Two Instances of a Minimalistic Syntactic Engine (Internal and External) are Responsible for A and A-bar Dependencies Respectively.

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February 2017

Abstract I suggest a new architecture for syntax in which the workload is split between an Internal Syntactic Engine responsible for A-dependencies and an External Syntactic Engine responsible for A-bar dependencies. This approach re-introduces van Riemsdijk and Williams (1981) NP-structure in a minimalist setting.

Keywords: syntax, minimalist framework, A-movement, A-bar movement

The minimalistic Syntactic Engine is known to have both input (Enumeration) and output (Spell-Out). If so, two instances of a Syntactic Engine can be connected sequentially and divide the workload between them. The Internal Engine is responsible for thematic roles and Cases. In turn, the External Engine is responsible for externalization, and also for Information Structure and other things.

The splitting of work between the two engines is dictated by the considerations of computational efficiency. Each of them has its own grammar. In the Grammar of the Internal Engine, the Agreement licenses A-movement, and in the Grammar of the External Engine, the agreement licenses the A-bar movement.

This split also explains, and even predicts, the existence of bracketing paradoxes. It also explains the Relativized Minimality effects, which treat A and A-bar dependencies separately as if the other doesn't exist. This is understandable if they take place in different modules. Likewise, the fact that A-movement precedes A-bar movement also follows from this architecture.

Van Riemsdijk and Williams (1981) suggested that what was then called NP-movement and wh-movement belong to separate modules. As is well known, the Minimalist approach does not use intermediate representations, but the presence of Internal and External Syntactic Engines re-introduces the NP-structure, which serves as output from Internal Grammar and input for External Grammar.

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