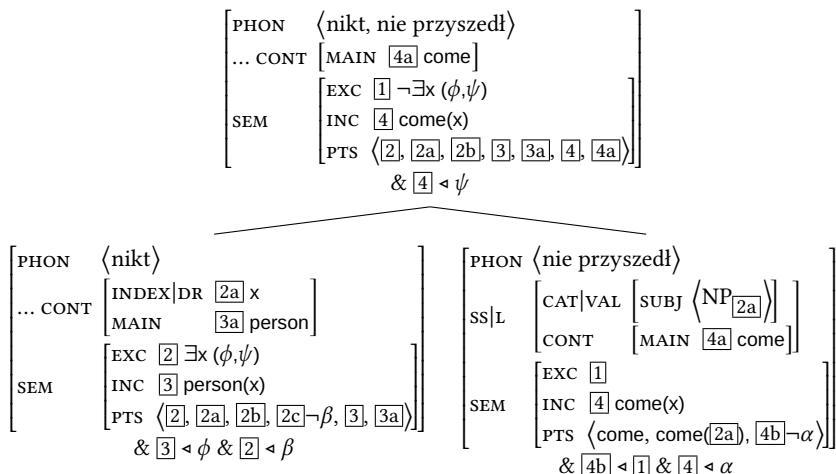


Figure 7: The meaning of Polish *Nikt nie przyszedł* ‘Nobody came’

Negated finite verbs in Polish contribute a negation that must be realized within the verbs EXCONT ( $[4b] \triangleleft [1]$ ) and outscopes the INCONT of the verb ( $[4] \triangleleft \alpha$ ). Similarly, the existential quantifier of the n-word *nikt* ‘nobody’ is outscoped by negation ( $[2] \triangleleft \beta$ ). However, in addition to the familiar restriction when the quantificational subject combines with the finite verb, Polish as a strict negative concord language requires that a negated finite verb be in the scope of at most one negation in its EXCONT, entailing identity of the two negations,  $[2c] = [4b]$ , and the single negation reading *nobody came* as the only admissible reading of

the sentence shown in Figure 7. To capture obligatory negation marking at finite words in Polish, a second principle of negative concord rules that if a finite verb is in the scope of negation in its EXCONT, it must itself be a contributor of negation (Richter & Sailer 2004b: 316).

The idea of identifying contributions from different constituents in an utterance is even more pronounced in cases of unreduceable polyadic quantification. The reading of (47a) in which each unicorn from a collection of unicorns has a set of favorite meadows that is not the same as the set of favorite meadows of any other unicorn is known to be expressible by a polyadic quantifier taking two sets and a binary relation as arguments (47d) but it cannot be expressed by two independent monadic quantifiers (Keenan 1992).

- (47) a. Every unicorn prefers different meadows.
- b. different meadows:  $(\gamma', \Delta)(\sigma_1, \lambda y.\text{meadow}(y), \lambda v_1 \lambda y. \rho')$
- c. every unicorn:  $(\forall, \gamma)(\lambda x.\text{unicorn}(x), \sigma_2, \lambda x \lambda v_2. \rho)$
- d.  $(\forall, \Delta)(\lambda x.\text{unicorn}(x), \lambda y.\text{meadow}(y), \lambda x \lambda y. \text{prefer}(x, y))$

(47) sketches the LRS solution to this puzzle in Richter (2016). The adjective *different* contributes an incomplete polyadic quantifier of appropriate type which integrates the representation of the nominal head of its NP into the second restrictor but leaves open a slot in the representation of its functor for another quantifier it must still combine with (47b). The determiner *every* underspecifies the realization of its quantifier in such a way that one of the possible representations yields (47c) for *every unicorn*, which is exactly of the right shape to be identified with the representation of *different meadows*, leading to the expression in (47d) for (47a). Lahm (2016) presents an alternative account of such readings with *different* using Skolem functions which also hinges on LRS-specific techniques. Iordăchioia & Richter (2015) study Romanian negative concord constructions and represent their readings using polyadic negative quantifiers; Lahm (2018) develops a lexicalized theory of plural semantics.

### 6.2.2 Representation languages and notational conventions

Any LRS grammar relies on an encoding of the syntax of an appropriate semantic representation language in the feature logic. In principle, any finitary logical language can be encoded in RSRL, which covers every language that has been proposed for meaning representations in linguistics. Work in LRS has so far been couched mostly in variants of Two-sorted Type Theory (Ty2, Gallin 1975) as one of the standard languages of formal semantics, or in Montague's Intensional

Logic. The type system of these logical languages are useful for underspecified descriptions in semantic principles, since relevant groups of expressions can be generalized over by their type without reference to their internal structure. For example, a clause of the Semantics Principle can use the type of generalized quantifiers to distinguish quantificational complement daughters of verbal projections and state the necessary restrictions on how they are integrated with the semantics of the verbal head daughter, while other types of complement daughters are treated differently and may even not at all be restricted by a clause in the Semantics Principle in how they integrate with the verbal semantics. The latter is often the case with proper names and definite descriptions, which can be directly integrated with the semantics of the verb by lexical argument selection.

Encodings of semantic representations in feature logic are usually assumed as given by the background LRS theory. Examples of encodings can be found in Sailer (2000) and Richter (2004). Sailer (2000) offers a correspondence proof of the encoded structures with a standard syntax of languages of Ty2. As descriptions of logical terms in literal feature logic are very cumbersome to read and write, and offer no practical advantage or theoretical insight, all publications use notational shortcuts and employ logical expressions with metavariables for their descriptions instead. As nothing depends on feature logical notation, the gain in readability outweighs any concerns about notational precision.

## 7 Conclusion

Semantics in HPSG underwent significant changes and variations over the past three decades, and the analyses couched in the different semantic theories were concerned with a wide variety of semantic phenomena. A common denominator of the approaches is the relative independence of syntactic and semantic structure in the sense that the syntactic tree structure is never meant to mirror directly the shape of the syntax of semantic expressions, and the use of HPSG-specific techniques to characterize semantic expressions and their composition along the syntactic tree structure. Of particular relevance here is the the use of a rich sort hierarchy in the specification of semantic structures and the use of underspecification in determining their shape, as these two aspects of the HPSG framework play a prominent and distinguishing role in all semantic theories. The flexibility of these tools makes HPSG suitable for the integration of very diverse theories of meaning of natural languages while respecting representational modularity, i.e. the assumption that distinct kinds of information associated with strings (i.e., inflectional information, constituency, semantic information) are not the reflec-

tions of but a single kind of information, say tree configurations, as it typically is assumed to be in Mainstream Generative Grammar.

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# Chapter 24

## Information structure

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Information structure as the hinge between sentence and discourse has been at the center of interest for linguists working in different areas such as semantics, syntax or prosody for several decades. A constraint-based grammar formalism such as HPSG that encodes multiple levels of linguistic representation within the architecture of signs opens up the possibility to elegantly integrate such information about discourse properties. In this chapter, I discuss a number of approaches that have explored how to best integrate information structure as a separate level into the representation of signs. I discuss which lexical and phrasal principles have been implemented in these approaches and how they constrain the distribution of the various information structural features. Finally, I discuss how the various approaches are used to formulate theories about the interaction of syntax, prosody and information structure. In particular, we will see several cases where (word order) principles that used to be stipulated in syntax can now be formulated as an interaction of syntax and discourse properties.

### 1 Introduction

The *information structure* of a sentence captures how the meaning expressed by the sentence is integrated into the discourse. The *information structure* thus encodes which part of an utterance is informative in which way, in relation to a particular context. A wide range of approaches exists with respect to the question of what should be regarded as the primitives of the information structure.

It is now commonly assumed that there are three basic dimensions of information structure that are encoded in natural languages and that have been assumed as the basic primitives: (i) a distinction between what is new information advancing the discourse (*focus*) and what is known, i.e., anchoring the sentence in

existing (or presupposed) knowledge or discourse (*background*), (ii) a distinction between what the utterance is about (*topic, theme*) and what the speaker has to say about it (*comment, rheme*), and (iii) a dimension referred to as *information status* where entities that have already been mentioned in the discourse (*given*) are distinguished from those that have not been mentioned (*new*).<sup>1</sup> For all three ways of partitioning the information structure, we find approaches within the HPSG framework. Example (1) illustrates how one utterance in the context of a question can be structured according to different partitionings of information structure.

- (1) Q: What does Sarah drink?

	background		focus
A:	Sarah	drinks	TEA.
	topic	comment	

The focus/background division with focus as the part of an utterance that is informative with respect to the discourse is one of the most commonly adopted partitionings when studying information structure, and thus many approaches within the HPSG architecture as well assume a division into focus and background, such as the ones that will be discussed in this article: Engdahl & Vallduví (1996), De Kuthy (2002), Webelhuth (2007), Paggio (2009), Bildhauer (2008), Song & Bender (2012) and Song (2017). Less common within the HPSG framework are approaches that take topic, i.e., the material that an utterance is about, as the central notion and assume topic and comment (or theme and rheme) as the primitives of the information structure. Most approaches discussed here assume that the background has one designated (mostly referential) element functioning as the topic (or link), among them Engdahl & Vallduví (1996), De Kuthy (2002), Paggio (2009) and Song (2017).

With respect to information status (including primitives such as new and given mentioned above), the discourse status of referential elements is of interest, i.e., whether they can be linked to previously mentioned items, i.e., whether they are (discourse) old or given, or whether they haven't been mentioned before and are thus (discourse) new. The representation of information status has received comparatively little interest within the HPSG community; the approach by De Kuthy & Meurers (2011) is one of the few that explicitly integrate this dimension into their information structural architecture.

The need to represent discourse properties in a grammar architecture of signs

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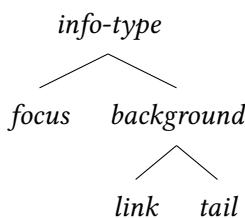
<sup>1</sup>For a comprehensive overview of the different research strands with respect to the information structural dimension, see Kruijff-Korbayová & Steedman (2003).

results from the insight that in many, if not all, languages, the way utterances are realized via their syntactic structure, morphological patterns and prosody very often interacts with discourse requirements of these utterances. In other words, approaches dealing with constraints on word order in a particular construction need to encode that this particular word order is only grammatical given a particular context, or a particular accent pattern has to be connected to a particular discourse status of the accented elements.<sup>2</sup> Most of the approaches discussed here deal with such interface questions, and I therefore discuss the particular word order and phonetic theories that have been implemented in Sections 6 and 7 in detail. As a starting point, however, I will first discuss the various architectural designs that have been implemented in order to be able to formulate the specific theories integrating discourse constraints.

## 2 Information structure in the architecture of signs

Several ways of representing information structure within the architecture of signs have been pursued as part of the HPSG framework: one of the earliest approaches, which is similar to the idea of F-marking as pursued in many syntax-based approaches to information structure in Generative Grammar (such as Jackendoff 1972; Selkirk 1982), has been proposed by Manandhar (1994b). He assumes that all signs have an additional appropriate feature INFO-STRUC which takes as its value objects of the sort *info-type*. A sign can then have one of the subtypes of *info-type* shown in (2) as its informational marking.

- (2) Type hierarchy under *info-type* of Manandhar (1994b):



The distribution of the INFO-STRUC values in a sign is determined by the *Focus Inheritance Principle*, which enforces that in every phrase, the INFO-STRUC value of the mother subsumes the values of the INFO-STRUC of all of its daughters. The

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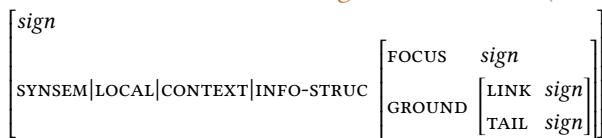
<sup>2</sup>For some examples in the literature where this has been explored for word order phenomena, see for example Ambridge & Goldberg (2008), De Kuthy & Konietzko (2019) and Culicover & Winkler (2019).

consequence of this principle is that if one daughter in a phrase is in the focus and the other one in the background, then the mother's INFO-STRUC value is the smallest common supertype of both, namely *info-type*.

There are two problematic aspects of such an architecture. Firstly, it leads to a proliferation of syntactic markup of non-syntactic properties, in particular once one considers the full range of information structural notions, such as focus and focus projection, multiple foci and the marking of other discourse functions such as topic. And secondly, the perspective of information structure as resulting from an independent interpretation process of syntactic markup does not support a view of syntax, information structure and intonation as directly interacting modules, a view that can be nicely implemented in a multi-layer framework such as HPSG. More common are thus approaches that encode the information structure as a separate layer, i.e., a feature with its own structural representation.

In the original setup of signs introduced in Pollard & Sag (1994), the feature CONTEXT is introduced as part of *local* objects as a place to encode information relating to the pragmatic context (and other pragmatic properties) of utterances. In Engdahl & Vallduví (1996) it is argued that it would be most natural to also represent information structural information as part of this CONTEXT feature. Engdahl & Vallduví (1996) thus introduce the feature INFO-STRUC as part of the CONTEXT and since they couch their approach into Vallduví's (1992) information packaging account, INFO-STRUC is further divided into FOCUS and GROUND. All INFO-STRUC features take entire signs as their values. The complete specification is shown in (3).

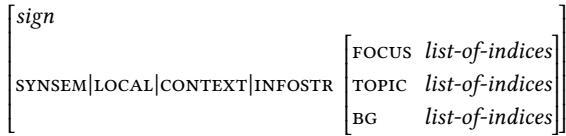
- (3) Information structure in Engdahl & Vallduví (1996: 56)



Another approach locating the representation of information structure within the CONTEXT feature is the one by Paggio (2009) as part of a grammar of Danish. The INFOSTR features TOPIC, FOCUS and BG take as their values lists of indices. Since Paggio (2009) includes Minimal Recursion Semantics (MRS, Copestake et al. 2005) as the semantic representation,<sup>3</sup> these indices can be structure-shared with the argument indices of the semantic relations collected on the RELS list of the content of a sign. The basic setup is illustrated in (4).

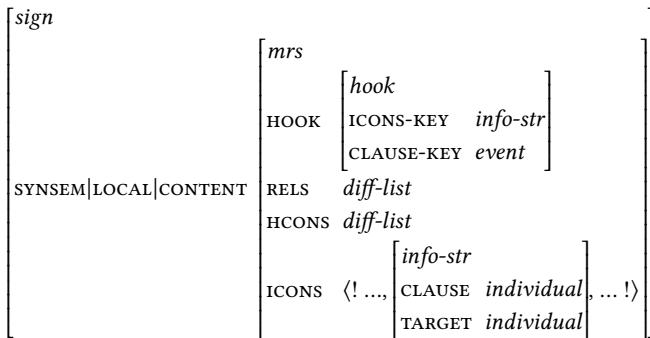
<sup>3</sup>A detailed discussion of the properties and principles of MRS as implemented in HPSG can be found in Koenig & Richter (2019), Chapter ?? of this volume.

- (4) Information structure in Paggio (2009: 149):



Several approaches encode information structure as part of the CONTENT, such as Song (2017) and Song & Bender (2012). Since they also use MRS as the semantic representation language, they enrich the architecture of *mrs* structures. The information structure itself is encoded via a feature **ICONS** (individual constraints) that is introduced parallel to **HCONS** (handle constraints) as part of the CONTENT, as shown in (5). Song (2017) and Song & Bender (2012) use *diff-list* as values for the features **RELS**, **HCONS** and **ICONS** (expressed by the “!” at the beginning and the end of the list). This type of list includes an explicit pointer to the last element of the list.

- (5) Information structure in Song & Bender (2012) and Song (2017: 116):



The type *info-str* used as the value for elements on the **ICONS** list is divided into an elaborate hierarchy with several subtypes, such as *semantic-focus*, *constraint-focus*, *focus-or-topic*, *non-focus*, etc. (cf. Song 2017: 114). The elements of type *info-str* on the **ICONS** list have two appropriate features **CLAUSE** and **TARGET**. **TARGET** is always structure-shared with the respective sign’s ARG0 value, and the value of **CLAUSE** is always structure-shared with the INDEX value of the predicate that is the semantic head of the clause.

As pointed out by De Kuthy (2002), assuming that the information structure is part of *local* objects (which it is if it is part of the CONTEXT in HPSG as proposed by Engdahl & Vallduví 1996 or part of the CONTENT) is problematic in connection with a trace-based account of unbounded dependency constructions (UDCs). Traces should not contribute anything to the information structure of a sentence. If one wants to develop an information structure approach which is

independent of the decision of which kind of UDC theory one assumes, the only options for placing the information structure attribute are under *synsem* objects or at the top level.

Information structure as part of *synsem* objects would suggest that it plays a role in syntactic selection. This possibility is assumed in Bildhauer & Cook (2011), and they thus represent INFO-STRUC as a feature appropriate for *synsem* objects (their account will be discussed in more detail in Section 6). A third possibility is argued for in De Kuthy (2002) and Bildhauer (2008), namely that information structure should not be part of *synsem* objects. As a result, they encode information structure again as an additional feature of signs (similar to the approach by Manandhar 1994b discussed above), but it is argued that the appropriate values should be semantic representations. Using indices as the value of information structure-related features (as in the approaches by Paggio 2009, Song & Bender 2012 and Song 2017) is again problematic whenever two constituents share their index value, but only one of them is assigned a particular information structural function. For example, under the assumption that in a head-adjunct phrase the index is structure-shared between an intersective adjective and the nominal head (as in *red car*), there is no way to relate a particular information structure function (e. g., contrast) to the adjective alone (as in *RED car*).

In De Kuthy (2002), a tripartite partition of information structure into focus, topic and background is introduced. As to the question of what kinds of objects should be defined as the values of these features, De Kuthy proposes the values of the INFO-STRUC features to be chunks of semantic information. It is argued that the semantic representation proposed in Pollard & Sag (1994) is not appropriate for her purpose, because the semantic composition is not done in parallel with the syntactic build-up of a phrase. Instead, the Montague-style (cf. Dowty et al. 1981) semantic representation for HPSG proposed in Sailer (2000) is adopted, in which CONTENT values are regarded as representations of a symbolic language with a model-theoretic interpretation. As the semantic object language under CONTENT the language Ty2 (cf. Gallin 1975) of two-sorted type theory is chosen. The resulting feature architecture is shown in (6).

- (6) The structure of INFO-STRUC in De Kuthy (2002: 165):

<i>sign</i>							
PHON	<i>list</i>						
SYNSEM	<i>synsem</i>						
INFO-STRUC	<table border="1"><tr><td><i>info-struc</i></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>FOCUS</td><td><i>list-of-mes</i></td></tr><tr><td>TOPIC</td><td><i>list-of-mes</i></td></tr></table>	<i>info-struc</i>		FOCUS	<i>list-of-mes</i>	TOPIC	<i>list-of-mes</i>
<i>info-struc</i>							
FOCUS	<i>list-of-mes</i>						
TOPIC	<i>list-of-mes</i>						

The information structure is encoded in the attribute INFO-STRUC that is appropriate for signs and has the appropriate features FOCUS and TOPIC, with lists of so-called meaningful expressions (semantic terms, cf. Sailer 2000) as values. These meaningful expressions (that are also used as the representation of logical forms as the CONT values) are lambda terms formulated in a predicate logic language as discussed in more detail in Section 3.2.2 in (13).

### 3 Information structure principles

The approaches sketched above all assume that signs contain some kind of structural representation of information structure, with the consequence that they need to introduce principles that constrain the values of the information structural features. Most approaches thus formulate two types of principles as part of their grammar fragment: one set of principles on the lexical level tying information structure to word level properties such as accents, and another set of principles on the phrasal level determining the distribution of information structure values between mother and daughters in a phrase.

#### 3.1 Instantiating information structure on the word level

In the approach of Engdahl & Vallduví (1996), prosodic properties of English, in particular accent placement, are tied to specific information structural properties of words and phrases. On the word level, they thus introduce two principles that instantiate the information structure FOCUS and LINK when the word has a particular accent. The two principles are shown in (7).

- (7) Information structure of words (Engdahl & Vallduví 1996: 56):

$$\textit{word} \rightarrow \boxed{1} \left[ \begin{array}{ll} \text{PHON|ACCENT} & A \\ \text{INFO-STRUC|FOCUS} & \boxed{1} \end{array} \right]$$

$$\textit{word} \rightarrow \boxed{1} \left[ \begin{array}{ll} \text{PHON|ACCENT} & B \\ \text{INFO-STRUC|GROUND|LINK} & \boxed{1} \end{array} \right]$$

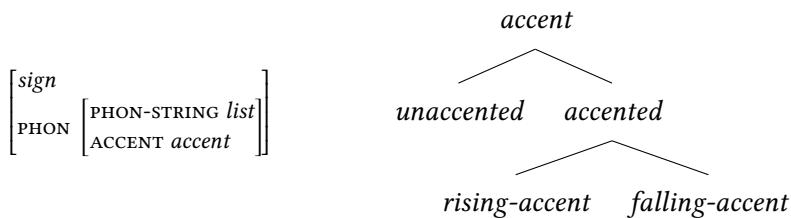
Words with an A accent always contribute focal information, i.e., the entire sign is structure-shared with the INFO-STRUC|FOCUS value; words carrying a B accent contribute link information, i.e., the entire sign is structure-shared with the INFO-STRUC|GROUND|LINK value.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>4</sup>The usage of the terms “A accent” and “B accent” goes back to Jackendoff (1972).

A similar set of word level principles is introduced in the approach of [De Kuthy \(2002\)](#), where the information structure of utterances in German is also tied to words carrying particular accent patterns. The phonology of signs is altered as shown in Figure 8 to include an ACCENT attribute to encode whether a word receives an accent or not, and whether it is a rising or falling accent, should it receive one.

- (8) Representing pitch accents and accent type hierarchy according to [De Kuthy \(2002: 166\)](#):



The information structure of words is defined through the principle shown in Figure 9 which assigns the semantic contribution of the word to the focus or topic specification in the information structure representation of that word, depending on the type of accent the word receives.

- (9) Principle assigning information structure to words ([De Kuthy 2002: 167](#)):

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{word} \rightarrow & \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{PHON|ACCENT } \textit{falling-accent} \\ \text{SS|LOC|CONT|LF } \boxed{1} \\ \text{INFO-STRUC } \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{FOCUS } \langle \boxed{1} \rangle \\ \text{TOPIC } \langle \rangle \end{array} \right] \end{array} \right] \vee \\
 & \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{PHON|ACCENT } \textit{unaccented} \\ \text{INFO-STRUC } \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{FOCUS } \langle \rangle \\ \text{TOPIC } \langle \rangle \end{array} \right] \end{array} \right] \vee \dots
 \end{aligned}$$

Here only two cases are spelled out, one for *falling-accent* signalling focus, and one for unaccented words not contributing anything to the information structure. Other possible cases could for example be a specific accent (like a fall-rise) signalling topic, i.e., a non-empty TOPIC list.

In the approach of [Song \(2017\)](#), lexical items are subtypes of four different *icons-lex-item* types, which specify whether lexical items can contribute any information structural information to the *icons* list, and if yes, how many items can do this. These four lexical subtypes are shown in (10).

- (10) Lexical types specifying *ICONS* values ([Song 2017: 137](#))

- a. 
$$\begin{bmatrix} no\text{-icons-lex-item} \\ \text{MKG } \begin{bmatrix} \text{FC } na \\ \text{TP } na \end{bmatrix} \\ \text{ICONS } \langle !! \rangle \end{bmatrix}$$
- b. 
$$\begin{bmatrix} basic\text{-icons-lex-item} \\ \text{ICONS } \langle !! \rangle \end{bmatrix}$$
- c. 
$$\begin{bmatrix} one\text{-icons-lex-item} \\ \text{ICONS } \langle ![]! \rangle \end{bmatrix}$$
- d. 
$$\begin{bmatrix} two\text{-icons-lex-item} \\ \text{ICONS } \langle ![],[]! \rangle \end{bmatrix}$$

Lexical entries for elements that cannot be marked with respect to information structure are of type *no-icons-lex-items*, such as relative pronouns or expletives in English. Nominal items, such as common nouns, proper nouns and pronouns, have lexical entries of type *basic-icons-lex-item*. These types of words can have an information structural marking, but don't have to. The two other lexical subtypes are used for verbs with one clausal argument (*one-icons-lex-item*) or two clausal arguments (*two-icons-lex-items*). The information structural contribution of these clausal arguments then has to be part of the verb's ICONS list. All other verbs are not required to have any elements on their ICONS list and can thus also be of type *basic-icons-lex-item*.

To capture further constraints on the information structure properties on the word level, such as accent patterns triggering focus or topic, lexical rules are formulated in Song (2017) that derive lexical entries with the respective specifications. One such set of lexical rules for A and B accents in English is discussed in Section 7.

## 3.2 Information structure principles on the phrasal level

### 3.2.1 Information packaging (Engdahl & Vallduví 1996)

One of the first approaches integrating an explicit representation of information structure into the HPSG architecture, Engdahl & Vallduví (1996) encode the information structure as part of the CONTEXT of signs with the help of an additional feature INFO-STRUC. As discussed above, on the lexical level the instantiation of these features can be triggered by phonetic properties, such as certain accents, for intonation languages like English. Phrasal signs must then satisfy the INFO-STRUC instantiation constraints in (11).<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>5</sup>Engdahl and Vallduví's formulation of the principle is incompatible with the model theoretic view of HPSG in Pollard & Sag (1994). Feature structures are complete models of objects, thus

(11) INFO-STRUC instantiation principles for English:

- Either (i) if a DAUGHTER's INFO-STRUC is instantiated, then the mother inherits this instantiation (for narrow foci, links and tails),
- or (ii) if the most oblique DAUGHTER's FOCUS is instantiated, then the FOCUS of the mother is the sign itself (wide focus).

An example including a wide VP focus licensed by the principle in (11) with the relevant INFO-STRUC values is shown in Figure 1.

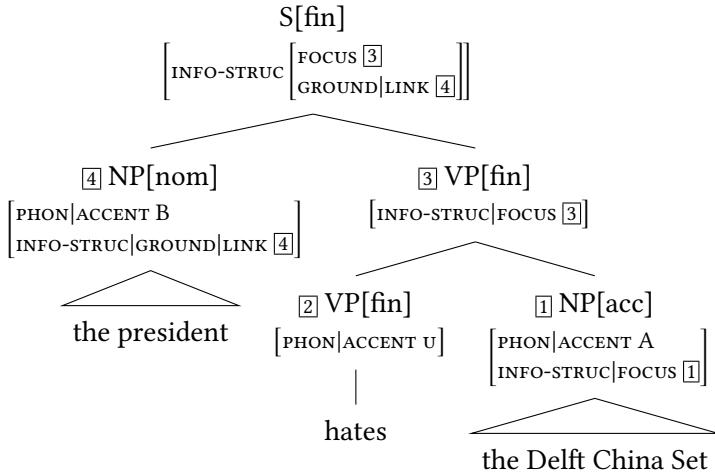


Figure 1: An example for VP focus in Engdahl & Valduvi (1996: 59)

In this example, the rightmost NP daughter *the Delft China Set* carries an A accent. According to the principle in (7) shown earlier, the entire sign is thus structure-shared with the focus value (or, in Engdahl & Valluví's terms, the focus value "is instantiated"). As a consequence, the second clause of the principle in (11) applies and the focus value of the VP mother is the sign itself, which is then inherited by the sentence. Several aspects of the licensing of the structure in Figure 1 are not properly spelled out in Engdahl & Valduvi's approach. For example, the analysis seems to presuppose a set of additional principles for focus inheritance in nominal phrases which do not straightforwardly follow from the principles formulated in (11).

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there is no way in which a value can not be instantiated in a feature structure. Only descriptions of feature structures can be underspecified, but not the feature structures themselves.

### 3.2.2 Information structure as structured meanings (De Kuthy 2002)

The so-called structured meaning approach to information structure (von Stechow 1981; Jacobs 1983; Krifka 1992) provides a compositional semantic mechanism based on separate representations of the semantic contribution of the focus and that of the background. De Kuthy (2002), De Kuthy & Meurers (2003) and Webelhuth (2007) worked out how such a structured meaning approach can be integrated into the HPSG architecture.

As discussed above, in De Kuthy (2002), the information structure is encoded in the attribute INFO-STRUC as part of signs and has the appropriate features FOCUS and TOPIC, with lists of so-called meaningful expressions as values. The background of a sentence in De Kuthy's approach is then defined to be that part of the logical form of the sentence which is neither in focus nor in topic. This characterization of background closely resembles the definition of background employed by the *structured meaning* approach to focus (cf. Krifka 1992). The INFO-STRUC value of a simple sentence with the focus as indicated in (12) is thus structured as shown in (13).

- (12) Peter [[liest ein BUCH]]<sub>F</sub>.  
 Peter reads a book
- (13) A sign representation including information structure (De Kuthy 2002: 163):

$$\left[ \begin{array}{l} s | loc | cont | lf \exists x [book'(x) \wedge read'(p, x)] \\ \text{INFO-STRUC} \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{FOCUS } \langle \lambda y \exists x [book'(x) \wedge read'(y, x)] \rangle \\ \text{TOPIC } \langle \rangle \end{array} \right] \end{array} \right]$$

The INFO-STRUC values of phrases are constrained by principles such as the one in (14). The original principle formulated in De Kuthy (2002: 169) only contains the first two disjuncts shown in (14). The third disjunct is added in De Kuthy & Meurers (2003). Sentences where the focus or the topic does not project represent the most basic case: only those words bearing an accent are in the topic or in the focus of an utterance.

- (14) Principle 1: Extended focus projection principle (De Kuthy & Meurers 2003):

$$\begin{aligned}
 \textit{phrase} \rightarrow & \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{INFO-STR|FOCUS } \boxed{1} \oplus \textit{collect-focus}(\boxed{2}) \\ \text{HEAD-DTR|INFO-STR|FOCUS } \boxed{1} \\ \text{NON-HEAD-DTRS } \boxed{2} \end{array} \right] \vee \\
 & \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{PHON|PHON-STR } \textit{list} \oplus \boxed{2} \\ \text{SS|LOC } \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{CAT|HEAD } \textit{noun} \vee \textit{prep} \\ \text{CONT|LF } \boxed{3} \end{array} \right] \\ \text{INFO-STR|FOCUS } \langle \boxed{3} \rangle \\ \textit{any-dtr} \left( \begin{array}{l} \text{PHON|PHON-STR } \boxed{2} \\ \text{SS|L|CONT|LF } \boxed{4} \\ \text{INFO-STR|FOCUS } \langle \boxed{4} \rangle \end{array} \right) \end{array} \right] \vee \\
 & \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{SYNSEM|LOC } \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{CAT|HEAD } \textit{verb} \\ \text{CONT|LF } \boxed{3} \end{array} \right] \\ \text{INFO-STR|FOCUS } \langle \boxed{3} \rangle \\ \text{NON-HEAD-DTRS } \langle \dots, \begin{array}{l} \text{SYNSEM } \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{FPP } \textit{plus} \\ \text{LOC|CONT|LF } \boxed{4} \end{array} \right], \dots \rangle \\ \text{INFO-STR|FOCUS } \langle \boxed{4} \rangle \end{array} \rangle \end{array} \right] \vee \dots
 \end{aligned}$$

In this case, the mother of a phrase just collects the focus values of all her daughters as ensured by the principle in (14).<sup>6</sup> The relation *collect-focus* ensures that from the list of non-head daughters, the FOCUS value of every non-head daughter is added to the list of FOCUS values of the entire phrase. A similar principle is needed to determine the TOPIC value of phrases.

For cases of so-called focus projection<sup>7</sup> in NPs and PPs, it is assumed in De Kuthy (2002: 169) that it is sufficient to express that the entire NP (or PP) can be focused if the rightmost constituent in that NP (or PP) is focused, as expressed by the second disjunct of the principle in (14). If focus projection is possible in a certain configuration then this is always optional, therefore the focus projection principle for nouns and prepositions is formulated as a disjunct. The second

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<sup>6</sup>The presentation differs from that in De Kuthy (2002); it is the one from De Kuthy & Meurers (2003). Definitions of the auxiliary relations:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \textit{any-dtr}(\boxed{1}) &:= [\text{HEAD-DTR } \boxed{1}], \\
 \textit{any-dtr}(\boxed{1}) &:= [\text{NON-HEAD-DTRS } \textit{element}(\boxed{1})].
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \textit{collect-focus}(\langle \rangle) &:= \langle \rangle, \\
 \textit{collect-focus}\left(\left( \begin{array}{l} \text{INFO-STRUC|FOCUS } \langle \boxed{1} \rangle \\ | \boxed{2} \end{array} \right)\right) &:= \left( \boxed{1} \mid \textit{collect-focus}(\boxed{2}) \right).
 \end{aligned}$$

<sup>7</sup>Focus projection is a term commonly used to describe the fact that in an utterance with prosodic marking of focus on a word, this marking can lead to ambiguity, in that different constituents containing the word can be interpreted as focused (cf. Gussenhoven 1983; Selkirk 1995).

disjunct of the principle in (14) ensures that a phrase headed by a noun or a preposition can only be in the focus (i.e., its entire logical form is token identical to its FOCUS value) if the daughter that contributes the rightmost part of the phonology of the phrase is entirely focused itself. The relation *any-dtr* is a description of a sign with a head daughter or a list of non-head daughters and thereby ensures that it can be either the head (i.e., head daughter) of the phrase itself, or any non-head daughter that meets the condition of being focused. Again, a similar principle needs to be provided for the TOPIC value of nominal and prepositional phrases.

For the verbal domain, the regularities are known to be influenced by a variety of factors, such as the word order and lexical properties of the verbal head (cf., e.g., von Stechow & Uhmann 1986). Since verbs need to be able to lexically mark which of their arguments can project focus when they are accented, De Kuthy & Meurers (2003) introduce the boolean-valued feature FOCUS-PROJECTION-POTENTIAL (FPP) for objects of type *synsem*. Figure 15 shows the relevant part of the lexical entry of the verb *lieben* ‘love’ which allows projection from the object but not from the subject:

- (15) The focus projection potential of *lieben* (De Kuthy & Meurers 2003):

PHON PHON-STR ⟨ <i>lieben</i> ⟩
$\left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{ARG-S} \left\langle \begin{array}{l} \text{LOC CAT HEAD} \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{noun} \\ \text{CASE nom} \end{array} \right] \\ \text{FPP minus} \end{array} \right\rangle, \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{LOC CAT HEAD} \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{noun} \\ \text{CASE acc} \end{array} \right] \\ \text{FPP plus} \end{array} \right] \end{array} \right]$

The third disjunct of the principle in (14) then specifies under which circumstances focus can project in the verbal domain: a phrase headed by a verb can only be in the focus (i.e., its entire logical form is token identical to an element of its FOCUS value) if the daughter that has the focus projection potential (FPP *plus*) is entirely focused itself.

### 3.2.3 Information structure principles in MRS

As introduced above, in the MRS based approach of Paggio (2009), the information structure is part of the CONTEXT, consisting of FOCUS, TOPIC and BACKGROUND features which are structure-shared with the respective INDEX values of the semantic representation of a phrase. Paggio (2009) connects the distribution of information structure values to particular clausal types and introduces new phrasal subtypes which constrain the distribution of information structure in the respective phrase. One such new phrasal subtype is the type *focus-inheritance* as defined in (16), which then has to be cross-classified with every basic phrasal sub-

type (such as *hd-comp*, *hd-spec*, *hd-adj*, etc.) in order to constrain the distribution of focus values across all phrasal subtypes.

- (16) Principle for focus inheritance (Paggio 2009: 155):

<i>focus-inheritance</i> →	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 40%;">SYNSEM LOC CONTEXT</td><td style="width: 60%; text-align: right; padding-right: 10px;">FOCUS ⟨[2], 1]⟩</td></tr> <tr> <td> </td><td style="text-align: right; padding-right: 10px;">BG      [3]</td></tr> </table> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 40%;">HD SYNSEM LOC CONTEXT</td><td style="width: 60%; text-align: right; padding-right: 10px;">FOCUS 1</td></tr> <tr> <td> </td><td style="text-align: right; padding-right: 10px;">BG      [3]</td></tr> </table> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 40%;">NON-HD</td><td style="width: 60%; text-align: right; padding-right: 10px;">SYNSEM LOC CONTEXT FOCUS ⟨[2]⟩</td></tr> <tr> <td> </td><td style="text-align: right; padding-right: 10px;">ACCENT      true</td></tr> </table>	SYNSEM LOC CONTEXT	FOCUS ⟨[2], 1]⟩		BG      [3]	HD SYNSEM LOC CONTEXT	FOCUS 1		BG      [3]	NON-HD	SYNSEM LOC CONTEXT FOCUS ⟨[2]⟩		ACCENT      true
SYNSEM LOC CONTEXT	FOCUS ⟨[2], 1]⟩												
	BG      [3]												
HD SYNSEM LOC CONTEXT	FOCUS 1												
	BG      [3]												
NON-HD	SYNSEM LOC CONTEXT FOCUS ⟨[2]⟩												
	ACCENT      true												

The principle in (16) ensures that for signs of type *focus-inheritance*, the list of focus values of the mother is the list of focus values of the head daughter<sup>8</sup> plus the focus value of the non-head daughter, in the case that it is accented. Similar principles are defined for the inheritance of background values, also depending on the accent status of the non-head daughter. Paggio also assumes that each phrasal subtype has further subtypes connecting it to one of the information structure inheritance phrasal types. For example, she assumes that there is a phrasal subtype *focus-hd-adj* that is a subtype both of *hd-adj* and of *focus-inheritance*. Finally, clausal types are introduced that account for the information structure values at the top level of a clause. For example, the specification for *decl-main-all-focus* as shown in Figure 2 is a clause in which both the background and the topic values are empty and the mother collects the focus values from the head and the non-head daughters.<sup>9</sup> Different from Paggio's approach, Song & Bender (2012) and Song (2017) locate the representation of information structure within the MRS-based CONTENT value of signs. The list elements of information structural values that are built up for a phrase consist of focus, background or topic elements co-indexed with the semantic INDEX values of the daughters of that phrase. The main point of their approach is that they want to be able to represent underspecified information structural values, since very often a phrase, for example with a certain accent pattern, is ambiguous with respect to the context in which it can occur and thus is ambiguous with respect to its information structure values. An example they discuss is the one in (17), where the first sentence could be an answer to the question *What barks?* and thus signal narrow focus, whereas the

<sup>8</sup>This is not correctly specified in the original principle as formulated by Paggio (2009). If the head daughter can have a list with more than one element as its FOCUS value, then this entire list would have to be added to the list of FOCUS values of the mother, and not just be one element of that list.

<sup>9</sup>Again, the list specifications as formulated by Paggio (2009) are not entirely correct: if the head daughter's FOCUS value [2] is a list with more than one element, this list has to be added to the list of FOCUS values of the mother.

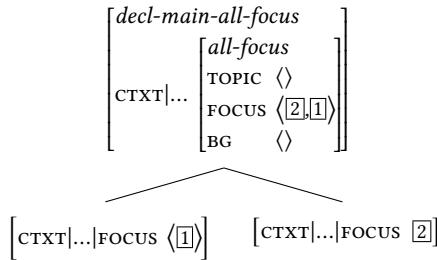


Figure 2: Declarative all-focus construction (Paggio 2009: 160)

second utterance could be an answer to the question *What happened?* and signal broad focus.

- (17) a. [[The DOG]]<sub>F</sub> barks.  
 b. [[The DOG barks]]<sub>F</sub>.

The approach pursued in Song & Bender (2012) thus assumes that the two possible readings in (17) are further specializations of one MRS which is associated with one syntactic structure and includes underspecified values, in particular the type of the ICONS element for the constituent *barks*, leaving it open whether that is part of the focus or not.

In Song (2017), this approach is further spelled out and lexical rules are added that allow transitive and ditransitive verbs to be a possible source for focus projection. In an example such as (18), Song (2017) assumes that focus can only project if the last argument is accented as in (18b) (here accent is shown on the noun *book* in small caps), but not if some other argument is accented, as in (18a), where the proper noun *Lee* is accented.

- (18) a. Kim sent LEE the book.  
 b. Kim sent Lee the BOOK.

Accordingly, there are two lexical entries for the verb *send*, which are derived by the lexical rules shown in (19).

- (19) Focus projection lexical rules (Song 2017: 227):  
 a. *no-focus-projection-rule* →

INDEX	$\boxed{1}$
ICONS-KEY	$\boxed{2}$
VAL	$\left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{SUBJ } \langle [\text{ICONS-KEY } \textit{non-focus}] \rangle \\ \text{COMPS } \langle [\text{MKG FC +}] \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{MKG FC -} \\ \text{ICONS } \langle ! ! \rangle \end{array} \right] \rangle \end{array} \right]$
C-CONT ICONS	$\langle ! \boxed{2} \left[ \begin{array}{l} \textit{non-focus} \\ \text{TARGET } \boxed{1} \end{array} \right] ! \rangle$
DTR lex-rule-infl-affixed	

b. *focus-projection-rule* →

CLAUSE-KEY	$\boxed{1}$
VAL COMPS	$\langle \begin{array}{l} \text{MKG FC -} \\ \text{INDEX } \boxed{2} \end{array} \rangle \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{MKG FC +} \\ \text{ICONS } \langle ! [ \textit{semantic-focus} ] ! \rangle \end{array} \right] \rangle$
C-CONT ICONS	$\langle ! \left[ \begin{array}{l} \textit{non-focus} \\ \text{TARGET } \boxed{2} \\ \text{CLAUSE } \boxed{1} \end{array} \right] ! \rangle$
DTR lex-rule-infl-affixed	

The lexical rule *no-focus-projection-rule* requires lexical entries to have a non-focus-marked element as the last element on the COMPS list, and in addition the word itself has an ICONS-KEY of type *non-focus* preventing the word itself from being focused. The lexical rule *focus-projection-rule* has a focus-marked element as the last element in the COMPS list. It is not further specified whether only that focussed complement or also the word itself contributes anything to the ICONS value. In the example (18b), if the verb *sent* is licensed by the rule *focus-projection-rule*, either only *the book*, or the entire VP *sent Lee the book*, or even the entire sentence *Kim sent Lee the book* could be focused.

Since the approach of Song (2017) is part of a larger grammar fragment (the LinGO Grammar Matrix; Bender et al. 2010) with the aim of parsing and generating sentences from a large number of different languages, it contains a multitude of lexical and phrasal types and principles. Some of these specifications are introduced to capture very language-specific information structure properties (such as morphological markings, word order constraints, etc.), while others are necessary for the specific way in which grammar fragments in the LinGO Grammar Matrix are implemented and processed. It would be far beyond the scope of this article to discuss all these principles and specifications in detail and I therefore only included the most essential aspects of Song's approach in my discussion here.

## 4 Topics

Most HPSG approaches are based on a focus/background division of the information structure. To capture aspects of a topic vs. comment distinction, or to be able to specify topics as a special element in the background, they include an additional feature or substructure for topics. Engdahl & Vallduví (1996), for example, divide the GROUND into LINK and TAIL, where the link is a special element of the background linking it to the previous discourse, just like topics. In the approaches of De Kuthy (2002) and Paggio (2009), an additional feature TOPIC is introduced, parallel to FOCUS and BACKGROUND, in order to distinguish discourse referents as topics from the rest of the background.

Most approaches don't introduce separate mechanisms for the distribution of TOPIC values, but rather assume that similar principles as the ones introduced for focus can constrain topic values, as mentioned above for the approach of De Kuthy (2002). A more specific example can be found in Paggio (2009), where a constraint on topicalization constructions including a topic-comment partitioning is formulated, as illustrated in Figure 3. This *inv-topic-comment* phrasal type

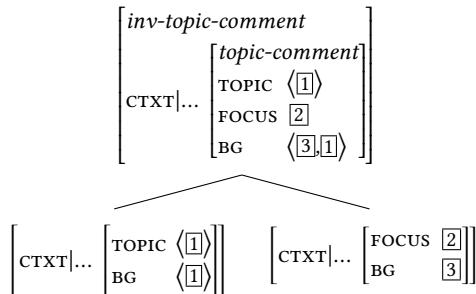


Figure 3: Topicalization construction with extracted topic

constrains the information structure values of topicalization constructions in Danish characterized by subject verb inversion,<sup>10</sup> where the topic corresponds to the topicalized complement, as illustrated by the example in (20) from Paggio (2009).

<sup>10</sup> Although Danish is generally considered to be a V2 language, where any kind of constituent (not only the subject) can occur in the position before the finite verb, Paggio (2009) seems to assume that clauses in which a dependent different from the subject, i.e., an object or some adjunct phrase, occurs before the finite verb have a different structure than those where the subject occurs in the sentence-initial position.

- (20) og [i det nederste vindue]<sub>T</sub> [tager man og saetter urtepotten]<sub>F</sub>  
 and in the lowest window takes one and puts flowerpot.DEF  
 ‘And in the lowest window you take and put the flowerpot.’

In Song (2017), a number of lexical and phrasal principles are provided with the purpose of licensing topic-comment structures. The principles and lexical entry in (21) are spelled out in order to license topic-comment constructions in Japanese which are characterized by the occurrence of the topic marker *wa* and a left dislocated topic phrase.

- (21) Licensing topic-comment structures in Song (2017):

a.	<i>topic-comment</i>	$\rightarrow \left[ \begin{array}{c} \text{L-PERIPH} + \\ \text{MKG} \quad tp \\ \text{HD}   \text{MKG}   \text{TP} - \\ \text{NHD} \quad \left[ \begin{array}{c} \text{MKG} \quad tp \\ \text{L-PERIPH} + \end{array} \right] \end{array} \right]$
b.	<i>top-scr-comp-head</i>	$\rightarrow \left[ \begin{array}{c} \text{HA}   \text{VAL}   \text{COMPS} \langle \rangle \\ \text{NHD}   \text{INCONS-KEY} \text{ contrast-topic } \end{array} \right]$
c.	<i>wa-marker</i>	$\rightarrow \left[ \begin{array}{c} \text{STEM} \quad \langle wa \rangle \\ \text{INCONS-KEY} \quad \boxed{2} \\ \text{MKG} \quad tp \\ \text{COMPS} \quad \langle [\text{INDEX } \boxed{1}] \rangle \\ \text{INCONS} \quad \langle ! \boxed{2} \left[ \begin{array}{c} \text{contrast-or-topic} \\ \text{TARGET } \boxed{1} \end{array} \right] ! \rangle \end{array} \right]$

The constraint in (21a) on the phrasal subtype *topic-comment* ensures that only the non-head daughter is marked as a topic, whereas the head daughter functions as the comment (and presumably contains some focused material). The specification [L-PERIPH +] indicates that a constituent with this feature value cannot be combined with another constituent leftward.

A Japanese topic-comment structure, such as the one in (22) (Song 2017: 198), is licensed by the phrasal subtype *top-scr-comp-head*, i.e., it is assumed that the fronted complement, the *wa*-marked NP *sono hon wa* ‘the book’ is scrambled to the left peripheral position and is interpreted as a contrastive topic phrase.

- (22) sono hon wa Kim ga yomu.  
 this book WA Kim NOM read  
 ‘This book, Kim read.’

The topic marker *wa* in Japanese is treated as an adposition with the lexical specifications shown in (21c). The entire sentence is thus licensed as a head complement structure, where the object NP is scrambled to the sentence initial position

and functions as a contrastive topic. The *tp* marking of the entire *topic-comment* phrase ensures that this phrase cannot be embedded as the comment in another *topic-comment* phrase.

## 5 Givenness

In De Kuthy & Meurers (2011), it is shown how the HPSG approach to information structure of De Kuthy (2002) and colleagues can be extended to capture givenness and to make the right predictions for so-called *deaccenting*, which has been shown to be widespread (Büring 2006). In contrast to Schwarzschild (1999), who spells out his approach in the framework of alternative semantics (Rooth 1992), they show how the notion of givenness can be couched in a standard structured meaning approach – thereby preserving the explicit, compositional representations of focus.

The example in (23) illustrates the necessity to include information about givenness into the information structural setup.

- (23) The conference participants are renting all kind of vehicles. Yesterday, Bill came to the conference driving a red convertible and today he's arrived with a blue one.
  - a. What did John rent?
  - b. He (only) rented [[a GREEN convertible]]<sub>F</sub>.

The context in (23) introduces some conference participants, Bill, the rental of vehicles and red and blue convertibles into the discourse. Based on this context, when considering the question (23a) asking for the object that John is renting as the focus, one can answer this question with sentence (23b), where *a green convertible* is the focus: out of all the things John could have rented, he picked a green convertible. In this focus, only *green* is new to the discourse, whereas convertibles were already given in the context, and still the entire NP is in the focus.

To capture such cases of focus projection, an additional feature **GIVEN** is introduced as part of the setup of De Kuthy (2002), as already discussed in Section 3.2.2. The relation between pitch accents and the information structure of words is still defined by the principle shown in (24), depending on the type of accent the word receives.

- (24) Relating intonation and information structure for words (De Kuthy & Meurers 2011):

$$\text{word} \rightarrow \left[ \begin{array}{c} \text{PHON|ACCENT} \\ \text{ss|LOC|CONT|LF} \\ \text{STRUC-MEANING} \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \text{accented} \\ [1] \\ \left[ \begin{array}{c} \text{FOCUS } \langle 1 \rangle \\ \text{GIVEN } \langle \rangle \end{array} \right] \end{array} \right] \vee \left[ \begin{array}{c} \text{PHON|ACCENT} \\ \text{STRUC-MEANING} \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \text{unaccented} \\ \left[ \begin{array}{c} \text{FOCUS } \langle \rangle \\ \text{GIVEN } \langle \rangle \end{array} \right] \end{array} \right] \vee \dots$$

In addition, the Focus Projection Principle originally introduced in [De Kuthy \(2002\)](#) and then extended in [De Kuthy & Meurers \(2003\)](#) is extended with a disjunct capturing focus projection in the presence of givenness ([De Kuthy & Meurers 2011](#)). Figure 25 shows the resulting principle.

- (25) Extended Focus Projection Principle including Givenness ([De Kuthy & Meurers 2011](#)):

$$\text{phrase} \rightarrow \left[ \begin{array}{c} \text{STRUC-MEANING|FOCUS } [1] \oplus \text{collect-focus } ([2]) \\ \text{HEAD-DTR|INFO-STR|FOCUS } [1] \\ \text{NON-HEAD-DTRS } [2] \end{array} \right] \vee$$

$$\left[ \begin{array}{c} \text{PHON|PHON-STR list } \oplus [2] \\ \text{ss|LOC } \left[ \begin{array}{c} \text{CAT|HEAD noun } \vee \text{prep} \\ \text{CONT|LF } [3] \end{array} \right] \\ \text{STRUC-MEANING|FOCUS } \langle [3] \rangle \\ \text{any-dtr} \left( \begin{array}{c} \text{PHON|PHON-STR } [2] \\ \text{ss|L|CONT|LF } [4] \\ \text{STRUC-MEANING|FOCUS } \langle [4] \rangle \end{array} \right) \end{array} \right] \vee$$

$$\left[ \begin{array}{c} \text{SYNSEM|LOC } \left[ \begin{array}{c} \text{CAT|HEAD verb} \\ \text{CONT|LF } [3] \end{array} \right] \\ \text{STRUC-MEANING|FOCUS } \langle [3] \rangle \\ \text{NON-HEAD-DTRS } \langle \dots, \left[ \begin{array}{c} \text{SYNSEM } \left[ \begin{array}{c} \text{FPP plus} \\ \text{LOC|CONT|LF } [4] \end{array} \right] \\ \text{STRUC-MEANING|FOCUS } \langle [4] \rangle \end{array} \right], \dots \rangle \end{array} \right] \vee$$

$$\left[ \begin{array}{c} \text{ss|LOC|CONT|LF } [3] \\ \text{STRUC-MEANING|FOCUS } \langle [3] \rangle \\ \text{DTRS-LIST } \left( \text{given-sign-list } \bigcirc \left( \begin{array}{c} \text{ss|L|CONT|LF } [4] \\ \text{STRUC-MEANING|FOCUS } \langle [4] \rangle \end{array} \right) \right) \end{array} \right] \vee \dots$$

The new fourth disjunct of the Extended Focus Projection Principle<sup>11</sup> captures the cases previously unaccounted for where given material in a focused phrase is deaccented. Focus in those examples can project from a focused daughter in a position which normally does not allow focus projection. This only is an option if all other daughters in that focused phrase are *given*. Spelling this out, the fourth

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<sup>11</sup>The auxiliary relations are defined as:

disjunct of the principle in (25) specifies that the mother of a phrase can be in the focus (i.e., the entire LF value of the mother's CONTENT is token identical to an element on the mother's FOCUS list) if it is the case that the list of all daughters (provided by *dtrs-list*, a relational description of a list containing signs that are given) consists of *given* signs into which a single *focused* sign is shuffled (○).<sup>12</sup> As before, a sign is focused if its LF value is token identical to an element of its FOCUS value; and a sign is given if its LF value is token identical to an element of its GIVEN value.

The pitch accent in this example is on the adjective *green* so that the principle in (9) on p. 760 licenses structure sharing of the adjective's content with its FOCUS value. In the context of the question (23a), the entire NP *a green convertible* from example (23b) is in the focus. In the phrase *green convertible*, the clause licensing focus projection in NPs does not apply, since the adjective *green*, from which the focus has to project in this case, is not the rightmost element of the phrase. What does apply is the fourth disjunct of the principle licensing focus projection in connection with givenness. Since the noun *convertible* is given, the adjective *green* is the only daughter in the phrase that is not given and focus is allowed to project to the mother of the phrase. In the phrase *a green convertible*, focus projection is again licensed via the clause for focus projection in noun phrases, since the focused phrase *green convertible* is the rightmost daughter in that noun phrase.

## 6 Information structure and word order

The explicit representation of information structure as part of signs in HPSG opens up the possibility of providing explanations for constraints previously stipulated in syntax, such as word order constraints, by deriving the constraints from the nature of the integration of a sentence into the discourse. Many of the ap-

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$$\begin{aligned}
 dtrs-list(\langle [1][2] \rangle) &:= \begin{cases} \text{HEAD-DTR} & [1] \\ \text{NON-HD-DTRS} & [2] \end{cases} \\
 given-sign-list &:= \langle \rangle \\
 given-sign-list &:= \left\langle \begin{array}{c} \text{SS} | \text{L} | \text{CONT} | \text{LF} & [1] \\ \text{STRUC-MEANING} & \left[ \text{GIVEN } \langle [2] \rangle \right] \end{array} \right\rangle \mid given-sign-list
 \end{aligned}$$

<sup>12</sup>The relation "shuffle" ○ is used as originally introduced in Reape (1994): the result is a list that contains all element from the two input lists and the order of elements from the original lists is preserved, see also the discussion in Müller (2019), Chapter 10 of this volume.

<sup>13</sup>If only binary structures are assumed, as in the examples in this chapter, the principle can be simplified. Here, I kept the general version with recursive relations following De Kuthy & Meurers (2003), which also supports flatter structures.

proaches discussed in the previous section employ the information structural architecture exactly in this way and formulate principles linking word order to discourse properties.

One first such approach is presented in Engdahl & Vallduví (1996), where word order constraints for Catalan are couched into the information structure setup discussed in Section 3.2. The basic observation is that in Catalan, the word order within the sentential core is VOS and that every constituent within this sentential core is interpreted as focal. If an argument of the main verb of a sentence is to be interpreted as non-focal, it must be clitic-dislocated. The example in (26) from Engdahl & Vallduví (1996) illustrates the two possible cases: the argument *a Barcelona* ‘to Barcelona’ can be topicalized as in (26b) or positioned at the end of the sentence as in (26c) in order to be interpreted as non-focal.

- (26) a. Ahir [[va tornar a Barcelona el PRESIDENT]]<sub>F</sub>.  
yesterday returned to Barcelona the president  
b. A Barcelona<sub>1</sub> [[hi<sub>1</sub> va tornar el PRESIDENT]]<sub>F</sub>.  
to Barcelona there returned the president  
c. [[Hi<sub>1</sub> va tornar el PRESIDENT]]<sub>F</sub> a Barcelona<sub>1</sub>.  
there returned the president to Barcelona  
'Yesterday, the president returned to Barcelona.'

With respect to modeling this within the HPSG account, they assume that phrases associated with a LINK interpretation should be constrained to be left dislocated, whereas phrases associated with a TAIL interpretation should be right attached. They thus introduce the following ID schema for Catalan:

- (27) *Head-Dislocation Schema for Catalan:*

The DTRS value is an object of sort *head-disloc-struc* whose HEAD-DTR|SYNSEM|LOCAL|CATEGORY value satisfies the description  
[HEAD verb [VFORM finite], SUBCAT ⟨ ⟩], and whose DISLOC-DTRS|CONTEXT|INFO-STRUC value is instantiated and for each DISLOC-DTR, the HEAD-DTR|SYNSEM|LOCAL|CONTENT value contains an element which stands in a *binding* relation to that DISLOC-DTR.

The principle requires that the information structure value of dislocated daughters of a finite sentence has to be GROUND. An additional LP statement then captures the relation between the directionality of the dislocation and a further restriction of the GROUND value, as illustrated in (28).

- (28) LP constraint on information structure in Catalan (Engdahl & Vallduví 1996):

LINK > FOCUS > TAIL

This LP statement is meant to ensure that link material must precede focus material and focus material must precede tails. By this, Engdahl & Vallduví (1996) want to ensure that left-dislocated constituents are always interpreted as links and right-dislocated constituents as tails.

The insights from Engdahl & Vallduví's approach are the basis for an approach accounting for clitic left dislocation in Greek presented by Alexopoulou & Kolliakou (2002). The representation of information structure with the features FOCUS and GROUND (further divided into LINK and TAIL) is taken over as well as the phonological constraints on words and the information structure instantiation principle. In order to account for clitic left dislocation, as illustrated in (29), an additional feature CLITIC is introduced as appropriate for *nonlocal* objects.

- (29) a. Pii simetehoun s' afti tin paragogi?  
           who take part in that the production  
           ‘Who contributed to this production?’
- b. Tin parastasi ti skinothetise o Karolos KOUN ...  
           the performance FEM.3SG.ACC directed the Karolos Koun  
           ‘Karolos Koun directed the performance ...’

The Linkhood Constraint shown in (30) ensures that links (i.e., elements whose INFO-STRUC|LINK value is instantiated) can only be fillers that are “duplicated” in the morphology by a pronominal affix, i.e., it is required that there is an element [1] on the CLITIC list of the head daughter that is structure-shared with the filler’s HEAD value. The use of the disjoint union relation  $\uplus$ <sup>14</sup> ensures that the singleton element [1] representing the doubled clitic is the only element on the phrase’s clitic list with these specifications. In addition, it is required that the filler-daughter [2] is structure-shared with the LINK attribute in the information structure of the mother.

- (30) The Linkhood Constraint for clitic left dislocation phrases (Alexopoulou & Kolliakou 2002: 238):



<sup>14</sup> Alexopoulou & Kolliakou (2002) provide no exact definition for the use of the symbol  $\uplus$  (disjoint union), but a definition that is often used within HPSG approaches can be found in Manandhar (1994a).

The Linkhood Constraint thus has two purposes: it ensures clitic doubling and it connects the particular word order of a left dislocated phrase to discourse properties by requiring the filler daughter to be the link of the entire clause.

Other approaches dealing with left dislocated phrases are the ones by De Kuthy (2002) and De Kuthy & Meurers (2003); the latter relates the occurrence of discontinuous NPs in German to specific information structural contexts, while De Kuthy & Meurers (2003) show that the realization of subjects as part of fronted non-finite constituents can be accounted for based on independent information structure conditions.

Based on the setup discussed in Section 3.2.2 above, constraints are formulated that restrict the occurrence of discontinuous NPs and fronted VPs based on their information structure properties. The type of discontinuous NPs at the center of De Kuthy's approach are so-called NP-PP split constructions, in which a PP occurs separate from its nominal head, as exemplified in (31).

- (31) a. *Über Syntax* hat Max sich [ein Buch] ausgeliehen.  
about syntax has Max self a book borrowed  
'Max borrowed a book on syntax.'
- b. [Ein Buch] hat Max sich *über Syntax* ausgeliehen.  
a book has Max self about syntax borrowed

The information structure properties of discontinuous noun phrases are summarized in De Kuthy (2002: 176) in the following principle:

In an utterance, in which a PP occurs separate from an NP, either the PP or the NP must be in the focus or in the topic of the utterance, but they cannot both be part of the topic or the same focus projection. (De Kuthy 2002: 176)

The last restriction can be formalized as: the PP's or NP's CONTENT values cannot be part of the same meaningful expression on the FOCUS list or the TOPIC list of the INFO-STRUC value of the utterance.

As discussed in De Kuthy & Meurers (2003), it has been observed that in German it is possible for unergative and unaccusative verbs to realize a subject as part of a fronted non-finite verbal constituent (Haider 1990). This is exemplified in (32) with examples from Haider (1990: 94):

- (32) a. [Ein Fehler unterlaufen] ist meinem Lehrer noch nie.  
an.NOM error crept.in is my.DAT teacher still never  
'So far my teacher has never made a mistake.'

- b. [Haare wachsen] können ihm nicht mehr.  
hair.NOM grow can him.DAT not anymore  
'His hair cannot grow anymore.'
- c. [Ein Außenseiter gewonnen] hat hier noch nie.  
an.NOM outsider won has hier still never  
'An outsider has never won here yet.'

In order to account for the context-sensitive occurrence of such fronted verbal constituents, specific information structure properties of fronted verb phrases need to be expressed in a principle expressing what De Kuthy & Meurers refer to as Webelhuth's generalization (Webelhuth 1990: 53): In an utterance in which a verb phrase occurs as a fronted constituent (i.e., the filler of a head-filler phrase) this entire verb phrase must be in the focus of the utterance (i.e., the focus value of the fronted constituent must be identical to its semantic representation). The formalization of this principle provided by (De Kuthy & Meurers 2003) is shown in (33).

- (33) Webelhuth's generalization (De Kuthy & Meurers 2003):

$$\left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{head-filler-phrase} \\ \text{NON-HEAD-DTR} | \text{SYNSEM} | \text{LOC} | \text{CAT} | \text{HEAD } \text{verb} \end{array} \right] \rightarrow \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{INFO-STRUC} | \text{FOCUS } \langle \boxed{1} \rangle \\ \text{NON-HEAD-DTR} \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{INFO-STRUC} | \text{FOCUS } \langle \boxed{1} \rangle \\ \text{SYNSEM} | \text{LOC} | \text{CONT} | \text{LF } \boxed{1} \end{array} \right] \end{array} \right]$$

Combining the new lexical specifications, the focus projection rule for the verbal domain and the partial fronting focus requirement with the basic setup of De Kuthy (2002), one obtains a theory which predicts that subjects can only be part of a fronted verb phrase if they can be the focus exponent.<sup>15</sup> The sketch of an analysis for an example such as (32c) is illustrated in Figure 4. The entry of *gewinnen* 'to win' (the base form of the verb *gewonnen*) in (32c) in (34) encodes the lexical property that the subject of this intransitive verb has focus projection potential.

- (34) The lexical entry of *gewinnen* 'to win':

$$\left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{PHON } \langle \text{gewinnen} \rangle \\ \text{ARG-S } \left\langle \begin{array}{l} \text{FPP plus} \\ \text{LOC} | \text{CAT} | \text{HEAD} | \text{CASE nom} \end{array} \right\rangle \end{array} \right]$$

<sup>15</sup>Not every element in a syntactic phrase corresponding to the focus is prosodically prominent. Generally only one element is: the so-called *focus exponent* (cf. Selkirk 1995).

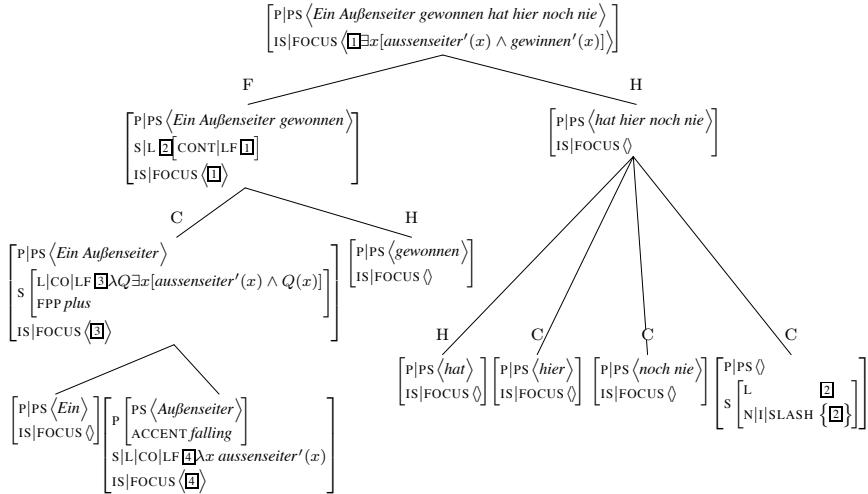


Figure 4: Partial VP fronting in De Kuthy & Meurers (2003)

Under the assumption that in (32c) the noun *Außenseiter* carries a pitch accent, the information structure principle for words in (9) on p. 760 ensures that the noun contributes its LOGICAL-FORM value to its FOCUS value. The focus projection principle in (14) on p. 764 ensures that the focus can project over the entire NP *ein Außenseiter*, i.e., its FOCUS element is identical to its LF value. Since *ein Außenseiter* as the subject of *gewonnen* in the tree in Figure 4 is lexically marked as *FPP plus*, the principle governing focus projection in the verbal domain in (14) licenses the focus to project over the entire fronted verb phrase *ein Außenseiter gewonnen*. The fronted constituent thus contributes its LF value to its FOCUS value. In this example, the focus does not project further, so that in the head-filler phrase the focus values of the two daughters are simply collected as licensed by the first disjunct of the focus principle in (14) discussed earlier in Section 3.2.2. As a result, the FOCUS value of the fronted verb phrase is the FOCUS value of the entire sentence. Finally, note that the example satisfies Weßelhuth's generalization, which requires a fronted verb phrase to be the focus of the utterance as formalized in the principle in (33).

In the same spirit, Bildhauer & Cook (2010) show that sentences in which multiple elements have been fronted are directly linked to specific types of information

structure. In German, a V2 language, normally exactly one constituent occurs in the position before the finite verb in declarative sentences. But so-called multiple fronting examples with more than one constituent occurring before the finite verb have been well attested in naturally-occurring data (Müller 2003). Two examples from Bildhauer & Cook (2010) are shown in (35).<sup>16</sup>

- (35) a. [Dem Saft] [eine kräftigere Farbe] geben Blutorangen.  
           to.the juice a    more.vivid colour give  blood.oranges  
           ‘What give the juice a more vivid colour is blood oranges.’
- b. [Stets] [einen Lacher] [auf ihrer Seite] hatte die Bubi Ernesto Family.  
       always a    laugh on their side had  the Bubi Ernesto Family  
       ‘Always good for a laugh was the Bubi Ernesto Family.’

But, as discussed by Bildhauer & Cook, such multiple fronting examples seem to require very special discourse conditions in order to be acceptable. Just like the fronted verb phrases discussed in De Kuthy & Meurers (2003) above, Bildhauer & Cook (2010) propose analyzing multiple fronting constructions in German as head-filler phrases which in this case introduce a topic shift. Following the approach by Müller (2005), multiple fronting configurations can be identified via the filler daughter which must have a HEAD|DSL (double slash) value of type *local*.<sup>17</sup> As introduced above, Bildhauer & Cook (2010) assume that an information structure attribute is specified in *synsem* objects, with the features *FOCUS* and *TOPIC* taking lists of *elementary predication*s as their values. In general, multiple fronting *head-filler* phrases are restricted by the constraint in (36).

- (36) Relating multiple fronting to focus (Bildhauer & Cook 2010: 75):

$$\begin{aligned} \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{head-filler-phrase} \\ \text{NON-HEAD-DTRS } \langle [\text{LOC}|\text{CAT}|\text{HEAD}| \text{DSL } \textit{local}] \rangle \end{array} \right] \rightarrow & [ \text{IS } \textit{pres} \vee \text{a-top-com} \vee \dots ] \\ \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{head-filler-phrase} \\ \text{IS } \textit{pres} \end{array} \right] \rightarrow & \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{ss}|\text{LOC}|\text{CAT}|\text{HEAD}| \text{DT } \langle [\text{LOC}|\text{CONT}|\text{RELS } \langle \overline{1} \rangle] \rangle \\ \text{HD-DTR}|\text{ss}|\text{IS}|\text{FOCUS } \langle \overline{1} \rangle \end{array} \right] \end{aligned}$$

The first constraint ensures that *head-filler* phrases that are instances of multiple

<sup>16</sup>The examples are corpus examples that were extracted by Bildhauer & Cook (2010) from Deutsches Referenzkorpus (DeReKo), hosted at the Institut für Deutsche Sprache, Mannheim: <http://www.ids-mannheim.de/kl/projekte/korpora>

<sup>17</sup>In Müller’s (2005) formalization, filler daughters in multiple fronting configurations (and only in these) have a HEAD|DSL value of type *local*, i.e., they contain information about an empty verbal head. The DSL (‘double slash’) feature is needed to model the HPSG equivalent of verb movement from the sentence-final position to initial position.

frontings are restricted to have an *is*-value of an appropriate type.<sup>18</sup> The second constraint then ensures that in presentational multiple frontings, the designated topic of the head daughter (i.e., the verbal head of the *head-filler-phrase*) must be focused. The feature DT (designated topic) lexically specifies which element, if any, is normally realized as the topic of a particular verb. This constraint thus encodes what Bildhauer & Cook (2010) call “topic shift”: the non-fronted element in a multiple fronting construction that would preferably be the topic is realized as a focus. A similar constraint is introduced for another instance of multiple frontings, which is called *propositional assessment* multiple fronting. Here it has to be ensured that the designated topic must be realized as the topic somewhere in the head daughter and the head daughter must also contain a focused element.

Webelhuth (2007) provides another account of the special information structural requirements of fronted constituents, in this case of predicate fronting in English that is based on the interaction of word order and information structural constraints.

- (37) I was sure that Fido would bark and *bark he did*.

The principles that are part of Webelhuth’s account require that in such cases of predicate fronting, the auxiliary is focused and the remainder of the sentence is in the background. The two principles needed for this interaction are shown in (38).

- (38) Predicate preposing phrases (Webelhuth 2007):

$$\begin{aligned} \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{aux-wd} \\ \text{ARG-S } \langle \text{NP}, \text{gap-ss} \rangle \end{array} \right] &\rightarrow \left[ \begin{array}{ll} \text{ss|STATUS } & \text{foc} \\ \text{ARG-S} & \langle [\text{STATUS } \textit{bg}], \text{gap-ss} \rangle \end{array} \right] \\ \left[ \text{pred-prepos-ph} \right] &\rightarrow \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{hd-fill-ph} \\ \text{NON-HD-DTR } [\text{ss|STATUS } \textit{bg}] \end{array} \right] \end{aligned}$$

The first constraint ensures that auxiliary words whose predicate complement has the potential to be preposed (i.e., is of type *gap-ss*) have the information status *focus*, whereas the status of the first argument (the subject) is *background*. Additional constraints then ensure that auxiliary words with a gapped second argument can only occur in predicate preposing phrases, and vice versa, that predicate preposing phrases contain the right kind of auxiliary.

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<sup>18</sup>Bildhauer & Cook (2010: 75) assume that the type *is* as the appropriate value for *is* has several subtypes specifying specific combinations of TOPIC and FOCUS values, such as *pres* for presentational focus or *a-top-com* for assessed topic-comment.

## 7 Information structure and prosody

A lot of languages mark information structure prosodically, like for example English and German, where pitch accents of various shapes are used to mark focus. Accordingly, several of the approaches discussed above include a component which enriches the phonology representation of signs such that it allows the integration of the necessary prosodic aspects like accents.

[Engdahl & Vallduví \(1996\)](#) assume that signs can be marked for particular accents signaling focus or links in English, so-called A and B accents. In a similar way, [De Kuthy \(2002\)](#) extends the value of PHON such that it includes a feature ACCENT, in order to formulate constraints on the connection between accents and information structure markings. Most of approaches discussed above do not include a detailed analysis of the prosodic properties of the respective language that is being investigated with respect to discourse properties. As a result, most approaches do not go beyond the postulation of one or two particular accents, which are then somehow encoded as part of the PHON value. These accents more or less serve as an illustration of how lexical principles can be formulated within a particular theory that constrains the distribution of information structural values on the lexical level. The more articulate such a representation of PHON values including accent pattern, intonation contours, boundary tone, etc. is, the more detailed the principles could be that are needed to connect information structure to prosodic patterns in languages that signal discourse properties via intonation contours.

In [Bildhauer \(2008\)](#), one such detailed account of the prosodic properties of Spanish is developed together with a proposal for how to integrate prosodic aspects into the PHON value, also allowing a direct linking of the interaction of prosody and information structure. In his account, the representation of PHON values in HPSG is enriched to include four levels of prosodic constituency: phonological utterance, intonational phrases, phonological phrases and prosodic words. The lowest level, prosodic words of type *pwrd*, include the feature SEGS, which corresponds to the original PHON value assumed in HPSG, and additional features such as PA for pitch accents or BD for boundary tones, which encodes whether a boundary tone is realized on that word. The additional features UT (phonological utterance), IP (intonational phrase) and PHP (phonological phrase) encode via the typ *epr* (edges and prominence) which role a prosodic word plays in higher level constituents. For example, the feature DTE (designated terminal element) specifies whether the word is the most prominent one in a phonological phrase. A sign's PHON list then contains all *pwrd* objects, and relational constraints de-

fine the role each prosodic word plays in the higher prosodic constituents. This flat representation of prosodic constituency still makes it possible to express constraints about intonational contours associated with certain utterance types. One example discussed in Bildhauer's work is the contour associated with broad focus declaratives in Spanish, which can be decomposed into a sequence of late-rise ( $L^*H$ ) prenuclear accents, followed by an early-rise nuclear accent ( $LH^*$ ), followed by a low boundary tone ( $L%$ ). The constraint introduced to model this contour for declarative utterances thus instantiates the  $BD$  value (boundary tone) of the last *pwnd* (prosodic word) in the *PHON* list to *low*, instantiates a nuclear pitch accent *low-high-star* on this rightmost prosodic word and ensures that a prenuclear pitch accent *low-star-high* is instantiated on every preceding compatible prosodic word. The constraint encoding this is shown in (39).

- (39) Intonational contour of Spanish declarative utterances (Bildhauer 2008: 142):

$$\begin{aligned}
 decl\text{-}tune(\boxed{1}) \leftrightarrow \boxed{1} = \boxed{2} \oplus \left\{ \begin{array}{l} PA \quad low\text{-}high\text{-}star \\ BD \quad low \end{array} \right\} \wedge \\
 \boxed{2} = list(\boxed{BD \quad none}) \wedge \\
 \boxed{2} = list(\boxed{PA \quad none}) \bigcirc list(\boxed{PA \quad low\text{-}star\text{-}high})
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} sign \\ EMBED \quad - \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow [\text{PHON } \boxed{1}] \wedge decl\text{-}tune(\boxed{1})$$

The second constraint in (39) ensures that only unembedded utterances can be constrained to the declarative prosody described above. That this specific contour is then compatible with a broad focus reading is ensured by an additional principle expressing a general focus prominence constraint for Spanish, namely that focus prominence has to fall on the last prosodic word in the phonological focus domain, which, in the case of a broad focus, can be the entire utterance. The principle formulated in Bildhauer's account is shown in (40).

- (40) Focus prominence in Spanish (Bildhauer 2008: 146):

$$\begin{bmatrix} sign \\ CONT \quad \boxed{1} \\ FOC \quad \boxed{1} \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow [\text{PHON list} \oplus (\boxed{UT|DTE \quad +})]$$

Since only words that are the designated terminal element (DTE) can bear a pitch accent, the interplay of the two principles above ensures that in utterances with a declarative contour the entire phrase can be in the focus. These principles thus illustrate nicely not only how lexical elements can contribute to the information structure via their prosodic properties, but also how entire phrases with specific

prosodic properties can be constrained to have specific information structural properties.

The approach of Song (2017) also includes a component that captures the interaction between prosodic properties of utterances and the effect on the information structure. In order to include information structural constraints of the so-called A and B accents in English, several components of Bildhauer's (2008) phonological architecture are adapted for the information structural setup in Song (2017). Among them is the idea that in a phonological phrase (encoded in the feature phonological utterance UT), focus prominence is related to the most prominent word in that phrase, which is encoded via the constraint in (41).

- (41) Prosodic marking of focus (Song 2017: 159):

$$\text{lex-rule} \rightarrow \begin{cases} \text{UT|DTE } \boxed{1} \\ \text{MKG|FC } \boxed{1} \end{cases}$$

Specific lexical principles for the A and B accents then ensure the correct information structural marking and specify which type of element has to be present on the ICONS list. The specification necessary for English A accents that signal focus (here characterized as *high-star*) are shown in (42).

- (42) Focus marking of A accents in English (Song 2017: 160):

$$\text{fc-lex-rule} \rightarrow \begin{cases} \text{UT|DTE} & + \\ \text{PA} & \textit{high-star} \\ \text{MKG} & \textit{fc-only} \\ \text{INDEX} & \boxed{1} \\ \text{INCONS-KEY} & \boxed{2} \\ \text{C-CONT|ICONS} & \langle ! \boxed{2} \left[ \begin{array}{l} \textit{semantic-focus} \\ \text{TARGET } \boxed{1} \end{array} \right] ! \rangle \\ \text{DTR|HEAD} & +nv \end{cases}$$

## 8 Conclusion

I have discussed various possibilities for how to represent information structure within HPSG's sign-based architecture. Several approaches from the HPSG literature were presented which all have in common that they introduce a separate feature INFO-STRUC into the HPSG setup, but they differ in (i) where they locate such a feature, (ii) what the appropriate values are for the representation of information structure and (iii) how they encode principles constraining the distribution and interaction of information structure with other levels of the grammatical architecture. Finally, I discussed a number of theories in which phenomena such as word order are constrained to only be well-formed when they exhibit specific information structural properties.

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## **Part IV**

# **Other areas of linguistics**



# Chapter 25

## Diachronic syntax

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Basic questions of language change concern the what, how, why of a change. The present paper focusses on syntactic change and addresses the question how a representational framework as HPSG can be used to model syntactic change. Taking the history of German as a showcase, different types of morpho-syntactic changes are considered including changes within the verb phrase as well as the noun phrase.

### 1 Dimensions of syntactic change

Syntactic change links the language of two speech communities which are chronologically related such as Old and Modern Norwegian. Only the grammar of the first speech community allows null subjects in restricted contexts, while referential subjects are obligatory in Modern Norwegian. As shown by Kinn (2015), Norwegian changes from a partial null-subject language to a language disallowing null subjects.

- (1) a. Sægir hann þat at æigi man *pro* satt vera. (Old Norwegian)  
says he that that not can [it] true be  
'He says that it cannot be true.'
- b. Han sier at \*(han) ikke kan komme. (Modern Norwegian)  
he says that he not can come  
'He says that he cannot come.'

The reinterpretation of non-subjects as subjects in the history of English provides a second example (Denison 1993): A verb like *langian* 'long for' selects an accusative but no nominative noun phrase in Old English as exemplified in (2).



As shown by the translation, the experiencer argument of the verb *long* has been promoted from object to subject in Modern English.

- (2) þa ongan hine eft langian on his cyþþe (Old English)  
then began him.ACC again long for his native land  
'Then he began again to long for his native land.'

Linking (1a) and (1b) as well as the English versions of (2) in terms of syntactic change would amount to the linking of surface manifestations instead of the underlying grammars. And it is in fact the underlying grammar that is affected by syntactic change triggered by internal and external factors. Internal factors belong to the linguistic system and may be part either of the syntax or any other module of the grammar as the morphology or the lexicon. As regards the syntactic change in the history of English, illustrated above, it may be taken as lexically driven, modifying the argument structure of verbs with experiencer objects, as suggested by (Denison 1993). Lightfoot (1979) on the other hand considers the change to be syntactically driven, i.e. as an effect of the word order change from OV to VO orders in the history of English.

The impact of morphological changes on the syntactic component of the grammar has always been of particular importance in diachronic syntax. Strong correlations are supposed to hold between a rich morphology on the one hand and the possibility of for instance word order variation or null subjects. Thus an attested collapse of case distinctions may be made up by a less variable word order with structural positions conveying the information formerly provided by case markers. The loss of morphology may also be compensated by replacing case marked noun phrases by prepositional phrases with prepositions now providing the relevant information. A pertinent example from English concerns the loss of adnominal genitives as a consequence of the loss of the genitive as a morphological case. While the postnominal genitive phrase is superseded by the *of*-phrase, the prenominal genitive marker is reanalyzed as a clitic (Allen 2006). In Old English, adnominal genitives are attested in pre- and post-head position.

- (3) a. & þær wæs Kola ðæs cyning-es heahgereafa (Old English)  
and there was Kola the.GEN king-GEN high reeve  
'And there was Kola, the king's high reeve.'
- b. þæt wæron þa ærestan scipu deniscra monna þe ... (OE)  
that were the first ships Danish.GEN men.GEN which ...  
'those were the first ships of Danish men which ...'

Syntactic change may also be driven by external factors such as language

processing, information packaging or language contact: According to Hawkins (2004), grammars conventionalize syntactic structures depending on their degree of preference in performance. And the rise of VO patterns in the German variety of Cimbrian is due to its contact with the Italian VO order in the North Eastern part of Italy (Grewendorf & Poletto 2005).

- (4) a. Haütte die Mome hat gebläscht di Piattn. (Cimbrian)  
today the mother has washed the plates  
'Today, mother has washed the plates.'
- b. Heute hat die Mutter die Teller gespült. (Present-day German)  
today has the mother the plates washed

Derivational approaches such as Government and Binding and Minimalism assume that language change happens in the course of first language acquisition. Individual language learners reanalyze the linguistic input they get during the acquisition process, resulting in the resetting of a parameter value (Lightfoot 1979). The nature of parameters has substantially changed from GB to Minimalism: Resetting of a parameter value in terms of GB meant for the loss of null subjects, as illustrated in (1a) and (1b), for instance that the value from the null-subject parameter changed from [+] to [-] in the history of Norwegian. The minimalist view of parameters restricts parametric variation to lexical items in general and to the formal features of functional heads in particular (Borer-Chomsky Conjecture according to Baker (2008)). The null-subject parameter will then be phrased in terms of a feature bundle associated with a functional verbal head with the loss of null-subjects triggered by the absence of particular features. Depending on the range of specific formal features, Biberauer & Roberts (2017) distinguish four types of parameters according to their size: macro-, meso-, micro-, and nanoparameters, with the first type being the most stable one in the development of a language (e.g. rigid head-final or head-initial order). They further claim that formal features are not pre-specified in Universal Grammar but emerge from the interaction of Universal Grammar, primary linguistic data, and general cognitive optimization strategies in the sense of Chomsky (2005). Two principles in particular are suggested by Biberauer & Roberts (2017): (i) feature economy, restricting the acquisition of features to those with robust evidence in the input data, thereby minimizing computation; and (ii) input generalization, requiring to make maximal use of the acquired features. A case in point for the latter strategy are languages with harmonic head-final or head-initial word orders triggered by the generalization of the head parameter. The resetting of parameters in a Minimalist framework is therefore no longer restricted to the linguistic system, but

includes external factors such as acquisition strategies. Since robust evidence in the primary linguistic data is required to allow a particular formal feature to be present in the underlying grammar, its frequency in the linguistic input will play a prominent role. And here further external factors come into play: Processing ease as well as language contact might affect the frequency of individual variants in the lifespan of a speaker, thus modifying her output and consequently the input of language learners. A case in point is the continuous form in Pennsylvania German (Louden 1988): While the pattern is still restricted in Common Pennsylvania German (1850–1950), it is widely spread in Plain Pennsylvania German (since 1950) motivated by the contact with its English counterpart. Another instance is the contact between Low German and Swedish. As shown by Petzell (2016), Swedish scribes of Low German frequently use a VO instead of an OV order, motivated by their L1 language. Such changes might result in changes of the underlying grammar of subsequent generations.

- (5) a. er lasst de Hund los (Common Pennsylvania German)  
       he lets the dog loose  
   b. er is de Hund an los lasse (Plain Pennsylvania German)  
       he is the dog PREP loose let  
       'He is letting the dog loose.'

Under the assumption that syntactic change is triggered by changes affecting the lexicon, one might conclude that there is no such thing as syntactically triggered change, as Biberauer & Walkden (2015) actually suggest. We would then expect that lexicalist approaches to syntactic change such as HPSG or LFG are at least equally well suited as derivational approaches to model syntactic change, cf. Vincent (2001) and Börjars & Vincent (2017) for LFG. The remainder of the paper will hence provide some case studies to illustrate how HPSG can be used to model the way structure can change over time. All case studies are taken from the history of German.

The outline is as follows: Grammaticalization processes are exemplified by the rise auf auxiliary verbs in section 2.1. Changes with respect to word order are addressed in sections 2.2 regarding verb clusters and 2.3 with respect to word order changes within the noun phrase. Overall, section 2.3 is devoted to various changes affecting the left periphery of noun phrases and also touches upon the issue why particular changes happen.

## 2 Case studies

The case studies presented in this section are supposed to exemplify different types of syntactic change. Grammaticalization processes typically give rise to grammatical markers with the development of auxiliary verbs from main verbs figuring as a prominent example. The next section will therefore deal with the emergence of the passive auxiliaries *kriegen*, *bekommen* 'get' and *geben* 'give' in the history of German. A second type of change are word order changes which are the topic of section 2.2, focussing on the order of verbs at the right clausal periphery in German, a syntactic change which has attracted a lot of interest from a descriptive as well as a more formal perspective. The third case study addresses several changes affecting the left periphery of noun phrases, including the grammaticalization of the definite determiner as well as the word order change of adnominal genitives.

### 2.1 Grammaticalization: rise of auxiliary verbs

Grammaticalization processes have an impact on the way grammatical information is marked in a language. Grammatical information such as verbal mood may be expressed either by morphological means as in (6a) or by syntactic means as in (6b) which uses the auxiliary verb *werden* to convey a modal meaning. With the grammatical meaning being alike, a morphological marker such as *-e* in (6) is taken to be further down on the grammaticalization cline as the corresponding auxiliary verb because of its morphological boundedness.

- |   |                      |
|---|----------------------|
| (6) a. Fred ging-e ins Kino.<br>Fred went-SBJV to.the movies                                  | (Present-day German) |
| b. Fred würde ins Kino gehen.<br>Fred SBJV to.the movies go<br>'Fred would go to the movies.' | (Present-day German) |

Further prominent examples of grammaticalization processes involve the rise of negation markers in French such as *pas* from the Latin noun *passus* 'step' or *personne* 'no-one' which both were originally restricted to a positive meaning. A well-known German example for a grammaticalization process is the subordinating conjunction *weil* 'because' evolving from the noun *Weile* 'while'. Grammaticalization typically consists of a reduction in meaning (lexical » grammatical) and in form (syntactic marker » morphological marker).<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Cf. Lehmann (2015) for his seminal work on issues of grammaticalization.

As regards the class of auxiliary verbs in Present-day German, the verbs *kriegen* and *bekommen*, both meaning 'get', are fairly recent members of this class (Reis 1976). They pattern with passive auxiliaries such as *werden* 'get' and *sein* 'be' in German, triggering classic diagnostics for passive constructions: An object of the active counterpart figures as subject of the finite verb in the passive clause, and the subject of the active clause is optionally realized as *von*-PP in its passive equal. A crucial difference to the canonical passive construction concerns the status of the object: It is not the direct but the indirect object which becomes the subject of the passive clause, hence the term *dative passive*.<sup>2</sup> In (7), the indirect object of *sagen* 'tell' was promoted to grammatical subject of *bekommen*, favored by the fact that both verbs select for experiencer arguments although in different slots of their argument structure. The *dass* 'that'-clause can only be understood as an argument of *sagen* 'tell', providing evidence for an analysis of *bekommen* 'get' as auxiliary.

- (7) Ich habe nur gesagt bekommen, dass er Probleme mit den Hinterreifen  
I have only told got that he problems with the rear tires  
hat.  
has

'I was just told that he has problems with his rear.tires.'

Both verbs *kriegen* 'get' as well as *bekommen* 'get' have developed a grammatical meaning alongside their lexical meaning in the recent history of German (Glaser 2005; Lenz 2012). Early examples for their use as auxiliary verbs come from the 16th and the 17th century with both auxiliaries typically combining with past participles of lexical verbs which select for experiencer arguments in object position (*schenken* 'grant', *schicken* 'send'), which may be interpreted as experiencer arguments of the governing predicate. The same holds for the theme argument which may be selected either by the lexical verb or the emerging auxiliary. Examples as in (8) therefore represent the beginning of the grammaticalization process. Diagnostics for the passive construction include the *von*-phrase in (8a) as well as the valency alternation turning the indirect objects of the corresponding active clause into subjects of the passive clause.

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<sup>2</sup>The focus here is on the passive meaning of the verbs in question. Resultative uses of *bekommen*, *kriegen* 'get' are disregarded in the present context. *Selma kriegt die Gleichung gelöst* 'Selma manages to solve the equation', means that *Selma* is an agent argument reaching a particular goal with some effort with the auxiliary conveying an active meaning. Cf. Reis (1985) for a discussion of both types of constructions.

- (8) a. da hatte ich eben ein paar Ducaten vom Herrn geschenkt  
EXPL had I just a few ducats by the master granted  
kriegt  
got  
'I just got a few ducats by the master.'
- b. Es verdrüst sie/ daß du Wein hast geschickt bekommen/ und sie  
EXPL annoys her that you wine have send got and she  
keinen.  
none  
'She is annoyed, because you got wine, but she has not.'

Examples like (8) are taken to represent stage 1 in the grammaticalization process, while examples like (7) are instantiations of stage 2, because the direct object can only be interpreted as argument of the non-finite verb.<sup>3</sup> Stage 3 on the grammaticalization cline includes verbs with a privative semantics, indicating that the emerging auxiliary is grammaticalized to such a degree that indirect objects are no longer restricted to recipient arguments. The use of intransitive verbs like *helfen* 'help' are considered to represent stage 4 on the grammaticalization path (Ebert 1978).

- (9) a. Aber nach einer Woche hatte sie noch nicht einmal die Fäden  
but after one week had she.NOM not again the stitches  
gezogen bekommen.  
removed got  
'After one week, she had not again removed the stitches.'
- b. Sie wollen konkret geholfen bekommen. (PHE/W18.00094)  
sie.NOM want definitely helped get  
'They definitely want to get help.'

The use of *kriegen*, *bekommen* 'get' as passive auxiliaries is attested in all German varieties with stilistic differences between the two verbs.<sup>4</sup> This does not hold for the verb *geben* 'give' which may be used as a passive auxiliary only in certain dialects. Like *kriegen* and *bekommen*, the verb *geben* developed into a passive auxiliary in the recent history of German (Lenz 2007). As (10) shows, the experiencer argument of *mitnehmen* 'give a lift' appears as subject of the auxiliary

<sup>3</sup>These examples provide evidence against the claim that the direct object is assigned a thematic role by both the finite and the nonfinite verb, cf. Haider (1986).

<sup>4</sup>While *bekommen* is used in the standard variety of German, *kriegen* is confined to less formal registers. The verb *erhalten* 'get' is only rarely used as an auxiliary with a passive meaning.

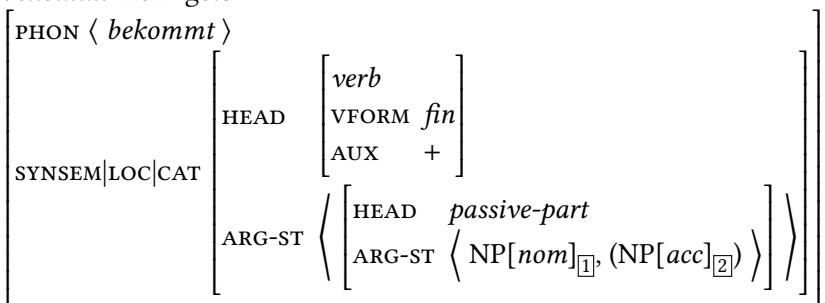
*geben* 'give', while the agent argument is realized by a *von*-phrase as expected in a passive construction.<sup>5</sup>

- (10) De Tobi gebbt vom Yannick mitgehol. (West Central German)  
 the Tobi gives by the Yannick given a lift  
 'Tobi is given a lift by Yannik.'

In a minimalistic framework, grammaticalization processes are modeled as a categorial reanalysis of lexical categories as functional categories or of hierarchically lower functional categories as higher ones in line with the Borer-Chomsky Conjecture (Roberts & Roussou 2003). In many instances, grammaticalization means the loss of features, as predicted by a cognitive optimization strategy as feature economy. How do declarative frameworks such as LFG or HPSG account for this type of change?

An HPSG analysis of the dative passive in Present-day German includes a lexical entry for the passive auxiliary *bekommen* and a lexical rule deriving the lexical entry for a passive verb from its active counterpart. The feature description for the passive auxiliary in (11) captures the fact that auxiliaries are underspecified for their argument structure, i.e. *become* takes as its complement the passive participle and all the complements the passive verb requires. In contrast to the passive participle in the standard passive, participles in dative passive constructions may assign accusative case when an appropriate argument is present. Examples as (9b) have shown that the dative passive is not restricted to ditransitive verbs in Present-day German as has been claimed by Kordoni & van Noord (2009).

- (11) *bekommt*-AUX 'gets':



The passive lexical rule derives the passive participle subcategorized by the auxiliary *bekommen* 'get', illustrated by way of its input and output feature description

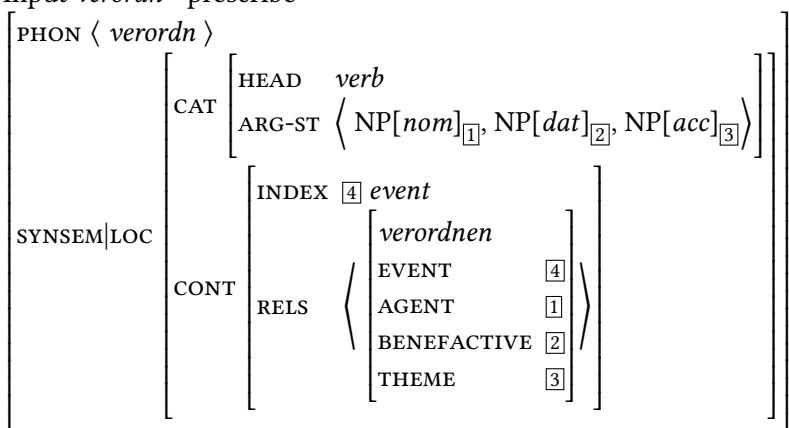
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<sup>5</sup>Thanks go to Christian Ramelli for his native speaker judgment as regards the West Central German variety spoken in the Eastern part of the Saarland.

in (15) and (14), cf. Müller (2018: 285) for the standard passive construction in German. The dative passive rule suppresses the most prominent argument, the agent, of the active verb and promotes the argument marked for dative case by the active verb, the beneficiary, to subject of the passive verb *verordnet* 'prescribed'. The theme argument is not affected by the dative passive rule.<sup>6</sup>

- (12) Er bekommt strenge Bettruhe verordnet.  
 he.NOM gets strict bed rest.NOM prescribed  
 'Strict bed rest was prescribed to him.'

- (13) Input *verordn-* 'prescribe'



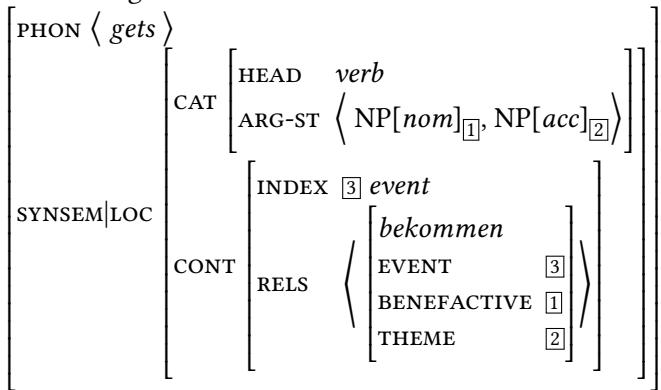
<sup>6</sup> Assuming a lexical rule to derive a passive participle that fits the requirements of the passive auxiliary *bekommen*, results in three different participles, i.e. perfect participle, passive participle for standard passive constructions and passive participle for dative passive constructions. Müller (2018) argues that only one lexical rule is needed to derive the past participle. According to him, the respective auxiliary determines which arguments are realized in a perfect or a passive context. Whether his analysis is better suited to fit the participle data in German does not touch upon the issue of the grammaticalization process illustrated here.

- (14) Output
- verordnet*
- 'prescribed'

PHON < <i>verordnet</i> >	
CAT	HEAD $\left[ \begin{array}{l} \textit{verb} \\ \textit{VFORM } \textit{passive-part} \end{array} \right]$ ARG-ST < NP[nom] <sub>[2]</sub> , NP[acc] <sub>[3]</sub> >
SYNSEM LOC	INDEX [4] <i>event</i> verordnen
CONT	RELS $\left\{ \begin{array}{ll} \text{EVENT} & [4] \\ \text{AGENT} & [1] \\ \text{BENEFACTIVE} & [2] \\ \text{THEME} & [3] \end{array} \right\}$

In view of the analysis of the dative passive in Present-day German, its rise in the history of German may be modeled in terms of a change modifying the CONTENT feature of the verb *bekommen*. Semantic bleaching of the main verb in the course of its grammaticalization process affects above all its argument structure: The lexical verb *bekommen* assigns the thematic role beneficiary to its subject argument and a theme role to its direct object, cf. (15). The auxiliary *bekommen* on the other hand has no lexical meaning and does not assign thematic roles. The rise of the passive auxiliary *bekommen* can be thought of as taking place in two steps: Starting with the lexical verb *bekommen*, the first step includes its semantic bleaching such that the verb admits verbal complements headed by ditransitive verbs denoting a change of possession. The second step is best characterized by the further bleaching of the auxiliary-to-be: Its distribution is no longer governed by a semantic restriction to verbs denoting a change of possession, but only by a syntactic one, because it requires verbs with a dative object in its active counterpart, cf. (9a). Alongside its bleached version, the verb *bekommen* retains its original status as a lexical verb. The diachronic scenario sketched for *bekommen* 'get' is supposed to hold for the other passive auxiliaries as well.

- (15) *bekommt* 'gets':



Other studies on the rise of auxiliary verbs in representational theories of grammar include Schwarze (2001) who models this change within the framework of lexical functional grammar. He suggests to capture the rise of auxiliary verbs in Romance by a difference with respect to the f-structure features in the lexical entries between lexical and auxiliary verbs. In actual Romance, the f-structure of a passive clause is headed by the non-finite verb, while the modern Romance counterparts of *esse* 'be' may no longer function as heads of an f-structure with their transition to auxiliary status.

## 2.2 Word Order Changes in the Verbal Complex

Present-day German is an OV language with the finite verb occurring at the right edge of subordinate clauses. In case more than one verb appears in final position, the canonical order is descending, i.e. V<sub>3</sub>V<sub>2</sub>V<sub>1</sub> with the governing verb following the governed verb as illustrated by the three-place verb cluster in (16). The occurrence of non-canonical orders like V<sub>1</sub>V<sub>3</sub>V<sub>2</sub> is restricted in Standard German with respect to the number of verbs in the cluster (at least three verbs) and the type of auxiliary. While the auxiliary verb *haben* 'have' requires the non-canonical word order, cf. (17a), the tense auxiliary *werden* 'will' and the modal verbs may occur with both orders. As regards the auxiliary *sein* 'be', the non-canonical order is not available (17b).

- (16) Auch wenn Selma die Noten gefunden<sub>3</sub> haben<sub>2</sub> wird<sub>1</sub>,  
 even if Selma the notes found have will  
 'Even if Selma will have found the music'

- (17) a. Auch wenn Fred das hätte<sub>1</sub> wissen<sub>3</sub> müssen<sub>2</sub>,  
even if Fred this had know must  
'even if Fred should have known this'
- b. \*Auch wenn er gestern in der Vorlesung ist<sub>1</sub> gesehen<sub>3</sub> worden<sub>2</sub>,  
even if he yesterday in the lecture is seen been  
'Even if he has been seen in the lecture yesterday'

Neither of these restrictions holds for non-standard varieties of German: Upper German dialects provide ample evidence for both descending and ascending verb orders, even if the verb cluster includes only two verbs (Dubencion-Smith 2010). Likewise historical stages of German witness a wide variety of word orders regardless of the number of verbs appearing in final position and independent of the nature of the auxiliary (Ebert 1981; Härd 1981; Sapp 2011). The Early New High German examples in (18) render attestations for a two-place verbal complex with *haben* preceding a past participle and a three-place verbal complex with the auxiliary verb *sein* preceding two past participles. Both patterns are ruled out in the standard varieties of Present-day German.

- (18) a. uns ist ein Abentüer widerfaren underwegen, daz uns ein Wolff  
us is an adventure happened on the way that us a wolf  
vil Leids hat<sub>1</sub> gethon<sub>2</sub> (Ulenspiegel 226.4)  
much harm has done  
'An adventure happened to us on the way: a wolf has done much  
harm to us.'
- b. so schreibt man auch aus Holl. das newlich in Frießlandt ein  
so writes one also from Holland that recently in Friesland a  
fewriger fliegender Trach sey<sub>1</sub> gesehen<sub>3</sub> worden<sub>2</sub> (Aviso 35.14)  
fiery flying dragon were seen been  
'News come from the Netherlands that a fiery flying dragon has been  
seen in Friesland.'

The restrictions effective in Present-day German arise in a two-step process: The order V<sub>2</sub>V<sub>1</sub> becomes fixed with two-place verbal complexes throughout the 16th century, while it took about a hundred more years for the order V<sub>3</sub>V<sub>2</sub>V<sub>1</sub> to become the canonical order for three-place verbal complexes (Ebert 1981; Härd 1981; Sapp 2011).

How is this change modeled in a representational framework such as HPSG? Auxiliary verbs and their verbal complements as given in (16) through (18) are

supposed to build verb clusters with the arguments of the respective verbal complement being attracted by the auxiliary (Hinrichs & Nakazawa 1994; Pollard 1994; Kathol 2000; Müller 2002; 2008).<sup>7</sup> Accordingly, the structure of a verb cluster exemplifying the canonical descending order can be represented as in the passive verb cluster *dass sie die Fäden gezogen bekam* 'that she had removed the stitches':

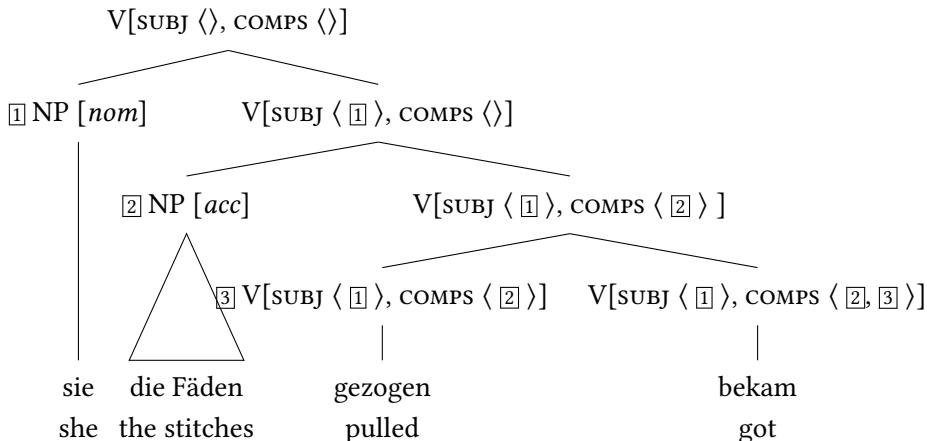


Figure 1: Passive verb cluster in *dass sie die Fäden gezogen<sub>2</sub> bekam<sub>1</sub>*

The variation regarding the order of auxiliary and lexical verb in verb clusters is currently addressed from two perspectives: (i) non-canonical patterns of three-place verb clusters in Present-day German as in (17a) which figure under the notion of *Oberfeldbildung* since Bech (1955), and (ii) the canonical order in Dutch verb clusters which is ascending instead of descending, i.e.  $V_1V_2V_3$ . Building on previous proposals, one way to account for the word order change affecting the verbal complex in the history of German would include the assumption of an appropriate head feature as advocated by Hinrichs & Nakazawa (1994). They emphasize that a lexical approach to the word order within the verb cluster would account also for the variation on the level of individual speakers.

Recent work suggests the head feature GOVR which indicates the direction of government of non-finite verbs and was proposed to capture synchronic variation in German and Dutch (Bouma & van Noord 1996; Kathol 2000; Augustinus

<sup>7</sup>Abeillé & Godard (2002) argue that verbal complements of auxiliary verbs in French are part of a flat VP when the auxiliary conveys tense information, while the passive auxiliary *être* 'be' takes a VP complement.

2015).<sup>8</sup> From a diachronic perspective, one would either assume that infinitival as well as participial complements carry a feature GOVR which is underspecified in earlier stages of German (= GOVR *dir*) allowing for the attested variation of word orders, cf. figure 2, or one would go on the assumption that the head feature GOVR arises only later in the history of German. In the context of example (18b), the value of GOVR may be determined as follows: The participle *gesehen* 'seen' is governed by the auxiliary *worden* 'been' appearing on its right side and the GOVR value of the verb cluster *gesehen worden* is feature shared with its head daughter *worden* which is governed by the auxiliary *worden*.

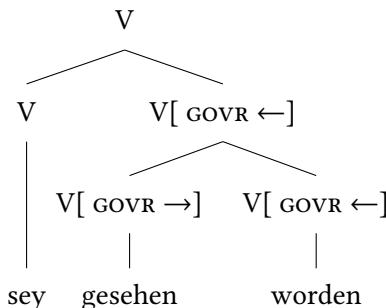


Figure 2: Three-place verb cluster in Early New High German

In Present-day German, a three-place verb cluster including the auxiliary *sein* 'be' exhibits the canonical word order V<sub>3</sub>V<sub>2</sub>V<sub>1</sub>. In contrast to Early New High German, the feature value is provided by the lexical entry of the respective verb. A partial lexical description of the passive participle *worden* 'been' is illustrated below, indicating that its governing auxiliary has to appear on the right side.

- (19) *worden*-AUX 'been':

PHON < <i>worden</i> >	HEAD	verb VFORM <i>passive-part</i>
SYNSEM LOC CAT		
	AUX	+ →

As has been suggested in work on synchronic variation as regards verb cluster in German and Dutch, diachronic variation can be modeled in a straightforward

<sup>8</sup>The head feature suggested by Hinrichs & Nakazawa (1994) is FLIP which indicates government to the right when exhibiting a positive value as in example (17a) above.

way by building on lexical entries of verbs. The analysis of the word order change sketched above makes use of the possibility that a lexical feature may be underspecified in a particular variety of a language.

### 2.3 Left Periphery of Noun Phrases

The third case study presents a bundle of changes affecting the left periphery of noun phrases in the history of German. All changes might be due to a single change as regards the relationship between nominal and determiner (Demske 2001).

The historical record indicates that the distribution of adjectival inflection types is semantically governed in Old High German, i.e. definite determiners trigger weak adjectival inflection, whereas indefinite determiners call for strong adjectival inflection. In (20), the weak declension type is triggered by the demonstrative and the possessive determiner, respectively, while the strong declension type in (21) is motivated by the indefinite pronoun. In contrast to Present-day German the strong declension type is used irrespective of the morphology of the indefinite determiner (cf. *ein* vs. *einemo*). Old High German behaves in this respect as Modern Icelandic.<sup>9</sup>

- (20) a. thiz irdisg-a dal (OHG)  
           this worldly-WEAK valley  
           'this worldly valley'

b. min liob-o sun (OHG)  
       my good-WEAK sun  
       'my good sun'

(21) a. ein arm-az uuîb (OHG)  
       a poor-STRONG woman  
       'a poor woman'

b. einemo diur-emo merigrioze (OHG)  
       a valuable-STRONG pearl  
       'a valuable pearl'

In Present-Day German the distribution of adjectival inflection types is morphologically governed: If grammatical features are overtly marked by the determiner,

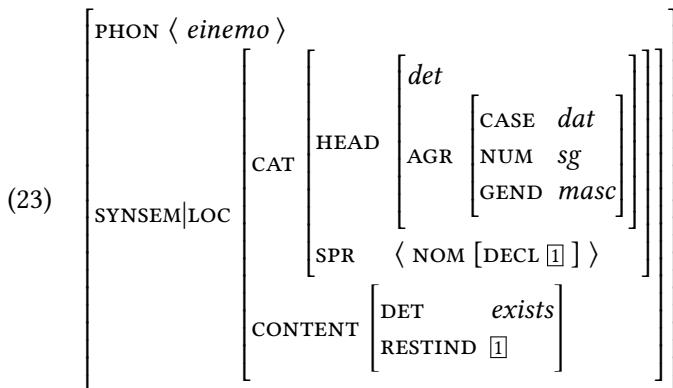
<sup>9</sup>In Modern Icelandic, a definite noun phrase requires a weakly inflected adjective and an indefinite noun phrase a strongly inflected one: *pessi raud-i hestur* 'this red horse' vs. *raud-ur hestur* 'a red horse'.

the following adjective instantiates the weak inflection type, otherwise the adjective exhibits strong inflection (cf. *ein* vs. *einem*).

- (22) a. ein herausragend-er Cellist (PDG)  
       an outstanding-STRONG cellist

b. einem herausragend-en Cellisten (PDG)  
       an outstanding-WEAK cellist  
       'an outstanding cellist'

The changing nature of the relationship between determiner and nominal may be captured by a change in the feature structure of the determiner: In Old High German, it is the **CONTENT** feature of the determiner that drives the distribution of adjectival declension types, in Present-day German on the other hand, the distribution is driven by its **CAT** feature. The feature description of the indefinite determiner Old High German includes as **AGRfeatures** **CASE**, **NUMBER** and **GENDER**<sup>10</sup>. The feature **SPR** indicates that the determiner requires a nominal expression lacking a specifier, i.e. **NOM**([Sag et al. 2003](#)). The index **1** signals the structure sharing of the determiner's **CONTENT** feature with the **DECLfeature** of the nominal expression. Determiner and nominal agree in the following example with respect to indefiniteness.



In Present-day German, the **DECLvalue** of **NOMNO** longer conveys information about its definiteness. The determiner selects for **NOM** according to categorial features: In case the determiner provides information on the **AGRvalue** of the noun phrase, it asks for a weakly inflected **NOMAS** in (24).<sup>11</sup> Otherwise the information

<sup>10</sup>Disregarding the context in (21), the determiner *einemo* may also agree with a neuter noun.

<sup>11</sup>In my view, DECLIS not a HEAD feature of the determiner, since declension type is an inherent feature of determiners. Cf. however Kiss (1995: 72).

in question has to be provided by a strongly inflected NOM.<sup>12</sup>

(24)	<table border="0" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="padding-bottom: 10px;">PHON ⟨ <i>einem</i> ⟩</td><td rowspan="3" style="font-size: 2em; vertical-align: middle; padding-bottom: 10px;">[</td><td rowspan="3" style="font-size: 1.5em; vertical-align: middle; padding-bottom: 10px;">det</td><td rowspan="3" style="font-size: 1.5em; vertical-align: middle; padding-bottom: 10px;">CASE dat</td></tr> <tr> <td style="padding-bottom: 10px;">SYNSEM LOC CAT</td><td style="font-size: 1.5em; vertical-align: middle; padding-bottom: 10px;">HEAD</td><td rowspan="2" style="font-size: 1.5em; vertical-align: middle; padding-bottom: 10px;">AGR</td><td rowspan="2" style="font-size: 1.5em; vertical-align: middle; padding-bottom: 10px;">NUM sg</td></tr> <tr> <td style="padding-bottom: 10px;"></td><td style="font-size: 1.5em; vertical-align: middle; padding-bottom: 10px;">GEND masc</td><td style="font-size: 1.5em; vertical-align: middle; padding-bottom: 10px;">]</td></tr> <tr> <td style="padding-bottom: 10px;"></td><td style="font-size: 1.5em; vertical-align: middle; padding-bottom: 10px;">SPR</td><td style="font-size: 1.5em; vertical-align: middle; padding-bottom: 10px;">⟨ NOM [DECL weak] ⟩</td><td style="font-size: 1.5em; vertical-align: middle; padding-bottom: 10px;">]</td></tr> </table>	PHON ⟨ <i>einem</i> ⟩	[	det	CASE dat	SYNSEM LOC CAT	HEAD	AGR	NUM sg		GEND masc	]		SPR	⟨ NOM [DECL weak] ⟩	]
PHON ⟨ <i>einem</i> ⟩	[	det				CASE dat										
SYNSEM LOC CAT							HEAD	AGR	NUM sg							
			GEND masc	]												
	SPR	⟨ NOM [DECL weak] ⟩	]													

The changing nature of the relationship between determiner and NOM can be modeled by modifying the feature structure of SPR in the lexical description of the determiner. A possible motivation for this change comes from the increasing grammaticalization of the definite determiner: While the determiner is attested above all with sortal concepts in Old High German testifying to its use as a demonstrative, it lacks in cases where the head noun refers to functional concepts that are inherently unambiguous (Demske 2001). The examples in (25) illustrate this distribution: A head noun like *figboum* 'figtree' has a sortal meaning, i.e. its unique referent is specified by the context in (25a), while the noun *erda* 'earth' denotes a functional concept which refers unambiguously irrespective of particular situations (25b). A demonstrative determiner as *ther* 'this one' is hence excluded in such a context.

- (25) a. Inti quad Imo, niomer fon thir uuahsmo arboran uuerde zi éiuuidu  
           thô sâr slumo arthorr&a **ther figboum**. (OHG)  
           'and he saith unto it, Let there be no fruit from thee henceforward for  
           ever. And immediately the fig tree withered away.'
- b. Inti **erda** giruorit uuas Inti steina gislizane uuarun (OHG)  
           'And the earth shook and the rocks were split.'

The rise of weak definites in the course of Early New High German represents a further step in the grammaticalization process of the definite determiner: Relational nouns with their argument in postnominal position may lack any determiner (26a) or they exhibit either the indefinite or the definite determiner (26b, 26c). The third pattern is the default pattern in Present-Day German (Demske 2019).

<sup>12</sup> Pollard & Sag (1994: 373) point out that nouns like *Verwandter* 'relative' support the assumption that DECL is a feature not only of adjectives but also of nouns, because the declension class of these nouns is governed by the respective determiner.

- (26) a. Vnd wie wol ich bin sone eins konigs (ENHG)  
'And though I am the son of a king.'
- b. Sie namen einen Zahn eines Thiers / welches so groß ist wie eine Ratte (ENHG)  
'They took the tooth of an animal which was as big as a rat.'
- c. ich verstunde gleich aus ihrem Diskurs (...) daß ihr Mann beim Senat wäre, und ohngezwiefelte Hoffnung hätte, denselben Tag die Stell eines Landvogts oder Landamtmanns zu bekommen (ENHG)  
'From her conversation I came to discover that her husband was in the senate (...) He was also supposed to have had good expectations of receiving the position of a district governor or a bailiff that very day.'

In Present-Day German, definite determiners are used with sortal, functional and relational nouns, cf. (27), suggesting that the definite determiner is no longer licensed on semantic grounds as in Old High German, but on morphological grounds. The changing distribution of the definite determiner fits nicely the assumption that the specifier relation originally is semantically based and then turns into a morphologically based relationship.

- (27) a. Der Mond ist aufgegangen. (PDG)  
'The moon has risen.'
- b. Sie ist die Tochter eines Unternehmers. (PDG)  
'She is the daughter of an entrepreneur'

The increasing grammaticalization of the nominal left periphery has further effects on pre-head constituents. The demonstrative pronoun *solch* 'such' has either a sortal or an individual reading in older stages of German allowing for singular count nouns to occur without another determiner (28). In Present-Day German, *solch* is restricted to a sortal interpretation and exhibits classical diagnostics for adjectivehood including the requirement of a determiner with singular count nouns (Demske 2005). The developing restrictions governing the use of the demonstrative pronoun *solch* 'such' are easily modeled within a lexical approach, going on the assumption that there are either two lexical entries for the demonstrative in earlier stages of German or that the HEAD feature allows both a SPR as well as a MOD relation between the demonstrative and the nominal head. With the development of the demonstrative *ther* 'this one' into the definite determiner, the demonstrative *solch* conventionalizes its use as a demonstrative adjective while losing the one as a determiner.

- (28) derselbe Landherr hatt an jetzo **solche Türkkin** / weil jhr man nicht zur hand / sondern verreist gewest / wider vnder die Türkken vmb etliche Türkische Teppich vnd andere sachen verkaufft / (ENHG)  
 'this overlord has sold now this Turkish woman to other Turkish people for several Turkish tapestry and other things, because her husband has been abroad.'

A significant role in the history of the left periphery is played by the adnominal genitive. Three stages have to be distinguished in its development: In the first stage, genitive noun phrases systematically appear in prenominal position as attested in OHG sources (29). The genitive is a prenominal complement at this stage indicated by the preceding determiner and adjective as illustrated by the second example. Note that the determiner and the adjective are marked for dative case as required by the initial preposition *in* 'in'.

- (29) a. scouuo<sup>t</sup> thes accares lilia uuvo sie uuahsen (OHG)  
 observe the field's lilies how they grow  
 'Observe how the lilies of the field grow.'  
 b. In dhemu heilegin daniheles chiscribe (OHG)  
 in the holy Daniel's scripture  
 'in the holy scripture of Daniel'

The adnominal genitive of stage two also occurs in prenominal position, provided that it denotes humans or animals, cf. (30). All adnominal genitives marked [-animate] are now limited to postnominal position as testified by historical data from the Early New High German period (Ebert 1988). The prenominal genitive is still a full noun phrase in stage two, allowing not only for pre-head, but also for post-head dependents as shown by the postnominal modifiers in (30), which can be phrasal or sentential.

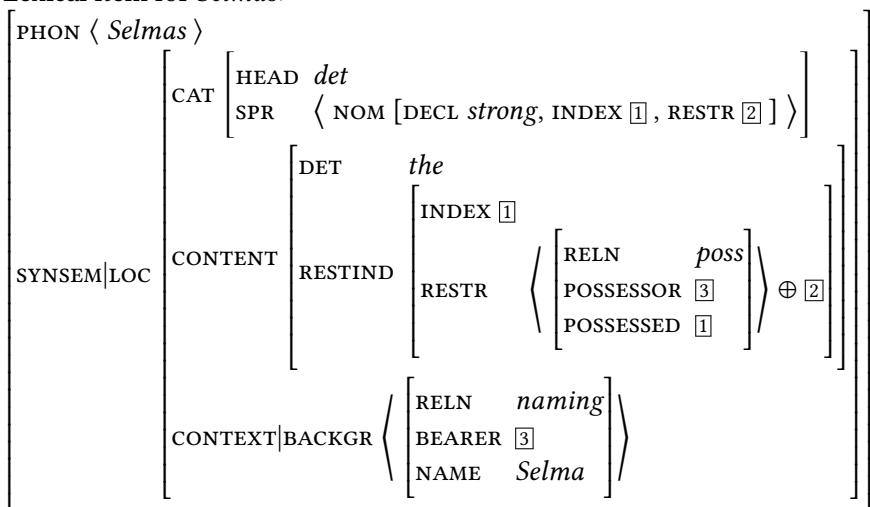
- (30) a. **Der Frawen zu vnseren zeiten** kunst weyßheit vnd tugende ist nit not zu erzelen (ENHG)  
 'The art, wisdom and virtue of women in our days does not need to be recounted'  
 b. Dieser Tagen seyn allhie **der Evangel. Fürsten vnnd Städt/ so zu Schwäbschen Hall jüngst beysamen gewest/ Abgesandte alher kommen** (ENHG)  
 'These days envoys of the Protestant sovereigns and cities have come here, after they have met at Schwäbisch Hall recently.'

The final stage in the development of the adnominal genitive is represented by Present-day German: The prenominal position is restricted to proper names and kinship terms disallowing any pre-head or post-head modifier. Genitive phrases headed by individual nouns appear in postnominal position irrespective of the feature [±animate].

- (31) a. Selmas/Vaters altes Fahrrad  
Selma's/Daddy's old bike
- b. \*der Menschheit ältester Traum  
the mankind's oldest dream
- (32) a. das Gartenhaus des alten Goethe  
the summer house of the old Goethe
- b. \*des alten Goethe Gartenhaus  
the old Goethe summer house  
'the summer house of late Goethe'

The historical scenario sketched for the development of the adnominal genitive fits in well with other changes affecting the left periphery of noun phrases: While the adnominal genitive is a full noun phrase in Old High German functioning as a complement of the head noun, the adnominal genitive is used as a possessive determiner in Present-day German. Again the change can be modeled as a change affecting the relation between a prenominal constituent and the nominal head. The Old High German demonstrative pronouns *ther* 'this one' and *sulih* 'such' conventionalize either an individual or a sortal reading in the history of German. Patterning with the former, the prenominal genitive conventionalizes a determiner relation to the nominal, provided that it can contribute a possessive meaning. Adnominal genitives with the feature [-animate] are consequently postponed and they retain their grammatical function as complements of the head noun. Prenominal genitives on the other hand become possessive determiners establishing a SPR relation to nominals with strong inflection (Pollard & Sag 1994: 54):

- (33) Lexical item for *Selmas*:



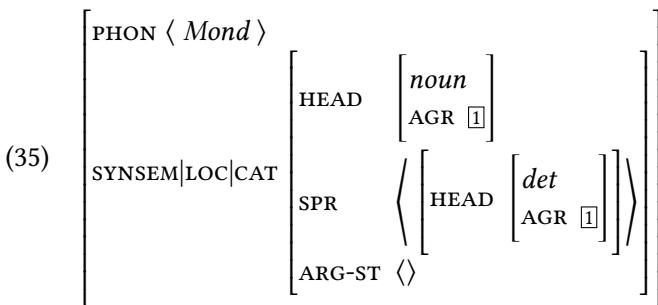
The reanalysis of the relation between prenominal possessive and nominal in the history of German not only affects the pre-head genitive but also the possessive pronoun. In Middle High German and still in Early New High German, the possessive pronoun patterns with adjectives considering its co-occurrence patterns: It may follow a definite determiner and may even agree with another adjective as regards its declension type as in (34a). Here possessive pronoun and adjective both exhibit weak declension triggered by the preceding definite determiner. At this stage in the history of German, the possessive pronoun is still a constituent of the nominal. The Early New High German example in (34b) shows that a possessive pronoun may also follow a prenominal adjective suggesting that it functions as a modifier itself (note also the agreement with respect to declension type between adjective and possessive pronoun). This word order is excluded in Present-day German.

- (34) a. die iuwer-n scoen-en tohter (MHG)  
       the your-WEAK beautiful-WEAK daughter  
       'your beautiful daughter'  
   b. mit gross-em jhr-em Rhum vnd Lob (ENHG)  
       with big-STRONG their-STRONG glory and praise  
       'with their big glory and praise'

Once again, it is the relation between prenominal element and head noun which is subject to change: The possessive pronoun behaves as an adjectival modifier in earlier stages of German, before it becomes a possessive determiner (i.e. MOD

relation develops into SPR relation). According to Pollard & Sag (1994: 54), its lexical description looks very much like the description of the prenominal genitive given above (disregarding the CONTENT and the CONTEXT value).

Changes at the left periphery of noun phrases start with the grammaticalization of the definite determiner throughout the period of Old High German, testified by a widening of its distribution. In Present-day German, not only sortal, but also functional and relational nouns combine with the definite determiner. The steady increase in the use of the determiner triggers a reanalysis of the relation between determiner and nominal: A semantically driven relation turns into a relation that is also morphologically based as evidenced by the changing trigger for the adjectival declension type. The determiner is consequently licensed by the CAT feature in the noun's feature structure as shown for the functional noun *Mond* 'moon' which subcategorizes for its determiner in Present-day German but has not done so in Old High German.



The reanalysis of the relation between determiner and nominal has consequences for the interpretation of other prenominal constituents: Possessive pronouns as well as possessor phrases are likewise taken to instantiate a specifier relation to the nominal in question, thus augmenting the class of determiners in German. In addition, pre-head constituents precluding a specifier interpretation are postponed, cf. genitive complements with [-animate], and pre-head constituents ambiguous between a specifier and a modifier reading are limited to one interpretation, cf. *solch* 'such' behaving as a demonstrative adjective in Present-day German. All changes can be modeled in a straightforward way as lexical changes.

### 3 Summary

Recent years witnessed a growing consensus that syntactic change is best accounted for in the lexicon of a language. The consensus holds across frameworks: Biberauer & Walkden (2015) highlight the role of the lexicon in Minimalism, the

volume by Butt & King (2001) exhibits case studies of syntactic change in the representational framework of LFG. The present contribution set out to show how the typed feature structures of HPSG can be used to model the way syntactic structures change over time. Different types of morpho-syntactic change have been considered in the history of German: the grammaticalization of auxiliary verbs and of demonstrative pronouns, word order changes affecting verb and noun phrases and changing relations between prenominal constituents and the respective nominal. In all cases, the change in question can be modeled in terms of feature structures in the lexicon of a language.

## Abbreviations

## Acknowledgements

## Sources

Include a list the historical sources used in the paper?

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# Chapter 26

## Acquisition

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### 1 Introduction

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*Jonathan Ginzburg*

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## **Abbreviations**

## **Acknowledgements**

# Chapter 27

## Processing

Tom Wasow

Although not much psycholinguistic research has been carried out in the framework of HPSG, the architecture of the theory fits well with what is known about human language processing. This chapter enumerates aspects of this fit. It then discusses two phenomena, island constraints and relative clauses, in which the fit between experimental evidence on processing and HPSG analyses seems particularly good.

### 1 Introduction

Little psycholinguistic research has been guided by ideas from HPSG (but see [Konieczny 1996](#) for a notable exception). This is not so much a reflection on HPSG as on the state of current knowledge of the relationship between language structure and the unconscious processes that underlie language production and comprehension. Other theories of grammar have likewise not figured prominently in theories of language processing, at least in recent decades.<sup>1</sup> The focus of this chapter, then, will be on how well the architecture of HPSG comports with available evidence about language production and comprehension.

My argument is much the same as that put forward by [Sag et al. \(2003: Chapter 9\)](#), and [Sag & Wasow \(2011; 2015\)](#), but with some additional observations about the relationship between competence and performance. I presuppose the “competence hypothesis” (see [Chomsky 1965: Chapter 1](#)), that is, that a theory of language use (performance) should incorporate a grammar representing the

---

<sup>1</sup>Half a century ago, the Derivational Theory of Complexity (DTC) was an attempt to use psycholinguistic experiments to test aspects of the grammatical theory that was dominant at the time. The DTC was discredited in the 1970s, and the theory it purported to support has long-since been superseded. See [Fodor et al. \(1974\)](#) for discussion.



knowledge of language (competence) that is drawn on in everyday comprehension and production, as well as in other linguistic activities, such as language games and the (often artificial) tasks employed in psycholinguistic experiments.

The primary reason for adopting the competence hypothesis is parsimony: a theory of language use is simpler if it does not have to repeat much the same information about the language in both its production and comprehension components. This information would include things like the vocabulary, the preferred word orders, and most of the rest of what linguists encode in their grammars. A performance theory that incorporates a grammar only needs to include such information once.<sup>2</sup> Moreover, to the extent that the theoretical constructs of the grammar play a role in modeling both production and comprehension, the overall theory is simpler.

There is also, however, an empirical reason for preferring a model with a good fit between competence and performance. As noted by [Bresnan et al. \(2001\)](#), preferences that are only statistical tendencies in some languages can show up in others as categorical requirements. The example they discuss in detail is the avoidance of clauses with third-person subjects but first- or second-person objects or obliques. In English, this is a powerful statistical tendency, which they document by showing that the passivization rate in the Switchboard corpus is very significantly lower when the agent is first- or second-person than when it is third-person. In Lummi (a Salish language of British Columbia), this preference is categorical: clauses with third-person subjects but first- or second-person objects or obliques are simply unacceptable. [Hawkins \(2004; 2014\)](#) argues that such examples are by no means exceptional, and formulates the following “Performance-Grammar Correspondence Hypothesis” (PGCH):

Grammars have conventionalized syntactic structures in proportion to their degree of preference in performance, as evidenced by frequency of use and

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<sup>2</sup>There are of course some discrepancies between production and comprehension that need to be accounted for in a full theory of language use. For example, most people can understand some expressions that they never use, including such things as dialect-specific words or accents. But these discrepancies are on the margins of speakers' knowledge of their languages. The vast majority of the words and structures that speakers know are used in both production and comprehension. Further, it seems to be generally true that what speakers can produce is a proper subset of what they can comprehend. Hence, the discrepancies can plausibly be attributed to performance factors such as memory or motor habits. See [Gollan et al. \(2011\)](#) for evidence of differences between lexical access in production and comprehension. See [Momma & Phillips \(2018\)](#) for arguments that the structure-building mechanisms in production and comprehension are the same. For a thoughtful discussion of the relationship between production and comprehension, see [MacDonald \(2013\)](#) and the commentaries published with it.

ease of processing.<sup>3</sup>

There are two ways in which a processing model incorporating a grammar might capture this generalization. One is to give up the widespread assumption that grammars provide categorical descriptions, and that any quantitative generalizations must be extra-grammatical; see Francis (2019) for arguments supporting this option, and thoughtful discussion of literature on how to differentiate processing effects from grammar. For example, some HPSG feature structures might allow multiple values for the same feature, but with probabilities (adding up to 1) attached to each value.<sup>4</sup> I hasten to add that fleshing out this idea into a full-fledged probabilistic version of HPSG would be a large undertaking, well beyond the scope of this chapter; see Linadarki (2006) and Miyao & Tsuji (2008) for work along these lines. But the idea is fairly straightforward, and would allow, for example, English to have *in its grammar* a non-categorical constraint against clauses with third-person subjects and first- or second-person objects or obliques.

The second way for a theory adopting the competence hypothesis to represent Hawkins's PGCH would be to allow certain generalizations to be stated either as grammatical constraints (when they are categorical) or as probabilistic performance constraints. This requires a fit between the grammar and the other components of the performance model that is close enough to permit what is essentially the same generalization to be expressed in the grammar or elsewhere. In the case discussed by Bresnan et al., for example, treating the constraint in question as part of the grammar of Lummi but a matter of performance in English would require that both the theory of grammar and models of production would include, minimally, the distinction between third-person and other persons, and the distinction between subjects and non-subjects. Since virtually all theories of grammar make these distinctions, this observation is not very useful in choosing among theories of grammar. I will return later to phenomena

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<sup>3</sup>In the Bresnan et al. example, I know of no experimental evidence that clauses with third-person subjects and first- or second-person objects are difficult to process. But a plausible case can be made that the high salience of speaker and addressee makes the pronouns referring to them more accessible in both production and comprehension than expressions referring to other entities. In any event, clauses with first- or second-person subjects and third-person objects are far more frequent than clauses with the reverse pattern in languages where this has been checked. Thus, the Bresnan et al. example falls under the PGCH, at least with respect to "frequency of use".

<sup>4</sup>I discussed this idea many times with the late Ivan Sag. He made it clear that he believed grammatical generalizations should be categorical. In part for that reason, this idea was not included in our joint publications on processing and HPSG.

that bear on the choice among grammatical theories, at least if one accepts the competence hypothesis.

Since its earliest days, HPSG research has been motivated in part by considerations of computational tractability (see Flickinger, Pollard & Wasow 2019, Chapter 2 of this volume, for discussion). Some of the design features of the theory can be traced back to the need to build a system that could run on the computers of the 1980s. Despite the obvious differences between human and machine information processing, some aspects of HPSG’s architecture that were initially motivated on computational grounds have turned out to fit well with what is known about human language processing. A prime example of that is the computational analogue to the competence hypothesis, namely the fact that the same grammar is used for parsing and generation. In Section 3, I will discuss a number of other high-level design properties of HPSG, arguing that they fit well with what is known about human language processing, which I summarize in Section 2. In Section 4, I will briefly discuss two phenomena that have been the locus of much discussion about the relationship between grammar and processing, namely island constraints and differences between subject and object relative clauses.

## 2 Key facts about human language processing

In this section I review a number of well-known general properties of human language processing. Most of them seem evident from subjective experience of language use, but there is supporting experimental evidence for all of them.

### 2.1 Incrementality

Both language production and comprehension proceed incrementally, from the beginning to the end of an utterance. In the case of production, this is evident from the fact that utterances unfold over time. Moreover, speakers very often begin their utterances without having fully planned them out, as is evident from the prevalence of disfluencies. On the comprehension side, there is considerable evidence that listeners (and readers) begin analyzing input right away, without waiting for utterances to be complete. A grammatical framework that assigns structure and meaning to initial substrings of sentences will fit more naturally than one that doesn’t into a processing model that exhibits this incrementality we see in human language use.

I hasten to add that there is also good evidence that both production and comprehension involve anticipation of later parts of sentences. While speakers may

not have their sentences fully planned before they begin speaking, some planning of downstream words must take place. This is perhaps most evident from instances of nouns exhibiting quirky cases determined by verbs that occur later in the clause. For example, objects of German *helfen*, ‘help’, take the dative case, rather than the default accusative for direct objects. But in a sentence like (1), the speaker must know that the verb will be one taking a dative object at the time the dative case article *dem* is uttered.

- (1) Wir werden dem Kind bald helfen. (German)  
 we will the.DAT child soon help  
 ‘We will help the child soon.’

Likewise, in comprehension there is ample evidence that listeners and readers anticipate what is to come. This has been demonstrated using a variety of experimental paradigms. Eye-tracking studies (see Tanenhaus, Spivey-Knowlton & Sedivy 1995, Altmann & Kamide 1999, Arnold et al. 2007, among many others) have shown that listeners use semantic information and world knowledge to predict what speakers will refer to next.

Thus, a theory of grammar that fits comfortably into a model of language use should provide representations of initial substrings of utterances that can be assigned (partial) meanings and be used in predicting later parts of those utterances.

## 2.2 Non-modularity

Psycholinguistic research over the past four decades has established that language processing involves integrating a wide range of types of information on an as-needed basis. That is, the various components of the language faculty interact throughout their operation. A model of language use should therefore *not* be modular, in the sense of Jerry Fodor’s influential (1983b) book, *The Modularity of Mind*.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>5</sup>Much of the psycholinguistic research of the 1980s was devoted to exploring modularity – that is, the idea that the human linguistic faculty consists of a number of distinct “informationally encapsulated” modules. While Fodor’s book was mostly devoted to arguing for modularity at a higher level, where the linguistic faculty was one module, many researchers at the time extended the idea to the internal organization of the linguistic faculty, positing largely autonomous mechanisms for phonology, syntax, semantics, and pragmatics, with the operations of each of these sub-modules unaffected by the operations of the others. The outcome of years of experimental studies on the linguistic modularity idea was that it was abandoned by most psycholinguists. For an early direct response to Fodor, see Marslen-Wilson & Tyler (1987).

Some casual observations argue against modular language processing. For example, the famously ambiguous sentences (2a) and (2b) can be disambiguated in speech by the stress patterns.

- (2) a. I forgot how good beer tastes.  
b. Dogs must be carried.

The two meanings of (2a) correspond to two different parses (one with *good* as part of the noun phrase *good beer* and the other with *how good* as a verb phrase modifier). The two meanings of (2b) have the same syntactic structure, but differ in whether the requirement is that all dogs be carried, or that everyone carry a dog. This interaction of prosody with syntax (in the case of (2a)) and with semantics (in the case of (2b)) is produced and perceived before the end of the utterance, suggesting that phonological information is available in the course of syntactic and semantic processing.

Moreover, non-linguistic knowledge influences the disambiguation in both of these cases. If (2a) is preceded by “I just finished three weeks without alcohol”, the natural interpretation of *good* is as a modifier of *tastes*; but following “I just finished three weeks drinking only Bud Light”, *good* is more naturally interpreted as a modifier of *beer*. In the case of (2b), only one interpretation (that anyone with a dog must carry it) is plausible, given our knowledge of the world. Indeed, most non-linguists fail to see the ambiguity of (2b) without a lengthy explanation.

More rigorous evidence of the non-modular character of language processing has been provided by a variety of types of experiments. The work of Michael Tanenhaus and his associates, using eye-tracking to investigate the time-course of sentence comprehension, played an important role in convincing most psycholinguists that human language understanding is non-modular. See, for example, Eberhard et al. (1995), McMurray et al. (2008), Tanenhaus, Spivey-Knowlton, Eberhard, et al. (1995), Tanenhaus et al. (1996), and Tanenhaus & Trueswell (1995). A recent survey of work arguing against modularity in language processing is provided by Spevack et al. (2018).

### 2.3 Importance of words

The individual properties of words play a central role in how people process phrases and sentences. Consider, for example, what is probably the most famous sentence in psycholinguistics, (3), due originally to (Bever 1970).

- (3) The horse raced past the barn fell.

The extreme difficulty that people who have not previously been exposed to (3) have comprehending it depends heavily on the choice of words. A sentence like (4), with the same syntactic structure, is far easier to parse.

- (4) The applicant interviewed in the morning left.

Numerous studies (e.g. Ford et al. 1982; Trueswell et al. 1993; MacDonald et al. 1994; Bresnan et al. 2007; Wasow et al. 2011) have shown that such properties of individual words as subcategorization preferences, semantic categories (e.g. animacy), and frequency of use can influence the processing of utterances.

## 2.4 Influence of context

Much of the evidence against modularity of the language faculty is based on the influences of non-linguistic context and world knowledge on language processing. The well-known McGurk effect (McGurk & MacDonald 1976) and the Stroop effect (Stroop 1935) demonstrate that, even at the word level, visual context can influence linguistic comprehension and production.

Linguistic context also clearly influences processing, as the discussion of examples (2a) and (2b) above illustrates. The same conclusion is supported by numerous controlled studies, including, among many others, those described by Crain & Steedman (1985), Altmann & Steedman (1988), Branigan (2007), Traxler & Tooley (2007), Matsuki et al. (2011), and Spevack et al. (2018). The last of these references concludes (p. 11), “when humans and their brains are processing language with each other, there is no format of linguistic information (e.g., lexical, syntactic, semantic, and pragmatic) that cannot be rapidly influenced by context.”

## 2.5 Speed and accuracy of processing

A good deal of psycholinguistic literature is devoted to exploring situations in which language processing encounters difficulties, notably work on garden paths (in comprehension) and disfluencies (in production). Much more striking than the existence of these phenomena, however, is how little they matter in everyday language use. While ambiguities abound in normal sentences (see Wasow 2015), comprehenders very rarely experience noticeable garden paths. Similarly, disfluencies in spontaneous speech occur in nearly every sentence but rarely disrupt communication.

People are able to use speech to exchange information remarkably efficiently. A successful account of human language processing must explain why it works as well as it does.

### 3 Features of HPSG that fit well with processing facts

In this section, I review some basic design features of HPSG, pointing out ways in which they comport well with the properties of language processing listed in the previous section.

#### 3.1 Constraint-based

Well-formedness of HPSG representations is defined by the simultaneous satisfaction of a set of constraints that constitutes the grammar. This lack of directionality allows the same grammar to be used in modeling production and comprehension.

Consider, for instance, the example of quirky case assignment illustrated in (1) above. A speaker uttering (1) would need to have planned to use the verb *helfen* before beginning to utter the object NP. But a listener hearing (1) would encounter the dative case on the article *dem* before hearing the verb and could infer only that a verb taking a dative object was likely to occur at the end of the clause. Hence, the partial mental representations built up by the two interlocutors during the course of the utterance would be quite different. But the grammatical mechanism licensing the combination of a dative object with this particular verb is the same for speaker and hearer.

In contrast, theories of grammar that utilize sequential operations to derive sentences impose a directionality on their grammars. If such a grammar is then to be employed as a component in a model of language use (as the competence hypothesis stipulates), its inherent directionality becomes part of the models of both production and comprehension. But production involves mapping meaning onto sound, whereas comprehension involves the reverse mapping. Hence, a directional grammar cannot fit the direction of processing for both production and comprehension.<sup>6</sup>

Branigan & Pickering (2017) argue at length that “structural priming provides an implicit method of investigating linguistic representations”.<sup>7</sup> They go on to conclude (p. 14) that the evidence from priming supports “frameworks that ...

<sup>6</sup>This was an issue for early work in computational linguistics that built parsers based on the transformational grammars of the time, which generated sentences using derivations whose direction went from an underlying structure largely motivated by semantic considerations to the observable surface structure. See, for example, Hobbs & Grishman (1975).

<sup>7</sup>Priming is the tendency for speakers to re-use linguistic elements that occurred earlier in the context; structural priming (which Branigan & Pickering sometimes call *abstract priming*) is priming of linguistic structures, abstracted from the particular lexical items in those structures.

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assume nondirectional and constraint-based generative capacities (i.e., specifying well-formed structures) that do not involve movement”.<sup>8</sup> HPSG is one of the frameworks they mention that fit this description.

### 3.2 Surface-oriented

The features and values in HPSG representations are motivated by straightforwardly observable linguistic phenomena. HPSG does not posit derivations of observable properties from abstract underlying structures. In this sense it is surface-oriented.

The evidence linguists use in formulating grammars consists of certain types of performance data, primarily judgments of acceptability and meaning. Accounts of the data necessarily involve some combination of grammatical and processing mechanisms. The closer the grammatical descriptions are to the observable phenomena, the less complex the processing component of the account needs to be.

For example, the grammatical theory of [Kayne \(1994\)](#), which posits a universal underlying order of specifier-head-complement, requires elaborate (and directional) transformational derivations to relate these underlying structures to the observable data in languages whose surface order is different (a majority of the language of the world). In the absence of experimental evidence that the production and comprehension of sentences with different constituent orders involve mental operations corresponding to the grammatical derivations [Kayne](#) posits, his theory of grammar seems to be incompatible with the competence hypothesis.

Experimental evidence supports this reasoning. As [Branigan & Pickering \(2017\)](#) conclude (p. 9), “[P]riming evidence supports the existence of abstract syntactic representations. It also suggests that these are shallow and monostratal in a way that corresponds at least roughly to the assumptions of ... [Pollard & Sag \(1994\)](#) .... It does not support a second, underlying level of syntactic structure or the syntactic representation of empty categories associated with the movement of constituents in some transformational analyses.”

### 3.3 Informationally rich representations

The feature structure descriptions of HPSG include all types of linguistic information relevant to the well-formedness and interpretation of expressions. This

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<sup>8</sup>[Branigan & Pickering](#)’s conclusions are controversial, as is evident from the commentaries accompanying their target article.

includes phonological, morphological, syntactic, semantic, and contextual information. They can also incorporate non-linguistic contextual information (e.g. social information), though this has not been extensively explored.

The local cooccurrence of these different types of information within a single representation facilitates modeling production and comprehension processes that make reference to more than one of them. The architecture of the grammar is thus well suited to the non-modularity and context-sensitivity of language processing. It is interesting in this regard to consider the conclusions of two papers by psycholinguists who surveyed experimental evidence and inferred what types of grammatical information was essential for processing.

The following series of quotes captures the essence of what [MacDonald et al. \(1994\)](#) wrote regarding lexical representation, based on a survey of a wide range of psycholinguistic studies:

- “[T]he lexical representation for a word includes a representation of the word’s phonological form, orthographic form, semantics, grammatical features (including grammatical category), morphology (at least inflectional), argument structure, and X-bar structure.” (p. 684)
- “[T]he connection structure of the lexicon encodes relationships among different types of lexical information.”<sup>9</sup> (p. 684)
- “In addition to constraints that hold between various aspects of lexical representations, sentence and discourse contexts also constrain lexical representations during processing...” (p. 686)

With the possible exception of “X-bar structure”, this sounds very much like a description of the types of information included in HPSG feature structure descriptions.

Over twenty years later, [Branigan & Pickering \(2017\)](#) came to the following conclusions about linguistic representations, based on priming studies:

- “The syntactic representations capture local relationships between a ‘mother’ and its constituent ‘daughter(s)’ (e.g., a VP comprising a verb and two NPs), independent of the larger context in which the phrase appears (e.g., that the VP occurs within a subordinate clause), or the internal structure

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<sup>9</sup>A reviewer asked what feature of HPSG this maps into. The answer is straightforward: a word’s phonological form, semantics, grammatical features, morphology, and argument structure are all represented together in one feature structure description, and the different pieces of the description may be linked through coindexing or tagging.

of the subphrases that constitute it (e.g., that the first NP comprises a determiner, adjective, and noun).” (p. 9)

- “[S]ome elements that are not phonologically represented may be syntactically represented.” (p. 10)
- “Other priming evidence similarly indicates that some semantically specified elements are not specified syntactically.” (p. 11)
- “[T]he semantic level of representation contains at least specifications of quantificational information, information structure, and thematic roles.” (p. 11)
- “Evidence from priming supports a range of mappings between information encoded in the semantic representation and information encoded in the syntactic representation: between thematic roles and grammatical functions, between thematic roles and word order, between animacy and syntactic structure, and between event structures and syntactic structures.” (p. 12)

The two lists are quite different. This is in part because the focus of the earlier paper was on lexical representations, whereas the later paper was on linguistic representations more generally. It may also be attributable to the fact that MacDonald et al. framed their paper around the issue of ambiguity resolution, while Branigan & Pickering’s paper concentrated on what could be learned from structural priming studies. Despite these differences, it is striking that the conclusions of both papers about the mental representations employed in language processing are very much like those arrived at by work in HPSG.

### 3.4 Lexicalism

A great deal of the information used in licensing sentences in HPSG is stored in the lexical entries for words. A hierarchy of lexical types permits commonalities to be factored out to minimize what has to be stipulated in individual entries, but the information in the types gets into the representations of phrases and sentences through the words that instantiate those types. Hence, it is largely the information coming from the words that determines the well-formedness of larger expressions. Any lexical decomposition would have to be strongly motivated by the morphology.

Branigan & Pickering (2017) note that grammatical structures (what some might call *constructions*) such as V-NP-NP can prime the use of the same abstract structure, even in the absence of lexical overlap. But they also note that the priming is consistently significantly stronger when the two instances share the same verb, a fact known as *the lexical boost*. They write, “To explain abstract priming, lexicalist theories must assume that the syntactic representations [...] are shared across lexical entries.” The types in HPSG’s lexicon provide just such representations. Branigan & Pickering go on to say that the lexical boost argues for “a representation that encodes a binding between constituent structure and the lemma ... of the lexical entry for the head.” In HPSG, this “binding” is simply the fact that the word providing the lexical boost (say, *give*) is an instantiation of a type specifying the structures it appears in (e.g. the ditransitive verb type).

Similarly, the fact, noted in Section 2.3 above, that a given structure may be more or less difficult to process depending on word choice is unsurprising in HPSG, so long as the processor has access to information about individual words and not just their types.

### 3.5 Underspecification

HPSG allows a class of linguistic structures that share some feature values to be characterized by means of feature structure descriptions that specify only the features whose values are shared. Such underspecification is very useful for a model of processing (particularly a model of the comprehender) because it allows partial descriptions of the utterance to be built up, based on the information that has been encountered. This property of the grammar makes it easy to incorporate into an incremental processing model.

## 4 Two phenomena of interest

### 4.1 Island constraints

Ever since Ross’s seminal dissertation (1967) introduced the notion of “island constraints”, linguists have sought explanations for their existence, often suggesting that they were motivated by processing considerations (notably Grosu 1972; Fodor 1983a; Deane 1991). The basic idea is that island constraints restrict the search space the parser needs to consider in looking for a gap to match a filler it has encountered, thereby facilitating processing. This then raises the question of whether island constraints need to be represented in grammar (language particular or universal), or can be attributed entirely to processing and/or

other factors, such as pragmatics.

In principle, this question is orthogonal to the choice among theories of grammar. But in recent years, a controversy has arisen between some proponents of HPSG and certain transformational grammarians, with the former (e.g. Chaves 2012 and 2019, Chapter 16 of this volume; Hofmeister & Sag 2010; Hofmeister, Jaeger, Arnon, Sag & Snider 2013) arguing that certain island phenomena should be attributed entirely to extra-grammatical factors, and the latter (e.g. Phillips 2013 and Sprouse et al. 2012) arguing that island constraints are part of grammar.

I will not try to settle this dispute here. Rather, my point in this subsection is to note that a theory in which there is a close fit between the grammar and processing mechanisms allows for the possibility that some island phenomena should be attributed to grammatical constraints, whereas others should be explained in terms of processing. Indeed, if the basic idea that islands facilitate processing is correct, it is possible that some languages, but not others, have grammaticalized some islands, but not others. That is, in a theory in which the grammar is a tightly integrated component of a processing model, the question of whether a particular island phenomenon is due to a grammatical constraint is an empirical one whose answer might differ from language to language.

Early work on islands (e.g. Ross 1967 and Chomsky 1973) assumed that, in the absence of negative evidence, island constraints could not be learned and hence must be innate and therefore universal. But cross-linguistic variation in island constraints, even between closely related languages, has been noted since the early days of research on the topic (see e.g. Erteschik-Shir 1973 and Engdahl & Ejerhed 1982).

This situation is what one might expect if languages differ with respect to the extent to which the processing factors that motivate islandhood have been grammaticalized. In short, a theory with a tight fit between its grammatical machinery and its processing mechanisms allows for hybrid accounts of islands that are not available to theories without such a fit.

One example of such a hybrid is Chaves's (2012) account of Ross's Coordinate Structure Constraint. Following much earlier work, Chaves distinguishes between the “conjunction constraint”, which prohibits a gap from serving as a conjunction in a coordinate structure (as in *\*What did you eat a sandwich and?*) and the “element constraint”, which prohibits a gap from serving as an element of a larger conjunction (as in *\*What did you eat a sandwich and a slice of?*). The conjunction constraint, he argues, follows from the architecture of HPSG and is therefore built into the grammar. The element constraint, on the other hand, has exceptions and,

he claims, should be attributed to extra-grammatical factors. See Chaves (2019), Chapter 16 of this volume for a more detailed discussion of islands.

## 4.2 Subject vs. object relative clauses

One of the most discussed phenomena in the literature on human sentence processing is the difference in processing complexity between relative clauses (RCs) in which the gap is the subject and those in which the gap is the object – or, as they are commonly called, “subject RCs” and “object RCs”; see, among many others, Wanner & Maratsos (1978), Gibson (1998), Traxler et al. (2002), and Gennari & MacDonald (2008). Relative clause processing complexity has been shown to be influenced by a number of factors other than the grammatical function of the gap, including the animacy and pronominality of the overt NP in the RC, as well as the frequency, animacy, and discourse properties of the head of the RC.<sup>10</sup> When these factors are controlled for, however, most psycholinguists accept that it has been established that subject RCs are generally easier to process than object RCs, at least in English.<sup>11</sup>

One approach to explaining this asymmetry has been based on the distance between the filler and the gap (see, among others, Wanner & Maratsos 1978; Gibson 1998; Hawkins 2004). In languages like English, with basic SVO clause order and RCs that follow the nouns they modify, the distance between the filler (the relativizer or head noun) and the gap is greater for an object gap than for a subject gap. If holding a filler in memory until the gap is encountered puts an extra burden on the processor, this could explain why object RCs are harder to process than subject RCs. This distance-based account makes an interesting prediction

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<sup>10</sup>The stimuli in the experimental studies on this topic always have RCs with one overt NP, either in subject or object position and a gap corresponding to the other grammatical function. In most of the studies, that NP is non-pronominal and animate. See Reali & Christiansen (2007) and Roland et al. (2012) for evidence of the role of these factors in processing complexity.

<sup>11</sup>This processing difference corresponds to the top end of the “accessibility hierarchy” that Keenan & Comrie (1977) proposed as a linguistic universal. Based on a diverse sample of 50 languages, they proposed the hierarchy below, and hypothesized that any language allowing RC gaps at any point in the hierarchy would allow RC gaps at all points higher (to the left) on the hierarchy.

Subject > Direct Object > Indirect Object > Oblique > Genitive > Object of Comparison

Keenan & Comrie speculated that the generality of this hierarchy of relativizability lay in processing, specifically on the comprehension side. The extensive experimental evidence that has been adduced in support of this idea in the intervening decades has been concentrated on subject RCs vs. (direct) object RCs. The remainder of the hierarchy remains largely untested by psycholinguists.

for languages with different word orders. In languages like Japanese with SOV order and RCs that precede the nouns they modify, the distance relationships are reversed – that is, the gaps in object RCs are closer to their fillers than those in subject RCs. The same is true of Chinese, with basic SVO order and RCs that precede the nouns they modify. So the prediction of distance-based accounts of the subject/object RC processing asymmetry is that it should be reversed in these languages.

The experimental evidence on this prediction is somewhat equivocal. While Hsiao & Gibson (2003) found a processing preference for object RCs over subject RCs in Chinese, their findings were challenged by Lin & Bever (2006) and Vasishth et al. (2013), who claimed that Chinese has a processing preference for subject RCs. In Japanese, Miyamoto & Nakamura (2003) found that subject RCs were processed more easily than object RCs. The issue remains controversial, but, for the most part, the evidence has not supported the idea that the processing preference between subject RCs and object RCs varies across languages with different word orders.

The most comprehensive treatment of English RCs in HPSG is Sag (1997). Based entirely on distributional evidence, Sag's analysis treats (finite) subject RCs as fundamentally different from RCs whose gap does not function as the subject of the RC. The difference is that the SLASH feature, which encodes information about long-distance dependencies in HPSG, plays no role in the analysis of subject RCs. Non-subject RCs, on the other hand, involve a non-empty SLASH value in the RC.<sup>12</sup>

Sag deals with a wide variety of kinds of RCs. From the perspective of the processing literature, the two crucial kinds are exemplified by (5a) and (5b), from Gibson (1998).

- (5)    a. The reporter who attacked the Senator admitted the error.
- b. The reporter who the Senator attacked admitted the error.

A well-controlled experiment on the processing complexity of subject and object RCs must have stimuli that are matched in every respect except the role of the gap in the RC. Thus, the conclusion that object RCs are harder to process than subject RCs is based on a wide variety of studies using stimuli like (5). Sag's analysis of (5a) posits an empty SLASH value in the RC, whereas his analysis of (5b) posits a non-empty SLASH value.

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<sup>12</sup>The idea that at least some subject gaps differ in this fundamental way from non-subject gaps goes back to Gazdar (1981).

There is considerable experimental evidence supporting the idea that unbounded dependencies – that is, what HPSG encodes with the SLASH feature – add to processing complexity; see, for example, Wanner & Maratsos (1978), King & Just (1991), Kluender & Kutas (1993), and Hawkins (1999). Combined with Sag’s HPSG analysis of English RCs, this provides an explanation of the processing preference of subject RCs over object RCs. On such an account, the question of which other languages will exhibit the same preference boils down to the question of which other languages have the same difference in the grammar of subject and object RCs. At least for English, this is a particularly clear case in which the architecture of HPSG fits well with processing evidence.

## 5 Conclusion

This chapter opened with the observation that HPSG has not served as the theoretical framework for much psycholinguistic research. The observations in Sections 2 through 4 argue for rectifying that situation. The fit between the architecture of HPSG and what is known about human sentence processing suggests that HPSG could be used to make processing predictions that could be tested in the lab.

To take one example, the explanation of the processing asymmetry between subject and object RCs offered above is based on a grammatical difference in the HPSG analysis: all else being equal, expressions with non-empty SLASH values are harder to process than those with empty SLASH values. Psycholinguists could test this idea by looking for other cases of phenomena that look superficially very similar but whose HPSG analyses differ with respect to whether SLASH is empty. One such case occurs with pairs like Chomsky’s famous minimal pair in (6).

- (6)    a. Chris is eager to please.
- b. Chris is easy to please.

Under the analysis of Pollard & Sag (1994), *to please* in (6b) has a non-empty SLASH value but an empty SLASH value in (6a). Processing (6a) should therefore be easier. This prediction could be tested experimentally, and modern methods such as eye-tracking could pinpoint the locus of any difference in processing complexity to determine whether it corresponds to the region where the grammatical analysis involves a difference in SLASH values.

The current disconnect between theoretical investigations of language structure and psycholinguistic studies is an unfortunate feature of our discipline. Because HPSG comports so well with what is known about processing, it could

serve as the basis for a reconnection between these two areas of study.

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## Chapter 28

# Computational linguistics and grammar engineering

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We discuss the relevance of HPSG for computational linguistics, and the relevance of computational linguistics for HPSG, including: the theoretical and computational infrastructure required to carry out computational studies with HPSG; computational resources developed within HPSG; how those resources are deployed, for both practical applications and linguistic research; and finally, a sampling of linguistic insights achieved through HPSG-based computational linguistic research.

## 1 Introduction

From the inception of HPSG in the 1980s, there has been a close integration between theoretical and computational work (for an overview, see [Flickinger, Pollard & Wasow 2019](#), Chapter 2 of this volume). In this chapter, we discuss computational work in HPSG, starting with the infrastructure that supports it (both theoretical and practical) in Section 2. Next we describe several existing large-scale projects which build HPSG or HPSG-inspired grammars (see Section 3) and the deployment of such grammars in applications including both those within linguistic research and otherwise (see Section 4). Finally, we turn to linguistic insights gleaned from broad-coverage grammar development (see Section 5).



## 2 Infrastructure

### 2.1 Theoretical considerations

There are several properties of HPSG as a theory that make it well-suited to computational implementation. First, the theory is kept separate from the formalism: the formalism is expressive enough to encode a wide variety of possible theories. While some theoretical work does argue for or against the necessity of particular formal devices (e.g., the shuffle operator (Reape 1994)), much of it proceeds within shared assumptions about the formalism. This is in contrast to work in the context of the Minimalist Program (Chomsky 1995), where theoretical results are typically couched in terms of modifications to the formalism itself. From a computational point of view, the benefit of differentiating between theory and formalism is that the formalism is relatively stable. That enables the development and maintenance of software systems that target the formalism (Boguraev et al. 1988), such as software for parsing, generation, and grammar exploration (see Section 3 below for some examples).<sup>1</sup>

A second important property of HPSG that supports a strong connection between theoretical and computational work is an interest in both so-called “core” and so-called “peripheral” phenomena. Most implemented grammars are built with the goal of handling naturally occurring text.<sup>2</sup> This means that they will need to handle a wide variety of linguistic phenomena not always treated in theoretical syntactic work (Baldwin et al. 2005). A syntactic framework that excludes research on “peripheral” phenomena as uninteresting provides less support for implementational work than does one, like HPSG or Construction Grammar, that values such topics (for a comparison of HPSG and Construction Grammar, see Müller 2019c, Chapter 36 of this volume).

Finally, the type hierarchy characteristic of HPSG lends itself well to developing broad-coverage grammars which are maintainable over time (see Sygal & Wintner 2011). The use of the type hierarchy to manage complexity at scale comes out of the work of Flickinger (1987) and others at in the project where HPSG was originally developed. The core idea is that any given constraint is (ideally) expressed only once on types which serve as supertypes to all entities that bear

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<sup>1</sup>There are implementations of Minimalism, notably Stabler 1997 and Herring 2016. (See also Torr et al. 2019 for a recent broad-coverage, treebank-trained parser in this framework.) However, implementing a theory requires fixing the formalism, and so these implementations are unlikely to be useful for testing theoretical ideas as the theory moves on.

<sup>2</sup>It is possible, but less common, to do implementation work strictly against test suites of sentences constructed specifically to focus on phenomena of interest.

that constraint.<sup>3</sup> Such constraints might represent broad generalizations that apply to many entities or relatively narrow, idiosyncratic properties that apply to only a few. By isolating any given constraint on one type (as opposed to repeating it in multiple places), we build grammars that are easier to update and adapt in light of new data that require refinements to constraints. Having a single locus for each constraint also makes the types a very useful target for documentation (Hashimoto et al. 2008) and grammar exploration (Letcher 2018).

## 2.2 Practical considerations

HPSG allows practical implementations because it uses a well-defined formalism. Furthermore, because HPSG is defined to be bi-directional, an implemented grammar can be used for both parsing and generation. In this section, we discuss how HPSG allows tractable algorithms, which enables linguists to empirically test hypotheses and which also enables HPSG grammars to be used in a range of applications, as we will see in Sections 4.1 and 4.2, respectively.

### 2.2.1 Computational complexity

One way to measure how easy or difficult it is to use a syntactic theory in practical computational applications is to consider the *computational complexity*<sup>4</sup> of parsing and generation algorithms (Gazdar & Pullum 1985). Computational complexity includes both how much memory and how much computational time a parsing algorithm needs to process a particular sentence.<sup>5</sup> Considering parsing time, longer sentences will take longer to process, but the more complex the algorithm is, the more quickly the amount of processing time increases. Parsing complexity can thus be measured by considering sentences containing  $n$  tokens, and then increasing  $n$  to see how the amount of time changes. This can be done based on the average amount of time for sentences in a corpus (average-case

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<sup>3</sup>Originally this only applied to lexical entries in Flickinger's work. Now it also applies to phrase structure rules, lexical rules, and types below the level of the sign which are used in the definition of all of these. See Flickinger, Pollard & Wasow 2019, Chapter 2 of this volume for further discussion.

<sup>4</sup>Computational complexity is related to the complexity hierarchy of language classes in formal language theory. More complex language classes tend to require parsing and generation algorithms with higher computational complexity, but this relationship is not exact. For example, the class of strictly local languages is a proper subset of the class of regular languages, but both classes can be parsed in linear time. Müller (2019b: ch. 17) discusses HPSG from the point of view of formal language theory.

<sup>5</sup>In this section, we only consider parsing algorithms, but a similar analysis can be done for generation (e.g., Carroll et al. 1999).

complexity), or based on the longest amount of time for all theoretically possible sentences (worst-case complexity).

At first sight, analyzing computational complexity would seem to paint HPSG in a bad light, because the formalism allows us to write grammars which can be arbitrarily complex; in technical terminology, the formalism is *Turing-complete* (Johnson 1988: Section 3.4). However, as discussed in the previous section, there is a clear distinction between theory and formalism. Although the HPSG formalism rules out the possibility of efficient algorithms that could cope with any possible feature-structure grammar, a particular theory (or a particular grammar) might well allow efficient algorithms.

Keeping processing complexity manageable is handled differently in other computationally-friendly frameworks, such as Combinatory Categorial Grammar (CCG),<sup>6</sup> or Tree Adjoining Grammar (TAG; Joshi 1987; Schabes et al. 1988). The formalisms of CCG and TAG inherently limit computational complexity: for both of them, as the sentence length  $n$  increases, worst-case parsing time is proportional to  $n^6$  (Kasami et al. 1989). This is a deliberate feature of these formalisms, which aim to be just expressive enough to capture human language, and not any more expressive. Building this kind of constraint into the formalism itself highlights a different school of thought from HPSG. Indeed, Müller (2015: 64) explicitly argues in favor of developing linguistic analyses first, and improving processing efficiency second. As discussed above in Section 2.1, separating the formalism from the theory means that the formalism is stable, even as the theory develops.

It would be beyond the scope of this chapter to give a full review of parsing algorithms, but it is instructive to give an example. For grammars that have a context-free backbone (every analysis can be expressed as a phrase-structure tree plus constraints between mother and daughter nodes), it is possible to adapt the standard *chart-parsing* algorithm Kay (1973) for context-free grammars. The basic idea is to parse “bottom-up”, starting by finding analyses for each token in the input, and then finding analyses for increasingly longer sequences of tokens (called *spans*, until the parser reaches the entire sentence.

For a context-free grammar, there is a finite number of nonterminal symbols, and each span is analyzed as a subset of the nonterminals. For a feature-structure grammar, each span must be analyzed as a set of feature structures,<sup>7</sup> which makes

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<sup>6</sup>For an introduction, see Steedman & Baldridge (2011). For a comparison with HPSG, see Kubota 2019, Chapter 33 of this volume.

<sup>7</sup>Much theoretical work in HPSG, including Pollard & Sag (1994), distinguishes between fully resolved feature structures and possibly underspecified feature structure descriptions. Much

the algorithm more complicated. In principle, a grammar may allow an infinite number of possible feature structures, for example if it includes recursive unary rules. However, if we can bound the number of possible feature structures as  $C$ , then the worst-case parsing time is proportional to  $C^2 n^{\rho+1}$ , where  $\rho$  is the maximum number of children in a phrase-structure rule (Carroll 1993: Section 3.2.3). This is less complex than for an arbitrary grammar (which means that this class of grammars is *not* Turing-complete), but  $C$  may nonetheless be very large.

But is the number of possible feature structures bounded in implemented HPSG grammars? For DELPH-IN grammars (see Section 3.2), the answer is yes. Assuming a system without relational constraints, the potential for unboundedness in the number of feature structures stems from the potential for recursion in feature paths: A listslist is a simple example,<sup>8</sup> and as another example, the elements on a COMPS list also include the feature COMPS.

However, in practice, such recursive paths do not need to be considered by the parsing algorithm. For example, selecting heads might place constraints on their complements' subjects (e.g., in raising/control constructions),<sup>9</sup> but no further than that (e.g., a complement's complement's subject). Similarly, while lists that are potentially unbounded in length are used in semantic representations, these are never involved in constraining grammaticality. The only lists that constrain grammaticality are valence lists, but in practical grammars these are never greater than length four or five.<sup>9</sup>

When parsing real corpora, it turns out that the average-case complexity<sup>10</sup> is much better than might be expected (Carroll 1994). On the one hand, grammatical constructions do not generally combine in the worst-case way, and on the other hand, when a grammar writer is confronted with multiple possible analyses for a particular construction, they may opt for the analysis that is more efficient for a particular parsing algorithm (Flickinger 2000). To measure the effi-

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computational work, by contrast, operates entirely with partially specified feature structures, at both the level of grammar and the level of analyses licensed by the grammar. In keeping with this tradition, we use the term “feature structure” to refer to both fully specified and partially specified objects, and have no need for the term “feature structure description”.

<sup>8</sup>More precisely, in the standard implementation of a list as a feature structure, the type *list* has two subtypes *null* and *non-empty-list*, and *non-empty-list* has the features FIRST and REST, where the value of REST is of type *list*. The value of REST can itself have the feature REST.

<sup>9</sup>In part, this is because DELPH-IN does not adopt proposals like the DEPS list of Bouma, Malouf & Sag (2001). Furthermore, in many DELPH-IN grammars, including the ERG, the SLASH list cannot have more than one element. If an unbounded SLASH list is required (such as to model cross-serial dependencies), the number of possible structures might still be bounded as a function of sentence length; this would allow us to bound worst-case parsing complexity, but it will be a higher bound.

ciency of grammars and parsing algorithms in practice, it can be helpful to use a test suite composed of a representative sample of sentences (Oepen & Flickinger 1998).

### 2.2.2 Parse ranking

Various kinds of ambiguity are well-known in linguistics (such as modifier attachment and part-of-speech assignment), to the point that examples like (1) are stock in trade:

- (1) a. I saw the kid with the telescope.  
b. Visiting relatives can be annoying.

A well-constructed grammar should be expected to return multiple parses for each ambiguous sentence.

However, people are naturally very good at resolving ambiguity, which means most ambiguity is not apparent, even to linguists. It is only with the development of large-scale grammars that the sheer scale of ambiguity has become clear. For example, (2) might seem unambiguous, but there is a second reading, where *my favorite* is the topicalized object of *speak*, which would mean that town criers generally speak the speaker's favorite thing (perhaps a language) clearly. There is also a third, even more implausible reading, where *my favorite town* is the topicalized object. Such implausible readings don't easily come to mind, and in fact, the 2018 version of the English Resource Grammar (ERG; Flickinger 2000; 2011) gives a total of 21 readings for this sentence. With increasingly long sentences, such ambiguities stack up very quickly. For (3), the first line of a newspaper article,<sup>10</sup> the ERG gives 35,094 readings.

- (2) My favorite town criers speak clearly.
- (3) A small piece of bone found in a cave in Siberia has been identified as the remnant of a child whose mother was a Neanderthal and father was a Denisovan, a mysterious human ancestor that lived in the region.

While exploring ambiguity can be interesting for a linguist, typical practical applications require just one parse per input sentence and specifically the parse that best reflects the intended meaning (or only the top few parses, in case the one put forward as "best" might be wrong). Thus, what is required is a *ranking*

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<sup>10</sup><https://www.theguardian.com/science/2018/aug/22/offspring-of-neanderthal-and-denisorvan-identified-for-first-time>, accessed 16 August 2019

of the parses, so that the application can only use the most highly-ranked parse, or the top  $N$  parses.

Parse ranking is not usually determined by the grammar itself, because of the difficulty of manually writing disambiguation rules.<sup>11</sup> Typically, a statistical system is used (Toutanova et al. 2002; 2005). First, a corpus is *treebanked*: for each sentence in the corpus, an annotator (often the grammar writer) chooses the best parse, out of all parses produced by the grammar. The set of all parses for a sentence is often referred to as the *parse forest*, and the selected best parse is often referred to as the *gold standard* or *gold parse*. Given the gold parses for the whole corpus, a statistical system is trained to predict the gold parse from a parse forest, based on many features<sup>12</sup> of the parse. From the example in (2), a number of different features all influence the preferred interpretation: the likelihood of a construction (such as topicalization), the likelihood of a valence frame (such as transitive *speak*), the likelihood of a collocation (such as *town crier*), the likelihood of a semantic relation (such as speaking a town), and so on.

Because of the large number of possible parses, it can be helpful to *prune* the search space: rather than ranking the full set of parses, ranking is restricted to a smaller set of parses. Carefully choosing how to restrict the parser’s attention can drastically reduce processing time without hurting parsing accuracy, as long as the algorithm for selecting the subset includes the correct parse sufficiently frequently. One method, called *supertagging*,<sup>13</sup> exploits the fact that HPSG is a lexicalized theory: choosing the correct lexical entry brings in rich information that can be exploited to rule out many possible parses. Thus if the correct lexical entry can be chosen prior to parsing (e.g., on the basis of the prior and following words), the range of possible analyses the parser must consider is drastically reduced. Although there is a chance that the supertagger will predict the wrong lexical entry, using a supertagger can often improve parsing accuracy, by ruling out parses that the parse-ranking model might incorrectly rank too high. Supertagging was first applied to HPSG by Matsuzaki et al. (2007), building on pre-

<sup>11</sup>In fact, in earlier work, this task was undertaken by hand. One of the authors (Bender) had the job of maintaining rule weights in addition to developing the Jacy grammar (Siegel, Bender & Bond 2016) at YY Technologies in 2001–2002. No systematic methodology for determining appropriate weights was available and the system was both extremely brittle (sensitive to any changes in the grammar) and next to impossible to maintain.

<sup>12</sup>In the machine-learning sense of “feature”, not the feature-structure sense.

<sup>13</sup>The term *supertagging*, due to Bangalore & Joshi (1999), refers to *part-of-speech tagging*, which predicts a part-of-speech for each input token, from a relatively small set of part-of-speech tags. Supertagging is “super”, in that it predicts detailed lexical entries, rather than simple parts of speech.

vious work for TAG (Bangalore & Joshi 1999) and CCG (Clark & Curran 2004). To allow multi-word expressions (such as *by and large*), where the grammar assigns a single lexical entry to multiple tokens, Dridan (2013) proposes an extension of supertagging, called *ubertagging*, which jointly predicts both a segmentation of the input and supertags for those segments. Dridan manages to increase parsing speed by a factor of four, while also improving parsing accuracy.

Finally, in order to train these statistical systems, we need to first annotate a treebank. When there are many parses for a sentence, it can be time-consuming to select the best parse. To efficiently use an annotator’s time, it can be helpful to use *discriminants*, properties which hold for some parses but not for others (Carter 1997). For example, discriminants might include whether to analyze an ambiguous token as a noun or a verb, or where to attach a prepositional phrase. This approach to treebanking also means that annotations can be re-used when the grammar is updated (Oepen et al. 2004; Flickinger et al. 2017). For more on treebanking, see Section 4.1.4.

### 2.2.3 Semantic dependencies

In practical applications of HPSG grammars, the full phrase-structure trees and the full feature structures are often unwieldy, containing far more information than necessary for the task at hand. It is therefore often desirable to extract a concise semantic representation.

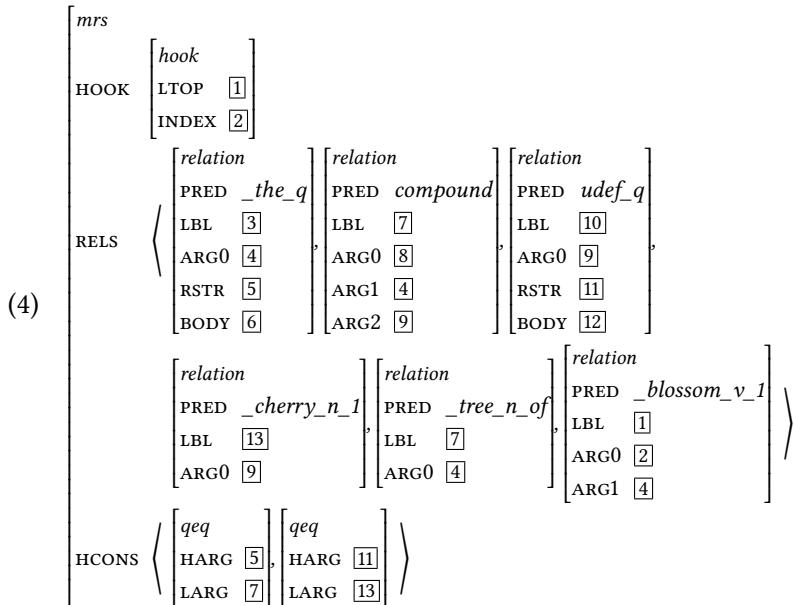
In computational linguistics, a popular approach to semantics is to represent the meaning of a sentence as a *dependency graph*, as this enables the use of graph-based algorithms.<sup>14</sup> Several types of dependency graph have been proposed based on Minimal Recursion Semantics (MRS; Copstake et al. 2005), with varying levels of simplification. Oepen & Lønning (2006) observe that if every predicate has a unique *intrinsic argument*, an MRS can be converted to a variable-free semantic representation, by replacing each reference to a variable with a reference to the corresponding predicate. They present Elementary Dependency Structures (EDS), semantic graphs which maintain predicate-argument structure but discard some scope information. (For many applications, scope information is less important than predicate-argument structure.) Copstake (2009) builds on this idea to create a more expressive graph-based representation called Dependency Minimal Recursion Semantics (DMRS), which is fully interconvertible

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<sup>14</sup>In this section, we are concerned with *semantic* dependencies. For *syntactic* dependencies, see Hudson 2019, Chapter 35 of this volume. Some practical applications of HPSG use syntactic dependencies (including many applications of the Alpino grammar, discussed in Section 3.3.1).

with MRS.<sup>15</sup> This expressivity is achieved by adding annotations on the edges to indicate scope information. Finally, DELPH-IN MRS Dependencies (DM; Ivanova et al. 2012) express predicate-argument structure purely in terms of the surface tokens, without introducing any abstract predicates.

For example, the English Resource Grammar (ERG) produces the MRS representation in (4) for the sentence *The cherry tree blossomed*. For simplicity, we have omitted some details, including features such as number and tense, individual constraints (ICONS), and the use of difference lists. By convention, DELPH-IN predicates beginning with an underscore correspond to a lexical item, and have a three-part format, consisting of a lemma, a part-of-speech tag, and (optionally) a sense. Predicates without an initial underscore are abstract predicates. The *qeq* constraints (equality modulo quantifiers) are scopal relationships, where quantifiers may possibly intervene (for details, see Copestake et al. 2005 or Koenig & Richter 2019, Chapter ?? of this volume).

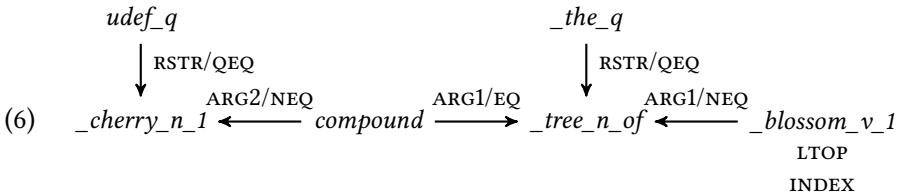


For readability, it can be easier to express an MRS in a more abstract mathematical form, as shown in (5). This is equivalent to the feature structure in (4).

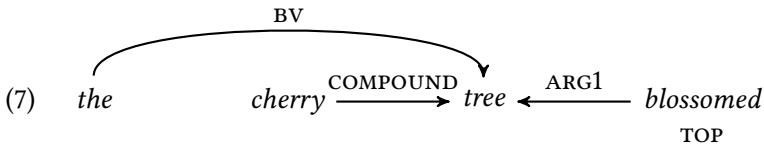
<sup>15</sup>More precisely, for DMRS and MRS to be fully interconvertible, every predicate (except for quantifiers) must have an intrinsic argument, and every variable must be the intrinsic argument of exactly one predicate.

- INDEX:  $e_1$
- $$(5) \quad \begin{aligned} l_1 &: \text{\_the\_}q(x_1, h_1, h_2), h_1 \text{ QEQ } l_4 \\ l_2 &: \text{\_def\_}q(x_2, h_3, h_4), h_3 \text{ QEQ } l_3 \\ l_3 &: \text{\_cherry\_}n\text{\_}1(x_2) \\ l_4 &: \text{\_tree\_}n\text{\_}of(x_1), \text{\_compound}(e_2, x_1, x_2) \\ \text{LTOP}, l_5 &: \text{\_blossom\_}v\text{\_}1(e_1, x_1) \end{aligned}$$

The corresponding Dependency Minimal Recursion Semantics (DMRS) representation is shown in (6). This captures all of the information in the MRS in (5). Predicates are represented as nodes, while semantic roles and scopal constraints are represented as directed edges, called *dependencies* or *links*. Each dependency has two labels. The first is an argument label, such as ARG1, ARG2, or RSTR (the restriction of a quantifier). The second is a scopal constraint, such as QEQ<sup>16</sup>, EQ (the linked nodes share a label in the MRS, which is generally true for modifiers), or NEQ (the linked nodes don't share a label).



Finally, the corresponding DELPH-IN MRS Dependencies (DM) representation is shown in (7). This is a simplified version of MRS, where all nodes are tokens in the sentence. Some abstract predicates are dropped (such as  $\text{\_def\_}q$ ), while others are converted to dependencies (such as  $\text{\_compound}$ ). Some scopal information is dropped (such as EQ vs NEQ). The label BV stands for the “bound variable” of a quantifier, equivalent to the RSTR/QEQ of DMRS.



The existence of such dependency graph formalisms, as well as software packages to manipulate such graphs (e.g., Ivanova et al. 2012, Copestake et al. 2016, Hershcovitch et al. 2019, or PyDelphin<sup>17</sup>), has made it easier to use HPSG grammars in a number of practical tasks, as we will discuss in Section 4.2.

<sup>16</sup>An alternative notation is to write /H instead of /QEQ.

<sup>17</sup><https://github.com/delph-in/pydelphin/>, accessed 16 August 2019

### 3 Development of HPSG resources

In this section we describe various projects that have developed computational resources on the basis of or inspired by HPSG. As we'll discuss in Section 4 below, such resources can be used both in linguistic hypothesis testing as well as in various practical applications. The intended purpose of the resources influences the form that they take. The CoreGram Project (Section 3.1) and Babel (Section 3.3.3) primarily target linguistic hypothesis testing, the Alpino and Enju parsers (Section 3.3.1 and 3.3.2) primarily target practical applications, and the DELPH-IN Consortium (Section 3.2) attempts to balance these two goals.

#### 3.1 CoreGram

The CoreGram<sup>18</sup> Project aims to produce large-scale HPSG grammars, which share a common “core” grammar (Müller 2015). At the time of writing, large grammars have been produced for German (Müller 2007), Danish (Müller & Ørsnes 2013), Persian (Müller & Ghayoomi 2010), Maltese (Müller 2009), and Mandarin (Müller & Lipenkova 2013). Smaller grammars are also available for English, Yiddish, Spanish, French, and Hindi.

All grammars are implemented in the TRALE system (Meurers et al. 2002; Penn 2004), which accommodates a wide range of technical devices proposed in the literature, including: phonologically empty elements, relational constraints, implications with complex antecedents, and cyclic feature structures. It also accommodates macros and an expressive morphological component. Melnik (2007) observes that, compared to other platforms like the LKB (see Section 3.2 below), this allows grammar engineers to directly implement a wider range of theoretical proposals.

An important part of CoreGram is the sharing of grammatical constraints across grammars. Some general constraints hold for all grammars, while others hold for a subset of the grammars, and some only hold for a single grammar. Müller (2015) describes this as a “bottom-up approach with cheating” (p. 43)—the aim is to analyze each language on its own terms (hence “bottom-up”), but to re-use analyses from existing grammars if possible (hence “with cheating”). The use of a core set of constraints is motivated not just for practical reasons, but also for theoretical ones. By developing multiple grammars in parallel, analyses can be improved by cross-linguistic comparison. The constraints encoded in the core grammar can be seen as an hypothesis about the structure of human language.

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<sup>18</sup><https://hpsg.hu-berlin.de/Projects/CoreGram.html>

as we will discuss in Section 4.1.1.

CoreGram grammar development aims to incrementally increase coverage of each language. To measure progress, grammars are evaluated against test suites, collections of sentences each annotated with a grammaticality judgment (Oepen et al. 1997; Müller 2004b). This allows a grammarian to check for unexpected side effects when modifying a grammar, to avoid situations when implementing an analysis of one phenomenon would break the analysis of another phenomenon. This is particularly important when modifying a constraint that is used by several grammars. To help achieve these aims, grammar development is supported by a range of software tools, including the test suite tool [`inrc tsdb0`] (Oepen 2001; see also Section 3.2), and the graphical debugging tool Kahina (Dellert et al. 2010; 2013).

### 3.2 The DELPH-IN Consortium

The DELPH-IN<sup>19</sup> Consortium was established in 2001 to facilitate the development of large-scale, linguistically motivated HPSG grammars for multiple languages in tandem with the software required for developing them and deploying them in practical applications. At the time that DELPH-IN was founded, the English Resource Grammar (ERG; Flickinger 2000; 2011) had been under development already for 8 years and the Verbmobil project (Wahlster 2000) had also spurred the development of grammars for German (GG; Müller & Kasper 2000; Crysmann 2003) and Japanese (Jacy; Siegel, Bender & Bond 2016). Project DeepThought (Callmeier, Eisele, Schäfer & Siegel 2004) was exploring methodologies for combining deep and shallow processing in practical applications across multiple languages. This inspired the development of the LinGO Grammar Matrix (Bender, Flickinger & Oepen 2002), which began as a core grammar, consisting of constraints hypothesized to be cross-linguistically useful, abstracted out of the ERG with reference to Jacy and GG. The goal of the Grammar Matrix is to serve as a starting point for the development of new grammars making it easy to reuse what has been learned in the development of existing grammars. In the years since, it has been extended to include “libraries” of analyses of cross-linguistically variable phenomena (e.g., Drellishak 2009; Bender et al. 2010).

DELPH-IN provides infrastructure (version control repositories, mailing lists, annual meetings) and an emphasis on open-source distribution of resources. Both of these support the collaboration of a global network of researchers working on

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<sup>19</sup>This stands for DEEp Linguistic Processing in HPSG INitiative; see <http://www.delph-in.net>, accessed 16 August 2019

interoperable components. These include repositories of linguistic knowledge, that is, both grammars and meta-grammars (including the Matrix and CLIMB, Fokkens 2014); processing engines that apply that knowledge for parsing and generation (discussed further below); software for supporting the development of grammar documentation (e.g., Hashimoto et al. 2008), software for creating treebanks (Oepen et al. 2004; Packard 2015; see also Section 4.1.4 below), and parse ranking models trained on them (Toutanova et al. 2005; see also Section 2.2.2 above), and software for robust processing, i. e. using the knowledge encoded in the grammars to return analyses for sentences even if the grammar deems them ungrammatical (Zhang & Krieger 2011; Buys & Blunsom 2017; Chen et al. 2018).

A key accomplishment of the DELPH-IN Consortium is the standardization of a formalism for the declaration of grammars (Copestake 2002a), a formalism for the semantic representations (Copestake et al. 2005), and file formats for the storage and interchange of grammar outputs (e.g., the forest that results from parsing a sentence, as well as the results of treebanking (Oepen 2001; Oepen et al. 2004)). These standards facilitate the development of multiple different parsing and generation engines which can all process the same grammars (including, so far, the LKB (Copestake 2002b), PET (Callmeier 2000), ACE<sup>20</sup>, and Agree (Slayden 2012)), of multiple software systems for processing bulk grammar output ([incr tsdb()](Oepen 2001), art<sup>21</sup>, and PyDelphin<sup>22</sup>) and of multilingual downstream systems which can be adapted to additional languages by plugging in different grammars. These tools and standards have in turn helped support a thriving community of users who furthermore accumulate and share information about best practices. Melnik (2007: 234) credits this community and the information it shares as a key factor that makes the grammar engineering with DELPH-IN ecosystem more accessible to HPSG linguists, compared to other platforms like TRALE (see Section 3.1 above).

The DELPH-IN community maintains research interests in both linguistics and practical applications. The focus on linguistics means that DELPH-IN grammarians strive to create grammars which capture linguistic generalizations and model grammaticality. This, in turn, leads to grammars with lower ambiguity than one finds with treebank-trained grammars and, importantly, grammars which produce well-formed strings in generation. The focus on practical applications leads to several kinds of additional research goals. Practical applications require robust processing, which in turn requires methods for handling unknown words (e.g.,

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<sup>20</sup><http://sweaglesw.org/linguistics/ace/>, accessed 16 August 2019

<sup>21</sup><https://sweaglesw.org/linguistics/libtsdb/art.html>, accessed 16 August 2019

<sup>22</sup><https://github.com/delph-in/pydelphin/>, accessed 16 August 2019

Adolphs et al. 2008), methods for managing extra-grammatical mark-up in text such as in Wikipedia pages (e.g., Flickinger, Oepen & Ytrestøl 2010) and strategies for processing inputs that are ungrammatical, at least according to the grammar (e.g., Zhang & Krieger 2011, see also Section 4.2.3). Processing large quantities of text motivates performance innovations, such as supertagging or ubertagging (e.g., Matsuzaki et al. 2007; Dridan 2013, see also Section 2.2.2) to speed up processing times. Naturally occurring text can include very long sentences which can run up against processing limits. Supertagging helps some here, too, but other strategies include , or the task of breaking a long sentence into smaller ones without loss of meaning (Muszyńska 2016). Working with real-world text (rather than curated testsuites designed for linguistic research only) requires the integration of external components such as morphological analyzers (e.g., Maramon 2013) and named entity recognizers (e.g., Waldron et al. 2006; Schäfer et al. 2008). As described in Section 2.2.2, working with real-world applications requires parse ranking (e.g., Toutanova et al. 2005), and similarly ranking of generator outputs (known as *realization ranking*; e.g., Veldal 2009). Finally, research on embedding broad-coverage grammars in practical applications inspires work towards making sure that the semantic representations can serve as a suitable interface for external components (e.g., Flickinger et al. 2005). These efforts are also valuable from a strictly linguistic point of view, i. e. one not concerned with practical applications. First, the broader the coverage of a grammar, the more linguistic phenomena it can be used to explore. Second, external constraints on the form of semantic representations provide useful guide points in the development of semantic analyses.

### 3.3 Other HPSG and HPSG-inspired broad-coverage grammars

#### 3.3.1 Alpino

Alpino<sup>23</sup> is a broad-coverage grammars of Dutch (Bouma, van Noord & Malouf 2001; van Noord & Malouf 2005; van Noord 2006). The main motivation is practical: to provide coverage and accuracy comparable to state-of-the-art parsers for English. Nonetheless, it also includes theoretically interesting analyses, such as for cross-serial dependencies (Bouma & van Noord 1998). In addition to using hand-written rules, lexical information (such as subcategorisation frames) has also been extracted from two existing lexicons, Celex (Baayen et al. 1995) and Parole (Kruyt & Dutilh 1997).

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<sup>23</sup><http://www.let.rug.nl/vannoord/alp/Alpino/>, accessed 16 August 2019

Alpino produces syntactic dependency graphs, following the annotation format of the Spoken Dutch Corpus (Oostdijk 2000). These dependencies are constructed directly in the feature-structure formalism, exploiting the fact that a feature structure can be formalised as a directed acyclic graph. Each lexical entry encodes a partial dependency graph, and these graphs are composed through phrase structure rules to give a dependency graph for a whole sentence.

Although these dependencies differ from the semantic dependencies discussed in Section 2.2.3, a common motivation is to make the representations easier to use in practical applications. To harmonize with other computational work on dependency parsing, Bouma & van Noord (2017) have also produced a mapping from this format to Universal Dependencies (UD; Nivre et al. 2016), as discussed in Section 4.1.4 below. Alpino uses a statistical model trained on a dependency treebank, and in fact the same statistical model can be used in both parsing and generation (de Kok et al. 2011).

### 3.3.2 Enju

Enju<sup>24</sup> (Miyao et al. 2005) is a broad-coverage grammar of English, semi-automatically acquired from the Penn Treebank (Marcus et al. 1993). This approach aims to reduce the cost of writing a grammar by leveraging existing resources. The basic idea is that, by viewing Penn Treebank trees as partial specifications of HPSG analyses, it is possible to infer lexical entries.

Miyao et al. converted the relatively flat trees in the Penn Treebank to binary-branching trees, and percolated head information through the trees. They also had to convert analyses for certain constructions, including subject-control verbs, auxiliary verbs, coordination, and extracted arguments. Each converted tree can then be combined with a small set of hand-written HPSG schemata, to induce a lexical entry for each word in the sentence.

Development of Enju has focused on performance in practical applications, and the grammar is supported by an efficient parser (Tsuruoka et al. 2004; Matsuzaki et al. 2007), using a probabilistic model for feature structures (Miyao & Tsujii 2008). Enju has been used in a variety of NLP tasks, as will be discussed in Section 4.2.2.

### 3.3.3 Babel

Babel is a broad-coverage grammar of German (Müller 1996; 1999). One interesting feature of this grammar is that it makes extensive use of discontinuous con-

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<sup>24</sup><http://www.nactem.ac.uk/enju/>, accessed 29 August 2019

stituents (Müller 2004a). Although this makes the worst-case parsing complexity much worse, parsing speed doesn't seem to suffer in practice. This mirrors the findings of Carroll (1994), discussed in Section 2.2.1 above.

## 4 Deployment of HPSG resources

There are several different ways in which computational resources based on HPSG are used. In Section 4.1, we first consider applications furthering linguistic research, including both language documentation and linguistic hypothesis testing. Then, in Section 4.2, we consider applications outside of linguistics.

### 4.1 Language documentation and linguistic hypothesis testing

As described by Müller (1999), Bender (2008) and Bender et al. (2011), grammar engineering, that is the building of grammars in software, is an essential technique for testing linguistic hypotheses at scale. By “at scale”, we mean both against large quantities of data and as integrated models of language that handle multiple phenomena at once. In this section, we overview how this is done in the CoreGram and Grammar Matrix projects for cross-linguistic hypothesis testing, and in the AGGREGATION project in the context of language documentation.<sup>25</sup>

#### 4.1.1 CoreGram

As described in Section 3.1, the CoreGram project develops grammars for a diverse set of languages, and shares constraints across grammars, in a bottom-up fashion, so that more similar languages share more constraints. Still, there are constraints shared across all of the grammars in the project which can be seen as an hypothesis about properties shared by all languages. Whenever the CoreGram project expands to cover a new language, it can be seen as a test of this hypothesis.

For example, the most general constraint set allows a language to have V2 word order (as exemplified by Germanic languages), but rules out verb-penultimate word order, as discussed by Müller (2015) (see also Müller 2019a, Chapter 10 of this volume). It also includes constraints for argument structure and linking (see

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<sup>25</sup>Grammar engineering isn't specific to HPSG and in fact has a history going back to at least the early 1960s (Kay 1963; Zwicky et al. 1965; Petrick 1965; Friedman et al. 1971) and modern work in Lexical Functional Grammar (Butt et al. 1999), Combinatory Categorial Grammar (Baldrige et al. 2007), Grammatical Framework (Ranta 2009), and others. For reflections on grammar engineering for linguistic hypothesis testing in LFG, see Butt et al. 1999 and King 2016.

Wechsler, Koenig & Davis 2019, Chapter 9 of this volume), as well as for information structure (see Kuthy 2019, Chapter 24 of this volume).

#### 4.1.2 Grammar Matrix

As noted in Section 3.2, the LinGO Grammar Matrix (Bender et al. 2002; 2010) was initially developed in the context of Project DeepThought with the goal of speeding up the development of DELPH-IN-style grammars for additional languages. It consists of a shared core grammar and a series of “libraries” of analyses for cross-linguistically variable phenomena. Both of these constitute linguistic hypotheses: the constraints in the core grammar are hypothesized to be cross-linguistically useful. However, in the course of developing grammars based on the Matrix for specific languages, it is not uncommon to find reasons to refine the core grammar. The libraries, in turn, are intended to cover the attested range of variation for the phenomena they model. Languages that are not covered by the analyses in the libraries provide evidence that the libraries need to be extended or refined.

Grammar Matrix grammar development is less tightly coordinated than that of CoreGram (see Section 3.1): in the typical use case, grammar developers start from the Grammar Matrix, but with their own independent copy of the Matrix core grammar. This impedes somewhat the ability of the Matrix to adapt to the needs of various languages (unless grammar developers report back to the Matrix developers). On the other hand, the Matrix libraries represent an additional kind of linguistic hypothesis testing: each library on its own represents one linguistic phenomenon, but the libraries must be interoperable with each other. This is the cross-linguistic analogue of how monolingual implemented grammars allow linguists to ensure that analyses of different phenomena are interoperable (Müller 1999: p.439–440; Bender 2008): the Grammar Matrix customization system allows its developers to test cross-linguistic libraries of analyses for interactions with other phenomena (Bender et al. 2011; Bender 2016). Without computational support – i. e. a computer keeping track of the constraints that make up each analysis, compiling them into specific grammars, and testing those grammars against testsuites – this problem space would be too complex for exploration.

#### 4.1.3 AGGREGATION

In many ways, the most urgent need for computational support for linguistic hypothesis testing is the description of endangered languages. Implemented grammars can be used to process transcribed but unglossed text in order to find relevant examples more quickly, both of phenomena that have already been an-

alyzed and of phenomena that are as yet not well-understood.<sup>26</sup> Furthermore, treebanks constructed from implemented grammars can be tremendously valuable additions to language documentation (see Section 4.1.4 below). However, the process of building an implemented grammar is time-consuming, even with the start provided by a multilingual grammar engineering project like CoreGram, ParGram (Butt et al. 2002; King et al. 2005), the GF Resource Grammar Library Ranta (2009), or the Grammar Matrix.

This is the motivation for the AGGREGATION<sup>27</sup> project, which starts from two observations: (1) descriptive linguists produce extremely rich annotations on data in the form of interlinear glossed text (IGT); and (2) the Grammar Matrix’s libraries are accessed through a customization system which elicits a grammar specification in the form of a series of choices describing either high-level typological properties or specific constraints on lexical classes and lexical rules. The goal of AGGREGATION is to automatically produce such grammar specifications on the basis of information encoded in IGT, to be used by the Grammar Matrix customization system to produce language-particular grammars. AGGREGATION uses different approaches for different linguistic subsystems. For example, it learns morphotactics by observing morpheme order in the training data, and the grouping of affixes together into position classes based on measures of overlap of stems they attach to (Wax 2014; Zamaraeva et al. 2017). For many kinds of syntactic information, it leverages syntactic structure projected from the translation line (English, easily parsed with current tools) through the gloss line (which facilitates aligning the language and translation lines) to the language line (Xia & Lewis 2007; Georgi 2016). Using this projected information, the AGGREGATION system can detect case frames for verbs, word order patterns, etc. (Bender et al. 2013; Zamaraeva et al. 2019).<sup>28</sup>

#### 4.1.4 Treebanks and sembanks

A particularly valuable type of resource that can be derived from HPSG grammars are treebanks and sembanks. A *treebank* is a collection of text where each sentence is associated with a syntactic representation. A *sembank* has semantic representations (in some cases in addition to the syntactic ones). Treebanks and

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<sup>26</sup>This methodology of using an implemented grammar as a sieve to sift the interesting examples out of corpora is demonstrated for English by Baldwin et al. (2005).

<sup>27</sup><http://depts.washington.edu/uwcl/aggregation/>, accessed 16 August 2019

<sup>28</sup>The TypeGram project (Hellan & Beermann 2014) is in a similar spirit. TypeGram provides methods of creating HPSG grammars by encoding specifications of valence and inflection in particularly rich IGT and then creating grammars based on those specifications.

sembanks can be used for linguistic research, as the analyses allow for more detailed structure-based searches for phenomena of interest (Rohde 2005; Ghodke & Bird 2010; Kouylekov & Oepen 2014).<sup>29</sup> In the context of language documentation and description, searchable treebanks can also be a valuable addition, helping readers connect prose descriptions of linguistic phenomena to multiple examples in the corpus (Bender et al. 2012). In natural language processing, treebanks and sembanks are critical source material for training stochastic and neural parsers (see Section 4.2.3).

Traditional treebanks are created by doing a certain amount of preprocessing on data, including possibly chunking or CFG parsing, and then hand-correcting the result (Marcus et al. 1993; Banarescu et al. 2013). While this approach is a means to encode human insight about linguistic structure for later automatic processing, it is both inefficient and potentially error-prone. The Alpino project (van der Beek et al. 2002; see also Section 3.3.1 above) addresses this by first parsing the text with a broad-coverage HPSG-inspired grammar of Dutch and then having annotators select among the parses. The selection process is facilitated by allowing the annotators to mark potential lexical entries for words in the sentence at hand as correct, possibly correct, or wrong and to pre-mark some constituent boundaries. These constraints reduce the search space for the parser and consequently also the range of analyses the annotator has to consider before choosing one. A facility for adding one-off lexical entries to handle e.g., misspellings helps increase grammar coverage. Disambiguation is handled with the aid of *discriminants* i. e. properties true of some but not all trees in the parse forest (Carter 1997). Finally, the annotators may further edit analyses deemed insufficient. Though the underlying grammar is based on HPSG, the treebank stores dependency graphs instead. The Alpino parser was similarly used to construct the Lassy treebanks of written Dutch (van Noord et al. 2013). In more recent work, these dependency representations have been mapped to the Universal Dependencies (UD) annotation standards (Nivre et al. 2016) to produce a UD treebank for Dutch (Bouma & van Noord 2017).

The Redwoods project (Oepen et al. 2004) also produces grammar-driven treebanks, in this case for English and without any post-editing of analyses.<sup>30</sup> As with Alpino, this is done by first parsing the corpus with the grammar and calculating the discriminants for each parse forest. Finally, the treebanking software

<sup>29</sup>The WeSearch interface of Kouylekov & Oepen (2014) can be accessed at <http://wesearch.delph-in.net/deepbank/search.jsp> (accessed 16 August 2019).

<sup>30</sup>There are also Redwoods-style treebanks for other languages, including the Hinoki Treebank of Japanese (Bond et al. 2004) and the Tibidabo Treebank of Spanish (Marimon 2015).

stores not only the final full HPSG analysis that was selected, but also the decisions the annotator made about each discriminant. Thus when the grammar is updated to include for example a refinement to the semantic representations, the corpus can be reparsed and the decisions replayed, leaving only a small amount of further annotation work to be done to handle any additional ambiguity introduced. The activity of treebanking in turn provides useful insight into grammatical analyses, including sources of spurious ambiguity and phenomena that are not yet properly handled and thus informs and spurs further grammar development. A downside to strictly grammar-based treebanking is that only items for which the grammar finds a reasonable parse can be included in the treebank. For many applications, this is not a drawback, so long as there are sufficient and sufficiently varied sentences that do receive analyses.

Finally, there are also automatically annotated treebanks. These are not as reliable as manually annotated treebanks, but they can be considerably larger. WikiWoods<sup>31</sup> covers 55m sentences of English (900m tokens). It was produced by Flickinger, Oepen & Ytrestøl (2010) and Solberg (2012) from the July 2008 dump of the full English Wikipedia, using the ERG and PET, with parse ranking trained on the manually treebanked subcorpus WeScience (Ytrestøl et al. 2009). As with the Redwoods treebanks, WikiWoods is updated with each release of the ERG.

## 4.2 Downstream applications

In this section, we discuss the use of HPSG grammars for practical tasks. There is a large number of applications, and we focus on several important applications here. In Section 4.2.1, we cover educational applications where a grammar is used directly. In Section 4.2.2, we cover applications where a grammar is used to provide features to help solve tasks in Natural Language Processing (NLP). Finally, in Section 4.2.3, we cover applications where a grammar is used to provide data for machine learning systems.<sup>32</sup>

### 4.2.1 Education

Precise syntactic analyses can be useful in language teaching, in order to automatically identify errors and give feedback to the student. In order to model

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<sup>31</sup><http://moin.delph-in.net/WikiWoods>, accessed 16 August 2019

<sup>32</sup>The DELPH-IN community maintains an updated list of applications of DELPH-IN software and resources at <http://moin.delph-in.net/DelphinApplications> (accessed 16 August 2019).

common mistakes, a grammar can be extended with so-called *mal-rules*. A mal-rule is like a normal rule, in that it licenses a construction, and can be treated the same during parsing – however, given a parse, the presence of mal-rules indicates that the student needs to be given feedback (Bender et al. 2004; Flickinger & Yu 2013; Morgado da Costa et al. 2016). A large scale system implementing this kind of computer-aided teaching has been developed by the Education Program for Gifted Youth at Stanford University, using the ERG (Suppes et al. 2014). This system has reached tens of thousands of elementary and middle school children, and has been found to improve the school results of underachieving children.

Another way to use a precision grammar is to automatically produce teaching materials. Given a semantic representation, a grammar can generate one or more sentences. Flickinger (2017) uses the ERG to produce practice exercises for a student learning first-order logic. For each exercise, the student is presented with an English sentence and is supposed to write down the corresponding first-order logical form. By using a grammar, the system can produce syntactically varied questions and automatically evaluate the student’s answer.

#### 4.2.2 NLP tasks

Much NLP work focuses on specific *tasks*, where a system is presented with some input, and required to produce an output, with a clearly-defined metric to determine how well the system performs. HPSG grammars have been used in a range of such tasks, where the syntactic and semantic analyses provide useful features.

*Information retrieval* information retrieval is the task of finding relevant documents for a given query. For example, Schäfer et al. (2011) present a tool for searching the ACL Anthology, using the ERG. *Information extraction* information extraction is the task of identifying useful facts in a collection of documents. For example, Reipplinger et al. (2012) aim to identify definitions of technical concepts from English text, in order to automatically construct a glossary. They find that using the ERG reduces noise in the candidate definitions. Miyao et al. (2008) aim to identify protein-protein interactions in the English biomedical literature, using Enju.

For these tasks, some linguistic phenomena are particularly important, such as negation and hedging (including adverbs like *possibly*, modals like *may*, and verbs of speculation like *suggest*). When it comes to identifying facts asserted in a document, a clause that has been negated or hedged should be treated with caution. MacKinlay et al. (2012) consider the biomedical domain, evaluating on the BioNLP 2009 Shared Task (Kim et al. 2009), where they outperform previous approaches for negation, but not for speculation. Velldal et al. (2012) con-

sider negation and speculation in biomedical text, evaluating on the CoNLL 2010 Shared Task (Farkas et al. 2010), where they outperform previous approaches. Packard et al. (2014) propose a general-purpose method for finding the scope of negation in an MRS, evaluating on the \*SEM 2012 Shared Task (Morante & Blanco 2012). They find that converting the output of the ERG with a relatively simple set of rules achieves high performance on this English dataset, and combining this approach with a purely statistical system outperforms previous approaches. Zamaraeva et al. (2018) use the ERG for detection and then use that information to refine the (machine-learning) features in a system that classifies English pathology reports and improve system performance. A common finding from these studies is that a system using the output of the ERG tends to have high precision (items identified by the system tend to be correct) but low recall (items are often overlooked by the system). One reason for low recall is that the grammar does not cover all sentences in natural text. As we will see in Section 4.2.3, recent work on robust parsing may help to close this coverage gap.

Negation resolution is also included in Oepen et al.’s (2017) Shared Task on Extrinsic Parser Evaluation. As mentioned in Section 2.2.3, dependency graphs can provide a useful tool in NLP tasks, and this shared task aims to evaluate the use of dependency graphs (both semantic and syntactic), for three downstream applications: biomedical information extraction, negation resolution, and fine-grained opinion analysis. Some participating teams use DM dependencies<sup>33</sup> (Schuster et al. 2017; Chen et al. 2017). The results of this shared task suggest that, compared to other dependency representations, DM is particularly useful for negation resolution.

Another task where dependency graphs have been used is *summarization*. Most existing work on this task focuses on so-called *extractive summarization*: given an input document, a system forms a summary by extracting short sections of the input. This is in contrast to *abstractive summarization*, where a system generates new text based on the input document. Extractive summarization is limited, but widely used because it is easier to implement. Fang et al. (2016) show how a wide-coverage grammar like the ERG makes it possible to implement an abstractive summarizer with state-of-the-art performance. After parsing the input document into logical propositions, the summarizer prunes the set of propositions using a cognitively inspired model. A summary is then generated based on the pruned set of propositions. Because no text is directly extracted from the input document, it is possible to generate a more concise summary.

Finally, no discussion of NLP tasks would be complete without including *ma-*

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<sup>33</sup>DM stands for DELPH-IN MRS dependencies; see (7).

*chine translation.* A traditional grammar-based approach uses three grammars: a grammar for the source language, a grammar for the target language, and a *transfer grammar*, which converts semantic representations for the source language to semantic representations for the target language (Oepen et al. 2007; Bond et al. 2011). Translation proceeds in three steps: parse the source sentence, transfer the semantic representation, and generate a target sentence. The transfer grammar is needed both to find appropriate lexical items, and also to convert semantic representations when languages differ in how an idea might be expressed. The difficulty in writing a transfer grammar that is robust enough to deal with arbitrary input text means that statistical systems might be preferred. Horvat (2017) explores the use of statistical techniques, skipping out the transfer stage: a target-language sentence is generated directly from a semantic representation for the source language. Goodman (2018) explores the use of statistical techniques within the paradigm of parsing, transferring, and generating.

#### 4.2.3 Data for machine learning

In Section 4.2.2, we described how HPSG grammars can be directly incorporated into NLP systems. Another use of HPSG grammars in NLP is to generate data on which a statistical system can be trained.

For example, one limitation of using an HPSG grammar in an NLP system is that the grammar is unlikely to cover all sentences in the data (Flickinger et al. 2012). One way to overcome this coverage gap is to train a statistical system to produce the same output as the grammar. The idea is that the trained system will be able to generalise to sentences that the grammar does not cover. Oepen et al. (2014), Oepen et al. (2015), and Oepen et al. (2019) present shared tasks on semantic dependency parsing, including both DM dependencies and Enju predicate-argument structures. As of 2015, the best-performing systems in these shared tasks could already produce dependency graphs almost as accurately as grammar-based parsers (for sentences where the grammar has coverage). Similarly, Buys & Blunsom (2017) develop a parser for EDS and DMRSDependency Minimal Recursion Semantics (DMRS) which performs almost as well as a grammar-based parser, but has full coverage, and can run 70 times faster. ■

In fact, in more recent work, the difference in performance has been effectively closed. Chen et al. (2018) consider parsing to EDS and DMRS graphs, and actually achieve slightly higher accuracy with their system, compared to a grammar-based parser. Unlike the previous statistical approaches, Chen et al. do not just train on the desired dependency graphs, but also use information in the phrase-structure tree. They suggest that using this information allows their system to

learn compositional rules mirroring composition in the grammar, and thereby allows their system to generalise better.

Another application of HPSG-derived dependency graphs is for *distributional semantics*. Here, the aim is to learn the meanings of words from a corpus, exploiting the fact that the context of a word tells us something about its meaning. This is known as the *distributional hypothesis*, an idea with roots in American structuralism (Harris 1954) and British lexicology (Firth 1951; 1957). Most work on distributional semantics learns a *vector space model*, where the meaning of each word is represented as a point in a high-dimensional vector space (for an overview, see Erk 2012 and Clark 2015). However, Emerson (2018) argues that vector space models cannot capture various aspects of meaning, including logical structure, as well as phenomena like polysemy. Instead, Emerson presents a distributional model which can learn truth-conditional semantics, using a parsed corpus like WikiWoods (see Section 4.1.4). This approach relies on the semantic analyses given by a grammar, as well as the infrastructure to parse a large amount of text.

Finally, there are also applications using grammars not to parse, but to generate. Kuhnle & Copestake (2018) consider the task of *visual question answering*, where a system is presented with an image and a question about the image, and must answer the question. This task requires language understanding, reference resolution, and grounded reasoning, in a way that is relatively well-defined. However, for many existing datasets, there are biases in the questions which mean that high performance can be achieved without true language understanding. For this reason, there is increasing interest in artificial datasets, which are controlled to make sure that high performance requires true understanding. Kuhnle & Copestake present ShapeWorld, a configurable system for generating artificial data. The system generates an abstract representation of a scene (coloured shapes in different configurations), and then generates an image and a caption based on this representation. The use of a broad-coverage grammar is crucial in allowing the system to be configurable and scale across a variety of syntactic constructions.

## 5 Linguistic insights

In Section 4.1 above, we described multiple ways in which computational methods can be used in the service of linguistic research, especially in testing linguistic hypotheses. Here, we highlight a few ways in which grammar engineering work in HPSG has turned up linguistic insights that had not previously been

discovered through non-computational means.<sup>34</sup>

## 5.1 Ambiguity

As discussed in Section 2.2.2, the scale of ambiguity has become clear now that broad-coverage precision grammars are available. By taking both coverage and precision seriously, it is possible to investigate ambiguity on a large scale, quantifying the sources of ambiguity and the information needed to resolve it. For example, Toutanova et al. (2002; 2005) found that in the Redwoods treebank (3rd Growth), roughly half of the ambiguity was lexical, and half syntactic. They also showed how combining sources of information (such as both semantic and syntactic information) is important for resolving ambiguity, and argue that using multiple kinds of information in this way is consistent with probabilistic approaches in psycholinguistics.

## 5.2 Long-tail phenomena

One of the strengths of HPSG as a theoretical framework is that it allows for the analysis of both “core” and “peripheral” phenomena within a single, integrated model. Indeed, by implementing large-scale grammars across a range of languages, it becomes possible to investigate the extent to which a particular phenomenon should be considered “core”, “peripheral”, or something in between (Müller 2014).

In fact, when working with actual data and large-scale grammars, it quickly becomes apparent just how long the long-tail of “peripheral” phenomena is. Furthermore, the sustained development of broad-coverage linguistic resources makes it possible to bring into view more and more low-frequency phenomena (or low-frequency variations on relatively high-frequency phenomena). A case in point is the range of raising and control valence frames found in the ERG (Flickinger 2000; 2011). As of the 2018 release, the ERG includes over 60 types for raising and control predicates, including verbs, adjectives, and nouns, many of which are not otherwise discussed in the syntactic literature. These include such low-frequency types as the one for *incumbent*, which requires an expletive *it* subject, an obligatory (*up*)*on* PP complement, and an infinitival VP complement, and which establishes a control relation between the object of *on* and the VP’s missing subject:<sup>35</sup>

- (8) It is incumbent on you to speak plainly.

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<sup>34</sup>For similar reflections from the point of view of LFG, see King (2016).

<sup>35</sup>Our thanks to Dan Flickinger for this example.

### **5.3 Analysis-order effects**

Grammar engineering means making analyses specific and then being able to build on them. This has both benefits and drawbacks: on the one hand, it means that additional grammar engineering work can build directly on the results of previous work. It also means that any additional grammar engineering work is constrained by the work it is building on. [Fokkens \(2014\)](#) observes this phenomenon and notes that it introduces artifacts: the form an implemented grammar takes is partially the result of the order in which the grammar engineer considered phenomena to implement. This is probably also true for non-computational work, as theoretical ideas developed with particular phenomena (and indeed languages) in mind influence the questions with which researchers approach additional phenomena. [Fokkens](#) proposes that the methodology of meta-grammar engineering can be used to address this problem: using her CLIMB methodology, rather than deciding between analyses of a given phenomenon without input from later-studied phenomena, the grammar engineer can maintain multiple competing analyses through time and break free, at least partially, of the effects of the timeline of grammar development. The central idea is that the grammar writer develops a meta-grammar, like the Grammar Matrix customization system (see Section 4.1.2), but for a single language. This customization system maintains alternate analyses of particular phenomena which are invoked via grammar specifications so the different versions of the grammar can be compiled and tested.

## **6 Summary**

In this chapter, we have attempted to illuminate the landscape of computational work in HPSG. We have discussed how HPSG as a theory supports computational work, described large-scale computational projects that use HPSG, highlighted some applications of implemented grammars in HPSG, and explored ways in which computational work can inform linguistic research. This field is very active and our overview necessarily incomplete. Nonetheless, it is our hope that the pointers and overview provided in this chapter will serve to help interested readers connect with on-going research in computational linguistics using HPSG.

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## Chapter 29

# Grammar in dialogue

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“It takes two to make a truth.”

Austin (1950: 124, footnote 1)

This chapter portrays some phenomena, technical developments and discussions that are pertinent to analysing natural language use in face-to-face interaction from the perspective of HPSG and closely related frameworks. The use of the CONTEXT attribute in order to cover basic pragmatic meaning aspects is sketched. With regard to the notion of common ground, it is argued how to complement CONTEXT by a dynamic update semantics. Furthermore, this chapter discusses challenges posed by dialogue data such as clarification requests to constrained-based, model-theoretic grammars. Responses to these challenges in terms of a type-theoretical underpinning (TTR, a Type Theory with Records) of both the semantic theory and the grammar formalism are reviewed. Finally, the dialogue theory *KoS* that emerged in this way from work in HPSG is sketched.

## 1 Introduction

The archaeologists Ann Wesley and Ray Jones are working in an excavation hole, and Ray Jones is looking at the excavation map. Suddenly, Ray discovers a feature



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that catches his attention. He turns to his colleague Ann and initiates the following exchange (the example is slightly modified from Goodwin 2003: 222; underlined text is used to indicate overlap, italic comments in double round brackets are used to describe non-verbal actions, numbers in brackets quantify the duration of pauses):

- (1) 1. RAY: Doctor Wesley?
2. (0.7) ((*Ann turns and walks towards Ray*))
3. ANN: EHHH HEHH ((*Cough*))
4. Yes Mister Jones.
5. RAY: I was gonna see:
6. ANN: °Eh heh huh huh
7. °eh heh huh huh
8. RAY: Uh::m,
9. ANN: Ha huh HHHuh
10. RAY: ((*Points with trowel to an item on the map*))  
I think I finally found **this** feature  
((*looks away from map towards a location in the surrounding*))
11. (0.8) Cause I: hit the **nail**
12. ((*Ann looks at map, Ray looks at Ann, Ann looks at Ray*))

Contrast the archaeological dialogue from (1) with a third person perspective text on a related topic. In a recent archaeology paper, the excavation of gallery grave Falköping stad 5 is described, among others (Blank et al. 2018: 4):

During excavation the grave was divided in different sections and layers and the finds were documented in these units. The bone material lacking stratigraphic and spatial information derives from the top layer [...]. Both the antechamber and the chamber contained artefacts as well as human and animal skeletal remains, although most of the material was found in the chamber.

The differences between the archaeological dialogue and the paper are obvious and concern roughly the levels of *medium* (spoken vs. written), *situatedness* (degree of context dependence), *processing speed* (online vs. offline) and *standardisation* (compliance with standard language norms) (Klein 1985). Attributing differences between dialogue and text simply to the medium (i.e. spoken vs. written) is tempting but insufficient. The corresponding characterising features seem to form a continuum, as discussed under the terms *conceptual orality* and *conceptual literacy* in the (mainly German-speaking) literature for some time (Koch &

Oesterreicher 1985). For example, much chat communication, although realised by written inscriptions, exhibits many traits of (conceptually) spoken communication, as investigated, for instance, by means of chat corpora (Beißwenger et al. 2012). Face-to-face dialogue stands out due to a high degree of context dependence manifested in shared attention (Tomasello 1998; see also turns 2 and 12 between Ann and Ray), non-verbal actions such as hand and arm gestures (Kendon 2004; McNeill 2000; turn 10; cf. Lücking 2019, Chapter 31 of this volume for a brief overview of non-verbal communication means), disfluencies (Ginzburg et al. 2014; turns 5 to 8), non-sentential utterances (Fernández & Ginzburg 2002; Fernández et al. 2007; turns 1, 4, and 5), laughter (Ginzburg et al. 2015; turn 9), shared knowledge of interlocutors (Clark et al. 1983; turns 10–12), turn-taking (Sacks et al. 1974; Heldner & Edlund 2010; Levinson & Torreira 2015; e.g. question-answering in turns 1 and 4) and indirect reference (turn 10, where Ray points to an item on the map but refers to an archaeological artefact in the excavation hole). Note that such instances of deferred reference (Nunberg 1993) in situated communication actually differ from bridging anaphora (Clark 1975) in written texts, although they seem to be closely related at first glance. Bridging is a kind of indirect reference, too, where a definite noun phrase refers back to an antecedent entity which is not given in a strict sense, like *the goalkeeper* in *I watched the football match yesterday. The goalkeeper did an amazing save in overtime.* However, bridging NPs does not give rise to an index or demonstratum, which is the “deferring base” in case of indirect deixis (cf. Lücking 2018).

Since these phenomena are usually abstracted away from the linguistic knowledge encoded by a grammar, linguistics is said to exhibit a “written language bias” (Linell 2005). In fact, many of the phenomena exemplified above provide serious challenges to current linguistic theory, as has been argued by Ginzburg (2012), Ginzburg & Poesio (2016) and Kempson et al. (2016). So the question is: how serious is this bias? Is there a single language system with two modes, written and spoken (but obeying the qualifications we made above with respect to conceptual orality and literacy)? Or do written and spoken communication even realise different language systems? Responses can be given from different standpoints. When the competence/performance distinction was proposed (Chomsky 1965), one could claim that linguistic knowledge is more purely realised by the high degree of standardisation manifested in written text, while speech is more likely to be affected by features attributed to performance (e.g. processing issues such as short term memory limitations or impaired production/perception). Once one attaches more importance to dialogical phenomena, one can also claim that there is a single, basic language system underlying written and spoken communication

which bifurcates only in some cases, with interactivity and deixis being salient examples (such a position is delineated but not embraced by Klein 1985; in fact, Klein remains neutral on this issue). Some even claim that “grammar is a system that characterizes talk in interaction” (Ginzburg & Poesio 2016: 1).<sup>1</sup> This position is strengthened by the primacy of spoken language in both ontogenetic and language acquisition areas (on acquisition see Ginzburg 2019, Chapter 26 of this volume).

Advances in dialogue semantics are compatible with the latter two positions, but their ramifications are inconsistent with the traditional competence/performance distinction (Ginzburg & Poesio 2016; Kempson et al. 2016). Beyond investigating phenomena which are especially related to people engaging in face-to-face interaction, dialogue semantics contributes to the theoretical (re)consideration of the linguistic competence that grammars encode. Some of the challenges posed by dialogue for the notion of linguistic knowledge – exemplified by non-sentential utterances such as clarification questions and reprise fragments (Fernández & Ginzburg 2002; Fernández et al. 2007) – are also main actors in arguing *against* doing semantics within a unification-based framework (like Pollard & Sag 1987) and have implications for doing semantics in constraint-based frameworks (like Pollard & Sag 1994; see Section 3.1 below). In light of this, the relevant arguments are briefly reviewed below. As a consequence, we show how dialogue phenomena can be captured with a framework that leaves “classical” HPSG (i.e. HPSG as documented throughout this handbook). To this end, TTR (a Type Theory with Records) is introduced in Section 3.3. TTR is a strong competitor to other formalisms since it provides an account of semantics that covers dialogue phenomena from the outset. TTR also allows for “emulating” an HPSG kind of grammar, giving rise to a unified home for sign-based SYNSEM interfaces bridging to dialogue gameboards (covered in Section 4). To begin with, however, we give a brief historical review of pragmatics within HPSG.

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<sup>1</sup>The sign structure used in HPSG is partly motivated by the bilateral notion of sign of de Saussure. In this respect it is interesting to note that also de Saussure advocated the primacy of spoken language:

Sprache und Schrift sind zwei verschiedene Systeme von Zeichen; das letztere besteht nur zu dem Zweck, um das erstere darzustellen. Nicht die Verknüpfung von geschriebenem und gesprochenem Wort ist Gegenstand der Sprachwissenschaft, sondern nur das letztere, das gesprochene Wort allein ist ihr Objekt. (de Saussure 2001: 28) (*Language and writing are two different systems of signs; the latter exists only for the purpose of representing the former. It is not the combination of the written and the spoken word that is the subject of linguistics, but only the latter, the spoken word alone, is its object.*)

In this respect, de Saussure acts as an early exponent *against* any written language bias.

## 2 From CONTEXT to update semantics for dialogue

HPSG's interface to pragmatics is the CONTEXT attribute. The CONTEXT attribute accommodates contextual constraints that have to be fulfilled in order for an expression to be used appropriately or felicitously (Austin 1962), to use a term from speech act theory (Pollard & Sag 1994: 27). The CONTEXT attribute has been used and extended to model the content of indexical and pronominal expressions (see Section 2.1), information packaging (Section 2.2) and shared background assumptions concerning standard meanings (Section 2.3). A further step from such pragmatic phenomena to dialogue semantics is achieved by making signs encode their dialogue context, leading to an architectural revision in terms of *update semantics* (see Section 2.4).

### 2.1 C-INDS and BACKGROUND

The CONTEXT attribute introduces two sub-attributes, CONTEXTUAL-INDICES (C-INDS) and BACKGROUND. The C-INDS attribute values provide pointers to circumstantial features of the utterance situation such as speaker, addressee and time and location of speaking. Within the BACKGROUND attribute, assumptions such as presuppositions or conventional implicatures are expressed in terms of *psoas*, *parameterised state of affairs* (see Section 3.2 for some alternative semantic representation formats). For instance, it is part of the background information of the pronoun *she* of the “natural gender language” English that its referent is female (this does not hold for “grammatical gender languages” like French or German). In the HPSG format of Pollard & Sag (1994: 20), this constraint is expressed as in (2), where “HEAD noun[CASE nom]” abbreviates a head structure of type *noun* which bears a case attribute with value *nom* (nominative):

(2)	<i>word</i>	<i>PHON</i>	<i>&lt; she &gt;</i>				
		<i>synsem</i>					
		<i>local</i>					
		<i>CATEGORY</i>	<i>cat</i> HEAD noun[CASE nom] SUBCAT < >				
	<i>SYNSEM</i>	<i>LOCAL</i>	<i>CONTENT</i>	<i>ppro</i> INDEX 1 ref PER 3rd NUM sing GEN fem RESTR {} context			
			<i>CONTEXT</i>	BACKGROUND psoa RELN female INST 1			

The CONTENT value is of type *ppro* (*personal-pronoun*), which is related to the NP type (+p, -a) from *Government and Binding theory* (Chomsky 1981) and interacts with HPSG's binding theory (see Branco 2019, Chapter 21 of this volume; see also Wechsler 2019, Chapter 6 of this volume). The CONTENT/CONTEXT description in (2) claims that whatever the referent of the pronoun is, it has to be female.

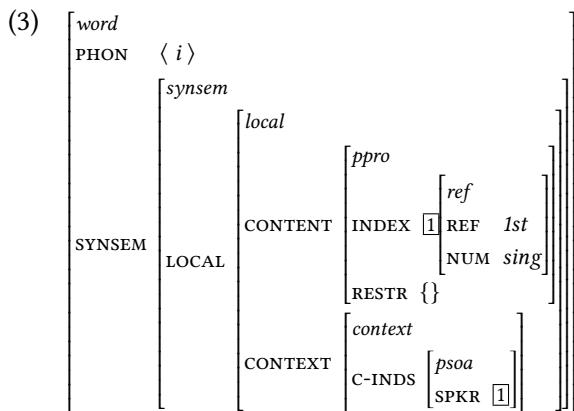
The contextual indices that figure as values for the c-INDS attribute provide semantic values for indexical expressions. For instance, the referential meaning of the singular first person pronoun *I* is obtained by identifying the semantic index with the contextual index "speaker".<sup>2</sup> This use of CONTEXT is illustrated in (3), which is part of the lexical entry of *I*.

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<sup>2</sup>There are also indirect uses of *I*, where identification with the circumstantial speaker role would lead to wrong results. An example is the following:



Here it is the truck, not the speaker, or rather the author of the note, that is for rent. Such examples of the German cognate of "I", namely *Ich*, are collected and discussed in Kratzer (1978).



Inasmuch as the contextual anchors (see Barwise & Perry 1983: 72–73 or De-dvin 1991: 52–63 on anchors in Situation Semantics) indicated by a boxed notation from (3) provide a semantic value for the speaker in a directly referential manner (see Marcus 1961 and Kripke 1980 on the notion of direct reference with regard to proper names), they also provide semantic values for the addressee (figuring in the content of *you*) as well as the time (*now*) and the place (*here*) of speaking.<sup>3</sup> Hence, the CONTEXT attribute accounts for the standard indexical expressions and provides a present tense marker needed for a semantics of tenses along the lines of *Discourse Representation Theory* (Kamp & Reyle 1993; see Partee 1973 on the preeminent role of an indexical time point). We will not discuss this issue further here (see Van Eynde 1998; 2000, Bonami 2002 and Costa & Branco 2012 for HPSG work on tense and aspect), but move on to briefly recapture other phenomena usually ascribed to pragmatics (see also Kathol et al. 2011: Section 5.2).

## 2.2 Information structure

Focus, expressed by sentence accent in English, can be used for information packaging that may lead to truth-conditional differences even when the surface structures (i.e. strings; see Section 1 on a brief juxtaposition of spoken and written language) are the same (Halliday 1967). An example is given in (4), taken from Krifka (2008: 246), where capitalisation indicates main accent and subscript “F” labels the focused constituent (see also Wasow 2019, Chapter 27 of this volume on incremental processing also with respect to aspects of information structure):

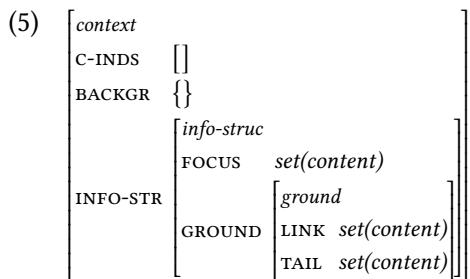
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<sup>3</sup>Of these, in fact, only the speaker is straightforwardly given by the context; all others can potentially involve complex inference.

- (4) a. John only showed Mary [the PICTures]<sub>F</sub>.  
b. John only showed [MARY]<sub>F</sub> the pictures.

An analysis of examples like (4) draws on an interplay of phonology, semantics, pragmatics and constituency and hence emphasises in particular the advantages of the *fractal* architecture of HPSG (Johnson & Lappin 1999). HPSG has the fractal property since information about phonetic, syntactic and semantic aspects is present in every sign, from words to phrases and clauses (Pollard 1997: 5) – see also Kubota (2019), Chapter 33 of this volume, Borsley & Müller (2019), Chapter 32 of this volume, Müller (2019), Chapter 36 of this volume, Arnold (2019), Chapter 34 of this volume and Hudson (2019), Chapter 35 of this volume for a comparison of HPSG to other grammar theories; a benchmark source is Müller (2016).

At the core of information structure is a distinction between *given* and *new* information. Accordingly, information structure is often explicated in terms of dynamic semantics (ranging from *File Change Semantics* by Heim 2002 and *Discourse Representation Theory* by Kamp & Reyle 1993 to information state update semantics proper by Traum & Larsson 2003) – see for instance Krifka (2008) or Vallduví (2016) for a discussion and distinction of various notions bound up with information structure such as *focus*, *topic*, *ground* and *comment* seen from the perspective of dialogue content and dialogue management. The most influential approach to information structure within HPSG is that of Engdahl & Vallduví (1996). Here a distinction between *focus*, that is, new information, and *ground*, the given information, is made (Engdahl & Vallduví 1996: 3). The *ground* is further bifurcated into *LINK* and *TAIL*, which connect to the preceding discourse in different ways (basically, the link corresponds to a discourse referent or file, and the tail corresponds to a predication which is already subsumed by the interlocutors' information states). The information packaging of the content values of a sentence is driven by phonetic information in terms of A-accent and B-accent (Jackendoff 1972: Chapter 6), where “A-stressed” constituents are coindexed with focus elements and “B-stressed” are coindexed with *LINK* elements – see also Kuthy (2019), Chapter 24 of this volume. The CONTEXT extension for information structure on this account is given in (5):



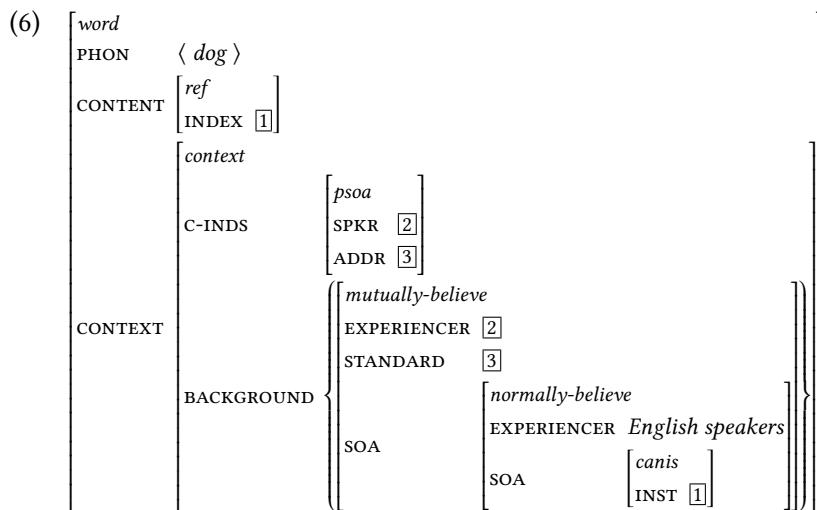
Part of the analysis of the sample sentences from (4) is that in (4a), the CONTENT value of the indirect object NP *the pictures* is the focused constituent, while it is the CONTENT value of the direct object NP *Mary* in (4b). The FOCUS-LINK-TAIL approach works via structure sharing: the values of FOCUS, LINK and TAIL get instantiated by whatever means the language under consideration uses in order to tie up information packages (whether syntactic, phonological or something else besides). If prosodic information is utilised for signalling information structure, a grammar has to account for the fact that prosodic constituency is not isomorphic to syntactic constituency, that is, prosodic structures cannot be built up in parallel to syntactic trees. Within HPSG, the approach to *prosodic constituency* of Klein (2000) employs *metrical trees* independent from syntactic trees, but grammatical composition remains syntax-driven. The latter assumption is given up in the work of Haji-Abdolhosseini (2003). Starting from Klein's work, an architecture is developed that generalises over prosody-syntax mismatches: on this account, syntax, phonology and information structure are parallel features of a common list of domain objects (usually the inflected word forms). Information structure realised by prosodic stress is also part of the speech-gesture interfaces within multimodal extensions of HPSG (cf. Lücking 2019, Chapter 31 of this volume).

### 2.3 Mutual beliefs

A strictly pragmatic view on meaning and reference is presented by Green (1996). Green provides a CONTEXT extension for the view that restrictions on the index actually are background assumptions concerning standard uses of referential expressions. One of the underlying observations is that people can, for example, use the word *dog* to refer to, say, toy dogs or even, given appropriate context information, to a remote control (we will come back to this example shortly). The fact that the word *dog* can be used without further ado successfully to refer to instances of the subspecies *Canis lupus familiaris*<sup>4</sup> is due to shared assumptions

<sup>4</sup>Green (1996: Example (73)) actually restricts the standard use of *dog* to the family *Canis* (re-given in our example (6)), which seems to be too permissive. The *Canis* family also include

about the standard meaning of *dog*. Green represents this account in terms of mutual beliefs between EXPERIENCER and STANDARD as part of the background condition of the CONTEXT of referential NPs. Drawing on work by Cohen & Levesque (1990), *mutually-believe* is a recursive relation such that the experiencer believes a proposition, believes that the standard believes the proposition too, believes that the standard believes that the experiencer believes the proposition, and so on. When a proposition is mutually believed within a speech community, it is *normally believed*. The semantic part of the lexical structure of *dog* is given in (6). The analysis of proper names is pursued in a similar manner, amounting to the requirement that for a successful use of a proper name, the interlocutors have to know that the intended referent of this name actually bears the name in question.



Adding beliefs to CONTEXT provides the representational means to integrate (at least some kinds of) presuppositions, illocutionary force and deferred reference (Nunberg 1978) into grammar. However, a fuller model of speech acts and meaning transfers is still needed (Kathol et al. 2011: 94).

Taking a closer look at the argument underlying adding mutual beliefs to CONTEXT, one notices a striking similarity of shared assumptions about standard uses with *community membership* as a source for common ground (but see Footnote 4 for a hint on a possible refinement). However, community membership is just one of three sources of information on which the common ground between two

---

foxes, coyotes and wolves, which are, outside of biological contexts, usually not described as being dogs. This indicates that the EXPERIENCER group should be further restricted and allowed to vary over different language communities and genres.

interlocutors (scaling up to multilogue is obvious) can be based, according to Clark & Marshall (1981) and Clark et al. (1983):

The first is *perceptual evidence*, what the two have jointly experienced or are jointly experiencing at the moment. The second is *linguistic evidence*, what the two have jointly heard said or are now jointly hearing as participants in the same conversation. The third is *community membership*. They take as common ground everything they believe is universally, or almost universally, known, believed, or supposed in the many communities and subcommunities to which they mutually believe they both belong. (Clark et al. 1983: 247)

Reconsidering the “dog-used-to-refer-to-remote-control” example mentioned above: in order for this kind of reference to happen, one can imagine a preparatory sequence like the following:

- (7) Can you please give me the ... what's the name? ... the ... ah, let's call it “dog” ... can you please give me the dog?

In this monologue, the speaker establishes a name for the remote control. After this name-giving, the situationally re-coined term can be used referentially (see Lücking et al. 2006 on situated conventions). Obviously, the felicity of reference is due to *linguistic evidence* provided and agreed upon in dialogical exchange. Dialogue contexts (Lee-Goldman 2011) and the dynamics of common ground is a dimension which is absent in the static CONTEXT representations surveyed above. This is where dynamic update semantics enters the stage.

## 2.4 Towards an update semantics for dialogue

Starting from Stalnakerian contexts (Stalnaker 1978; see also Lewis 1979), that is, contexts which consist of mutually known propositions (also corresponding roughly to the mutual belief structures employed by Green 1996, cf. Section 2.3), Ginzburg argues in a series of works that this context actually has a more elaborate structure (Ginzburg 1994; 1996; 1997). One motivation for this refinement is found in data like (8), an example given by Ginzburg (1994: 2) from the London-Lund corpus (Svartvik 1990).

- (8) 1. A: I've been at university.
- 2. B: Which university?
- 3. A: Cambridge.
- 4. B: Cambridge, um.

5. what did you read?
6. A: History and English.
7. B: History and English.

There is nothing remarkable about this dialogical exchange; it is a mundane piece of natural language interaction. However, given standard semantic assumptions and a *given-new* information structuring as sketched in Section 2.2, (8) poses two problems. The first problem is that one and the same word, namely *Cambridge*, plays a different role in different contexts as exemplified by turns 2 to 3 on the one hand and turns 3 to 4 on the other hand. The reason is that the first case instantiates a question-answering pair, where *Cambridge* provides the requested referent. The second case is an instance of *accept*: speaker B not only signals that she heard what A said (what is called *acknowledge*), but also that she updates her information state with a new piece of information (namely that A studied in Cambridge).

The second problem is that neither of B's turns 4 and 7 is redundant, although neither of them contribute new information (or *foci*) in the information-structural sense of Section 2.2: the turns just consist of a replication of A's answer. The reason for non-redundancy obviously is that in both cases the repetition manifests an *accept* move in the sense just explained.

In order to make grammatical sense out of such dialogue data – eventually in terms of linguistic competence – contextual background rooted in language is insufficient, as discussed. The additional context structure required to differentiate the desired interpretation of (8) from redundant and co-text-insensitive ones is informally summarised by Ginzburg (1994: 4) in the following way:

- FACTS: a set of commonly agreed upon facts;
- QUD (“question under discussion”): a partially ordered set that specifies the currently discussable questions. If  $q$  is topmost in QUD, it is permissible to provide any information specific to  $q$ .
- LATEST-MOVE: the content of *latest move* made: it is permissible to make whatever moves are available as reactions to the latest move.

Intuitively, turn 2 from the question-answer pair in turns 2 and 3 from (8) directly introduces a *question under discussion* – a semi-formal analysis is postponed to Section 4, which introduces the required background notions of *dialogue gameboards* and *conversational rules* which regiment dialogue gameboard updating. Given that in this case the *latest move* is a question, turn 3 is interpreted as an answer relating to the most recent question under discussion. This

answer, however, is not simply added to the dialogue partners' common knowledge, that is, the *facts*. Rather, the receiver of the answer first has to *accept* the response offered to him – this is the dialogue reading of “It takes two to make a truth”. After acceptance, the answer can be *grounded* (see Clark 1996: Chapter 4 for a discussion of common ground), that is, *facts* is *updated* with the proposition bound up with the given answer, the resolved question under discussion is removed from the QUD list (*downdating*) – in a nutshell, this basic mechanism is also the motor of the dialogue progressing. This mechanism entails an additional qualification compared to a static mutual belief context: dialogue update does not abstract over the individual dialogue partners. A dialogue move does not present the same content to each of the dialogue partners, nor does the occurrence of a move lead automatically to an update of the common ground (or mutual beliefs). Dialogue semantics accounts for this fact by distinguishing *public* from *private* information. Public information consists of observable linguistic behaviour and its conventional interpretations, collected under the notion of *dialogue gameboard* (DGB). The DGB can be traced back to the *commitment-stores* of Hamblin (1970) that keep track of the commitments made at each turn by each speaker.

Private information is private since it corresponds to interlocutors' mental states (MS). The final ingredient is that the (fourfold) dynamics between the interlocutors' dialogue game boards and mental states unfolds in time, turn by turn. In sum, a minimal participant-sensitive model of dialogue contributions is a tuple of DGB and MS series of the form  $\langle \text{DGB} \times \text{MS} \rangle^+$  for each dialogue agent. Here the tuple represents a temporarily ordered sequence of objects of a given type (i.e. DGB and MS in case of dialogue agents' information state models) which is witnessed by a *string* of respective events which at least of length 1, as required by the “Kleene +” (see Cooper & Ginzburg 2015: Section 2.7 on a type-theoretical variant of the string theory of events of Fernando 2011).

Guided by a few dialogue-specific semantic phenomena, we moved from various extensions to CONTEXT to minimal participant models and updating/downdating dynamics. In Sections 3 and 4, further progress which mainly consists of inverting the theory's strategic orientation is reviewed: instead of extending HPSG in order to cover pragmatics and dialogue semantics, it is argued that there are reasons to start with an interactive semantic framework and then embed an HPSG variant therein.

In order to move on, a remaining issue has to be resolved: what happens if an addressee for some reason refuses to accept a contribution of the previous speaker? In this case, the addressee (now taking the speaker role) poses a *clarifi-*

cation request. Clarification potential plays an important methodological role in the dialogue semantic business, as exemplified in Section 3.1 below.

### 3 Type-theoretical pragmatics and dialogue semantics

A minimal primer for the rich type theory TTR is given in Section 3.3. But why should (dialogue) semantics make use of a type theory at all? In what follows, two sources of motivation are presented, the one drawing on semantic data gained from the clarification potential of reprise fragments (Section 3.1), the other resulting from HPSG's struggle with connecting to semantic theories (Section 3.2).

#### 3.1 Subsentential meanings: unification and constraint-satisfaction vs. reprise content

In (9), B poses a clarification request in terms of a reprise fragment concerning the verb used by A (Ginzburg 2012: 115):

- (9) 1. A: Did Bo finagle a raise?  
2. B: Finagle?

The reprise fragment has at least two interpretations: it can query the phonetic component of the verb (“did I hear correctly that you said ‘finagle’?”), or it can query the meaning of the verb (“what does ‘finagle’ mean?”). Both queried aspects are available as part of the PHON-SYNSEM structure of signs, emphasizing the significance of HPSG’s fractal design (cf. the remark on fractality in Section 2.2). However, when B uses the reprise fragment to clarify the content of the expression reprised, then B queries *only* the meaning of the reprised fragment (Purver & Ginzburg 2004; Ginzburg & Purver 2012) – in our example (9), this is *finagle*. This can be seen when answers are given that target the head verb or the verb phrase (head verb plus direct object argument *a raise*):

- (10) Finagle?  
a. Yeah, like wangle.  
b. Yeah, he wangled a wage increase.

From the continuations in (10) only the first one provides an answer to B’s clarification question in (9). The second continuation can also answer a clarification request, but this clarification request is *finagle a raise?* That is, “[a] nominal fragment reprise question queries exactly the standard semantic content of the

fragment being reprised”, which is the strong version of the *Reprise Content Hypothesis* put forth by Purver & Ginzburg (2004: 288).<sup>5</sup> In case of the example given in (9), the content of the head verb is queried, and not the meaning of the verb phrase (verb plus direct object) or the sentence (verb plus direct object and subject), since they correspond to constructions that are larger than the reprised fragment. In other words, a reprise fragment allows us to access the meaning of any expression regardless of its syntactic degree of embedding. However, this is not what follows from unification-based semantics. Due to structure sharing, certain slots of a head are *identified* with semantic contributions of modifier or argument constructions (see Wechsler, Koenig & Davis 2019, Chapter 9 of this volume). In the case of *finagle a raise*, this means that once the content of the VP is composed, the patient role (or whatever semantic composition means are employed – see Koenig & Richter 2019, Chapter ?? of this volume for an overview) of the verb *finagle* is instantiated by the semantic index contributed by *a raise*. At this stage one cannot recover the V content from the VP content – unification appears to be too strong a mechanism to provide contents at all levels as required by reprise fragments.

However, as Richter (2000: Chapter 2) argues, unification is only required in order to provide a formal foundation for the *language-as-partial-information* paradigm of Pollard & Sag (1987) and its spin-offs. The *language-as-collection-of-total-objects* paradigm underlying Pollard & Sag (1994) and its derivatives is not in need of employing unification. Rather, grammars following this paradigm are model-theoretic, constraint-based grammars, resting on *Relational Speciate Re-entrant Language* (RSRL) as formal foundation (Richter 2000 via precursors like Penn 1999). The formalism RSRL in its most recent implementation (Richter 2004) has the advantage that the models it describes can be interpreted in different ways.<sup>6</sup> On the one hand, it is compatible with the idea that grammars accumulate constraints that describe classes of (well-formed) linguistic objects, which in turn classify models of linguistic tokens (King 1999). On the other hand, it is compatible with the view that grammars describe linguistic types, where types are construed as equivalence classes of utterance tokens (Pollard 1999). On these accounts, a related argument applies nonetheless: once the constraints are accumulated that describe total objects with the PHON string *finagle a raise*, the superset of total objects corresponding to just *finagle* is not available any more. The implications of clarification data for any kind of grammar, in particular for

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<sup>5</sup>The weak version (Purver & Ginzburg 2004: 287) only claims that a nominal fragment reprise question queries a part of the standard semantic content of the fragment being reprised.

<sup>6</sup>Richter (2019) p.c.; see also Richter (2019), Chapter 3 of this volume.

semantics, seem to be that some mechanism is needed that keeps track of the semantic contribution of each constituent of complex linguistic objects such as the verb *finagle* within the verb phrase *finagle a raise*. We do not know of any such attempts within constraint-based grammars and of the possible formal intricacies that may be involved, however. In the following, therefore, the HPSG<sub>TTR</sub>/KoS framework that provides trackable constituents by means of labelled representations and a dialogue gameboard architecture is introduced. We should emphasize to the reader that at this point we leave the formal background of standard HPSG as documented in this book. We want to point this out since the subsequently-used representations look deceptively similar to attribute-value matrices (the risk of confusion is known from the essentially identical representations employed within unification- and constraint-based HPSG variants). We see this as a consequence of the dynamics of theories when their empirical domain is extended; at best, it adds to the formal and conceptual controversies and developments that take place in HPSG anyway, as briefly sketched in the beginning of this paragraph. However, HPSG<sub>TTR</sub> aims at adopting most of HPSG's desirable features such as its fractal architecture, its sign-based set-up and its linking facility between different layers of grammatical description. To begin with, we want to further motivate the point of departure in terms of HPSG's semantic objects.

### 3.2 Semantic objects: data structures vs. types

Aiming at a declarative characterisation of natural languages, the model theoretic set-up of HPSG has to define models for its domain of linguistic objects (Levine & Meurers 2006: Section 3; see also Richter 2019, Chapter 3 of this volume). In particular with regard to the values of the CONTENT and CONTEXT attribute, the crucial question is “how types in the [feature] logic should correspond to the semantic types being represented” (Penn 2000: 70). In order to provide an answer to this crucial question, one has to clarify what a semantic type is. This question, however, is perhaps even more far-reaching and intricate than the initial one and following it further would lead us to undertake a considerable diversion and probably even turn away from the actual point of the initial question (but for a recent related discussion on the status of propositions see King et al. 2014). A pragmatic interpretation of the crucial question probably is this: how do the types in the feature logic correspond to the semantic types employed in semantic theories? There is a justification for this restatement from the actual semantic practice in HPSG (cf. Koenig & Richter 2019, Chapter ?? of this volume).

For the purpose of the present discussion, a semantic theory can be conceived as consisting of two components, *semantic representations* and an extensional

*domain* or *universe* within which the semantic representations are interpreted (Zimmermann 2011; Kempson 2011). That is, another reformulation of the question is how the HPSG model theory is related to a semantic model theory. Further concreteness can be obtained by realising that both kinds of theories aim to talk about the same extensional domain. Given this, the question becomes: how do HPSG's semantic representations correspond to the semantic representation of the semantic theory of choice? A closely related point is made by Penn (2000: 63): “A model-theoretic denotation could be constructed so that nodes, for example, are interpreted in a very heterogeneous universe of entities in the world, functions on those entities, abstract properties that they may have such as number and gender and whatever else is necessary – the model theories that currently exist for typed feature structures permit that [...]”. Formulating things in this way has a further advantage: the question is independent from other and diverging basic model theoretic assumptions made in various versions of HPSG, namely whether the linguistic objects to model are types (Pollard & Sag 1994) or tokens (Pollard & Sag 1987) and whether they are total objects (Pollard & Sag 1994) or partial information (Carpenter 1992). However, such a semantic model-theoretic denotation of nodes is not available in many of the most influential versions of HPSG: the semantic structures of the HPSG version developed by Pollard & Sag (1994) rests on a situation-theoretic framework. However, the (parameterised) states of affairs used as semantic representations lack a direct model-theoretic interpretation; they have to be translated into situation-theoretic formulæ first (such a translation from typed feature structures to situation theory is developed by Ginzburg & Sag 2000). That is, the semantic structures do not encode semantic entities; rather they are data structures that represent descriptions which in turn correspond to semantic objects. This is also the conclusion drawn by Penn. The quotation given above continues: “[...] but at that point feature structures are not being used as a formal device to represent knowledge but as a formal device to represent data structures that encode formal devices to represent knowledge” (Penn 2000: 63; see also the discussion given by Ginzburg 2012: Section 5.2.2).

There are two options in order to unite typed feature structures and semantic representations. The first is to use logical forms instead of (p)SOAs and by this means connect directly to truth-conditional semantics. This option makes use of what Penn (see above) calls a *heterogeneous universe*, since syntactic attributes receive a different extensional interpretation than semantic attributes (now consisting of first or second order logic formulæ). The second option is to resort to a homogeneous universe and take PHON-SYNSEM structures as objects in the world, as is done in type-theoretical frameworks – signs nonetheless stand out

from ordinary objects due to their *CONT* part, which makes them representational entities in the first place.

The first option, using logical forms instead of situation-semantic (p)soAs, was initiated by Nerbonne (1992). The most fully worked out semantics for HPSG from this strand has been developed by Richter and Sailer, by providing a mechanism to use the higher-order Ty2 language for semantic descriptions (Richter & Sailer 1999). This approach has been worked out in terms of *Lexical Resource Semantics* (LRS) where logical forms are constructed in parallel with attribute-value matrices (Richter & Sailer 2004).

At this point we should insert a word on HPSG's most popular underspecification mechanism, namely (*Robust*) *Minimal Recursion Semantics* (Copestake, Flickinger, Pollard & Sag 2005; Copestake 2007). (R)MRS formulæ may have unfilled argument slots so that they can be assembled in various ways. However, resolving such underspecified representations is not part of the grammar formalism, so (R)MRS representations do not provide an autonomous semantic component for HPSG. Therefore, they do not address the representation problem under discussion as LRS does.

The second option, using the type-theoretical framework TTR, has been developed by Cooper (2008; 2014; 2019) and Ginzburg (2012). TTR, though looking similar to feature structures, directly provides semantic entities, namely types (Ginzburg 2012: Sec. 5.2.2). TTR also has a model-theoretic foundation (Cooper 2019), so it complies with the representation-domain format we drew upon above.

Turning back to the issue discussed in Section 3.1, there is a difference between the two semantic options. Relevant observations are reported by Purver & Ginzburg (2004) concerning the clarification potential of noun phrases. They discuss data like the following (bold face added):

- (11) a. TERRY: Richard hit the ball on the car.  
NICK: **What ball?** [~ *What ball do you mean by ‘the ball’?*]  
TERRY: James [last name]’s football.  
(BNC file KR2, sentences 862, 865–866 )
- b. RICHARD: No I’ll commute every day  
ANON 6: **Every day?** [~ *Is it every day you’ll commute?*]  
[~ *Is it every day you’ll commute?*]  
[~ *Which days do you mean by every day?*]  
RICHARD: as if, er Saturday and Sunday  
ANON 6: And all holidays?  
RICHARD: Yeah [pause]

As testified in (11), the accepted answers which are given to the clarification requests are in terms of an *individual* with regard to *the ball* (11a) and in terms of *sets* with regard to *every day* in (11b). The expressions put to a clarification request (*the ball* and *every day*, respectively) are analysed as *generalised quantifiers* in semantics (Montague 1974). A generalised quantifier, however, denotes a *set of sets*, which is at odds with its clarification potential in dialogue. Accordingly, in a series of works, a theory of quantified noun phrases (QNPs) has been developed that refrains from type raising and that analyses QNPs in terms of the intuitively expected and clarificationally required denotations of types *individual* and *sets of individuals*, respectively (Purver & Ginzburg 2004; Ginzburg & Purver 2012; Ginzburg 2012; Cooper 2013; Lücking & Ginzburg 2018; Cooper 2019). Since this dialogue-friendly improvement has been given in terms of the second, type-theoretical option and is lacking in the first, logical form-based option (which usually involves generalised quantifier analyses), there is an empirical advantage for the former over the latter, at least from a pragmatic, dialogue semantics viewpoint.

There are further distinguishing features, however. Types are intensional entities, so they directly provide belief objects, as touched upon in Section 2.3, which are needed for intensional readings as figuring in attitude reports such as in the assertion that *Flat Earthers believe that the earth is flat* (see also Cooper 2005a and Cooper 2019 on attitude reports in TTR).

Furthermore, TTR is not susceptible to the *slingshot argument* (Barwise & Perry 1983: 24–26): explicating propositional content on a Fregean account (Frege 1892) – that is, denoting the true or the false – in terms of sets of possible worlds is too coarse-grained, since two sentences which are both true (or false) but have nonetheless different meanings cannot be distinguished. In this regard, TTR provides a *structured theory of meaning*, where types are not traded for their extensions. Accordingly, a brief introduction to TTR is given in Section 3.3 and the architecture of the dialogue theory KoS incorporating a type-theoretic HPSG variant is sketched in Section 4.

### 3.3 A brief primer on TTR

TTR, which builds on ideas in the intuitionistic Type Theory of Martin-Löf (1984) and its application to natural language semantics (see Ranta 2015), provides semantic objects at both the token and the type level and structures to organise these objects, namely records and record types (see Cooper 2005b, Cooper 2005a, Cooper 2012, Cooper 2017, and Cooper & Ginzburg 2015 for expositions). Records consist of fields of pairs of labels and objects, and record types consist of fields

of pairs of labels and types, which both can be nested (Cooper 2019). Take for instance the schematic record in (12):

$$(12) \quad \left[ l_0 = \begin{bmatrix} l_1 = o_1 \\ l_2 = o_2 \\ l_3 = o_3 \end{bmatrix} \right]$$

Here,  $o_1$ ,  $o_2$  and  $o_3$  are (real-world) objects, which are labelled by  $l_1$ ,  $l_2$  and  $l_3$ , respectively ( $o_1$  and  $o_2$  are additionally part of a sub-record labelled  $l_0$ ). Records can be *witnesses* for record types. For instance, the record from (12) is a witness for the record type in (13) only in the case that the objects from the record are of the type required by the record type (i.e.  $o_1 : T_1$ ,  $o_2 : T_2$ ,  $o_3 : T_3$ ), where objects and types are paired by same labelling.

$$(13) \quad \left[ l_0 : \begin{bmatrix} l_1 : T_1 \\ l_2 : T_2 \\ l_3 : T_3 \end{bmatrix} \right]$$

The colon notation indicates a basic notion in TTR: a *judgement*. A judgement of the form  $a : T$  means that object  $a$  is of type  $T$ , or, put differently, that  $a$  is a witness for  $T$ . Judgements are used to capture basic classifications like *Marc Chagall is an individual* ( $mc : Ind$ ), as well as propositional descriptions of situations like *The cat is on the mat* for the situation depicted in Figure 1, where Fritz the cat sits on mat m33. The record type for the example sentence (ignoring the semantic contribution of the definite article for the sake of exposition<sup>7</sup>) will be (14):

$$(14) \quad \left[ \begin{array}{l} x : Ind \\ c1 : cat(x) \\ y : Ind \\ c2 : mat(y) \\ c3 : on(x,y) \end{array} \right]$$

Note that the types labelled “c1”, “c2”, and “c3” in (14) are *dependent types*, since the veridicality of judgements involving these types depends on the objects that are assigned to the basic types labelled “x” and “y”. A *witness* for the record type in (14) will be a *record* that provides suitable objects for each field of the record type (and possibly more). Obviously, the situation depicted in Figure 1 (adapted from Lücking 2018: 270) is a witness for the type in (14). The participants of the depicted situation can be thought of as situations themselves which show Fritz to be a cat, m33 to be a mat and Fritz to be on m33. The scene in the figure then

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<sup>7</sup>This record type corresponds to *a cat is on a mat*.

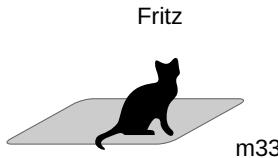


Figure 1: Fritz the cat sits on a mat.

corresponds to the following record, which is of the type expressed by the record type from (14):

$$(15) \quad \left[ \begin{array}{l} x = \text{Fritz} \\ c1 = \text{cat situation} \\ y = m33 \\ c2 = \text{mat situation} \\ c3 = \text{relation situation} \end{array} \right]$$

Using type constructors, various types can be build out of basic and complex (dependent) types, such as set types and list types. In order to provide two (slightly simplified) examples of type constructors that will be useful later on, we just mention *function types* and *singleton types* here.

(16) Function type

- a. If  $T_1$  and  $T_2$  are types, then  $(T_1 \rightarrow T_2)$  is a type, namely the type of functions that map  $T_1$  to  $T_2$ .
- b. If a function  $f$  is of type  $(T_1 \rightarrow T_2)$  then  $f$ 's domain is  $\{a \mid a : T_1\}$  and its range is included in  $\{a \mid a : T_2\}$ .

The characterisation in (16) is that of a standard extensional notion of function. Given that TTR is an intensional semantic theory – that is, two types are different even if their extension is the same – other notions of function types could be developed.

(17) Singleton type

- a. If  $T$  is a type and  $a : T'$  (i.e. object  $a$  is of type  $T'$ ), then  $T_a$  is a type.
- b.  $b : T_a$  (i.e. object  $b$  is of type  $T_a$ ) iff  $b : T$  and  $b = a$ .

That is, a singleton type is singleton since it is the type of specific object.

Since types are semantic objects in their own right (types are not defined by or reduced to their extensions), not only an object  $o$  of type  $T$  can be the value of a label, but also type  $T$  itself. One way of expressing this is in terms of *manifest*

fields. A type-manifest field is notated in the following way:  $l = T : T'$ , specifying that  $l$  is the type  $T$ . Analogously, object-manifest fields can be expressed by restricting the value of a label to a certain object.

For more comprehensive and formal elaborations of TTR, see the references given at the beginning of this section, in particular Cooper (2019).

## 4 Putting things together: HPSG<sub>TTR</sub> and dialogue game boards

Signs as construed within HPSG can be reconstructed as record types of a specific kind (Cooper 2008). For instance, (18) shows the record type (the judgement colon indicates that we now talk about TTR objects) for a general sign according to Pollard & Sag (1994) (where *PhonType*, *CategoryType* and *SemType* denote obvious types – see the Appendix for a minimal HPSG fragment defined in terms of TTR).

$$(18) \quad \left[ \begin{array}{ll} \text{PHON} & : \text{list}(\text{PhonType}) \\ \text{SYNSEM} & : \left[ \begin{array}{ll} \text{CAT} & : \text{CategoryType} \\ \text{LOCAL} & : \left[ \begin{array}{ll} \text{CONTENT} & : \text{SemType} \\ \text{CONTEXT} & : \text{SemType} \end{array} \right] \right] \end{array} \right]$$

Signs are extended by an interface to circumstantial features of the utterance situation in terms of the DGB-PARAMS attribute, which corresponds to the C-INDS from Section 2.1. The attribute's name abbreviates *dialogue gameboard parameters*, since its values have to be instantiated (that is, witnessed) in the process of grounding. Thus, if the content of an NP  $\alpha$  is part of DGB-PARAMS, then  $\alpha$  gets a referential interpretation. However, NPs need not be used referentially; there are what Donnellan (1966) calls *attributive uses* as in *The thief (whoever he is) stole my credit card*. To this end, there is a “coercion” operation from DGB-PARAMS to Q-PARAMS (*quantificational parameters*) involving an abstraction from individuals to  $\alpha$ 's descriptive condition (Purver & Ginzburg 2004; see the Appendix for the respective operation).

These HPSG<sub>TTR</sub> signs figure as constituents within an architecture known as *dialogue gameboard*, giving rise to a grammar-dialogue interface within the dialogue theory KoS (Ginzburg 1994; 1996; 2003; 2012). A Dialogue Game Board (DGB) is an information-state based sheet for describing communicative interactions. The DGB from KoS tracks the interlocutors (*spkr* and *addr* fields), a record of the dialog history (*Moves*), dialogue moves that are in the process of grounding (*Pending*), the question(s) currently under discussion (*QUD*), the assumptions

shared among the interlocutors (*Facts*) and the dialogue participant's view of the visual situation and attended entities (*VisualSit*). The TTR representation of a DGB following Ginzburg (2012) is given in (19), where *LocProp* is the type of a *locutionary proposition* (see (21) below) and *poset* abbreviates “partially ordered set”.

(19)	$\left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{SPKR} : \text{Ind} \\ \text{ADDR} : \text{Ind} \\ \text{UTT-TIME} : \text{Time} \\ \text{C-UTT} : \text{addressing}(\text{spkr}, \text{addr}, \text{utt-time}) \\ \text{FACTS} : \text{set}(\text{Prop}) \\ \text{VISUALSIT} : \text{RecType} \\ \text{PENDING} : \text{list}(\text{LocProp}) \\ \text{MOVES} : \text{list}(\text{LocProp}) \\ \text{QUD} : \text{poset}(\text{Question}) \end{array} \right]$
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TTR, like many HPSG variants (e.g. Pollard & Sag 1987 and Pollard & Sag 1994), employs a situation semantic domain (Cooper 2019). This involves propositions being modelled in terms of types of situations, not in terms of sets of possible worlds. Since TTR is a type theory, it offers at least two explications of proposition. On the one hand, propositions can be identified with types (Cooper 2005a). On the other hand, propositions can be developed in an explicit Austinian (Austin 1950) way, where a proposition is individuated in terms of a situation and situation type (Ginzburg 2011: 845) – this is the truth-making (and Austin's original) interpretation of “It takes two to make a truth”, since on Austin's conception a situation type can only be truth-evaluated against the situation it is about. We follow the latter option here. The type of propositions and the relation to a situation semantics conception of “true” (Barwise & Perry 1983) is given in (20):

(20)	a. $\text{Prop} =_{\text{def}} \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{SIT} : \text{Record} \\ \text{SIT-TYPE} : \text{RecType} \end{array} \right]$
	b. A proposition $p = \left[ \begin{array}{l l} \text{SIT} & = s \\ \text{SIT-TYPE} & = T \end{array} \right]$ is true iff $s : T$ .

A special kind of proposition, namely *locutionary propositions* (*LocProp*) (Ginzburg 2012: 172), can be defined as follows:

(21)	$\text{LocProp} =_{\text{def}} \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{SIGN} : \text{Record} \\ \text{SIGN-TYPE} : \text{RecType} \end{array} \right]$
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Locutionary propositions are sign objects utilized to explicate clarification potential (see Section 3.1) and grounding.

Given the dialogue-awareness of signs just sketched, a content for interjections such as “EHHH HEHH” which constitutes turn 3 from the exchange be-

tween Ann and Ray in (1) at the beginning of this chapter can be given. Intuitively, Ann signals with these sounds that she heard Ray’s question, which in turn is neither grounded nor clarified at this point of dialogue but is waiting for a response, what is called *pending*. This intuition can be made precise by means of the following lexical entry (which is closely related to the meaning of *mmh* given by Ginzburg 2012: 163):

(22)	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>PHON : &lt; EHH HEHH &gt;</td><td rowspan="4" style="vertical-align: middle; font-size: 2em;">[</td></tr> <tr> <td>CAT : [HEAD=interjection : syncat]</td></tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">SPKR : Ind</td></tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">ADDR : Ind</td></tr> </table>	PHON : < EHH HEHH >	[	CAT : [HEAD=interjection : syncat]	SPKR : Ind	ADDR : Ind
PHON : < EHH HEHH >	[					
CAT : [HEAD=interjection : syncat]						
SPKR : Ind						
ADDR : Ind						
	DGB-PARAMS :					
	PENDING : LocProp					
	C2 : address(spkr,addr,pending)					
	CONT=Understand(SPKR,ADDR,DGB-PARAMS.PENDING) : IllocProp]					

Knowing how to use feedback signals such as the one in (22) can be claimed to be part of linguistic competence. It is difficult to imagine how to model this aspects of linguistic knowledge if not by means of *grammar in dialogue*.

Dialogue gameboard structures as defined in (19) as well as lexical entries for interjections such as (22) are still *static*. The mechanism that is responsible for the dynamics of dialogue and regiments the interactive evolution of DGBs is *conversational rules*. A conversational rule is a mapping between an input and an output information state, where the input DGB is constrained by a type labelled *preconditions* (PRE) and the output DGB is subject to EFFECTS. That is, a conversational rule can be notated in the following form, where *DGBT*ype is the type of dialogue gameboards defined in (19).

(23)	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>PRE : DGBType</td><td rowspan="2" style="vertical-align: middle; font-size: 2em;">[</td></tr> <tr> <td>EFFECTS : DGBType</td></tr> </table>	PRE : DGBType	[	EFFECTS : DGBType
PRE : DGBType	[			
EFFECTS : DGBType				

Several basic conversational rules are defined in Ginzburg (2012: Chapter 4) and some of them, namely those needed to analyse example (8) discussed above, are re-given below (with “Fact update/QUD-downdate” being simplified, however). *IllocProp* abbreviates “Illocutionary Proposition”, *IllocRel* “Illocutionary Relation”, *poset* “Partially Ordered Set”, *AbSemObj* “Abstract Semantic Object” and *QSPEC* “Question-under-Discussion-Specific”. With regard to the partially ordered QUD set, we use “ $\langle u, X \rangle$ ” to denote the upper bound  $u$  for subset  $X$ . For details, we have to refer the reader to Ginzburg (2012); we believe the following list to convey at least a solid impression of how dialogue dynamics works in KoS, however.

- Free Speech:

$$\begin{array}{l} \text{PRE} : [\text{QUD}=\langle \rangle : \text{poset}(\text{Question})] \\ \text{EFFECTS} : \text{TurnUnderSpec} \wedge \text{merge} \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{R} : \text{ABSEMOBJ} \\ \text{R} : \text{ILLOCREL} \\ \text{LATESTMOVE} = \text{R}(\text{SPKR}, \text{ADDR}, \text{R}) : \text{ILLOCPROP} \end{array} \right] \end{array}$$

- QSPEC:

$$\begin{array}{l} \text{PRE} : [\text{QUD}=\langle \text{Q}, \text{Q} \rangle : \text{poset}(\text{Question})] \\ \text{EFFECTS} : \text{TurnUnderSpec} \wedge \text{merge} \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{R} : \text{ABSEMOBJ} \\ \text{R} : \text{ILLOCREL} \\ \text{LATESTMOVE} = \text{R}(\text{SPKR}, \text{ADDR}, \text{R}) : \text{ILLOCPROP} \\ \text{C1} : \text{QSPECIFIC}(\text{R}, \text{Q}) \end{array} \right] \end{array}$$

- Ask QUD-incrementation:

$$\begin{array}{l} \text{PRE} : [\text{Q} : \text{Question}] \\ \text{EFFECTS} : [\text{QUD}=\langle \text{Q}, \text{PRE.QUD} \rangle : \text{poset}(\text{Question})] \end{array}$$

- Assert QUD-incrementation:

$$\begin{array}{l} \text{PRE} : [\text{P} : \text{Proposition}] \\ \text{EFFECTS} : [\text{QUD}=\langle \text{P?}, \text{PRE.QUD} \rangle : \text{poset}(\text{Question})] \end{array}$$

- Accept:

$$\begin{array}{l} \text{PRE} : \left[ \begin{array}{ll} \text{SPKR} & : \text{Ind} \\ \text{ADDR} & : \text{Ind} \\ \text{P} & : \text{Prop} \\ \text{LATESTMOVE} = \text{ASSERT}(\text{SPKR}, \text{ADDR}, \text{P}) & : \text{IllocProp} \\ \text{QUD} = \langle \text{P?}, \text{SUBQUD} \rangle & : \text{poset}(\text{Question}) \end{array} \right] \\ \text{EFFECTS} : \left[ \begin{array}{ll} \text{SPKR} = \text{PRE.ADDR} & : \text{Ind} \\ \text{ADDR} = \text{PRE.SPRK} & : \text{Ind} \\ \text{LATESTMOVE} = \text{ACCEPT}(\text{SPKR}, \text{ADDR}, \text{P}) & : \text{IllocProp} \end{array} \right] \end{array}$$

- Fact update/QUD-downdate (simplified):

$-$	$\left[ \begin{array}{ll} \text{PRE} : & \begin{cases} Q & : \text{Question} \\ P & : \text{Prop} \\ \text{LATESTMOVE=ACCEPT(SPKR,ADDR,P)} & : \text{IllocProp} \\ \text{QUD}=\langle P?, \text{SUBQUD} \rangle & : \text{poset}(Question) \end{cases} \\ \text{EFFECTS} : & \begin{cases} \text{FACTS}=\text{PRE.FACTS} \cup \{P\} & : \text{Set(Prop)} \\ \text{QUD}=\text{PRE.QUD} \setminus \{P?\} \end{cases} \end{array} \right]$
$-$	$\left[ \begin{array}{ll} \text{PRE} : & \begin{cases} P & : \text{Prop} \\ \text{LATESTMOVE=ACCEPT(SPKR,ADDR,P)} & : \text{IllocProp} \\ \text{QUD}=\langle P?, \text{SUBQUD} \rangle & : \text{poset}(Question) \end{cases} \\ \text{EFFECTS} : & \begin{cases} \text{FACTS}=\text{PRE.FACTS} \cup \{P\} & : \text{Set(Prop)} \\ \text{QUD}=\text{PRE.QUD} \setminus \{P?\} \end{cases} \end{array} \right]$

Having dialogue game boards and conversational rules at one's disposal, we can apply KoS' analytical tools to the dialogue example from (8) above. We make the following simplifying assumptions: if the  $n$ th move is an assertion, we refer to the asserted proposition in terms of " $p(n)$ ". The corresponding question *whether*  $p(n)$  is notated " $p?(n)$ ". If the  $n$ th move is a question, we refer to the question in terms of " $q(n)$ ". Additionally, we assume that subsentential utterances project to Austinian propositions by resolving elliptical expressions in context in terms of their missing semantic constituents which are available as the contents of the maximal elements in QUD (that is, they are addressable via the path  $\text{QUD}.FIRST.CONT$ ; cf. Ginzburg 2012).

Turn	DGB dynamics	Utterance / Conversational rule(s)
init.	$\left[ \begin{array}{ll} \text{PARTICIPANTS} & = \{A,B\} \\ \text{MOVES} & = \langle \quad \rangle \\ \text{QUD} & = \langle \quad \rangle \\ \text{FACTS} & = cg\theta \end{array} \right]$	—
1.	$\left[ \begin{array}{ll} \text{SPKR} & = A \\ \text{ADDR} & = B \\ \text{MOVES} & = \langle \text{ASSERT}(A,B,p(1)) \rangle \\ \text{QUD} & = \langle P?(1) \rangle \\ \text{FACTS} & = cg\theta \end{array} \right]$	"I've been at university." Free Speech + Assert QUD-incrementation

2.	$\left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{SPKR} = B \\ \text{ADDR} = A \\ \text{MOVES} = \langle \text{ASK}(B,A,Q(2)), \text{ASSERT}(A,B,P(1)) \rangle \\ \text{QUD} = \langle Q(2) \rangle \\ \text{FACTS} = cg0 \cup \{ P(1) \} \end{array} \right]$	“Which university?” Accept + Ask QUD-incrementation
3.	$\left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{SPKR} = A \\ \text{ADDR} = B \\ \text{MOVES} = \langle \text{ASSERT}(A,B,P(3)), \\ \quad \text{ASK}(B,A,Q(2)), \text{ASSERT}(A,B,P(1)) \rangle \\ \text{QBG} = \text{About}(p(3), q(2)) \\ \text{QUD} = \langle P?(3), Q(2) \rangle \\ \text{FACTS} = cg0 \cup \{ P(1) \} \end{array} \right]$	“Cambridge.” QSPEC (via <i>About</i> relation) + Assert QUD-incrementation
4.	$\left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{SPKR} = B \\ \text{ADDR} = A \\ \text{MOVES} = \langle \text{ACCEPT}(B,A,P(3)), \text{ASSERT}(A,B,P(3)), \\ \quad \text{ASK}(B,A,Q(2)), \text{ASSERT}(A,B,P(1)) \rangle \\ \text{QUD} = \langle \rangle \\ \text{FACTS} = cg0 \cup \{ P(3), P(1) \} \end{array} \right]$	“Cambridge, um.” Accept + Fact update/QUD-downdate
5.	$\left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{SPKR} = B \\ \text{ADDR} = A \\ \text{MOVES} = \langle \text{ASK}(B,A,Q(5)), \\ \quad \text{ACCEPT}(B,A,P(3)), \text{ASSERT}(A,B,P(3)), \\ \quad \text{ASK}(B,A,Q(2)), \text{ASSERT}(A,B,P(1)) \rangle \\ \text{QUD} = \langle Q(5) \rangle \\ \text{FACTS} = cg0 \cup \{ P(3), P(1) \} \end{array} \right]$	“what did you read?” Free Speech + Ask QUD-incrementation
6.	$\left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{SPKR} = A \\ \text{ADDR} = B \\ \text{MOVES} = \langle \text{ASSERT}(A,B,P(6)), \text{ASK}(B,A,Q(5)), \\ \quad \text{ACCEPT}(B,A,P(3)), \text{ASSERT}(A,B,P(3)), \\ \quad \text{ASK}(B,A,Q(2)), \text{ASSERT}(A,B,P(1)) \rangle \\ \text{QBG} = \text{About}(p(6), q(5)) \\ \text{QUD} = \langle P?(6), Q(5) \rangle \\ \text{FACTS} = cg0 \cup \{ P(3), P(1) \} \end{array} \right]$	“History and English.” QSPEC (via <i>About</i> relation) + Assert QUD-incrementation

7.	$\begin{aligned} \text{SPKR} &= B \\ \text{ADDR} &= A \\ &\quad \text{ACCEPT}(B, A, p(6)), \\ \text{MOVES} &= \left\langle \begin{array}{l} \text{ASSERT}(A, B, p(6)), \text{ASK}(B, A, q(5)), \\ \text{ACCEPT}(B, A, p(3)), \text{ASSERT}(A, B, p(3)), \\ \text{ASK}(B, A, q(2)), \text{ASSERT}(A, B, p(1)) \end{array} \right\rangle \\ \text{QUD} &= \langle \rangle \\ \text{FACTS} &= cg\theta \cup \{p(6), p(3), p(1)\} \end{aligned}$	<p>“History and English.”</p> <p>Accept + Fact update/QUD-downdate</p>
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Note that the dialogical exchange leads to an increase of the common ground of the interlocutors A and B: after chatting, the common ground contains the propositions *that A has been at university* ( $p(1)$ ), *that A has been at Cambridge University* ( $p(3)$ ) and *that A read History and English* ( $p(6)$ ).

On these grounds, a lexical entry for “hello” can be spelled out. “Hello” realises a greeting move (which is its content) and must be used discourse-initially (the MOVES list and the QUD set have to be empty):

(24)	$\begin{aligned} \text{PHON} &: \langle \text{HELLO} \rangle \\ \text{CAT} &: [\text{HEAD} = \text{INTERJECTION} : \text{syncat}] \\ &\quad \left[ \begin{array}{ll} \text{SPKR} & : \text{Ind} \\ \text{ADDR} & : \text{Ind} \end{array} \right] \\ \text{DGB-PARAMS} &: \left[ \begin{array}{ll} \text{MOVES} & = \langle \rangle : \text{list}(\text{IllocProp}) \\ \text{QUD} & = \{ \} : \text{poset}(\text{Question}) \end{array} \right] \\ \text{CONT} &= \text{GREET}(\text{SPKR}, \text{ADDR}): \text{ILLOCPROP} \end{aligned}$
------	---

Discourse-dynamically, “hello” puts a greeting move onto the MOVES list of the dialogue gameboard, thereby initiates an interaction and invites for a countergreeting (the requirement for countergreeting is exactly that a greeting move is the element of the otherwise empty list of dialogue moves) – giving rise to an *adjacency pair* as part of the local management system for dialogues investigated in conversational analysis (Schegloff & Sacks 1973).

The discourse particle “yes” can be used to answer a polar yes/no question. In this use, “yes” has a propositional content  $p$  that asserts the propositional content of the polar question  $p?$ , which has to be the maximal element in QUD (Ginzburg 2012: Chapter 2, 231 *et seq.*). That is, “yes” affirmatively resolves a given polar question. Polar questions, in turn, are 0-ary propositional abstracts (Ginzburg 2012: 231), that is, the polar question  $p?$  corresponding to a proposition  $p$  is a function mapping an empty record to  $p: \lambda r : [].p$ . Thus, applying  $p?$  to an empty record [] returns  $p$ , which is exactly what “yes” does. The affirmative particle

(used to answer a yes/no question) is a propositional lexeme which applies a polar question which is maximal in QUD to an empty record (cf. Ginzburg 2012: 232):

(25)	$\begin{aligned} \text{PHON} &: \langle \text{ YES } \rangle \\ \text{CAT} &: [\text{HEAD} = \text{PARTCL} : \text{syncat}] \\ \text{DGB-PARAMS} &: \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{QUD} = \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{MAX} : \text{PolQuestion} \\ \text{REST} : \text{set}(\text{Question}) \end{array} \right] : \text{poset}(\text{Question}) \end{array} \right] \\ \text{CONT} &= \text{DGB-PARAMS.QUD.MAX}([ ]) : \text{PROP} \end{aligned} \right]$
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Due to its involvedness in DGB-PARAMS.QUD, “yes” directly interacts with accept and downdating, as described above. For more on this, see Ginzburg (2012).

## 5 Outlook

Given a basic framework for formulating and analysing content in dialogue context, there are various directions to explore, including the following ones.

- One of the main challenges of dialogue semantics is the integration of *non-verbal communication* means, like gaze, gestures, body posture, timing and non-language vocal sounds (e.g. laughter; Ginzburg et al. 2015; Tian et al. 2016). Since non-verbal communication means are informative, not only does a (dialogue) semantic representation have to be developed, but also the rules of their interaction with speech have to be formulated.
- Strictly speaking, dialogue is the interaction between *two* interlocutors. How can one scale up to *multilogue*, where the number of participants is at least three (Ginzburg & Fernández 2005)? Given the increased number of participants, problems that emerge include *grounding by proxy*, where a representative represents the dialogue gameboard of a group (Eshghi & Healey 2016) and of course *turn taking*.
- People do not process natural language input sentence-wise. Rather, processing begins with the initial sound and proceeds word for word or even on smaller units like affixes and phonemes – that is, processing is incremental (e.g. Sedivy et al. 1999; see also Wasow 2019, Chapter 27 of this volume). This is a key ingredient in the efficient (relatively gap-free and interruption-less) managing of turn taking. One direction of dialogue theories therefore is to bring psycholinguistics and formal semantics closer together by devising incremental grammar and dialogue gameboard models (Hough et al. 2015; Demberg et al. 2013; Poesio & Rieser 2011).

Finally, we want to mention two other dialogue-theoretic frameworks that have been worked out to a substantial degree, namely PTT (Traum 1994; Poesio 1995; Poesio & Traum 1997; Poesio & Rieser 2010), and *Segmented Discourse Representation Theory* (SDRT) (Asher 1993; Asher & Lascarides 2003; 2013; Hunter & Asher 2015). The phenomena and outlook directions discussed in this chapter apply to all theories of dialogue semantics, of course.

## Appendix: An HPSG<sub>TTR</sub> fragment

The appendix provides a fragment of HPSG<sub>TTR</sub>. The grammar framework used is oriented at a *Head-driven Phrase Structure Grammar* variant (Sag et al. 2003), namely its TTR implementation (Cooper 2008). We use HPSG because its architecture satisfies the property of *incremental correspondence* (Johnson & Lappin 1999) – utterance representations encode phonological, syntactic, semantic and contextual information *fractally*. This is crucial *inter alia* for any treatment of clarification interaction (cf. Section 3.1). We use HPSG<sub>TTR</sub> because the type-theoretical version allows us to directly incorporate semantic objects (cf. Section 3.2).

TTR has a counterpart to unification, namely the *merge* construction.

- (26) a. If  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  are record types, then  $R_1 \wedge_{\text{merge}} R_2$  is a record type and is called the *merge* of  $R_1$  and  $R_2$ .
- b. Since merge types are complicated to define (but see Cooper 2012), we follow the strategy of Cooper (2017) and illustrate the working of merges by means of some examples:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{(i)} \quad & \left[ \begin{array}{l} A : T \\ B : R \end{array} \right] \wedge_{\text{MERGE}} \left[ \begin{array}{l} C : S \end{array} \right] = \left[ \begin{array}{l} A : T \\ B : R \\ C : S \end{array} \right] \\
 \text{(ii)} \quad & [A : T] \wedge_{\text{MERGE}} [A : R] = [A : T \wedge_{\text{merge}} R]
 \end{aligned}$$

Structure sharing is indicated by a “tag type” notation. Tag types are defined in terms of manifest fields.<sup>8</sup> The notational convention is exemplified in (27) by means of head-specifier agreement, where the tag type from (27a) abbreviates the structure in (27b):

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<sup>8</sup> NB: technically, tag types apply singleton types to record types, instead of to objects, thereby making use of a revision of the notion of singleton types introduced by Cooper (2013: 4, footnote 3).

- (27) a.  $\left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{CAT} : \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{HEAD} : \left[ \text{AGR}_{\boxed{1}} : \text{Agr} \right] \\ \text{SPR} : \left( \left[ \text{CAT} : \left[ \text{HEAD} : \left[ \text{AGR} = \boxed{1} : \text{Agr} \right] \right] \right) \end{array} \right] \end{array} \right]$
- b.  $\left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{CAT} : \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{HEAD} : \left[ \text{AGR} : \text{Agr} \right] \\ \text{SPR} : \left( \left[ \text{CAT} : \left[ \text{HEAD} : \left[ \text{AGR} = / \text{CAT.HEAD.AGR} : \text{Agr} \right] \right] \right) \end{array} \right] \end{array} \right]$

The tag type notation alludes to the box notation common in HPSG work.

*Agr* is defined as usual:

- (28)  $\text{Agr} := \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{NUM} : \text{Num} \\ \text{PERS} : \text{Per} \\ \text{GEN} : \text{Gen} \end{array} \right]$

A basic *sign* is a pairing of phonetic, syntactic and semantic information and follows the geometry in (29):

- (29)  $\text{sign} := \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{PHON} : \text{Phoneme} \\ \text{CAT} : \text{SynCat} \\ \text{DGB-PARAMS} : \text{RecType} \\ \text{CONT} : \text{SemObj} \end{array} \right]$

Signs employ DGB-PARAMS, which host referential meanings that are witnessed among interlocutors. Quantificational abstraction is achieved by coercing parts of DGB-PARAMS to Q-PARAMS:

- (30) If DGB-PARAMS :  $R_2$  and for two record types  $R_0$  and  $R_1$  lacking any mutual dependencies<sup>9</sup>  $R_2 = R_0 \wedge_{\text{merge}} R_1$ , then  $R_0$  can be moved to Q-PARAMS, resulting in the following structure:

$$\left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{DGB-PARAMS} : R_1 \\ \text{CONT} = \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{Q-PARAMS} : R_0 \end{array} \right] \end{array} \right]$$

A word is a sign with constituent type (CXTYPE) *word*. Using the merge operation, the word extension on signs can be represented compactly as in (31a), which expands to the structure given in (31b):

- (31) a.  $\text{word} := \text{sign} \wedge_{\text{merge}} [\text{CXTYPE} : \text{word}] : \text{RecType}$
- b.  $\left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{CXTYPE} : \text{word} \\ \text{PHON} : \text{Phoneme} \\ \text{CAT} : \text{SynCat} \\ \text{DGB-PARAMS} : \text{RecType} \\ \text{CONT} : \text{SemObj} \end{array} \right]$

---

<sup>9</sup>None of the labels occurring in  $R_0$  occur in  $R_1$  and vice versa.

Words – that is, cxtypewriter *word* – are usually the result of lexical rules, whose input are lexemes. Lexemes differ from words in their constituent type:

$$(32) \quad \text{lexeme} := \text{sign} \wedge_{\text{merge}} [\text{CXTYPE} : \text{lexeme}] : \text{RecType}$$

A phrasal sign can be seen as a word with daughters:

$$(33) \quad \text{a. } \text{phrase} := \text{sign} \wedge_{\text{merge}} \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{CXTYPE} : \text{phrase} \\ \text{DTRS} : [\text{NHD-DTRS} : \text{List}(\text{Sign})] \end{array} \right] : \text{RecType}$$

$$\text{b. } \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{CXTYPE} : \text{phrase} \\ \text{PHON} : \text{List}(\text{Phoneme}) \\ \text{CAT} : \text{SynCat} \\ \text{DGB-PARAMS} : \text{RecType} \\ \text{CONT} : \text{SemObj} \\ \text{DTRS} : [\text{NHD-DTRS} : \text{List}(\text{Sign})] \end{array} \right]$$

A headed phrase is a phrase with a prominent daughter, i.e. the head daughter:

$$(34) \quad \text{a. } \text{hd-phrase} := \text{phrase} \wedge_{\text{merge}} \left[ \text{DTRS} : [\text{HD-DTR} : \text{Sign}] \right] : \text{RecType}$$

$$\text{b. } \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{CXTYPE} : \text{phrase} \\ \text{PHON} : \text{List}(\text{Phoneme}) \\ \text{CAT} : \text{SynCat} \\ \text{DGB-PARAMS} : \text{RecType} \\ \text{CONT} : \text{SemObj} \\ \text{DTRS} : \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{HD-DTR} : \text{Sign} \\ [\text{NHD-DTRS} : \text{List}(\text{Sign})] \end{array} \right] \end{array} \right]$$

The head daughter is special since it (as a default, at least) determines the syntactic properties of the mother construction. This aspect of headedness is captured in terms of the *head-feature principle* (HFP), which can be implemented by means of tag types as follows:

$$(35) \quad \text{HFP} := \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{CXTYPE} : \text{phrase} \\ \text{CAT} : \left[ \text{HEAD}_{\boxed{2}} : \text{PoS} \right] \\ \text{DTRS} : \left[ \text{HD-DTR} : \left[ \text{CAT} : \left[ \text{HEAD}=\boxed{2} : \text{PoS} \right] \right] \right] \end{array} \right]$$

The fact that the daughters' locutions combine to the mother's utterance is captured in terms of a "phon principle" (we use a slash notation in order to indicate paths starting at the outermost level of a feature structure):

$$(36) \quad \text{PHON} := \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{CXTYPE} : \text{phrase} \\ \text{PHON} : \text{List}(/ \text{dtrs.hd.dtr/phon}, / \text{dtrs.nhd.dtrs/pos1.phon}, \\ \dots, / \text{dtrs.nhd.dtrs/posn.phon}) \end{array} \right]$$

Since semantic composition rests on predication rather than unification, there is no analog to the semantic compositionality principle of Sag et al. (2003) in our account. There is, however, something akin to semantic inheritance: we need to keep track of the contextual and quantificational parameters contributed by the daughters of a phrase. This is achieved in terms of a *dgb-params principle* (DGBPP) in (37) which unifies the daughters' DGB-PARAMS into the mother's DGB-PARAMS (see Ginzburg 2012: 126 *et seq.* for a similar principle):

(37) DGBPP :=

$$\left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{CXTYPE} : \text{phrase} \\ \text{DGB-PARAMS} : \left[ \begin{array}{l} / \text{DTRS.HD-DTR.DGB-PARAMS} \wedge_{\text{MERGE}} / \text{DTRS.NHD-DTRS.POS1.DGB-PARAMS} \wedge_{\text{MERGE}} \\ \dots \wedge_{\text{MERGE}} / \text{DTRS.NHD-DTRS.POS}n.\text{DGB-PARAMS} \end{array} \right] \\ \text{DTRS} : \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{HD-DTR} : [\text{Q-PARAMS} : \text{RecType}] \\ \text{NHD-DTRS} : \left( \begin{array}{l} \text{POS1} : [\text{Q-PARAMS} : \text{RecType}], \dots, \text{posn} : [\text{Q-PARAMS} : \text{RecType}] \end{array} \right) \end{array} \right] \end{array} \right]$$

A headed phrase is well-formed when it is a headed phrase and it obeys the head feature principle, the phon principle and the *dgb-params* principle, which is expressed by extending *hd-phrase* by the following constraint:

(38) *hd-phrase* := *hd-phrase*  $\wedge_{\text{merge}}$  HFP  $\wedge_{\text{merge}}$  PHON  $\wedge_{\text{merge}}$  DGBPP

Using this set-up, lexical entries, lexical rules and syntactic constructions can be formulated straightforwardly.

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# Chapter 30

## Sign languages

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### 1 Introduction

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orci. Donec faucibus metus dui, nec iaculis purus pellentesque sit amet. Sed fermentum lorem non augue cursus, eu accumsan risus ullamcorper. Suspendisse rhoncus magna vitae enim pellentesque, eget porttitor quam finibus. Nunc ultricies turpis at quam vehicula, at tempus justo molestie. Proin convallis augue ut turpis cursus rhoncus. Donec sed convallis justo. Sed sed massa pharetra ex aliquet eleifend. finality

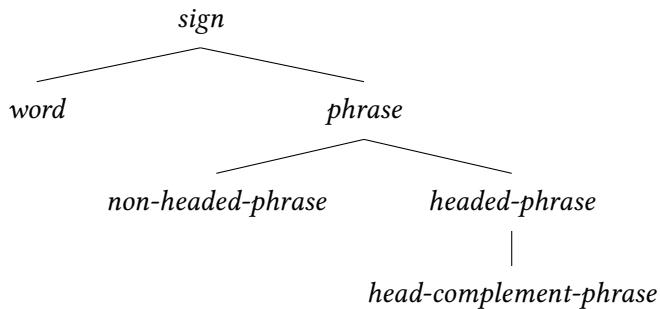
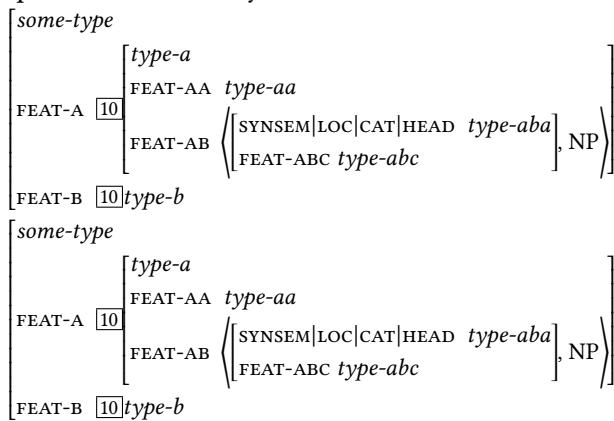


Figure 1: Type hierarchy for *sign*

## Abbreviations

## Acknowledgements

# Chapter 31

## Gesture

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The received view in (psycho)linguistics, dialogue theory and gesture studies is that co-verbal gestures, i.e. hand and arm movement, are part of the utterance and contribute to its content (Kendon 1980; McNeill 1992). The relationships between gesture and speech obey regularities that need to be defined in terms of not just the relative timing of gesture to speech, but also the linguistic form of that speech: for instance, prosody and syntactic constituency and headedness (Loehr 2007; Ebert et al. 2011; Alahverdzheva et al. 2017). Consequently, speech-gesture integration is captured in grammar by means of a gesture-grammar interface. This chapter provides basic snapshots from gesture research, reviews constraints on speech-gesture integration and summarises their implementations into HPSG frameworks. Pointers to future developments conclude the exposition. Since there are already a couple of overviews on gesture such as Özyürek (2012), Wagner et al. (2014) and Abner et al. (2015), this chapter aims at distinguishing itself by providing a guided tour of research that focuses on using (mostly) standard methods for semantic composition in constraint-based grammars like HPSG to model gesture meanings.

### 1 Why gestures?

People talk with their whole body. A verbal utterance is couched in an intonation pattern that, via prosody, articulation speed or stress, function as *paralinguistic* signals (e.g. Birdwhistell 1970). The temporal dimension of paralinguistics



gives rise to *chronemic* codes (Poyatos 1975; Bruneau 1980). *Facial expressions* are commonly used to signal emotional states (Ekman & Friesen 1978), even without speech (Argyle 1975), and are correlated to different illocutions of the speech acts performed by a speaker (Domaneschi et al. 2017). Interlocutors use *gaze* as a mechanism to achieve joint attention (Argyle & Cook 1976) or provide social signals (Kendon 1967). Distance and relative direction of speakers and addressees are organised according to culture-specific radii into social spaces (*proxemics*, Hall 1968). Within the inner radius of private space, tactile codes of *tacesics* (Kauffman 1971) are at work. Since the verbal and nonverbal communication means of face to face interaction may occur simultaneously, *synchrony* (i.e. the mutual overlap or relative timing of verbal vs. non-verbal communicative actions) is a feature of the multimodal utterance itself; it contributes, for instance, to identifying the word(s) that are affiliated to a gesture (Wiltshire 2007). A special chronemic case is signalling at the right moment – or, for that matter, missing the right moment (an aspect of communication dubbed *kairemics* by Lücking & Pfeiffer 2012: 600). Besides the manifold areas of language use, the conventionalised, symbolic nature of language secures language's primacy in communication, however (de Ruiter 2004). For thorough introductions into semiotics and multimodal communication see Nöth (1990), Posner et al. (1997–2004) or Müller et al. (2013–2014).

The most conspicuous non-verbal communication means of everyday interaction are hand and arm movements, known as *gestures* (in a more narrow sense which is also pursued from here on). In seminal works, McNeill (1985; 1992) and Kendon (1980; 2004) argue that co-verbal gestures, i.e. hand and arm movements, can be likened to words in the sense that they are part of a speaker's utterance and contribute to discourse. Accordingly, integrated speech-gesture production models have been devised (Kita & Özyürek 2003; de Ruiter 2000; Krauss et al. 2000) that treat utterance production as a multimodal process (see Section 4.4 for a brief discussion). Given gestures' imagistic and often spontaneous character, it is appealing to think of them as “postcards from the mind” (de Ruiter 2007: 21). Clearly, given this entrenchment in speaking, the fact that one can communicate meaning with non-verbal signals has repercussions to areas hitherto taken to be purely linguistic (in the sense of being related to the verbal domain). This section highlights some phenomena particularly important for grammar, including, for instance, *mixed syntax* (Slama-Cazacu 1976), or *pro-speech gesture*:

- (1) He is a bit [*circular movement of index finger in front of temple*].

In (1), a gesture replaces a position that is usually filled by a syntactic constituent. The gesture is emblematically related to the property of *being mad* so

that the mixed utterance from (1) is equivalent to the proposition that the referent of *he* is a bit mad.



Figure 1: *Die Skulptur die hat 'n [BETONsockel]* ('The sculpture has a [CONCRETE base]') [V5, 0:39]

The gesture shown in Figure 1 depicts the shape of a concrete base, which the speaker introduces into discourse as an attribute of a sculpture:<sup>1</sup>

- (2) Die Skulptur die hat 'n [BETONsockel].  
The sculpture it has a [CONCRETE base].  
'The sculpture has a concrete base.'

The following representational conventions obtain: square brackets roughly indicate the portion of speech which overlaps temporally with the gesture (or more precisely, with the gesture stroke; see Figure 5 below) and upper case is used to mark main stress or accent. So both timing and intonation give clues that the gesture is related to the noun *Betonsockel* 'concrete base'. From the gesture, but not from speech, we get that the concrete base of the sculpture has the shape of a flat cylinder – thus, the gesture acts as a nominal modifier. There is a further complication, however: the gesture is incomplete with regard to its interpretation – it just depicts about half of cylinder. Thus, gesture interpretation may involve processes known from gestalt theory (see Lücking 2016 on a *good continuation* constraint relevant to (2)/Figure 1).

The speaker of the datum in Figure 2 uses just a demonstrative adverb in order to describe the shape of a building he is talking about:

<sup>1</sup>The examples in Figures 1, 2, 3, 4, 9 and 11 are drawn from the (German) *Speech and Gesture Alignment* corpus (SaGA, Lücking et al. 2010) and are quoted according to the number of the dialogue they appear in and their starting time in the respective video file (e.g. "V9, 5:16" means that the datum can be found in the video file of dialogue V9 at minute 5:16). Examples/Figures 4 and 9 have been produced especially for this volume; all others have also been used in Lücking (2013) and/or Lücking (2016).

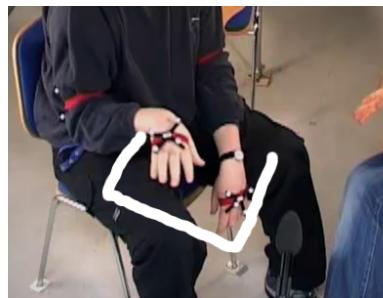


Figure 2: *Dann ist das Haus halt SO []* ('The house is like THIS [])' [V11, 2:32]

- (3) Dann ist das Haus halt SO [ ].  
Then is the house just like THIS [ ].  
'The house is like this [ ].'

The demonstrative shifts the addressee's attention to the gesture, which accomplishes the full shape description, namely a cornered U-shape. In contrast to the example in Figure 1, the utterance associated with Figure 2 is not even interpretable without the gesture.

A lack of interpretability is shared by exophorically used demonstratives, which are *incomplete* without a demonstration act like a pointing gesture (Kaplan 1989: 490). For instance, Claudius would experience difficulties in understanding how serious Polonius is about his (Polonius') conjecture about the reason of Hamlet's (alleged) madness, if Polonius had not produced pointing gestures (Shakespeare, *Hamlet, Prince of Denmark* Act II, Scene 2; the third occurrence of *this* is anaphoric and refers back to Polonius' conjecture):

- (4) POLONIUS (*points to his head and shoulders*): Take this from this if this be otherwise.

In order for Claudius to interpret Polonius' multimodal utterance properly, he has to associate correctly the two pointing gestures with the first two occurrences of *this* (cf. the problems discussed by Kupffer 2014). Polonius facilitates such an interpretation by means of a temporal coupling of pointing gestures and their associated demonstratives – a relationship that is called *affiliation*. The role of synchrony in multimodal utterances is further illustrated by the following example, (5), and Figure 3 (taken from Lücking 2013: 189):



Figure 3: *Ich g[laube das sollen TREP]pen sein* ('I think those should be STAIRcases') [V10, 3:19]

- (5) Ich g[laube das sollen TREP]pen sein.  
I think those should STAIRcases be  
'I think those should be staircases.'

The first syllable of the German noun *Treppen* (*staircases*) carries main stress, indicated by capitalization. The square brackets indicate the temporal overlap between speech and gesture stroke, which is shown in Figure 3. The gesture attributes a property to the noun it attaches to: from the multimodal utterance, the observer retrieves the information that the speaker talks about spiral staircases. This interpretation assumes that the common noun is the affiliate of the gesture. Obviously, mere temporal synchrony is too weak to be an indicator of affiliation. In fact, there are speech-gesture affiliations without temporal overlap between gesture and verbal affiliate at all (e.g. Lücking et al. 2004). Therefore, temporal overlap or vicinity is just one indicator of affiliation. A second one is intonation: a gesture is usually related to a stressed element in speech (McClave 1994; Nobe 2000; Loehr 2004; 2007). As a result, multimodal communication gives rise to a complex "peak pattern" (Tuite 1993; Loehr 2004; Jannedy & Mendoza-Denton 2005).

The interpretation of a gesture changes with different affiliations. Suppose the gesture from Figure 3 is produced in company to stressed *glaube* (*think*) instead of *staircases*:

- (6) Ich G[LAUbe das sollen Trep]pen sein.  
I THINK those should staircases be  
'I think those should be staircases.'

Now the spiral movement is interpreted as a metaphorical depiction of a psychological process. Thus, the interpretation of a gesture depends on the integration point (affiliation), which in turn is marked by temporal vicinity, prosody and syntactic constituency of the candidate affiliate (Alahverdzheva et al. 2017).

The crucial observations in any case are that gestures contribute to propositional content and take part in pragmatic processes. Interestingly, gestures share the latter aspect with laughter, which also has propositional content (Ginzburg et al. 2015), for instance, when referring to real world events. Thus, a multimodal utterance may express a richer content than speech alone, as in (5), or a content equivalent to speech, as in (6); it can even express less than speech or contradict speech:<sup>2</sup>

The nonverbal act can repeat, augment, illustrate, accent, or contradict the words; it can anticipate, coincide with, substitute for or follow the verbal behavior; and it can be unrelated to the verbal behavior. (Ekman & Friesen 1969: 53)

Contradictions or speech-gesture mismatches can occur when saying “right” but pointing left (as can be observed in everyday life but also been found in SaGA, e.g. in dialogue V24, at 4:50). A more complex case is given in (7) and Figure 4, where the speaker talks about a “rectangular arch” (which is of course a *contradiccio in adiecto* in itself), but produces a roundish movement with the extended index finger of her right hand (the object she talks about is an archway). Note that the gesture just overlaps with “rectangular”: its temporal extension in (7) is again indicated by means of square brackets within the original German utterances. The main stress is on the first syllable of the adjective and the noun receives secondary stress. The dots (“..”) mark a short pause, so the gesture starts before “rechteckiger”.

- (7) so'n so'ne Art [.. RECHTecki]ger BOgen  
such an such kind of .. RECTangular ARrch  
'kind of rectangular arch'

An obvious interpretation of this mismatch is that “rectangular” is a slip of the tongue; interestingly, we found no “slip of the hand” in our data so far (which may be a hint to a possibly imagistic origin of gestures, as assumed in some production models; cf. Section 4.4).

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<sup>2</sup>In case of contradiction or speech-gesture mismatch, the resulting multimodal utterance is perceived as ill-formed and induces N400 effects (Wu & Coulson 2005; Kelly et al. 2004).



Figure 4: “so’n so’ne Art [.. RECHTecki]ger BOgen” (*kind of RECTangular ARch*) [V4, 1:47].

Moving from sentence to dialogue, *interactive gestures* are bound up with turn management, among other things (Bavelas et al. 1992; 1995). For instance, pointing gestures can be used to indicate the next speaker (Rieser & Poesio 2009). Interestingly, speaker-indicating pointings are typically not produced with an out-stretched index finger, but with an open hand (an example is given in Figure 14 in Section 3.6). Thus, irrespective of the question whether grammar is inherently multimodal, dialogue theory has to deal at least with certain non-verbal interaction means in any case (see also Lücking, Ginzburg & Cooper (2019), Chapter 29 of this volume).

While there is ample evidence that at least some gestures contribute to the content of the utterance they co-occur with, does this also mean that they are part of the content *intended to be communicated*? A prominent counter-example is gesturing on the telephone (see Bavelas et al. 2008 for an overview of a number of respective studies). Since such gestures are not observable for the addressee, they cannot reasonably be taken to be a constituent of the content intended for communication. Rather, “telephone gestures” seem to be speaker-oriented, presumably facilitating word retrieval. The fact that it is difficult to suppress gesturing even in absence of an addressee speaks in favour of a multimodal nature if not of language, then at least of speaking and surely interacting. Furthermore, the lion’s share of everyday gestures seems to consist of rather sloppy movements that do not contribute to the content of the utterance in any interesting sense, though they might signal other information like speaker states. In this sense they are contingent, as opposed to being an obligatory semantic component (Lücking 2013). Gestures (or some other demonstration act) can become obligatory when they are produced within the scope of a demonstrative expression (recall (3)/Figure 2). A concurrent use with demonstratives is also one of the

hallmarks collected by Cooperrider (2017) in order to distinguish *foreground* from *background* gestures (the other hallmarks are absence of speech, co-organization with speaker gaze and speaker effort). This distinction reflects two traditions within gesture studies: according to one tradition most prominently bound up with the work of McNeill (1992), gesture is a *byproduct* of speaking and therefore opens a “window into the speaker’s mind”. The other tradition, represented early on by Goodwin (2003) and Clark (1996), conceives gestures as a *product* of speaking, that is, as interaction means designed with a communicative intention. Since a gesture cannot be both a byproduct and a product at the same time, as noted by Cooperrider (2017), a bifurcation that is rooted in the cause and the production process of the gesture has to be acknowledged (e.g. gesturing on the phone is only puzzling from the product view, but not from the byproduct one). We will encounter this distinction again when briefly reviewing speech-gesture production models in Section 4.4. Gestures of both species are covered in the following.

## 2 Kinds of gestures

Pointing at an object seems to be a different kind of gesture than mimicking drinking by moving a bent hand (i.e. virtually holding something) towards the mouth while slightly rotating the back of hand upwards. And both seem to be different from actions like scratching or nose-picking. On such grounds, gestures are usually assigned to one or more classes of a taxonomy of gesture classes. Gestures that fulfil a physiological need (such as scratching, nose-picking, foot-shaking or pen-fiddling) have been called *adaptors* (Ekman & Friesen 1969) and are not dealt with further here (but see Żywiczyński et al. 2017 for evidence that adaptors may be associated with turn transition points in dialogue). Gestures that have an intrinsic relation to speech and what is communicated have been called *regulators* and *illustrators* (Ekman & Friesen 1969) and cover a variety of gesture classes. These gesture classes are characterized by the function performed by a gesture and the meaning relation the gesture bears to its content. A classic taxonomy consists of the following inventory (McNeill 1992):

- iconic (or representational) gestures. Spontaneous hand and arm movements that are commonly said to be based on some kind of resemblance relation.<sup>3</sup> Iconic gestures employ a mode of representation such as draw-

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<sup>3</sup>But see footnote 8 in Section 3.5 for pointers to critical discussions of resemblance as a sign-bearing relation.

ing, modelling, shaping or placing (Streeck 2008; Müller 1998).

- deictic gestures (pointing). Typically hand and arm movements that perform a demonstration act. In which way pointing is standardly accomplished is subject to culture-specific conventions (Wilkins 2003). In principle, any extended body part, artefact or locomotor momentum will serve the demonstrative purpose. Accordingly, there are deictic systems that involve lip-pointing (Enfield 2001) and nose-pointing (Cooperrider & Núñez 2012). Furthermore, under certain circumstances, pointing with the eyes (gaze-pointing) is also possible (Hadjikhani et al. 2008). Note further that the various deictic means can be interrelated. For instance, manual pointing can be differentiated by cues of head and gaze (Butterworth & Itakura 2000). Furthermore, pointing with the hand can be accomplished by various hand shapes: Kendon & Versante (2003) distinguish *index finger pointing*, (with a *palm down* and a *palm vertical* variant) *thumb pointing*, and *open hand pointing* (again with various palm orientations). Kendon & Versante (2003: 109) claim that “the form of pointing adopted provides information about how the speaker wishes the object being indicated to be regarded”. For instance, pointing with the thumb is usually used when the precise location of the intended referent is not important (Kendon & Versante 2003: 121–125), while the typical use of index finger palm down pointing is to single out an object (Kendon & Versante 2003: 115). Open hand pointing has a built-in metonymic function since the object pointed at is introduced as an example for issues related to the current discourse topic (what in semantic parlance can be conceived as the *question under discussion*; see, e.g. Ginzburg 2012). For instance, with ‘open hand palm vertical’, one indicates the *type* of the object pointed at instead of the object itself (Kendon & Versante 2003: 126).
- beats (rhythmic gestures, baton). Hand and arm movements that are coupled to the intonational or rhythmic contour of the accompanying speech. Beats lack representational content but are usually used for an emphasising effect. “The typical beat is a simple flick of the hand or fingers up and down, or back and forth” (McNeill 1992: 15). Hence, a beat is a gestural means to accomplish what is usually expressed by vocal stress, rhythm or speed in speech.
- emblem (lexicalized gestures). In contrast to the other classes, emblems are special in that they follow a fully conventionalized form-meaning relation. A common example in Western countries is the thumbs-up gesture,

signalling “approval or encouragement” (Merriam Webster online dictionary<sup>4</sup>). Emblems may also be more local and collected within a dictionary like the dictionary of everyday gestures in Bulgaria (Kolarova 2011).

Reconsidering gestures that have been classified as beats, among other gestures, Bavelas et al. (1992) observed that many of the stroke movements accomplish functions beyond rhythmic structuring or emphasis. Rather, they appear to contribute to dialogue management and have been called *interactive gestures*. Therefore, these gestures should be added to the taxonomy:

- interactive gestures. Hand and arm movements that accomplish the function “of helping the interlocutors coordinate their dialogue” (Bavelas et al. 1995: 394). Interactive gestures include pointing gestures that serve turn allocation (“go ahead, it’s your turn”) and gestures that are bound up with speaker attitudes or the relationship between speaker and addressee. Examples can be found in ‘open palm/palm upwards’ gestures used to indicate the information status of a proposition (“as you know”) or the mimicking of quotation marks in order to signal a report of direct speech (although this also has a clear iconic aspect).

The gesture classes should not be considered as mutually exclusive categories, but rather as dimensions according to which gestures can be defined, allowing for multi-dimensional cross-classifications (McNeill 2005; Gerwing & Bavelas 2004). For instance, it is possible to superimpose pointing gestures with iconic traits. This has been found in the study on pointing gestures described in Kranstedt et al. (2006a), where two participants at a time were involved in an identification game: one participant pointed at one of several parts of a toy airplane scattered over a table, the other participant had to identify the pointed object. When pointing at a disk (a wheel of the toy airplane), some participants used index palm down pointing, but additionally turned around their index finger in a circle – that is, the pointing gesture not only locates the disk (deictic dimension) but also depicted its shape (iconic dimension). See Özyürek (2012) for an overview of various gesture classification schemes.

In addition to classifying gestures according to the above-given functional groups, a further distinction is usually made with regard to the ontological place of their referent: representational and deictic gestures can relate to concrete or to

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<sup>4</sup><https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/thumbs-up>, accessed 20th August 2018. The fact that emblems can be lexicalized in dictionaries emphasizes their special, conventional status among gestures.

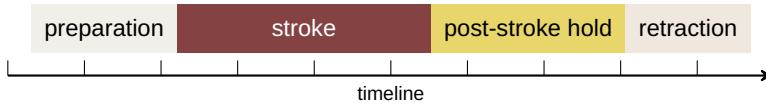


Figure 5: Gesture phases

abstract objects or scenes. For instance, an iconic drawing gesture can metaphorically display the notion “genre” via a conduit metaphor (McNeill 1992: 14):

- (8) It [was a Sylves]ter and Tweety cartoon.  
*both hands rise up with open palm handshape, palms facing; brackets indicate segments concurrent with the gesture stroke (see Figure 5).*

The gesture in (8) virtually holds an object, thus depicting the abstract concept of the genre of being a Sylvester and Tweety cartoon as a bounded container. Accordingly, gestures can be cross-classified into *concrete* and *abstract* or *metaphorical* ones (see the volume of Cienki & Müller 2008 on gesture and metaphor).

On the most basic, kinematic level, the movement of a prototypical gesture follows an “anatomic triple”: gestures have to be partitioned into at least a preparation, a stroke, and a retraction phase (Kendon 1972). The gesture phases are shown in the diagram in Figure 5. The stroke is the movement part that carries the gesture’s meaning. It can be “frozen”, leading to a post-stroke hold. If a stroke has to wait for its affiliated expression(s), a pre-stroke hold can also arise (Kita et al. 1998). The preparation and retraction phases bring hand and arms into and out of the stroke, respectively. Unless stated otherwise, when talking about gestures in what follows (and in hindsight concerning the examples given in Section 1), the stroke phase, which is the “gesture proper” or the “semantically interpretable” phase, is referred to.

Perhaps it should be noted that the spontaneous, usually co-verbal hand and arm movements considered in this chapter are different from the signed signs of sign languages (see Steinbach & Holler 2019, Chapter 30 of this volume) and pantomime (neither spontaneous nor co-verbal).<sup>5</sup>

### 3 Gestures in HPSG

Integrating a gesture’s contribution into speech was initiated in computer science (Bolt 1980). Coincidentally, these early works used typed feature structure

<sup>5</sup>In languages like German, the difference between free gesticulation and sign language signs is also reflected terminologically: the former are called *Gesten*, the latter *Gebärden*.

descriptions akin to the descriptive format used in HPSG grammars. Though linguistically limited, the crucial invention has been a *multimodal chart parser*, that is, an extension of chart parsing that allows the processing of input in two modalities (namely speech and gesture). Such approaches are reviewed in Section 3.2. Afterwards, a more elaborate gesture representation format is introduced that makes it possible to encode the observable form of a gesture in terms of kinematically derived attribute-value structures (Section 3.3). Following the basic semiotic distinction between deictic (or indicating or pointing) gestures and iconic (or representational or imagistic) gestures, the analysis of each class of gestures is exemplified in Sections 3.4 and 3.5, respectively. To begin with, however, some basic phenomena that should be covered by a multimodal grammar are briefly summarized in Section 3.1.

### 3.1 Basic empirical phenomena of grammatical gesture integration

With regard to grammar-gesture integration, three main phenomena have to be dealt with:

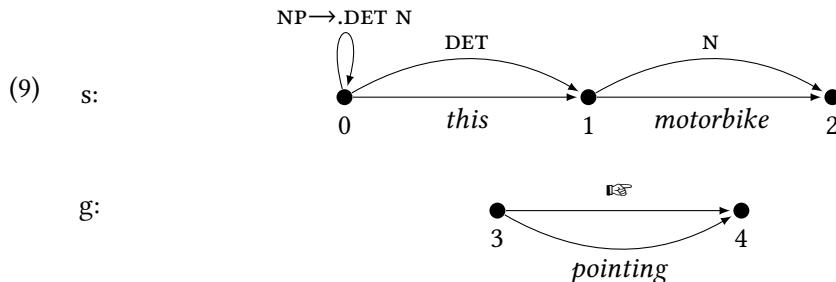
- What is the meaning of a gesture? On which grounds should semantic representations or truth conditions be assigned to hand and arm movements?
- What is the affiliate of a gesture, that is, its verbal attachment site?
- What is the result of multimodal integration, that is, the outcome of composing verbal and non-verbal meanings?

Given the linguistic significance of gestures as sketched in the preceding sections, formal grammar- and semantic-oriented accounts of speech-gesture integration have recently been developed that try to deal with (at least one of) the three basic phenomena, though with different priorities, including Alahverdzheva (2013), Alahverdzheva & Lascarides (2010), Ebert (2014), Giorgolo (2010), Giorgolo & Asudeh (2011), Lücking (2013; 2016), Rieser (2008; 2011; 2015), Rieser & Poesio (2009) and Schlenker (2018). It should be noted that the first basic question does not have to be considered a question for grammar, but can be delegated to a foundational theory of gesture meaning. Here gestures turn out to be like words again, where “semantic theory” can refer to explaining meaning (foundational) or specifying meaning (descriptive) (Lewis 1970: 19). In any case, the HPSG-related approaches are briefly reviewed below.

### 3.2 Precursors

Using typed feature structure descriptions to represent the form and meaning of gestures goes back to computer science approaches to human-computer interaction. For instance, the *QuickSet* system (Cohen et al. 1997) allows users to operate on a map and move objects or lay out barbed wires (the project was funded by a grant from the US army) by giving verbal commands and manually indicating coordinates. The system processes voice and pen (gesture) input by assigning signals from both media representations in the form of attribute-value matrices (AVMs) (Johnston 1998; Johnston et al. 1997). For instance, *QuickSet* will move a vehicle to a certain location on the map when asked to *Move this*[☞] *motorbike* to here[☞], where ‘☞’ represents an occurrence of touch gesture (i.e. pen input).

Since a conventional constrained-based grammar for speech-only input rests on a “unimodal” parser, Johnston (1998) and Johnston et al. (1997) developed a *multimodal chart parser*, which is still a topic of computational linguistics (Alahverdzhieva et al. 2012) (see also Bender & Emerson 2019, Chapter 28 of this volume). A multimodal chart parser consists of two or more layers and allows for layer-crossing charts. The multimodal NP *this*[☞] *motorbike*, for instance, is processed in terms of a multimodal chart parser covering a speech (s) and a gesture (g) layer:



A multimodal chart or *multichart* is defined in terms of sets of identifiers from both layers. Possible multicharts from (9) include the following ones:

- (10) multichart 1: {[s,0,1], [g,3,4]}  
 multichart 2: {[s,1,2], [g,3,4]}  
 ...

The basic rule for integrating spatial gestures with speech commands is the *basic integration scheme* (Johnston 1998; Johnston et al. 1997), reproduced in (11):

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The AVM in (11) implements a mother-daughter structure along the lines of a context-free grammar rule, where a left-hand side (LHS) expands to a right-hand side (RHS). The right-hand side consists of two constituents (daughters DTR1 and DTR2), a verbal expression (*located\_command*) and a gesture. The semantic integration between both modalities is achieved in terms of structure sharing, see tag [5]: the spatial gesture provides the location coordinate for the verbal command.

The bimodal integration is constrained by a set of restrictions, mainly regulating the temporal relationship between speech and gesture (see tags [7] and [10] in the CONSTRAINTS set): the gesture may overlap with its affiliated word in time, or follow it in at most four seconds (see the 4s under CONSTRAINTS). An integration scheme highly akin to that displayed in (11) also underlies current grammar-oriented approaches to deictic and iconic gestures (see Sections 3.4 and 3.5 below).

### 3.3 Representing gestures with AVMs

Representing the formal features of gestures in terms of attribute-value matrices has been initiated in robotics (Kopp et al. 2004). A representation format that captures the “phonological”, physical-kinematic properties of a gesture is designed according to the moveable junctions of arms and hands. For instance, the representation of the gesture in Figure 3 according to the format used in Lücking et al. (2010) is given in (12):

(12)	<i>right hand</i>	
	HANDSHAPE	$\begin{bmatrix} \text{SHAPE } G \\ \text{PATH } 0 \\ \text{DIR } 0 \end{bmatrix}$
	PALM	$\begin{bmatrix} \text{ORIENT } PAB>PAB/PUP>PAB \\ \text{PATH } 0 \\ \text{DIR } 0 \end{bmatrix}$
	BOH	$\begin{bmatrix} \text{ORIENT } BUP>BTB/BUP>BUP \\ \text{PATH } arc>arc>arc \\ \text{DIR } MR>MF>ML \end{bmatrix}$
	WRIST	$\begin{bmatrix} \text{POSITION } P-R \\ \text{PATH } line \\ \text{DIR } MU \\ \text{DIST } D-EK \\ \text{EXTENT } small \end{bmatrix}$
	SYNC	$\begin{bmatrix} \text{CONFIG } BHA \\ \text{REL.MOV } LHH \end{bmatrix}$

The formal description of a gestural movement is given in terms of the handshape, the orientations of the palm and the back of the hand (BOH), the movement trajectory (if any) of the wrist and the relation between both hands (synchronicity, SYNC). The handshape is drawn from the fingerspelling alphabet of American Sign Language, as illustrated in Figure 6. The orientations of palm and back of hand are specified with reference to the speaker’s body (e.g. *PAB* encodes “palm away from body” and *BUP* encodes “back of hand upwards”). Movement features for the whole hand are specified with respect to the wrist: the starting position is given and the performed trajectory is encoded in terms of the described path and the direction and extent of the movement. Position and extent are given with reference to the *gesture space*, that is, the structured area within the speaker’s immediate reach (McNeill 1992: 86–89) – see the left-hand side of Figure 7. Originally, McNeill considered the gesture space as “a shallow disk in front of the speaker, the bottom half flattened when the speaker is seated” (McNeill 1992: 86). However, also acknowledging the distance of the hand from the speaker’s body (feature DIST) turns the shallow disk into a three-dimensional space, giving rise to the three-dimensional model displayed on the right-hand side of Figure 7. The gesture space regions known as *center-center*, *center* and *periphery*, possibly changed by location modifiers (*upper right*, *right*, *lower right*, *upper left*, *left*, *lower left*), are now modelled as nested cuboids. Thus, gesture space is structured according to all three body axes: the sagittal, the longitudinal and the transverse axes. Annotations straightforwardly transfer to the three-dimensional gesture

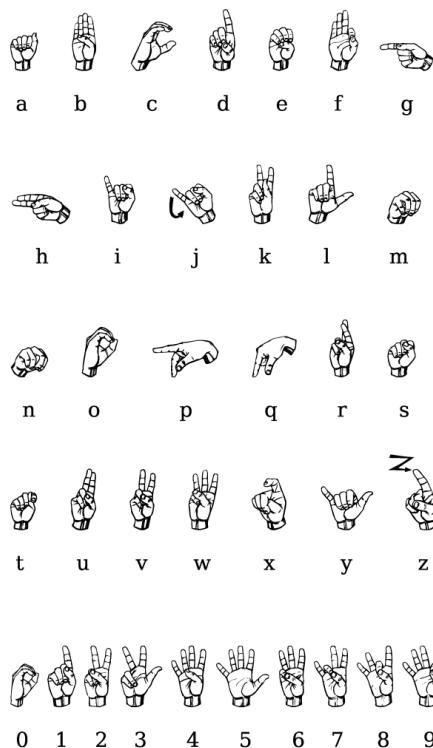


Figure 6: American Sign Language fingerspelling alphabet (image released to Public Domain by user Ds13 in the English Wikipedia at 18th December 2004, [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Asl\\_alphabet\\_gallaudet.png](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Asl_alphabet_gallaudet.png))

space model. Such a three-dimensional gesture space model is assumed throughout this chapter. Complex movement trajectories through the vector space can describe a rectangular or a roundish path (or mixtures of both). Both kinds of movements are distinguished in terms of *line* or *arc* values of feature PATH. An example illustrating the difference is given in Figure 8. A brief review of gesture annotation can be found in Section 4.1.

### 3.4 Pointing Gestures

Pointing gestures are *the* prototypical referring device: they probably pave a way to reference in both evolutionary and language acquisition perspectives (Bruner

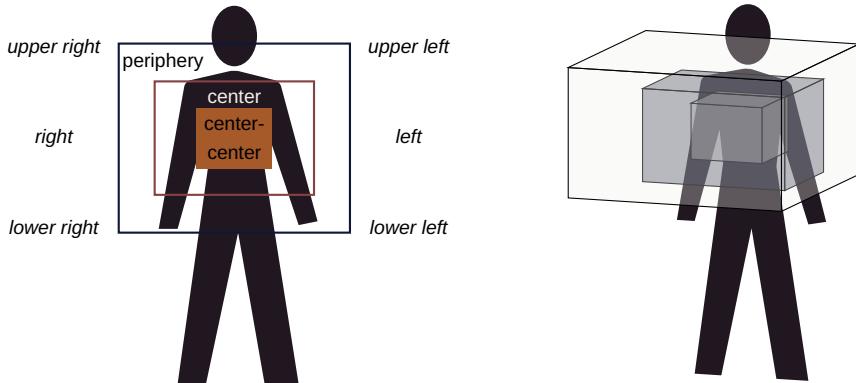


Figure 7: Gesture Space (left hand side is simplified from McNeill 1992: 89). Although originally conceived as a structured “shallow disk” McNeill (1992: 86), adding distance information gives rise to a three-dimensional gesture space model as illustrated on the right-hand side.

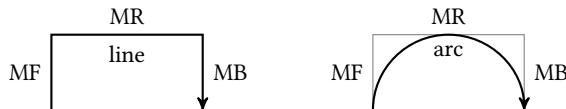


Figure 8: The same sequence of direction labels can give rise to an open rectangle or a semicircle, depending on the type of concatenation (Lücking 2016: 385).

1998; Masataka 2003; Matthews et al. 2012); they are predominant inhabitants of the “deictic level” of language, interleaving the symbolic (and the iconic) levels (Levinson 2008, see also Bühler 1934); they underlie reference in *Naming Games* in computer simulation approaches (Steels 1995) (for a semantic assessment of naming and categorisation games, see Lücking & Mehler 2012).

With regard to deictic gestures, Fricke (2012: Sec. 5.4) argues that deictic words within noun phrases – her prime example is German *so ‘like this’* – provide a *structural*, that is, *language-systematic* integration point between the vocal plane of conventionalized words and the non-vocal plane of body movement. Therefore, with this conception, not only utterance production but *grammar* is inherently multimodal.

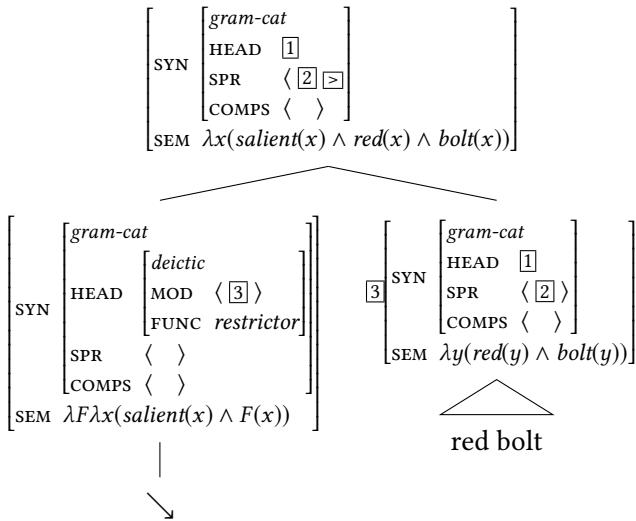
The referential import of the pointing gesture has been studied experimentally in some detail (Bangerter & Oppenheimer 2006; Kranstedt et al. 2006b,a; van der Sluis & Krahmer 2007). As a result, it turns out that pointings do not rely on a direct “laser” or “beam” mechanism (McGinn 1981). Rather, they serve a (more or less rough) locating function (Clark 1996) that can be modelled in terms of a

*pointing cone* (Kranstedt et al. 2006b; Lücking et al. 2015). These works provide an answer to the first basic question (cf. Section 3.1): pointing gestures have a “spatial meaning” which focuses or highlights a region in relation to the direction of the pointing device. Such a spatial semantic model has been introduced in Rieser (2004) under the name of *region pointing*, where the gesture adds a locational constraint to the restrictor of a noun phrase. In a related way, two different functions of a pointing gesture have been distinguished by Kühnlein et al. (2002), namely singling out an object (13a) or making an object salient (13b).

- (13) a.  $\lambda F \lambda x(x = c \wedge F(x))$   
 b.  $\lambda F \lambda x(\text{salient}(x) \wedge F(x))$

The approach is expressed in lambda calculus and couched in an HPSG framework. The derivation of the instruction *Take the red bolt* plus a pointing gesture is exemplified in (14). A pointing gesture is represented by means of “ $\searrow$ ” and takes a syntactic position within the linearized inputs according to the start of the stroke phase. For instance, the pointing gesture in (14a) occurred after *the* has been articulated but before *red* is finished. The derivation of the multimodal N' constituent is shown in (14b).

- (14) a. Take [the  $\searrow$  [N' [N' red bolt]]]  
 b.



The spatial model is also adopted in Lascarides & Stone (2009), where the region denoted by pointing is represented by a vector  $\vec{p}$ . This region is an argument



Figure 9: *Und man[chmal ist da auch ein EISverkäufer]* ('and some[times] there's an ICE cream guy'), [V5, 7:20]

to function  $v$ , however, which maps the projected cone region to  $v(\vec{p})$ , the space-time talked about, which may be different from the gesture space (many more puzzles of local deixis are collected by Klein 1978 and Fricke 2007).

Let us illustrate some aspects of pointing gesture integration by means of the real world example in (15) and Figure 9, taken from dialogue V5 of the SaGA corpus.

- (15) Und man[chmal ist da auch ein EISverkäufer].  
 And some[times] is there also an ICE cream guy.  
 'And sometimes there's an ice cream guy'

The context in which the gesture appears is the following: the speaker describes a route which goes around a pond. He models the pond with his left hand, a post-stroke hold (cf. Figure 5) held over several turns. After having drawn the route around the pond with his right hand, the pointing gesture in Figure 9 is produced. The pointing indicates the location of an ice cream vendor in relation to the pond modelled in gesture space. Such instances of indirect or proxy pointing have been interpreted as *dual points* by Goodwin (2003); in standard semantics they are analysed in terms of *deferred reference*, where one thing is indicated but another but related thing is referred to (Quine 1950; Nunberg 1993). The "duality" or "deference" involved in the datum consists of a mapping from the location indicated in gesture space onto a spatial area of the described real world situation. Such mappings are accounted for by the function  $v$  that shifts the pointing cone area from gesture space  $\vec{p}$  to some other space  $v(\vec{p})$  (Lascarides & Stone 2009). So, the deictic gesture locates the ice cream vendor. Since it is held during nearly the whole utterance, its affiliate expression "Eisverkäufer" (*ice cream*

*guy*) is picked out due to carrying primary accent (indicated by capitalization).<sup>6</sup> Within HPSG, such constraints can be formulated within an interface to metrical trees from the phonological model of Klein (2000) or phonetic information packing from Engdahl & Vallduví (1996) – see also Kuthy (2019), Chapter 24 of this volume. The well-developed basic integration scheme of Alahverdzheva et al. (2017: 445) rests on a strict speech and gesture overlap and is called the *Situated Prosodic Word Constraint*, which allows the combination of a speech daughter (s-DTR) and a gesture daughter (G-DTR) – see Figure 10. The Situated Prosodic Word Constraint applies to both deictic and iconic gestures. Under certain conditions, including when a deictic gesture is direct (i.e.  $\vec{p} = v(\vec{p})$ ), however, the temporal and prosodic constraints can be relaxed for pointings.

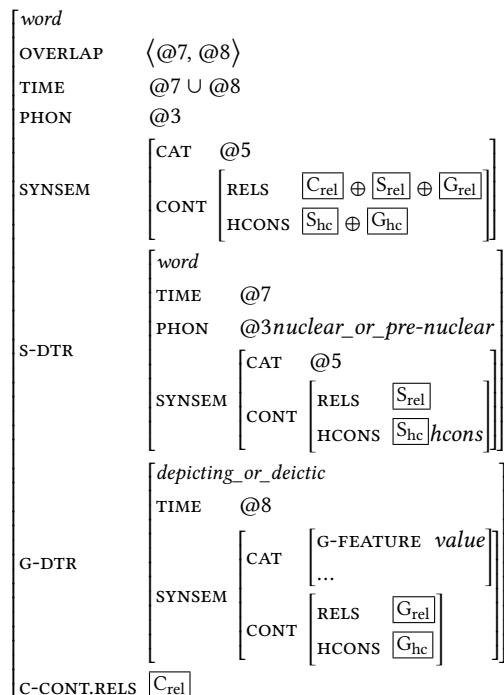


Figure 10: *Situated Prosodic Word Constraint* (Alahverdzheva et al. 2017: 445)

<sup>6</sup>Semantically, other integration points are possible, too, most notably with “da” (*there*). However, the intonation-based integration point patterns well with observations of the affiliation behaviour of iconic gestures, as indicated with respect to examples (5) and (6) in Section 1. Concerning deictic gestures, a constraint that favours affiliation to deictic words over affiliation to stressed words (if they differ at all) seems conceivable nonetheless.

In order to deal with gestures that are affiliated with expressions that are larger than single words, Alahverdzhieva et al. (2017) also develop a phrase or sentence level integration scheme, where the stressed element has to be a semantic head (in the study of Mehler & Lücking 2012, 18.8% of the gestures had a phrasal affiliate). In this account, the affiliation problem (the second desideratum identified in Section 3.1) has a well-motivated solution on both the word and the phrasal levels, at least for temporally overlapping speech-gesture occurrences (modulo the conditioned relaxations for pointings). Semantic integration of gesture location and verbal meaning (the third basic question from Section 3.1) is brought about using the underspecification mechanism of *Robust Minimal Recursion Semantics* (RMRS), a refinement of *Minimal Recursion Semantics* (MRS) (Copestake et al. 2005), where basically scope as well as arity of elementary expressions is underspecified (Copestake 2007) – see the RELS and HCONS features in Figure 10. For some background on (R)MRS see the above given references, or see Koenig & Richter (2019), Chapter ?? of this volume.

A dialogue-oriented focus on pointing is taken in Lücking (2018): here, pointing gestures play a role in formulating processing instructions that guide the addressee in where to look for the referent of demonstrative noun phrases.

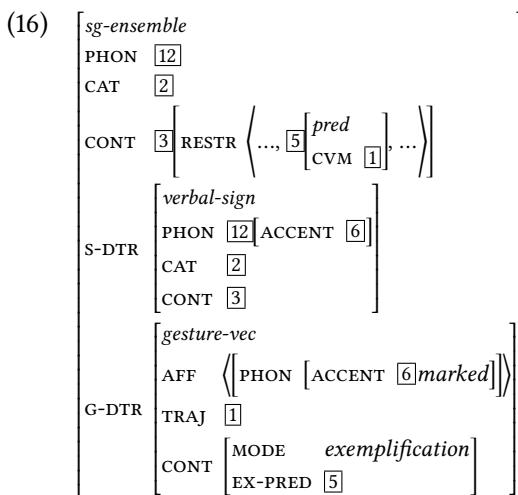
### 3.5 Iconic Gestures

There is nearly no semantic work on the grounds according to which the meanings assigned to iconic gestures should be assigned to them in the first place (this is the first basic question from Section 3.1). Semantic modelling usually focuses on the interplay of (in this sense presumed) gesture content with speech content, that is, on the third of the basic questions from Section 3.1. Schlenker (2018: 296) is explicit in this respect: “It should be emphasized that we will not seek to explain how a gesture [...] comes to have the content that it does, but just ask how this content interacts with the logical structure of a sentence”<sup>7</sup>. Two exceptions, however, can be found in the approaches of Rieser (2010) and Lücking (2013; 2016). Rieser (2010) tries to extract a “depiction typology” out of a speech-and-gesture corpus where formal gesture features are correlated with topological clusters consisting of geometrical constructs. Thus, he tries to address the first basic question from Section 3.1 in terms of an empirically extracted gesture typology. These geometrical objects are used in order to provide a possibly underspecified semantic representation for iconic gestures, which is then integrated into word meaning via lambda calculus (Hahn & Rieser 2010; Rieser 2011). The work of Lücking (2013;

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<sup>7</sup>The omission indicated by “[... ]” just contains a reference to an example in the quoted paper.

2016) is inspired by Goodman's notion of *exemplification* (Goodman 1976), that is, iconic gestures are connected to semantic predicates in terms of a reversed denotation relation: the meaning of an iconic gesture is given in terms of the set of predicates which have the gesture event within their denotation. In order to make this approach work, common perceptual features for predicates are extracted from their denotation and represented as part of a lexical extension of their lexemes, serving as an interface between hand and arm movements and word meanings. This conception in turn is motivated by psychophysic theories of the perception of biological events (Johansson 1973), draws on philosophical similarity conceptions beyond isomorphic mappings (Peacocke 1987),<sup>8</sup> and, using a somewhat related approach, has been proven to work in robotics by means of imagistic description trees (Sowa 2006). These perceptual features serve as the integration locus for iconic gestures, using standard unification techniques. The integration scheme for achieving this is the following one (Lücking 2013: 249) (omitting the time constraint used in the basic integration scheme in 11):



Comparable to a modifier, a gesture attaches to an affiliate via feature *AFF*, which in turn is required to carry intonational accent, expressed in terms of information packaging developed by Engdahl & Vallduví (1996) (cf. Kuthy 2019, Chapter 24 of this volume). The semantic contribution of a gesture is contributed via the new semantic mode *exemplification*, that is, a gesture displays a predication from the *RESTR* list of its affiliate. The exemplification interface is established

<sup>8</sup>That mere resemblance, usually associated with iconic signs, is too empty a notion to provide the basis for a signifying relation has been emphasised on various occasions (Burks 1949; Bierman 1962; Eco 1976; Goodman 1976; Sonesson 1998).

using the format of vector semantics developed by Zwarts & Winter (2000) and Zwarts (2003) in order to capture the semantic contribution of locative prepositions, motion verbs and shape adjectives, among other things. This involves two steps: on the one hand, the representation of a gesture (cf. Section 3.3) is mapped onto a vectorial representation; on the other hand, the content of place and form predicates is enriched by abstract psychophysic information in the sense of Johansson (1973) (see above), also spelled out in terms of vector representations. Both steps are illustrated by means of the simple example shown in Figure 11, where the speaker produces a semicircle in both speech and gesture.



Figure 11: “und [oben haben die so’n HALBkreis]” (and on the top they have such a SEMIcircle), [V20, 6:36].

The kinematic gesture representation of the movement carried out (CARRIER) by the wrist – *move up*, *move left*, *move down*, which are concatenated (“ $\oplus$ ”) by movement steps in a bent (“ $\oplus_{\sim}$ ”, as opposed to rectangular “ $\oplus_L$ ”) way (cf. also Figure 8) – is translated via vectorising function V into a vector trajectory (TRAJ(ECTORY)) from the three-dimensional vector space, cf. Figure 7:<sup>9</sup>

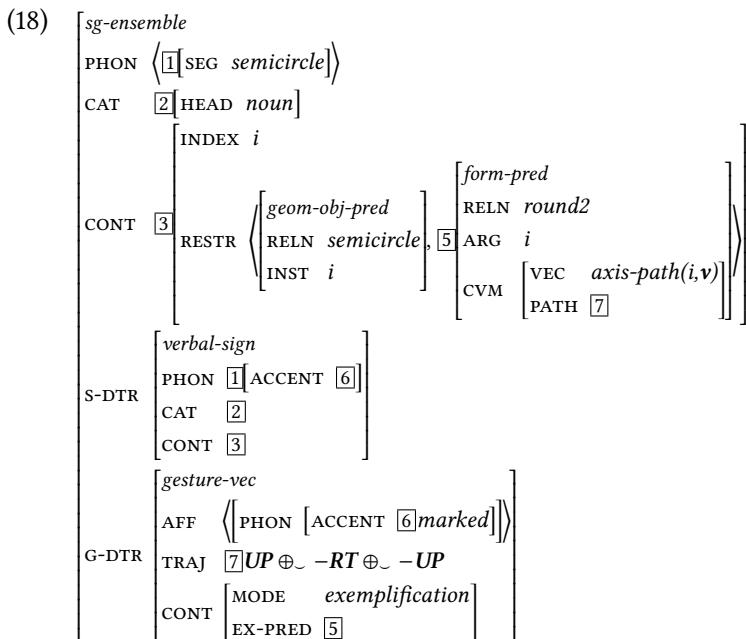
$$(17) \quad \begin{bmatrix} \text{gesture-vec} \\ \text{TRAJ} & \left[ \mathbf{V}[1]=\text{UP} \oplus_{\sim} -\text{RT} \oplus_{\sim} -\text{UP} \right] \\ \text{CARRIER} & \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{gesture} \\ \text{MORPH } [\text{WRIST.MOV } [1]\text{mu} \oplus_{\sim} \text{ml} \oplus_{\sim} \text{md}] \end{array} \right] \end{bmatrix}$$

The lexical entry for *semicircle* is endowed with a *conceptual vector meaning* attribute cvm. Within cvm it is specified (or underspecified) what kind of vector (vec) is at stake (axis vector, shape vector, place vector), and how it looks, that

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<sup>9</sup>Vectors within gesture space can be conceived of as equivalence classes over concrete movement annotation predicates.

is, which PATH it describes. A semicircle can be defined as an axis vector whose path is a 180° trajectory. Accordingly, 180° is the root of a type hierarchy which hosts all vector sequences within gesture space that describe a half circle. This information is added in terms of a form predicate to the restriction list of *semicircle*, as shown in the speech daughter's (s-DTR) content (CONT) value in (18). Licensed by the speech-gesture integration scheme in (16), the half-circular gesture trajectory from (17) and its affiliate expression *semicircle* can enter into an ensemble construction, as shown in (18):



By extending lexical entries with frame information from frame semantics (Fillmore 1982), also the exemplification of non-overtly-expressed predicates becomes feasible (Lücking 2013: Sec. 9.2.1); a datum showing this case has already been given with the *spiral staircases* in (5)/Figure 3. A highly improved version of the “vectorisation” of gestures with a translation protocol has been spelled out in Lücking (2016), but within the semantic framework of a *Type Theory with Records* (Cooper 2019; Cooper & Ginzburg 2015; cf. also Lücking, Ginzburg & Cooper 2019, Chapter 29 of this volume).

The richer formal, functional and representational features of iconic gestures as compared to deictic gestures (cf. Section 3.4) is accounted for in Alahverdzhiева et al. (2017) by assigning a formal predicate to each “phonological” feature of a gesture representation (cf. Section 3.3). These formal gesture predicates

are highly underspecified, using *Robust Minimal Recursion Semantics* (RMRS) (Copestake 2007). That is, they can be assigned various predication (which are assumed to be constrained by iconicity with differing arity in the gesture resolution process).

Let us illustrate this by means of Example 1 from Alahverdzheva et al. (2017), which is due to Loehr (2004) and re-given in (19), adapted to the representational conventions followed in this chapter.

- (19) [So he mixes MUD]

*The speaker performs a circular movement with the right hand over the upwards, open palm of the left hand*

Using a variant of a kinematic representation format for gestures (cf. Section 3.3), the right hand from example 19 is notated as follows (Alahverdzheva et al. 2017: 440):

(20)	$\left[ \begin{array}{ll} \text{depict-literal} & \\ \text{HAND-SHAPE} & \text{bent} \\ \text{PALM-ORIENT} & \text{towards-down} \\ \text{FINGER-ORIENT} & \text{towards-down} \\ \text{HAND-LOCATION} & \text{lower-periphery} \\ \text{HAND-MOVEMENT} & \text{circular} \end{array} \right]$
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Each feature value pair from the gesture's representation in (20) is mapped onto an RMRS-based underspecified representation (Alahverdzheva et al. 2017: 442):

- (21)  $l_0 : a_0 : [\mathcal{G}](h)$   
 $l_1 : a_1 : \text{hand\_shape\_bent}(i_1)$   
 $l_2 : a_2 : \text{palm\_orient\_towards\_down}(i_2)$   
 $l_3 : a_3 : \text{finger\_orient\_towards\_down}(i_3)$   
 $l_4 : a_4 : \text{hand\_location\_lower\_periphery}(i_4)$   
 $l_5 : a_5 : \text{hand\_movement\_circular}(i_5)$   
 $h =_q l_n \text{ where } 1 \leq n \leq 5$

Note that all predicates mapped from the gesture in (21) fall within the scope of the scopal operator  $[\mathcal{G}]$ ; this prevents an individual introduced by a depicting gesture from being an antecedent of a pronoun in speech.

Regimented by the *Situated Prosodic Word Constraint* from Figure 10, the underspecified semantic description of the gesture in (21) and its affiliated noun *mud* can enter into the multimodal construction given in Figure 12 (where the gesture features are partly omitted for the sake of brevity).

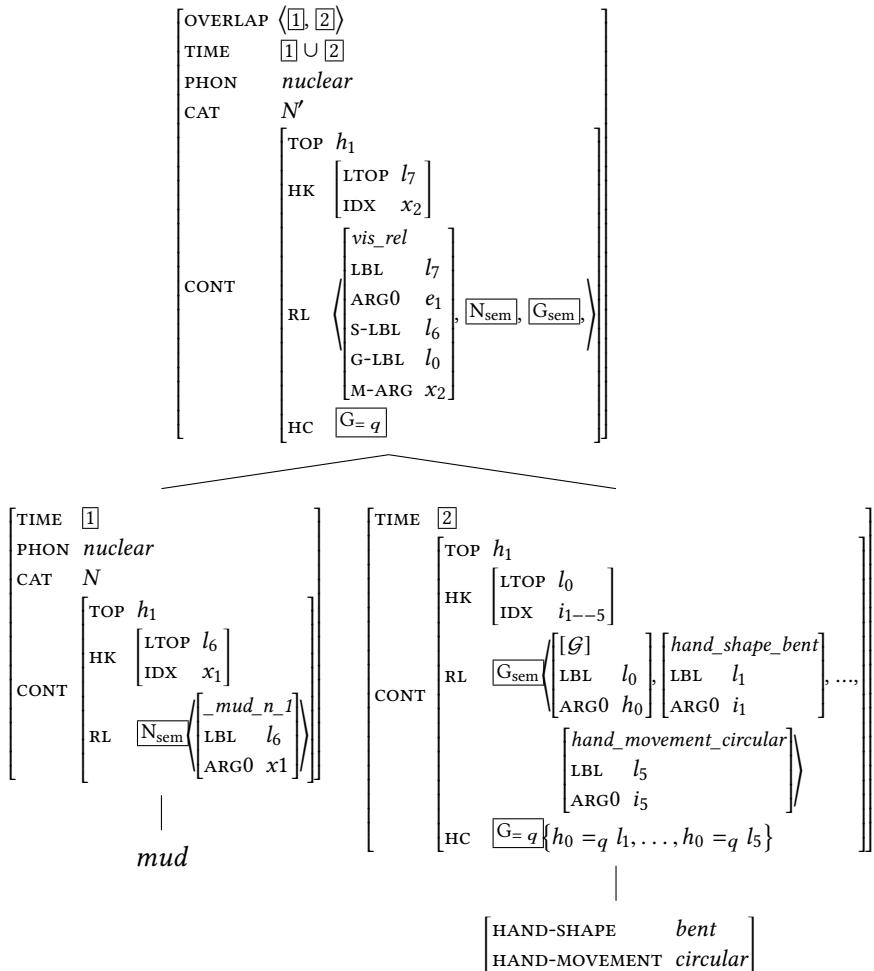
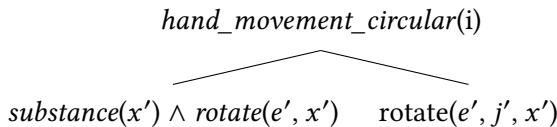


Figure 12: Derivation tree for depicting gesture and its affiliate noun *mud* (Alahverdzhieva et al. 2017: 447)

The underspecified RMRS predicates derived from gesture annotations are interpreted according to a type hierarchy rooted in those underspecified RMRS predicates. For example, the circular hand movement of the “mud gesture” can give rise to two slightly different interpretations: on the one hand, the circular hand movement can depict – in the context of the example – that mud is being mixed from an observer viewpoint (McNeill 1992). This reading is achieved by following the left branch of (22), where the gesture contributes a conjunction of predication that express that a substance rotates. When integrated with speech, the substance resolves to the mud and the rotating event to the mixing. On the other hand, the gesture can depict seen from the character viewpoint (McNeill 1992), which corresponds to the predication from the right branch of (22). Here the rotating event is brought about by agent  $j'$  which is required to be coreferential with  $he$ , the subject of the utterance.

(22)



In addition to addressing (solving) the three basic questions identified in Section 3.1 – roughly, foundation of gesture meaning, regimenting affiliation, and characterisation of semantic integration – another issue has received attention recently, namely the projection behaviour of gestures when interacting with logical operators (Ebert 2014; Schlenker 2018). For instance, the unembedded gesture in (23) triggers the inference that the event being described actually happened in the manner in which it was gesticulated (Schlenker 2018: 303):

- (23) John [slapping gesture] punished his son.  
     ⇒ John punished his son by slapping him.

That is, (23) more or less corresponds to what semantic speech-gesture integration approaches, as briefly reviewed above, would derive as the content of the multimodal utterance.

Embedding the slapping gesture under the *none*-quantifier triggers, according to Schlenker (2018: 303), the following inference:

- (24) None of these 10 guys [slapping gesture] punished his son.  
     ⇒ for each of these 10 guys, if he had punished his son, this would have involved some slapping.

The universal inference patterns with presupposition. Unlike presupposition, however, Schlenker (2018: 303) claims that the inference is conditionalized on

the at-issue contribution of (24), expressed by the *if*-clause. He then develops a notion of “cosupposition”, which rests on an expression’s local context that entails the content of its affiliated gesture. So far, there is no connection from such projections to HPSG, however.

Beyond being involved in pragmatic processes like inferring, gestures also take part in “micro-evolutionary” developments. Iconic gestures in particular are involved in a short-term dynamic phenomenon: on repeated co-occurrence, iconic gestures and affiliated speech can fuse into a *multimodal ensemble* (Kendon 2004; Lücking et al. 2008; Mehler & Lücking 2012). The characteristic feature of such an ensemble is that their gestural part, their verbal part, or even both parts can be simplified without changing the meaning of the ensemble. Ensembles, thus, are the result of a process of sign formation as studied, for instance, in experimental semiotics (Galantucci & Garrod 2011). Such grammaticalisation processes eventually might lead to conventional signs. However, most conventional, emblematic everyday gestures seem to be the result of circumventing a taboo: something you should not name is gesticulated (Posner 2002).

### 3.6 Other gestures

As noted in the taxonomy reviewed in Section 2, there are gestures that, unlike the deictic and iconic ones discussed in the previous sections, do not contribute to propositional content, but serve functions bound up with dialogue management. Such gestures have been called *interactive gestures* (Bavelas et al. 1992). Two examples are given in Figures 13 and 14, which have been discussed by Bavelas et al. (1995).

The “delivery gesture” in Figure 13 is used to underline an argument, or to refer to the fact that the current issue is known to the interlocutors. In the latter function, the gesture is also termed *shared information gesture*.

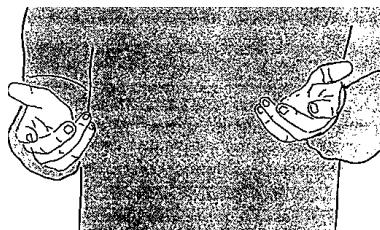


Figure 13: “Here’s my point.”

The ‘open hand’ pointing gesture in Figure 14 acts as a turn-taking device: it

can function as a turn-assigning gesture (underlined by the caption of Figure 14), or, when used to point at the current speaker, it can also indicate that the gesturer wants to take the turn and address the current turn holder.

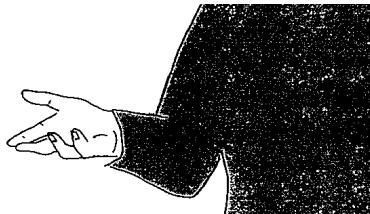


Figure 14: “You go ahead.”

So far there is no account of interactive gestures in HPSG. Given their entrenchment in dialogue processes, their natural home seems to be in a dialogue theory, anyway (see Lücking, Ginzburg & Cooper 2019, Chapter 29 of this volume). Accordingly, what is presumably the only formal approach to some of these gestures has been spelled out within the dialogical framework PTT in Rieser & Poesio (2009).

## 4 Gesture and ...

Besides being of a genuine linguistic, theoretical interest, gesture studies are a common topic in various areas of investigation, some of which are briefly pointed at below.

### 4.1 ... tools, annotation, corpora

Since gestures are signs in the visual modality, they have to be videotaped. Gesture annotation is carried out on the recorded video films. The main tools that allow for video annotation are, in alphabetical order, Anvil<sup>10</sup>, ELAN<sup>11</sup> and EXMARaLDA<sup>12</sup>.

Annotation should follow an annotation standard which is specified in an annotation scheme. Various annotation schemes for gestures and speech-gesture integration have been proposed, partly differing in annotation foci, including the

<sup>10</sup><https://www.anvil-software.org/>, Kipp 2014.

<sup>11</sup><https://tla.mpi.nl/tools/tla-tools/elan/>, Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics, The Language Archive, Nijmegen, The Netherlands, Sloetjes & Wittenburg 2008.

<sup>12</sup><https://exmaralda.org/>, Schmidt 2012.

following ones: annotation schemes that focus on form description and gestures classification in terms of a taxonomy like the one introduced in Section 2 have been developed by R. Breckenridge Church, published in the appendix of McNeill (1992); CoGEST (Gibbon et al. 2003); FORM (Martell et al. 2002) and the SaGA annotation (Lücking et al. 2013). The form of gestures and their timing with speech is the object of the coding scheme of Kipp et al. (2007). An interaction-oriented scheme has been proposed by Allwood et al. (2007), which is formulated on the level of turns and dialogue management. A detailed annotation scheme for the form and function of gestures has been developed in terms of “annotation decision trees” within the NEUROGES system (Lausberg & Sloetjes 2009).

Annotated videos of real life interactions give rise to multimodal corpora. Among those that include data on gestures are the following ones.

The multimodal SmartKom Corpus (Schiel et al. 2003), which grew out of the SmartKom project (Wahlster 2006), comprises recording sessions of various Wizard-of-Oz experiments (that is, human-computer interaction where the human participant is made to believe that the system she or he interacts with is autonomous while in fact it is, at least partly, operated by another human). Recordings are extended basically by a transliteration and labelling of natural speech, labelling of gestures and annotation of user states (in the corpus’ first release). The first public release, SKP 1.0, contains 90 recording sessions of 45 users. The multimodal SmartKom corpus as well as further SmartKom resources are hosted at the *Bavarian Archive for Speech Signals* (<https://www.bas.uni-muenchen.de/Bas/>).

The AMI Meeting Corpus (Carletta et al. 2006) consists of 100 hours of meeting recordings. The meetings were recorded in English but include mostly non-native speakers. The AMI Meeting Corpus provides orthographic transcriptions, but also has a couple of further annotations, including dialogue acts, named entities, head gesture, hand gesture, gaze direction, movement and emotional states.

The SaGA (“Speech and Gesture Alignment”) corpus consists of 24 German route direction dialogues obtained after a bus ride through a virtual town (Lücking et al. 2010). Audio and video data from the direction-giver were recorded. The SaGA corpus consists of 280 minutes of video material containing 4,961 iconic/deictic gestures, approximately 1,000 discourse gestures and 39,435 word tokens (Lücking et al. 2013). Gesture annotation has been carried out in great detail, following a kinematic, form-based approach (cf. the above-given remark on annotation schemes). Part of the SaGA corpus is available from the *Bavarian Archive for Speech Signals* (<https://www.bas.uni-muenchen.de/Bas/>).

The DUEL (“Disfluency, exclamations and laughter in dialogue”) corpus (Hough et al. 2016) comprises 24 hours of natural, face-to-face dialogue in German, French

and Mandarin Chinese. It includes audio, video and body tracking data and is transcribed and annotated for disfluency, laughter and exclamations.

The FIGURE (derived from “Frankfurt Image GestURE”) corpus (Lücking et al. 2016) is built on recordings of 50 participants with various mother tongues (though mostly German) spontaneously producing gestures in response to five or six terms from a total of 27 stimulus terms, which have been compiled mainly from image schemata (Lakoff 1987). The gestures have been kinematically annotated by means of a variant of the SaGA annotation scheme. The FIGURE annotation is available from the Text Technology Lab Frankfurt (<https://www.texttechnologylab.org/applications/corpora>).

## 4.2 ... robots and virtual agents

In the context of Human-Computer Interaction (HCI) or Human-Robot Interaction (HRI), gesture plays an important role (in fact, the formal modelling of deictic and iconic gestures has been initiated in these fields, cf. Section 3.2). One reason for this prominence of gesture in technical areas is that people who interact with a robot evaluate it more positively when the robot displays non-verbal behaviours such as hand and arm gestures along with speech (see e.g. Salem et al. 2012). Within HCI/HRI, two kinds of distinctions have to be made. The first is a distinction between “robot” in the sense of virtual avatars and “robot” in the (probably more common) sense of physical devices (only the latter will be henceforth called a “robot”). The second distinction discerns gesture generation from gesture recognition. Given this simple systematization, altogether four divisions of gesture and virtual avatars/robots arise (references are just exemplary and preferably from earlier HCI/HRI times): (i) gesture generation by robots (e.g. Le et al. 2011); (ii) gesture recognition by robots (e.g. Triesch & von der Malsburg 1998); (iii) gesture generation by virtual avatars (e.g. Cassell et al. 2000); and (iv) gesture recognition in VR/AR (e.g. Weissmann & Salomon 1999). For a more detailed overview see Lücking & Pfeiffer (2012). Enabling humans to act and interact in virtual rooms (e.g. Pfeiffer et al. 2018) can be seen as recent extension of gesture use in HCI/HRI.

In order to plan and design the speech/gesture output of a virtual avatar or a robot, a multimodal representation format is required. To this end, the *Multimodal Utterances Representation Markup Language* for conversational robots (MURML) has been developed (Kranstedt et al. 2002). A similar purpose is served by the *Extensible MultiModal Annotation* (EMMA; Johnston 2009).

### 4.3 ... learning

Following a “gesture as a window to the mind” view, gestures must be a prime object of educational theory and practice, and they are indeed, as demonstrated by research of Cook & Goldin-Meadow (2006) and colleagues. Effectiveness of gestures has been studied in math lessons (Goldin-Meadow et al. 2001), in the acquisition of counting competence (Alibali & DiRusso 1999) and in bilingual education (Breckinridge Church et al. 2004), among other areas. The fairly unanimous result is that gestures can indeed reflect students’ conceptualisations and provide insights into cognitive processes involved in learning. Therefore, they can be used as a teaching device as well as an indicator of learning progress and understanding.

### 4.4 ... aphasia

Current models of utterance production are speech-gesture production models, assuming a (more or less) integrated generation of multimodal utterances. Based on such models, one expects an effect on gesture performance when speech production is impaired, as is the case with aphasic speakers. Aphasia is an acquired speech disorder, which can be caused by a stroke, ischaemia, haemorrhage, craniocerebral trauma and further brain-damaging diseases. Different speech-gesture production models make slightly different predictions for speakers suffering from aphasia and can be evaluated accordingly (de Ruiter & de Beer 2013). Indeed, observing the gesture behaviour of aphasic speakers is one aspect of gesture and aphasia (Jakob et al. 2011; Kong et al. 2017; Sekine & Rose 2013). With the exception of the growth point theory, speech-gesture production models are based on Levelt’s (1989) model.

The *Growth Point model* (McNeill & Duncan 2000) assumes that the “seed” of an utterance is an inherently multimodal idea unit that comprises imagistic as well as symbolic proto-representations which unfold into gesture and speech respectively in the process of articulation (see also Röpke 2011 on the growth point’s entrenchment in contexts and frames).

The *Sketch model* (de Ruiter 2000) reflects explicitly different kinds of gestures (see Section 2). Its name is due to the sketch component, an abstract spatio-temporal representation alongside Levelt’s preverbal message. Independently from each other, the sketch is sent to a gesture planner, while the preverbal message is processed by the formulator.

According to the *Lexical Access model* of Krauss et al. (2000), iconic gestures are related to words and are used in order to facilitate speaker-internal word

retrieval rather than communicating pictorial information.

The *Interface model* (Kita & Özyürek 2003) assumes that the processes for speech and gesture generation negotiate with each other and therefore can influence each other during the production phase.

Other aspects include the use of gesture in speech therapy. Very much in line with the lexical access model, gestures have been used in order to facilitate word retrieval in what can be called *multimodal therapy* (Rose 2006). Following a different strategy, gestures are also used in order to enhance the communicative range of patients: they learn to employ gestures instead of words in order to communicate at least some of their needs and thoughts more fluently (Cubelli et al. 1991; Caute et al. 2013).

However, just counting on gestures in therapy does not automatically lead to success (Auer & Bauer 2011). The type and severity of aphasia, the individual traits of the aphasic speaker and the kinds of gestures impaired or still at disposal, among other factors, seem to constitute a complex network for which currently no generally applicable clinical pathway can be given.

## 5 Outlook

What are (still) challenging issues with respect to grammar-gesture integration, in particular from a semantic point of view? Candidates include:

- gestalt phenomena: the trajectories described by a gesture are often incomplete and have to be completed by drawing on gestalt principles or everyday knowledge (Lücking 2016).
- negligible features: not all formal features of a gesture are meaning-carrying features in the context of utterance. For instance, in a dynamic gesture the handshape often (though not always) does not provide any semantic information (cf. also examples (17) and (21)/(22)). How can we distinguish between significant and negligible gesture features?
- “semantic endurance”: due to holds, gestures can show their meaning contributions for some period of time and keeps available for semantic attachment. This may call for a more sophisticated algebraic treatment of speech-gesture integration than offered by typed feature structures (Rieser 2015).

Finally, the empirical domain of “gesture” has to be extended to other non-verbal signals, in particular propositional ones such as laughter (Ginzburg et al.

2015), facial expressions or gaze (see Section 1 for a brief list of non-verbal signals), in isolation as well as in mutual combination. Thus, there is still some way to go in order to achieve a fuller understanding of natural language interaction and thereby natural languages.

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## **Part V**

# **The broader picture**



## Chapter 32

# HPSG and Minimalism

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This chapter compares work done in Head-Driven Phrase Structure Grammar with work done under the heading *Minimalist Program*. We discuss differences in the respective approaches and the outlook of theories. We have a look at the procedural/constraint-based views on grammar and discuss the differences in complexity of the structures that are assumed. We also address psycholinguistic issues like processing and language acquisition.

## 1 Introduction

The Minimalist framework, which was first outlined by Chomsky in the early 1990s (Chomsky 1993; 1995b), still seems to be the dominant approach to syntax. It is important, therefore, to consider how HPSG compares with this framework. In a sense both frameworks are descendants of the transformation-generative approach to syntax, which Chomsky introduced in the 1950s. HPSG is a result of the questioning of transformational analyses that emerged in the late 1970s. This led to Lexical Functional Grammar (Bresnan & Kaplan 1982) and Generalized Phrase Structure Grammar (Gazdar et al. 1985), and then in the mid 1980s to HPSG (Pollard & Sag 1987, see Flickinger, Pollard & Wasow (2019), Chapter 2 of this volume for more on the origins of HPSG). Minimalism in contrast remains committed to transformational, i.e. movement, analyses. It is simpler in some respects than the earlier Government and Binding framework (Chomsky 1981), but as we will see below, it involves a variety of complexities.



The relation between the two frameworks is clouded by the discourse that surrounds Minimalism. At one time “virtual conceptual necessity” was said to be its guiding principle. A little later, it was said to be concerned with the “perfection of language”, with “how closely human language approaches an optimal solution to design conditions that the system must meet to be usable at all” (Chomsky 2002: 58). Much of this discourse seems designed to suggest that Minimalism is quite different from other approaches and should not be assessed in the same way. In the words of Postal (2003: 19), it looks like “an attempt to provide certain views with a sort of privileged status, with the goal of placing them at least rhetorically beyond the demands of serious argument or evidence”. However, the two frameworks have enough in common to allow meaningful comparisons.

Both frameworks seek to provide an account of what is and is not possible both in specific languages and in language in general. Moreover, both are concerned not just with local relations such as that between a head and its complement or complements but also with non-local relations such as those in the following:

- (1)    a. The student knows the answer.  
      b. It seems to be raining.  
      c. Which student do you think knows the answer?

In (1a), *the student* is subject of *knows* and is responsible for the fact that *knows* is a third person singular form, but *the student* and *knows* are not sisters if *knows* and *the answer* form a VP. In (1b) the subject is *it* because the complement of *be* is *raining* and *raining* requires an expletive subject, but *it* and *raining* are obviously not sisters. Finally, in (1c), *which student* is understood as the subject of *knows* and is responsible for the fact that it is third person singular, but again the two elements are structurally quite far apart. Both frameworks provide analyses for these and other central syntactic phenomena, and it is quite reasonable to compare them and ask which is the more satisfactory.<sup>1</sup>

Although HPSG and Minimalism have enough in common to permit comparisons, there are obviously many differences. Some are more important than others, and some relate to the basic approach and outlook, while others concern the nature of grammatical systems and syntactic structures. In this chapter we will explore the full range of differences.

The chapter is organized as follows: in Section 2, we look at differences of approach between the two frameworks. Then in Section 3, we consider the quite different views of grammar that the two frameworks espouse, and in Section 4,

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<sup>1</sup>As noted below, comparison is complicated somewhat by the fact that Minimalists typically provide only sketches of analyses in which various details are left quite vague.

we look at the very different syntactic structures which result. Finally, in Section 5, we consider how the two frameworks relate to psycholinguistic issues, especially processing and language acquisition.

## 2 Differences of approach and outlook

This section deals with some higher level differences between the two frameworks. We start with sociological differences in Section 2.1. We go on with the degree of formalization and the range of data that is covered (Section 2.2). Section 2.3 discusses the quality of empirical work. Finally, Section 2.4 deals with arguments for invisible entities and innate knowledge.

### 2.1 Sociological differences

A difference between Mainstream Generative Grammar<sup>2</sup> and HPSG that should not be underestimated is the fact that MGG has one very important key figure, the by far most-cited linguist (and scientist in general) Noam Chomsky. HPSG is different. This is how Carl Pollard put it:

There is no Chomsky-like figure who is always assumed to be basically on the right track no matter what s/he proposes. HPSG research is normal science: the testing of hypotheses that appear plausible given accepted assumptions. The goal is not to fill in the details of a vague theory which is assumed to be basically right, but to successively replace empirical hypothesis with ones that make better predictions. (Pollard 1997: Section 1.2.1)

While Ivan Sag is perceived as the leading figure by outsiders, the fact that Ivan Sag's recent switch to Sign-Based Construction Grammar (Sag 2012) is not unanimously adopted by the HPSG community (see Müller (2019d), Chapter 36 of this volume and Müller (2018a: Section 10.6.2) for discussion), that empty elements are assumed by various researchers (Bender 2000; Müller 2014; Borsley 2009) even though Ivan Sag argued against them from 1994 (Sag & Fodor 1994) and that defaults are not used by all researchers even though they play a prominent role in Ivan Sag's work (e.g., in Ginzburg & Sag 2000) shows that Pollard's claim is correct. Of course Ivan Sag is the most influential HPSG grammarian but this influence is based on properly argued empirically interesting research.

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<sup>2</sup>We follow Culicover & Jackendoff (2005: 3) in using the term *Mainstream Generative Grammar* (MGG) to refer to work in Minimalism and the earlier Government & Binding framework.

## 2.2 Formalization and exhaustivity

As many of the chapters in this volume emphasize, HPSG is a framework which places considerable emphasis on detailed formal analyses of the kind that one might expect within Generative Grammar.<sup>3</sup> Thus, it is not uncommon to find lengthy appendices setting out formal analyses. See, for example, Sag's (1997) paper on English relative clauses, Van Eynde's (2015) book on predicative constructions and especially Ginzburg & Sag (2000), which has a 50 page appendix. One consequence of this is that HPSG has had considerable influence in computational linguistics. Sometimes theoretical work comes paired with computer implementations, which show that the analyses are consistent and complete (e.g., all publications coming out of the CoreGram project (Müller 2015b) and the HPSG textbook for German that comes with implementations corresponding to the individual chapters of the book (Müller 2007b)). For more on the relation of HPSG and computational linguistics see Bender & Emerson (2019), Chapter 28 of this volume.

In Minimalism things are very different. Detailed formal analyses are virtually non-existent. There appear to be no appendices like those in Sag (1997) and Ginzburg & Sag (2000). In fact the importance of formalization has long been down-played in Chomskyan work (e.g., by Chomsky in an interview with Huybregts & Riemsdijk (1982: 73) and in discussions between Pullum (1989) and Chomsky (1990: 146)), and this view seems fairly standard within Minimalism (see also the discussion in Müller (2016a: Section 3.6.2)). Chomsky & Lasnik (1995: 28) attempt to justify the absence of detailed analyses when they suggest that providing a rule system from which some set of phenomena can be derived is not “a real result” since “it is often possible to devise one that will more or less work”. Instead, they say, “the task is now to show how the phenomena [...] can be deduced from the invariant principles of UG with parameters set in one of the permissible ways”. Postal (2004: 5) comments that what we see here is the “notion that descriptive success is not really that hard and so not of much importance”. He points out that if this were true, one would expect successful descriptions to be abundant

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<sup>3</sup>We follow Ginzburg & Sag (2000: 2) in counting HPSG among Generative Grammar in the sense it was defined by Chomsky (1965: 4), namely as a framework that provides an explicit characterization of the theories developed within it. When we refer to work in Government & Binding or Minimalism, we follow Culicover & Jackendoff (2005: 3) in using the term *Mainstream Generative Grammar*. It should be kept in mind that there is another meaning associated with the term *generative*. A generative grammar in the latter sense generates a set (Chomsky 1957: 13. HPSG is not generative in this sense but rather model-theoretic. See Pullum & Scholz (2001) for differences between generative-enumerative and model theoretic approaches. See also Richter (2019), Chapter 3 of this volume and Wasow (2019), Chapter 27 of this volume.

within transformational frameworks. He argues that actual transformational descriptions are quite poor, and justifies this assessment with detailed discussions of Chomskyan work on strong crossover phenomena and passives in Chapters 7 and 8 of his book.

There has also been a strong tendency within Minimalism to focus on just a subset of the facts in whatever domain is being investigated. As Culicover & Jackendoff (2005: 535) note, “much of the fine detail of traditional constructions has ceased to garner attention”. This tendency has sometimes been buttressed by a distinction between core grammar, which is supposedly a fairly straightforward reflection of the language faculty, and a periphery of marked constructions, which are of no great importance and which can reasonably be ignored. However, as Culicover (1999) and others have argued, there is no evidence for a clear cut distinction between core and periphery. It follows that a satisfactory approach to grammar needs to account both for such core phenomena as *wh*-interrogatives, relative clauses, and passives but also with more peripheral phenomena such as the following:

- (2)    a. It's amazing the people you see here.
- b. The more I read, the more I understand.
- c. Chris lied his way into the meeting.

These exemplify the nominal extraposition construction (Michaelis & Lambrecht 1996), the comparative correlative construction (Culicover & Jackendoff 1999; Borsley 2011), and the *X's Way* construction (Salkoff 1988; Sag 2012). As has been emphasized in other chapters, the HPSG system of types and constraints is able to accommodate broad linguistic generalizations and highly idiosyncratic facts and everything in between.

The general absence in Minimalism of detailed formal analyses is quite important. It means that Minimalists may not be fully aware of the complexity of the structures they are committed to and this allows them to sidestep the question whether it is really justified. It also allows them to avoid the question of whether the very simple conception of grammar that they favour is really satisfactory. Finally, it may be that they are unaware of how many phenomena remain unaccounted for. These are all important matters.

The general absence of detailed formal analyses has also led to Minimalism having little impact on computational linguistics. There has been some work that has sought to implement Minimalist ideas (Stabler 2001; Fong & Ginsburg 2012; Fong 2014), but Minimalism has not had anything like the productive relation with computational work that HPSG has enjoyed. Existing Minimalist imple-

mentations are rather toy grammars analyzing very simple sentences, some are not faithful to the theories they are claimed to be implementing,<sup>4</sup> and some do not even parse natural language but require pre-segmented, pre-formatted input. For example, Stabler's test sentences have the form as in (3).

- (3) a. the king will -s eat  
b. the king have -s eat -en  
c. the king be -s eat -ing  
d. the king -s will -s have been eat -ing the pie

See Müller (2019c: Section 4.7.2) for discussion.

As far as large-scale coverage is concerned, the more recent work by Torr, Stanojevic, Steedman & Cohen (2019) is an exception to what was said above. They state that their parser is the first one to take up the Sproat & Lappin Challenge to the Minimalist community (2005). The work of the authors is impressive and they really implemented a wide-coverage statistically trained parser based on Transformational Grammar but what they did is different from standard Minimalism since they assume "around 45" versions of Move and Merge (p. 2488) in comparison to the two versions usually assumed in Minimalism (Move and Merge or Internal and External Merge).<sup>5</sup> Torr & Stabler (2016) explain some of the schemata that are assumed: there are versions of Merge that combine a head with a complement and versions that combine a head with a specifier (see Müller (2013) for a comparison of Minimalist Grammars with HPSG. Müller notes that the respective schemata correspond to the Specifier-Head Schema and the Head-Complement Schema, respectively). Torr & Stabler (2016: 4) assume four schemata for adjunction (HPSG has one such schema and use underspecification with respect to order, see Müller (2019a), Chapter 10 of this volume). They assume a special rule for rightward movement (p. 5) corresponding to Keller95a's (Keller95a) and Müller's (1999b) Head-Extra Schema for extraposition. In addition the authors assume two schemata for head movement. HPSG assumes a

<sup>4</sup>Fong's grammars are simple Definite Clause Grammars, that is, context-free phrase structure grammars, and hence nowhere near an implementation of Minimalism, contrary to claims by Berwick, Pietroski, Yankama & Chomsky (2011: 1221). Lin's parsers PrinciPar and MiniPar (1993; 2003) are based on GB and Miniamlism but according to Lin (1993: 116) and Torr et al. (2019: 2487), they are not transformational but use a SLASH passing mechanism like the one developed in GPSG (Gazdar 1981) and standardly used in HPSG (see Borsley & Crysmann 2019, Chapter 14 of this volume).

<sup>5</sup>Torr explained in p.c. 2019 that these 45 rules can be folded into two Merge functions and two Move functions. But in the end this is just a clever way of hiding complexity. It is like Chomsky ref revising the theory with Move and Merge into one with just one operation Merge but assuming two subcases of Internal and External Merge.

lexical rule or a unary branching schema applying to words or coordinations of words (Müller 2017 and Müller (2019a), Chapter 10 of this volume). Across the Board extraction is taken care of by four special schemata. See Abeillé & Chaves (2019), Chapter 17 of this volume for the treatment of coordination in HPSG. The treatment of Across the Board Extraction (Ross 1967b) is non-standard Minimalism. For the analysis of examples like (4) in which one filler corresponds to two gaps in two conjuncts, the authors build on Koeble (2008) who uses a SLASH passing mechanism going back to Sag (1983) and Gazdar (1981). While Koeble assumes the SLASH passing mechanism of GPSG, Torr & Stabler (2016) suggest an analysis of (4) with two instances of *who* in object positions, which are later unified into one when the second conjunct is merged into the main structure.

- (4) Who<sub>i</sub> did Jack say Mary likes <sub>\_i</sub> and Pete hates <sub>\_i</sub>?

An interesting property of the analysis is that *who Pete hates* forms a discontinuous constituent: *who* is combined with *hates* despite its sentence-initial position. Information about this *wh* element is passed up the tree in an GPSG-style way. The difference is that there is no trace but the extracted element is identical in phonological material with the filler. Interestingly, there is an HPSG variant of nonlocal dependencies that is very similar to what Torr & Stabler (2016) suggest and together with a modified Filler Head Schema the analyses are parallel: Hinrichs & Nakazawa (1994b) suggested that the linguistic objects that are involved in nonlocal dependencies are of type *sign* rather than *local*. This makes it possible to pass up information about a daughter including its phonological make up. If one assumes a version of HPSG permitting discontinuous constituents (Reape 1994; Müller 2019a, Chapter 10 of this volume) and a Filler Head Schema that requires that the phonology of the filler is identical to the phonology in the SLASH list and that does not insert the fronted element into the constituent order domain of the head (since it is in there already), we get an analysis of the type described in Torr & Stabler (2016). Figure 1 shows the analysis that was suggested by Torr & Stabler (2016) and Figure 2 the HPSG analog. Directional Minimalist Grammars use the '=' sign to indicate the direction in which an argument is required. =d means that a DP is required to the left of a head and d= encode the requirement of a DP to the right. This is like the '/' notation of Categorial Grammar (see Steedman 2000 and Kubota 2019, Chapter 33 of this volume). *likes* has the category d= =d v, which means that it is a verb requiring a d to its right (the object) and a d to its left (the subject). *who* is of category d and has a -wh feature, something that has to be checked for a derivation to be complete. *Jack* is the subject of *likes* and fulfills the =d requirement of *likes*. Items like [pres] and [int] are empty elements. [pres] has a +case feature and can make *Jack* move to its

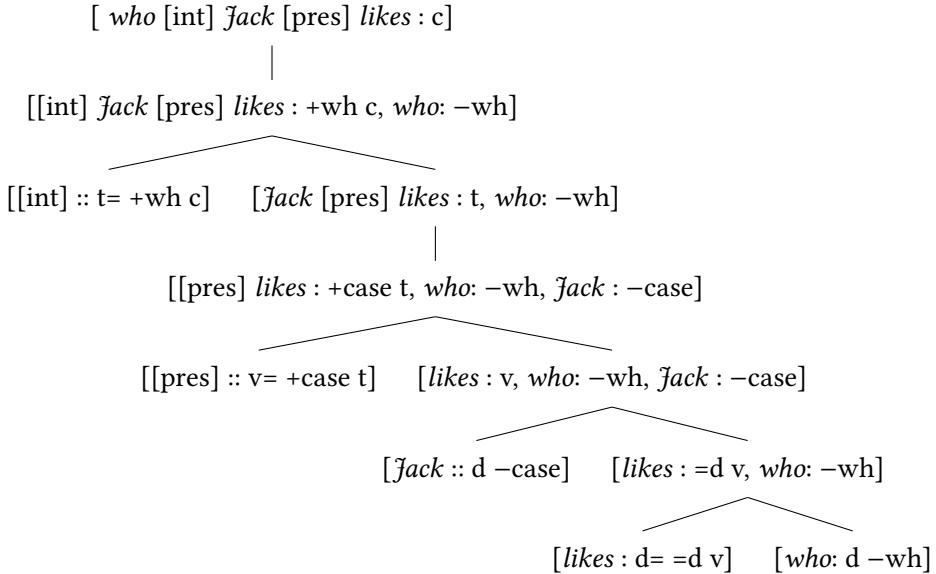


Figure 1: Derivation tree of *who Jack likes* in Directional Minimalist Grammar according to Torr & Stabler (2016)

specifier. The movement consumes the –case feature and puts *Jack* to the front of the string. This looks like a unary projection in the derivation tree. The empty interrogative head [int] selects for a t to its right. The result is a C projection that has a +wh feature. In the final step *who*, which is –wh moves to the left and the wh feature are removed. The important thing is that the information about the phonology of *who* and its wh feature is percolated up in the tree until it is finally bound off in the last derivation step.

Figure 2 shows the HPSG analog. The information about the local properties of the *wh* word including its phonology are passed up in the tree until they are bound off in a filler head configuration. The Filler-Head Schema binds off the nonlocal dependency and makes sure that the phonology of the filler is not realized twice (see Reape 1994, Müller 2019a: Section 6, Chapter 10 of this volume on linearization domains and Abeillé & Chaves 2019: Section 7, Chapter 17 of this volume on multi-dominance approaches in HPSG). An alternative to a binary branching Filler-Head Schema would be a unary branching rule that binds off the element in SLASH and adds the stored phonology to the phonology of the daughter. This would then be completely parallel to the unary branching assumed in Torr's Directional Minimalist Grammar.

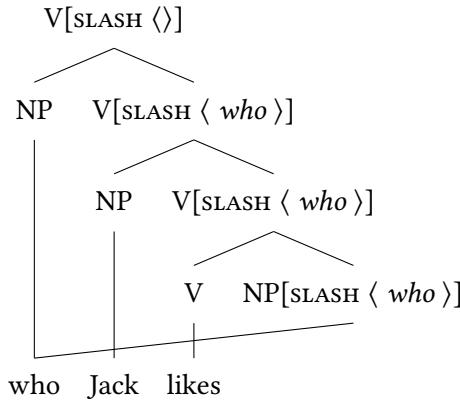


Figure 2: Possible HPSG analysis of *who Jack likes* using discontinuous constituents

Summing up: The fact that certain variants of Minimalism share properties with Categorial Grammar has been noticed early on (Berwick & Epstein 1995). Directional Minimalist Grammars were compared to CG and HPSG by Müller (2013). MGs were extended to include GPSG-style SLASH passing mechanisms by Kobele (2008) and continue to use them in the versions of Torr & Stabler (2016). We believe that this work is fruitful and well-formalized but formalization is insufficient for most of the work in Minimalism and idea from other frameworks are ignored more often than not.

### 2.3 Empirical quality

There are, then, issues about the quantity of data that is considered in Minimalist work. There are also issues about its quality (Schütze 2016). Research in HPSG is typically quite careful about data and often makes use of corpus and experimental data (see for example An & Abeillé 2017; Müller 1999b; 2002; Bildhauer & Cook 2010; Müller, Bildhauer & Cook 2012; Van Eynde 2015: Chapter 7; Abeillé et al. 2016; Shiraishi & Abeillé 2016 for examples of work with attested examples and for experimental work). This use of corpus data and attested examples is based on the insight that introspection alone is not sufficient, given that an enormous amount of time is spent to work out analyses and it would be unfortunate if these analyses were built on a shaky empirical basis. See Müller (2007a) and Meurers & Müller (2009) for the discussion of introspection vs. corpus data. Research in

Minimalism is often rather less careful.<sup>6</sup> In a review of a collection of Minimalist papers, Bender (2002: 434) comments that: “In these papers, the data appears to be collected in an off-hand, unsystematic way, with unconfirmed questionable judgments often used at crucial points in the argumentation”. She goes on to suggest that the framework encourages “lack of concern for the data, above and beyond what is unfortunately already the norm in formal syntax, because the connection between analysis and data is allowed to be remote.”. Similar things could be said about a variety of Minimalist work. Consider, for example, Aoun & Li (2003), who argue for quite different analyses of *that*-relatives and *wh*-relatives on the basis of the following (supposed) contrasts, which appear to represent nothing more than their own judgements (p. 110–112):

- (5) a. The headway that Mel made was impressive.
- b. ?? The headway which Mel made was impressive.
- (6) a. We admired the picture of himself that John painted in art class.
- b. \* We admired the picture of himself which John painted in art class.
- (7) a. The picture of himself that John painted in art class is impressive.
- b. \*? The picture of himself which John painted in art class is impressive.

None of the native speakers we have consulted find significant contrasts here which could support different analyses. The example in (8a) with a *which* relative clause referring to *headway* can be found in Cole et al. (1982). Williams (1989: 437) and Falk (2010: 221) have examples with a reflexive coreferential with a noun in a relative clause introduced by *which* as in William’s (8b) and corpus examples like (8c,d) can be found as well:

- (8) a. The headway which we made was satisfactory.
- b. the picture of himself which John took
- c. The words had the effect of lending an additional clarity and firmness of outline to the picture of himself which Bill had already drawn in his mind—of a soulless creature sunk in hoggish slumber.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>6</sup>We hasten to say that we do not claim this to be true for all Minimalist work. There are researchers working with corpora or at least with attested examples (Wurmbrand 2003) and there is experimental work. Especially in Germany there were several large scale Collaborative Research Centers with a strong empirical focus which also fed back into theoretical work, including Minimalist work. The fact that we point out here is that there is work, including work by prominent Minimalists, that is rather sloppy as far as data is concerned.

<sup>7</sup>Wodehouse, P.G. 1917. *Uneasy Money*, London: Methuen & Co., p.186, <http://www.literaturepage.com/read.php?titleid=uneasymoney&abspage=186>, 2018-09-18.

- d. She refused to allow the picture of himself, which he had sent her, to be hung, and it was reported that she ordered all her portraits and busts of him to be put in the lumber attics.<sup>8</sup>

Given that it is relatively easy to come up with counterexamples it is surprising that authors do not do a quick check before working out rather complex analyses.

Note that we are not just taking one bad example of Minimalist work. It is probably the case that papers with dubious judgments can be found in any framework if only this is due to the repetitions of unwarranted claims made by others. The point is that Aoun & Li are influential (quoted by 455 other publications as of 2018-09-14). Others rely on these judgments or the analyses that were motivated by them. New conclusions are derived from analyses since theories make predictions. If this process continues for a while an elaborate theoretical edifice results that is not empirically supported. Note furthermore that the criticism raised here is not the squabble of two authors working in an alternative framework. This criticism also comes from practitioners of Mainstream Generative Grammar. For example, Wolfgang Sternefeld and Hubert Haider, both very prominent figures in the German Generative Grammar school criticized the scientific standards in Minimalism heavily (Sternefeld & Richter 2012; Haider 2018). As Sternefeld & Richter (2012: 266–268) point out it is not just the case that Minimalist publications are based on empirically problematic foundations, it is even worse: researchers like Epstein & Seely (2006: Section 1.1) publish statements about research methodology that can only be understood as an immunization strategy. The authors discuss the two curves in Figure 3: one has a sine-like shape and hits three out of seven of the data points on a straight line and the other one is parallel to the line with the data points and hence hits none of the data points. The second approach gets none of the data right. Nevertheless the authors argue that one should prefer this theory since it was closer to the truth and more illuminating: “Clearly, Theory 1 is ‘empirically preferable’ by a ‘winning score’ of 3–0. The point [...] is that Theory 2, despite getting none of the data correct, [...] is ‘closer to the truth’ or ‘more illuminating’ than the empirically preferable Theory 1. Hence, we believe, Theory 2 is a better working or guiding hypothesis upon which to base future research.” (Epstein & Seely 2006: 2)

As we will show in Section 3.4, Minimalist discussions of the important topic of labelling have also been marred by a failure to take account of relevant data.

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<sup>8</sup>Jerrold, Clare. 1913. *The married life of Queen Victoria*, London: G. Bells & Sons, Ltd. [https://archive.org/stream/marriedlifeofque00jerruoft/marriedlifeofque00jerruoft\\_djvu.txt](https://archive.org/stream/marriedlifeofque00jerruoft/marriedlifeofque00jerruoft_djvu.txt), 2018-09-19.

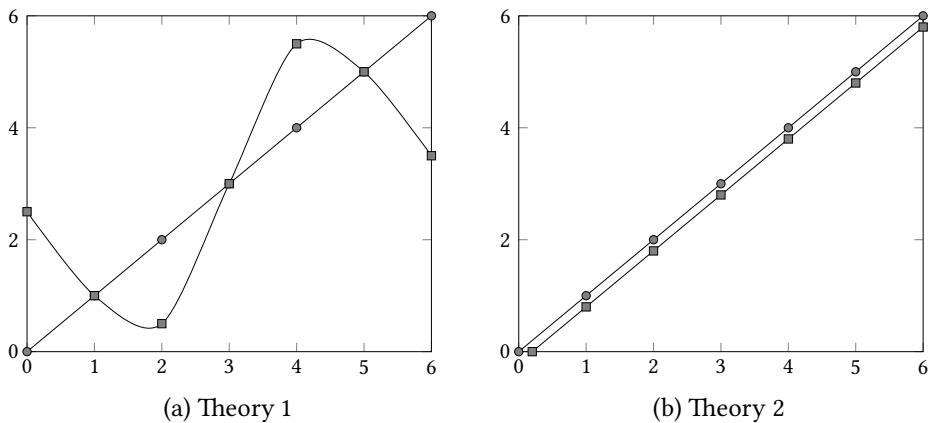


Figure 3: Immunization in Minimalist work: According to Epstein & Seely (2006: Section 1.1) Theory 2, which gets none of the data points, is preferable to Theory 1 with three data points since Theory 2 is “more illuminating” and “closer to the truth”

## 2.4 Argumentation for invisible entities and the assumption of innate linguistic knowledge

There are also differences in the kind of arguments that the two frameworks find acceptable. It is common within Minimalism to assume that some phenomenon which cannot be readily observed in some languages must be part of their grammatical system because it is clearly present in other languages. Notable examples would be case (Li 2008) or (object) agreement (Meinunger 2000: Chapter 4), which are assumed to play a role even though there are no visible manifestations within some languages (e.g., Mandarin Chinese and German, respectively). This stems from the longstanding Chomskyan assumption that language is the realization of a complex innate language faculty. From this perspective, there is much in any grammatical system that is a reflection of the language faculty and not in any simple way of the observable phenomena of the language in question. If some phenomenon plays an important role in many languages it is viewed as a reflection of the language faculty, and hence it must be a feature of all grammatical systems even those in which it is hard to see any evidence for it. An example – taken from a textbook on Minimalism (Hornstein, Nunes & Grohmann 2005: 124) – is an analysis of prepositional phrases in English. Figure 4 shows the analysis.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>9</sup>This analysis is actually a much simpler variant of the PP analysis which appeared in an earlier textbook by Radford (1997: 452). For discussion of this analysis see Sternefeld (2006: 549–550) and Müller (2016a: Section 4.6.1.2).

Due to theory internal assumptions the case requirement of the preposition can-

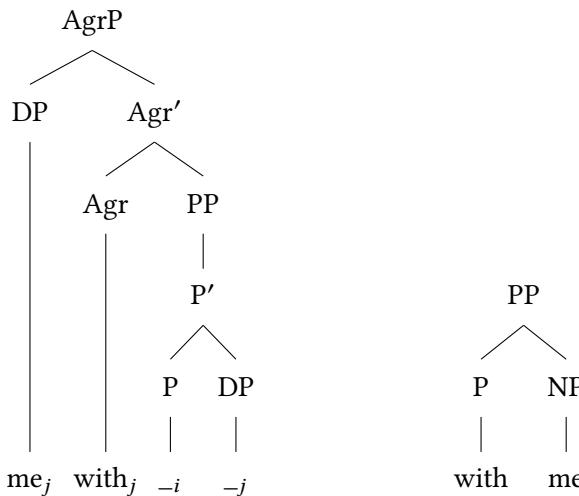


Figure 4: Minimalist analysis of a PP according to (Hornstein, Nunes & Grohmann 2005: 124) and the analysis assumed in HPSG and all other phrase structure-based frameworks

not be checked in the P-DP combination. According to the version of the theory adopted by the authors, case has to be checked in specifier positions. Therefore it was assumed that the preposition moves to an Agr head and the DP moves to the specifier position of this Agr head. The problem is of course that DP and P are in the wrong order now. However, the authors argue that this is the order that is manifested in Hungarian and that Hungarian is a language which has postpositions and these are agreeing with their nominal dependent. The authors assume that Hungarian postpositions are prepositions underlyingly and that the DP following the preposition moves to the left because of a movement process that is triggered by agreement. It is claimed that this movement exists both in Hungarian and in English but that the movement is covert (that is, invisible) in the latter language.

This line of argument would be reasonable if a complex innate language faculty were an established fact, but it isn't, and since Hauser, Chomsky & Fitch (2002), it seems to have been rejected within Minimalism. It follows that ideas about an innate language faculty should not be used to guide research on individual languages. Rather, as Müller (2015b: 25) puts it, "grammars should be motivated on a language-specific basis". Does this mean that other languages are irrelevant when investigating a specific language? Clearly not. As Müller also

puts it, “In situations where more than one analysis would be compatible with a given dataset for language X, the evidence from language Y with similar constructs is most welcome and can be used as evidence in favor of one of the two analyses for language X.” (2015b: 43). In practice, any linguist working on a new language will use apparently similar phenomena in other languages as a starting point. It is important, however, to recognize that apparently similar phenomena may turn out on careful investigation to be significantly different.<sup>10</sup>

### **3 Different views of grammar**

We turn now to more substantive differences between HPSG and Minimalism, differences in their conceptions of grammar, especially syntax, and differences in their views of syntactic structure. As we will see, these differences are related. In this section we consider the former, and in the next we will look at the latter.

#### **3.1 Declarative and constraint-based vs. derivational and generative-enumerative approaches**

As is emphasized throughout this volume, HPSG assumes a declarative or constraint-based view of grammar. It also assumes that the grammar involves a complex systems of types and constraints. Finally, it assumes that syntactic analyses are complemented by separate semantic and morphological analyses. In each of these areas, Minimalism is different. It assumes a procedural view of grammar. It assumes that grammar involves just a few general operations. Finally, it assumes that semantics and morphology are simple reflections of syntax. We comment on each of these matters in the following subsections.

Whereas HPSG is a declarative or constraint-based approach, Minimalism seems to be firmly committed to a procedural approach. Chomsky (1995b: 219) remarks that: “We take L [a particular language] to be a generative procedure that constructs pairs  $(\pi, \lambda)$  that are interpreted at the articulatory-perceptual (A-P) and conceptual-intentional (C-I) interfaces, respectively, as ‘instructions’ to the performance systems.”. Various arguments have been presented within HPSG for a declarative view, but no argument seems to be offered within Minimalism for a procedural view. Obviously, speakers and hearers do construct representations and must have procedures that enable them to do so, but this is a matter of

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<sup>10</sup>Equally, of course, apparently rather different phenomena may turn out on careful investigation to be quite similar. For further discussion of HPSG and comparative syntax, see Borsley (2018).

performance, and there is no reason to think that the knowledge that is used in performance has a procedural character (see Section 5.1 on processing). Rather, the fact that it is used in both production and comprehension suggests that it should be neutral between the two and hence declarative. See also Wasow (2019: Section 3.1), Chapter 27 of this volume on this point.

Another difference between constraint-based and generative-enumerative approaches is that the first type of proposal provides a way to get graded acceptability into the picture (Pullum & Scholz 2001: Section 3.1). Since HPSG grammars are basically feature-value pairs with equality (or other relations) between values, it is possible to weigh constraints and it is possible to admit constraint violations and work with structures with violated constraints (see for example Sorace & Keller 2005 on cumulative constraint violation). So looking at the sentences in (9) we see that more and more constraints are violated:

- (9) a. I am the chair of my department.
- b. \*I are the chair of my department.
- c. \*Me are the chair of my department.
- d. \*Me are the chair of me's department.
- e. \*Me are chair the of me's department.
- f. \*Me are chair the me's department of.

In comparison to this a generative-enumerative grammar enumerates a set and a sequence either is in the set or it is not.<sup>11</sup>

For further discussion of the issues, see Section 5.1 of this paper and e.g. Pullum & Scholz (2001), Postal (2003), Sag & Wasow (2011; 2015), and Wasow (2019), Chapter 27 of this volume.

### 3.2 Underspecification

Another crucial difference between HPSG and Minimalism is that HPSG allows for the underspecification of information. In the absence of constraints, all principle options are possible. This is different in Minimalism. All structures that are derivable are predetermined by the numeration. Features have to be specified and they determine movement and properties of the derived objects. The general characterization of the frameworks is:

- (10) a. Minimalism: Only what is explicitly ruled in works.

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<sup>11</sup>For a discussion of Chomsky's (1964; 1975: Chapter 5) proposals to deal with different degrees of acceptability see Pullum & Scholz (2001: 29).

b. HPSG: Everything that is not ruled out works.

Let us consider some examples. The availability of type hierarchies makes it possible to underspecify part-of-speech information. For example, Sag (1997) assumes that complementizer (*comp*) and verb (*verb*) have a common supertype *verbal*. A head can then select for a complement with the category *verbal*. So rather than specifying two lexical items with different valence information or one with a disjunctive specification *verb* ∨ *comp*, one has just one lexical item selecting for *verbal*. Similarly, schemata (grammar rules) can contain underspecified types. A daughter in a dominance schema can have a value of a certain types that subsumes a number of other types. Let's say three. Without this underspecification one would need three schemata: one for every subtype of the more general type.

Quantifier scope can be underspecified as well (Copestake, Flickinger, Pollard & Sag 2005; Richter & Sailer 1999; Koenig & Richter 2019, Chapter ?? of this volume): constraints regarding which quantifier outscopes which other quantifier may be left unspecified. The absence of the respective constraints results in a situation where several scoping are possible. In transformational models it is usually assumed that quantifier elements move into certain positions covertly and scope relations are read off of the resulting tree (May 1985; Frey 1993; Sauerland & Elbourne 2002). This is unnecessary in HPSG.<sup>12</sup>

### 3.3 Types and constraints vs. general operations

The declarative-procedural contrast is an important one, but the contrast between the complex systems of types and constraints that are assumed within HPSG and the few general operations that form a Minimalist grammar is arguably more important.<sup>13</sup> Much work in Minimalism has three main operations Merge, Agree, and Move or Internal Merge. Merge combines two expressions, either words or phrases, to form a larger expression with the same label as one of the expressions (Chomsky 1995b: 244; 2008: 140). Its operation can be presented

<sup>12</sup> Apart from the possibility of a more compact specification of scope relations, HPSG analyses are actually superior on an empirical level. As Kiss (2005) and independently also Fanselow (2001) (working in a Minimalist setting) have shown, movement-based approaches cannot account for cases in which two quantified noun phrases are moved simultaneously while maintaining their relative order. Reconstruction predicts too many readings. Sauerland & Elbourne (2002) provided a solution to the problem but the analysis has an absurd complexity involving several movements, some of them invisible. For more discussion of scrambling and scope and the approaches mentioned here see Müller (2019c: 114–116).

<sup>13</sup> A procedural approach doesn't necessarily involve a very simple grammatical system. The Standard Theory of Transformational Grammar (Chomsky 1965) is procedural but has many different rules, both phrase structure rules and transformations.

as shown in Figure 5. In the case of English, the first alternative is represented by

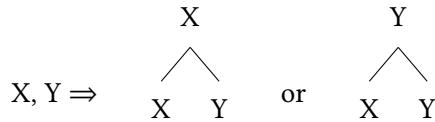


Figure 5: Merge

situations where a lexical head combines with a complement while the second is represented by situations where a specifier combines with a phrasal head. Chomsky (2008: 146) calls items merged with the first variant of Merge *first-merged* and those merged with the second variant *later-merged*.

Agree, as one might suppose, offers an approach to various kinds of agreement phenomena. It involves a probe, which is a feature or features of some kind on head, and a goal, which the head c-commands.<sup>14</sup> At least normally, the probe is a linguistic object with an uninterpretable feature or features with no value and the goal has a matching interpretable feature or features with appropriate values (Chomsky 2001: 3–5).<sup>15</sup> Agree values the uninterpretable feature or features and they are ultimately deleted, commonly after they have triggered some morphological effect. Agree can be represented as in Figure 6 (where the “u” prefix identifies a feature as uninterpretable, and we have just one uninterpretable feature on the probe and just one matching interpretable feature on the goal). Unsurprisingly subject-verb agreement is one manifestation of Agree, where X

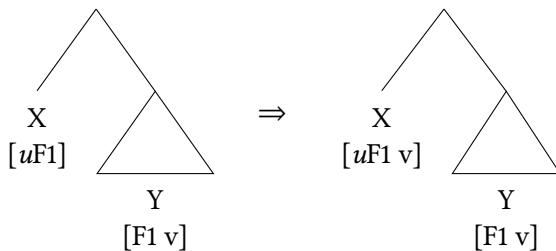


Figure 6: Agree

<sup>14</sup>It is not necessary to state the c-command restriction since it is assumed that linguistic objects are built bottom-up and when a head is combined with its dependent the head can “see” the dependent but not the context in which the resulting object is embedded. Information about dominating material will be available only later in the derivation. (Guido Mensching, p. c. 2018)

<sup>15</sup>Chomsky also assumes that the goal also has an uninterpretable feature of some kind to render it ‘active’. In the case of subject-verb agreement, this is a Case feature on the subject.

is T(ense) and Y is a nominal phase, for Minimalism a DP, inside the complement of T. T presumably has two uninterpretable features, person and number, and the DP two matching interpretable features. Here, and elsewhere, Agree is a non-local relation involving elements which are not sisters. This contrasts with the situation in HPSG, in which subject-verb agreement is a consequence of a relation between the subject and its VP sister and a relation between the VP and the V that heads it.

Finally, Move, also called Internal Merge, is an operation which makes a copy of a constituent of some expression and merges it with the expression (Chomsky 1995b: Section 4.4; 2008: 140). The original element that is copied normally undergoes deletion. The process can be presented as in Figure 7.

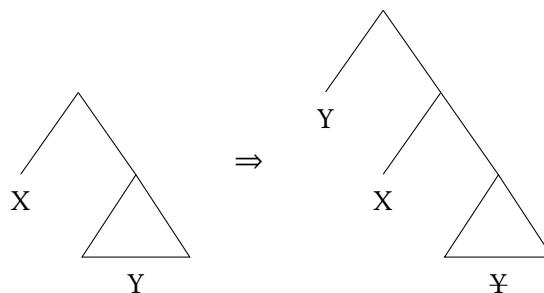


Figure 7: Move

This covers both the A'-movement process assumed for unbounded dependency constructions such as *wh*-interrogatives and the A-movement process assumed for raising sentences and passives. A question arises about so-called head-movement, where a head moves to a higher head position. This appears to mean that it must be possible for the copy to be merged with the head of the expression that contains it. However, this is incompatible with the widely assumed extension condition, which requires Merge to produce a larger structure. One response is the idea espoused in Chomsky (1995a: 368; 2001: 37) that head-movement takes place not in the syntax but in the PF component, which maps syntactic representations to phonetic representations. It seems that its status is currently rather unclear.

The three operations just outlined interact with lexical items to provide syntactic analyses. It follows that the properties of constructions must largely derive from the lexical items that they contain. Hence, the properties of lexical items are absolutely central to Minimalism. Oddly, the obvious implication – that the lexicon should be a major focus of research – seems to be ignored. As Newmeyer

(2005: 95, fn. 9) comments:

[...] in no framework ever proposed by Chomsky has the lexicon been as important as it is in the MP [Minimalist Program]. Yet in no framework proposed by Chomsky have the properties of the lexicon been as poorly investigated. (Newmeyer 2005: 95, fn. 9)

Sometimes it is difficult to derive the properties of constructions from the properties of visible lexical elements. But there is a simple solution: postulate an invisible element. The result is a large set of invisible functional heads. As we will see in Section 4.1.6, these heads do the work in Minimalism that is done by phrase types and the constraints on them in HPSG.

Although Minimalism is a procedural approach and HPSG a declarative approach, there are some similarities between Minimalism and early HPSG, the approach presented in Pollard & Sag (1987; 1994). In much the same way as Minimalism has just a few general mechanisms, early HPSG had just a few general phrase types. Research in HPSG in the 1990s led to the conclusion that this is too simple and that a more complex system of phrase types is needed to accommodate the full complexity of natural language syntax. Nothing like this happened within Minimalism, almost certainly because there was little attempt within this approach to deal with the full complexity of natural language syntax. As noted above, the approach has rarely been applied in detailed formal analyses. It looks too simple and it appears problematic in various ways. It is also a major source of the complexity that is characteristic of Minimalist syntactic structures, as we will see in Section 4.

### 3.4 Labelling

As we noted in the last section, Merge combines two expressions to form a larger expression with the same label as one of the expressions. But which of the original expressions provides the label for the larger expression? This issue has been discussed but not very satisfactorily. Chomsky defines which label is used in two different cases: the first case states that the label is the label of the head if the head is a lexical item and the second case states the label to be the label of the category from which something is extracted (Chomsky 2008: 145). As Chomsky notes, these rules are not unproblematic since the label is not uniquely determined in all cases. An example is the combination of two lexical elements since in such cases both elements can be the label of the resulting structure. Chomsky notices that this could result in deviant structures, but claims that this concern is unproblematic and ignores it. This means that rather fundamental notions in

a grammar theory were ill-defined. A solution to this problem was provided in his 2013 paper (published five years later). However, this paper is inconsistent (Müller 2016a: Section 4.6.2) and even insiders find it incomprehensible. But this is not the point we want to focus on here. Rather we want to show one more time that empirical standards are not met. Chomsky uses underdetermination in his labeling rules to account for two possible structures in (11), an approach going back to Donati (2006):

- (11) what [ C [you wrote *t*]]

(11) can be an interrogative clause as in *I wonder what you wrote*. or a free relative clause as in *I will read what you wrote*.. According to the labeling rule that accounts for sentences from which an item is extracted, the label will be CP since the label is taken from the clause. However, since *what* is a lexical item, *what* can determine the label as well. If this labeling rule is applied *what you wrote* is assigned DP as a label and hence the clause can function as a DP argument of *read*.

Chomsky's proposal is interesting but it does not extend to cases involving free relative clauses with complex *wh*-phrases (so-called pied-piping) as they are attested in examples like (12):

- (12) I'll read [whichever book] you give me.

The example in (12) is from one of the standard references on free relative clauses: Bresnan & Grimshaw (1978: 333), which is also cited in other mainstream generative work as for example (Groos & van Riemsdijk 1981).

Apart from the fact that complex *wh*-phrases are possible there is even more challenging data in the area of free relative clauses: the examples in (13) and (14) show that there are non-matching free relative clauses:

- (13) Sie kocht, worauf sie Appetit hat.<sup>16</sup> (German)  
she cooks where.on she appetite has  
'She cooks what she feels like eating.'
- (14) a. Worauf man sich mit einer Pro-form beziehen kann, [...] ist  
where.upon one self with a Pro-form refer can is

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<sup>16</sup>Bausewein (1990: 154).

- eine Konstituente.<sup>17</sup>
- a constituent
- 'If you can refer to something with a Pro-form, [...] it is a constituent.'
- b. [Aus wem] noch etwas herausgequetscht werden kann, ist  
out who yet something out.squeezed be can is  
sozial dazu verpflichtet, es abzuliefern; ...<sup>18</sup>  
socially there.to obliged it to.deliver
- 'Those who have not yet been bled dry are socially compelled to hand over their last drop.'

In (13) a relative clause with a PP relative phrase functions as an accusative object. In (14) the relative clauses function as subjects. (14b) is another example of a relative clause with a complex *wh* phrase. See [Bausewein \(1990\)](#) and [Müller \(1999a\)](#) for further discussion of free relative clauses and attested data.

According to [Donati \(2006\)](#): Section 5), pied piping does not exist in free relatives (see also [Citko \(2008\)](#): 930–932) for a rejection of this claim). Given how much attention the issue of Labeling has received and how central this is to Minimalist analyses this situation is quite surprising: an empirically false claim made in 2002/2003<sup>19</sup> is the basis for foundational work from 2002 until 2013 even though the facts are common knowledge in the field. [Ott \(2011\)](#) develops an analysis in which the category of the relative phrase is projected, but he does not have a solution for nonmatching free relative clauses, as he admits in a footnote on page 187. The same is true for Citko's analysis ([2008](#)), in which the extracted XP can provide the label. So, even though the data has been known for decades, it is ignored by authors and reviewers and foundational work is built on shaky empirical ground. See [Müller \(2016a\)](#): Section 4.6.2) for a more detailed discussion of labeling.

### 3.5 Feature deletion and “crashing at the interfaces”

In Section [3.3](#), we mentioned Case as an uninterpretable feature which renders a DP active. Like other uninterpretable features this is deleted as a result of Agree because it is not interpretable in LF. This means that Minimalism claims that a

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<sup>17</sup>From the main text of: Günther Grewendorf, *Aspekte der deutschen Syntax. Eine Rektions-Bindungs-Analyse*. Studien zur deutschen Grammatik, number 33. Tübingen: Gunter Narr Verlag. 1988, p. 16, quoted from [Müller \(1999a\)](#): 61).

<sup>18</sup>Wiglaf Droste, taz, 01.08.97, p. 16, quoted from [Müller \(1999a\)](#): 61).

<sup>19</sup>Versions of Donati's paper were presented at *Going Romance* in 2002 and the most important Mainstream Generative Grammar conference in Europe *GLOW* in 2003.

case marked NP like *der Mann* ‘the man’ is not interpretable unless it is somehow stripped of its case information. So in Minimalism *der Mann* needs something on top of the DP that Agrees with and thereby consumes the case feature. While this seems cumbersome to most working outside Minimalism, there are actually deeper problems connected to the deletion of case features. There are situations in which you need case features more than once. An example of this is free relative clauses as the one in (15b):

- (15) a. der Mann  
the.NOM man
- b. Ich treffe, wen ich treffen will.  
I meet who.ACC I meet want.to  
'I meet whoever I like to meet.'

*wen* is the accusative object in the relative clause. Since it is an object its case feature will be checked by the selecting verb *treffen* ‘meet’. *wen* will then be a DP without any case information. However, the case of the relative phrase in free relative clauses is not arbitrary. It is important for the integration of the free relative clause in the matrix clause. The case of *wer* ‘who’ in a complete relative clause has to be known since it is important for the external distribution of the free relative clause, as the examples in (16) show:

- (16) a. Wer mich treffen will, kann vorbeikommen.  
who.NOM me meet wants.to may over.come  
'He who wants to meet me may come over.'
- b. \* Ich treffe, wer mich treffen will.  
I meet who.NOM me meet wants.to  
'I meet whoever wants to meet me.'

HPSG also consumes resources in a way: items in valence representations are not projected up the tree once the requirement is saturated, but the difference is that objects with a certain structure and with certain features are not modified. A case-marked NP is not deprived of this case information. We think that this is the right way to deal with morphological markings and with feature specifications in general.

### 3.6 Some implications

We will look in detail at the implications for syntactic structure of this machinery in the next section. However, we will note some implications in the following

paragraphs as a kind of preview of the next section.

First, the fact that Merge combines two expressions entails that syntactic structures are confined to binary branching and excludes various analyses that have been assumed within HPSG and other frameworks. Second, the assumption that expressions produced by Merge have the same label as one of the expressions that they consist of (Chomsky 2008: 145) is essentially the assumption that all complex expressions are headed. For HPSG, as for many other approaches, there are headed expressions and non-headed expressions, e.g., coordination and the NPN construction discussed in Sections 4.2.2 and 4.2.3, respectively.

As emphasized above, a further important feature of Minimalism is the view that semantics and morphology are simple reflections of syntax. The basic architecture assumed in Minimalism is shown in Figure 8. Both phonology and semantics are read off the structures produced by syntax. The idea that seman-

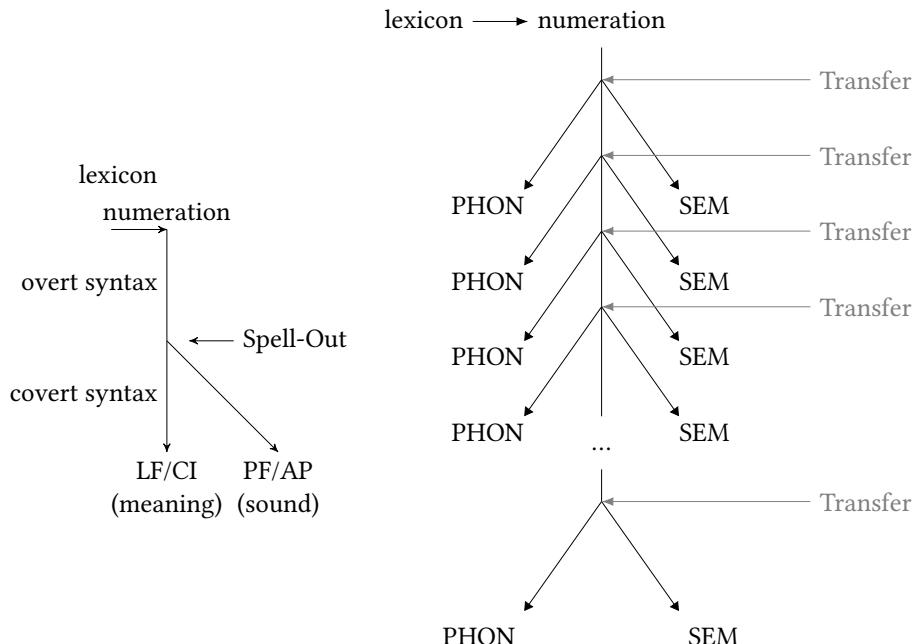


Figure 8: Syntax-centric architecture in Minimalism before the Phase model (left) and in the Phase model (right) according to Richards (2015: 812, 830))

tics is a simple reflection of syntax goes back to the early years of Transformational Grammar. One aspect of this idea was formalized as the Uniform Theta

Assignment Hypothesis (UTAH) by Baker (1988: 46).

- (17) Uniform Theta Assignment Hypothesis

Identical thematic relationships between items are represented by identical structural relationships between those items at the level of D-structure.

Minimalism abandoned the notion of D-structure, but within Minimalism the Hypothesis can be reformulated as follows:

- (18) Uniform Theta Assignment Hypothesis (revised)

Identical thematic relationships between items are represented by identical structural relationships between those items when introduced into the structure.

We will look at some of the implications of this in the next section.

The idea that morphology is a simple reflection of syntax is also important. As we will discuss in the next section, it leads to abstract underlying structures and complex derivations and to functional heads corresponding to various suffixes. Again, we will say more about this in the next section.

## 4 Different views of syntactic structure

The very different views of grammar that are assumed in Minimalism and HPSG naturally lead to very different views of syntactic structure. The syntactic structures of Minimalism are both very complex and very simple. This sounds paradoxical but it isn't. They are very complex in that they involve much more structure than those assumed in HPSG and other approaches. But they are very simple in that they have just a single ingredient – they consist entirely of local trees in which there is a head and a single non-head. From the standpoint of HPSG, they are both too complex and too simple. We will consider the complexity in Section 4.1 and then turn to the simplicity in Section 4.2.

### 4.1 The complexity of Minimalist structures

For HPSG, as the chapters in this volume illustrate, linguistic expressions have a single relatively simple constituent structure with a minimum of phonologically empty elements.<sup>20</sup> For Minimalism, they have a complex structure containing a

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<sup>20</sup>The relatively simple structures of HPSG are not an automatic consequence of its declarative nature. Postal's Metagraph Grammar framework (formerly known Arc Pair Grammar) is a declarative framework with structures that are similar in complexity to those of Minimalism (see Postal 2010).

variety of empty elements and with various constituents occupying more than one position in the course of the derivation. Thus the structures assumed within Minimalism are not at all minimalist. But this complexity is a more or less inevitable consequence of the Minimalist view of grammar outlined above.

#### 4.1.1 Uniformity of structures due to semantic representation

There are a variety of sources of complexity, and some predate Minimalism.<sup>21</sup> This is true especially of the idea that semantics and morphology are simple reflections of syntax (on morphology see Section 4.1.3). For the syntax-semantics relation, UTAH, which we introduced on p. 1010, is particularly important. It leads to a variety of abstract representations and movement processes. Consider, for example, the following:

- (19) a. Who did Lee see?
- b. Lee saw who

*Who* bears the same thematic relation to the verb *see* in (19a) as in (19b). Assuming UTAH, it follows that *who* in (19a) should be introduced in the object position which it occupies in (19b) and then be moved to its superficial position. Consider next the following:

- (20) a. Lee was seen by Kim.
- b. Kim saw Lee.

Here, *Lee* bears the same thematic relation to the verb *see* in (20a) as in (20b). Hence, it follows that *Lee* in (20a) should be introduced in the object position which it occupies in (20b) and then be moved to its superficial subject position. Finally, consider these examples:

- (21) a. Lee seems to be ill.
- b. It seems that Lee is ill.

Here, *Lee* bears the same thematic relation to *ill* in (21a) as in (21b). Thus, it follows that *Lee* in (21a) should be introduced in the same position as *Lee* in (21b). The standard Minimalist approach assumes that *Lee* in both examples originates in a position adjacent to *ill* and is moved a short distance in (21b) but a longer distance in (21a).

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<sup>21</sup>For interesting discussion of the historical development of the ideas that characterize Minimalism, see Culicover & Jackendoff (2005: Chapters 2 and 3).

These analyses are more or less inevitable if one accepts UTAH. But how sound is UTAH? Work in HPSG shows that it is quite possible to capture both the syntactic and the semantic properties of these sentence types without the assumption that the crucial constituents occupy more than one position. Thus, there is no reason to accept UTAH.

#### 4.1.2 Lexical decomposition a la Generative Semantics

The idea that semantics is a simple reflection of syntax has led to other kinds of complexity. For example, it has led to revival of the idea once characteristic of Generative Semantics that lexical items may derive from complex expressions which in some sense represent their meanings.<sup>22</sup> Thus, Hale & Keyser (1993) argue that (22a) derives from a structure like that of (22b).

- (22) a. Kim shelved the books.  
b. Kim put the books on the shelf.

One problem with this proposal is that *shelve X* means more than just *put X on the shelf*. Thus, (23a) is not equivalent to (23b).

- (23) a. Kim put his elbow on the shelf.  
b. Kim shelved his elbow.

Moreover, as Culicover & Jackendoff (2005: 54–55) point out and as Hale & Keyser (1993: 105, Fn. 7) note themselves, denominal verbs can have many different interpretations.<sup>23</sup>

- (24) a. Kim saddled the horse.  
(Kim put the saddle on the horse.)  
b. He microwaved the food.  
(He put the food in the microwave and in addition he heated it.)  
c. Lee chaired the meeting.  
(Lee was the chairperson of the meeting.)  
d. Sandy skinned the rabbit.  
(Sandy removed the skin from the rabbit.)

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<sup>22</sup>For typical Generative Semantics proposals of this kind, see McCawley (1968) and Postal (1970). Like Minimalism, Generative Semantics was characterized by extremely complex syntactic structures and for similar reasons. See Newmeyer (1986: Chapter 4) for discussion.

<sup>23</sup>The examples in (24c), (24g) and (24h) are taken from (Culicover & Jackendoff 2005: 54–55) or parallel to examples they discussed.

- e. Kim pictured the scene.  
(Kim constructed a mental picture of the scene.)
- f. They stoned the criminal.  
(They threw stones at the criminal.)
- g. He fathered three children.  
(He was the biological father of three children.)
- h. He mothers his students.  
(He treats his students the way a mother would.)

Denominal verbs need to be associated with the correct meanings, but there is no reason to think that syntax has a role in this.<sup>24</sup>

#### 4.1.3 Complex structures and morphology

The idea that morphology is a simple reflection of syntax also leads to syntactic complexity. The fact that verbs in English and many other languages are marked for tense leads to the assumption that there is a T(ense) head at the heart of clause structure. Thus the sentence in (25) has the analysis in Figure 9.

- (25) The cat chased the dog.

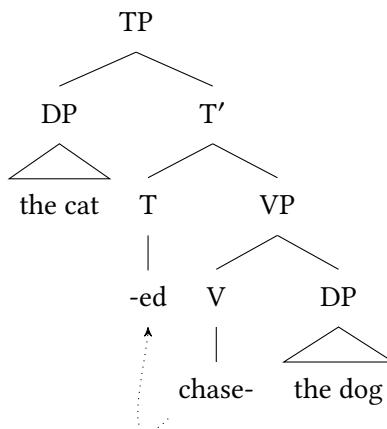


Figure 9: TP/VP analysis of simple English sentences

The verbal stem moves to the T head to pick up the *-ed* suffix.

Similarly the fact that nouns in English and other languages are marked for number leads to the assumption that there is a Num(ber) head at the heart of noun

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<sup>24</sup>See Culicover & Jackendoff (2005: 53–56) for further discussion.

phrase structure. These elements are not solely motivated by morphology. The assumption that verbs move to T and nouns to Num in some languages but not others provides a way of accounting for cross-linguistic word order differences (Pollock 1989). However, assumptions about morphology are an important part of the motivation. As discussed in Crysman (2019), Chapter 22 of this volume, HPSG assumes a realizational approach to morphology, in which affixes are just bits of phonology realizing various properties of inflected words or derived lexemes. Hence, analyses like these are out of the question.

#### 4.1.4 Binary branching

Another source of complexity which also predates Minimalism is the assumption that all structures are binary branching. As Culicover & Jackendoff (2005: 112–116) note, this idea goes back to the 1980s. It entails that there can be no structures of the form in Figure 10a. Rather all structure must take the form in Figure 10b or Figure 10c. As Culicover & Jackendoff discuss, the arguments for

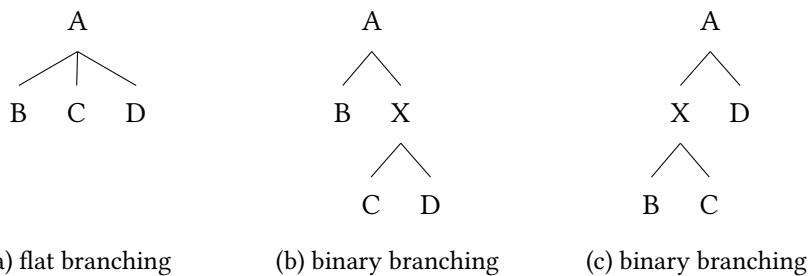


Figure 10: Flat and binary branching

the binary branching restriction have never been very persuasive. Moreover, it is incompatible with various analyses which have been widely accepted in HPSG and other frameworks. We will return to this topic in Section 4.2.

#### 4.1.5 Unbounded dependency constructions

As noted in Section 3, the simplicity of the Minimalist grammatical system means the properties of constructions must largely derive from the lexical items that they contain. Hence, the properties of lexical items are absolutely central to Minimalism and often this means the properties of phonologically empty items, especially empty functional heads. Thus, such elements are central feature of Minimalist syntactic structures. These elements do much the same work as phrase

types and the associated constraints in HPSG.

The contrast between the two frameworks can be illustrated with unbounded dependency constructions. Detailed HPSG analyses of various unbounded dependency constructions are set out in Sag (1997; 2010) and Ginzburg & Sag (2000), involving a complex system of phrase types. For Minimalism, unbounded dependency constructions are headed by a phonologically empty complementizer (C) and have either an overt filler constituent or an invisible filler (an empty operator) in their specifier position. Essentially, then, they have the structure in Figure 11. All the properties of the construction must stem from the properties

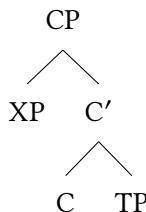


Figure 11: CP structures in Minimalism

of the C that heads it.

An important unbounded dependency construction is relative clauses. In English there are *wh*-relatives and non-*wh*-relatives and finite and non-finite relatives. *Wh*-relatives are illustrated by the following:

- (26) a. someone [who you can rely on]
- b. someone [on whom you can rely]
- (27) a. \* someone [who to rely on]
- b. someone [on whom to rely]

These show that whereas finite *wh*-relatives allow either an NP or a PP as the filler, non-finite *wh*-relatives only allow a PP. In the HPSG analysis of Sag (1997), the facts are a consequence of constraints on two phrase types. A constraint on the type *fin-wh-fill-rel-cl* allows the first daughter to be an NP or a PP while a constraint on *inf-wh-fill-rel-cl* requires the first daughter to be a PP. For Minimalism, the facts must be attributed to the properties of the complementizer. There must be a complementizer which takes a finite TP complement and allows either an NP or a PP as its specifier and another complementizer which takes a non-finite TP complement (with an unexpressed subject) and only allows a PP as its specifier.

Non-*wh*-relatives require further phrase types within HPSG and further complementizers in Minimalism. However, rather than consider this, we will look at another unbounded dependency construction: *wh*-interrogatives. The basic data that needs to be accounted for is illustrated by the following:

- (28) a. Who knows?  
b. I wonder [who knows].  
c. Who did Kim talk to?  
d. I wonder [who Kim talked to].  
e. I wonder [who to talk to].

Like *wh*-relatives, *wh*-interrogatives can be finite and non-finite. When they are finite their form depends on whether the *wh*-phrase is subject of the highest verb or something else. When it is subject of the highest verb, it is followed by what looks like a VP although it may be a clause with a gap in subject position. When the *wh*-phrase is something else, the following clause shows auxiliary-initial order if it is a main clause and subject-initial order if it is not. Non-finite *wh*-interrogatives are a simple matter, especially as the filler does not have to be restricted in the way that it does in non-finite *wh*-relatives. Ginzburg & Sag (2000) present an analysis which has two types for finite *wh*-interrogatives, one for subject-*wh*-interrogatives such as those in (28a) and (28b), and another for non-subject-*wh*-interrogatives such as those in (28c) and (28d). The latter is subject to a constraint requiring it to have the same value for the features IC (INDEPENDENT-CLAUSE) and INV (INVERTED). Main clauses are [IC +] and auxiliary-initial clauses are [INV +]. Hence the constraint ensures that a non-subject-*wh*-interrogative shows auxiliary-initial order just in case it is a main clause.

How can the facts be handled within Minimalism? As noted above, Minimalism analyses auxiliary-initial order as a result of movement of the auxiliary to C. It is triggered by some feature of C. Thus C must have this feature just in case (a) it heads a main clause and (b) the *wh*-phrase in its specifier position is not the subject of the highest verb. There are no doubt various ways in which this might be achieved, but the key point is the properties of a phonologically empty complementizer are crucial.

Borsley (2006b; 2017) discusses Minimalist analyses of relative clauses and *wh*-interrogatives and suggests that at least eight complementizers are necessary. One is optionally realized as *that*, and another is obligatorily realized as *for*. The other six are always phonologically empty. But it has been clear since Ross (1967a) and Chomsky (1977) that relative clauses and *wh*-interrogatives are not the only unbounded dependency constructions. Here are some others:

- (29) a. What a fool he is! (wh-exclamative clause)  
 b. The bagels, I like. (topicalized clause)  
 c. Kim is more intelligent [than Lee is]. (comparative-clause)  
 d. Kim is hard [to talk to]. (*tough*-complement-clause)  
 e. Lee is too important [to talk to]. (*too*-complement-clause)  
 f. [The more people I met], [the happier I became]. (*the*-clauses)

Each of these constructions will require at least one empty complementizer. Thus, a comprehensive account of unbounded dependency constructions will require a large number of such elements. But with a large unstructured set of complementizers there can be no distinction between properties shared by some or all elements and properties restricted to a single element. There are a variety of shared properties. Many of the complementizers will take a finite complement, many others will take a non-finite complement, and some will take both. There will also be complementizers which take the same set of specifiers. Most will not attract an auxiliary, but some will, not only the complementizer in an example like (28c) but also the complementizers in the following, where the auxiliary is in italics:

- (30) a. Only in Colchester *could* such a thing happen.  
 b. Kim is in Colchester, and so *is* Lee.  
 c. Such *is* life.  
 d. The more Bill smokes, the more *does* Susan hate him.

Thus, there are generalizations to be captured here. The obvious way to capture them is with the approach developed in the 1980s in HPSG work on the hierarchical lexicon (Flickinger, Pollard & Wasow 1985; Flickinger 1987), i.e. a detailed classification of complementizers which allows properties to be associated not just with individual complementizers but also with classes of complementizers. With this it should be possible for Minimalism not just to get the facts right but to capture the full set of generalizations. In many ways such an analysis would be mimicking the HPSG approach with its hierarchy of phrase types.<sup>25</sup> But in the present context the main point is the simplicity of the Minimalist grammatical system is another factor which leads to more complex syntactic structures than those of HPSG.

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<sup>25</sup>For a fuller discussion of the issues see Borsley (2006b; 2017).

#### 4.1.6 Syntactification of semantic categories

The left periphery of the clause is often much more complex than assumed in the last section as a result of the syntactification of semantic properties (Rizzi 2014), which is one aspect of the idea that semantics is a simple reflection of syntax. This is especially apparent in a sub-school that calls itself “cartographic”. MGG comes with strong claims about the autonomy of syntax. There is a syntactic component and then there are the components of Phonological Form (PF) and Logical Form (LF), in more recent versions of the theory this is the articulatory-perceptual system (AP) and the conceptual-intentional system (CI). Figure 8 shows the early Minimalist architecture and the architecture assumed in the Phase-based models. Syntax was always regarded primary and PF and LF derived from syntactic representations. This is similar in Minimalism. The problem is that questions of intonation are connected to semantic and information structural properties (Halliday 1970: 36). A way around this is to stipulate syntactic features that can be interpreted by both PF and LF (Gussenhoven 1983). Another way of dealing with the data is to employ empty elements that are responsible for certain ordering of elements and that can be interpreted in the semantics. The accounts of Rizzi and Cinque are very prominent in this school of thought. For example, Rizzi (1997) suggests an analysis of the left periphery of clauses that incorporate special functional projections for topic and focus. His analysis is shown in Figure 12. In comparison no such projections exist in HPSG theories. HPSG grammars are surface oriented and the syntactic labels correspond for the most part to classical part of speech categorizations. So in examples with frontings like (31) the whole object is a verbal projection and not a Topic phrase, a Focus Phrase or a Force phrase.

- (31) Bagels, I like.

Of course the fronted elements may be topics or foci but this is a property that is represented independently of syntactic information in parts of feature descriptions having to do with information structure. For treatment of information structure in HPSG see Engdahl & Vallduví (1996), De Kuthy (2000) and also Kuthy (2019), Chapter 24 of this volume. On determination of clause types see Ginzburg & Sag (2000) and Müller (2016b). For general discussion of the representation of information usually assigned to different linguistic “modules” and on “interfaces” between them in theories like LFG and HPSG see Kuhn (2007).

Cartographic approaches also assume a hierarchy of functional projections for the placement of adverbials. Some authors assume that all sentences in all languages have the same structure, which is supposed to explain orders of ad-

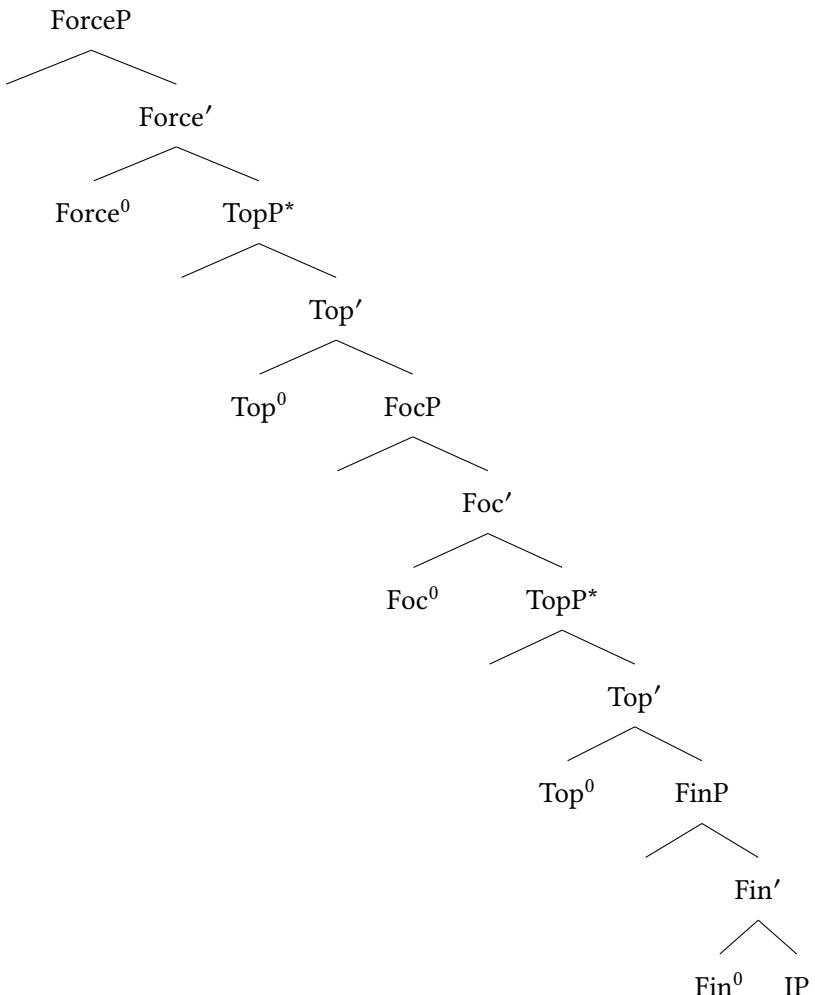


Figure 12: Syntactic structure of sentences following Rizzi (1997: 297)

verbials that seem to hold universally (e.g., Cinque 1999: 106 and Cinque & Rizzi 2010: 54–55). A functional head selects for another functional projection to establish this hierarchy of functional projections and the respective adverbial phrases can be placed in the specifier of the corresponding functional projection. Cinque (1999: 106) assumes 32 functional projections in the verbal domain. Cinque & Rizzi (2010: 57, 65) assume at least four hundred functional heads, which are – according to them – all part of a genetically determined UG.

In comparison, HPSG analyses assume that verbs project: a verb that is combined with an argument is a verbal projection. If an adverb attaches, a verbal projection with the same valence but augmented semantics results. Figure 13 shows the Cartographic and the HPSG structures. While the adverbs ( $\text{Adv}_1$  and

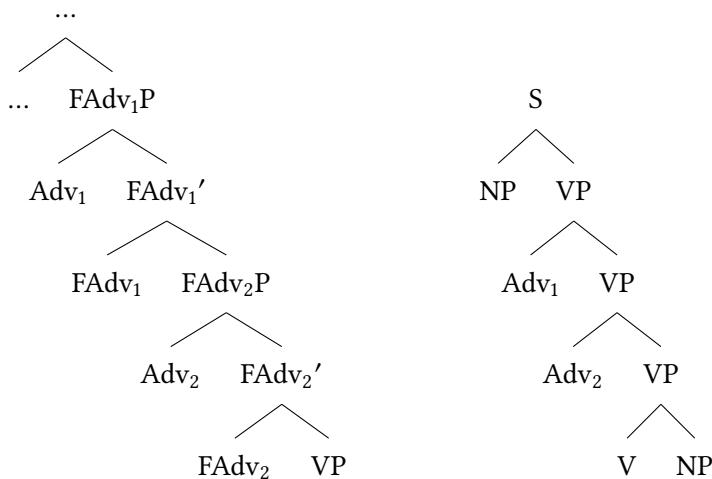


Figure 13: Treatment of adverbial phrases in Cartographic approaches and in HPSG

$\text{Adv}_2$  in the figure) attach to verbal projections in the HPSG analysis (S and VP are abbreviations standing for verbal projections with different valence requirements), the Cartographic approach assumes empty heads that select a clausal projection and provide a specifier position in which the adverbs can be realized. For the sake of exposition we called these heads  $\text{FAdv}_1$  and  $\text{FAdv}_2$ . For example,  $\text{FAdv}_2$  can combine with the VP and licences an  $\text{Adv}_2$  in its specifier position. As is clear from the figure, the Cartographic approach is more complex since it involves two additional categories ( $\text{FAdv}_1$  and  $\text{FAdv}_2$ ) and nine nodes for the adverbial combination rather than five.

An interesting difference is that verbal properties are projected in the HPSG analysis. By doing this it is clear whether a VP contains an infinitive or a participle.

- (32) a. Kim has met Sandy.
- b. Kim will meet Sandy.

This property is important for the selection by a superordinate head, e.g., the auxiliary in the examples in (32). In a Cartographic approach one either has to assume that adverbial projections have features correlated with verbal morphology or one has to assume that superordinate heads may check properties of linguistic items that are deeply embedded.

If one believed in Universal Grammar (which researchers working in HPSG usually do not) and in innately specified constraints on adverb order, one would not assume that all languages contain the same structures, some of these structures being invisible. Rather one would assume linearization constraints (see Müller (2019a: Section 2), Chapter 10 of this volume) to hold crosslinguistically.<sup>26</sup> If adverbs of a certain type do not exist in a language, the linearization constraints would not do any harm. They just would never apply since there is nothing to apply to (Müller 2015b: 46).

#### 4.1.7 Summary

Having discussed uniformity in theta role assignment, Generative Semantics-like approaches, branching, nonlocal dependencies and Cartographic approaches to the left periphery and adverb order within clauses, we conclude that a variety of features of Minimalism lead to structures that are much more complex than those of HPSG. HPSG shows that this complexity is unnecessary given a somewhat richer conception of grammar.

### 4.2 The simplicity of Minimalist structures

As we emphasized above, while minimalist structures are very complex, they are also simple in the sense that they have just a single ingredient, local trees

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<sup>26</sup> Adjuncts are usually not siblings in local structures in HPSG (but see Kasper (1994) and Bouma & van Noord (1998: 62, 71)). There are nevertheless ways to impose order constraints on non-siblings. Engelkamp, Erbach & Uszkoreit (1992) discuss one approach, another approach would be to have Reape-style order domains (Reape 1994) in addition to the immediate dominance schemata for head-adjunct combination. See Müller (2019a), Chapter 10 of this volume for order domains.

consisting of a head and a single non-head. Most outsiders agree that this is too simple.

#### 4.2.1 Binary branching, VPs, and verb-initial clauses

We look first at binary branching.<sup>27</sup> As we noted above, the assumption that all branching is binary is incompatible with various analyses which have been widely accepted in HPSG and other frameworks. For example, it means that the bracketed VP in (33), which contains two complements, cannot have the ternary branching structure in Figure 14, which is suggested in Pollard & Sag (1994: 36) and much other work.

- (33) Kim [gave a book to Lee].

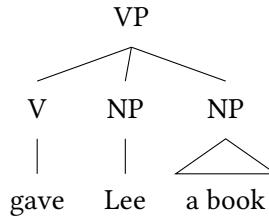


Figure 14: Flat structure for the VP *gave Lee a book*

Instead it has been assumed since Larson (1988) that the VP in examples like (33) has something like the structure in Figure 15. It is assumed that the verb originates in the lower VP and is moved into the higher VP. The higher V position to which the verb moves is commonly labelled *v* (“little *v*”) and the higher phrase vP. The main argument for such an analysis appears to involve anaphora, especially contrasts like the following:

<sup>27</sup>In addition to structures with two or more branches, HPSG uses unary branching structures both in syntax and in the lexicon (lexical rules basically are unary branching structures, see Meurers (2001) and Davis & Koenig (2019: Section ??), Chapter ?? of this volume. For example, unary branching syntactic rules are used for semantic type shifting (Partee 1987). For respective HPSG analyses see Flickinger (2008: 91–92) and Müller (2009; 2012). The lack of unary branching structures in Minimalism is no problem since empty heads can be used instead. The empty head projects the properties that would be otherwise assigned to the mother node of the unary projection. See for example Ramchand (2005: 370). So, while the effects of unary projections can be modeled, the resulting structures are more complex. For a general discussion of empty elements and unary projections and lexical rules see Müller (2016a: Sections 19.2 and 19.5).

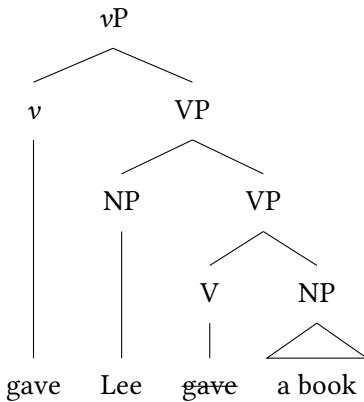


Figure 15: Larson-type analysis of VPs involving little *v*

- (34) a. John showed Mary herself in the picture.  
 b. \*John showed herself Mary in the picture.

The first complement can be the antecedent of a reflexive which is the second complement, but the reverse is not possible.

If constraints on anaphora refer to constituent structure as suggested by Chomsky (1981), the contrast suggests that the second NP should be lower in the structure than the first NP. But, as suggested by Pollard & Sag (1992), it is assumed in HPSG that constraints on anaphora refer not to constituent structure but to a list containing all arguments in order of obliqueness, in recent versions of HPSG the ARG-ST list (see also Branco (2019), Chapter 21 of this volume). On this view, anaphora can provide no argument for the complex structure in Figure 15. Therefore, both flat structures and binary branching structures with different branching directions as in Figure 16 are a viable option in HPSG. Müller (2015a: Section 2.4; 2019b) argues for such binary branching structures as a result of parametrizing the Head-Complement Schema for various variants of constituent order (head-initial and head-final languages with fixed constituent order and languages like German and Japanese with freer constituent order).

The fact that Merge combines two expressions also means that the auxiliary-initial clause in (35) cannot have a flat structure with both subjects and complement(s) as sisters of the verb, as in Figure 17.

- (35) Will Kim be here?

It is standardly assumed in Minimalism that it has a structure of the form in Figure 18 or more complicated structures, as explained in Section 4.1.6. *Will* is

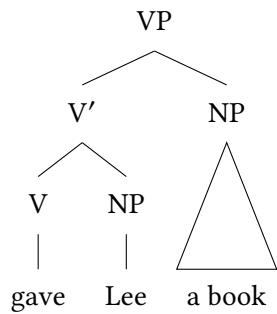


Figure 16: Possible analysis of VPs in HPSG with a branching direction differing from Larson-type structures

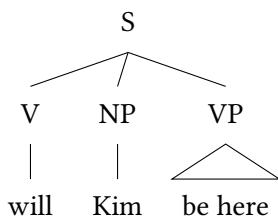


Figure 17: Flat structure for *Will Kim be there?*

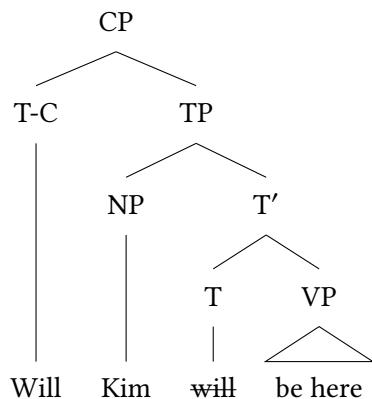


Figure 18: CP/TP structure for *Will Kim be there?*

analysed as a T(ense) element which moves to the C(omplementizer) position. A binary branching analysis of some kind is the only possibility within Minimalism provided the usual assumptions are made.

It is not just English auxiliary-initial clauses that cannot have a ternary branching analysis within Minimalism but verb-initial clauses in any language. A notable example is Welsh, which has verb-initial order in all types of finite clause. Here are some relevant examples:<sup>28</sup>

- (36) a. Mi/Fe gerddith Emrys i 'r dre. (Welsh)  
          PRT walk.FUT.3SG Emrys to the town  
          'Emrys will walk to the town.'  
       b. Dywedodd Megan [cerddith Emrys i 'r dre].  
          say.PAST.3SG Megan walk.FUT.3SG Emrys to the town  
          'Megan said Emrys will walk to the town.'

A variety of transformational work, including work in Minimalism, has argued for an analysis like Figure 18 for Welsh finite clauses (see e.g., Jones & Thomas 1977, Sproat 1985, Sadler 1988, Rouveret 1994, and Roberts 2005). But Borsley (2006a) argues that there is no theory-neutral evidence for a structure of this kind. Hence, at least for Welsh, it seems that a simpler flat structure like Figure 17 is preferable.<sup>29</sup> Note, that we do not argue that structures like the one in Figure 18 are not appropriate for any language. The analog to head-movement analyses is standard among HPSG grammarians of German and there is data from apparent multiple frontings that seems to make a head-movement analysis unavoidable. See Müller (2017) for a book-length discussion of German clause structure. Müller (2019a: Section 4.1), Chapter 10 of this volume also discusses head-movement in HPSG.

#### 4.2.2 Headedness and coordination

We turn now to the idea that all structures are headed. For HPSG, and many other approaches, there are headed structures and non-headed structure. Probably the most important example of the latter are coordinate structures such as those in (37) (see Sag 2003 and Abeillé & Chaves (2019), Chapter 17 of this volume for HPSG analyses).

<sup>28</sup>Positive main clause verbs are optionally preceded by a particle (*mi* or *fe*). We have included this in (36a) but not in (36b). When it appears it triggers so-called soft mutation. Hence (36a) has *gerddith* rather than the basic form *cerddith*, which is seen in (36b).

<sup>29</sup>Borsley (2016) argues for a similar flat structure for the Caucasian ergative SOV language Archi.

(37) [Kim and Lee] [wrote poems and painted pictures].

Much work in Minimalism assumes that coordinate structures are headed by the conjunction (Larson 1990: 596; Radford 1993: 89; Kayne 1994: Chapter 6; Johannessen 1998; Van Koppen 2005: 8; Bošković 2009: 474; Citko 2011: 27).<sup>30</sup> This suggests that both coordinate structures in (37) are conjunction phrases. This is highly problematic since the category of the phrases plays a role in accounting for their external distribution. So the VPs *wrote poems* and *painted pictures* have to be combined with a DP/NP to form a complete sentence. But according to the ConjP theory *Kim and Lee* is not a DP or NP it is a ConjP and hence incompatible with any requirements. Similarly, a T head in the analysis of (37) requires a VP argument but instead of a VP *wrote poems and painted pictures* there is only a ConjP.<sup>31</sup> It is fairly clear that conjunctions cannot be ordinary heads. Johannessen (1996: 669) suggests an analysis in which a coordinate structure has the features of the first conjunct. She depicts the analysis as in Figure 19. The prob-

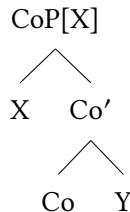


Figure 19: Analysis of coordination with projection of features from the first conjunct according to Johannessen (1996: 669)

lem is that it is unclear how this should be formalized: either the head category

<sup>30</sup> Kayne (1994: 57) differs from other proposals in not assuming the category Conj for the conjunction. Instead, he uses  $X^0$  as the category in his structured examples. Since  $X$  is an underspecified variable his theory is underdetermined: while a ConjP is not compatible with any requirement by a governing head, an XP could appear as an argument of any dominating head. Kayne needs to work out a theory that determines the properties of the projected XP in relation to the coordinated items. We discuss this below.

<sup>31</sup>If one considers the part of speech labels only, one would expect the two ConjPs to be interchangeable, but of course they are not:

- (i) \* [Wrote poems and painted pictures] [Kim and Lee].

Of course the two ConjPs are not exactly of the same category since there may be further features that distinguish the two ConjPs. But how these features are distributed between the conjuncts and the mother is not worked out.

For a more detailed critique of the ConjP approach see Borsley (2005).

of the complete object is ConjP or it is X. Governing heads have to know where to look for the category. If they look at X, why is the part of speech information of Co projected? Why would governing heads not look at the category of other specifiers rather than their heads? Furthermore, coordinations are not equivalent to the first conjunct. There are cases where the coordination is a sum of the parts. For example, *Kim and Sandy* is a plural NP, as the agreement with the verb shows:

- (38) Kim and Sandy laugh.

Johannessen's analysis seems to predict that the coordination of *Kim* and *Sandy* behaves like *Kim*, which is not the case. So, if one wants to assume an analysis with the conjunction as a head, one would have to assume that the head is a functor taking into account the properties of its specifier and complement, and projecting nominal information if they are nominal, verbal if they are verbal, etc (Steedman 1991). This would make them a unique type of a head with a unique relation to their specifier and complement. A problem for this approach is coordinate structures in which the conjuncts belong to different categories, e.g., the following:

- (39) a. Hobbs is [a linguist and proud of it].  
       b. Hobbs is [angry and in pain].

Such examples have led to HPSG analyses in which coordinate structures have whatever properties are common to the two conjuncts (Sag 2003). Within Minimalism, one might try to mimic such analyses by proposing that conjunctions have whatever properties are common to their specifier and complement. But a problem arises with an example like (40), where the conjuncts are not phrases but words.

- (40) Kim [criticized and insulted] his boss.

To accommodate such examples, conjunctions would have to acquire not only part of speech information from the conjuncts but also selectional information. They would be heads which combine with a specifier and a complement to form an expression which, like a typical head, combines with a specifier and a complement. This would be a very strange situation and in fact it would make wrong predictions since the object *his boss* would be the third-merged item. It would hence be "later-merged" in the sense of Chomsky (2008: 146) and therefore treated as a specifier rather than a complement.<sup>32</sup>

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<sup>32</sup>There have been attempts to argue that conjuncts are always phrases (Kayne 1994, Bruening 2018). But this position seems untenable (Abeillé 2006, Müller 2018b: Section 7).

#### 4.2.3 Binary branching and headless structures: The NPN construction

Another problem for Minimalist theories is the NPN Construction discussed by Matsuyama (2004) and Jackendoff (2008). Examples are provided in (41):

- (41) a. Student after student left the room.  
b. Day after day after day went by, but I never found the courage to talk to her. (Bargmann 2015)

As Jackendoff argued it is not possible to identify one of the elements in the construction as the head. The construction has several peculiar properties and we share Jackendoff's view that these constructions are best treated by a phrasal configuration in which these highly idiosyncratic properties are handled. The construction is discussed in more detail in Müller (2019d), Chapter 36 of this volume and Bargmann's analysis within HPSG is provided. Bargmann's analysis also captures multiple repetitions of the PN sequence as they occur in (41b). Until now there is one proposal for NPN in the Minimalist framework: G. Müller (2011). G. Müller develops a reduplication account. He states that reduplication applies to words only and claims that German differs from English in not allowing adjective noun sequences in NPN constructions. He is aware of the possibility of these constructions in English (*miserable day after miserable day*) and states that his analysis is intended to account for the German data only. While this alone is a serious shortcoming of the analysis, the empirical claim does not hold water either as the following example from Müller (2019d), Chapter 36 of this volume shows:

- (42) Die beiden tauchten nämlich geradewegs wieder aus dem heimischen  
the two surfaced namely straightaway again from the home  
Legoland auf, wo sie im Wohnzimmer, schwarzen Stein um  
Legoland PART where they in.the living.room black brick after  
schwarzen Stein, vermeintliche Schusswaffen nachgebaut hatten.<sup>33</sup>  
black brick alledged firearms recreated had  
'The two surfaced straightaway from their home Legoland where they  
had recreated alledged firearms black brick after black brick.'

Apart from failing on the reduplication of adjective-noun combinations like *schwarzen Stein* 'black brick', the reduplication approach also fails on NPN patterns with several PN repetitions as in (41b): if the preposition is responsible for reduplicating content it is unclear how the first *after* is supposed to combine

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<sup>33</sup>taz, 05.09.2018, p. 20, quoted from Müller (2019d: 1201).

with *day* and *day after day*. It is probably possible to design analyses of the NPN construction involving several empty heads but it is clear that these solutions would come at a rather high price.

#### 4.2.4 Movement for more local phenomena like scrambling, passive and raising

We want now to consider the dependencies that Minimalism analyzes in terms of Move/Internal Merge. In the next section we look at unbounded dependencies, but first we consider local dependencies in passives, unaccusatives, raising sentences, and scrambling. The following illustrate the first three of these:

- (43) a. Kim has been hit.
- b. Kim has disappeared.
- c. Kim seems to be clever.

These differ from unbounded dependency constructions in that whereas the gaps in the latter are positions in which overt NPs can appear, this is not true of the supposed gap positions in (43):

- (44) a. \* It has been hit Kim.
- b. \* It has disappeared Kim.
- c. \* It seems Kim to be clever.

This is a complication if they involve the same mechanism, but is unsurprising if they involve different mechanisms, as in HPSG and most other frameworks.

##### 4.2.4.1 Passive

In the classical analysis of the passive in MGG, it is assumed that the morphology of the participle suppresses the agent role and removes the ability to assign accusative case. In order to receive case the underlying object has to move to the subject position, i.e. Spec,TP where it gets nominative (Chomsky 1981: 124).

- (45) a. The mother gave [the girl] [a cookie].
- b. [The girl] was given [a cookie] (by the mother).

The analysis assumed in recent Minimalist work differs in detail but is movement-based like its predecessors. While movement-based approaches seem to work well for SVO languages like English, they are problematic for SOV languages like German. To see why consider the examples in (46):

- (46) a. weil das Mädchen dem Jungen den Ball schenkte  
because the.NOM girl the.DAT boy the.ACC ball gave  
'because the girl gave the ball to the boy'
- b. weil dem Jungen der Ball geschenkt wurde  
because the.DAT boy the.NOM ball given was  
'because the ball was given to the boy'
- c. weil der Ball dem Jungen geschenkt wurde  
because the.NOM ball the.DAT boy given was

In comparison to (46c), (46b) is the unmarked order (Höhle 1982). *der Ball* 'the ball' in (46b) occurs in the same position as *den Ball* in (46a), that is, no movement is necessary. Only the case differs. (46c) is, however, somewhat marked in comparison to (46b). So, if one assumed (46c) to be the normal order for passives and (46b) is derived from this by movement of *dem Jungen* 'the boy', (46b) should be more marked than (46c), contrary to the facts. To solve this problem, an analysis involving abstract movement has been proposed for cases such as (46b): the elements stay in their positions, but are connected to the subject position and receive their case information from there. Grewendorf (1993: 1311) assumes that there is an empty expletive pronoun in the subject position of sentences such as (46b) as well as in the subject position of sentences with an impersonal passive such as (47):<sup>34</sup>

- (47) weil heute nicht gearbeitet wird  
because today not worked is  
'because there will be no work done today'

A silent expletive pronoun is something that one cannot see or hear and that does not carry any meaning. Such entities are not learnable from input and hence innate domain specific knowledge would be required and of course, approaches that do not have to assume very specific innate knowledge are preferable. For further discussion of language acquisition see Section 5.2 and Ginzburg (2019), Chapter 26 of this volume.

HPSG does not have this problem since passive is treated by lexical rules that map verbal stems onto participle forms with a reduced argument structure list. The first element (the subject in the active) is suppressed so that the second element (if there is any) becomes first. In SVO languages like English and Ice-

<sup>34</sup>See Koster (1986: 11–12) for a parallel analysis for Dutch as well as Lohnstein (2014) for a movement-based account of the passive that also involves an empty expletive for the analysis of the impersonal passive.

landic this element is realized before the verb: there is a valence feature for subjects/specifiers and items that are realized with the respective schema are serialized to the left of the verb. In SOV languages like German and Dutch the subject is treated like other arguments and hence it is not put in a designated position before the finite verb (Müller 2019a: Section 4, Chapter 10 of this volume). No movement is involved in this valence-based analysis of the passive. The problem of MGG analyses is that they mix two phenomena: passive and subject requirement. Since these two phenomena are kept separate in HPSG, problems like that discussed above can be avoided. See Müller (2016a: Section 3.4, Chapter 20) for further discussion.

#### 4.2.4.2 Scrambling

Discussing passive, we already touched on problems related to local reordering of arguments, so-called *scrambling*. In what follows, we want to discuss scrambling in more detail. Languages like German have a freer constituent order than English. A sentence with a ditransitive verb allows for six permutations of the arguments, two of which are given in (48):

- (48) a. [weil] der Mann der Frau das Buch gibt  
           because the.NOM man the.DAT woman the.ACC book gives  
           ‘because the man gives the book to the woman’  
       b. [weil] das Buch der Mann der Frau gibt  
           because the.ACC book the.NOM man the.DAT woman gives

It was long argued that scrambling should be handled as movement as well (Frey 1993). An argument that has often been used to support the movement-based analysis is the fact that scope ambiguities exist in sentences with reorderings which are not present in sentences in the base order. The explanation of such ambiguities comes from the assumption that the scope of quantifiers can be derived from their position in the superficial structure as well as their position in the underlying structure. If the position in both the surface and deep structure are the same, that is, when there has not been any movement, then there is only one reading possible. If movement has taken place, however, then there are two possible readings (Frey 1993: 185):

- (49) a. Es ist nicht der Fall, daß er mindestens einem Verleger fast  
           it is not the case that he at.least one publisher almost

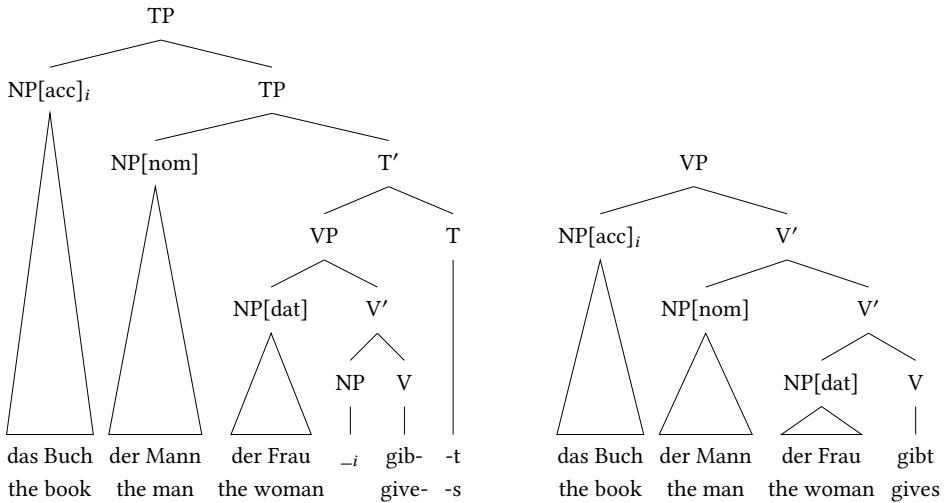


Figure 20: Analysis of local reordering as movement to Spec TP and “base-generation” analysis assumed in HPSG

jedes Gedicht anbot.

every poem offered

‘It is not the case that he offered at least one publisher almost every poem.’

- b. Es ist nicht der Fall, daß er fast jedes Gedicht<sub>i</sub> mindestens einem Verleger <sub>\_i</sub> anbot.  
it is not the case that he almost every poem at.least one publisher offered

‘It is not the case that he offered almost every poem to at least one publisher.’

It turns out that approaches assuming traces run into problems as they predict certain readings which do not exist for sentences with multiple traces (see Kiss 2001: 146 and Fanselow 2001: Section 2.6). For instance in an example such as (50), it should be possible to interpret *mindestens einem Verleger* ‘at least one publisher’ at the position of <sub>\_i</sub>, which would lead to a reading where *fast jedes Gedicht* ‘almost every poem’ has scope over *mindestens einem Verleger* ‘at least one publisher’. However, this reading does not exist.

- (50) Ich glaube, dass mindestens einem Verleger<sub>i</sub> fast jedes Gedicht<sub>j</sub> nur I believe that at.least one publisher almost every poem only

dieser Dichter  $_i \_j$  angeboten hat.  
 this poet offered has

'I think that only this poet offered almost every poem to at least one publisher.'

The alternative to movement-based approaches are so-called "base-generation" approaches in which the respective orders are derived directly. Fanselow (2001), working within the Minimalist Program, suggests such an analysis in which arguments can be combined with their heads in any order. This is the HPSG analysis that was suggested by Gunji (1986) for Japanese and is standardly used in HPSG grammars of German (Hinrichs & Nakazawa 1994a; Kiss 1995; Meurers 1999; Müller 2003; 2017). See also Müller (2019a), Chapter 10 of this volume.

Sauerland & Elbourne (2002: 308) discuss analogous examples from Japanese, which they credit to Kazuko Yatsushiro. They develop an analysis where the first step is to move the accusative object in front of the subject. Then, the dative object is placed in front of that and then, in a third movement, the accusative is moved once more. The last movement can take place to construct either a structure that is later passed to LF or as a movement to construct the Phonological Form. In the latter case, this movement will not have any semantic effects. While this analysis can predict the correct available readings, it does require a number of additional movement operations with intermediate steps.

#### 4.2.5 Nonlocal dependencies

Having dealt with phenomena treated via Move/Internal Merge in Minimalism but involving more local phenomena, we now turn to genuine nonlocal dependencies and compare the Move/Internal Merge approach to the HPSG approach to nonlocal dependencies.

##### 4.2.5.1 Gaps without filler

The Move/Internal Merge approach seems quite plausible for typical examples of an unbounded dependency, but issues arise with less typical examples. Within this approach one expects to see a clause-initial filler-constituent and a gap somewhere in the following clause. This is what we commonly find, but there are unbounded dependency constructions in which there is a gap but no visible higher constituent matching it. Consider e.g., the following:

- (51) a. the book [Kim bought  $\_\!$ ]
- b. Lee is too important [for you to talk to  $\_\!$ ].

- c. Lee is important enough [for you to talk to \_].
- d. Kim is easy [for anyone to talk to \_].

Within Minimalist assumptions, it is more or less necessary to assume that such examples contain an invisible filler (a so-called empty operator). Unless there is some independent evidence for such invisible fillers, they are little more than an ad hoc device to maintain the Move/Internal Merge approach. Within the HPSG SLASH-based approach to unbounded dependencies, there is no assumption that there should always be a filler at the top of an unbounded dependency (Pollard & Sag 1994: Chapter 4, see also Borsley & Crysmann (2019), Chapter 14 of this volume). Hence, the examples in (51) are completely unproblematic.

#### 4.2.5.2 Filler without gaps: Resumptive pronouns

There are also unbounded dependency constructions which seem to have not a gap but a resumptive pronoun (RP). Among many languages that are relevant here is Welsh, which has RPs in both *wh*-interrogatives and relative clauses, as the following illustrate:

- (52) a. Pa ddyn werthodd Ieuan y ceffyl iddo fo?  
which man sell.PAST.3SG Ieuan the horse to.3SGM he  
'Which man did Ieuan sell the horse to?'  
b. y dyn werthodd Ieuan y ceffyl iddo fo  
the man sell.PAST.3SG Ieuan the horse to.3SGM he  
'the man that Ieuan sold the horse to'

Willis (2011) and Borsley (2010; 2013) present evidence that Welsh RPs involve the same mechanism as gaps. Within Minimalism, this means that they must involve Move/Internal Merge. But one expects to see a gap where Move/Internal Merge has applied. One Minimalist response suggests that instead of being deleted, the copy left behind by Move/Internal Merge is somehow turned into a pronoun (see McCloskey 2006). A problem for this approach is that it makes it surprising that RPs universally look like ordinary pronouns (McCloskey 2002). Another approach exploits the complexity of Minimalist structures and proposes that there is a gap in the structure somewhere near the RP. Thus, for example, Willis (2011) proposes that examples like those in (52) with an RP in prepositional object position have a coindexed operator in the specifier position of PP, which undergoes movement. Similar approaches are outlined in Aoun et al. (2001) and Boeckx (2003). For detailed objections to both approaches, see Borsley (2013: Section 3). Within the SLASH-based approach of HPSG, there is no reason to think that there

will always be a gap at the bottom of a dependency, and it is not difficult to accommodate RPs. See Vaillette (2002), Taghvaipour (2010), Borsley (2013) and Crysmann (2012; 2016) for slightly different approaches.<sup>35</sup> See also Borsley & Crysmann (2019), Chapter 14 of this volume for a more detailed discussion of nonlocal dependencies.

### 4.3 Conclusion

Thus, there are variety of phenomena which suggest that the Minimalist view of constituent structure is too simple. The restriction to binary branching, the assumption that all structures are headed, and Move/Internal Merge all seem problematic. It looks, then, as if the Minimalist view is both too complex and too simple.

## 5 Psycholinguistic issues

Although they differ in a variety of ways, HPSG and Minimalism agree that grammatical theory is concerned with linguistic knowledge. They focus first and foremost on the question: what form does linguistic knowledge take? But there are other questions that arise here, notably the following:

- How is linguistic knowledge put to use?
- How is linguistic knowledge acquired?

Both questions are central concerns for psycholinguistics. Thus, in considering the answers that HPSG and Minimalism can give we are considering their relevance to psycholinguistics. Chomskyan approaches, including Minimalism, have focused mainly on the second question and have paid little attention to the first. HPSG has had more to say about the first and has shown less interest in the second. However, there is a large body of work on acquisition in Construction

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<sup>35</sup>Also relevant here are examples with more than one gap such as the following:

- (i) a. Who does Kim like \_ and Lee hate \_?  
     b. Which book did you criticize \_ without reading \_?

There have been various attempts to accommodate such examples within the Move/Internal Merge approach, but it is not clear that any of them is satisfactory. In contrast such examples are expect within the SLASH-based approach (Levine & Sag 2003). See also (Pollard & Sag 1994: Section 4.6).

Grammar and since HPSG is a constructionist theory (Müller 2019d, Chapter 36 of this volume) all the insights carry over to HPSG. Clearly an adequate grammatical theory should be able to give satisfactory answers to both questions. In this section we will look briefly at the relation of the two theories to processing and then consider more fully their relation to acquisition.

## 5.1 Processing

We noted in Section 3 that whereas HPSG is a declarative or constraint-based approach to grammar, Minimalism has a procedural view of grammar. This contrast means that HPSG is much more suitable than Minimalism for incorporation into an account of the processes that are involved in linguistic performance.

The most obvious fact about linguistic performance is that it involves both production and comprehension. As noted in Section 3, this suggests that the knowledge that is used in production and comprehension should have a declarative character as in HPSG and not a procedural character as in Minimalism.

A second important feature of linguistic performance is that it involves different kinds of information utilized in any order that is necessary. Sag & Wasow (2011: 367–368) illustrate with the following examples:

- (53) a. The sheep that was sleeping in the pen stood up.  
b. The sheep in the pen had been sleeping and were about to wake up.

In (53a), morphological information determines the number of sheep before non-linguistic information determines that pen means ‘fenced enclosure’ and not ‘writing implement’. In (53b), on the other hand, non-linguistic information determines that pen means ‘fenced enclosure’ before morphological information determines the number of sheep. This is unproblematic for an approach like HPSG in which linguistic and non-linguistic knowledge takes the form of constraints which are not ordered in any way.<sup>36</sup> It is quite unclear how the facts can be accommodated within Minimalism given that linguistic knowledge with its procedural form is quite different from non-linguistic knowledge.

Other features of HPSG also make it attractive from a processing point of view. Firstly, there is the fact emphasized earlier that linguistic expressions have a single relatively simple constituent structure with a minimum of phonologically empty elements. Secondly there is the fact that all constraints are purely local and never affect anything larger than a local tree consisting of an expression and its

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<sup>36</sup>See also Lücking (2019), Chapter 31 of this volume of this volume on the interaction of gesture and speech.

daughters. Both these properties make processing easier than it would otherwise be. Minimalism has neither property and hence again seems less satisfactory than HPSG in this area.

Someone might suppose that the fact that Minimalism treats linguistic knowledge as knowledge about how to construct syntactic structures means that it is well-suited for incorporation into accounts of linguistic performance. In fact this is not at all the case. The way standard Minimalism<sup>37</sup> constructs syntactic structures is quite unlike the way speakers and hearers construct them. Speakers begin with representations of meanings they want to communicate and gradually turn them into an appropriate sequence of sounds, constructing whatever syntactic structures are necessary to do this. Hearers in contrast begin with a sequence of sounds from which they attempt to work out what meanings are being communicated. To do this, they have to segment the sounds into words and determine what sorts of syntactic structures the words are involved in. Language processing is incremental and all channels are used in parallel (Marslen-Wilson 1975; Tanenhaus et al. 1995; 1996). Information about phonology, morpho-syntax, semantics, information structure and even world knowledge (as in the examples (53) above) are used as soon as they are available. Hence, parsing (54) is an incremental process: the hearer hears *Kim* first and as soon as the first sounds of *may* reach her the available information is integrated and hypothesis regarding further parts of the utterance are built.<sup>38</sup>

(54) Kim may go to London.

The construction of syntactic structures within Minimalism is a very different matter. It begins with a set of words, and they are gradually assembled into a syntactic structure, from which representations of sound and meaning can be derived either once a complete structure has been constructed or at the end of each phase if the derivation is broken up into phases. Moreover, the nature of English means that the construction of a syntactic structure essentially proceeds from right to left. Consider the analysis of (54): here, *go* can only be integrated into the structure after its complement to London has been constructed, and may

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<sup>37</sup>For a discussion of non-standard versions like Phillips (2003) and Chesi (2015) see Sag & Wasow (2011) and Müller (2019c: 525).

<sup>38</sup>Note that the architecture in Figure 8 poses additional problems. A *numeration* is a selection of lexical items that is used in a derivation. Since a multitude of empty elements are assumed in Minimalist analyses it is unclear how such a numeration is constructed since it cannot be predicted at the lexical level which empty elements will be needed in the course of a derivation. Due to the empty elements, there are infinitely many possible numerations that might be appropriate for the analysis of a given input string. The problem would disappear if derivations could draw lexical items from the lexicon directly.

can only be integrated into the structure after the construction of its complement *go to London*, and only after that can *Kim* be integrated into the structure. This is quite different from construction of syntactic structures by speakers and hearers, which proceeds from left to right.

These issues have led researchers like Phillips (2003) and Chesi (2015) to propose rather different versions of Minimalism. However, they are still procedural approaches, and they have the problem that any system of procedures which resembles what speakers do will be very different from what hearers do and vice versa. The right response to the problems outlined above is not a different procedural version of Minimalism but a declarative version, neutral between production and comprehension. It would probably not be difficult to develop a declarative version of the framework. It would presumably have an external merge phrase type and an internal merge phrase type both subject to appropriate constraints. This would be better from a processing point of view than any procedural version of Minimalism. However, the complexity of its structures and the fact that its constraints are not purely local would still make it less satisfactory than HPSG in this area.

## 5.2 Acquisition

Acquisition has long been a central concern for Chomskyans and it has long been argued that acquisition is made possible by the existence of a complex innate language faculty (Chomsky 1965: Section I.8). Since the early 1980s the dominant view has been that the language faculty consists of a set of principles responsible for the properties which languages share and a set of parameters responsible for the ways in which they may differ (Chomsky 1981: 6). On this view acquiring a grammatical system is a matter of parameter-setting (Chomsky 2000: 8). Proponents of HPSG have always been sceptical about these ideas (see e.g., the remarks about parameters in Pollard & Sag (1994: 31) and have favoured accounts with “an extremely minimal initial ontology of abstract linguistic elements and relations” (Green 2011: 378). Thus, the two frameworks appear to be very different in this area. It is not clear, however, that this is really the case.

The idea that acquiring a grammatical system is a matter of parameter-setting is only as plausible as the idea of a language faculty with a set of parameters. It seems fair to say that this idea has not been as successful as was hoped when it was first introduced in the early 1980s. Outsiders have always been sceptical, but they have been joined in recent times by researchers sympathetic to many Chomskyan ideas. Thus, Newmeyer (2005: 75) writes as follows:

[...] empirical reality, as I see it, dictates that the hopeful vision of UG as providing a small number of principles each admitting of a small number of parameter settings is simply not workable. The variation that one finds among grammars is far too complex for such a vision to be realized.

At least some Minimalists have come to similar conclusions. Thus, Boeckx (2011: 206) suggests that:

some of the most deeply-embedded tenets of the Principles-and-Parameters approach, and in particular the idea of Parameter, have outlived their usefulness. (Boeckx 2011: 206)

Much the same view is expressed in Hornstein (2009: 164–168).

A major reason for scepticism about parameters is that estimates of how many there are seem to have steadily increased. Fodor (2001: 734) considers that there might be just twenty parameters, so that acquiring a grammatical system is a matter of answering twenty yes/no-questions. Newmeyer (2005: 44) remarks that “I have never seen any estimate of the number of binary-valued parameters needed to capture all of the possibilities of core grammar that exceeded a few dozen”. However, Roberts & Holmberg (2005) comment that “[n]early all estimates of the number of parameters in the literature judge the correct figure to be in the region of 50–100”. Clearly, a hundred is a lot more than twenty. Newmeyer (2017: Section 6.3) speaks of “hundreds, if not thousands”. This is worrying. As Newmeyer (2006: 6) observes, “it is an ABC of scientific investigation that if a theory is on the right track, then its overall complexity decreases with time as more and more problematic data fall within its scope. Just the opposite has happened with parametric theory. Year after year more new parameters are proposed, with no compensatory decrease in the number of previously proposed ones.”

The growing scepticism appears to tie in with the proposal by Hauser, Chomsky & Fitch (2002: 1573) that “FLN [the “Faculty of language–narrow sense”] comprises only the core computational mechanisms of recursion as they appear in narrow syntax and the mappings to the interfaces”. On this view there seems to be no place for parameters within FLN. This conclusion is also suggested by Chomsky’s remarks (2005) that “There is no longer a conceptual barrier to the hope that the UG [Universal Grammar] might be reduced to a much simpler form” (p. 8) and that “we need no longer assume that the means of generation of structured expressions are highly articulated and specific to language” (p. 9). It’s hard to see how such remarks are compatible with the assumption that UG includes 50–100 parameters. But if parameters are not part of UG, it is not at all clear what their status might be.

It looks, then, as Chomskyans are gradually abandoning the idea of parameters. But if it is abandoned, grammar acquisition is not a matter of parameter-setting. Hence, it is not clear that Chomskyans can invoke any mechanisms that are not available to HPSG.

This might suggest that HPSG and Minimalism are essentially in the same boat where acquisition is concerned. However, this is not the case given the very different nature of grammatical systems in the two frameworks. The complex and abstract structures that are the hallmark of Minimalism and earlier Chomskyan frameworks pose major problems for acquisition. Furthermore the machinery that is assumed in addition to the basic operations Internal and External Merge are by no means trivial. There are numerations (subsets of the lexicon) that are assumed to play a role in a derivation, there is Agree and it has to be somehow acquired what the restriction on possible probe/goal relations is and which features are interpretable and which uninterpretable. Certain categories are Phase boundaries, others are not. There are complex conditions on Labeling. It is this that has led to the assumption that acquisition must be assisted by a complex language faculty. In contrast, HPSG structures are quite closely related to the observable data and so pose less of a problem for acquisition and hence create less need for some innate apparatus. Thus, HPSG probably has an advantage over Minimalism in this area too.

### 5.3 Restrictiveness

There is one further issue that we should discuss here. It appears to be quite widely assumed that one advantage that Minimalism has over alternatives like HPSG is that it is more “restrictive”, in other words that it makes more claims about what is and is not possible in language. It looks then as if there might be an argument for Minimalism here. It is not clear, however, that this is really the case.

Minimalism would be a restrictive theory making interesting claims about language if it assumed a relatively small number of parameters. However, the idea that there is just a small number of parameters seems to have been abandoned, and at least some minimalists have abandoned the idea of parameters altogether (see Section 5.2). If there is either a large number of parameters or no parameters at all, Minimalism is not restrictive in the way that it once was. However, it does still embody some restrictions on grammatical systems. The assumption that syntactic structures are confined to binary branching is an important restriction, as is the assumption that expressions produced by Merge have the same label as one of the expressions that they consist of. But we have argued that both assump-

tions are quite dubious. It also seems to be assumed that case and agreement are features of all grammatical systems. This would be another important restriction, but this also seems dubious given that many languages show no clear evidence for one or both of these features. It looks to us, then, as if the restrictiveness of Minimalism is largely a matter of imposing certain dubious restrictions on grammatical systems.

Note also that there are problems with restrictiveness of a more formal nature. Earlier versions of MGG assumed  $\bar{X}$  theory and although this was not assumed initially it was quickly argued that the  $\bar{X}$  scheme is universal and that this is a restriction on grammatical systems that aids language acquisition (Haegeman 1994: 106). However, Kornai & Pullum (1990: 41, 47) show that  $\bar{X}$  theory is not restrictive at all as soon as empty elements are allowed in grammars: all languages that can be analyzed with a context-free grammar can be analyzed with an  $\bar{X}$  grammar with empty heads. Chomsky (1995b: Section 4.3) abandoned  $\bar{X}$  theory and replaced it by notions like first-merged and later-merged (Chomsky 1995b: 245; 2008) but the principled problem remains. Since as many empty heads as needed can be assumed in any position the predictions as far as restrictiveness is concerned are limited. See also Hornstein (2009: 165) and Starke (2014: 140) on heads and features and restrictiveness.

An example that is usually discussed when it comes to restrictiveness is question formation (Musso et al. 2003). Researchers in MGG state that certain ways of expressing things never occur although they may be imaginable. So the question is asked why questions are never formed by reversing the order of words in a string. So rather than (55b) the question that would correspond to (55a) would be (55c):

- (55) a. Kim saw Sandy near the swimming pool.
- b. Did Kim see Sandy near the swimming pool?
- c. Pool swimming the near Sandy saw Kim?

Interestingly, such reorderings can be derived in systems that allow for so-called *remnant movement*, as Hubert Haider (p. c. 2018) pointed out. Remnant movement analyses are sometimes suggested for partial verb phrase fronting (G. Müller 1998). In the analysis of the following sentence, the object of *gelesen* ‘read’ is moved out of the VP and the VP remnant is then fronted:

- (56) [VP  $_j$  Gelesen] $_i$  hat [das Buch] $_j$  [keiner  $_i$ ].
- read      has the book  nobody
- ‘Nobody read the book.’

With such a system in place the reorderings can be derived as follows: the element 5 can move to the left of 4. The unit containing 4 and 5 can move to the left of 3 and [[5 [4 \_]] [3 \_]] can move to the left of 2 and so on.

- (57) a. [1 [2 [3 4]]]  
b. [3 4] → [4 [3 \_]] → [2 [4 [3 \_]]] → [[4 [3 \_]] [2 \_]] →  
[1 [[4 [3 \_]] [2 \_]]] → [[[4 [3 \_]] [2 \_]] [1 \_]]

Of course there are reasons for the absence of certain imaginable constructions in the languages of the world. The reason for the absence of question formation like (55c) is simply short-term memory. Operations like those are ruled out due to performance constraints and hence should not be modeled in competence grammars. So it is unproblematic that remnant movement systems allow the derivation of strings with reverse order and it is unproblematic that one might develop HPSG analyses that reverse strings. Similarly certain other restrictions have been argued not to be part of the grammar proper. For instance Subjacency (Baltin 1981: 262; 2017; Rizzi 1982: 57; Chomsky 1986: 38–40) does not hold in the form stated in MGG (Müller 2004; 2016a: Section 13.1.5) and it is argued that several of the island constraints should not be modeled by hard constraints in competence grammars. See Chaves (2019), Chapter 16 of this volume for further discussion.

It is true that the basic formalism does not pose any strong restrictions on what could be said in an HPSG theory. As Pollard (1996) points out, this is the way it should be. The formalism should not be the constraining factor. It should be powerful enough to allow everything to be expressed in insightful ways and in fact, the basic formalism of HPSG has Turing-power, the highest power in the Chomsky hierarchy (Pollard 1999). This means that the general formalism is above the complexity that is usually assumed for natural languages: mildly context-sensitive. What is important though is that theories of individual languages are much more restrictive, getting the generative power down (Müller 2016a: Chapter 17).

These remarks should not be understood as a suggestion that languages vary without limit, as Joos (1958: 96) suggested. No doubt there are universal tendencies and variation is limited, but the question is whether this is due to innate linguistic constraints or a consequence of what we do with language and how our general cognitive capabilities are structured. While Minimalism starts out with claims about universal features about languages and tries to confirm these claims in language after language, researchers working in HPSG aim to develop fragments of languages that are motivated by facts from these languages and gen-

eralize over several internally motivated grammars. This leaves the option open that languages have very little in common as far as syntax is concerned. For example, [Koenig & Michelson \(2012\)](#) discuss the Northern Iroquoian language Oneida and argue that this language does not have syntactic valence. If they are correct, not even central concepts like valence and argument structure would be universal. The only remaining universal would be that we combine linguistic objects. This corresponds to Merge in Minimalism, without the restriction to binarity.

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## Chapter 33

# HPSG and Categorial Grammar

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This chapter aims to offer an up-to-date comparison of HPSG and categorial grammar (CG). Since the CG research itself consists of two major types of approaches with overlapping but distinct goals and research strategies, I start by giving an overview of these two variants of CG (section 2). This is followed by a comparison of HPSG and CG at a broad level, in terms of the general architecture of the theory (section 3), and then, by a more focused comparison of specific linguistic analyses of some selected phenomena (section 4). The chapter ends by briefly touching on issues related to computational implementation and human sentence processing (section 5). Thoughtout the discussion, I attempt to highlight both the similarities and differences between HPSG and CG research, in the hope of stimulating further research in the two research communities on their respective open questions, and so that the two communities can continue to learn from each other.

## 1 Introduction

The goal of this chapter is to provide a comparison between HPSG and CATEGORIAL GRAMMAR (CG). The two theories share certain important insights, mostly due to the fact that they are among the so-called ‘lexicalist’, ‘non-transformational’ theories of syntax that were proposed as major alternatives to the mainstream transformational syntax in the 1980s (see [Borsley & Börjars \(2011\)](#) for an overview of these theories). However, due to the differences in the main research goals in the respective communities in which these approaches have been developed, there are certain nontrivial differences between them as well. The present chapter assumes researchers working in HPSG or other non-CG theories of syntax as its main audience, and aims to inform them of key aspects of CG which



make it distinct from other theories of syntax. While computational implementation and investigations of the formal properties of grammatical theory have been important in both HPSG and CG research, I will primarily focus on the linguistic aspects in the ensuing discussion, with pointers (where relevant) to literature on mathematical and computational issues. Throughout the discussion, I presuppose basic familiarity with HPSG (with pointers to relevant chapters in the handbook). The present handbook contains chapters that compare HPSG with other grammatical theories, including the present one. I encourage the reader to take a look at the other theory comparison chapters too (as well as other chapters dealing with specific aspects of HPSG in greater detail), in order to obtain a fuller picture of the theoretical landscape in current (non-transformational) generative syntax research.

## 2 Two varieties of CG

CG is actually not a monolithic theory, but is a family of related approaches (or, perhaps more accurately, it is much *less of* a monolithic theory than either HPSG or LFG is). For this reason, I will start my discussion by sketching some important features of two major varieties of CG, COMBINATORY CATEGORIAL GRAMMAR (CCG) (Steedman 2000; Steedman 2012) and TYPE-LOGICAL CATEGORIAL GRAMMAR (TLCG; or ‘Type-Logical Grammar’) (Morrill 1994; Moortgat 2011; Kubota & Levine 2020).<sup>1</sup> After presenting the ‘core’ component of CG that is shared between the two approaches—which is commonly referred to as the ‘AB grammar’—I introduce aspects of the respective approaches in which they diverge from each other.

### 2.1 Notation and presentation

Before getting started, some comments are in order as to the notation and the mode of presentation adopted. Two choices are made for the notation. First, CCG and TLCG traditionally adopt different notations of the slash. I stick to the TLCG notation throughout this chapter for notational consistency. Second, I present all the fragments below in the so-called LABELLED DEDUCTION notation of (Prawitz-style) natural deduction. In particular, I follow Oehrle (1994) and Morrill (1994) in the use of ‘term labels’ in labelled deduction to encode prosodic and semantic information of linguistic expressions. This involves writing linguistic expressions

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<sup>1</sup>For more detailed introductions to these different variants of CG, see Steedman & Baldridge (2011) (on CCG) and Oehrle (2011) (on TLCG), both included in Borsley & Börjars (2011).

as *tripartite signs*, formally, tuples of prosodic form, semantic interpretation and syntactic category (or syntactic type). Researchers familiar with HPSG should find this notation easy to read and intuitive; the idea is essentially the same as how linguistic signs are conceived of in HPSG. In the CG literature, this notation has its roots in the conception of ‘multidimensional’ linguistic signs in earlier work by Dick Oehrle (Oehrle 1988). But the reader should be aware that this is *not* the standard notation in which either CCG or TLCG is typically presented. Also, logically savvy readers may find this notation somewhat confusing since it (unfortunately) obscures certain aspects of CG pertaining to its logical properties. In any event, it is important to keep in mind that different notations co-exist in the CG literature (and the logic literature behind it), and that, just as in mathematics in general, different notations can be adopted for the same formal system to highlight different aspects of it in different contexts. As noted in the introduction, for the mode of presentation, the emphasis is consistently on linguistic (rather than computational or logical) aspects. Moreover, I have taken the liberty to gloss over certain minor differences among different variants of CG for the sake of presentation. The reader is therefore encouraged to consult primary sources as well, especially when details matter.

## 2.2 The AB grammar

I start with a simple fragment of CG called the AB GRAMMAR, consisting of just two syntactic rules in (1):

- (1) a. FORWARD SLASH ELIMINATION      b. BACKWARD SLASH ELIMINATION
- $$\frac{a; A/B \quad b; B}{a \circ b; A} /E \qquad \frac{b; B \quad a; B \setminus A}{b \circ a; A} \setminus E$$

With the somewhat minimal lexicon in (2), we can license the sentence *John loves Mary* as in (3). The two slashes / and \ are used to form ‘complex’ syntactic categories (more on this below) indicating valence information: the transitive verb *loves* is assigned the category (NP\S)/NP since it first combines with an NP to its right (i.e. the direct object) and then another NP to its right (i.e. the subject).

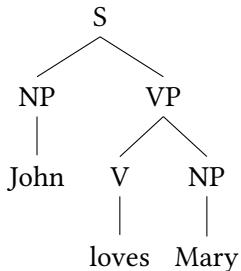
- (2) a. john; NP  
       b. mary; NP  
       c. ran; NP\S  
       d. loves; (NP\S)/NP

(3)

$$\frac{\text{john; NP} \quad \frac{\text{loves o mary; NP}\backslash S}{\text{mary; NP loves; (NP}\backslash S)\text{/NP}} /E}{\text{john o loves o mary; S}} \backslash E$$

At this point, this is just like the familiar PSG analysis of the following form, except that the symbol VP is replaced by NP\|S:

(4)



Things will start looking more interesting as we make the fragment more complex (and also by adding the semantics), but before doing so I first introduce some basic assumptions, first on syntactic categories (below) and then on semantics (next section).

SYNTACTIC CATEGORIES (or SYNTACTIC TYPES) are defined recursively in CG. This can be concisely written using the so-called ‘BNC notation’ as follows:<sup>2,3</sup>

- (5) a. BaseType := { N, NP, PP, S }
- b. Type := BaseType | Type\|Type | Type/Type

In words, anything that is a BaseType is a Type, and any complex expression of form A\| B or A/B where A and B are both Types is a Type. To give some examples, the following expressions are syntactic types according to the definition in (5):<sup>4</sup>

- (6) a. S\|S

---

<sup>2</sup>See section 3.3 below for the treatment of syntactic features (such as those used for agreement).

I ignore this aspect for the fragment developed below for the sake of exposition. The treatment of syntactic features (or its analog) is a relatively underdeveloped aspect of CG syntax literature, as compared to HPSG research (where the whole linguistic theory is built on the basis of a theory/formalism of complex feature structures).

<sup>3</sup>Recognizing PP as a basic type is somewhat non-standard, although there does not seem to be any consensus on what should be regarded as a (reasonably complete) set of basic syntactic types for natural language syntax.

<sup>4</sup>I omit parentheses for a sequence of the same type of slash, for which disambiguation is obvious—for example, A\A\A is an abbreviation for (A\((A\A))).

- b.  $(NP \setminus S) / NP / NP$
- c.  $(S / (NP \setminus S)) \backslash (S / NP)$
- d.  $((NP \setminus S) \backslash (NP \setminus S)) \backslash ((NP \setminus S) \backslash (NP \setminus S))$

One important feature of CG is that, like HPSG, it lexicalizes the valence (or subcategorization) properties of linguistic expressions. Unlike HPSG, where this is done by a list (or set) valued syntactic feature, in CG, complex syntactic categories directly represent the combinatoric (i.e. valence) properties of lexical items. For example, lexical entries for intransitive and transitive verbs in English will look like the following (semantics is omitted here but will be supplied later):

- (7) a. ran;  $NP \setminus S$   
 b. read;  $(NP \setminus S) / NP$   
 c. introduces;  $(NP \setminus S) / PP / NP$

(7a) says that the verb *ran* combines with its argument NP *to its left* to become an S. Likewise, (7c) says that *read* first combines with an NP *to its right* and then another NP to its left to become an S.

One point to keep in mind (though it may not seem to make much difference at this point) is that in CG, syntactic rules are thought of as logical rules and the derivations of sentences like (3) as *proofs* of the well-formedness of particular strings as sentences. From this ‘logical’ point of view, the two slashes should really be thought of as directional variants of implication (that is, both  $A / B$  and  $B \setminus A$  essentially mean ‘*if there is a B, then there is an A*’), and the two rules of Slash Elimination introduced in (1) should be thought of as directional variants of MODUS PONENS ( $B \rightarrow A, B \vdash A$ ). This analogy between natural language syntax and logic is emphasized in particular in the TLCG research.

## 2.3 Syntax-semantics interface in CG

One attractive property of CG as a theory of natural language syntax is its straight-forward syntax-semantics interface. In particular, there is a functional mapping from syntactic categories to semantic types.<sup>5</sup> For the sake of exposition, I assume an extensional fragment of Montagovian model-theoretic semantics in what follows, but it should be noted that the CG syntax is mostly neutral to the choice

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<sup>5</sup>Technically, this is ensured in TLCG by the homomorphism from the syntactic type logic to the semantic type logic (the latter of which is often implicit) and the so-called Curry-Howard correspondence between proofs and terms (van Benthem 1988).

of the specific variant of semantic theory to go with it.<sup>6</sup>

Assuming the standard recursive definition of semantic types as in (8) (with basic types  $e$  (individuals) and  $t$  (truth values)), we can define the function  $\text{Sem}$  that returns, for each syntactic category given as input, its semantic type, as in (9) and (10).

- (8) a.  $\text{BaseSemType} := \{ e, t \}$
- b.  $\text{SemType} := \text{BaseSemType} \mid \text{SemType} \rightarrow \text{SemType}$
- (9) (Base Case)
  - a.  $\text{Sem}(\text{NP}) = \text{Sem}(\text{PP}) = e$
  - b.  $\text{Sem}(\text{N}) = e \rightarrow t$
  - c.  $\text{Sem}(\text{S}) = t$
- (10) (Recursive Clause)

For any complex syntactic category of the form  $A/B$  (or  $B\backslash A$ ),  
 $\text{Sem}(A/B) (= \text{Sem}(B\backslash A)) = \text{Sem}(B) \rightarrow \text{Sem}(A)$

For example, we have  $\text{Sem}(\text{S}/(\text{NP}\backslash \text{S})) = (e \rightarrow t) \rightarrow t$  (for subject position quantifier in CCG).

Syntactic rules with semantics can then be written as in (11) (where the semantic effect of these rules is FUNCTION APPLICATION) and a sample derivation with semantic annotation is given in (12).

- (11) a. FORWARD SLASH ELIMINATION      b. BACKWARD SLASH ELIMINATION
- $$\frac{a; \mathcal{F}; A/B \quad b; \mathcal{G}; B}{a \circ b; \mathcal{F}(\mathcal{G}); A} /E$$
- $$\frac{b; \mathcal{G}; B \quad a; \mathcal{F}; B\backslash A}{b \circ a; \mathcal{F}(\mathcal{G}); A} \backslash E$$
- (12)
 
$$\frac{\begin{array}{c} \text{john}; j; \text{NP} \qquad \text{loves; love; } (\text{NP}\backslash \text{S})/\text{NP} \quad \text{mary; m; NP} \\ \hline \text{loves} \circ \text{mary; love(m); NP}\backslash \text{S} \end{array}}{\text{john} \circ \text{loves} \circ \text{mary; love(m)(j); S}} /E$$

A system of CG with only the Slash Elimination rules like the fragment above is called the AB GRAMMAR, so called because it corresponds to the earliest form of CG formulated by [Ajdukiewicz \(1935\)](#) and [Bar-Hillel \(1953\)](#).

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<sup>6</sup>See for example [Martin \(2013\)](#) and [Bekki & Mineshima \(2017\)](#) for recent proposals on adopting compositional variants of (hyper)intensional dynamic semantics and proof theoretic semantics, respectively, for the semantic component of CG-based theories of natural language.

## 2.4 Combinatory Categorial Grammar

### 2.4.1 An ‘ABC’ fragment: AB grammar with order-preserving ‘combinatory’ rules

To do some interesting linguistic analysis, we need some more machinery. I now extend the AB fragment above by adding two types of rules: TYPE-RAISING and (Harmonic) FUNCTION COMPOSITION. These are a subset of rules typically entertained in CCG. I call the resultant system ABC GRAMMAR (AB + Function Composition).<sup>7</sup> Though it is an impoverished version of CCG, the ABC fragment already enables an interesting and elegant analysis of NONCONSTITUENT COORDINATION (NCC), originally due to Steedman (1985) and Dowty (1988), which is essentially identical to the analysis of NCC in the current versions of both CCG and TLCG. I will then discuss the rest of the rules constituting CCG in the next section. The reason for drawing a distinction between the ‘ABC’ fragment and (proper) CCG is just for the sake of exposition. The rules introduced in the present section have the property that they are all derivable as *theorems* in the (associative) Lambek calculus, the calculus that underlies most variants of TLCG. For this reason, separating the two sets of rules helps clarify the similarities and differences between CCG and TLCG.

The TYPE RAISING and FUNCTION COMPOSITION rules are defined as in (13) and (14), respectively.

$$(13) \quad \text{a. Forward Function Composition} \quad \text{b. Backward Function Composition}$$

$$\frac{a; \mathcal{F}; A/B \quad b; \mathcal{G}; B/C}{a \circ b; \lambda x. \mathcal{F}(\mathcal{G}(x)); A/C} \text{ FC}$$

$$\frac{b; \mathcal{G}; C \setminus B \quad a; \mathcal{F}; B \setminus A}{b \circ a; \lambda x. \mathcal{F}(\mathcal{G}(x)); C \setminus A} \text{ FC}$$

$$(14) \quad \text{a. Forward Type Raising}$$

$$\text{b. Backward Type Raising}$$

$$\frac{a; \mathcal{F}; A}{a; \lambda v. v(\mathcal{F}); B/(A \setminus B)} \text{ TR}$$

$$\frac{a; \mathcal{F}; A}{a; \lambda v. v(\mathcal{F}); (B/A) \setminus B} \text{ TR}$$

The Type-Raising rules are essentially rules of ‘type lifting’ familiar in the formal semantics literature, except that they specify the ‘syntactic effect’ of type lifting explicitly (such that the function-argument relation is reversed). Similarly Function Composition rules can be understood as function composition in the usual sense (as in mathematics and functional programming), except, again, that the syntactic effect is explicitly specified.

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<sup>7</sup>This is not a standard terminology, but giving a name to this fragment is convenient for the purpose of the discussion below.

As noted by Steedman (1985), with Type Raising and Function Composition, we can analyze a string of words such as *John loves* as a constituent of type S/NP, that is, an expression that is looking for an NP to its right to become an S:

$$(15) \quad \frac{\text{john; } j; \text{NP}}{\frac{\text{john; } \lambda f.f(j); \text{S}/(\text{NP}\backslash\text{S}) \xrightarrow{\text{TR}} \text{loves; love; } (\text{NP}\backslash\text{S})/\text{NP}}{\text{john} \circ \text{loves}; \lambda x.\text{love}(x)(j); \text{S}/\text{NP}}} \xrightarrow{\text{FC}}$$

Assuming generalized conjunction (with the standard definition for the generalized conjunction operator  $\sqcap$  a la Partee & Rooth (1983) and the polymorphic syntactic category  $(X\backslash X)/X$  for *and*), the analysis for a RIGHT-NODE RAISING (RNR) sentence such as (16) is straightforward, as in (17).

(16) John loves, and Bill hates, Mary.

$$(17) \quad \begin{array}{c} \vdots \\ \text{and; } \sqcap; (X\backslash X)/X \quad \text{bill } \circ \text{hates; } \lambda x.\text{hate}(x)(b); \text{S}/\text{NP} \\ \xrightarrow{\text{FA}} \\ \text{john } \circ \text{loves; } \lambda x.\text{love}(x)(j); \text{S}/\text{NP} \quad \text{and } \circ \text{bill } \circ \text{hates; } \sqcap(\lambda x.\text{hate}(x)(b)); (\text{S}/\text{NP})\backslash(\text{S}/\text{NP}) \\ \xrightarrow{\text{FA}} \\ \text{john } \circ \text{loves } \circ \text{and } \circ \text{bill } \circ \text{hates; } (\lambda x.\text{love}(x)(j)) \sqcap (\lambda x.\text{hate}(x)(b)); \text{S}/\text{NP} \quad \text{mary; } m; \text{NP} \\ \xrightarrow{\text{FA}} \\ \text{john } \circ \text{loves } \circ \text{and } \circ \text{bill } \circ \text{hates } \circ \text{mary; } \text{love}(m)(j) \wedge \text{hate}(m)(b); \text{S} \end{array}$$

Dowty (1988) showed that this analysis extends straightforwardly to the (slightly) more complex case of ARGUMENT CLUSTER COORDINATION (ACC), such as (18), as in (19) (here, VP, TV and DTV are abbreviations of NP\\$, (NP\\$)/NP, and (NP\\$)/NP/NP, respectively).

(18) Mary gave Bill the book and John the record.

$$(19) \quad \begin{array}{c} \text{bill; } b; \text{NP} \quad \text{the } \circ \text{book; } \iota(bk); \text{NP} \quad \vdots \\ \xrightarrow{\text{TR}} \quad \xrightarrow{\text{TR}} \quad \text{and; } \sqcap; (X\backslash X)/X \quad \text{john } \circ \text{the } \circ \text{record; } \lambda R.R(j)(\iota(rc)); \text{DTV}\backslash\text{VP} \\ \text{bill; } \lambda P.P(b); \text{DTV}\backslash\text{TV} \quad \text{the } \circ \text{book; } \lambda Q.Q(\iota(bk)); \text{TV}\backslash\text{VP} \\ \xrightarrow{\text{FC}} \quad \text{bill } \circ \text{the } \circ \text{book; } \lambda R.R(b)(\iota(bk)); \text{DTV}\backslash\text{VP} \quad \text{and } \circ \text{john } \circ \text{the } \circ \text{record; } \sqcap(\lambda R.R(j)(\iota(rc))); \text{DTV}\backslash\text{VP} \\ \text{gave; } \text{give; } \text{DTV} \quad \xrightarrow{\text{FC}} \quad \text{bill } \circ \text{the } \circ \text{book } \circ \text{and } \circ \text{john } \circ \text{the } \circ \text{record; } \lambda R.R(j)(\iota(rc)) \sqcap \lambda R.R(b)(\iota(bk)); \text{DTV}\backslash\text{VP} \\ \text{mary; } m; \text{NP} \quad \xrightarrow{\text{FC}} \quad \text{gave } \circ \text{bill } \circ \text{the } \circ \text{book } \circ \text{and } \circ \text{john } \circ \text{the } \circ \text{record; } \text{give}(j)(\iota(rc)) \sqcap \text{give}(b)(\iota(bk)); \text{VP} \\ \xrightarrow{\text{FC}} \quad \text{mary } \circ \text{gave } \circ \text{bill } \circ \text{the } \circ \text{book } \circ \text{and } \circ \text{john } \circ \text{the } \circ \text{record; } \text{give}(j)(\iota(rc))(m) \wedge \text{give}(b)(\iota(bk))(m); \text{S} \end{array}$$

Here, by Type Raising, the indirect and direct objects become functions that can be combined via Function Composition, to form a non-standard constituent that can then be coordinated. After two such expressions are conjoined, the verb is fed as an argument to return a VP. Intuitively, the idea behind this analysis is that *Bill the book* is of type DTV\VP since if it were to combine with an actual ditransitive verb (such as *gave*), we would obtain a VP (*gave Bill a book*). Note that in both the RNR and ACC examples above, the right semantic interpretation for the whole sentence is assigned compositionally via the rules given above in (13) and (14).

#### 2.4.2 From ABC to CCG

CCG is a version of CG developed by Mark Steedman since the 1980s with extensive linguistic application. The best sources for CCG are the three books by Steedman (Steedman 1997; 2000; Steedman 2012), which present treatments of major linguistic phenomena in CCG, and gives pointers to earlier literature. CCG is essentially a rule-based extension of the AB grammar. We have already seen in the previous section the two key components that constitute this extension: Type Raising and (Harmonic) Function Composition.<sup>8</sup> There are aspects of natural language syntax that cannot be handled adequately in this simple system, and in such situations, CCG makes (restricted) use of additional rules. This point can be illustrated nicely with two issues that arise in connection with the analysis of long-distance dependencies.

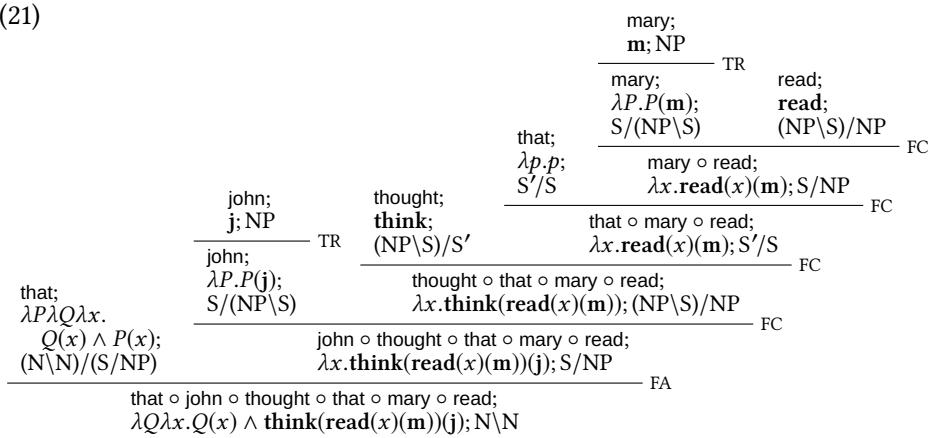
The basic idea behind the CCG analysis of long-distance dependencies, due originally to Ades & Steedman (1982), is very simple and is similar in spirit to the HPSG analysis in terms of SLASH feature percolation (see Chapter 14 for the treatment of long-distance dependencies in HPSG). Specifically, CCG analyzes extraction dependencies via a chain of function composition, as illustrated by the derivation for (20) in (21).

- (20) This is the book that John thought that Mary read \_\_\_\_.

---

<sup>8</sup>There is actually a subtle point about Type Raising rules. Recent versions of CCG (Steedman 2012) do not take them to be syntactic rules but rather assume that Type Raising is an operation in the lexicon. This choice seems to be motivated by parsing considerations (so as to eliminate as many unary rules as possible from the syntax). It is also worth noting in this connection that the CCG-based syntactic fragment that Jacobson (1999; 2000) assumes for her Variable-Free Semantics is actually a quite different system from Steedman's version of CCG in that it crucially assumes Geach rules, another type of unary rules likely to have similar computational consequences as Type-Raising rules, in the syntactic component.

(21)



Like (many versions of) HPSG, CCG does not assume any empty expression at the gap site. Instead, the information that the subexpressions (constituting extraction pathway) such as *Mary read* and *thought that Mary read* are missing an NP on the right edge is encoded in the syntactic category of the linguistic expression. *Mary read* is assigned the type S/NP since it is a sentence missing an NP on its right edge. *thought that Mary read* is of type VP/NP since it is a VP missing an NP on its right edge, etc. Expressions that are not originally functions (such as the subject NPs in the higher and lower clauses inside the relative clause in (20)) are first type-raised. Then, function composition effectively ‘delays’ the saturation of the object NP argument of the embedded verb, until the whole relative clause meets the relative pronoun, which itself is a higher-order function that takes a sentence missing an NP (of type S/NP) as an argument.

The successive passing of the /NP specification to larger structures is essentially analogous to the treatment of extraction via the SLASH feature in HPSG. However, unlike HPSG, which has a dedicated feature that handles this information passing, CCG achieves the effect via the ordinary slash that is also used for local syntactic composition.<sup>9</sup>

This difference immediately raises some issues for the CCG analysis of extraction. First, in (20), the NP gap happens to be on the right edge of the sentence, but this is not always the case. Harmonic function composition alone cannot handle non-peripheral extraction of the sort found in examples such as the following:

<sup>9</sup>There are several complications that arise in the CCG analysis because of this architectural difference, which I discuss immediately below. But one interesting consequence of the CCG approach is that the quite complex set of specifications of SLASH feature percolation (including the *termination* of percolation) are all unnecessary in CCG.

- (22) This is the book that John thought that [Mary read \_\_ at school].

Assuming that *at school* is a VP modifier of type  $(NP \setminus S) \backslash (NP \setminus S)$ , what is needed here is a mechanism that assigns the type  $VP / NP$  to the string *read \_\_ at school*, despite the fact that the missing NP is not on the right edge. CCG employs a special rule of ‘crossed’ function composition for this purpose, defined as follows:

- (23) Crossed Function Composition

$$\frac{a; \mathcal{G}; A/B \quad b; \mathcal{F}; A \setminus C}{a \circ b; \lambda x. \mathcal{F}(\mathcal{G}(x)); C/B} \text{ xFC}$$

Unlike its harmonic counterpart (in which  $a$  has the type  $B \setminus A$ ), in (23) the directionality of the slash is different in the two premises, and the resultant category inherits the slash originally associated with the inherited argument (i.e.  $/B$ ).

Once this non-order-preserving version of function composition is introduced in the grammar, the derivation for (22) is straightforward, as in (24):

$$(24) \quad \begin{array}{c} \text{mary; m; NP} \\ \text{mary;} \quad \text{read;} \quad \text{at o school;} \\ \lambda P.P(m); \quad \text{read; } (NP \setminus S) / NP \quad \text{at-school; } (NP \setminus S) \backslash (NP \setminus S) \\ S / (NP \setminus S) \quad \text{read o at o school; } \lambda x. \text{at-school(read(x))}; (NP \setminus S) / NP \\ \hline \text{mary o read o at o school; } \lambda x. \text{at-school(read(x))}(m); S / NP \end{array} \text{ xFC} \quad \text{FC}$$

Unless appropriately constrained, the addition of the crossed composition rule leads to potential overgeneration, since non-extracted expressions cannot change word order so freely in English. For example, without additional restrictions, the simple CCG fragment above overgenerates examples such as the following:

- (25) \*Mary read at school it.

Here, I will not go into the technical details of how this issue is addressed in the CCG literature.<sup>10</sup> In contemporary versions of CCG, the application of special rules such as crossed composition in (23) is regulated by the notion of ‘structural control’ borrowed into CCG from the ‘multi-modal’ variant of TLCG (see Baldridge (2002) and Steedman & Baldridge (2011)).

Another issue that arises in connection to extraction is how to treat multiple gaps corresponding to a single filler. The simple fragment developed above cannot license examples involving PARASITIC GAPS such as the following:<sup>11</sup>

<sup>10</sup>The word order in (25) is of course fine in examples instantiating Heavy NP Shift.

<sup>11</sup>Multiple gaps in coordination (i.e. ATB extraction) is not an issue, since these cases can be handled straightforwardly via the polymorphic definition of generalized conjunction in CCG, in just the same way that unsaturated shared arguments in each conjunct are identified with one another.

- (26) a. This is the article that I filed \_\_ without reading \_\_.  
 b. Peter is a guy who even the best friends of \_\_ think \_\_ should be closely watched.

Since neither type raising nor function composition changes the number of ‘gaps’ passed on to a larger expression, we need a new mechanism here. Steedman (1987) proposes the following rule to deal with this issue:

- (27) Substitution

$$\frac{a; \mathcal{G}; A/B \quad b; \mathcal{F}; (A \setminus C)/B}{a \circ b; \lambda x. \mathcal{F}(x)(\mathcal{G}(x)); C/B} S$$

This rule has the effect of ‘collapsing’ the arguments of the two inputs into one, to be saturated by a single filler. The derivation for the adjunct parasitic gap example in (26a) then goes as follows (where VP is an abbreviation for NP\|S):

$$(28) \quad \frac{\begin{array}{c} \text{without;} \\ \textbf{wo;} (VP \setminus VP)/VP \\ \hline \text{file;} \\ \textbf{file;} VP/NP \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c} \text{reading;} \\ \textbf{read;} VP/NP \\ \hline \text{FC} \end{array}}{\begin{array}{c} \text{without } \circ \text{ reading;} \\ \lambda x. \textbf{wo}(\textbf{read}(x)); (VP \setminus VP)/NP \\ \hline S \end{array}} \quad \frac{\begin{array}{c} \text{without } \circ \text{ reading;} \\ \lambda x. \textbf{wo}(\textbf{read}(x))(\textbf{file}(x)); VP/NP \\ \hline \end{array}}{\begin{array}{c} \text{filed } \circ \text{ without } \circ \text{ reading;} \\ \lambda x. \textbf{wo}(\textbf{read}(x))(\textbf{file}(x)); VP/NP \\ \hline \end{array}}$$

Like the crossed composition rule, the availability of the substitution rule should be restricted to extraction environments. In earlier versions of CCG, this was done by a stipulation on the rule itself. Baldridge (2002) proposed an improvement of the organization of the CCG rule system in which the applicability of particular rules is governed by lexically specified ‘modality’ encodings. See Steedman & Baldridge (2011) for this relatively recent development in CCG.

## 2.5 Type-Logical Categorial Grammar

The ‘rule-based’ nature of CCG should be clear from the above exposition. TLCG takes a somewhat different perspective on the underlying architecture of the grammar of natural language. Specifically, in TLCG, the rule system of grammar is literally taken to be a kind of logic. Consequently, all (or almost all) grammar rules are logical inference rules reflecting the properties of (typically a small number of) logical connectives such as / and \ (which are, as noted in section 2.2, viewed as directional variants of implication). This conceptual shift can be best illustrated by first replacing the ABC grammar introduced in section 2.4.1

by the LAMBEK CALCULUS, where all the rules posited as primitive rules in the former are derived as *theorems* (in the technical sense of the term) in the latter.

Before moving on, I should hasten to note that the TLCG literature is more varied than the CCG literature, consisting of several related but distinct lines of research. I choose to present one particular variant called Hybrid Type-Logical Categorial Grammar (Kubota & Levine 2020) in what follows, in line with the present chapter’s linguistic emphasis (for a more in-depth discussion on the linguistic application of TLCG, see Carpenter (1998) and Kubota & Levine (2020)). A brief comparison with major alternatives is offered in section 2.5.3. Other variants of TLCG, most notably, the CATEGORIAL TYPE LOGICS (Moortgat 2011) and DISPLACEMENT CALCULUS (Morrill 2010) emphasize the logical and computational aspects. Moot & Retoré (2012) is a good introduction to TLCG with emphasis on these latter aspects.

### 2.5.1 The Lambek calculus

In addition to the Slash Elimination rules (reproduced here as (29)), which are identical to the two rules in the AB grammar from section 2.2, the Lambek calculus posits the SLASH INTRODUCTION rules, which can be written in the current labelled deduction format as in (30).<sup>12</sup>

- (29) a. FORWARD SLASH ELIMINATION      b. BACKWARD SLASH ELIMINATION

$$\frac{a; \mathcal{F}; A/B \quad b; \mathcal{G}; B}{a \circ b; \mathcal{F}(\mathcal{G}); A} /E \qquad \frac{b; \mathcal{G}; B \quad a; \mathcal{F}; B \setminus A}{b \circ a; \mathcal{F}(\mathcal{G}); A} \setminus E$$

- (30) a. FORWARD SLASH INTRODUCTION ■ b. BACKWARD SLASH INTRODUCTION ■

$$\frac{\begin{array}{c} \vdots \quad [\varphi; x; A]^n \quad \vdots \\ \vdots \quad \vdots \quad \vdots \\ b \circ \varphi; \mathcal{F}; B \end{array}}{b; \lambda x. \mathcal{F}; B/A} /I^n \qquad \frac{\begin{array}{c} \vdots \quad [\varphi; x; A]^n \quad \vdots \\ \vdots \quad \vdots \quad \vdots \\ \varphi \circ b; \mathcal{F}; B \end{array}}{b; \lambda x. \mathcal{F}; A \setminus B} \setminus I^n$$

I illustrate the workings of these rules in some examples first and then come back to some formal and notational issues. One consequence that immediately follows is that Type Raising and Function Composition (as well as other theorems; see, e.g., Jäger (2005: sec 2.2.5, pp. 46–)) are now derivable as theorems. As an illustration, the proofs for (14a) and (13a) are shown in (31) and (32), respectively.

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<sup>12</sup>Morrill (1994) was the first to recast the Lambek calculus in this labelled deduction format.

$$(31) \quad \frac{[\varphi; v; A \setminus B]^1 \quad a; \mathcal{F}; A}{\frac{a \circ \varphi; v(\mathcal{F}); B}{a; \lambda v. v(\mathcal{F}); B / (A \setminus B)}} \setminus E$$

$$(32) \quad \frac{[\varphi; x; C]^1 \quad b; \mathcal{G}; B / C}{\frac{a; \mathcal{F}; A / B \quad b \circ \varphi; \mathcal{G}(x); B}{\frac{a \circ b \circ \varphi; \mathcal{F}(\mathcal{G}(x)); A}{a \circ b; \lambda x. \mathcal{F}(\mathcal{G}(x)); A / C}}} / E$$

These are formal theorems, but they intuitively make sense. For example, what's going on in (32) is simple. We first hypothetically assume the existence of some expression of type  $C$  and combine it with  $B/C$ . This gives us a larger expression of type  $B$ , which then can be fed as an argument to  $A/B$ . At that point, we withdraw the initial hypothesis and conclude that what we really had was just something that would become an  $A$  if there is a  $C$  to its right, namely, an expression of type  $A/C$ . Thus, a sequence of expression of types  $A/B$  and  $B/C$  is proven to be of type  $A/C$ . This type of proof is known as HYPOTHETICAL REASONING, since it involves a step of positing a hypothesis initially and withdrawing that hypothesis at a later point.

Getting back to some notational issues, there are two crucial things to keep in mind about the notational convention adopted here (which I implicitly assumed above). First, the connective  $\circ$  in the prosodic component designates string concatenation and is associative in both directions (i.e.  $(\varphi_1 \circ \varphi_2) \circ \varphi_3 \equiv \varphi_1 \circ (\varphi_2 \circ \varphi_3)$ ). In other words, hierarchical structure is irrelevant for the prosodic representation. Thus, the applicability condition on the Forward Slash Introduction rule (30a) is simply that the prosodic variable  $\varphi$  of the hypothesis appear as the rightmost element of the string prosody of the input expression (i.e.  $b \circ \varphi$ ). Since the penultimate step in (32) satisfies this condition, the rule is applicable here. Second, note in this connection that the application of the Introduction rules is conditioned on the position of the prosodic variable, and *not* on the position of the hypothesis itself in the proof tree (this latter convention is more standardly adopted when the Lambek calculus is presented in Prawitz-style natural deduction, though the two presentations are equivalent—see, e.g., Carpenter (1998) and Jäger (2005)).

Hypothetical reasoning with Slash Introduction makes it possible to recast the CCG analysis of nonconstituent coordination from section 2.4.1 within the logic of  $/$  and  $\setminus$ . This reformulation fully retains the essential analytic ideas of the original CCG analysis but makes the underlying ‘logic’ of syntactic composition more transparent.

The following derivation illustrates how the ‘reanalysis’ of the string *Bill the book* as a derived constituent of type  $(VP / NP / NP) \setminus VP$  (the same type as in (19)) can be obtained in the Lambek calculus:

$$(33) \quad \frac{[\varphi; f; VP/NP/NP]^1 \quad bill; b; NP}{\varphi \circ bill; f(b); VP/NP} /E \quad \frac{\text{the } \circ \text{ book}; \iota(bk); NP}{\varphi \circ bill \circ \text{the } \circ \text{ book}; f(b)(\iota(bk)); VP} /E \\ \frac{}{bill \circ \text{the } \circ \text{ book}; \lambda f. f(b)(\iota(bk)); (VP/NP/NP)\backslash VP} \backslash I^1$$

At this point, one may wonder what the relationship is between the analysis of nonconstituent coordination via Type Raising and Function Composition in the ABC grammar in section 2.4.1 and the hypothetical reasoning-based analysis in the Lambek calculus just presented. Intuitively, they seem to achieve the same effect in slightly different ways. The logic-based perspective of TLCG allows us to obtain a deeper understanding of the relationship between them. To facilitate comparison, I first recast the Type Raising + Function Composition analysis from section 2.4.1 in the Lambek calculus. The relevant part is the part that derives the ‘noncanonical constituent’ *Bill the book*:

$$(34) \quad \frac{[\varphi_2; P; DTV]^2 \quad bill; b; NP}{\varphi_2 \circ bill; P(b); TV} /E \quad \frac{[\varphi_1; Q; TV]^1 \quad \text{the } \circ \text{ book}; \iota(bk); NP}{\varphi_1 \circ \text{the } \circ \text{ book}; Q(\iota(bk)); VP} /E \\ \frac{[\varphi_3; R; DTV]^3 \quad bill; \lambda P. P(b); DTV \backslash TV}{\varphi_3 \circ bill; R(b); TV} \backslash E \quad \frac{\text{the } \circ \text{ book}; \lambda Q. Q(\iota(bk)); TV \backslash VP}{\text{the } \circ \text{ book}; \lambda Q. Q(\iota(bk)); TV \backslash VP} \backslash I^1 \\ \frac{}{bill \circ \text{the } \circ \text{ book}; \lambda R. R(b)(\iota(bk)); DTV \backslash VP} \backslash I^3$$

By comparing (34) and (33), we see that (34) contains some redundant steps. First, hypothesis 2 is introduced only to be replaced by hypothesis 3. This is completely redundant since we could have obtained exactly the same result by directly combining hypothesis 3 with the NP *Bill*. Similarly, hypothesis 1 can be eliminated by replacing it with the TV  $\varphi_3 \circ \text{book}$  on the left-hand side of the third line from the bottom. By making these two simplifications, we obtain the derivation in (33).

The relationship between the more complex proof in (34) and the simpler one in (33) is parallel to the relationship between an unreduced lambda term (such as  $\lambda R[\lambda Q[Q(\iota(bk))](\lambda P[P(b)](R))]$ ) and its  $\beta$ -normal form (i.e.  $\lambda R.R(b)(\iota(bk))$ ). In fact, there is a formally precise one-to-one relationship between linear logic (of which the Lambek calculus is known to be a straightforward extension) and the typed lambda calculus known as the Curry–Howard Isomorphism (Howard 1969), according to which the lambda term that represents the proof (34)  $\beta$ -reduces to the term that represents the proof (33).<sup>13</sup> Technically, this is known as PROOF

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<sup>13</sup>There is a close relationship between these lambda terms representing proofs and the lambda terms that we write to notate semantic translations, especially if we write the latter at each step of derivation *without* performing  $\beta$ -reduction. But it is important to keep in mind that

NORMALIZATION (Jäger (2005) contains a particularly useful discussion on this notion).

Thus, the logic-based architecture of the Lambek calculus (and various versions of TLCG, which are all extensions of the Lambek calculus) enables us to say, in a technically precise way, how (34) and (33) are the ‘same’ (or, more precisely, equivalent), by building on independently established results in mathematical logic and computer science. This is one big advantage of taking seriously the view, advocated by the TLCG research, that ‘language *is* logic’.

### 2.5.2 Extending the Lambek calculus

Hypothetical reasoning is a very powerful (yet systematic) tool, but with forward and backward slashes, it is only good for analyzing expressions missing some material at the (right or left) periphery. This is problematic in the analyses of many linguistic phenomena, such as *wh*-extraction (where the ‘gap’ can be in a sentence-medial position—recall the discussion about crossed composition rules in CCG in section 2.4.2) and quantifier scope (where the quantifier needs to ‘covertly’ move from a sentence-medial position), as well as various kinds of discontinuous constituency phenomena (see for example Morrill et al. (2011), which contains analyses of various types of discontinuous constituency phenomena in a recent version of TLCG known as ‘Displacement Calculus’). In what follows, I sketch one particular, relatively recent approach to this problem, known as HYBRID TYPE-LOGICAL CATEGORIAL GRAMMAR (Hybrid TLCG; Kubota 2010; 2015; Kubota & Levine 2015; 2020). This approach combines the Lambek calculus with Oehrle’s (1994) term-labelled calculus, which deals with discontinuity by employing  $\lambda$ -binding in the prosodic component.

Hybrid TLCG extends the Lambek calculus with the Elimination and Introduction rules for the VERTICAL SLASH:

$$(35) \quad \text{a. VERTICAL SLASH INTRODUCTION} \quad \frac{\vdots \quad [\varphi; x; A]^n \quad \vdots}{\vdots \quad \vdots \quad \vdots} \quad \text{b. VERTICAL SLASH ELIMINATION} \quad \frac{a; \mathcal{F}; A \upharpoonright B \quad b; \mathcal{G}; B}{a(b); \mathcal{F}(\mathcal{G}); A} \upharpoonright E$$

$$\frac{b; \mathcal{F}; B}{\lambda \varphi. b; \lambda x. \mathcal{F}; B \upharpoonright A} \upharpoonright^n$$

These rules allow us to model what (roughly) corresponds to syntactic movement

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lambda terms representing syntactic proofs and lambda terms notating semantic translations are distinct things.

operations in derivational frameworks. This is illustrated in (36) for the  $\forall > \exists$  reading for the sentence *Someone talked to everyone today*:

(36)

A quantifier has the ordinary GQ meaning ( $\exists_{\text{person}}$  and  $\forall_{\text{person}}$  abbreviate the terms  $\lambda P. \exists x[\text{person}(x) \wedge P(x)]$  and  $\lambda P. \forall x[\text{person}(x) \rightarrow P(x)]$ , respectively), but its phonology is a function of type  $(\mathbf{st} \rightarrow \mathbf{st}) \rightarrow \mathbf{st}$  (where  $\mathbf{st}$  is the type of strings). By abstracting over the position in which the quantifier ‘lowers into’ in an S via the Vertical Slash Introduction rule (35a), we can obtain an expression of type  $S \upharpoonright NP$  (phonologically  $\mathbf{st} \rightarrow \mathbf{st}$ ) (①), which can be given as an argument to the quantifier. Then, by function application via  $\upharpoonright E$  (②), the subject quantifier *someone* semantically scopes over the sentence and lowers its phonology to the ‘gap’ position kept track of by  $\lambda$ -binding in phonology (note that this result obtains by function application and beta-reduction of the prosodic term). The same process takes place for the object quantifier *everyone* to complete the derivation. The scopal relation between multiple quantifiers depends on the order of application of this hypothetical reasoning. The surface scope reading is obtained by switching the order of the hypothetical reasoning for the two quantifiers (which results in the same string of words, but with the opposite scope relation).

This formalization of quantifying-in by Oehrle (1994) has later been extended by Barker (2007) for more complex types of scope-taking phenomena known as PARASITIC SCOPE in the analysis of symmetrical predicates (such as *same* and

*different).*<sup>14</sup> Empirical application of parasitic scope include ‘respective’ readings (Kubota & Levine 2016b), ‘split scope’ of negative quantifiers (Kubota & Levine 2016a) and modified numerals such as *exactly N* (Pollard 2014).

Hypothetical reasoning with prosodic  $\lambda$ -binding enables a simple analysis of *wh* extraction too, as originally noted by Muskens (2003). The key idea is that sentences with medial gaps can be analyzed as expressions of type  $S \upharpoonright NP$ , as in the derivation for (37) in (38).

- (37) Bagels<sub>i</sub>, Kim gave  $t_i$  to Chris.

- (38)

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \text{gave;} \quad \left[ \begin{array}{l} \varphi; \\ x; \\ NP \end{array} \right]^1 \\
 \text{gave;} \\
 \text{VP/PP/NP} \\
 \hline
 \text{kim;} \quad \frac{\text{gave } \circ \varphi; \text{ gave}(x); \text{ VP/PP}}{\text{gave } \circ \varphi \circ \text{ to } \circ \text{ chris}; \text{ gave}(x)(c); \text{ VP}} /E \\
 \text{k; NP} \quad \hline
 \text{kim } \circ \text{ gave } \circ \varphi \circ \text{ to } \circ \text{ chris}; \text{ gave}(x)(c)(k); S \backslash E \\
 \hline
 \lambda \sigma \lambda \varphi. \varphi \circ \sigma(\epsilon); \quad \text{①} \quad \frac{\lambda \varphi. \text{ kim } \circ \text{ gave } \circ \varphi \circ \text{ to } \circ \text{ chris}; \text{ gave}(x)(c)(k); S \backslash I^1}{\lambda x. \text{ gave}(x)(c)(k); S \upharpoonright NP} \backslash I^1 \\
 \lambda \mathcal{F}. \mathcal{F}; \\
 (S \upharpoonright X) \upharpoonright (S \upharpoonright X) \quad \hline
 \text{bagels; } \quad \text{②} \quad \frac{\lambda \varphi. \varphi \circ \text{ kim } \circ \text{ gave } \circ \text{ to } \circ \text{ chris}; \lambda x. \text{ gave}(x)(c)(k); S \upharpoonright NP}{\text{bagels } \circ \text{ kim } \circ \text{ gave } \circ \text{ to } \circ \text{ chris}; \text{ gave}(b)(c)(k); S} /E
 \end{array}$$

Here, after deriving an  $S \upharpoonright NP$ , which keeps track of the gap position via the  $\lambda$ -bound variable  $\varphi$ , the topicalization operator fills in the gap with an empty string and concatenates the topicalized NP to the left of the string thus obtained. This way, the difference between ‘overt’ and ‘covert’ movement reduces to a lexical difference in the prosodic specifications of the operators that induce them. A covert movement operator throws in some material in the gap position, whereas an overt movement operator ‘closes off’ the gap with an empty string.

As illustrated above, hypothetical reasoning for the Lambek slashes / and \ and for the vertical slash ↑ have important empirical motivations, but the real strength of a ‘hybrid’ system like Hybrid TLCG which recognizes both types of slashes is that it extends automatically to cases in which ‘directional’ and ‘non-directional’ phenomena interact. A case in point comes from the interaction of nonconstituent coordination and quantifier scope. Examples such as those in

<sup>14</sup>‘Parasitic scope’ is a notion coined by Barker (2007) where, in transformational terms, some expression takes scope at LF by parasitizing on the scope created by a different scopal operator’s LF movement. In versions of (TL)CG of the sort discussed here, this corresponds to double lambda-abstraction via the order-insensitive slash.

(39) allow for at least a reading in which the shared quantifier outscopes conjunction.<sup>15</sup>

- (39) a. I gave a couple of books to Pat on Monday and to Sandy on Tuesday.  
b. Terry said nothing to Robin on Thursday or to Leslie on Friday.

I now illustrate how this wide scope reading for the quantifier in NCC sentences like (39) is immediately predicted to be available in the fragment developed so far (Hybrid TLCG actually predicts both scopal relations for all NCC sentences; see Kubota & Levine (2015) for how the distributive scope is licensed). The derivation for (39b) is given in (40).

$(40) \quad \frac{[\varphi_1; P; VP/PP/NP]^1 \quad [\varphi_2; x; NP]^2}{\varphi_1 \circ \varphi_2; P(x); VP/PP} /E \quad \text{to o robin};$	$\frac{\varphi_1 \circ \varphi_2 \circ \text{to o robin} \circ \text{on o thursday}; \text{onTh}(P(x)(r)); VP}{\varphi_2 \circ \text{to o robin} \circ \text{on o thursday}; \lambda P. \text{onTh}(P(x)(r)); (VP/PP/NP) \setminus VP} \setminus E$
$\frac{\varphi_1 \circ \varphi_2 \circ \text{to o robin} \circ \text{on o thursday}; \lambda P. \text{onTh}(P(x)(r)); (VP/PP/NP) \setminus VP}{\varphi_2 \circ \text{to o robin} \circ \text{on o thursday}; \lambda x \lambda P. \text{onTh}(P(x)(r)); NP \setminus (VP/PP/NP) \setminus VP} \setminus I^2$	
$\vdots$	
$\text{to o robin o on o thursday}; \lambda x \lambda P. \text{onTh}(P(x)(r)); NP \setminus (VP/PP/NP) \setminus VP$	$\frac{\text{or}; \lambda V \lambda W. W \sqcup V; (X \setminus X) / X}{\text{to o leslie o on o friday}; \lambda x \lambda P. \text{onFr}(P(x)(l)); NP \setminus (VP/PP/NP) \setminus VP} \setminus E$
$\text{to o robin o on o thursday o or o to o leslie o on o friday}; \lambda x \lambda P \lambda z. \text{onTh}(P(x)(r))(z) \vee \text{onFr}(P(x)(l))(z); NP \setminus (VP/PP/NP) \setminus VP$	

<sup>15</sup>Whether the other scopal relation (one in which the quantifier meaning is ‘distributed’ to each conjunct, as in the paraphrase ‘I gave a couple of books to Pat on Monday and I gave a couple of books to Sandy on Tuesday’ for (39)) is possible seems to depend on various factors. With downward-entailing quantifiers such as (39b), this reading seems difficult to obtain without heavy contextualization and appropriate intonational cues. See Kubota & Levine (2015) for some discussion.

$\vdots$ $\frac{\begin{array}{c} \text{to } \circ \text{ robin } \circ \text{ on } \circ \text{ thursday } \circ \\ \text{or } \circ \text{ to } \circ \text{ leslie } \circ \text{ on } \circ \text{ friday}; \\ \lambda x \lambda P \lambda z. \mathbf{onTh}(P(x)(r))(z) \vee \\ \left[ \begin{array}{c} \varphi_3; \\ x; NP \end{array} \right]^3 \mathbf{onFr}(P(x)(l))(z); \\ NP \setminus (VP / PP / NP) \setminus VP \end{array}}{\varphi_3 \circ \text{ to } \circ \text{ robin } \circ \text{ on } \circ \text{ thursday } \circ \\ \text{or } \circ \text{ to } \circ \text{ leslie } \circ \text{ on } \circ \text{ friday}; \\ \lambda P \lambda z. \mathbf{onTh}(P(x)(r))(z) \vee \\ \mathbf{onFr}(P(x)(l))(z); \\ (VP / PP / NP) \setminus VP} \backslash E$
$\frac{\begin{array}{c} \text{said;} \\ \text{said;} \\ VP / NP / PP \end{array}}{\text{said } \circ \varphi_3 \circ \text{ to } \circ \text{ robin } \circ \text{ on } \circ \text{ thursday } \circ \\ \text{or } \circ \text{ to } \circ \text{ leslie } \circ \text{ on } \circ \text{ friday}; \\ \lambda z. \mathbf{onTh}(\mathbf{said}(x)(r))(z) \vee \mathbf{onFr}(\mathbf{said}(x)(l))(z); VP} \backslash E$
$\frac{\begin{array}{c} \text{terry;} \\ t; NP \end{array}}{\text{terry } \circ \text{ said } \circ \varphi_3 \circ \text{ to } \circ \text{ robin } \circ \text{ on } \circ \text{ thursday } \circ \\ \text{or } \circ \text{ to } \circ \text{ leslie } \circ \text{ on } \circ \text{ friday}; \\ \mathbf{onTh}(\mathbf{said}(x)(r))(t) \mathbf{onFr}(\mathbf{said}(x)(l))(t); S} \upharpoonright^3$
$\frac{\begin{array}{c} \lambda \sigma. \sigma(\text{nothing}); \\ \neg \exists \text{thing}; \\ S \upharpoonright (S \upharpoonright NP) \end{array}}{\lambda \varphi_3. \text{terry } \circ \text{ said } \circ \varphi_3 \circ \text{ to } \circ \text{ robin } \circ \text{ on } \circ \text{ thursday } \circ \\ \text{or } \circ \text{ to } \circ \text{ leslie } \circ \text{ on } \circ \text{ friday}; \\ \lambda x. \mathbf{onTh}(\mathbf{said}(x)(r))(t) \vee \mathbf{onFr}(\mathbf{said}(x)(l))(t); S \upharpoonright NP} \upharpoonright^E$
$\frac{\begin{array}{c} \text{terry } \circ \text{ said } \circ \text{ nothing } \circ \text{ to } \circ \text{ robin } \circ \text{ on } \circ \text{ thursday } \circ \text{ or } \circ \text{ to } \circ \text{ leslie } \circ \text{ on } \circ \text{ friday}; \\ \neg \exists \text{thing}(\lambda x. \mathbf{onTh}(\mathbf{said}(x)(r))(t) \vee \mathbf{onFr}(\mathbf{said}(x)(l))(t)); S \end{array}}{} \upharpoonright^3}$

The key point in this derivation is that, via hypothetical reasoning, the string *to Robin on Thursday or to Leslie on Friday* forms a syntactic constituent with a full-fledged meaning assigned to it in the usual way. Then the quantifier takes scope above this whole coordinate structure, yielding the non-distributive, quantifier wide-scope reading.

Licensing the correct scopal relation between the quantifier and conjunction in the analysis of NCC remains a challenging problem in the HPSG literature. See section 4.2.1 for some discussion.

### 2.5.3 Notes on other variants of TLCG

**2.5.3.1 Displacement Calculus and  $NL_\lambda$**  Among different variant of TLCG, Morrill's Displacement Calculus (Morrill et al. 2011; Morrill 2010) and Barker and Shan's continuation-based calculus  $NL_\lambda$  (Barker & Shan 2015) are most closely related to Hybrid TLCG. Roughly speaking, Hybrid TLCG's vertical slash  $\upharpoonright$  plays more or less the same role as the discontinuity connectives  $\uparrow$  and  $\downarrow$  in Displacement Calculus and the 'continuation' slashes  $//$  and  $\backslash\backslash$  in  $NL_\lambda$ . Many empirical analyses of linguistic phenomena formulated in one of these variants of TLCG translate to the other two more or less straightforwardly (for example, the analyses of Gapping and symmetrical predicates in Kubota & Levine (2016a) and Kub-

ota & Levine (2016b) build on Morrill’s and Barker’s analyses of the respective phenomena), though there are some important differences (some of which I point out below).

One major difference between the Displacement Calculus and Hybrid TLCG on the one hand and  $\text{NL}_\lambda$  on the other is that the latter takes NL, namely, the Non-associative Lambek Calculus, as the underlying calculus for the directional slashes / and \. Barker & Shan (2015) briefly comment on this property of their system, alluding to the possibility of controlling flexibility of constituency via the notion of ‘structural control’ (see section 2.5.3.2 below) in Multi-Modal Categorial Type Logics. This certainly is a viable view, but no explicit extension of  $\text{NL}_\lambda$  along these lines currently exists. Morrill’s approach differs from Kubota & Levine’s in certain important ways in the treatment of specific linguistic phenomena. The most substantial disagreement pertains to the treatment of island constraints. Unlike Kubota & Levine, who take (most) island constraints to arise from factors pertaining to on-line language processing, Morrill consistently holds the view that major island constraints are to be treated within the narrow syntax (Morrill 1994; Morrill 2010; 2017). See also a brief discussion about determiner gapping in section 4.2.2 for another point of disagreement.

**2.5.3.2 Multi-Modal Categorial Type Logics** There is a line of work in the TLCG literature most actively investigated back in the 90s and whose core architecture provides the theoretical underpinnings to Barker and Shan’s  $\text{NL}_\lambda$ , called MULTI-MODAL CATEGORIAL TYPE LOGICS (MMCTL) (bernardiphd; Moortgat & Oehrle 1994; Moortgat 2011; Vermaat 2005) (but it should be kept in mind that  $\text{NL}_\lambda$  and MMCTL from the 90s differ from each other considerably in terms of empirical scope and orientation). One crucial difference between Hybrid TLCG and the Displacement Calculus on the one hand and MMCTL on the other is that, instead of recognizing a separate level of prosodic representation, MMCTL deals with various (somewhat heterogeneous) phenomena ranging from morpho-syntactic properties of verb clusters in Dutch cross-serial dependencies (Moortgat & Oehrle 1994) to technical difficulties with the Lambek Calculus in dealing with medial extraction (bernardiphd; Moortgat 2011) (see the discussion in sections 2.4.2 and 2.5.2 above) via the abstract notion of ‘structural control’, building on the technique of mixing different kinds of logic within a single deductive system originally developed in the literature of substructural logic (Restall 2000).

To see this point, it is instructive to take a look at the analysis of medial extraction in MMCTL, illustrated by the following derivation (adapted from bernardiphd) ■

(41)

$\frac{\frac{\frac{(NP \setminus S) / a NP \vdash}{(NP \setminus S) / a NP} \quad [ NP \vdash NP ]^1}{(NP \setminus S) / a NP \circ_a NP \vdash NP \setminus S} /_E \quad (NP \setminus S) \setminus (NP \setminus S) \vdash}{((NP \setminus S) / a NP \circ_a NP) \circ (NP \setminus S) \setminus (NP \setminus S) \vdash NP \setminus S} /_E$
$\frac{NP \circ (((NP \setminus S) / a NP \circ_a NP) \circ (NP \setminus S) \setminus (NP \setminus S)) \vdash S}{NP \circ (((NP \setminus S) / a NP \circ (NP \setminus S) \setminus (NP \setminus S)) \circ_a NP) \vdash S} \text{ Diss}$
$\frac{NP \circ (((NP \setminus S) / a NP \circ (NP \setminus S) \setminus (NP \setminus S))) \circ_a NP \vdash S}{NP \circ ((NP \setminus S) / a NP \circ (NP \setminus S) \setminus (NP \setminus S)) \vdash S / a NP} \text{ MixAssoc}$
$\frac{(N \setminus N) / (S / a NP) \vdash \quad (N \setminus N) / (S / a NP)}{NP \circ ((NP \setminus S) / a NP \circ (NP \setminus S) \setminus (NP \setminus S)) \vdash S / a NP} /_E$
$(N \setminus N) / (S / a NP) \circ ((NP \circ ((NP \setminus S) / a NP \circ (NP \setminus S) \setminus (NP \setminus S))) \circ_a NP) \vdash N \setminus N$

Here, the derivation is written in the sequent style natural deduction (see Chapter 2). A sequent is a construct of the form  $\Gamma \vdash A$  where the consequent  $A$  is a syntactic type and the antecedent  $\Gamma$  is a structured object consisting of possibly multiple syntactic types that are combined with one another via binary connectives (of several sorts). On the leaves of the trees, we find axioms of the form  $A \vdash A$  and the sequent on the final line of the proof tree is obtained by applying the rules of logic (such as the Elimination and Introduction rules similar to the ones we have posited above) and ‘structural rules’, which manipulate the forms of the antecedents of the sequents that are derived.

Intuitively, what is going on in the above derivation is that an object NP that is hypothesized on the right of a transitive verb is ‘moved’ to the right edge via the structural rule of Mixed Associativity in the structured antecedent on the third line from the bottom. This licenses the /<sub>a</sub>I rule, withdrawing the hypothesis to create the S/<sub>a</sub>NP category that is suitable as an argument to the relative pronoun. After lexical substitution, the derivation in (41) embodies, for example, a formal proof for the fact that the string ‘which Sara wrote \_\_ there’ is a well-formed relative clause in English containing a medial gap.

There are a couple of important points of difference between MMCTL and other variants of TLCG that should already be clear from this rather cursory exposition. First, the analysis of extraction via structure rewriting operations in the abstract substructural component of the type logic is very different from the prosodic  $\lambda$  abstraction analysis presented above, due originally to Muskens (2003) and incorporated in many contemporary variants of TLCG (such as Hybrid TLCG and Pollard’s Linear Categorial Grammar (Mihaliček & Pollard 2012; Pollard 2013)). Second, the exact ontological status of this ‘multi-modal’ substructural component is somewhat unclear. As noted above, the structure-changing operations have been put to use not only for extraction in English but also for dealing with complex morpho-syntactic phenomena such as verb clustering in Dutch cross-serial dependencies (Moortgat & Oehrle 1994) and clitic pronouns in French (Kraak 1998). All this is done, not in a separate prosodic component, but

inside a complex logic of syntactic types, where these syntactic types are taken as primitives that enter into binary composition operations of various sorts having different combinatorial possibilities. The different ontological assumptions in different variants of contemporary TLCG may have to do with the different research goals and research practices. When the emphasis is on linguistic application, a clear separation of ontologically distinct components is an important requirement, but when the emphasis is on studying the meta-logical properties of the formal calculus, building directly on the rich literature of substructural logic and formalizing the type logic for natural language syntax literally *as* a substructural logic may be a natural choice.

**2.5.3.3 Linear Categorial Grammar** There is a family of related approaches in the TLCG tradition (Oehrle 1994; de Groote 2001; Muskens 2003; Mihaliček & Pollard 2012; Pollard 2013) that are distinctly different from the variants of TLCG discussed above in *not* recognizing the directional slashes of the Lambek calculus as primitive logical connectives. I call this family of approaches LINEAR CATEGORIAL GRAMMAR (LCG) in what follows.<sup>16</sup>

LCG is essentially a subsystem of Hybrid TLCG without the rules for the directional slashes. The original conceptual motivation for this architecture is similar to the motivation for linearization-based HPSG—the idea, originally due to Curry (1961), that separating the combinatoric component of grammar and surface word order realization leads to a cleaner theoretical architecture. To get a flavor of LCG, an analysis of extraction from section 2.5.2 can be reformulated in an LCG fragment as follows:

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<sup>16</sup> Among these variants, ABSTRACT CATEGORIAL GRAMMAR (ACG) has mostly been studied in the formal grammar literature as a meta-framework for embedding different types of linguistic theories (rather than as a linguistic theory by itself), despite the fact that de Groote (2001), the very first paper that advocates it, motivated it by pointing out some empirical issues with standard variants of TLCG. For a highly readable and interesting recent work on using ACG as a meta-framework for embedding Tree Adjoining Grammar, see Pogodalla (2017).

$$\begin{array}{c}
 (42) \quad \lambda\varphi_1\lambda\varphi_2\lambda\varphi_3. \\
 \frac{\varphi_3 \circ \text{gave} \circ \varphi_1 \circ \varphi_2; \quad \left[ \begin{array}{c} \varphi; \\ x; \\ \text{NP} \end{array} \right]^1}{\text{gave}; \quad S \upharpoonright \text{NP} \upharpoonright \text{PP} \upharpoonright \text{NP}} \upharpoonright \text{E} \\
 \frac{\text{kim}; \quad \lambda\varphi_2\lambda\varphi_3.\varphi_3 \circ \text{gave} \circ \varphi \circ \varphi_2; \quad \text{to} \circ \text{chris};}{\text{k}; \quad \text{gave}(x); S \upharpoonright \text{NP} \upharpoonright \text{PP} \quad \text{c}; \text{PP}} \upharpoonright \text{E} \\
 \frac{\text{NP} \quad \lambda\varphi_3.\varphi_3 \circ \text{gave} \circ \varphi \circ \text{to} \circ \text{chris}; \quad \text{gave}(x)(\text{c}); S \upharpoonright \text{NP}}{\lambda\varphi_3. \text{kim} \circ \text{gave} \circ \varphi \circ \text{to} \circ \text{chris}; \quad \text{gave}(x)(\text{c})(\text{k}); S} \upharpoonright \text{E} \\
 \frac{\lambda\varphi.\text{kim} \circ \text{gave} \circ \varphi \circ \text{to} \circ \text{chris}; \quad \lambda x.\text{gave}(x)(\text{c})(\text{k}); S \upharpoonright \text{NP}}{\lambda\varphi.\varphi \circ \text{kim} \circ \text{gave} \circ \varphi \circ \text{to} \circ \text{chris}; \quad \lambda x.\text{gave}(x)(\text{c})(\text{k}); S \upharpoonright \text{NP}} \upharpoonright \text{E} \\
 \frac{\text{bagels}; \quad \lambda\varphi.\varphi \circ \text{kim} \circ \text{gave} \circ \varphi \circ \text{to} \circ \text{chris}; \quad \lambda x.\text{gave}(x)(\text{c})(\text{k}); S \upharpoonright \text{NP}}{\text{b}; \text{NP} \quad \text{bagels} \circ \text{kim} \circ \text{gave} \circ \varphi \circ \text{to} \circ \text{chris}; \quad \text{gave}(\text{b})(\text{c})(\text{k}); S} \upharpoonright \text{E}
 \end{array}$$

The key difference from the Hybrid TLCG derivation above in (38) is that here the syntactic categories of linguistic expressions do not specify word order. Note in particular that the ditransitive verb *gave* is syntactically of type  $S \upharpoonright \text{NP} \upharpoonright \text{PP} \upharpoonright \text{NP}$ , and specifies the order of the arguments relative to the verb itself in the prosodic representation, which is formally a function of type **st→st→st→st**.

While the clear separation of the underlying combinatorics and surface word order is certainly appealing, the conceptual elegance comes at some nontrivial empirical cost. Specifically, the simple analysis of NCC as constituent coordination discussed in section 2.4.1, which is the hallmark of many variants of CG, does not straightforwardly carry over to this setup. This issue was already anticipated by Muskens (2001), and is discussed in detail in Kubota & Levine (2015). To see what's at issue, note that the distinction between  $S/\text{NP}$  and  $\text{NP}\backslash S$ , which is crucial for distinguishing well-formed RNR sentence and ungrammatical strings in the CCG/Lambek calculus analysis of RNR is lost in LCG, since the two will be collapsed into the same type  $S \upharpoonright \text{NP}$ . But then, neither the syntactic type nor the prosodic type (which is uniformly **st→st**) of the conjuncts provides enough information to determine conjoinability.

Worth (2016) presents the most comprehensive treatment of coordination in LCG addressing this problem (see also Kanazawa (2015)). The core idea of his proposal is to encode word order information via fine-grained subtypes of the prosodic types of linguistic expressions. Whether this extension of LCG offers the same (or better) empirical coverage as more traditional variants of TLCG (including Hybrid TLCG) is currently an open question.

### 3 Architectural similarities and differences

#### 3.1 Broad architecture

One important property common to HPSG and CG is that they are both ‘lexicalist’ theories of syntax in the broader sense.<sup>17</sup> This is partly due to an explicit choice made at an early stage of the development of HPSG to encode valence information in the syntactic categories of linguistic expressions, following CG (see Chapters 2 and ??).<sup>18</sup> The two theories share many similarities in the analyses of specific linguistic phenomena due to this basic architectural similarity. For example, many phenomena that are treated by means of A movement operations (or via empty categories) in mainstream syntax, such as passivization, raising/control in English and ‘complex predicate’ phenomena in a typologically broad range of languages are generally treated by the sharing of valence information in the lexicon in these theories. For HPSG analyses of these phenomena, see Chapters 9, 12 and 13. Steedman & Baldridge (2011) contains a good summary of CG analyses of local dependencies (passivization, raising/control). Kubota (2014) contains a comparison of HPSG and CG analyses of complex predicates. The heavy reliance on ‘lexicalist’ analyses of local dependencies is perhaps the most important property that is shared in common in HPSG and various versions of CG.

But emphasizing this commonality too much may be a bit misleading, since the valence features of HPSG and the slash connectives in CG have very different ontological statuses in the respective theories. The valence features in HPSG are primarily specifications, closely tied to the specific phrase structure rules, that dictate the ways in which hierarchical representations are built. To be sure, the lexical specifications of the valence information play a key role in the movement-free analyses of local dependencies along the lines noted above, but still, there is

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<sup>17</sup>I say ‘broader sense’ here since not all variants of either HPSG or CG subscribe to the so-called ‘lexical integrity hypothesis’ (see Chapter ??), which says that syntax and morphology are distinct components of grammar. For example, the treatments of verb clustering in Dutch by Moortgat & Oehrle (1994) and in Japanese by Kubota (2014) seem to go against the tenet of the lexical integrity hypothesis. See also Chapter ?? for some discussion on lexicalism.

<sup>18</sup>This point is explicitly noted by the original founders of HPSG in the following passage in Pollard & Sag (1987: 11):

A third principle of universal grammar posited by HPSG, the Subcategorization Principle, is essentially a generalization of the ‘argument cancellation’ employed in categorial grammar

a rather tight connection between these valence specifications originating in the lexicon and the ways in which they are ‘cancelled’ in specific phrase structure rules.

Things are quite different in CG, especially in TLCG. As discussed in section 2, TLCG views the grammar of natural language *not* as a structure-building system, but as a logical deductive system. The two slashes / and \ are thus not ‘features’ that encode the subcategorization properties of words in the lexicon, but have a much more general and fundamental role within the basic architecture of grammar in TLCG. These connectives are literally implicational connectives within a logical calculus. Thus, in TLCG, ‘derived’ rules such as type-raising and function composition are *theorems*, in just the same way that the transitivity inference is a theorem in classical propositional logic. Note that this is not just a matter of high-level conceptual organization of the theory, since, as discussed in section 2, the ability to assign ‘constituent’ statuses to non-canonical constituents in the CG analyses of NCC directly exploits this property of the underlying calculus. The straightforward mapping from syntax to semantics discussed in section 2.3 is also a direct consequence of adopting this ‘derivation as proof’ perspective on syntax, building on the results of Curry-Howard correspondence (Howard 1969) in setting up the syntax-semantics interface.<sup>19</sup>

Another notable difference between (especially a recent variant of) HPSG and CG is that CG currently lacks a detailed theory of ‘constructions’, that is, patterns and (sub)regularities that are exhibited by linguistic expressions that cannot (at least according to the proponents of ‘constructionist’ approaches) be lexicalized easily. As discussed in Chapter 36, recent Sign-Based Construction Grammar (SBCG) variants of HPSG (Sag et al. 2012) incorporate ideas from Construction Grammar (Goldberg 1995) and capture such generalizations via a set of constructional templates (or schemata), which are essentially a family of related phrase structure rules that are organized in a type inheritance hierarchy.

Such an architecture seems nearly impossible to implement literally in CG, except via empty operators or lexical operations corresponding to each such constructional schema. In particular, in TLCG, syntactic rules are logical inference rules, so, if we strictly adhere to its slogan ‘language is logic’, there is no option to freely add syntactic rules in the deductive system. However, the crucial tenet of Construction Grammar in its strongest form, namely, the claim that the

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<sup>19</sup> Although CCG does not embody the idea of ‘derivation as proof’ as explicitly as TLCG does, it remains true to a large extent that the role of the slash connective within the overall theory is different from that of the valence features in HPSG, given that CCG and TLCG share many key ideas in the analyses of actual empirical phenomena.

grammar of natural language robustly exhibits patterns that cannot be perspicuously captured within the lexicon, seems still highly controversial even within the HPSG literature. Thus, if the relevant generalizations can all be lexicalized, along the lines suggested by Müller & Wechsler (2014) (see also Chapter 36 and Steedman & Baldridge (2011), the latter of which briefly discusses ways in which some of the empirical generalizations that Goldberg (1995) adduces to the notion of constructions can be lexicalized within CCG), then it may not pose any fundamental problem for the strongly lexicalist architecture of CG. That being said, the so-called ‘peripheral’ phenomena is largely an uncharted territory in CG research waiting for serious attention in future research.

### 3.2 Syntax-semantics interface

As should be clear from the exposition in section 2, both CCG and TLCG (at least in the simplest form) adopt a very rigid, one-to-one correspondence between syntax and semantics. Steedman’s work on CCG has demonstrated that this simple and systematic mapping between syntax and semantics enables attractive analyses of a number of empirical phenomena at the syntax-semantics interface, including some notorious problems such as the scope parallelism issue in right-node raising known as the Geach paradigm (*Every boy loves, and every girl detests, some saxophonist*; Geach (1970)). Other important work on issues at the syntax-semantics interface includes Jacobson’s (1999; 2000) work on pronominal anaphora in Variable-Free Semantics (covering a wide range of phenomena including the paycheck/Bach-Peters paradigms and binding parallelism in right-node raising), Barker & Shan’s (2015) work on ‘continuation-based’ semantics (weak crossover, superiority effects and ‘parasitic scope’ treatments of symmetrical predicates and sluicing) and Kubota and Levine’s (2015; 2017; 2020) Hybrid TLCG, dealing with interactions between coordination, ellipsis and scopal phenomena.

As discussed in Chapter ??, recent HPSG work on complex empirical phenomena at the syntax-semantics interface makes heavy use of underspecification. For example, major analyses of nonconstituent coordination in recent HPSG use some version of underspecification framework to deal with complex interactions between coordination and scopal operators. (Yatabe 2001; Beavers & Sag 2004; Park et al. 2019; Yatabe & Tam 2019). In a sense, HPSG retains a rigid phrase structure-based syntax (modulo the flexibility entertained with the use of the linearization-based architecture) and deals with the complex mapping to semantics via the use of underspecification languages in the semantic component (such as Minimal Recursion Semantics (Copestake et al. 2005) and Lexical Resources Se-

mantics (Richter & Sailer 2004)). CG, on the other hand, sticks to a tight mapping from syntax to semantics, but makes the syntactic component itself flexible.<sup>20</sup>

### 3.3 Morpho-syntax and word order

While there is relatively less detailed work on morphology and morpho-syntax interface in CG as compared to HPSG, there are several ideas that have been entertained in the CG literature that have either influenced some HPSG work or which are closely related to a certain line of work in the HPSG literature. I review some of these in this section.

#### 3.3.1 Linearization-based HPSG and the phenogrammar/tectogrammar distinction in CG

The idea of separating surface word order and the underlying combinatorics, embodied in the so-called LINEARIZATION-BASED version of HPSG (Reape 1994; Kathol 2000; cf. Chapter 10), has its origin in the work by the logician Haskell Curry (Curry 1961), in which he proposed the distinction between PHENOGRAMMAR (the component pertaining to surface word order) and TECTOGRAMMAR (underlying combinatorics). This same idea has influenced a certain line of work in the CG literature too (the most recent incarnation of which is the family of approaches identified as ‘Linear Categorial Grammar’ in section 2.5.3.3). Important early work was done by Dowty (1982a; 1996b) in a variant of CG which is essentially an AB grammar with ‘syncategoremmatic’ rules that directly manipulate string representations, of the sort utilized in Montague Grammar, for dealing with various sorts of discontinuous constituency.<sup>21</sup>

Dowty’s early work has influenced two separate lines of work in the later development of CG. First, a more formally sophisticated implementation of an enriched theory of phenogrammatical component of the sort sketched in Dowty (1996b) was developed in the Multi-Modal CTL work in the 90s, by exploiting the notion of ‘modal control’ (see section 2.5.3.2 above; as already noted, this

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<sup>20</sup>But note that in principle this architecture does not preclude the use of underspecification. Steedman’s (2012) recent approach to quantification crucially employs a limited use of underspecification for the treatment of indefinites. Similarly, Bekki and Mineshima’s Dependent Type Semantics (Bekki 2014; Bekki & Mineshima 2017), a version of compositional proof theoretic semantics that has a straightforward interface to CG syntax, makes use of underspecification for the treatment of anaphora.

<sup>21</sup>See also Chapter 2, section 1.2 for a discussion of the influence that early forms of CG (Bach 1979; 1980; Dowty 1982a,b) had on Head Grammar (Pollard 1984), a precursor of HPSG.

technique was later incorporated into CCG by Baldridge (2002)). Some empirical work in this line of research includes Moortgat & Oehrle (1994) (on Dutch cross-serial dependencies; see also Dowty (1996a) for an accessible exposition of this analysis), Kraak (1998) (French clitic climbing), Whitman (2009) ('right-node wrapping' in English) and Kubota (2010; 2014) (complex predicates in Japanese). Second, as already noted in section 2.5.3.3, the Curry/Dowty idea of pheno/tecto distinction has also been the core motivation for the underlying architecture of LCG—in fact, among different variants of CG, LCG can be thought of as an extremism approach in relegating word order completely from the combinatorics, by doing away with the distinction between the Lambek forward and backward slashes.

One issue that arises for approaches that distinguish between the levels of phenogrammar and tectogrammar, across the HPSG/CG divide, is how closely these two components interact with one another. Kubota (2014) discusses some data in the morpho-syntax of complex predicates in Japanese which (according to him) would call for an architecture of grammar in which the pheno and tecto components interact with one another closely, and which would thus be problematic for the simpler LCG-type architecture. It would be interesting to see whether/to what extent this same criticism would carry over to linearization-based HPSG, which is similar (at least in its simplest form) to LCG in maintaining a clear separation of the pheno/tecto components.<sup>22</sup>

### 3.3.2 Syntactic features and feature neutralization

As compared to HPSG, the status of syntactic features in CG is somewhat unclear, despite the fact that such 'features' are often used in linguistic analyses in the CG literature. One reason that a full-blown theory of syntactic features has not been developed in CG research to date seems to be that as compared to HPSG, syntactic features play a far less major role in linguistic analysis in CG. Another possible reason is that empirical work on complex linguistic phenomena (especially on languages other than English) are still very few in number in CG.

It is certainly conceivable to develop a theory of syntactic features and feature underspecification within CG by borrowing ideas from HPSG, for which there is already a rich tradition of foundational work on this issue. In fact, the work on

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<sup>22</sup>But note also in this connection that linearization-based HPSG is by no means monolithic; for example, Yatabe & Tam (2019) (discussed below in section 4.2.1) propose a somewhat radical extension of the linearization-based approach in which semantic composition is done at the level of word order domains.

Unification-based Categorial Grammar (Calder et al. 1988) explored at the end of the 80s seems to have had precisely such a goal. Unfortunately, this approach remains largely isolated from other developments in the literature (of either CG or other grammatical theories/formalisms). Another possibility would be to pursue a more logic-based approach. For some ideas, see Bayer & Johnson (1995); Bayer (1996) and Morrill (1994). Morrill (1994) in particular briefly explores the idea of implementing syntactic features via the notion of DEPENDENT TYPES. There is some renewed interest in linguistic application of ideas from Dependent Type Theory (Martin-Löf 1984) in the recent literature of CG and formal semantics (see, for example, Chatzikyriakidis & Luo (2017)), so, pursuing this latter type of approach in connection with this new line of work may lead to some interesting developments.

One issue that is worth noting in connection to syntactic features is the treatment of case syncretism and feature neutralization (cf. Chapter 7, Section 2). The work by Morrill (1994); Bayer (1996); Bayer & Johnson (1995) mentioned above proposed an approach to feature neutralization by positing meet and join connectives (which are like conjunction and disjunction in propositional logic) in CG. The key idea of this approach was recast in HPSG by means of inheritance hierarchies by Levy (2001), Levy & Pollard (2002) and Daniels (2002). See Chapter 7, Section 2 for an exposition of this HPSG work on feature neutralization.

### 3.3.3 Morphological theory in HPSG and CG

Recent work by Olivier Bonami and Berthold Crysmann (see Chapter 22) on developing a morphological theory building on Greg Stump's PARADIGM FUNCTION MORPHOLOGY (PFM; Stump (2001)), with extensive use of inheritance hierarchies in HPSG, has enriched the morphological component of HPSG substantially. CG research currently lacks a comparably well developed theory of morphology. But given the similarity between HPSG and CG as lexicalist theories, adopting PFM or its extension (perhaps along the lines of Bonami and Crysmann) seems relatively straightforward. In fact, early work on morphology in CG such as Hoeksema (1984), Moortgat (1984), Hoeksema & Janda (1988) and Raffelsieben (1992) view morphological processes not as structure-building processes but as functional mapping from one form to another, and in this sense, can be thought of as prefiguring the core ideas of PFM.

A somewhat different (and arguably more controversial) question is whether/to what extent the CG architecture is compatible with the view on morphology that is more in line with the Chomskian tradition, represented by DISTRIBUTED MORPHOLOGY (DM; Halle & Marantz (1993)). Given the ‘surface-oriented’ nature of

CCG, trying to combine CCG with DM is perhaps not a very fruitful idea to pursue, but things are arguably different with TLCG. Aside from the general lexicalist setup (as reflected, for example, in the explicit encoding of valence information in syntactic categories), TLCG is, in a sense, more similar to the mainstream syntax than to either CCG or HPSG. This should be clear from the analogy between hypothetical reasoning and syntactic movement in the exposition of (Hybrid) TLCG in section 2.5. Recent research in TLCG in other domains (primarily, syntax-semantics interface) has in fact shown that the logic-based setup of TLCG enables synthesis of ideas from both lexicalist and derivational approaches to syntax (Kubota 2014; Kubota & Levine 2016a,b; 2019). It remains to be seen whether a similar insight on the relationship between configurational and lexicalist approaches to morphology can be obtained by recasting both in the logic-based combinatorics of TLCG.

## 4 Specific empirical phenomena

Part II of the present handbook contains an excellent introduction to recent developments of HPSG research on major linguistic phenomena. I will therefore presuppose familiarity with such recent analyses, and my discussion below aims to highlight the differences between HPSG and CG in the analyses of a selected empirical phenomena. In order to make the ensuing discussion maximally informative, I focus on phenomena over which there is some ongoing major cross-theoretical debate, and those for which I believe one or the other theory would benefit from recent developments/rich research tradition in the other.

### 4.1 Long-distance dependencies

As noted in section 2.4, CCG treats long-distance dependencies via a sequence of function composition, which is similar to the SLASH percolation analysis in HPSG. CCG offers a treatment of major aspects of long-distance dependencies, including island effects (Steedman 2000) and parasitic gaps (Steedman 1987). Earlier versions of CCG involved a somewhat ad-hoc stipulation on the use of crossed composition rules (Steedman 1997). This was overcome in the more recent, ‘multi-modal’ variant of CCG (Baldridge 2002), which controls the application of such non-order-preserving rules via a fine-grained system of ‘lexicalized modality’. The modality specifications in this new version of CCG enables one to relocate language-specific idiosyncrasies to the lexicon, in line with the general spirit of lexicalist theories of grammar.

The situation is somewhat different in TLCG. TLCG typically makes use of a movement-like operation for the treatment of extraction phenomena (via hypothetical reasoning), but the specific implementations differ considerably in different variants of TLCG. Major alternatives include the approach in terms of ‘structural control’ in Multi-Modal CTL (along the lines sketched in section 2.5.3.2, cf. *bernardiphd*; *Moortgat (2011)*; see also *Morrill (1994)*), and the one involving prosodic  $\lambda$ -binding in LCG and related approaches (see section 2.5.2). In either approach, extraction phenomena are treated by means of some form of hypothetical reasoning, and this raises a major technical issue in the treatment of multiple gap phenomena. The underlying calculus of TLCG is a version of linear logic, and this means that the implication connective is resource sensitive. This is problematic in situations in which a single filler corresponds to multiple gaps, as in parasitic gaps and related phenomena. These cases of extraction require some sort of extension of the underlying logic or some special operator that is responsible for resource duplication. Currently, the most detailed treatment of extraction phenomena in the TLCG literature is *Morrill (2017)*, which lays out in detail an analysis of long-distance dependencies capturing both major island constraints and parasitic gaps within the most recent version of Morrill’s Displacement Calculus.

There are several complex issues that arise in relation to the linguistic analysis of extraction phenomena. One major open question is whether island constraints should be accounted for within narrow grammar. Both Steedman and Morrill follow the standard practice in generative grammar research in taking island effects to be syntactic, but this consensus has been challenged by a new body of research in the recent literature proposing various alternative explanations on different types of island constraints (see Chapter 16, *Levine (2017)* and *Newmeyer (2016)* for an overview of this line of work and pointers to the relevant literature). Recent syntactic analyses of long-distance dependencies in the HPSG literature explicitly avoid directly encoding major island constraints within the grammar (*Sag 2010*; *Chaves 2012b*). Unlike CCG and Displacement Calculus, Kubota & Levine’s Hybrid TLCG opts for this latter type of view (that is, the one that is generally in line with recent HPSG work).

Another major empirical problem related to the analysis of long-distance dependencies is the so-called EXTRACTION PATHWAY MARKING phenomenon (*McCloskey 1979*; *Zaenen 1983*). While this issue has received considerable attention in the HPSG literature, through a series of work by Levine and Hukari (see *Levine & Hukari 2006*), there is currently no explicit treatment of this phenomenon in the CG literature. CCG can probably incorporate the HPSG analysis

relatively easily, given the close similarity between the SLASH percolation mechanism and the step-by-step inheritance of the /NP specification in the function composition-based approach in CCG. Extraction pathway marking poses a much trickier challenge to TLCG, in which extraction is typically handled by a single-chain movement-like process by means of hypothetical reasoning (but see Kubota & Levine (2020: Chapter 7) for a sketch of a possible approach which mimics successive cyclic movement in the type-logical setup).

## 4.2 Coordination and ellipsis

Coordination and ellipsis are both major issues in contemporary syntactic theory. There are moreover some phenomena, such as Gapping and Stripping, which seem to lie at the boundary of the two empirical domains (see for example the recent overview by Johnson (2019)). There are some important similarities and differences between analytic ideas entertained in the HPSG and CG literature for problems in these empirical domains.

### 4.2.1 Analyses of nonconstituent coordination

CG is perhaps best known in the linguistics literature for its analysis of nonconstituent coordination. Steedman's work on CCG (Steedman 1997; 2000; Steedman 2012) in particular has shown how this analysis of coordination interacts smoothly with analyses of other major linguistic phenomena (such as long-distance dependencies, control and raising and quantification) to achieve a surface-oriented grammar that has wide empirical coverage and at the same time has attractive computational properties. Kubota & Levine (2015; 2020) offer an up-to-date TLCG analysis of coordination, and compare it with major alternatives in both the CCG and HPSG literature.

As compared to long-distance dependencies, coordination (in particular NCC) has received considerably less attention in the (H)PSG literature initially (Sag et al. (1985) is an important exception in the early literature). Things started to change somewhat around 2000, with a series of related proposals appearing one after another, including Yatabe (2001), Beavers & Sag (2004), Chaves (2007) and Crysmann (2008) (see Chapters 17 and 20). Here, I take up Beavers & Sag (2004) and Yatabe (2001) (updated in Yatabe & Tam (2019)) as two representative proposals in this line of work. The two proposals share some common assumptions and ideas, but they also differ in important respects.

Both Beavers & Sag and Yatabe (2001) adopt linearization-based HPSG, together with (a version of) Minimal Recursion Semantics for semantics. Of the

two, Beavers & Sag's analysis is more in line with standard assumptions in HPSG. The basic idea of Beavers & Sag's analysis is indeed very simple: by exploiting the flexible mapping between the combinatoric component and the surface word order realization in linearization-based HPSG, they essentially propose a surface deletion-based analysis of NCC according to which NCC examples are analyzed as follows:

- (43) [s Terry gave no man a book on Friday] or [s Terry gave ~~no man~~ a record on Saturday].

where the material in strike-out is underlyingly present but undergoes deletion in the prosodic representation.

In its simplest form, this analysis gets the scopal relation between the quantifier and coordination wrong in examples like (43) (a well-known problem for the conjunction reduction analysis from the 70s; cf. [Partee \(1970\)](#)). Beavers & Sag address this issue by introducing a condition called 'Optional Quantifier Merger':

- (44) **Optional Quantifier Merger:** For any elided phrase denoting a generalized quantifier in the domain of either conjunct, the semantics of that phrase may optionally be identified with the semantics of its non-elided counterpart.

As noted by [Levine \(2011\)](#) and [Kubota & Levine \(2015\)](#), this condition does not follow from any general principle and is merely stipulated in Beavers & Sag's account.

[Yatabe \(2001\)](#) and [Yatabe & Tam \(2019\)](#) (the latter of which contains a much more accessible exposition of essentially the same proposal as the former) propose a somewhat different analysis. Unlike Beavers & Sag, who assume that semantic composition is carried out on the basis of the meanings of *signs* on each node (which is the standard assumption about semantic composition in HPSG), Yatabe shifts the locus of semantic composition to the list of domain objects, that is, the component that directly gets affected by the deletion operation that yields the surface string.

This crucially changes the default meaning predicted for examples such as (43). Specifically, on Yatabe's analysis, the surface string for (43) is obtained by the 'compaction' operation on word order domains that collapses two quantifiers originally contained in the two conjuncts into one. The semantics of the whole sentence is computed on the basis of this resultant word order domain representation, which contains only *one* instance of a domain object corresponding to

the quantifier. The quantifier is then required to scope over the whole coordinate structure due to independently motivated principles of underspecification resolution. While this approach successfully yields the wide-scope reading for quantifiers, the distributive, narrow scope reading for quantifiers (which was trivial for Beavers & Sag) now becomes a challenge. Yatabe and Tam simply stipulate a complex disjunctive constraint on semantic interpretation tied to the ‘compaction’ operation that takes place in coordination so as to generate the two scopal readings.

Kubota & Levine (2015) note that, in addition to the quantifier scope issue noted above, Beavers & Sag’s approach suffers from similar problems in the interpretations of symmetrical predicates (*same*, *different*, etc.), summative predicates (*a total of X*, *X in total*, etc.) and the so-called ‘respective’ readings of plural and conjoined expressions (see Chaves (2012a) for a lucid discussion of the empirical parallels between the three phenomena and how the basic cases can receive a uniform analysis within HPSG). Yatabe & Tam (2019) offer a response to Kubota & Levine, working out explicit analyses of these more complex phenomena in linearization-based HPSG. A major point of disagreement between Kubota & Levine on the one hand and Yatabe & Tam on the other seems to be whether/to what extent an analysis of a linguistic phenomenon should aim to explain (as opposed to merely account for) linguistic generalizations. There is no easy answer to this question, and it is understandable that different theories put different degrees of emphasis on this goal (see also Chapter 32 for discussion on a related point). Whatever conclusion one draws from this recent HPSG/CG debate on the treatment of nonconstituent coordination, one point seems relatively uncontroversial: coordination continues to constitute a challenging empirical domain for any grammatical theory, consisting of both highly regular patterns (such as systematic interactions with scopal operators (Kubota & Levine 2015; 2020)) and puzzling idiosyncrasies (such as the summative agreement facts (Postal 1998; Yatabe & Tam 2019) and extraposed relative clauses with split antecedents (Perlmutter & Ross 1970; Yatabe & Tam 2019)).

#### 4.2.2 Gapping and Stripping

Descriptively, Gapping is a type of ellipsis phenomenon that occurs in coordination and which deletes some material including the main verb:<sup>23</sup>

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<sup>23</sup>There is some disagreement as to whether Gapping is restricted to coordination. Kubota & Levine (2016a), following authors such as Johnson (2009), take Gapping to be restricted to coordination. Park et al. (2019) take a different view, and argue that Gapping should be viewed as a type of ellipsis phenomenon that is not restricted to coordination environments. See

- (45) a. Leslie **bought** a CD, and Robin  $\emptyset$  a book.  
 b. Terry **can go** with me, and Pat  $\emptyset$  with you.  
 c. John **wants to try to begin to write** a novel, and Mary  $\emptyset$  a play.

Gapping has invoked some theoretical controversy in the recent HPSG/CG literature for the ‘scope anomaly’ issue that it exhibits. The relevant data involving auxiliary verbs such as (46a) and (46b) have long been known in the literature since Oehrle (1971; 1987) and Siegel (1987). McCawley (1993) later pointed out similar examples involving downward-entailing determiners such as (46c).

- (46) a. Mrs. J can’t live in Boston and Mr. J  $\emptyset$  in LA.  
 b. Kim didn’t play bingo or Sandy  $\emptyset$  sit at home all evening.  
 c. No dog eats Whiskas or  $\emptyset$  cat  $\emptyset$  Alpo.

The issue here is that (46a), for example, has a reading in which the modal *can’t* scopes over conjunction (‘it’s not possible for Mrs. J to live in NY and Mr. J to live in LA at the same time’). This is puzzling, since such a reading wouldn’t be predicted on the (initially plausible) assumption that Gapping sentences would be interpreted by simply supplying the meaning of the missing material in the right conjunct.

Kubota & Levine (2014; 2016a) note some difficulties for earlier accounts of Gapping in the (H)PSG literature (Sag et al. 1985; Abeillé et al. 2014) and argue for a constituent coordination analysis of Gapping in TLCG, building on earlier analyses of Gapping in CG (Steedman 1990; Hendriks 1995b; Morrill & Solias 1993). The key idea of Kubota & Levine’s analysis involves taking Gapping as coordination of clauses missing a verb in the middle, which can be transparently represented as a function from strings to strings of category  $S \upharpoonright ((NP \setminus S)/NP)$ :

$$(47) \quad \lambda\varphi.\text{leslie} \circ \varphi \circ a \circ cd; \lambda R.\exists x.\text{cd}(x) \wedge R(x)(I); S \upharpoonright ((NP \setminus S)/NP)$$

A special type of conjunction entry (prosodically of type  $(st \rightarrow st) \rightarrow (st \rightarrow st) \rightarrow (st \rightarrow st)$ ) then conjoins two such expressions and returns a conjoined sentence missing the verb only in the first conjunct (on the prosodic representation). By feeding the verb to this resultant expression, a proper form-meaning pair is obtained for Gapping sentences like those in (45).

The apparently unexpected wide scope readings for auxiliaries and quantifiers in (46) turn out to be straightforward on this analysis. I refer the interested

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Kubota & Levine (2020) for a response to Park et al. (2019).

reader to Kubota & Levine (2016a) for details, but the key idea is that the apparently ‘anomalous’ scope in such examples isn’t really anomalous on this approach, since the auxiliary (which prosodically lowers into the first conjunct) takes the whole conjoined gapped clause as its argument in the combinatoric component underlying semantic interpretation. Thus, the existence of the wide scope reading is automatically predicted. Puthawala (2018) extends this approach to a similar ‘scope anomaly’ data found in Stripping, in examples such as the following:

- (48) John didn’t sleep, or Mary (either).

Just like the Gapping examples in (46), this sentence has both wide scope (‘neither John nor Mary slept’) and narrow scope (‘John was the one who didn’t sleep, or maybe that was Mary’) interpretations for negation.

The determiner gapping example in (46c) requires a somewhat more elaborate treatment. Kubota & Levine (2016a) analyze determiner gapping via higher-order functions. Morrill & Valentín (2017) criticize this approach for a certain type of overgeneration problem regarding word order and propose an alternative analysis in Displacement Calculus.

Park et al. (2019) propose an analysis of Gapping in HPSG that overcomes the limitations of previous (H)PSG analyses of Gapping (Sag et al. 1985; Chaves 2005; Abeillé et al. 2014), couched in Lexical Resources Semantics. In their analysis, the lexical entries of the clause-level conjunction words *and* and *or* are underspecified as to the relative scope between the propositional operator contributed by the modal auxiliary in the first conjunct and the boolean conjunction or disjunction connective that is contributed by the conjunction word itself. Park et al. argue that this is sufficient for capturing the scope anomaly in the Oehrle/Siegel data such as (46a) and (46b). Extension to the determiner gapping case (46c) is left for future work.

Here again, instead of trying to settle the debate, I’d like to draw the reader’s attention to the different perspectives on grammar that seem to be behind the HPSG and (Hybrid) TLCG approaches. Kubota & Levine’s approach attains theoretical elegance at the cost of employing abstract higher-order operators (both in semantic and prosody). This makes the relationship between the competence grammar and the on-line human sentence processing model indirect, and relatively, it is likely to make efficient computational implementation less straightforward (for a discussion on the relationship between competence grammar and a model of sentence processing, see Chapter 27). Park et al.’s (2019) approach on the other hand is more in line with the usual practice (and the shared spirit)

of HPSG research where the main emphasis is on writing an explicit grammar fragment that is constraint-based and surface-oriented. This type of tension is perhaps not easy to overcome, but it seems useful (for researchers working in different grammatical theories) to at least recognize (and appreciate) the existence of these different theoretical orientations tied to different approaches.

#### 4.2.3 Ellipsis

Analyses of major ellipsis phenomena in HPSG and CG share the same essential idea that ellipsis is a form of anaphora, without any invisible hierarchically structured representations corresponding to the ‘elided’ expression. See Chapter 20 and [Ginzburg & Miller \(2019\)](#) for an overview of approaches to ellipsis in HPSG.

Recent analyses of ellipsis in HPSG ([Ginzburg & Sag 2000](#); [Miller 2014](#)) make heavy use of the notion of ‘constructions’ adopted from Construction Grammar (this idea is even borrowed into some of the CG analyses of ellipsis such as [Jacobson \(2016\)](#)). Many ellipsis phenomena are known to exhibit some form of ‘syntactic sensitivity’ ([Kennedy 2003](#); [Chung 2013](#); [Yoshida et al. 2015](#)), and this fact has long been taken to provide strong evidence for the ‘covert structure’ analyses of ellipsis popular in the mainstream syntactic literature ([Merchant 2019](#)).

Some of the early works on ellipsis in CG include [Hendriks \(1995a\)](#) and [Morrill & Merenciano \(1996\)](#). [Morrill & Merenciano \(1996\)](#) in particular show how hypothetical reasoning in TLCG allows treatments of important properties of ellipsis phenomena such as strict/sloppy ambiguity and scope ambiguity of elided quantifiers in VP ellipsis. [Jäger \(2005\)](#) integrates these earlier works with a general theory of anaphora in TLCG, incorporating the key empirical analyses of pronominal anaphora by [Jacobson \(1999; 2000\)](#). Jacobson’s 1998; 2008 analysis of Antecedent-Contained Ellipsis is also important. Antecedent-Contained Ellipsis is often taken to provide a strong piece of evidence for the representational analysis of ellipsis in mainstream generative syntax. Jacobson offers a counter-proposal to this standard analysis that completely dispenses with covert structural representations. While the above works from the 90s have mostly focused on VP ellipsis, recent developments in the CG literature, including [Barker \(2013\)](#) on sluicing, [Jacobson \(2016\)](#) on fragment answers and [Kubota & Levine \(2017\)](#) on pseudogapping, considerably extended the empirical coverage of the same line of analysis.

The relationship between recent CG analyses of ellipsis and HPSG counterparts seems to be similar to the situation with competing analyses on coordination. Both [Barker \(2013\)](#) and [Kubota & Levine \(2017\)](#) exploit hypothetical reasoning to treat the antecedent of an elided material as a ‘constituent’ with full-

fledged semantic interpretation at an abstract combinatoric component of syntax. The anaphoric mechanism can then refer to both the syntactic and semantic information of the antecedent expression to capture syntactic sensitivity observed in ellipsis phenomena, without the need to posit hierarchical representations at the ellipsis site. Due to its surface-oriented nature, HPSG is not equipped with an analogous abstract combinatoric component that assigns ‘constituent’ statuses to expressions that do not (in any obvious sense) correspond to constituents in the surface representation. In HPSG, the major work in restricting the possible form of ellipsis is instead taken over by constructional schemata, which can encode syntactic information of the antecedent to capture connectivity effects, as is done, for example, with the use of the SAL-UTT feature in Ginzburg & Sag’s (2000) analysis of sluicing (cf. Chapter 20).

Kubota & Levine (2020: Chapter 8) extend Kubota & Levine’s (2017) approach further to the treatment of interactions between VP ellipsis and extraction, which has often been invoked in the earlier literature (in particular, Kennedy (2003)) as providing crucial evidence for covert structure analysis of ellipsis phenomena (see also Jacobson (2019) for a related proposal, cast in a variant of CCG). At least some of the counterproposals that Kubota & Levine formulate in their argument against the covert structure analysis seem to be directly compatible with the HPSG approach to ellipsis, but (so far as I am aware) no concrete analysis of extraction/ellipsis interaction currently exists in the HPSG literature.

#### 4.2.4 Mismatches in right-node raising

While RNR has mostly been discussed in connection to coordination in the literature, it is well-known that RNR is not necessarily restricted to coordination environments (see, for example, Wilder (2019) for a recent overview). Moreover, it has recently been pointed out by Abeillé et al. (2016) that RNR in French admit certain types of syntactic mismatch between the RNR’ed material and the selecting head in a non-adjacent conjunct. The current literature seems to agree that RNR is not a unitary phenomenon, and that at least some type of RNR should be treated via a mechanism of surface ellipsis, which could be modelled as deletion of syntactic (or prosodic) objects or via some sort of anaphoric mechanism (cf. Chapter 20, Chaves (2014), Kubota & Levine (2017)).

One point that is worth emphasizing in this connection is that while the ‘NCC as constituent coordination’ analysis of RNR in CG discussed in section 2.4.1 (major evidence for which comes from the interactions between various sorts of scopal operators and RNR as noted in section 4.2.1) is well-known, neither CCG nor TLCG is by any means committed to the idea that *all* instances of RNR should

be analyzed this way. In fact, given the extensive evidence for the non-unitary nature of RNR reviewed in Chaves (2014) and the syntactic mismatch data from French offered by Abeillé et al. (2016), it seems that a comprehensive account of RNR in CG (or, for that matter, in any other theory) would need to recognize the non-unitary nature of the phenomenon, along lines similar to Chaves's (2014) recent proposal in HPSG. While there is currently no detailed comprehensive account of RNR along these lines in the CG literature, there does not seem to be any inherent obstacle for formulating such an account.

### 4.3 Binding

Empirical phenomena that have traditionally been analyzed by means of Binding Theory (both in the transformational and the nontransformational literature; cf. Chapter 21) potentially pose a major challenge to the ‘non-representational’ view of the syntax-semantics interface common to most variants of CG. The HPSG Binding Theory in Pollard & Sag (1994) captures Principles A and B at the level of argument structure, while Principle C makes reference to the configurational structure (i.e. the feature-structure encoding of the constituent geometry). The status of Principle C itself is controversial to begin with, but if this condition needs to be stated in the syntax, it would possibly constitute one of the greatest challenges to CG-based theories of syntax, since, unlike phrase structure trees, the proof trees in CG are not objects that a principle of grammar can directly refer to.

While there seems to be no consensus in the current CG literature on how the standard binding theoretic facts are to be accounted for, there are some important ideas and proposals in the wider literature of CG-based syntax (broadly construed to include work in the Montague Grammar tradition). First, as for Principle A, there is a recurrent suggestion in the literature that these effects can (and should) be captured simply via strictly lexical properties of reflexive pronouns (e.g. Szabolcsi (1992); see Büring (2005) for a concise summary). For example, for a reflexive in the direct object position of a transitive verb bound by the subject NP, the following type assignment (where the reflexive pronoun first takes a transitive verb and then the subject NP as arguments) suffices to capture its bound status:

$$(49) \quad \text{himself}; \lambda R \lambda x. R(x)(x); \text{NP} \backslash ((\text{NP} \backslash \text{S}) / \text{NP}) \backslash \text{S}$$

This approach is attractively simple, but there are at least two things to keep in mind, in order to make it a complete analysis of Principle A in CG. First, while

this lexical treatment of reflexive binding may at first sight appear to capture the locality of binding quite nicely, CG's flexible syntax potentially overgenerates unacceptable long-distance binding readings for (English) reflexives. Since right-node raising can take place across clause boundaries, it seems necessary to assume that hypothetical reasoning for the Lambek-slash (or a chain of function composition that has the same effect in CCG) can generally take place across clause boundaries. But then, expressions such as *thinks Bill hates* can be assigned the same syntactic type (i.e.  $(NP \setminus S)/NP$ ) as lexical transitive verbs, overgenerating non-local binding of a reflexive from a subject NP in the upstairs clause (*\*John; thinks Bill hates himself<sub>i</sub>*).

In order to prevent this situation while still retaining the lexical analysis of reflexivization sketched above, some kind of restriction needs to be imposed as to the way in which reflexives combine with other linguistic expressions. One possibility would be to distinguish between lexical transitive verbs and derived transitive verb-like expressions by positing different 'modes of composition' in the two cases in a 'multi-modal' version of CG.

The other issue is that the lexical entry in (49) needs to be generalized to cover all cases in which a reflexive is bound by an argument that is higher in the obliqueness hierarchy. This amounts to positing a polymorphic lexical entry for the reflexive. The use of polymorphism is not itself a problem, since it is needed in other places in the grammar (such as coordination) anyway. But this account would amount to capturing the Principle A effects purely in terms of the specific lexical encoding for reflexive pronouns (unlike the treatment in HPSG which explicitly refers to the obliqueness hierarchy).

While Principle A effects are in principle amenable to a relatively simple lexical treatment along lines sketched above, Principle B turns out to be considerably more challenging for CG. To see this point, note that the lexical analysis of reflexives sketched above crucially relies on the fact that the constraint associated with reflexives corresponds to a straightforward semantic effect of variable binding. Pronouns instead require *disjointness* of reference from less oblique co-arguments, but such an effect cannot be captured by simply specifying some appropriate lambda term as the semantic translation for the pronoun.

To date, the most detailed treatment of Principle B effects in CG that explicitly addresses this difficulty is the proposal by Jacobson (2007), formulated in a version of CCG (Steedman (1997) proposes a different approach to binding, which will be briefly discussed at the end of this section). The key idea of Jacobson's account of Principle B effects is that NPs are divided by a binary-valued feature  $\pm p$ , with pronouns marked  $NP[+p]$  and all other NPs  $NP[-p]$ . In all lexical entries of

the form in (50), all NP (and PP) arguments in any realization of /\$ are specified as [-p].

(50)  $k; P; VP/\$$

The effect of this restriction is to rule out pronouns from argument positions of verbs with ordinary semantic denotations. On this approach, the only way a lexically specified functional category can take [+p] arguments is via the application of the following irreflexive operator:<sup>24</sup>

(51)  $\lambda\varphi.\varphi; \lambda f\lambda u\lambda v.f(u)(v), u \neq v ; (VP/NP[+p])\upharpoonright(VP/NP[-p])$

The greyed-in part  $u \neq v$  separated from the truth conditional meaning by a comma is a presupposition introduced by the pronoun-seeking variant of the predicate. It says that the subject and object arguments are forced to pick out different objects in the model. For the semantics of pronouns themselves, we can assume, following the standard practice, that free (i.e. unbound) pronouns are simply translated as arbitrary variables (cf. Cooper 1979).

Crucially, the operator in (51) is restricted in its domain of application to the set of signs which are specified in the lexicon. We note this restriction by using the dashed line notion in what follows. Then (52) will be derived as in (53).

(52) John praises him.

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<sup>24</sup>For expository purposes, I state the operator in (51) in its most restricted form, dealing with only the case where there is a single syntactic argument apart from the subject. A much broader coverage is of course necessary in order to handle cases like the following:

- (i) a. \*John<sub>i</sub> warned Mary about him<sub>i</sub>.
- b. \*John talked to Mary<sub>i</sub> about her<sub>i</sub>.
- c. \*John explained himself<sub>i</sub> to him<sub>i</sub>.

What we need in effect is a schematic type specification that applies to a pronoun in any or all argument positions, i.e., stated on an input of the form  $VP/\$/XP[-p]/\$$  to yield an output of the form  $VP/\$/XP[+p]/\$$ . To ensure the correct implementation of this extension, some version of the ‘wrapping’ analysis needs to be assumed (cf. Jacobson 2007), so that the order of the arguments in verbs’ lexical entries is isomorphic to the obliqueness hierarchy (of the sort discussed by Pollard & Sag (1992)).

Cases such as the following also call for an extension (also a relatively straightforward one):

- (ii) \*John<sub>i</sub> is proud of him<sub>i</sub>.

By assuming (following Jacobson 2007) that the [+p] feature percolates from NPs to PPs and by generalizing the irreflexive operator still further so that it applies not just to  $VP/XP[-p]$  but  $AP/XP[-p]$  as well, the ungrammaticality of (ii) follows straightforwardly.

(53) $\lambda\varphi.\varphi;$	$\lambda f \lambda u \lambda v. f(u)(v), u \neq v;$	praises;
	$(VP/NP[+p]) \upharpoonright (VP/NP[-p])$	praise; VP/NP[-p]
	$\lambda u \lambda v. \text{praise}(u)(v), u \neq v; VP/NP[+p]$	him; z; NP[+p]
	$\text{praises} \circ \text{him}; \lambda v. \text{praise}(z)(v), z \neq v; VP$	john; j; NP[-p]
		john $\circ$ praises $\circ$ him; $\text{praise}(z)(j), z \neq j; S$

The presupposition  $z \neq j$  ensures that the referent of the pronoun is different from John.

Thus, Jacobson's approach captures the relevant conditions on the interpretation of pronouns essentially as a type of lexical presupposition tied to the denotation of the pronoun-taking verb, and the syntactic feature  $[\pm p]$  mediates the distributional correlation between the pronoun and the verb that subcategorizes for it. The idea is essentially the same as in the HPSG Binding Theory, except that the relevant condition is directly encoded as a restriction on the denotation itself since the standard CG syntax-semantics interface does not admit of syntactic indices of the sort assumed in HPSG.

Unlike Jacobson's proposal outlined above, Steedman's (1997) analysis of binding conditions in CCG recognizes the syntactic forms of the logical language that is used to write the denotations of linguistic expressions as the 'level' at which binding conditions are stated. This approach can be thought of as a 'compromise' which enables a straightforward encoding of the HPSG-style Binding Conditions by (slightly) deviating from the CG doctrine of not admitting any representational object at the syntax-semantics interface (see Dowty (1996a) for a critique of Steedman's (1997) approach to binding discussing this issue clearly).

Steedman's approach can be best illustrated by taking a look at the analysis of (54).<sup>25</sup>

- (54) Every student<sub>i</sub> praised him<sub>i</sub>.

According to Steedman, pronouns receive translations of the form  $\text{pro}(x)$ , where  $\text{pro}$  is effectively a term that marks the presence of (the translation of) a pronoun at some particular syntactic position in the logical formula that represents the meaning of the sentence.

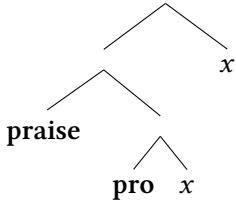
With this assumption, the translation for (54) that needs to be ruled out (via Principle B) is as follows:

<sup>25</sup>At the same time that he formulates an essentially syntactic account of Principle B via the term  $\text{pro}$  in the translation language, Steedman (1997) briefly speculates on the (somewhat radical) possibility of relegating Principle B entirely to the pragmatic component of pronominal anaphora resolution. However, the relevant discussion is rather sketchy, and the details of such a pragmatic alternative are not entirely clear.

- (55)  $\forall x[\text{student}(x) \rightarrow \text{praise}(\text{pro}(x))(x)]$

And this is where the CCG Binding Theory kicks in. The relevant part of the structure of the logical formula in (55) can be more perspicuously written as a tree as in (56), which makes clear the hierarchical relation between sub-terms.

- (56)



Principle B states that pronouns need to be locally free. (56) violates this condition since there is a locally c-commanding term  $x$  that binds  $\text{pro}(x)$  (where we say that a term  $\alpha$  binds term  $\beta$  when they are semantically bound by the same operator).

Principles A and C are formulated similarly by making crucial reference to the structures of the terms that represent the semantic translations of sentences.

What we can see from the comparison of different approaches to binding in CG and the treatment of binding in HPSG is that although HPSG and CG are both lexicalist theories of syntax, and there is a general consensus that binding conditions are to be formulated lexically rather than configurationally, there are important differences in the actual implementations of the conditions between approaches that stick to the classical Montagovian tradition (embodying the tenet of ‘direct compositionality’ in Jacobson’s terms) and those that make use of representational devices more liberally. This seems to be related to the tendency of HPSG and (Steedman’s) CCG to make more liberal use of underspecified semantic representations as opposed to other variants of CG that generally eschew such intermediate representations.

Finally, some comments are in order regarding the status of Principle C, the part of Binding Theory that is supposed to rule out examples such as the following:

- (57) a. \*He<sub>i</sub> talked to John<sub>i</sub>.  
 b. \*He<sub>i</sub> talked to John’s<sub>i</sub> brother.

The formulation of Principle C has always been a problem in lexicalist theories of syntax. While Principles A and B can be stated by just making reference to

the local argument structure of a predicate in the lexicon, the global nature of Principle C seems to require looking at the whole configurational structure of the sentence in which the proper noun appears. In fact, Pollard & Sag (1994) opt for this solution, and their definition of the Principle C has a somewhat exceptional status within the whole theory (which otherwise adheres to strict locality conditions) in directly referring to the configurational structure.

Essentially the same problem arises in CG. Steedman's (1997) formulation of Principle C can be thought of as an analog of Pollard & Sag's (1994) proposal, where global reference to hierarchical structure is made not at the level of phrase structure, but instead at the level of 'logical structure', that is, in the syntactic structure of the logical language used for writing the meanings of natural language expressions. As already noted above, if one takes the Motagovian, or 'direct compositional' view of the syntax-semantics interface that is more traditional/standard in CG research, this option is unavailable.

Thus, Principle C has a somewhat cumbersome place within lexicalist theories in general. However, unlike Principles A and B, the status of Principle C in the grammar is still considerably unclear and controversial to begin with. If, as suggested by some authors (cf., e.g., Levinson (1987; 1991)), the effects of Principle C can be accounted for by pragmatic principles, that would remove one major sticking point in both HPSG and CG formulations of the Binding Theory.

## 5 A brief note on processing and implementation

The discussion above has mostly focused on linguistic analysis. In this final section, I will briefly comment on implications for psycholinguistics and computational linguistics research.

One attractive feature of CCG (but not CG in general), when viewed as an integrated model of the competence grammar and human sentence processing, is that it enables 'surface-oriented', incremental analyses of strings from left to right. This aspect was emphasized in the early literature of CCG (Ades & Steedman 1982; Crain & Steedman 1985), but it does not seem to have had much impact on psycholinguistic research in general since then. A notable exception is the work by Pickering & Barry (1991; 1993) in early 90s. There is also some work on the relationship between processing and TLCG (see Morrill (2010: Chapters 9 and 10), and references therein). In any event, a serious investigation of the relationship between competence grammar and human sentence processing from a CG perspective (either CCG or TLCG) seems to be a research topic that is waiting to be explored, much like the situation with HPSG (see Chapter 27).

As for connections to computational linguistics/NLP research, like HPSG, large-scale computational implementation has been an important research agenda for CCG (see, e.g., [Clark & Curran \(2007\)](#)). I refer the reader to [Steedman \(2012: Chapter 13\)](#) for an excellent summary on this subject (this chapter contains a discussion of human sentence processing as well). Together with work on linguistically informed ‘deep parsing’ in HPSG, CCG parsers seem to be attracting some renewed interest in CL/NLP research recently, due to the new trend of combining the insights of statistical approaches and linguistically-informed approaches. In particular, the straightforward syntax-semantics interface of (C)CG seems to be an attractive feature in building CL/NLP systems that have an explicit logical representation of meaning. See [Lewis & Steedman \(2013\)](#) and [Mineshima et al. \(2016\)](#) for this type of work. TLCG research has traditionally been less directly related to CL/NLP research. But there are recent attempts at constructing large-scale treebanks ([Moot 2015](#)) and combining TLCG frameworks with more mainstream approaches in NLP research such as distributional semantics ([Moot 2018](#)).

## 6 Conclusion

As should be clear from the above discussion, HPSG and CG share many important similarities, mainly due to the fact that they are both variants of ‘lexicalist’ syntactic theories. This is particularly clear in the analyses of local dependencies in terms of lexically encoded argument structure information. Important differences emerge once we turn our attention to less canonical types of phenomena, such as noncanonical types of coordination (nonconstituent coordination, Gapping) and the treatment of ‘constructional’ patterns that are not easily lexicalizable. In general, HPSG has a richer and more comprehensive treatment of various empirical phenomena, whereas CG has a lot to offer to grammatical theory (perhaps somewhat paradoxically) due to the very fact that the potentials of the logic-based perspective it embodies has not been explored in full detail. It is more likely than not that the two will continue to develop as distinct theories of natural language syntax (and semantics). I hope that the discussion in the present chapter has made it clear that there are still many occasions for fruitful interactions between the two approaches both at the level of specific analytic ideas for specific phenomena and at the more general, foundational level pertaining to the core architecture of grammatical theory.

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## Chapter 34

# HPSG and Lexical Functional Grammar

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## 1 Introduction

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*Doug Arnold*

rhoncus magna vitae enim pellentesque, eget porttitor quam finibus. Nunc ultricies turpis at quam vehicula, at tempus justo molestie. Proin convallis augue ut turpis cursus rhoncus. Donec sed convallis justo. Sed sed massa pharetra ex aliquet eleifend. finality

## **Abbreviations**

## **Acknowledgements**

# Chapter 35

## HPSG and Dependency Grammar

Dick Hudson

London

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### 1 Introduction

HPSG is firmly embedded, both theoretically and historically, in the phrase-structure (PS) tradition of syntactic analysis, but it also has some interesting theoretical links to the dependency-structure (DS) tradition. This is the topic of the present chapter, so after a very simple comparison of PS and DS and a glance at the development of these two traditions in the history of syntax, I consider a number of issues where the traditions interact.

The basis for PS analysis is the part-whole relation between smaller units (including words) and larger phrases, so the most iconic notation uses boxes (Müller 2018: 6). In contrast, the basis for DS analysis is the asymmetrical dependency relation between two words, so in this case an iconic notation inserts arrows between words. (Although the standard notation in both traditions uses trees, these are less helpful because the lines are open to different interpretations.) The two analyses of a very simple sentence are juxtaposed in Figure 1. As in HPSG AVMs, each rectangle represents a unit of analysis.

In both approaches, each unit has properties such as a classification, a meaning, a form and relations to other items, but these properties may be thought of in two different ways. In PS analyses, an item contains its related items so it also contains its other properties – hence the familiar AVMs contained within the box for each item. But in DS analyses, an item’s related items are outside it, sitting alongside it in the analysis, so for consistency other properties may be shown as a network in which the item concerned is just one atomic node. This isn’t

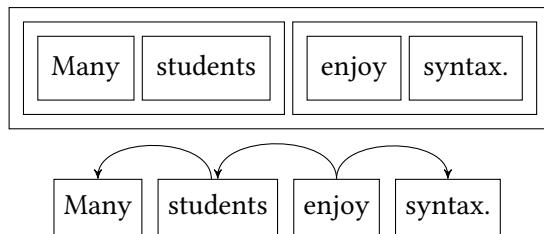


Figure 1: Phrase structure and dependency structure contrasted

the only possible notation, but it is the basis for the main DS theory that I shall juxtapose with HPSG, Word Grammar.

What, then, are the distinctive characteristics of the two traditions? In the following summary I use *item* to include any syntagmatic unit of analysis including morphemes, words and phrases (though this chapter will not discuss the possible role of morphemes). The following generalisations apply to classic examples of the two approaches: PS as defined by Chomsky in terms of labelled bracketed strings (Chomsky 1957), and DS as defined by Tesnière (1959; 2015). These generalisations refer to “direct relations”, which are shown by single lines in standard tree notation; for example, taking a pair of words such as *big book*, they are related directly in DS, but only indirectly via a mother phrase in PS. A phenomenon such as agreement is not a relation in this sense, but it applies to word-pairs which are identified by their relationship; so even if two sisters agree, this does not in itself constitute a direct relation between them.

1. Containment: in PS, but not in DS, if two items are directly related, one must contain the other. For instance, a PS analysis of *the book* recognises a direct relation (of dominance) between *book* and *the book*, but not between *book* and *the*, which are directly related only by linear precedence. In contrast, a DS analysis does recognise a direct relation between *book* and *the* (in addition to the linear precedence relation).
2. Continuity: therefore, in PS, but not in DS, all the items contained in a larger one must be adjacent.
3. Asymmetry: in both DS and PS, a direct relation between two items must be asymmetrical, but in DS the relation (between two words) is dependency whereas in PS it is the part-whole relation.

These generalisations imply important theoretical claims which can be tested; for instance, 2 claims that there are no discontinuous phrases, which is clearly

false. On the other hand, 3 claims that there can be no exocentric or headless phrases, so DS has to consider apparent counter-examples such as NPN constructions, coordination and verbless sentences (see Sections 4.2 and 5.1 for discussion, and also the chapter on coordination).

The contrasts in 1–3 apply without reservation to ‘plain vanilla’ (Zwickly 1985) versions of DS and PS, but as we shall see in the history section, very few theories are plain vanilla. In particular, there are versions of HPSG that allow phrases to be discontinuous (Reape 1994; Kathol 2000; Müller 1995; 1996). Nevertheless, the fact is that HPSG evolved out of more or less pure PS, that it includes *phrase structure* in its name, and that it is never presented as a version of DS.

On the other hand, the term *Head-driven* points immediately to dependency: an asymmetrical relation driven by a head word. Even if HPSG gives some constructions a headless analysis (Müller 2018: 654–666), the fact remains that it treats most constructions as headed. This chapter reviews the relations between HPSG and the very long DS tradition of grammatical analysis. The conclusion will be that in spite of its PS roots, HPSG implicitly (and sometimes even explicitly) recognises dependencies; and it may not be a coincidence that one of the main power-bases of HPSG is Germany, where the DS tradition is also at its strongest (Müller 2018: 359).

Where, then, does this discussion leave the notion of a phrase? In PS, phrases are basic units of the analysis, alongside words; but even DS recognises phrases indirectly because they are easily defined in terms of dependencies as a word plus all the words which depend, directly or indirectly, on it. Although phrases play no part in a DS analysis, it is sometimes useful to be able to refer to them informally (in much the same way that some PS grammars refer to grammatical functions informally while denying them any formal status).

Why, then, does HPSG use PS rather than DS? As far as I know, PS was simply default syntax in the circles where HPSG evolved, so the choice of PS isn’t the result of a conscious decision by the founders, and I hope that this chapter will show that this is a serious question which deserves discussion<sup>1</sup>. Unfortunately, the historical roots and the general dominance of PS have so far discouraged discussion of this fundamental question.

HPSG is a theoretical package where PS is linked intimately to a collection of other assumptions; and the same is true for any theory which includes DS,

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<sup>1</sup>Indeed, I once wrote a paper (which was never published) called Taking the PS out of HPSG – a title I was proud of until I noticed that PS was open to misreading, not least as “Pollard and Sag”. Carl and Ivan took it well, and I think Carl may even have entertained the possibility that I might be right – possibly because he had previously espoused a theory called “Head Grammar” (HG).

Gisborne  
2010;  
Duran-  
Eppler  
2011;  
Trau-  
gott&Trousdale  
2013

forthcoming???

including my own Word Grammar [Hudson \(1984; 1990; 1998; 2007; 2010\)](#). Among the other assumptions of HPSG I find welcome similarities, not least the use of default inheritance in some versions of the theory. I shall argue below that inheritance offers a novel solution to one of the outstanding challenges for the dependency tradition.

The next section sets the historical scene. This is important because it's all too easy for students to get the impression (mentioned above) that PS is just default syntax, and maybe even the same as "traditional grammar". We shall see that grammar has a very long and rather complicated history in which the default is actually DS rather than PS. Later sections then address particular issues shared by HPSG and the dependency tradition.

## 2 Dependency and constituency in the history of syntax

The relevant history of syntax starts more than two thousand years ago in Greece. (Indian syntax may have started even earlier, but it is hardly relevant because it had so little impact on the European tradition.) Greek and Roman grammarians focused on the morphosyntactic properties of individual words, but since these languages included a rich case system, they were aware of the syntactic effects of verbs and prepositions governing particular cases. However, this didn't lead them to think about syntactic relations, as such; precisely because of the case distinctions, they could easily distinguish a verb's dependents in terms of their cases: "its nominative", "its accusative" and so on. Both the selecting verb or preposition and the item carrying the case inflection were single words, so the Latin grammar of Priscian, written about 500 AD and still in use a thousand years later, recognised no units larger than the word: "his model of syntax was word-based – a dependency model rather than a constituency model". However, it was a dependency model without the notion of dependency as a relation between words.

The dependency relation, as such, seems to have been first identified by the Arabic grammarian Sibawayh in the 8<sup>th</sup> century. However, it is hard to rule out the possibility of influence from the then-flourishing Paninian tradition in India, and in any case it doesn't seem to have had any more influence on the European tradition than did Panini's syntax, so it is probably irrelevant.

In Europe, grammar teaching in schools was based on parsing (in its original sense), an activity which was formalised in the ninth century. The activity of parsing was a sophisticated test of grammatical understanding which earned the central place in school work that it held for centuries – in fact, right up to the

Robins  
1967, 29

Law  
2003,  
91

Owens  
1988;  
Kouloughli  
1999

Luhtala  
1994

1950s (when I myself did parsing at school) and maybe beyond. In HPSG terms, school children learned a standard list of attributes for words of different classes, and in parsing a particular word in a sentence their task was to provide the values for its attributes, including its grammatical function (which would explain its case). In the early centuries the language was Latin, but more recently it was the vernacular (in my case, English).

Alongside these purely grammatical analyses, the Ancient World had also recognised a logical one, due to Aristotle, in which the basic elements of a proposition (*logos*) are the logical subject (*onoma*) and the predicate (*r̄hēma*). For Aristotle a statement such as “Socrates ran” requires the recognition both of the person Socrates and of the property of running, neither of which could constitute a statement on its own. By the twelfth century, grammarians started to apply a similar analysis to sentences; but in recognition of the difference between logic and grammar they replaced the logicians’ *subiectum* and *praedicatum* by *suppositum* and *appositum* – though the logical terms would creep into grammar by the late eighteenth century. This logical analysis produced the first top-down analysis in which a larger unit (the logician’s proposition or the grammarian’s sentence) has parts, but the parts were still single words, so *onoma* and *r̄hēma* can now be translated as ‘noun’ and ‘verb’. If the noun or verb was accompanied by other words, the older dependency analysis applied.

(Law  
2003,  
30–31)

(Law  
2003,  
168)

The result of this confusion of grammar with logic was a muddled hybrid analysis in the Latin/Greek tradition which combines a headless subject-predicate analysis with a headed analysis elsewhere, and which persists even today in some school grammars; this confusion took centuries to sort out in grammatical theory. For the subject and verb, the prestige of Aristotle and logic supported a subject-verb division of the sentence (or clause) in which the subject noun and the verb were both equally essential – a very different analysis from modern first-order logic in which the subject is just one argument (among many) which depends on the predicate. Moreover the grammatical tradition even includes a surprising number of analyses in which the subject noun is the head of the construction, ranging from the modistic grammarians of the twelfth century, through Henry Sweet, to no less a figure than Otto Jespersen in the twentieth (Jespersen 1937), who distinguished ‘junction’ (dependency) from ‘nexus’ (predication) and treated the noun in both constructions as ‘primary’.

Robins  
1967, 83

Sweet  
1891, 17

The first grammarians to recognise a consistently dependency-based analysis for the rest of the sentence (but not for the subject and verb) seem to have been the French *encyclopédistes* of the eighteenth century, and by the nineteenth century much of Europe accepted a theory of sentence structure based on depen-

(Kahane  
forth-  
coming)

dencies, but with the subject-predicate analysis as an exception – an analysis which by modern standards is muddled and complicated. Each of these units was a single word, not a phrase, and modern phrases were recognised only indirectly by allowing the subject and predicate to be expanded by dependents; so nobody ever suggested there might be such a thing as a noun phrase until the late nineteenth century. Function words such as prepositions had no proper position, being treated typically as though they were case inflections.

(Billroth  
1832)

The invention of syntactic diagrams in the nineteenth century made the inconsistency of the hybrid analysis obvious. The first such diagram was published in a German grammar of Latin for school children, and the nineteenth century saw a proliferation of diagramming systems<sup>2</sup>, including the famous Reed-Kellogg diagrams which are still taught (under the simple name ‘diagramming’) in some American schools (Reed & Kellogg 1877); indeed, there is a website<sup>3</sup> which generates such diagrams, giving diagrams such as the one reproduced in Figure 2. The significant feature of this diagram is the special treatment given to the relation between the subject and predicate (with the verb *are* sitting uncomfortably between the two), with all the other words in the sentence linked by more or less straightforward dependencies. (The geometry of these diagrams also distinguishes grammatical functions.)

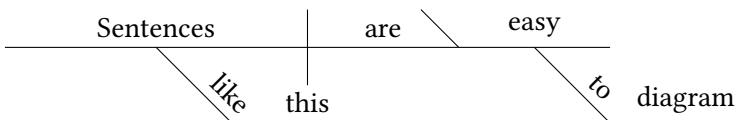


Figure 2: Reed and Kellogg diagram by Sentence Diagrammer

Percival  
1976, 18

One particularly interesting (and relevant) fact about Reed and Kellogg is that they offer an analysis of that old wooden house in which each modifier creates a new unit to which the next modifier applies: *wooden house*, then *old wooden house* – a clear hint at more modern structures (including the ones proposed in Section 4.1, albeit one that sits uncomfortably with plain-vanilla dependency structure).

However, even in the nineteenth century there were grammarians who questioned the hybrid tradition which combined the subject-predicate distinction with dependencies. Rather remarkably, three different grammarians seem to have independently reached the same conclusion at roughly the same time: hy-

<sup>2</sup>See a small selection at <http://dickhudson.com/sentence-diagramming/>. (Last access October 2018.)

<sup>3</sup>Sentence Diagrammer by 1aiway at [https://download.cnet.com/windows/1aiway/3260-20\\_4-10725918-1.html](https://download.cnet.com/windows/1aiway/3260-20_4-10725918-1.html). (Last access January 2019)

brid structures can be replaced by a homogeneous structure if we take the finite verb as the root of the whole sentence, with the subject as one of its dependents. This idea seems to have been first proposed in print in 1873 by the Hungarian Sámuel Brassai (Imrényi 2013) ; in 1877 by the Russian Aleksej Dmitrievsky ; and in 1884 by the German Franz Kern (Kern 1884). Both Brassai and Kern used diagrams to present their analyses, and used precisely the same tree-structures which Lucien Tesnière in France called “stemmas” nearly fifty years later (Tesnière 1959; 2015). The diagrams have both been redrawn here as Figures 3 and 4.

Imrényi  
and  
Vladár  
forth-  
coming

Sériot  
2004

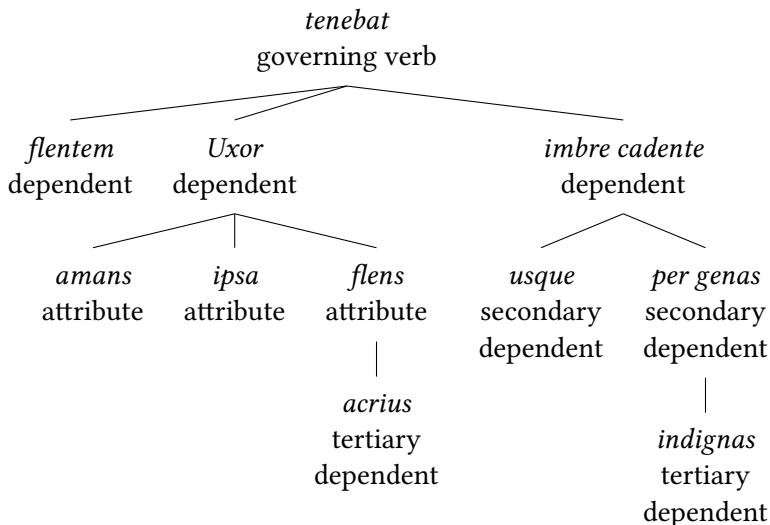


Figure 3: A verb-rooted tree from Brassai 1873

Brassai's proposal is contained in a school grammar of Latin, so the example is also from Latin – an extraordinarily complex sentence which certainly merits a diagram.

Brassai  
1873

- (1) Uxor            am -ans            fl -ent -em        fl  
     wife.F.SG.NOM love -PTCP.F.SG.NOM cry -PTCP -M.SG.ACC cry  
     -ens            acr -ius ips -a        ten -eb -at, imbr  
     -PTCP.F.SG.NOM bitterly -more self -F.SG.NOM hug -PST -3.SG shower  
     -e            per in -dign -as        usque        cad -ent -e  
     -M.SG.ABL on un -becoming -F.PL.ACC continuously fall -PTCP -M.SG.ABL

(Imrényi  
and  
Vladár  
forth-  
com-  
ing???)

gen -as.  
cheeks -F.PL.ACC

'The wife, herself even more bitterly crying, was hugging the crying one, while a shower [of tears] was falling on her unbecoming cheeks [i.e. cheeks to which tears are unbecoming].'

Brassai's diagram, including grammatical functions as translated by the authors, is in Figure 3. The awkward horizontal braces should not be seen as a nod in the direction of classical PS given that the bracketed words are not even adjacent in the sentence analysed. Kern's tree in Figure 4, on the other hand, is for the German sentence in (2).

- (2) Ein -e stolz -e Krähe schmückt -t -e  
 a -F.SG.NOM proud -F.SG.NOM crow.F.SG.NOM decorate -PST -3.SG  
 sich mit d -en aus -gefallen -en -en Feder -n d  
 self.ACC with the -F.PL.DAT out -fall.PTCP.F.PL.DAT feather -F.PL.DAT the  
 -er Pfau -en.  
 -M.PL.GEN peacock.M.PL.GEN

'A proud crow decorated himself with the dropped feathers of the peacocks.'

Once again, the original diagram includes function terms which are translated in this diagram into English.

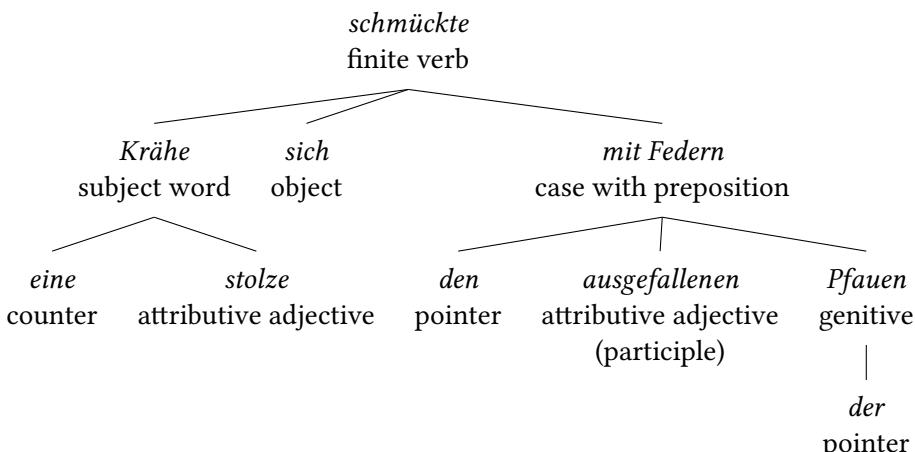


Figure 4: A verb-rooted tree from Kern 1884

Once again the analysis gives up on prepositions, treating *mit Federn* ('with feathers') as a single word, but Figure 4 is an impressive attempt at a coherent analysis which would have provided an excellent foundation for the explosion of syntax in the next century. According to the classic history of dependency grammar, in this approach,

[...] the sentence is not a basic grammatical unit, but merely results from combinations of words, and therefore [...] the only truly basic grammatical unit is the word. A language, viewed from this perspective, is a collection of words and ways of using them in word-groups, i.e., expressions of varying length.

Percival  
1976, 21

But the vagaries of intellectual history and geography worked against this intellectual breakthrough. When Leonard Bloomfield was looking for a theoretical basis for syntax, he could have built on what he had learned at school:

[...] we do not know and may never know what system of grammatical analysis Bloomfield was exposed to as a schoolboy, but it is clear that some of the basic conceptual and terminological ingredients of the system that he was to present in his 1914 and 1933 books were already in use in school grammars of English current in the United States in the nineteenth century. Above all, the notion of sentence "analysis", whether diagramable or not, had been applied in those grammars.

Percival  
1976, 18

And when he visited Germany in 1913–14 he might have learned about Kern's ideas which were already influential there. But instead, he adopted the syntax of the German psychologist Wilhelm Wundt. Wundt's theory applied to meaning rather than syntax, and was based on a single idea: that every idea consists of a subject and a predicate. For example, a phrase meaning "a sincerely thinking person" has two parts: *a person* and *thinks sincerely*; and the latter breaks down, regardless of the grammar, into the noun *thought* and *is sincere*.

Percival  
1976

For all its reliance on logic rather than grammar, the analysis is a clear precursor to neo-Bloomfieldian trees: it recognises a single consistent part-whole relationship (a partonomy) which applies recursively. This, then, is the beginning of the PS tradition: an analysis based purely on meaning as filtered through a speculative theory of cognition – an unpromising start for a theory of syntax. However, Bloomfield's school experience presumably explains why he combined Wundt's partonomies with the hybrid structures of Reed-Kellogg diagrams in his classification of structures as endocentric (headed) or exocentric (headless). For him,

exocentric constructions include the subject-predicate structure and preposition phrases, both of which were problematic in sentence analysis at school. Consequently, his Immediate Constituent Analysis (ICA) perpetuated the old hybrid mixture of headed and headless structures.

The DS elements of ICA are important in evaluating the history of PS, because they contradict the standard view of history expressed here:

Within the Bloomfieldian tradition, there was a fair degree of consensus regarding the application of syntactic methods as well as about the analyses associated with different classes of constructions. Some of the general features of IC analyses find an obvious reflex in subsequent models of analysis.

Foremost among these is the idea that structure involves a part–whole relation between elements and a larger superordinate unit, rather than an asymmetrical dependency relation between elements at the same level.

Blevins  
and Sag  
2013,  
202–3

This quotation implies, wrongly, that ICA rejected DS altogether.

What is most noticeable about the story so far is that even in the 1950s we still haven't seen an example of pure phrase structure. Every theory visited so far has recognised dependency relations in at least some constructions. Even Bloomfieldian ICA had a place for dependencies, though it introduced the idea that dependents might be phrases rather than single words and it rejected the traditional grammatical functions such as subject and object. Reacting against the latter gap, and presumably remembering their schoolroom training, some linguists developed syntactic theories which were based on constituent structure but which did have a place for grammatical functions, though not for dependency as such. The most famous of these theories are Tagmemics and Systemic Functional Grammar (Halliday 1967). However, in spite of its very doubtful parentage and its very brief history, by the 1950s virtually every linguist in America seemed to accept without question the idea that syntactic structure was a partonomy.

This is the world in which Noam Chomsky introduced phrase structure, which he presented as a formalisation of ICA, arguing that “customarily, linguistic description on the syntactic level is formulated in terms of constituent analysis (parsing)” (Chomsky 1957: 26). But such analysis was only “customary” among the Bloomfieldians, and was certainly not part of the classroom activity of parsing.

Chomsky's phrase structure continued the drive towards homogeneity which had led to most of the developments in syntactic theory since the early nineteenth century. Unfortunately, Chomsky dismissed both dependencies and grammatical functions as irrelevant clutter, leaving nothing but part-whole relations,

Pike  
1954

Halliday  
1961;

Matthews  
1993, 147

continuity and sequential order, and category-labels.

Rather remarkably, the theory of phrase structure implied the (psychologically implausible) claim that sideways relations such as dependencies between individual words are impossible in a syntactic tree – or at least that, even if they are psychologically possible, they can (and should) be ignored in a formal model. Less surprisingly, having defined PS in this way, he could easily prove that it was inadequate and needed to be greatly expanded beyond the plain-vanilla version. His solution was the introduction of transformations, but it was only thirteen years before he also recognised the need for some recognition of head-dependent asymmetries in X-bar theory (Chomsky 1970). At the same time, others had objected to transformations and started to develop other ways of making PS adequate. One idea was to include grammatical functions; this idea was developed variously in LFG (Bresnan 1978; 2001), Relational Grammar (Perlmutter & Postal 1983) and Functional Grammar. Another way forward was to greatly enrich the categories (Harman 1963) as in GPSG (Gazdar et al. 1985) and HPSG (Pollard & Sag 1994).

Blake  
1990

Dik 1989;  
Siewierska 1991

Meanwhile, the European ideas about syntactic structure culminating in Kern’s tree diagram developed rather more slowly. Lucien Tesnière in France wrote the first full theoretical discussion of DS in 1939 but it was not published till 1959 (Tesnière 1959; 2015), complete with stemmas looking like the diagrams produced seventy years earlier by Brassai and Kern. Somewhat later, these ideas were built into theoretical packages in which DS was bundled with various other assumptions about levels and abstractness. Here the leading players were from Eastern Europe, where DS flourished: the Russian Igor Mel’čuk (Mel’čuk 1988), who combined DS with multiple analytical levels, and the Czech linguists Petr Sgall, Eva Hajicová and Jarmila Panevova, who included information structure. My own theory Word Grammar (developed, exceptionally, in the UK), also stems from the 1980s (Hudson 1984; 1990; 2007; 2010; 2017). This is the theory which I compare below with HPSG, but it is important to remember that other DS theories would give very different answers to some of the questions that I raise.

Sgall,  
Hajicová,  
and  
Panenová  
1986

DS certainly has a low profile in theoretical linguistics, and especially so in anglophone countries, but there is an area of linguistics where its profile is much higher (and which is of particular interest to the HPSG community): natural-language processing (Kübler et al. 2009). For example:

- the Wikipedia entry for “Treebank” classifies 50 of its 101 treebanks as using dependency structure<sup>4</sup>.

Sugayama  
2002;  
Gisborne  
2008;  
Rosta  
2008;  
Gisborne  
2010;  
Gisborne  
2011;  
Duran-  
Eppler  
2011;  
Traugott

<sup>4</sup><https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Treebank> (January 2019)

- The “Universal dependencies” website lists more than 100 dependency-based treebanks for 60 languages<sup>5</sup>.
- Google’s n-gram facility allows searches based on dependencies<sup>6</sup>.
- The Stanford Parser (Chen and Manning 2014; de Marneffe et al. 2014) uses DS<sup>7</sup>.

The attraction of DS in NLP is that the only units of analysis are words, so at least these units are given in the raw data and the overall analysis can immediately be broken down into a much simpler analysis for each word. This is as true for a linguist building a treebank as it was for a school teacher teaching children to parse words in a grammar lesson. Of course, as we all know, the analysis actually demands a global view of the entire sentence, but at least in simple examples a bottom-up word-based view will also give the right result.

To summarise this historical survey, PS is a recent arrival, and is not yet a hundred years old. Previous syntacticians had never considered the possibility of basing syntactic analysis on a partonomy. Instead, it had seemed obvious that syntax was literally about how words (not phrases) combined with one another.

### 3 HPSG and Word Grammar

The rest of this chapter considers a number of crucial issues that distinguish PS and DS by focusing specifically on how they distinguish two particular manifestations of these traditions, HPSG and Word Grammar (WG). The main question is, of course, how strong the evidence is for the PS basis of HPSG, and how easily this basis could be replaced by DS.

The comparison requires some understanding of WG, so what follows is a brief tutorial on the parts of the theory which will be relevant in the following discussion. Like HPSG, WG combines claims about syntactic relations with a number of other assumptions; but for WG, the main assumption is the Cognitive Principle:

**The Cognitive Principle** Language uses the same general cognitive processes and resources as general cognition, and has access to all of them.

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<sup>5</sup><https://universaldependencies.org/> (January 2019)

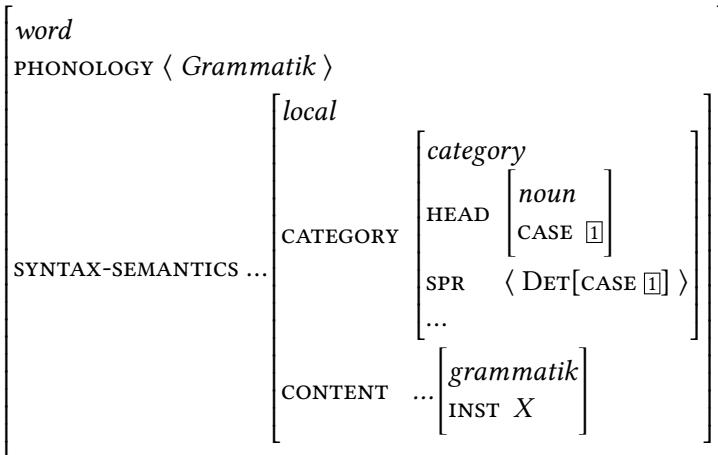
<sup>6</sup><https://books.google.com/ngrams/info> and search for ‘dependency’. (January 2019)

<sup>7</sup><https://nlp.stanford.edu/software/stanford-dependencies.shtml> (January 2019)

This principle is of course merely a hypothesis which may turn out to be wrong, but so far it seems correct (Müller 2018: 494), and it is more compatible with HPSG than with the innatist ideas underlying Chomskyan linguistics. In WG, it plays an important part because it determines other parts of the theory.

On the one hand, cognitive psychologists tend to see knowledge as a network of related concepts, so WG also assumes that the whole of language, including grammar, is a conceptual network (Hudson 1984: 1; 2007: 1). One of the consequences is that the AVMs of HPSG are presented instead as labelled network links; for example, we can compare the elementary example in (3) of the HPSG lexical item for a German noun (Müller 2018: 264) with an exact translation using WG notation.

(3) AVM for the German noun *Grammatik*:



HPSG regards AVMs as equivalent to networks, so translating this AVM into network notation is straightforward; however it is visually complicated so I take it in two steps. First I introduce the basic notation in Figure 5: a small triangle showing that the lexeme GRAMMATIK “isa” word, and a headed arrow representing a labelled attribute (here, “phonology”) and pointing to its value. The names of entities and attributes are enclosed in rectangles and ellipses respectively.

The rest of the AVM translates quite smoothly (ignoring the list for SPR), giving Figure 6, though an actual WG analysis would be rather different in ways that are irrelevant here.

The other difference based on cognitive psychology between HPSG and WG is that many cognitive psychologists argue that concepts are built around prototypes, clear cases with a periphery of exceptional cases. This claim implies the

Berwick  
et al.  
2013

Reisberg  
2007,  
252

Rosch  
1973;  
Taylor  
1995

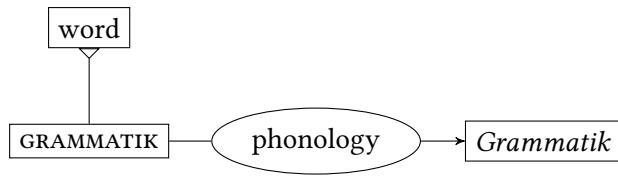


Figure 5: The German noun *Grammatik*, ‘grammar’, in a WG network

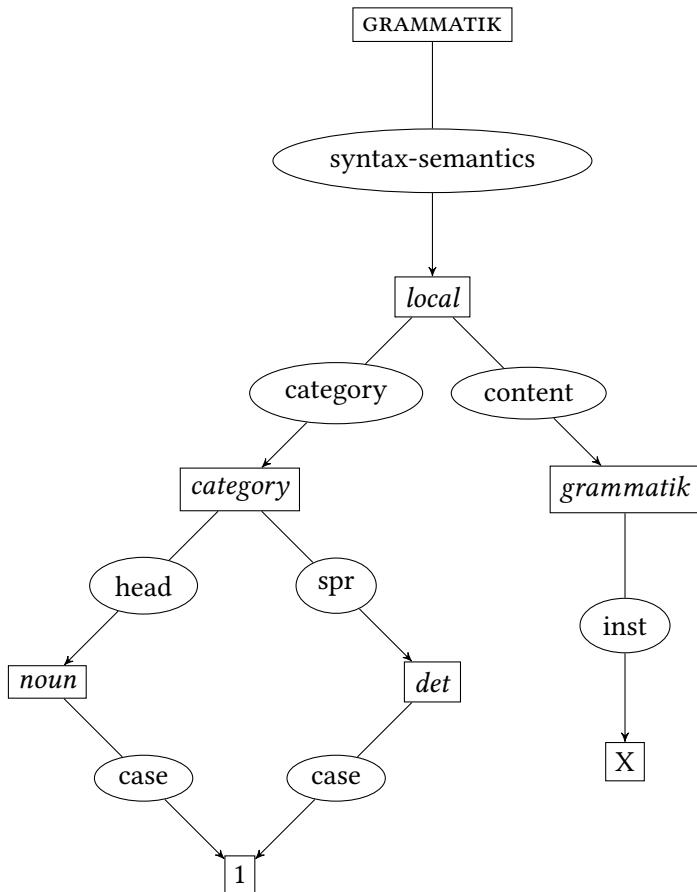


Figure 6: The German noun *Grammatik*, ‘grammar’, in a WG network

logic of default inheritance (Briscoe et al. 1993), which is popular in AI though less so in logic. In HPSG, default inheritance is accepted by some (Lascarides & Copestake 1999) but not by others (Müller 2018: 403), whereas in WG it plays a fundamental role, as I show in Section 4.1 below. WG uses the ‘isa’ relation to carry default inheritance, and avoids the problems of non-monotonic inheritance by restricting inheritance to node-creation Hudson (2017: 18). Once again, the difference is highly relevant to the comparison of PS and DS because one of the basic questions is whether syntactic structures involve partonomies (based on whole:part relations) or taxonomies (based on the isa relation). (I argue in Section 4.1 that taxonomies exist within the structure of a sentence thanks to isa relations between tokens and sub-tokens.)

Default inheritance leads to an interesting comparison of the ways in which the two theories treat attributes. On the one hand, they both recognise a taxonomy in which some attributes are grouped together as similar; for example, the HPSG analysis in Figure 5 classifies the attributes CATEGORY and CONTENT as LOCAL, and within CATEGORY it distinguishes the HEAD and SPECIFIER attributes. In WG attributes are called relations, and they too form a taxonomy. The simplest examples to present are the traditional grammatical functions, which are all subtypes of “dependent”; for example, “object” isa “complement”, which isa “valent”, which isa “dependent”, as shown in Figure 7 (which begs a number of analytical questions such as the status of depictive predicatives, which are not complements).

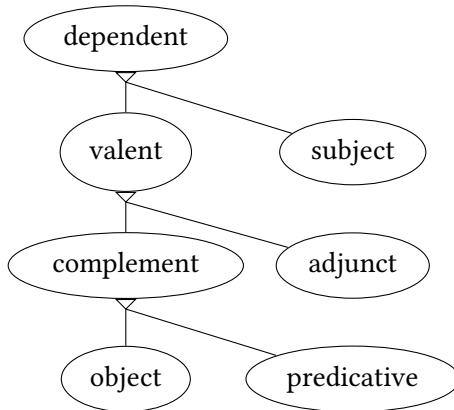


Figure 7: A WG taxonomy of grammatical functions

In spite of the differences in the categories recognised, the formal similarity is striking. On the other hand, there is also an important formal difference in

the roles played by these taxonomies. In spite of interesting work on default inheritance (Lascarides & Copstake 1999), most versions of HPSG allow generalisations but not exceptions (“If one formulates a restriction on a supertype, this automatically affects all of its subtypes.” (Müller 2018: 275)), whereas in WG the usual logic of default inheritance applies so exceptions are possible. These are easy to illustrate from word order, which (as explained in Section 4.4) is normally inherited from dependencies: a verb’s subject normally precedes it, but an inverted subject (the subject of an inverted auxiliary verb, as in *did he*) follows it.

Another reason for discussing default inheritance and the *isa* relation is to explain that WG, just like HPSG, is a constraint-based theory. In HPSG, a sentence is grammatical if it can be modeled given the structures and lexicon provided by the grammar, which are combined with each other via unification. Similarly, in WG it is grammatical if its word tokens can all be inherited from entries in the grammar (which, unlike HPSG, also includes the entire lexicon). Within the grammar, these may involve overrides but overrides between the grammar and the word tokens imply some degree of ungrammaticality. For instance, *He slept* is grammatical because all the properties of *He* and *slept* (including their syntactic properties such as the word order that can be inherited from their grammatical function) can be inherited directly from the grammar, whereas *\*Slept he* is ungrammatical in that the order of words is exceptional, and the exception is not licensed by the grammar.

This completes the tutorial on WG, so we are now ready to consider the issues that distinguish HPSG from this particular version of DS. In preparation for this discussion, I return to the three distinguishing assumptions about classical PS and DS theories given earlier as 1 to 3, and repeated here:

1. Containment: in PS, but not in DS, if two items are directly related, one must contain the other.
2. Continuity: therefore, in PS, but not in DS, all the items contained in a larger one must be adjacent.
3. Asymmetry: in both DS and PS, a direct relation between two items must be asymmetrical, but in DS the relation (between two words) is dependency whereas in PS it is the part-whole relation.

These distinctions will provide the structure for the discussion:

- Containment and continuity:

- Semantic phrasing
- Coordination
- Phrasal edges
- Word order
- Asymmetry:
  - Structure sharing and raising/lowering
  - Headless phrases
  - Complex dependency
  - Grammatical functions

## 4 Containment and continuity (PS but not DS)

### 4.1 Semantic phrasing

One apparent benefit of PS is what I call “semantic phrasing” (Hudson 1990: 146–151), in which the effect of adding a dependent to a word modifies that word’s meaning to produce a different meaning. For instance, the phrase *typical French house* does not mean ‘house which is both typical and French’, but rather ‘French house which is typical (of French houses)’ (Dahl 1980). In other words, even if the syntax does not need a node corresponding to the combination *French house*, the semantics does need one.

For HPSG, of course, this is not a problem because every dependent is part of a new structure, semantic as well as syntactic (Müller 2019); so the syntactic phrase *French house* has a content which is ‘French house’. But for DS theories, this is not generally possible because there is no syntactic node other than those for individual words – so, in this example, one node for *house* and one for *French* but none for *French house*.

Fortunately for DS, there is a solution: create extra word nodes but treat them as a taxonomy, not a partonomy. To appreciate the significance of this distinction, the connection between the concepts “finger” and “hand” is a partonomy, but that between “index finger” and “finger” is a taxonomy; a finger is part of a hand, but it is not a hand, and conversely an index finger is a finger, but it is not part of a finger.

In this analysis, then, the token of *house* in *typical French house* would be factored into three distinct nodes:

Hudson  
2018

**house:** an example of the lexeme HOUSE, with the inherited meaning ‘house’.

**house+F:** the word *house* with *French* as its dependent, meaning ‘French house’.

**house+t:** the word *house+F* with *typical* as its dependent, meaning ‘typical example of a French house’.

(It is important to remember that the labels are merely hints to guide the analyst, and not part of the analysis; so the last label could have been *house+t+F* without changing the analysis at all. One of the consequences of a network approach is that the only substantive elements in the analysis are the links between nodes, rather than the labels on the nodes.) These three nodes can be justified as distinct categories because each combines a syntactic fact with a semantic one: for instance, *house* doesn’t simply mean ‘French house’, but has that meaning because it has the dependent *French*. The alternative would be to add all the dependents and all the meanings to a single word node as in earlier versions of WG (Hudson 1990: 146–151), thereby removing all the explanatory connections; this seems much less plausible psychologically. The proposed WG analysis of *typical French house* is shown in Figure 8, with the syntactic structure on the left and the semantics on the right.

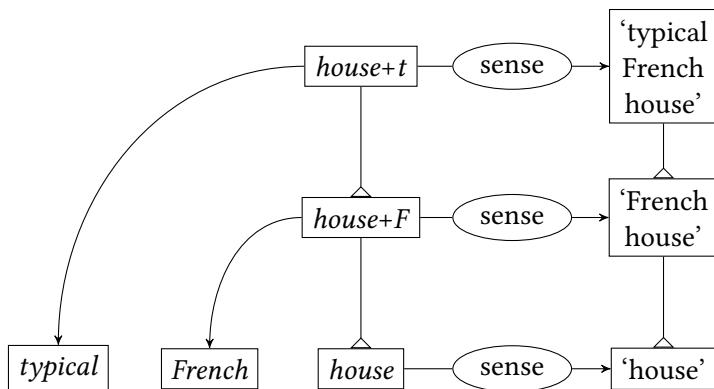


Figure 8: *typical French house* in WG

Unlike standard DG analyses (Müller 2019), the number of syntactic nodes in this analysis is the same as in an HPSG analysis, but crucially these nodes are linked by the *isa* relation, and not as parts to wholes – in other words, the hierarchy is a taxonomy, not a partonomy. As mentioned earlier, the logic is default inheritance, and the default semantics has *isa* links parallel to those in syntax; thus the meaning of *house+F* (*house* as modified by *French*) *isa* the meaning of

*house* – in other words, a French house is a kind of house. But the default can be overridden by exceptions such as the meanings of adjectives like *fake* and *former*, so a fake diamond is not a diamond (though it looks like one) and a former soldier is no longer a soldier. The exceptional semantics is licensed by the grammar – the stored network – so the sentence is fully grammatical. All this is possible because of the same default inheritance that allows irregular morphology and syntax.

## 4.2 Coordination

Another potential argument for PS, and against DS, is based on coordination: coordination is a symmetrical relationship, not a dependency, and it coordinates phrases rather than single words. For instance, in (4) the coordination clearly links the VPs *came in* to *sat down* and puts them on equal grammatical terms; and it is this equality that allows them to share the subject *Mary*.

- (4) Mary came in and sat down.

But of course, in a classic DS analysis *Mary* is also attached directly to *came*, without an intervening VP node, so *came in* is not a complete syntactic item and this approach to coordination fails, so we have a *prima facie* case against DS.

(For coordination in HPSG, see the chapter on coordination.)

Fortunately, there is a solution: sets (Hudson 1990: 404-421). We know from the vast experimental literature (as well as from everyday experience) that the human mind is capable of representing ordered sets (strings) of words, so all we need to assume is that we can apply this ability in the case of coordination. The members of a set are all equal, so their relation is symmetrical; and the members may share properties (e.g. a person's children constitute a set united by their shared relation to that person as well as by a multitude of other shared properties). Moreover, sets may be combined into supersets, so both conjuncts such as *came in* and *sat down* and coordinations (*came in* and *sat down*) are lists. According to this analysis, then, the two lists (*came, in*) and (*sat, down*) are united by their shared subject, *Mary*, and combine into the coordination ((*came, in*) (*sat, down*)). The precise status of the conjunction *and* remains to be determined. The proposed analysis is shown in network notation in Figure 9.

Once again, inheritance plays a role in generating this diagram. The *isa* links have been omitted in Figure 9 to avoid clutter, but they are shown in Figure 10, where the extra *isa* links are compensated for by removing all irrelevant matter

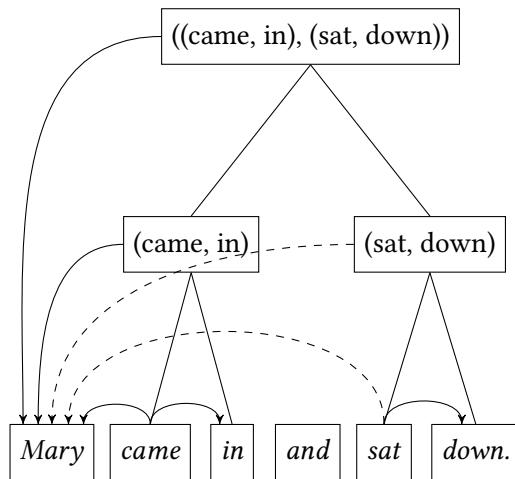


Figure 9: Coordination with sets

and the dependencies are numbered for convenience. In this diagram, the dependency d1 from *came* to *Mary* is the starting point, as it is established in processing during the processing of *Mary came* – long before the coordination is recognised; and the endpoint is the dependency d5 from *sat* to *Mary*, which is simply a copy of d1, so the two are linked by *isa*. (It will be recalled from Figure 7 that dependencies form a taxonomy, just like words and word classes, so *isa* links between dependencies are legitimate.) The conjunction *and* creates the three set nodes, and general rules for sets ensure that properties – in this case, dependencies – can be shared by the two conjuncts.

It's not yet clear exactly how this happens, but one possibility is displayed in the diagram: d1 licenses d2 which licenses d3 which licenses d4 which licenses d5. Each of these licensing relations is based on *isa*. Whatever the mechanism, the main idea is that the members of a set can share a property; for example, we can think of a group of people sitting in a room as a set whose members share the property of sitting in the room. Similarly, the set of strings *came in* and *sat down* share the property of having *Mary* as their subject.

The proposed analysis may seem to have adopted phrases in all but name, but this is not so because the conjuncts have no grammatical classification, so coordination is not restricted to coordination of like categories. This is helpful with examples like (5) where an adjective is coordinated with an NP and a PP.

- (5) Kim was intelligent, a good linguist and in the right job.

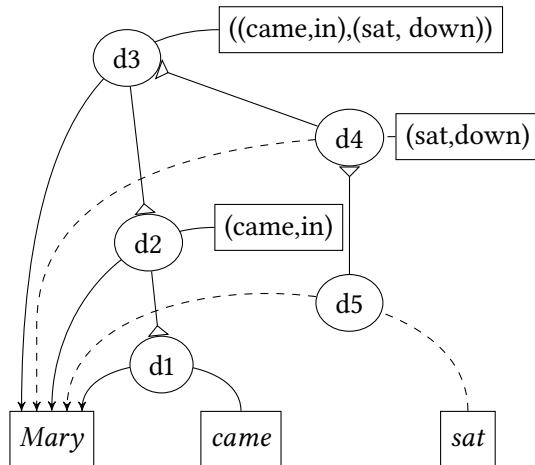


Figure 10: Coordination with inherited dependencies

The possibility of coordinating mixed categories is a well-known challenge for PS-based analyses such as HPSG: “Ever since Sag et al. (1985), the underlying intuition was that what makes Coordination of Unlikes acceptable is that each conjunct is actually well-formed when combined individually with the shared rest.” (Crysman 2008: 61) Put somewhat more precisely, the intuition is that what coordinated items share is not their category but their function (Hudson 1990: 414). This is more accurate because simple combinability isn’t enough; for instance, *we ate* can combine with an object or with an adjunct, but the functional difference prevents them from coordinating:

- (6) We ate a sandwich.
- (7) We ate at midday.
- (8) \* We ate a sandwich and at midday.

Similarly, *a linguist* can combine as dependent with many verbs, but these can only coordinate if their relation to *a linguist* is the same:

- (9) She became a linguist.
- (10) She met a linguist.
- (11) \* She became and met a linguist.

It is true that HPSG can accommodate the coordination of unlike categories by redefining categories so that they define functions rather than traditional categories; for example, if “predicative” is treated as a category, then the problem of

(5) disappears because *intelligent, a good linguist* and *in the right job* all belong to the category “predicative”. However, this solution generates as many problems as it solves. For example, why is the category “predicative” exactly equivalent to the function with the same name, whereas categories such as “noun phrase” have multiple functions? And how does this category fit into a hierarchy of categories so as to bring together an arbitrary collection of categories which are otherwise unrelated: nominative noun phrase, adjective phrase and preposition phrase?

Moreover, since the WG analysis is based on arbitrary strings and sets rather than phrases, it easily accommodates “incomplete” conjuncts (Hudson 1990: 405) precisely because there is no expectation that strings are complete phrases. This claim is born out by examples such as (12) (meaning ‘... and parties for foreign girls ...’).

- (12) We hold parties for foreign boys on Tuesdays and girls on Wednesdays.

In this example, the first conjunct is the string (*boys, on, Tuesdays*), which is not a phrase defined by dependencies; the relevant phrases are *parties for foreign boys* and *on Tuesdays*.

This sketch of a WG treatment of coordination ignores a number of important issues (raised by reviewers) such as joint interpretation (13) and special choice of pronoun forms (14).

- (13) John and Mary are similar.  
(14) Between you and I, she likes him.

These issues have received detailed attention in WG (Hudson 1984: chap. 5; 1988; 1990: chap. 14; 2010: 175–81, 304–7), but they are peripheral to this chapter.

### 4.3 Phrasal edges

One of the differences between PS and DS is that, at least in its classic form, PS formally recognises phrasal boundaries, and a PS tree can even be converted to a bracketed string where the phrase is represented by its boundaries. In contrast, although standard DS implies phrases (since a phrase can be defined as a word and all the words depending on it either directly or indirectly), it doesn’t mark their boundaries.

Tallerman’s article is one of the few serious discussions by a PS advocate of the relative merits of PS and DS, so it deserves more consideration than space allows here. It

discusses examples such as (15) and (16), where the underlined words are morphologically changed by soft mutation in comparison with their underlying forms shown in brackets.

- (15) Prynodd y ddynes delyn. (telyn)  
buy.PAST.3s the woman harp  
'The woman bought a harp.'
- (16) Gwnaeth y ddynes [werthu telyn]. (gwerthu)  
do.PAST.3s the woman sell.IMP harp  
'The woman sold a harp.'

Soft mutation is sensitive to syntax, so although 'harp' is the object of a preceding verb in both examples, it is mutated when this verb is finite (*prynodd*) and followed by a subject, but not when the verb has no subject because it is non-finite (*werthu*). Similarly, the non-finite verb 'sell' is itself mutated in example (16) because it follows a subject, in contrast with the finite verbs which precede the subject and have no mutation.

A standard PS explanation for such facts (and many more) is the "XP Trigger Hypothesis": that soft mutation is triggered on a subject or complement (but not an adjunct) immediately after an XP boundary. The analysis contains two claims: that mutation affects the first word of an XP, and that it is triggered by the end of another XP. The first claim seems beyond doubt: the mutated word is simply the first word, and not necessarily the head. Examples such as (17) are conclusive.

- (17) Dw i [lawn mor grac â chi]. (llawn)  
be.PRES.1s I full as angry as you  
'I'm just as angry as you.'

Borsley,  
Taller-  
man,  
and  
Willis  
2007,  
226

The second claim is less clearly correct; for instance, it relies on controversial assumptions about null subjects and traces in examples such as (18) and (19) (where *t* and *pro* stand for a trace and a null subject respectively, but have to be treated as full phrases for purposes of the XP Trigger Hypothesis in order to explain the mutation following them).

- (18) Pwy brynnodd t delyn? (telyn)  
who buy.PAST.3s t harp  
'Who bought a harp?'

- (19) Prynodd pro delyn. (telyn)  
buy.PAST.3s pro harp  
'He/she bought a harp.'

But suppose both claims were true. What would this imply for DS? All it shows is that we need to be able to identify the first word in a phrase (the mutated word) and the last word in a phrase (the trigger). This is certainly not possible in WG as it stands, but the basic premiss of WG is that the whole of ordinary cognition is available to language, and it's very clear that ordinary cognition allows us to recognise beginnings and endings in other domains, so why not also in language? Moreover, beginnings and endings fit well in the framework of ideas about linearisation that are introduced in the next subsection.

The Welsh data, therefore, do not show that we need phrasal nodes complete with attributes and values. Rather, edge phenomena such as Welsh mutation show that DS needs to be expanded, but not that we need the full apparatus of PS. Exactly how to adapt WG is a matter for future research, not for this chapter.

#### 4.4 Word order

In both WG and some variants of HPSG, dominance and linearity are separated, but this separation goes much further in WG. In basic HPSG, linearization rules apply only to sisters, and if the binary branching often assumed for languages such as German (Müller 2018: chap. 10.3) reduces these to just two the result is clearly too rigid given the freedom of ordering found in many languages. It is true that solutions are available (Müller 2018: chap. 10), such as allowing alternative binary branchings for the same word combinations or combining binary branching with flat structures held in lists, but these solutions involve extra complexity in other parts of the theory such as additional lists. For instance, one innovation is the idea of linearisation domains (Reape 1994; Kathol 2000; Müller 1996), which allow a verb and its arguments and adjuncts to be members of the same linearisation domain and hence to be realized in any order (Müller 2018: 302). These proposals bring HPSG nearer to DS, where flat structures are inevitable and free order is the default (subject to extra order constraints).

WG takes the separation of linearity from dominance a step further by introducing two new syntactic relations dedicated to word order: "position" and "landmark", each of which points to a node in the overall network (). As its name suggests, a word's landmark is the word from which it takes its position, and is normally the word on which it depends (as in the HPSG list of dependents); what by default holds phrases together is that dependents keep as close to their

landmarks as possible because a general principle bans intersecting landmark relations. Moreover, the word's "position" relative to its landmark may either be free or defined as either before or after.

However, this default pattern allows exceptions, and because “position” and “landmark” are properties, they are subject to default inheritance which allows exceptions such as raising and extraction (discussed in Section 5.2). To give an idea of the flexibility allowed by these relations, we start with the very easy English example in Figure 11, where “lm” and “psn” stand for “landmark” and “position”, and “<” and “>” mean “before” and “after”.

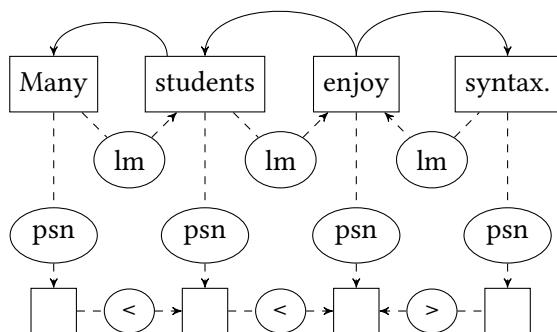


Figure 11: Basic word order in English

It could be objected that this is a lot of formal machinery for such a simple matter as word order. However, it is important to recognise that the conventional left-right ordering of writing is just a written convention, and that a mental network (which is what we are trying to model in WG) has no left-right ordering. Ordering a series of objects (such as words) is a complex mental operation, which experimental subjects often get wrong, so complex machinery is appropriate. Moreover, any syntactician knows that language offers a multiplicity of complex relations between dependency structure and word order. To take an extreme example, non-configurational languages pose problems for standard versions of HPSG (for which Bender suggests solutions) as illustrated by a Wambaya sentence, repeated here a (20) (Bender 2008; Nordlinger 1998)

- (20) Ngaragana -nguja       ngiy       -a       gujinganjanga -ni       jiyawu  
          grog       -PROP.IV.ACC 3.SG.NM.A -PST mother       -II.ERG give  
          ngabulu  
          milk.IV.ACC  
          ‘(His) mother gave (him) milk with grog in it.’

The literal gloss shows that both ‘grog’ and ‘milk’ are marked as ##accusative, which is enough to allow the former to modify the latter in spite of their separation. The word order is typical of many Australian non-configurational languages: totally free within the clause except that the auxiliary verb (glossed here as ‘3sg.past’) comes second (after one dependent word or phrase). Such freedom of order is easily accommodated if landmarks are independent of dependencies: the auxiliary verb is the root of the clause’s dependency structure (as in English), and also the landmark for every word that depends on it, whether directly or (crucially) indirectly. Its second position is due to a rule which requires it to precede all these words by default, but to have just one “preceder”. A simplified structure for this sentence (with Wambaya words replaced by English glosses) is shown in Figure 12, with dotted arrows below the words again showing landmark and position relations. The dashed horizontal line separates this sentence structure from the grammar that generates it. In words, an auxiliary verb requires precisely one preceder, which is a descendant. “Descendant” is a transitive generalisation of “dependent”, so a descendant is either a dependent or a dependent of a descendant. The preceder precedes the auxiliary verb, but all other descendants follow it.

Later sections will discuss word order, and will reinforce the claims of this subsection: that plain-vanilla versions of either PS or DS are woefully inadequate and need to be supplemented in some way.

This completes the discussion of “containment” and “continuity”, the characteristics of classical PS which are missing in DS. We have seen that the continuity guaranteed by PS is also provided by default in WG by a general ban on intersecting landmark relations; but, thanks to default inheritance, exceptions abound. HPSG offers a similar degree of flexibility but using different machinery such as word-order domains (Reape 1994); see also the chapter on word order. Moreover, WG offers a great deal of flexibility in other relations: for example, a word may be part of a string (as in coordination) and its phrase’s edges may need to be recognised structurally (as in Welsh mutation).

## 5 Asymmetry and functions

This section considers the characteristics of DS which are missing from classical PS: asymmetrical relations between words and their dependents. Does syntactic theory need these notions? It’s important to distinguish here between two different kinds of asymmetry that are recognised in HPSG. One is the kind which is inherent to PS and the part-whole relation, but the other is inherent to DS but an

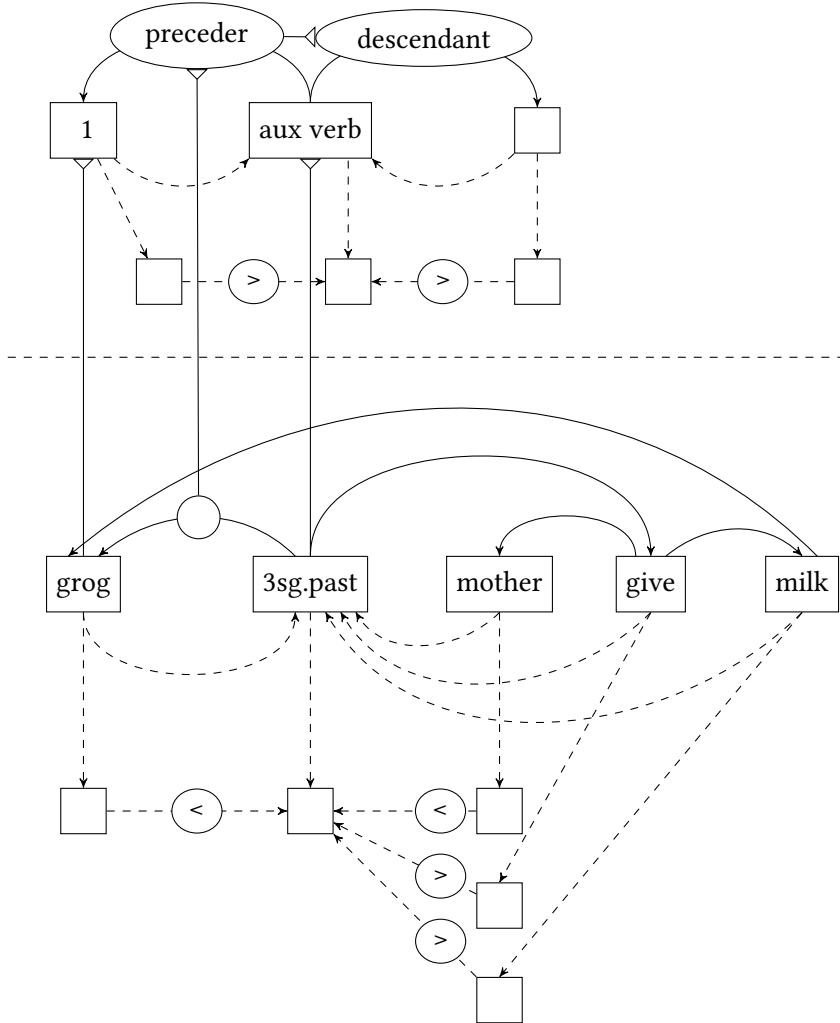


Figure 12: A non-configurational structure

optional extra in PS: the functional asymmetry between the head and its dependents. HPSG, like most other theories of syntax, does recognise this asymmetry and indeed builds it into the name of the theory, but more recently this assumption has come under fire within the HPSG community for reasons considered below in Section 5.1.

But if the head/dependent distinction is important, are there any other functional distinctions between parts that ought to be explicit in the analysis? In other words, what about grammatical functions such as subject and object? As Figure 8 showed, WG recognises a taxonomy of grammatical functions which carry important information about word order (among other things), so functions are central to WG analyses. Many other versions of DS also recognise functional distinctions; for example, Tesnière distinguished actants from circumstantial, and among actants he distinguished subjects, direct objects and indirect objects (Tesnière 2015: xlvii). But the only functional distinction which is inherent to DS is that between head and dependents, so other such distinctions are an optional extra in DS – just as they are in PS, where many theories accept them. But HPSG leaves them implicit in the order of elements in ARG-ST (like phrases in DS), so this is an issue worth raising when comparing HPSG with the DS tradition.

## 5.1 Headless phrases

Bloomfield assumed that phrases could be either headed (endocentric) or not (exocentric). According to WG (and other DS theories), there are no headless phrases. Admittedly, utterances may contain unstructured lists (e.g. *one two three four ...*), and quotations may be unstructured strings, as in (21), but presumably no-one would be tempted to call such strings “phrases”, or at least not in the sense of phrases that a grammar should generate.

- (21) He said “One, two, three, testing, testing, testing”

Such strings can be handled by the mechanism already introduced for coordination, namely ordered sets.

The WG claim, then, is that when words hang together syntactically, they form phrases which always have a head. Is this claim tenable? There are a number of potential counterexamples including (22) – (25).

- (22) The rich get richer. (Müller 2018: 403)
- (23) The harder he works, the less he learns.
- (24) In they came, student after student. (Jackendoff 2008: 8)

- (25) However smart the students, a lecture needs to be clear.

(Arnold & Borsley 2014)

All these examples can in fact be given a headed analysis, as I shall now explain, starting with (22). *The rich* is allowed by *the*, which has a special sub-case which allows a single adjective as its complement, meaning either “generic people” or some contextually defined notion (such as “apples” in *the red* used when discussing apples); this is not possible with any other determiner. In the determiner-headed analysis of standard WG, this is unproblematic as the head is *the*.

The comparative correlative in (23) is clearly a combination of a subordinate clause followed by a main clause (Culicover & Jackendoff 1999), but what are the heads of the two clauses? The obvious dependency links the first *the* with the second (hence “correlative”), so it is at least worth considering an analysis in which this dependency is the basis of the construction and, once again, the head is *the*. Figure 13 outlines a possible analysis, though it should be noted that the dependency structures are complex. The next section discusses such complexities, which are a reaction to complex functional pressures; for example, it is easy to see that the fronting of *the less* reduces the distance between the two correlatives. Of course, there is no suggestion here that this analysis applies unchanged to every translation equivalent of our comparative correlative; for instance, French uses a coordinate structure without an equivalent of *the*: *Plus ... et plus ...*.

Abeillé  
and  
Borsley  
2008

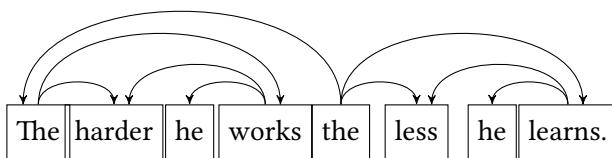


Figure 13: A WG sketch of the comparative correlative

Example (24) is offered by Jackendoff as a clear case of headlessness, but there is an equally obvious headed analysis of *student after student* in which the structure is the same as in commonplace N P N examples like *box of matches*. The only peculiarity of Jackendoff’s example is the lexical repetition, which is beyond most theories of syntax. For WG, however, the solution is easy: the second N token is the first, which allows default inheritance. This example illustrates an idiomatic but generalisable version of the N P N pattern in which the second N is the first

and the meaning is special; as expected, the pattern is recursive. The grammatical subnetwork needed to generate the syntactic structure for such examples is shown (with solid lines) in Figure 14; the semantics is harder and needs more research. What this diagram shows is that there is a subclass of nouns called here “noun<sub>npn</sub>”, which is special in having as its complement a preposition with the special property of having another copy of the same noun<sub>npn</sub> as its complement. The whole construction is potentially recursive because the copy itself inherits the possibility of a preposition complement, but the recursion is limited by the fact that this complement is optional (shown as ‘0,1’ inside the box, meaning that its quantity is either 0 (absent) or 1 (present)). Because the second noun is the first, if it has a prepositional complement this is also a copy of the first preposition – hence *student after student after student*, whose structure is shown in Figure 14 with dashed lines.

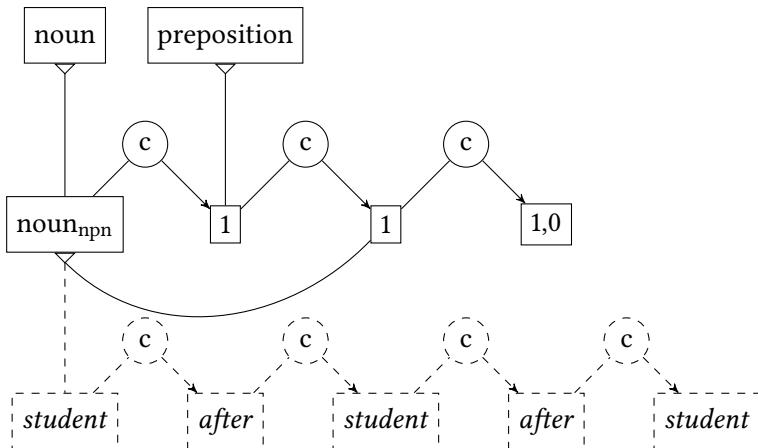


Figure 14: The N P N construction in Word Grammar

The “exhaustive conditional” or “unconditional” in (25) clearly has two parts: *however smart* and *the students*, but which is the head? A verb could be added, giving *however smart the students are*, so if we assumed a covert verb that would provide a head, but without a verb it is unclear – and indeed this is precisely the kind of subject-predicate structure that stood in the way of dependency analysis for nearly two thousand years.

However, there are good reasons for rejecting covert verbs in general. For instance, in Arabic a predicate adjective or nominal is in different cases according to whether “be” is overt: accusative when it is overt, nominative when it is covert. Moreover, the word order is different in the two constructions: the verb normally

precedes the subject, but the verbless predicate follows it. In Arabic, therefore, a covert verb would simply complicate the analysis; but if an analysis without a covert verb is possible for Arabic, it is also possible in English.

Moreover, even English offers an easy alternative to the covert verb based on the structure where the verb BE is overt. It is reasonably uncontroversial to assume a raising analysis for examples such as (26) and (27), so (28) invites a similar analysis .

Müller  
2013

- (26) He keeps talking.
- (27) He is talking.
- (28) He is cold.

But a raising analysis implies a headed structure for *he cold* in which *he* depends (as subject) on *cold*. Given this analysis, the same must be true even where there is no verb, as in example (25) however *smart the students* or so-called “Mad-Magazine sentences” like (29).<sup>8</sup>

Lambrecht  
1990

- (29) What, him smart? You’re joking!

Comfortingly, the facts of exhaustive conditionals support this analysis because the subject is optional, confirming that the predicate is head.

- (30) However smart, nobody succeeds without a lot of effort.

In short, where there is just a subject and a predicate, without a verb, then the predicate is the head.

Clearly it is impossible to prove the non-existence of headless phrases, but the examples considered have been offered as plausible examples, so if even they allow a well-motivated headed analysis, it seems reasonable to hypothesise that all phrases have heads.

## 5.2 Complex dependency

The differences between HPSG and WG raise another question concerning the geometry of sentence structure because the possibilities offered by the part-whole

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<sup>8</sup>A reviewer asks what excludes alternatives such as He smart? and Him smart. (i.e. as a statement. The former is grammatically impossible because he is possible only as the subject of a tensed verb, but presumably the latter is excluded by the pragmatic constraints on the “Mad-magazine” construction.

relations of HPSG are more limited than those offered by the word-word dependencies of WG. How complex can dependencies be? Is there a theoretical limit such that some geometrical patterns can be ruled out as impossible? Two particular questions arise:

1. Can a word depend on more than one other word? This is of course precisely what structure sharing allows, but this only allows “raising” or “lowering” within a single chain of dependencies. Is any other kind of “double dependency” possible?
2. Is mutual dependency possible?

The answer to both questions is yes for WG, but is less clear for HPSG. Consider the dependency structure for an example such as (31).

(31) I wonder who came.

In a dependency analysis the only available units are words, so the clause *who came* has no status in the analysis and is represented by its head. In WG, this is *who* because this is the word that links *came* to the rest of the sentence.

Of interest in (31) are three dependencies:

1. *who* depends on *wonder* because *wonder* needs an interrogative complement – i.e. an interrogative word such as *who* or *whether*; so *who* is the object of *wonder*.
2. *who* also depends on *came* because it is the subject of *came*.
3. *came* depends on *who*, because interrogative pronouns allow a following finite verb (or, for most but not all pronouns, an infinitive as in *I wonder who to invite*). Since this is both selected by the pronoun and optional (as in *I wonder who*), it must be the pronoun’s complement, so *came* is the complement of *who*.

Given the assumptions of DS, and of WG in particular, each of these dependencies is quite obvious and uncontroversial when considered in isolation. The problem, of course, is that they combine in an unexpectedly complicated way; in fact, this one example illustrates both the complex conditions defined above: *who* depends on two words which are not otherwise syntactically connected (*wonder* and *came*), and *who* and *came* are mutually dependent. A WG analysis of the relevant dependencies is sketched in Figure 15 (where “s” and “c” stand for “subject” and “complement”).

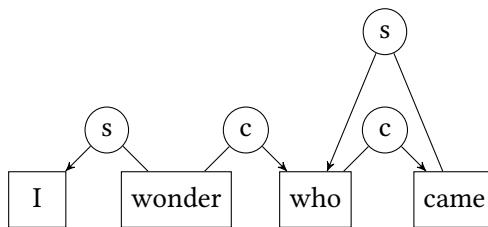


Figure 15: Complex dependencies in a relative clause

A similar analysis applies to relative clauses. For instance, in (32) the relative pronoun *who* depends on the antecedent *man* as an adjunct and on *called* as its subject, while the ‘relative verb’ *called* depends on *who* as its obligatory complement.

- (32) I knew the man who called.

Pied-piping presents well-known challenges. Take, for example, (33) (Pollard & Sag 1994: 212).

- (33) Here’s the minister [[in [the middle [of [whose sermon]]]] the dog barked]

According to WG, *whose* (which as a determiner is head of the phrase *whose sermon*) is both an adjunct of its antecedent *minister* and also the head of the relative verb *barked*, just as in the simpler example. The challenge is to explain the word order: how can *whose* have dependency links to both *minister* and *barked* when it is surrounded, on both sides, by words on which it depends? Normally, this would be impossible, but pied-piping is special. The WG analysis locates the peculiarities of pied-piping entirely in the word order, invoking a special relation ‘pipee’ which transfers the expected positional properties of the relative pronoun (the ‘piper’) up the dependency chain – in this case, to the preposition *in*.

Hudson  
2018

And so we finish this review of complex dependencies by answering the question that exercised the minds of the Arabic grammarians in the Abbasid Caliphate: is mutual dependency possible? The arrow notation of WG allows grammars to generate the relevant structures, so the answer yes, and HPSG can presumably achieve the same effect by means of re-entrance; so this conclusion reflects another example of theoretical convergence.

### 5.3 Grammatical functions

As I have already explained, more or less traditional grammatical functions such as subject and adjunct play a central part in WG, and more generally, they are

highly compatible with any version of DS because they are all sub-divisions of the basic function dependent. This being so, we can define a taxonomy of functions such as the one in Figure 7 which is developed in Figure 16 to accommodate an example of the very specific functions which are needed in any complete grammar: the second complement of *from*, as in *from London to Edinburgh*, which may be unique to this particular preposition.

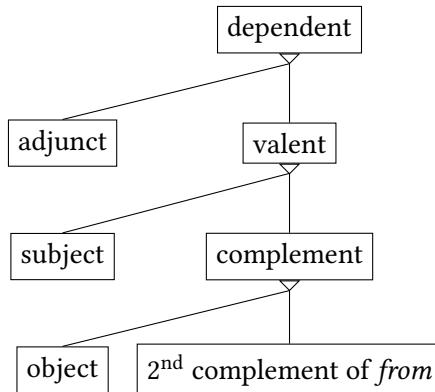


Figure 16: A taxonomy of grammatical functions

HPSG also recognises a taxonomy of functions by means of three lists attached to any head word.

**SPR:** the word's specifier, i.e. for a noun its determiner and (in some versions of HPSG) for a verb its subject

**COMPS:** its complements

**ARG-ST:** its specifier and its complements, i.e., in WG terms, its valents

The third list concatenates the first two, so the same analysis could be achieved in WG by a taxonomy in which **SPR** and **COMPS** both isa **ARG-ST**. However, there are also two important differences: in HPSG adjuncts have a different status from other dependents, and these three general categories are lists.

Adjuncts are treated differently in the two theories. In WG, they are dependents, and located in the same taxonomy as valents; so in HPSG terms they would be listed among the head word's attributes, along with the other dependents but differentiated by not being licensed by the head. But HPSG reverses this relationship by treating the head as a MOD ("modified") of the adjunct. For example, in

(34) *she* and *it* are listed in the ARG-ST of *ate* but *quickly* is not mentioned in the AVM of *ate*; instead, *ate* is listed as MOD of *quickly*.

- (34) She ate it quickly.

This distinction, inherited from Categorial Grammar, correctly reflects the facts of government: *ate* governs *she* and *it*, but not *quickly*. It also reflects one possible analysis of the semantics, in which *she* and *it* provide built-in arguments of the predicate “eat”, while *quickly* provides another predicate “quick”, of which the whole proposition eat(*she*, *it*) is the argument. Other semantic analyses are of course possible, including one in which “manner” is an optional argument; but the proposed analysis is consistent with the assumptions of HPSG.

On the other hand, HPSG also recognises a HEAD constituent in every construction, and in the construction which includes *quickly*, the latter is not the head. So what unifies arguments and adjuncts is the fact of not being heads. In contrast, DS theories (including WG) agree in recognising adjuncts as dependents, so arguments and adjuncts are unified by this category, which is missing from most versions of HPSG, though not from all (Bouma et al. 2001). The DS analysis follows from the assumption that dependency isn’t just about government, nor is it tied to a logical analysis based on predicates and arguments. At least in WG, the basic characteristic of a dependent is that it modifies the meaning of the head word, so that the resultant meaning is (typically) a hyponym of the head’s unmodified meaning. Given this characterisation, adjuncts are core dependents; for instance *big book* is a hyponym of *book* (i.e. “big book” is a “book”), and *she ate it quickly* is a hyponym of *she ate it*. The same characterisation also applies to arguments: *ate it* is a hyponym of *ate*, and *she ate it* is a hyponym of *ate it*. (Admittedly hyponymy is merely the default, and as explained in section 4.1 it may be overridden by the details of particular adjuncts such as *fake* as in *fake diamonds*; but exceptions are to be expected.)

Does the absence in HPSG of a unifying category “dependent” matter? So long as HEAD is available, we can express word-order generalisations for head-final and head-initial languages, and maybe also for “head-medial” languages such as English (Hudson 2010: 172). At least in these languages, adjuncts and arguments follow the same word-order rules, but although it is convenient to have a single cover term dependent for them it is probably not essential. So maybe the presence of HEAD removes the need for its complement, DEPENDENT.

The other difference between HPSG and WG lies in the way in which the finer distinctions among complements are made. In HPSG they are shown by the ordering of elements in a list, whereas WG distinguishes them as further subcate-

gories in a taxonomy. For example, in HPSG the direct object is identified as the second NP in the ARG-ST list, but in WG it is a sub-category of “complement” in the taxonomy of Figure 16. In this case, each approach seems to offer something which is missing from the other.

On the one hand, the ordered lists of HPSG reflect the attractive ranking of dependents offered by Relational Grammar (Perlmutter & Postal n.d.) in which arguments are numbered from 1 to 3 and can be “promoted” or “demoted” on this scale. The scale had subjects at the top and remote adjuncts at the bottom, and appeared to explain a host of facts from the existence of argument-changing alternations such as passivization (Levin 1993) to the relative accessibility of different dependents to relativisation (Keenan & Comrie 1977). An ordered list, as in ARG-ST, looks like a natural way to present this ranking of dependents.

On the other hand, the taxonomy of WG functions has the attraction of open-endedness and flexibility, in contrast with the HPSG analysis which assumes a fixed and universal list of dependency types defined by the order of elements in the various categories discussed previously (SPR, COMPS and ARG-ST). A universal list of categories requires an explanation: Why a universal list? Why this particular list? How does the list develop in a learner’s mind? In contrast, a taxonomy can be learned entirely from experience, can vary across languages, and can accommodate any amount of minor variation. Of these three attractions, the easiest to illustrate briefly is the third. Take once again the English preposition *from*, as in (35).

- (35) From London to Edinburgh is four hundred miles.

Here *from* seems to have two complements: *London* and *to Edinburgh*. Since they have different properties, they must be distinguished, but how? The easiest and arguably correct solution is to create a special dependency type just for the second complement of *from*. This is clearly unproblematic in the flexible WG approach, where any number of special dependency types can be added at the foot of the taxonomy, but much harder if every complement must fit into a universal list. (Note that the availability of a dustbin category such as “oblique” would not help, because the second complement of *from* has specific syntactic and semantic properties which need to be specified. If a category could be described as a dustbin, it is not a category because it does no work in the inheritance system.)

To summarise the discussion, therefore, HPSG and WG offer fundamentally different treatments of grammatical functions with two particularly salient differences. In the treatment of adjuncts, there are reasons for preferring the WG approach in which adjuncts and arguments are grouped together explicitly as

PP83a-u  
hat kein  
year!!!  
Blake  
1990

dependents. But in distinguishing different types of complement, the HPSG lists seem to complement the taxonomy of WG, each approach offering different benefits. This is clearly an area needing further research.

## 6 HPSG without PS?

This chapter on HPSG and DS raises a fundamental question for HPSG: does it really need PS? Most introductory textbooks present PS as an obvious and established approach to syntax, but it is only obvious because these books ignore the DS alternative: the relative pros and cons of the two approaches are rarely assessed. Even if PS is in fact better than DS, this can't be described as "established" (in the words of one of my reviewers) until its superiority has been demonstrated. This hasn't yet happened. The historical sketch showed very clearly that nearly two thousand years of syntactic theory assumed DS, not PS, with one exception: the subject-predicate analysis of the proposition (later taken to be the sentence). Even when PS was invented by Bloomfield, it was combined with elements of DS, and Chomsky's PS, purified of all DS elements, only survived from 1957 to 1970.

A reviewer also argues that HPSG is vindicated by the many large-scale grammars that use it. These grammars are indeed impressive, but DS theories have also been implemented in the equally large-scale projects listed in Section 2. In any case, the question is not whether HPSG is a good theory, but rather whether it might be even better without its PS assumptions. The challenge for HPSG, then, is to explain why PS is a better basis than DS. The debate has hardly started, so its outcome is unpredictable; but suppose the debate favoured DS. Would that be the end of HPSG? Far from it. It could survive almost intact, with just two major changes.

The first would be in the treatment of grammatical functions. It would be easy to bring all dependents together in a list called DEPS (Bouma et al. 2001) with ADJUNCTS and COMPS as sub-lists, or even with a separate subcategory for each sub-type of dependent .

The other change would be the replacement of phrasal boxes by a single list of words. 36 gives a list for the example with which we started (with round and curly brackets for ordered and unordered sets, and a number of sub-tokens for each word):

(36) (*many, many+h students, students+a, enjoy, enjoy+o, enjoy+s, syntax*)

Each word in this list stands for a whole box of attributes which include syn-

Hellan  
2017

tactic dependency links to other words in the list. The internal structure of the boxes would otherwise look very much like standard HPSG, as in the schematic neo-HPSG structure in Figure 17. (To improve readability by minimizing crossing lines, attributes and their values are separated as usual by a colon, but may appear in either order.)

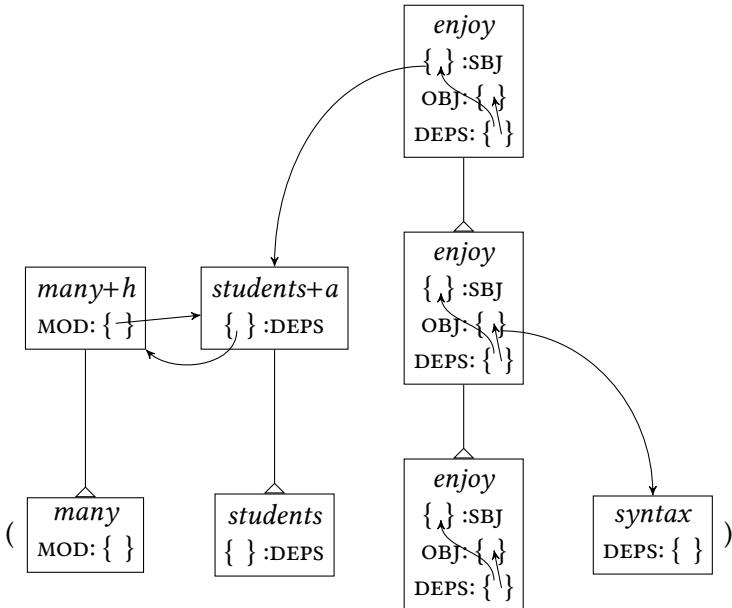


Figure 17: A neo-HPSG analysis

Figure 17 can be read as follows:

- The items at the bottom of the structure (*many*, *students*, *enjoy* and *syntax*) are basic types stored in the grammar, available for modification by the dependencies. These four words are the basis for the ordered set in (36), and shown here by the round brackets, with the ordering shown by the left-right dimension. This list replaces the ordered partonomy of HPSG.
- Higher items in the vertical taxonomy are tokens and sub-tokens, whose names show the dependency that defines them (*h* for “head”, *a* for “adjunct”, and so on). The taxonomy above *enjoy* shows that *enjoy+s* is a *enjoy+o* which is *enjoy*, just as in an HPSG structure where each dependent creates a new representation of the head by satisfying and cancelling a valency need and passing the remaining needs up to the new representation.

- The taxonomy above *students* shows that *students+a* is a version of *students* that results from modification by *many*, while the parallel one above *many* shows that (following HPSG practice) *many+h* has the function of modifying *students*.

Roughly speaking, each boxed item in this diagram corresponds to an AVM in a standard HPSG analysis.

In short, modern HPSG could easily be transformed into a version of DS, with a separate AVM for each word. As in DS, the words in a sentence would be represented as an ordered list interrelated partly by the ordering and partly by the pairwise dependencies between them. This transformation is undeniably possible. Whether it is desirable remains to be established by a programme of research and debate which will leave the theory more robust and immune to challenge.

## Abbreviations

## Acknowledgements

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## Chapter 36

# HPSG and Construction Grammar

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This chapter discusses the main tenets of Construction Grammar (CxG) and shows that HPSG adheres to them. This discussion includes surface orientation, language acquisition without UG, and inheritance networks and shows how HPSG (and other frameworks) are positioned along these dimensions. Formal variants of CxG will be briefly discussed and their relation to HPSG will be pointed out. It is argued that lexical representations of valence are more appropriate than phrasal approaches, which are assumed in most variants of CxG. Other areas of grammar seem to require headless phrasal constructions (e.g., the NPN construction and certain extraction constructions) and it is shown how HPSG handles these. Derivational morphology is discussed as a further example of an early constructionist analysis in HPSG.

This chapter deals with Construction Grammar (CxG) and its relation to Head-Driven Phrase Structure Grammar (HPSG). The short version of the message is: HPSG is a Construction Grammar.<sup>1</sup> It had constructional properties right from the beginning and over the years – due to influence by Construction Grammarians like Fillmore and Kay – certain aspects were adapted, making it possible to better capture generalizations over phrasal patterns. In what follows I will first say what Construction Grammars are (Section 1), and I will explain why HPSG as developed in Pollard & Sag (1987; 1994) was a Construction Grammar and how it was changed to become even more Constructive (Section 1.2.3). Section 2 deals with so-called argument structure constructions, which are usually dealt with by

<sup>1</sup>This does not mean that HPSG is not a lot of other things at the same time. For instance, it is also a Generative Grammar in the sense of Chomsky (1965: 4), that is, it is explicit and formalized. HPSG is also very similar to Categorial Grammar (Müller 2013; Kubota 2019, Chapter 33 of this volume). Somewhat ironically, Head-Driven Phrase Structure Grammar is not entirely head-driven anymore (see Section 4.1), nor is it a phrase structure grammar (Richter 2019, Chapter 3 of this volume).



assuming phrasal constructions in CxG, and explains why this is problematic and why lexical approaches are more appropriate. Section 3 explains Construction Morphology, Section 4 shows how cases that should be treated phrasally can be handled in HPSG, and Section 5 sums up the paper.

## 1 What is Construction Grammar?

Construction Grammar was developed as a theory that can account for non-regular phenomena as observed in many idioms (Fillmore, Kay & O'Connor 1988). It clearly set itself apart from theories like Government & Binding (Chomsky 1981), which assumes very abstract schemata for the combination of lexical items ( $\bar{X}$  rules). The argument was that grammatical constructions are needed to capture irregular phenomena and their interaction with more regular ones. In contrast, Chomsky (1981: 7) considered rules for passive or relative clauses as epiphenomenological; everything was supposed to follow from general principles.<sup>2</sup> According to Chomsky, grammar consisted of a set of general combinatorical rules and some principles. The Minimalist Program (Chomsky 1995) is even more radical, since only two combinatorial rules are left (External and Internal Merge). Various forms of CxG object to this view and state that several very specific phrasal constructions are needed in order to account for language in its entirety and full complexity. Phenomena for which this is true will be discussed in Section 4. However, the case is not as clear in general, since one of the authors of Fillmore, Kay & O'Connor (1988) codeveloped a head-driven, lexical theory of idioms that is entirely compatible with the abstract rules of Minimalism (KM2017a; Sag 2007; Kay, Sag & Flickinger 2015). This theory will be discussed in Section 1.4.2.1. Of course, the more recent lexical theory of idioms is a Constructional theory as well. So the first question to answer in a chapter like this is: what is a construction in the sense of Construction Grammar? What is Construction Grammar? While it is relatively clear what a Construction is, the answer to the question regarding Construction Grammar is less straight-forward (see also Fillmore 1988: 35 on this). Section 1.1 provides the definition for the term *Construction* and Section 1.2 states the tenets of CxG and discusses to what extent the main frameworks cur-

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<sup>2</sup>The passive in GB is assumed to follow from suppression of case assignment and the Case Filter, which triggers movement of the object to SpecIP. The important part of the analysis is the combination of the verb stem with the passive morphology. This is where suppression of case assignment takes place. This morphological part of the analysis corresponds to the passive construction in theories like HPSG and SBCG: a lexical rule. So in a sense there is a Passive Construction in GB as well.

rently on the market adhere to them.

## 1.1 The notion Construction

Fillmore, Kay & O'Connor (1988) discuss sentences like (1) and notice that they pose puzzles for standard accounts of the syntax and the syntax/semantics interface.

- (1) a. The more carefully you do your work, the easier it will get.
- b. I wouldn't pay five dollars for it, let alone ten dollars.

The *the -er the -er* Construction is remarkable, since it combines aspects of normal syntax (clause structure and extraction) with idiosyncratic aspects like the special use of *the*. In (1a) the adverb phrase *more carefully* does not appear to the left of *work* but is fronted and *the* appears without a noun. The second clause in (1a) is structured in a parallel way. There have to be two of these *the* clauses to form the respective construction. Fillmore, Kay & O'Connor (1988) extensively discuss the properties of *let alone*, which are interesting for syntactic reasons (the fragments following *let alone*) and for information structural reasons. I will not repeat the discussion here but refer the reader to the paper.

In later papers, examples like (2) were discussed:

- (2) a. What is this scratch doing on the table? (Kay & Fillmore 1999: 3)
- b. Frank dug his way out of prison. (Goldberg 1995: 199)

Again, the semantics of the complete sentences is not in an obvious relation to the material involved. The question in (2a) is not about actions of a scratch, but rather the question is why there is a scratch. Similarly, (2b) is special in that there is a directional PP that does not normally go together with verbs like *dug*. It is licensed by *way* in combination with a possessive pronoun.

Fillmore et al. (1988), Goldberg (1995), Kay & Fillmore (1999) and Construction Grammarians in general argue that the notion of Construction is needed for adequate models of grammar, that is, for models of grammar that are capable of analyzing the examples above. Fillmore et al. (1988: 501) define Construction as follows:

Constructions on our view are much like the nuclear family (mother plus daughters) subtrees admitted by phrase structure rules, EXCEPT that (1) constructions need not be limited to a mother and her daughters, but may span wider ranges of the sentential tree; (2) constructions may specify, not only

syntactic, but also lexical, semantic, and pragmatic information; (3) lexical items, being mentionable in syntactic constructions, may be viewed, in many cases at least, as constructions themselves; and (4) constructions may be idiomatic in the sense that a large construction may specify a semantics (and/or pragmatics) that is distinct from what might be calculated from the associated semantics of the set of smaller constructions that could be used to build the same morphosyntactic object. (Fillmore et al. 1988: 501)

A similar definition can be found in Goldberg's work. Goldberg (2006: 5) defines Construction as follows:

Any linguistic pattern is recognized as a construction as long as some aspect of its form or function is not strictly predictable from its component parts or from other constructions recognized to exist. In addition, patterns are stored as constructions even if they are fully predictable as long as they occur with sufficient frequency. (Goldberg 2006: 5)

The difference between this definition and earlier definitions by her and others is that patterns that are stored because of their frequencies are included. This addition is motivated by psycholinguistic findings that show that forms may be stored even though they are fully regular and predictable (Bybee 1995; Pinker & Jackendoff 2005: 228).

Goldberg provides Table 1 with examples for Constructions. In addition to

Table 1: Examples of constructions, varying in size and complexity according to Goldberg (2009)

Word	e.g., <i>tentacle, gangster, the</i>
Word (partially filled)	e.g., <i>post-N, V-ing</i>
Complex word	e.g., <i>textbook, drive-in</i>
Idiom (filled)	e.g., <i>like a bat out of hell</i>
Idiom (partially filled)	e.g., <i>believe &lt;one's&gt; ears/eyes</i>
Covariational Conditional	The Xer the Yer (e.g., <i>The more you watch the less you know</i> )
Ditransitive	Subj V Obj1 Obj2 (e.g., <i>She gave him a kiss;</i> <i>He fixed her some fish tacos.</i> )
Passive	Subj aux VPpp ( PPby ) (e.g., <i>The cell phone tower was struck by lightning.</i> )

such constructions with a clear syntax-semantics or syntax-function relation, Goldberg (2013: 453) assumes a rather abstract VP construction specifying “statistical constraints on the ordering of postverbal complements, dependent on weight and information structure”.

If one just looks at Goldberg’s definition of Construction, all theories currently on the market could be regarded as Construction Grammars. As Peter Staudacher pointed out in the discussion after a talk by Knud Lambrecht in May 2006 in Potsdam, lexical items are form-meaning pairs and the rules of phrase structure grammars come with specific semantic components as well, even if it is just functional application. So, Categorial Grammar, GB-style theories paired with semantics (Heim & Kratzer 1998), GPSG, TAG, LFG, HPSG, and even Minimalism would be Construction Grammars. If one looks at the examples of Constructions in Table 1, things change a bit. Idioms are generally not the focus of work in Mainstream Generative Grammar (MGG).<sup>3</sup> MGG is usually concerned with explorations of the so-called Core Grammar as opposed to the Periphery, to which the idioms are assigned. The Core Grammar is the part of the grammar that is supposed to be acquired with help of innate domain specific knowledge, something whose existence Construction Grammar denies. But if one takes Hauser, Chomsky & Fitch (2002) seriously and assumes that only the ability to form complex linguistic objects out of less complex linguistic objects (Merge) is part of this innate knowledge, then the core/periphery distinction does not have much content and after all, Minimalists could adopt a version of Sag’s local, selection-based analysis of idioms (Sag 2007; Kay et al. 2015 KM2017a). However, as is discussed in the next subsection, there are other aspects that really set Construction Grammar apart from MGG.

## 1.2 Basic tenets of Construction Grammar

Goldberg (2003) names the following tenets as core assumptions standardly made in CxG:

**Tenet 1** All levels of description are understood to involve pairings of form with semantic or discourse function, including morphemes or words, idioms, partially lexically filled and fully abstract phrasal patterns. (See Table 1.)

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<sup>3</sup>The term *Mainstream Generative Grammar* is used to refer to work in Transformational Grammar, for example Government & Binding (Chomsky 1981) and Minimalism (Chomsky 1995). Some authors working in Construction Grammar see themselves in the tradition of Generative Grammar in a wider sense, see for example Fillmore, Kay & O’Connor (1988: 501) and Fillmore (1988: 36).

**Tenet 2** An emphasis is placed on subtle aspects of the way we conceive of events and states of affairs.

**Tenet 3** A “what you see is what you get” approach to syntactic form is adopted: no underlying levels of syntax or any phonologically empty elements are posited.

**Tenet 4** Constructions are understood to be learned on the basis of the input and general cognitive mechanisms (they are constructed), and are expected to vary cross-linguistically.

**Tenet 5** Cross-linguistic generalizations are explained by appeal to general cognitive constraints together with the functions of the constructions involved.

**Tenet 6** Language-specific generalizations across constructions are captured via inheritance networks much like those that have long been posited to capture our non-linguistic knowledge.

**Tenet 7** The totality of our knowledge of language is captured by a network of constructions: a “constructicon”.

I already commented on Tenet 1 above. Tenet 2 concerns semantics and the syntax-semantics interface, which are part of most HPSG analyses. In what follows I want to look in more detail at the other tenets. Something that is not mentioned in Goldberg’s tenets but is part of the definition of Construction by Fillmore et al. (1988: 501) is the non-locality of Constructions. I will comment on this in a separate subsection.

### 1.2.1 Surface orientation and empty elements

Tenet 3 requires a surface-oriented approach. Underlying levels and phonologically empty elements are ruled out. This excludes derivational models of transformational syntax assuming an underlying structure (the so-called D-structure) and some derived structure or more recent derivational variants of Minimalism. There was a time where representational models of Government & Binding (GB, Chomsky 1981) did not assume a D-structure but just one structure with traces (Koster 1978: 1987: 235; Kolb & Thiersch 1991; Haider 1993: Section 1.4; Frey 1993: 14; Lohnstein 1993: 87–88, 177–178; Fordham & Crocker 1994: 38; Veenstra 1998: 58). Some of these analyses are rather similar to HPSG analyses as they are assumed today (Kiss 1995; Bouma & van Noord 1998; Meurers 2000; Müller 2005;

2017a; 2019b). Chomsky's Minimalist work (Chomsky 1995) assumes a derivational model and comes with a rhetoric of building structure in a bottom-up way and sending complete phases to the interfaces for pronunciation and interpretation. This is incompatible with Tenet 3, but in principle, Minimalist approaches are very similar to Categorial Grammar, so there could be representational approaches adhering to Tenet 3.<sup>4</sup>

A comment on empty elements is in order: all articles introducing Construction Grammar state that CxG does not assume empty elements. Most of the alternative theories do use empty elements: see König (1999) on Categorial Grammar, Gazdar, Klein, Pullum & Sag (1985: 143) on GPSG, Bresnan (2001: 67) on LFG, Bender (2000) and Sag, Wasow & Bender (2003: 464) on HPSG/Sign-Based Construction Grammar. There are results from the 60s that show that phrase structure grammars containing empty elements can be translated into grammars that do not contain empty elements (Bar-Hillel, Perles & Shamir 1961: 153, Lemma 4.1) and sure enough there are versions of GPSG (Uszkoreit 1987: 76–77), LFG (Kaplan & Zaenen 1989; Dalrymple et al. 2001), and HPSG (Bouma et al. 2001; Sag 2010: 508) that do not use empty elements. Grammars with empty elements often are more compact than those without empty elements and express generalizations more directly. See for example Bender (2000) for copulaless sentences in African American Vernacular English and Müller (2014) on nounless NPs in German. The argument against empty elements usually refers to language acquisition: it is argued that empty elements cannot be learned since they are not detectable in the input. However, if the empty elements alternate with visible material, it can be argued that what is learned is the fact that a certain element can be left out. What is true, though, is that things like empty expletives cannot be learned since these empty elements are neither visible nor do they contribute to meaning. Their only purpose in grammars is to keep uniformity. For example, Grewendorf (1993) working in GB suggests an analysis of the passive in German that is parallel to the movement-based analysis of English passives (Chomsky 1981: 124). In order to account for the fact that the subject does not move to initial position in German, he suggests an empty expletive pronoun that takes the subject position and that is connected to the original non-moved subject. Such elements cannot be acquired without innate knowledge about the IP/VP system

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<sup>4</sup>There is a variant of Minimalist Grammars (Stabler 2011), namely Top-down Phase-based Minimalist Grammar (TPMG) as developed by Chesi (2012; 2007) and Bianchi & Chesi (2006; 2012). There is no movement in TPMG. Rather, *wh*-phrases are linked to their “*in situ*” positions with the aid of a short-term memory buffer that functions like a stack. See also Hunter (2010; 2018) for a related account where the information about the presence of a *wh*-phrase is percolated in the syntax tree, like in GPSG/HPSG.

and constraints about the obligatory presence of subjects. The CxG criticism is justified here.

A frequent argumentation for empty elements in MGG is based on the fact that there are overt realizations of an element in other languages (e.g., object agreement in Basque and focus markers in Gungbe). But since there is no language-internal evidence for these empty elements, they cannot be learned and one would have to assume that they are innate. This kind of empty element is rightly rejected (by proponents of CxG and others).

Summing up, it can be said that all grammars can be turned into grammars without empty elements and hence fulfill Tenet 3. It was argued that the reason for assuming Tenet 3 (problems in language acquisition) should be reconsidered and that a weaker form of Tenet 3 should be assumed: empty elements are forbidden unless there is language-internal evidence for them. This revised version of Tenet 3 would allow one to count empty element versions of CG, GPSG, LFG, and HPSG among Construction Grammars.

### **1.2.2 Language acquisition without the assumption of UG**

Tenets 4 and 5 are basically what everybody should assume in MGG if Hauser, Chomsky & Fitch (2002) are taken seriously. Of course, this is not what is done in large parts of the field. The most extreme variant is Cinque & Rizzi (2010), who assume at least 400 functional heads being part of Universal Grammar (UG) and being present in all grammars of all languages, although sometimes invisibly. Such assumptions beg the question why the genera of Bantu languages should be part of our genome and how they got there. Researchers working on language acquisition realized that the Principles & Parameters approach (Meisel 1995) makes wrong predictions. They now talk about Micro-Cues instead of parameters (Westergaard 2014) and these Micro-Cues are just features that can be learned. However, Westergaard still assumes that the features are determined by UG, a dubious assumption seen from a CxG perspective (and from the perspective of Hauser, Chomsky, Fitch and genetics in general; Bishop 2002).

Note that even those versions of Minimalism that do not follow the Rizzi-style Cartographic approaches are far from being minimalist in their assumptions. Some distinguish between strong and weak features, some assume enumerations of lexical items from which a particular derivation draws its input, and some assume that all movement has to be feature-driven. Still others assume that derivations work in so-called phases and that a phase, once completed, is “shipped to the interfaces”. Construction of phases is bottom-up, which is incompatible with psycholinguistic results (see also Borsley & Müller 2019: Section 5.1, Chap-

ter 32 in this volume). None of these assumptions is a natural one to make from a language acquisition point of view. Most of these assumptions do not have any empirical motivation; the only motivation usually given is that they result in “restrictive theories”. But if there is no motivation for them, this means that the respective architectural assumptions have to be part of our innate domain-specific knowledge, which is implausible according to Hauser, Chomsky & Fitch (2002).

As research in computational linguistics shows, our input is rich enough to form classes, to determine the part of speech of lexical items, and even to infer syntactic structure thought to be underdetermined by the input. For instance, Bod (2009) shows that the classical auxiliary inversion examples that Chomsky still uses in his Poverty of the Stimulus arguments (Chomsky 1971: 29–33; Berwick, Pietroski, Yankama & Chomsky 2011) can also be learned from language input available to children. See also Freudenthal et al. (2006; 2007) on input-based language acquisition.

HPSG does not make any assumptions about complicated mechanisms like feature-driven movement and so on. HPSG states properties of linguistic objects like part of speech, case, gender, etc., and states relations between features like agreement and government. In this respect it is like other Construction Grammars and hence experimental results regarding theories of language acquisition can be carried over to HPSG. See also Ginzburg (2019), Chapter 26 of this volume on language acquisition.

### 1.2.3 Inheritance networks

This leaves us with Tenets 6 and 7, that is, *inheritance networks* and the construction. Inheritance is something that is used in the classification of knowledge. For example, the word *animal* is very general and refers to entities with certain properties. There are subtypes of this kind of entity: *mammal* and further subtypes like *mouse*. In inheritance hierarchies, the knowledge of superconcepts is not restated at the subconcepts but instead, the superconcept is referred to. This is like Wikipedia: the Wikipedia entry of *mouse* states that mice are mammals without listing all the information that comes with the concept of mammal. Such inheritance hierarchies can be used in linguistics as well. They can be used to classify roots, words, and phrases. An example of such a hierarchy used for the classification of adjectives and adjectival derivation is discussed in Section 3. See also Davis & Koenig (2019: Section 4), Chapter ?? of this volume on inheritance in the lexicon.

MGG does not make reference to inheritance hierarchies. HPSG did this right

from the beginning in 1985 (Flickinger et al. 1985) for lexical items and since 1995 also for phrasal constructions (Sag 1997). LFG rejected the use of types but used macros in computer implementations. The macros were abbreviatory devices and did not play any role in theoretical work. This changed in 2004, when macros were suggested in theoretical work (Dalrymple, Kaplan & King 2004). And although any connection to constructionist work is vehemently denied by some of the authors, recent work in LFG has a decidedly constructional flavor (Asudeh, Dalrymple & Toivonen 2008; 2014).<sup>5</sup> LFG differs from frameworks like HPSG, though, in assuming a separate level of c-structure. c-structure rules are basically context-free phrase structure rules and they are not modeled by feature value pairs (although they could be; Kaplan 1995). This means that it is not possible to capture a generalization regarding lexical items, lexical rules, and phrasal schemata, or any two-element subset of these three kinds of objects. While HPSG describes all of these elements with the same inventory and hence can use common supertypes in the description of all three, this is not possible in LFG (Müller 2018b: Section 23.1).<sup>6</sup> For example, Höhle (1997) argued that complementizers and finite verbs in initial position in German form a natural class. HPSG can capture this since complementizers (lexical elements) and finite verbs in initial position (results of lexical rule applications or a phrasal schema) can have a common supertype. TAG is also using inheritance in the Meta Grammar (Lichte & Kallmeyer 2017).

Since HPSG's lexical entries, lexical rules, and phrasal schemata are all described by typed feature descriptions, one could call the set of these descriptions the constructicon. Therefore, Tenet 7 is also adhered to.

#### 1.2.4 Non-locality

Fillmore, Kay & O'Connor (1988: 501) stated in their definition of Constructions that Constructions may involve more than mothers and immediate daughters (see p. 1167 above).<sup>7</sup> That is, daughters of daughters can be specified as well. A straightforward example of such a specification is given in Figure 1, which shows

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<sup>5</sup>See Toivonen (2013: 516) for an explicit reference to construction-specific phrase structure rules in the sense of Construction Grammar.

<sup>6</sup>One could use templates (Dalrymple et al. 2004; Asudeh et al. 2013) to specify properties of lexical items and of mother nodes in c-structure rules, but usually c-structure rules specify the syntactic categories of mothers and daughters, so this information has a special status within the c-structure rules.

<sup>7</sup>This subsection is based on a much more thorough discussion of locality and SBCG in Müller (2016: Section 10.6.2.1 and Section 18.2).

the TAG analysis of the idiom *take into account* following Abeillé & Schabes (1989: 7). The fixed parts of the idiom are just stated in the tree. NP↓ stands for an open

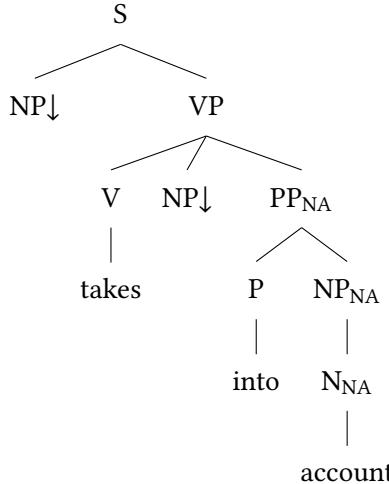


Figure 1: TAG tree for *take into account* by Abeillé & Schabes (1989: 7)

slot into which an NP has to be inserted. The subscript NA says that adjunction to the respectively marked nodes is forbidden. Theories like Constructional HPSG can state such complex tree structures like TAG can. Dominance relationships are modeled by feature structures in HPSG and it is possible to have a description that corresponds to Figure 1. The NP slots would just be left underspecified and can be filled in models that are total (see Richter 2007 and Richter 2019, Chapter 3 of this volume for formal foundations of HPSG).

It does not come without some irony that the theoretical approach that was developed out of Berkeley Construction Grammar and Constructional HPSG, namely Sign-Based Construction Grammar (Sag, Boas & Kay 2012; Sag 2012), is strongly local: it is made rather difficult to access daughters of daughters (Sag 2007). So, if one would stick to the early definition, this would rule out SBCG as a Construction Grammar. Fortunately, this is not justified. First, there are ways to establish nonlocal selection (Müller 2016) and second, there are ways to analyze idioms locally. Sag (2007), Kay, Sag & Flickinger (2015), and KM2017a develop a theory of idioms that is entirely based on local selection. For example, for *take into account*, one can state that *take* selects two NPs and a PP with the fixed lexical material *into* and *account*. The right form of the PP is enforced by means of the feature LEXICAL IDENTIFIER (LID). A special word *into* with the LID value *into*

is specified as selecting a special word *account*. What is done in TAG via direct specification is done in SBCG via a series of local selections of specialized lexical items. The interesting (intermediate) conclusion is: if SBCG can account for idioms via local selection, then theories like Categorial Grammar and Minimalism can do so as well. So, they cannot be excluded from Construction Grammars on the basis of arguments concerning idioms and non-locality of selection.

However, there may be cases of idioms that cannot be handled via local selection. For example, Richter & Sailer (2009) discuss the following idiom:

- (3) glauben, X\_Acc tritt ein Pferd  
believe X kicks a horse  
'be utterly surprised'

The X-constituent has to be a pronoun that refers to the subject of the matrix clause. If this is not the case, the sentence becomes ungrammatical or loses its idiomatic meaning.

- (4) a. Ich glaube, mich / # dich tritt ein Pferd.  
I believe me.ACC you.ACC kicks a horse  
b. Jonas glaubt, ihn tritt ein Pferd.<sup>8</sup>  
Jonas believes him kicks a horse  
'Jonas is utterly surprised.'  
c. # Jonas glaubt, dich tritt ein Pferd.  
Jonas believes you kicks a horse  
'Jonas believes that a horse kicks you.'

Richter & Sailer (2009: 313) argue that the idiomatic reading is only available if the accusative pronoun is fronted and the embedded clause is V2. The examples in (5) do not have the idiomatic reading:

- (5) a. Ich glaube, dass mich ein Pferd tritt.  
I believe that me a horse kicks  
'I believe that a horse kicks me.'  
b. Ich glaube, ein Pferd tritt mich.  
I believe a horse kicks me  
'I believe that a horse kicks me.'

They develop an analysis with a partly fixed configuration and some open slots, similar in spirit to the TAG analysis in Figure 1. However, their restrictions on

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<sup>8</sup><http://www.machandel-verlag.de/der-katzenschatz.html>, 2015-07-06.

*Pferd* clauses are too strict since there are variants of the idiom that do not have the accusative pronoun in the *Vorfeld*:

- (6) ich glaub es tritt mich ein Pferd wenn ich einen derartigen  
 I believe EXPL kicks me a horse when I a such  
 Unsinn lese.<sup>9</sup>  
 nonsense read  
 ‘I am utterly surprised when I read such nonsense.’

So it might be the case that the organization of the embedded clause can be stated clause-internally, and hence it is an open question whether there are idioms that make nonlocal Constructions necessary.

What is not an open empirical question, though, is whether humans store chunks with complex internal structure or not. It is clear that we do, and much Construction Grammar literature emphasizes this. Constructional HPSG can represent such chunks directly in the theory, but SBCG cannot, since linguistic signs do not have daughters. So here, Constructional HPSG and TAG are the theories that can represent complex chunks of linguistic material with its internal structure, while other theories like GB, Minimalism, CG, LFG, SBCG, and DG cannot.

### 1.2.5 Summary

If all these points are taken together, it is clear that most variants of MGG are not Construction Grammars. However, CxG had considerable influence on other frameworks so that there are constructionist variants of LFG, HPSG, and TAG. HPSG in the version of Sag (1997) (also called Constructional HPSG) and the HPSG dialect Sign-Based Construction Grammar are Construction Grammars that follow all the tenets mentioned above.

## 1.3 Variants of Construction Grammar

The previous section discussed the tenets of CxG and to what degree other frameworks adhere to them. This section deals with frameworks that have Construction Grammar explicitly in their name. The following variants are usually named:

- Berkeley Construction Grammar (Fillmore 1985b; 1988; Kay & Fillmore 1999; Fried 2015)

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<sup>9</sup><http://www.welt.de/wirtschaft/article116297208/Die-verlogene-Kritik-an-den-Steuerparadiesen.html>, commentary section, 2018-02-20.

- Cognitive Construction Grammar (Lakoff 1987; Goldberg 1995; 2006)
- Cognitive Grammar (Langacker 1987; 2000; 2008; Dąbrowska 2004)
- Radical Construction Grammar (Croft 2001)
- Embodied Construction Grammar (Bergen & Chang 2005)
- Fluid Construction Grammar (Steels & De Beule 2006; Steels 2011)
- Sign-Based Construction Grammar (Sag 2010; 2012)

Berkeley Construction Grammar, Embodied Construction Grammar, Fluid Construction Grammar, and Sign-Based Construction Grammar are the ones that are more formal. All of these variants use feature value pairs and are constraint-based. They are sometimes also referred to as unification-based approaches. Berkeley Construction Grammar never had a consistent formalization. The variant of unification assumed by Kay & Fillmore (1999) was formally inconsistent (Müller 2006a: Section 2.4) and the computation of construction-like objects (CLOs) suggested by Kay (2002) did not work either (Müller 2006a: Section 3). Berkeley Construction Grammar was dropped by the authors, who joined forces with Ivan Sag and Laura Michaelis and eventually came up with an HPSG variant named Sign-Based Construction Grammar (Sag 2012). The differences between Constructional HPSG (Sag 1997) and SBCG are to some extent cosmetic: semantic relations got the suffix *-fr* for *frame* (*like-rel* became *like-fr*), phrases were called constructions (*hd-subj-ph* became *subj-head-cxt*), and lexical rules were called *derivational constructions*.<sup>10</sup> While this renaming would not have changed anything in terms of expressiveness of theories, there was another change that was not motivated by any of the tenets of Construction Grammar but rather by the wish to get a more restrictive theory: Sag, Wasow & Bender (2003) and Sag (2007) changed the feature geometry of phrasal signs in such a way that signs do not contain daughters. The information about mother-daughter relations is contained in lexical rules and phrasal schemata (Constructions) only. The phrasal schemata are more like GPSG immediate dominance schemata (phrase structure rules without constraints on the order of the daughters) in licensing a mother node when certain daughters are present, but without the daughters being represented as part of the AVM that stands for the mother node, as was common

<sup>10</sup>This renaming trick was so successful that it even confused some of the co-editors of the volume about SBCG (Boas & Sag 2012). See for example Boas (2014) and the reply in Müller & Wechsler (2014b).

in HPSG from 1985 till Sag, Wasow & Bender (2003).<sup>11</sup> This differs quite dramatically from what was done in Berkeley Construction Grammar, since BCxG explicitly favored a non-local approach (Fillmore 1988: 37; Fillmore et al. 1988: 501). Arguments were not canceled but passed up to the mother node. Adjuncts were passed up as well, so that the complete internal structure of an expression is available at the top-most node (Kay & Fillmore 1999: 9). The advantage of BCxG and Constructional HPSG (Sag 1997) is that complex expressions (e.g., idioms and other more transparent expressions with high frequency) can be stored as chunks containing the internal structure. This is not possible with SBCG, since phrasal signs never contain internal structures. For a detailed discussion of Sign-Based Construction Grammar see Section 1.4.2 and Müller (2016: Section 10.6.2).

Embodied Construction Grammar (Bergen & Chang 2005) uses typed feature descriptions for the description of linguistic objects and allows for discontinuous constituents. As argued by Müller (2016: Section 10.6.3), it is a notational variant of Reape-style HPSG (Reape 1994) (see Müller 2019a: Section 6, Chapter 10 of this volume for discontinuous constituents in HPSG).

Fluid Construction Grammar is also rather similar to HPSG. An important difference is that FCG attaches weights to constraints, something that is usually not done in HPSG. But in principle, there is nothing that forbids adding weights to HPSG as well, and in fact it has been done (Brew 1995; Briscoe & Copstake 1999; Miyao & Tsujii 2008), and it should be done to a larger extent (Miller 2013). Van Trijp (2013) tried to show that Fluid Construction Grammar is fundamentally different from SBCG, but I think he failed in every single respect. See Müller (2017b) for a detailed discussion, which cannot be repeated here for space reasons.

## 1.4 Constructional HPSG and formal variants of Construction Grammar

### 1.4.1 Constructional HPSG

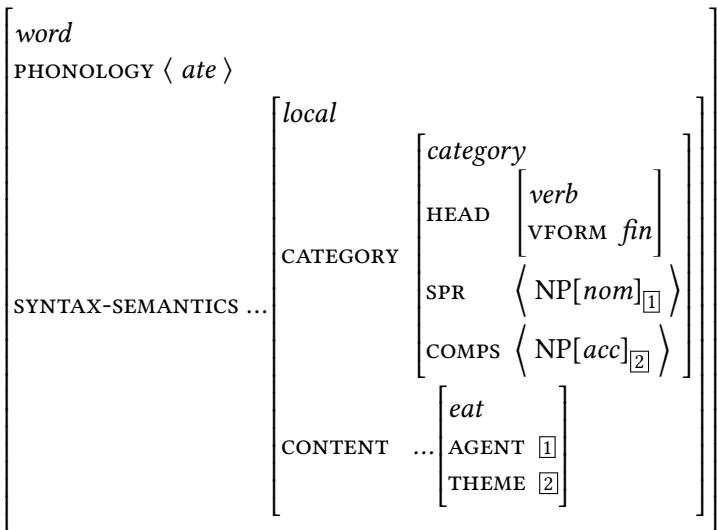
As is discussed in other chapters in more detail, HPSG uses feature value pairs to model linguistic objects. One important tool is structure sharing. For example, determiner, adjective, and noun agree with respect to certain features in languages like German. The identity of properties is modeled by identity of features and this identity is established by identifying the values in descriptions. Now, it is obvious that certain features are always shared together. In order to facilitate the statement of respective constraints, feature value pairs are put into groups.

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<sup>11</sup>The two approaches will be discussed in more detail in Section 1.4.1 and Section 1.4.2.

This is why HPSG feature descriptions are very complex. Information about syntax and semantics is represented under SYNTAX-SEMANTICS (SYNSEM), information about syntax under CATEGORY (CAT), and information that is projected along the head path of a projection is represented under HEAD. All feature structures have to have a type. The type may be omitted in the description, but there has to be one in the model. Types are organized in hierarchies. They are written in italics. (7) shows an example lexical item for the word *ate*.<sup>12</sup>

- (7) Lexical item for the word *ate*:



The information about part of speech and finiteness is bundled under HEAD. The selection of a subject is represented under SPR (sometimes the feature SUBJ is used for subjects) and the non-subject arguments are represented as part of a list under COMPS. The semantic indices 1 and 2 are linked to thematic roles in the semantic representation.

Dominance structures can also be represented with feature value pairs. While Pollard & Sag (1987) and Pollard & Sag (1994) had a DAUGHTERS feature and then certain phrasal types constraining the daughters within the DTRS feature, Sag (1997) represented the daughters and constraints upon them at the top level of the sign<sup>13</sup>. This move made it possible to have subtypes of the type *phrase*, e.g.,

<sup>12</sup>The ‘...’ stands for the feature LOCAL, which is irrelevant in the present discussion. It plays a role in the treatment of nonlocal dependencies (Borsley & Crysmann 2019, Chapter 14 of this volume).

<sup>13</sup>The top level is the outermost level. So in (7), PHONOLOGY and SYNTAX-SEMANTICS are on the

*filler-head-phrase*, *specifier-head-phrase*, and *head-complement-phrase*. Generalizations over these types could be captured within the type hierarchy. (8) shows a constraint on the type *head-complement-phrase*:

- (8) *head-complement-phrase*  $\Rightarrow$
- $$\left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{SYNSEM|LOC|CAT|COMPS } \boxed{1} \\ \text{HEAD-DTR|SYNSEM|LOC|CAT|COMPS } \langle \boxed{2} \rangle \oplus \boxed{1} \\ \text{NON-HEAD-DTRS } \langle [ \text{SYNSEM } \boxed{2} ] \rangle \end{array} \right]$$

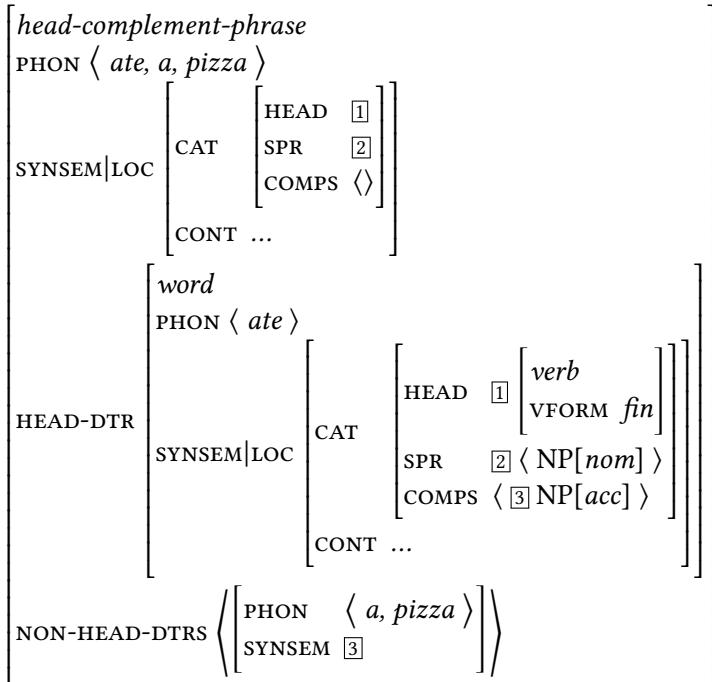
The constraint says that feature structures of type *head-complement-phrase* have to have a SYNSEM value, a HEAD-DTR feature, and a list-valued NON-HEAD-DTRS feature. The list has to contain a singleton element whose SYNSEM value is identical to the first element of the COMPS list of the head daughter ( $\boxed{2}$ ), and the remainder of the COMPS list ( $\boxed{1}$ ) is identical to the COMPS value of the phrase licensed by the schema (represented under SYNSEM|LOC|CAT|COMPS). ‘ $\oplus$ ’ stands for the append relation concatenating two lists. For further details see [Borsley & Abeillé \(2019\)](#), Chapter 1 of this volume.

Dominance schemata (corresponding to grammar rules in phrase structure grammars) refer to such phrasal types. (9) shows how the lexical item in (7) can be used in a head-complement configuration:

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top level.

- (9) Analysis of *ate a pizza* in Constructional HPSG:



The description in the **COMPS** list of the head is identified with the **SYNSEM** value of the non-head daughter (3). The information about the missing specifier is represented at the mother node (2). Head information is also shared between head daughter and mother node. The respective structure sharings are enforced by principles: the Subcategorization Principle or Valence Principles make sure that all valents of the head daughter that are not realized in a certain configuration are still present at the mother node. The Head Feature Principle ensures that the head information of a head daughter in headed structures is identical to the head information on the mother node, that is, **HEAD** features are shared.

This is a very brief sketch of Constructional HPSG and is by no means intended to be a full-blown introduction to HPSG, but it provides a description of properties that can be used to compare Constructional HPSG to Sign-Based Construction Grammar in the next subsection.

#### 1.4.2 Sign-Based Construction Grammar

Having discussed some aspects of Constructional HPSG, I now turn to SBCG. SBCG is an HPSG variant, so it shares most properties of HPSG but there are

some interesting properties that are discussed in this section. Locality constraints are discussed in the next subsection, and changes in feature geometry in the subsections to follow. Subsection 1.4.2.6 discusses Frame Semantics.

#### 1.4.2.1 Locality constraints

As mentioned in Section 1.4.2.1, SBCG assumes a strong version of locality: phrasal signs do not have daughters. This is due to the fact that phrasal schemata (= phrasal constructions) are defined as in (10):

- (10) Head-Complement Construction following Sag et al. (2003: 481):

$$\begin{array}{l} \textit{head-comp-cx} \Rightarrow \\ \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{MOTHER}|\text{SYN}|\text{VAL}|\text{COMPS } \langle \rangle \\ \text{HEAD-DTR } \boxed{0} \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{word} \\ \text{SYN}|\text{VAL}|\text{COMPS } \boxed{A} \end{array} \right] \\ \text{DTRS } \langle \boxed{0} \rangle \oplus \boxed{A} \text{ nelist} \end{array} \right] \end{array}$$

Rather than specifying syntactic and semantic properties of the complete linguistic object at the top level (as earlier versions of HPSG did), these properties are specified as properties under MOTHER. Hence a construction licenses a sign (a phrase or a complex word), but the sign does not include daughters. The daughters live on the level of the construction only. While earlier versions of HPSG licensed signs directly, SBCG needs a statement saying that all objects under MOTHER are objects licensed by the grammar (Sag, Wasow & Bender 2003: 478):<sup>14</sup>

- (11)  $\Phi$  is a Well-Formed Structure according to a grammar  $G$  if and only if:

1. there is a construction  $C$  in  $G$ , and
2. there is a feature structure  $I$  that is an instantiation of  $C$ , such that  $\Phi$  is the value of the MOTHER feature of  $I$ .

The idea behind this change in feature geometry is that heads cannot select for daughters of their valents and hence the formal setting is more restrictive and hence affecting computational complexity (Ivan Sag, p.c. 2011). However, this restriction can be circumvented by just structure sharing an element of the daughters list with some value within MOTHER. The XARG feature making one argument available at the top level of a projection (Bender & Flickinger 1999) is such

<sup>14</sup>A less formal version of this constraint is given as the Sign Principle by Sag (2012: 105): “Every sign must be listemically or constructionally licensed, where: a sign is listemically licensed only if it satisfies some listeme, and a sign is constructionally licensed if it is the mother of some well-formed construct.”

a feature. So, on the formal level, the MOTHER feature alone does not result in restrictions on complexity. One would have to forbid such structure sharings in addition, but then one could keep MOTHER out of the business and state the restriction for earlier variants of HPSG (Müller 2018b: Section 10.6.2.1.3).

Sag et al. (2003) differentiated between specifiers and complements, but this distinction was given up in later work on SBCG. Sag (2012) has just one valence list that includes both subjects and non-subjects. This is a return to the valence representations of Pollard & Sag (1987). An argument for this was never given, despite arguments for a separation of valence information by Borsley (1987). With one single valence feature, a VP would be an unsaturated projection and generalizations concerning phrases cannot be captured. For example, a generalization concerning extraposition (in German) is that maximal projections (that is projections with an empty COMPS list) can be extraposed (Müller 1999: Section 13.1.2). It is impossible to state this generalization in SBCG in a straightforward way (Müller 2018b: Section 10.6.2.3).

#### 1.4.2.2 The Head Feature Principle

There have been some other developments as well. Sag (2012) got rid of the Head Feature Principle and stated identity of information explicitly within constructions. Structure sharing is not stated with boxed numbers but with capital letters instead. An exclamation mark can be used to specify information that is not shared (Sag 2012: 125). While the use of letters instead of numbers is just a presentational variant, the exclamation mark is a non-trivial extension. (12) provides an example: the constraints on the type *pred-hd-comp-cxt*:

- (12) Predicational Head-Complement Construction following Sag (2012: 152):  

$$\textit{pred-hd-comp-cxt} \Rightarrow \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{MOTHER} | \text{SYN } X ! [ \text{VAL } \langle Y \rangle ] \\ \text{HEAD-DTR } Z : \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{word} \\ \text{SYN } X : [ \text{VAL } \langle Y \rangle \oplus L ] \end{array} \right] \\ \text{DTRS } \langle Z \rangle \oplus L : \text{nelist} \end{array} \right]$$

The X stands for all syntactic properties of the head daughter. These are identified with the value of SYN of the mother with the exception of the VAL value, which is specified to be a list with the element Y. It is interesting to note that the !-notation is not without problems: Sag (2012: 145) states that the version of SBCG that he presents is “purely monotonic (non-default)”, but if the SYN value of the

mother is not identical + overwriting of VAL, it is unclear how the type of SYN can be constrained. ! can be understood as explicitly sharing all features that are not mentioned after the !. Note, though, that the type has to be shared as well. This is not trivial, since structure sharing cannot be applied here, since structure sharing the type would also identify all features belonging to the respective value. So one would need a relation that singles out a type of a structure and identifies this type with the value of another structure. Note also that information from features behind the ! can make the type of the complete structure more specific. Does this affect the shared structure (e.g., HEAD-DTR|SYN in (12))? What if the type of the complete structure is incompatible with the features in this structure? What seems to be a harmless notational device in fact involves some non-trivial machinery in the background. Keeping the Head Feature Principle makes this additional machinery unnecessary.

#### 1.4.2.3 Feature geometry and the FORM feature

The phrasal sign for *ate a pizza* in Constructional HPSG was given in (9). (13) is the Predicational Head Complement Construction with daughters and mother filled in.

	<i>head-comp-cx</i>																				
MOTHER	<table border="0"> <tr> <td><i>phrase</i></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>FORM</td><td><math>\langle \text{ate}, \text{a}, \text{pizza} \rangle</math></td> </tr> <tr> <td>SYN</td><td> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>CAT</td><td>[1]</td> </tr> <tr> <td>VAL</td><td><math>\langle \text{NP}[\text{nom}] \rangle</math></td> </tr> </table> </td> </tr> <tr> <td>SEM</td><td>...</td> </tr> </table>	<i>phrase</i>		FORM	$\langle \text{ate}, \text{a}, \text{pizza} \rangle$	SYN	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>CAT</td><td>[1]</td> </tr> <tr> <td>VAL</td><td><math>\langle \text{NP}[\text{nom}] \rangle</math></td> </tr> </table>	CAT	[1]	VAL	$\langle \text{NP}[\text{nom}] \rangle$	SEM	...								
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CAT	[1]																				
VAL	$\langle \text{NP}[\text{nom}] \rangle$																				
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(13)																					
HEAD-DTR [2]	<table border="0"> <tr> <td><i>word</i></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>FORM</td><td><math>\langle \text{ate} \rangle</math></td> </tr> <tr> <td>SYN</td><td> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>CAT</td><td>[1]</td> </tr> <tr> <td>verb</td><td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>VF</td><td><i>fin</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td>VAL</td><td><math>\langle \text{NP}[\text{nom}], [3] \text{NP}[\text{acc}] \rangle</math></td> </tr> <tr> <td>SEM</td><td>...</td> </tr> </table> </td> </tr> <tr> <td>DTRS</td><td><math>\langle [2], [3] \rangle</math></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	<i>word</i>		FORM	$\langle \text{ate} \rangle$	SYN	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>CAT</td><td>[1]</td> </tr> <tr> <td>verb</td><td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>VF</td><td><i>fin</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td>VAL</td><td><math>\langle \text{NP}[\text{nom}], [3] \text{NP}[\text{acc}] \rangle</math></td> </tr> <tr> <td>SEM</td><td>...</td> </tr> </table>	CAT	[1]	verb		VF	<i>fin</i>	VAL	$\langle \text{NP}[\text{nom}], [3] \text{NP}[\text{acc}] \rangle$	SEM	...	DTRS	$\langle [2], [3] \rangle$		
<i>word</i>																					
FORM	$\langle \text{ate} \rangle$																				
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As was explained in the previous subsection, Constructional HPSG groups all selectable information under SYNSEM and then differentiates into CAT and CONT.

SBCG goes back to Pollard & Sag (1987) and uses SYN and SEM. The idea behind SYNSEM was to exclude the selection of phonological information and daughters (Pollard & Sag 1994: 23). Since daughters are outside of the definition of *synsem*, they cannot be accessed from within valency lists. Now, SBCG pushes this idea one step further and also restricts the access to daughters in phrasal schemata (Constructions in SBCG terminology): since signs do not have daughters, constructions may not refer to the daughters of their parts. But obviously signs need to have a form part, since signs are per definition form-meaning pairs. It follows that the form part of signs is selectable in SBCG. This will be discussed in more detail in the following subsection. Subsection 1.4.2.5 discusses the omission of the LOCAL feature.

#### 1.4.2.4 Selection of PHON and FORM values

The feature geometry of constructional HPSG has the PHON value outside of SYNSEM. Therefore verbs can select for syntactic and semantic properties of their arguments but not for their phonology. For example, they can require that an object has accusative case but not that it starts with a vowel. SBCG allows for the selection of phonological information (the feature is called FORM here) and one example of such a selection is the indefinite article in English, which has to be either *a* or *an* depending on whether the noun or nominal projection it is combined with starts with a vowel or not (Flickinger, Mail to the HPSG mailing list, 01.03.2016):

- (14) a. an institute  
      b. a house

The distinction can be modeled by assuming a selection feature for determiners.<sup>15</sup> An alternative would be, of course, to capture all phonological phenomena by formulating constraints on phonology on the phrasal level (see Bird & Klein 1994 and Walther 1999 for phonology in HPSG).

Note also that the treatment of raising in SBCG admits nonlocal selection of phonology values, since the analysis of raising in SBCG assumes that the element on the valence list of the embedded verb is identical to an element in the ARG-ST list of the matrix verb (Sag 2012: 159). Hence, both verbs in (15) can see the phonology of the subject:

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<sup>15</sup>In Standard HPSG there is mutual selection between the determiner and the noun. The noun selects the determiner via SPR and the determiner selects the noun via a feature called SPECIFIED (Pollard & Sag 1994: 45–54).

- (15) Kim can eat apples.

In principle, there could be languages in which the form of the downstairs verb depends on the presence of an initial consonant in phonology of the subject. English allows for long chains of raising verbs and one could imagine languages in which all the verbs on the way are sensitive to the phonology of the subject. Such languages probably do not exist.

Now, is this a problem? Not really, but if one develops a general setup in a way to exclude everything that is not attested in the languages of the world (as for instance the selection of arguments of arguments of arguments), then it is a problem that heads can see the phonology of elements that are far away.

There are two possible conclusions for practitioners of SBCG: either the MOTHER feature could be given up, since one agrees that theories that do not make wrong predictions are sufficiently constrained and one does not have to explicitly state what cannot occur in languages, or one would have to address the problem with nonlocally selected phonology values and therefore assume a SYNSEM or LOCAL feature that bundles information that is relevant in raising and does not include the phonology. In the latter case, the feature geometry of SBCG would get more complicated. This additional complication is further evidence against MOTHER, adding to the argument I made about MOTHER in Subsection 1.4.2.1.

#### 1.4.2.5 The LOCAL feature and information shared in nonlocal dependencies

Similarly, elements of the ARG-ST list contain information about FORM. In nonlocal dependencies, this information is shared in the GAP list (SLASH set or list in other versions of HPSG) and is available all the way to the filler. In other versions of HPSG, only LOCAL information is shared and elements in valence lists do not have a PHON feature. If the sign that is contained in the GAP list were identified with the filler, the information about phonological properties of the filler would be available at the extraction side and SBCG could be used to model languages in which the phonology of a filler is relevant for a head from which it is extracted. So for instance, *likes* could see the phonology of *bagels* in (16):

- (16) Bagels, I think that Peter likes.

It would be possible to state constraints saying that the filler has to contain a vowel or two vowels or that it ends with a consonant. In addition, all elements on the extraction path (*that* and *think*) can see the phonology of the filler as well. While there are languages that mark the extraction path, I doubt that there are languages that have phonological effects across long distances. This problem can

be and has been solved by assuming that the filler is not shared with the information in the GAP list, but parts of the filler are shared with parts in the GAP list: Sag (2012: 166) assumes that SYN, SEM, and STORE information is identified individually. Originally, the feature geometry of HPSG was motivated by the wish to structure share information. Everything within LOCAL was shared between filler and extraction side. This kind of motivation is given up in SBCG.

Note, also, that not sharing the complete filler with the gap means that the FORM value of the element in the ARG-ST list at the extraction side is not constrained. Without any constraints, the theory would be compatible with infinitely many models, since the FORM value could be anything. For example, the FORM value of an extracted adjective could be  $\langle \text{Donald Duck} \rangle$  or  $\langle \text{Dunald Dock} \rangle$  or any arbitrary chaotic sequence of letters/phonemes. To exclude this, one can stipulate the FORM values of extracted elements to be the empty list, but this leaves one with the unintuitive situation that the element in GAP has an empty FORM list while the corresponding filler has a different, filled one.

#### 1.4.2.6 Frame Semantics

Another difference between SBCG and other variants of HPSG is the use of Frame Semantics (Fillmore 1982; Fillmore 1985a). The actual representations in SBCG are based on MRS (Minimal Recursion Semantics, Copestake et al. 2005, see also Koenig & Richter 2019, Chapter ?? of this volume) and the change seems rather cosmetic (relations have the suffix *-fr* for frame rather than *-rel* for relation and the feature is called FRAMES rather than RELATIONS), but there is one crucial difference: the labels of semantic roles are more specific than what is usually used in other variants of HPSG.<sup>16</sup> Sag (2012: 89) provides the following representation for the meaning contribution of the verb *eat*:

(17)	<table border="0" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 10px;"><i>sem-obj</i></td><td rowspan="2" style="font-size: 2em; vertical-align: middle;">}</td></tr> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 10px;">INDEX</td></tr> </table> <table border="0" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 10px;">FRAMES</td><td style="border-left: 1px solid black; padding-left: 10px;"> <table border="0" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 10px;"><i>eating-fr</i></td><td rowspan="2" style="font-size: 2em; vertical-align: middle;">}</td></tr> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 10px;">LABEL</td><td style="padding-right: 10px;"><i>l</i></td></tr> </table> </td></tr> </table> <table border="0" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 10px;">SIT</td><td rowspan="2" style="font-size: 2em; vertical-align: middle;">}</td></tr> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 10px;">INGESTOR</td><td style="padding-right: 10px;"><i>s</i></td></tr> </table> <table border="0" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 10px;">INGESTIBLE</td><td rowspan="2" style="font-size: 2em; vertical-align: middle;">}</td></tr> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 10px;">INGESTOR</td><td style="padding-right: 10px;"><i>j</i></td></tr> </table>	<i>sem-obj</i>	}	INDEX	FRAMES	<table border="0" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 10px;"><i>eating-fr</i></td><td rowspan="2" style="font-size: 2em; vertical-align: middle;">}</td></tr> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 10px;">LABEL</td><td style="padding-right: 10px;"><i>l</i></td></tr> </table>	<i>eating-fr</i>	}	LABEL	<i>l</i>	SIT	}	INGESTOR	<i>s</i>	INGESTIBLE	}	INGESTOR	<i>j</i>
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<sup>16</sup> Pollard & Sag (1987: 95) and Pollard & Sag (1994) use role labels like KISSE and KISSEE that are predicate-specific. Generalizations over these feature names are impossible within the standard formal setting of HPSG (Pollard & Sag 1994: Section 8.5.3; Müller 1999: 24, Fn. 1).

While some generalizations over verbs of a certain type can be captured with role labels like INGESTOR and INGESTIBLE, this is limited to verbs of ingestion. More general role labels like AGENT and PATIENT (or PROTO-AGENT and PROTO-PATIENT, Dowty 1991) allow for more generalizations of broader classes of verbs (see Davis & Koenig 2000 and Wechsler, Koenig & Davis 2019, Chapter 9 of this volume).

#### 1.4.3 Fluid Construction Grammar

One thing that makes SBCG different from other Construction Grammars is that SBCG assumes a strongly lexicalist stance (Sag & Wasow 2011): argument structure is encoded lexically. A ditransitive verb is a ditransitive verb since it selects for three NP arguments. This selection is encoded in valence features of lexical items. It is not assumed that phrasal configurations can license additional arguments as it is in Radical Construction Grammar, Embodied Construction Grammar, and Fluid Construction grammar. The next section discusses phrasal CxG approaches in more detail. Section 4 then discusses patterns that should be analyzed phrasally and which are problematic for entirely head-driven (or rather functor-driven) theories like Categorial Grammar, Dependency Grammar, and Minimalism.

## 2 Valence vs. phrasal patterns

Much work in Construction Grammar starts from the observation that children acquire patterns and, in later acquisition stages, abstract from these patterns to schemata containing open slots to be filled by variable material, for example subjects and objects (Tomasello 2003). The conclusion that is drawn from this is that language should be described with reference to phrasal patterns. Most Construction Grammar variants assume a phrasal approach to argument structure constructions (Goldberg 1995; 2006; Goldberg & Jackendoff 2004), with Constructional HPSG (Sag 1997), Boas's (2003) work, and SBCG (Sag et al. 2012; Sag 2012) being the three exceptions. So, for examples like the resultative construction in (18), Goldberg (1995) assumes that there is a phrasal construction [Sbj Verb Obj Obl] into which material is inserted and which contributes the resultative semantics as a whole.

- (18) She fished the pond empty.

HPSG follows the lexical approach and assumes that *fish-* is inserted into a lexical construction (lexical rule), which licenses the combination with other parts of the resultative construction (Müller 2002).

I argued in several publications that the language acquisition facts can be explained in lexical models as well (Müller 2010: Section 6.3; Müller & Wechsler 2014a: Section 9). While a pattern-based approach claims that (19) is analyzed by inserting *Kim*, *loves*, and *Sandy* into a phrasal schema stating that NP[nom] verb NP[acc] or subject verb object are possible sequences in English, a lexical approach would state that there is a verb *loves* selecting for an NP[nom] and an NP[acc] (or for a subject and an object).

- (19) Kim loves Sandy.

Since objects follow the verb in English (modulo extraction) and subjects precede the verb, the same sequence is licensed in the lexical approach. The lexical approach does not have any problems accounting for patterns in which the sequence of subject, verb, and object is discontinuous. For example, an adverb may intervene between subject and verb:

- (20) Kim really loves Sandy.

In a lexical approach it is assumed that verb and object may form a unit (a VP). The adverb attaches to this VP and the resulting VP is combined with the subject. The phrasal approach has to assume either that adverbs are part of phrasal schemata licensing cases like (20) (see Uszkoreit 1987: Section 6.3.2 for such a proposal in a GPSG approach to German) or that the phrasal construction may license discontinuous patterns. Bergen & Chang (2005: 170) follow the latter approach and assume that subject and verb may be discontinuous but verb and object(s) have to be adjacent. While this accounts for adverbs like the one in (20), it does not solve the general problem, since there are other examples showing that verb and object(s) may appear discontinuously as well:

- (21) Mary tossed me a juice and Peter a water.

Even though *tossed* and *Peter a water* are discontinuous in (21), they are an instance of the ditransitive construction. The conclusion is that what has to be acquired is not a phrasal pattern but rather the fact that there are dependencies between certain elements in phrases (see also Behrens 2009 for a similar view from a language acquisition perspective). I return to ditransitive constructions in Section 2.3.

I discussed several phrasal approaches to argument structure and showed where they fail (Müller 2006a,b; 2007; 2010; Müller & Wechsler 2014a,b; Müller 2018a). Of course, the discussion cannot be reproduced here, but I want to repeat four points showing that lexical valence representation is necessary and that effects that are the highlight of phrasal approaches can be achieved in lexical proposals

as well. The first two are problems that were around in GPSG times and basically were solved by abandoning the framework and adopting a new framework which was a fusion of GPSG and Categorial Grammar: HPSG.<sup>17</sup>

## 2.1 Derivational morphology and valence

The first argument (Müller 2016: Section 5.5.1) is that certain patterns in derivational morphology refer to valence. For example, the *-bar* ‘able’ derivation productively applies to transitive verbs only, that is, to verbs that govern an accusative.

- (22) a. unterstützbar  
supportable
- b. \* helfbar  
helpable
- c. \* schlafbar  
sleepable

Note that the *-bar* ‘able’ derivation is like the passive in that it suppresses the subject and promotes the accusative object: the accusative object is the element adjectives derived with the *-bar* ‘able’ derivation predicate over. There is no argument realized with the adjective *unterstützbaren* ‘supportable’ attaching to *Arbeitsprozessen* ‘work.processes’ in *unterstützbaren Arbeitsprozessen*.<sup>18</sup> Hence one could not claim that the stem enters a phrasal construction with arguments and *-bar* attaches to this phrase. It follows that information about valency has to be present at the stem.

Note also that the resultative construction interacts with the *-bar* ‘able’ derivation. (23) shows an example of the resultative construction in German in which the accusative object is introduced by the construction: it is the subject of *leer* ‘empty’ but not a semantic argument of the verb *fischt* ‘fishes’.

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<sup>17</sup>For further criticism of GPSG see Jacobson (1987). A detailed discussion of reasons for abandoning GPSG can be found in Müller (2016: Section 5.5).

<sup>18</sup>Adjectives realize their arguments preverbally in German:

- (i) der [seiner Frau treue] Mann  
the his wife faithful man  
'the man who is faithful to his wife'

*unterstützbaren* ‘supportable’ does not take an argument; it is a complete adjectival projection like *seiner Frau treue*.

- (23) Sie fischt den Teich leer.  
she fishes the pond empty

So even though the accusative object is not a semantic argument of the verb, the *-bar* ‘able’ derivation is possible and an adjective like *leerfischbar* ‘empty.fishable’ meaning ‘can be fished empty’ can be derived. This is explained by lexical analyses of the *-bar* ‘able’ derivation and the resultative construction, since if one assumes that there is a lexical item for the verb *fisch-* selecting an accusative object and a result predicate, then this item may function as the input for the *-bar* ‘able’ derivation. See Section 3 for further discussion of *-bar* ‘able’ derivation and Verspoor (1997), Wechsler (1997), Wechsler & Noh (2001), and Müller (2002: Chapter 5) for lexical analyses of the resultative construction in the framework of HPSG.

## 2.2 Partial verb phrase fronting

The second argument concerns partial verb phrase fronting (Müller 2016: Section 5.5.2). (24) gives some examples: in (24a) the bare verb is fronted and its arguments are realized in the middle field, in (24b) one of the objects is fronted together with the verb, and in (24c) both objects are fronted with the verb.

- (24) a. Erzählen wird er seiner Tochter ein Märchen können.  
tell will he his daughter a fairy.tale can  
b. Ein Märchen erzählen wird er seiner Tochter können.  
a fairy.tale tell will he his daughter can  
c. Seiner Tochter ein Märchen erzählen wird er können.  
his daughter a fairy.tale tell will he can  
'He will be able to tell his daughter a fairy tale.'

The problem with sentences such as those in (24) is that the valence requirements of the verb *erzählen* ‘to tell’ are realized in various positions in the sentence. For fronted constituents, one requires a rule which allows a ditransitive to be realized without its arguments or with one or two objects. This basically destroys the idea of a fixed phrasal configuration for the ditransitive construction and points again in the direction of dependencies.

Furthermore, it has to be ensured that the arguments that are missing in the prefield are realized in the remainder of the clause. It is not legitimate to omit obligatory arguments or realize arguments with other properties like a different case, as the examples in (25) show:

- (25) a. Verschlungen hat er es nicht.  
           devoured has he.NOM it.ACC not  
           ‘He did not devour it.’
- b. \* Verschlungen hat er nicht.  
           devoured has he.NOM not
- c. \* Verschlungen hat er ihm nicht.  
           devoured has he.NOM him.DAT not

The obvious generalization is that the fronted and unfronted arguments must add up to the total set of arguments selected by the verb. This is scarcely possible with the rule-based representation of valence in GPSG (Nerbonne 1986; Johnson 1986). In theories such as Categorial Grammar, it is possible to formulate elegant analyses of (25) (Geach 1970). Nerbonne (1986) and Johnson (1986) both suggest analyses for sentences such as (25) in the framework of GPSG which ultimately amount to changing the representation of valence information in the direction of Categorial Grammar. With a switch to CG-like valence representations in HPSG, the phenomenon of partial verb phrase fronting found elegant solutions (Höhle 2018a: Section 4; Müller 1996; Meurers 1999).

### 2.3 Coercion

An important observation in constructionist work is that, in certain cases, verbs can be used in constructions that differ from the constructions they are normally used in. For example, verbs that are usually used with one or two arguments may be used in the ditransitive construction:

- (26) a. She smiled.  
       b. She smiled herself an upgrade.<sup>19</sup>  
       c. He baked a cake.  
       d. He baked her a cake.

The usual explanation for sentences like (26b) and (26d) is that there is a phrasal pattern with three arguments into which intransitive and strictly transitive verbs may be entered. It is assumed that the phrasal patterns are associated with a certain meaning (Goldberg 1996; Goldberg & Jackendoff 2004). For example, the benefactive meaning of (26d) is contributed by the phrasal pattern (Goldberg 1996: Section 6; Asudeh, Giorgolo & Toivonen 2014: 81).

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<sup>19</sup>Douglas Adams. 1979. *The Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy*, Harmony Books. Quoted from Goldberg (2003: 220).

The insight that a verb is used in the ditransitive pattern and thereby contributes a certain meaning is of course also captured in lexical approaches. Briscoe & Copestake (1999) suggested a lexical rule-based analysis mapping a transitive version of verbs like *bake* onto a ditransitive one and adding the benefactive semantics. This is parallel to the phrasal approach in that it says: three-place *bake* behaves like other three-place verbs (e.g., *give*) in taking three arguments and by doing so, it comes with a certain meaning (see Müller 2018a for a lexical rule-based analysis of the benefactive constructions that works for both English and German, despite the surface differences of the respective languages). The lexical rule is a form-meaning pair and hence a construction. As Croft put it 15 years ago: Lexical rule vs. phrasal schema is a false dichotomy (Croft 2003). But see Müller (2018a; 2006a; 2013) and Müller & Wechsler (2014a) for differences between the approaches.

Briscoe & Copestake (1999) paired their lexical rules with probabilities to be able to explain differences in productivity. This corresponds to the association strength that van Trijp (2011: 141) used to relate lexical items to phrasal constructions of various kinds.

## 2.4 Non-predictability of valence

The last subsection discussed phrasal models of coercion that assume that verbs can be inserted into constructions that are compatible with the semantic contribution of the verb. Müller & Wechsler (2014a: Section 7.4) pointed out that this is not sufficiently constrained. Müller & Wechsler discussed the examples in (27), among others:

- (27) a. John depends on Mary. (*counts*, *relies*, etc.)  
b. John trusts (\*on) Mary.

While *depends* can be combined with a *on*-PP, this is impossible for *trusts*. Also the form of the preposition of prepositional objects is not always predictable from semantic properties of the verb. So there has to be a way to state that certain verbs go together with certain kinds of arguments and others do not. A lexical specification of valence information is the most direct way to do this. Phrasal approaches sometimes assume other means to establish connections between lexical items and phrasal constructions. For instance, Goldberg (1995: 50) assumes that verbs are “conventionally associated with constructions”. The more technical work in Fluid CxG assumes that every lexical item is connected to various phrasal constructions via coapplication links (van Trijp 2011: 141). This is

very similar to Lexicalized Tree Adjoining Grammar (LTAG; Schabes, Abeillé & Joshi 1988), where a rich syntactic structure is associated to a lexical anchor. So, phrasal approaches that link syntactic structure to lexical items are actually lexical approaches as well. As in GPSG, they include means to ensure that lexical items enter into correct constructions. In GPSG, this was taken care of by a number. I already discussed the GPSG shortcomings in previous subsections.

Concluding this section, it can be said that there has to be a connection between lexical items and their arguments and that a lexical representation of argument structure is the best way to establish such a relation.

### 3 Construction Morphology

The first publications in Construction Morphology were the master's thesis of Riehemann (1993), which later appeared as Riehemann (1998), and Koenig's WC-CFL paper and thesis (Koenig93a; Koenig94a-u; Koenig 1999). Riehemann called her framework *Type-Based Derivational Morphology*, since it was written before influential work like Goldberg (1995) appeared and before the term *Construction Morphology* (Booij 2005) was used. Riehemann did a careful corpus study on adjective derivations with the suffix *-bar* 'able'. She noticed that there is a productive pattern that can be analyzed by a lexical rule relating a verbal stem to the adjective suffixed with *-bar*.<sup>20</sup> The productive pattern applies to verbs governing an accusative as in (28a) but is incompatible with verbs taking a dative as in (28b):

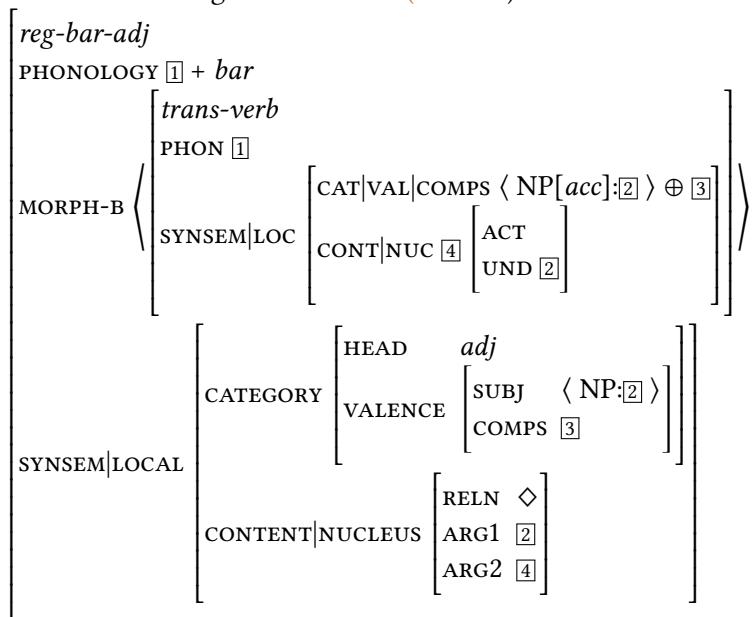
- (28) a. unterstützbar  
supportable
- b. \* helfbar  
helpable
- c. \* schlafbar  
sleepable

Intransitive verbs are also excluded, as (28c) shows. Riehemann suggests the schema in (29):

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<sup>20</sup>She did not call her rule a lexical rule, but the difference between her template and the formalization of lexical rules by Meurers (2001) is the naming of the feature MORPH-B vs. DTR.

- (29) Schema for productive adjective derivations with the suffix *-bar* in German according to Riehemann (1998: 68):



MORPH-B is a list that contains a description of a transitive verb (something that governs an accusative object which is linked to the undergoer role (2) and has an actor).<sup>21</sup> The phonology of this element (1) is combined with the suffix *-bar* and forms the phonology of the complete lexical item. The resulting object is of category *adj* and the semantics of the accusative object of the input verb (2) is identified with the one of the subject of the resulting adjective. The semantics of the input verb (4) is embedded under a modal operator in the semantics of the adjective.

While the description of the *-bar* ‘able’ derivation given so far captures the situation quite well, there are niches and isolated items that are exceptions. According to Riehemann (1998: 5), this was the case for 7% of the adjectives she

<sup>21</sup>Note that the specification of the type *trans-verb* in the list under MORPH-B is redundant, since it is stated that there has to be an accusative object and that there is an actor and an undergoer in the semantics. Depending on further properties of the grammar, the specification of the type is actually wrong: productively derived particle verbs may be input to the *-bar* ‘able’ derivation, and these are not a subtype of *trans-verb*, since the respective particle verb rule derives both transitive (*anlachen* ‘laugh at somebody’) and intransitive verbs (*loslachen* ‘start to laugh’) (Müller 2003: 296). *Anlachen* does not have an undergoer in the semantic representation suggested by Stiebels (1996). See Müller (2003: 308) for a version of the *-bar* ‘able’ derivation schema that is compatible with particle verb formations as input.

looked at in her corpus study. Examples are verbs ending in *-ig* like *entschuldigen* ‘to excuse’. The *-ig* is dropped in the derivation:

- (30)    *entschuldbar*  
          excuseable

Other cases are lexicalized forms like *essbar* ‘safely edible’, which have a special lexicalized meaning. Exceptions of the accusative requirement are verbs selecting a dative (31a), a prepositional object (31b), reflexive verbs (31c), and even intransitive, mono-valent verbs (31d):

- (31)    a. *unentrinnbar*  
              inescapable  
        b. *verfügbar*  
              available  
        c. *regenerierbar*  
              regenerable  
        d. *brennbar*  
              inflammable

To capture generalizations about productive, semi-productive and fixed patterns/items, Riehemann suggests a type hierarchy, parts of which are provided in Figure 2. The type *bar-adj* stands for all *-bar* adjectives and comes with the

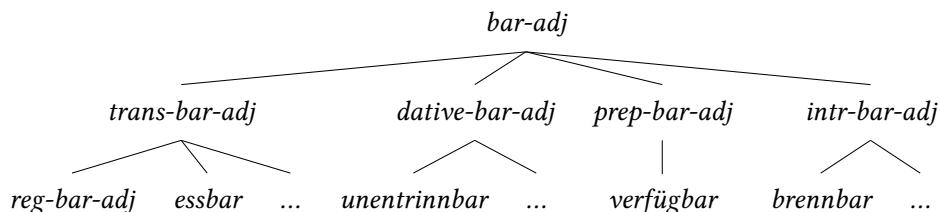


Figure 2: Parts of the type hierarchy for *-bar* ‘able’ derivation adapted from Riehemann (1998: 15)

constraints that apply to all of them. One subtype of this general type is *trans-bar-adj*, which subsumes all adjectives that are derived from transitive verbs. This includes all regularly derived *-bar*-adjectives, which are of the type *reg-bar-adj* but also *essbar* ‘edible’ and *sichtbar* ‘visible’.

As this recapitulation of Riehemann’s proposal shows, the analysis is a typical CxG analysis: V-*bar* is a partially filled word (see Goldberg’s examples in Table 1).

The schema in (29) is a form-meaning pair. Exceptions and subregularities are represented in an inheritance network.

## 4 Phrasal patterns

Section 2 discussed the claim that Constructions in the sense of CxG have to be phrasal. I showed that this is not true and that in fact lexical approaches to valence have to be preferred under the assumptions usually made in non-transformational theories. However, there are other areas of grammar that give exclusively head-driven approaches like Categorial Grammar, Minimalism, and Dependency Grammar a hard time. In what follows I discuss the NPN construction and various forms of filler gap constructions.

### 4.1 The NPN Construction

Matsuyama (2004) and Jackendoff (2008) discuss the NPN Construction, examples of which are provided in (32):

- (32) a. Student after student left the room.  
b. Day after day after day went by, but I never found the courage to talk to her. (Bargmann 2015)

The properties of the NPN construction (with *after*) are summarized by Bargmann (2015) in a concise way and I will repeat his examples and summarization below to motivate his analysis in (40).

The examples in (32) show that the N-after-N Construction has the *distribution of NPs*.

As (33) shows, the construction is *partially lexically fixed*: *after* cannot be replaced by any other word (Matsuyama 2004: 73).

- (33) Alex asked me question { after / \* following / \* succeeding } question.

The construction is *partially lexically flexible*: the choice of Ns is free, except for the fact that the Ns must be identical (34a), the Ns must be count nouns (34b), Ns must be in the singular (34c), and the Ns must be bare (34d).

- (34) a. \* bus after car (N1 ≠ N2)  
b. \* water after water (Ns = mass nouns)  
c. \* books after books (Ns = plurals)  
d. \* a day after a day (Ns have determiners)

The construction is *syntactically fixed*: N-after-N cannot be split by syntactic operations as the contrast in (35) shows (Matsuyama 2004):

- (35) a. Man after man passed by.  
       b. \* Man passed by after man.

If extraposition of the *after*-N constituent were possible, (35b) with an extraposed *after man* should be fine but it is not, so NPN seems to be a fixed configuration.

There is a syntax-semantics mismatch: while N-after-N is syntactically singular, as (36) shows, it is plural semantically, as (37) shows:

- (36) Study after study { reveals / \*reveal } the dangers of lightly trafficked streets.
- (37) a. John ate { apple after apple / apples / \*an apple } for an hour.  
       b. John ate { \*apple after apple / \*apples / an apple } in an hour.

Furthermore there is an aspect of semantic sequentiality: N-after-N conveys a temporal or spatial sequence: as Bargmann (2015) states, the meaning of (38a) is something like (38b).

- (38) a. Man after man passed by.  
       b. First one man passed by, then another(, then another(, then another(, then ... ))).

The Ns in the construction do not refer to one individual each; rather, they contribute to a holistic meaning.

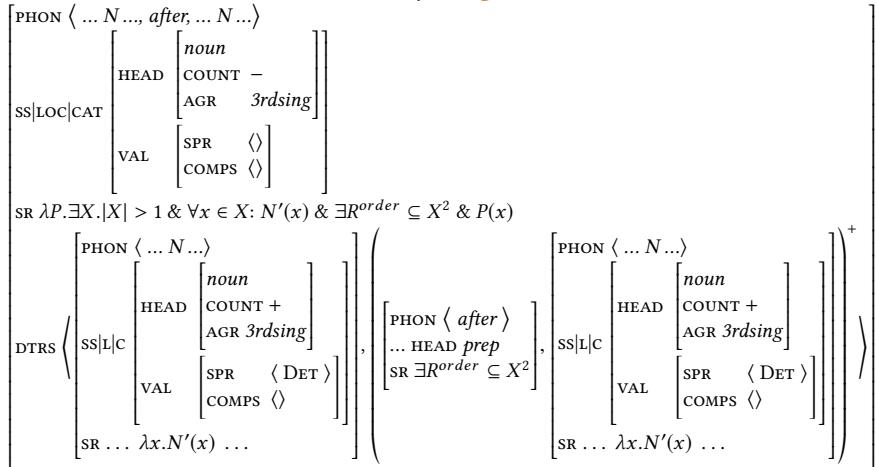
The NPN construction allows adjectives to be combined with the nouns, but this is restricted. N1 can only be preceded by an adjective if N2 is preceded by the same adjective:

- (39) a. bad day after bad day (N1 and N2 are preceded by the same adjective.)  
       b. \* bad day after awful day (N1 and N2 are preceded by different adjectives.)  
       c. \* bad day after day (Only N1 is preceded by an adjective.)  
       d. day after bad day (Only N is preceded by an adjective.)

Finally, *after* N may be iterated to emphasize the fact that there are several referents of N, as the example in (32b) shows.

This empirical description is covered by the following phrasal construction, which is adapted from Bargmann (2015).<sup>22</sup>

(40) NPN Construction as formalized by Bargmann (2015):



There is a list of daughters consisting of a first daughter and an arbitrarily long list of *after* N pairs. The '+' means that there has to be at least one *after* N pair. The nominal daughters select for a determiner via SPR, so they can be either bare nouns or nouns modified by adjectives. The semantic representation, non-standardly represented as the value of SR, says that there have to be several objects in a set X ( $\exists X. |X| > 1$ ) and for all of them, the meaning of the  $\bar{N}$  has to hold ( $\forall x \in X : N'(x)$ ). Furthermore there is an order between the elements of X as stated by  $\exists R^{\text{order}} \subseteq X^2$ .

From looking at this construction, it is clear that it cannot be accounted for by standard  $\bar{X}$  rules. Even without requiring  $\bar{X}$  syntactic rules, there seems to be no

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<sup>22</sup>Jackendoff and Bargmann assume that the result of combining N, P, and N is an NP. However this is potentially problematic, as Matsuyama's example in (40) shows (Matsuyama 2004: 71):

- (i) All ranks joined in hearty cheer after cheer for every member of the royal family ...

As Matsuyama points out, the reading of such examples is like the reading of *old men and women* in which *old* scopes over both *men* and *women*. This is accounted for in structures like the one indicated in (ii):

- (ii) hearty [cheer after cheer]

Since adjectives attach to  $\bar{N}$ s and not to NPs, this means that NPN constructions should be  $\bar{N}$ s. Of course (ii) cannot be combined with a determiner, so one would have to assume that NPN constructions select for a determiner that has to be dropped obligatorily. Determiners are also dropped in noun phrases with mass nouns with a certain reading.

way to capture these constructions in head-based approaches like Minimalism, Categorial Grammar, or Dependency Grammar. For simple NPN constructions, one could claim that *after* is the head. *after* would be categorized as a third-person singular mass noun and select for two  $\bar{N}$ s. It would (non-compositionally) contribute the semantics stated above. But it is unclear how the general schema with arbitrarily many repetitions of *after* N could be accounted for. If one assumes that *day after day* forms a constituent, then the first *after* in (41) would have to combine an N with an NPN sequence.

- (41) day after [day [after day]]

This means that we would have to assume two different items for *after*: one for the combination of  $\bar{N}$ s and another one for the combination of  $\bar{N}$  with NPN combinations. Note that an analysis of the type in (41) would have to project information about the Ns contained in the NPN construction since this information has to be matched with the single  $\bar{N}$  at the beginning. In any case, a lexical analysis would require several highly idiosyncratic lexical items (prepositions projecting nominal information and selecting items they usually do not select). It is clear that a reduplication account of the NPN construction as suggested by G. Müller (2011) does not work, since patterns with several repetitions of PN as in (41) cannot be accounted for as reduplication. G. Müller (p. 241) stated that reduplication works for word-size elements only (in German) and hence his account does not extend to the English examples given above. (42) shows an attested German example containing adjectives, which means that G. Müller's approach is not appropriate for German either.

- (42) Die beiden tauchten nämlich geradewegs wieder aus dem heimischen  
           the two surfaced namely straightaway again from the home  
           Legoland auf, wo sie im Wohnzimmer, schwarzen Stein um  
           Legoland PART where they in.the living.room black brick after  
           schwarzen Stein, vermeintliche Schusswaffen nachgebaut hatten.<sup>23</sup>  
           black brick alleged firearms recreated had  
       ‘The two surfaced straightaway from their home Legoland where they  
       had recreated alleged firearms black brick after black brick.’

This subsection showed how a special phrasal pattern can be analyzed within HPSG. The next section will discuss filler-gap constructions, which were analyzed as instances of a single schema by Pollard & Sag (1994) but which were

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<sup>23</sup>taz, 05.09.2018, p. 20

later reconsidered and analyzed as a family of subconstructions by Sag (1997; 2010).

## 4.2 Specialized sub-constructions

HPSG took over the treatment of nonlocal dependencies from GPSG (Gazdar 1981) (see also Flickinger, Pollard & Wasow 2019, Chapter 2 of this volume on the history of HPSG and Borsley & Crysmann 2019, Chapter 14 of this volume on unbounded dependencies). Pollard & Sag (1994: Chapters 4 and 5) had an analysis of topicalization constructions like (43) and an analysis of relative clauses. However, more careful examination revealed that more fine-grained distinctions have to be made. Sag (2010: 491) looked at the following examples:

- (43) a. [My bagels,] she likes. (topicalized clause)
- b. [What books] do they like? (wh-interrogative)
- c. (the person) [who (se book)] they like (wh-relative)
- d. [What a play] he wrote! (wh-exclamative)
- e. [the more books] they read ... (the-clause)

As Sag shows, the fronted element is specific to the construction at hand:

- (44) a. \* [Which bagels] / [Who], she likes. (topicalized clause)
- b. \* [What a book] do they like? (wh-interrogative)
- c. % the thing [[what] they like] (wh-relative)
- d. \* [Which bagels] / [What] she likes! (wh-exclamative)
- e. \* [which books] they read, the more they learn. (the-clause)

A topicalized clause should not contain a *wh* item (44a), a *wh*-interrogative should not contain a *what a* sequence as known from *wh*-exclamatives (44b), and so on.

Furthermore, some of these constructions allow non-finite clauses and others do not:

- (45) a. \* Bagels, (for us) to like. (topicalized clause)
- b. \* It's amazing [what a dunce (for them) to talk to]. (wh-exclamative)
- c. \* The harder (for them) to come, the harder (for them) to fall. (the-clause)
- d. I know how much time (\* for them) to take. (wh-interrogative)
- e. The time in which (\*for them) to finish. (wh-relative)

So there are differences as far as fillers and sentences from which something is extracted are concerned. Sag discussed further differences like inversion/non-inversion in the clauses out of which something is extracted. I do not repeat the full discussion here but refer the reader to the original paper.

In principle, there are several ways to model the phenomena. One could assume empty heads as Pollard & Sag (1994: Chapter 5) suggested for the treatment of relative clauses. Or one could assume empty heads as they are assumed in Minimalism: certain so-called operators have features that have to be checked and cause items with the respective properties to move (Adger 2003: 330–331). Borsley (2006) discussed potential analyses of relative clauses involving empty heads and showed that one would need a large number of such empty heads, and since there is no theory of the lexicon in Minimalism, generalizations are missed (see also Borsley & Müller 2019, Chapter 32 of this volume). The alternative suggested by Sag (2010) is to assume a general Filler-Head Schema of the kind assumed in Pollard & Sag (1994) and then define more specific sub-constructions. To take an example, the *wh*-exclamative is a filler-head structure, so it inherits everything from the more general construction, but in addition, it specifies that the filler daughter must contain a *what a* part and states the semantics that is contributed by the exclamative construction.

## 5 Summary

This paper summarized the properties of Construction Grammar, or rather Construction Grammars, and showed that HPSG can be seen as a Construction Grammar, since it fulfills all the tenets assumed in CxG: it is surface-based, grammatical constraints pair form and function/meaning, the grammars do not rely on innate domain-specific knowledge, and the grammatical knowledge is represented in inheritance hierarchies. This sets HPSG and CxG apart from other generative theories that either assume innate language-specific knowledge (Minimalism, e.g., Chomsky 2013; Kayne 1994; Cinque & Rizzi 2010) or do not assume inheritance hierarchies for all linguistic levels (e.g., LFG).

I showed why lexical analyses of argument structure should be preferred over phrasal ones and that there are other areas in grammar where phrasal analyses are superior to lexical ones. I showed that they can be covered in HPSG, while they are problematic for proposals assuming that all structures have to have a head.

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# Head-Driven Phrase Structure Grammar

Head-Driven Phrase Structure Grammar (HPSG) is a linguistic framework that models linguistic knowledge on all descriptive levels (phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, pragmatics) by using feature value pairs, structure sharing, and relational constraints. This volume summarizes work that has been done since the mid 80s. Various chapters discuss formal foundations and basic assumptions, describe the evolution of the framework and go into the details of various syntactic phenomena. Separate chapters are devoted to non-syntactic levels of description. The book also handles related fields and research areas (gesture, sign languages, computational linguistics) and has a part in which HPSG is compared to other frameworks (Lexical Functional Grammar, Categorial Grammar, Construction Grammar, Dependency Grammar and Minimalism).

