

# Linguistics 220B: Advanced Syntax II

Spring 2022 | Prof. Peter Jenks | Tu/Th 11-12:30 | 1303 Dwinelle  
Topic: Agreement and the A/A'-distinction in movement

**Territory acknowledgment:** We acknowledge that UC Berkeley is located on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded land of the Ohlone people.

**Course description:** This class is an advanced topics course in syntax, meant to deepen students' understanding of syntactic theory and syntactic phenomena across languages, as well as the interface of syntax with morphology and semantics. Students will emerge from this course better prepared to conduct cutting edge research and better equipped to read current research in this area. This course focuses on cross-linguistic patterns of phrasal movement, an exciting area due to an expanding picture of what kind of phrasal movement is possible in different languages.

**Enrollment:** Students can enroll for a letter grade, which will involve regular participation, one presentation, and a final paper, or enroll S/U, which involves regular participation in the class and one presentation.

**Readings:** Readings will be provided on bCourses during the semester.

## **Course requirements:**

- Complete the required reading for weeks 2-12, typically one paper a week, occasionally a couple chapters of a dissertation.
- Pick one paper to present together with me :)
- If enrolled for a letter grade: write a final paper
- Attend class, ask questions, engage!

## **Schedule of topics and readings** (dates and details on bCourses)

### *Part I: The A/A'-distinction in movement*

Week 1	Jan 18/20	Intro (no reading)
Week 2	Jan 25/27	Scrambling — Mahajan 1991, ch. 1
Week 3	Feb 1/3	A'-movement vs. non movement — Aissen 1992; Adesola 2006

### *Part II: Agreement and A'-movement*

Week 4	Feb 8/10	The A/A'-distinction and Agree — Van Urk 2015
Week 5	Feb 15/17	Wh- and operator-agreement — Reintges et al. 2006
Week 6	Feb 22/24	Interaction/satisfaction — Deal 2022

Week 7	March 1/3	Anti-agreement — Baier 2018, ch. 1-3
Week 8	March 8/10	Selective opacity — Keine 2019
Week 9	March 15/17	Extraction restrictions — Coon et al. 2021
	March 22/24	<i>Spring break</i>

### *Part III: Mixed A/A'-movement: Case studies and typology*

Week 10:	March 29/31	Toba Batak — Erlewine 2018
Week 11:	April 5/7	Kipsigis — Bossi and Diercks 2019
Week 12	April 12/14	Khanty — Colley and Privoznov 2021
Week 13:	April 19/21	Complex probes — Scott 2021
Week 14:	April 26/28	Refining the typology: Topic, focus, and over-agreement in Tira

**Introduction to the topic:** It is generally accepted that there are two distinct varieties of phrasal movement: A-movement and A'-movement, the main difference being whether movement ends in an argument position (A-movement) or a non-argument position (A'-movement). A-movement is typically restricted to DPs, is finite-clause bounded, and resets binding relations, for example in the example of raising in (1). A'-movement, on the other hand, applies to any XP, is unbounded, passing out of finite complement clauses, is sensitive to islands, and cannot reset binding configurations, leading to weak crossover configurations, as in (2).

1. [Every child]<sub>1</sub> seemed to their<sub>1</sub> mother \_\_\_\_<sub>1</sub> to be sick.
2. ??Which child<sub>1</sub> did their<sub>1</sub> mother help \_\_\_\_<sub>1</sub>?

Since at least Mahajan (1991)'s work on Hindi scrambling, the A/A'-distinction and the diagnostics for it have been shown to be cross-linguistically robust. However, recent work on a typologically diverse array of languages has demonstrated that many languages feature movement phenomena that combine the traditional properties of A and A'-movement, including Dinka (Nilo-Saharan, van Urk 2015), Kipsigis (Nilo-Saharan, Bossi & Diercks 2018), Toba Batak (Austronesian, Erlewine 2018), Ndeneleko (Bantu, Scott 2021), and Khanty (Uralic, Colley and Privoznov 2020).

This class reviews central properties of A and A'-movement, including their distinct locality profiles and the effects on binding. We will then review cases of hybrid A/A'-movement above, along with various analyses which have been proposed for them. We will also review recent developments in agreement and movement which are

relevant for analyzing this distinction, including work on *wh*-agreement, Deal's interaction-satisfaction model of agreement, and Baier's analysis of anti-agreement as *wh*-agreement. We will also examine different interactions between agreement and A'-movement, including ways that it is claimed various positions (Keine 2019) and intervening arguments (Coon et al 2021) can block movement. Towards the end of the class, I'll bring these theories to bear on a novel data from Tira (Kordofanian: Sudan), which has two separate instances of hybrid A/A'-movement: topic clauses, restricted to DPs, and focus/*wh*-clauses.

### **Readings:**

- Adesola, Oluseye. 2006. On the absence of superiority and weak crossover effects in Yoruba. *Linguistic inquiry*, 37(2), 309-318.
- Baier, Nico. 2018. *Anti-agreement*. PhD dissertation, UC Berkeley.
- Bossi, Michael and Diercks, Madeline. 2019. V1 in Kipsigis: Head movement and discourse-based scrambling. *Glossa*, 4(1).
- Colley, Justin and Dmetri Privoznov. 2021. On the topic of subjects: composite probes in Khanty. *Proceedings of NELS 50*. Ed. by Mariam Asatryan, Yixiao Song, Ayana Whitmal.
- Coon, Jessica, Nico Baier, and Ted Levin. 2021. Mayan agent focus and the ergative extraction constraint: Facts and fictions revisited. *Language* 97, 269-332.
- Deal, Amy Rose. 2021. Interaction, satisfaction, and the PCC. *Linguistic Inquiry*.
- Erlewine, Michael Yoshitaka. 2018. Extraction and licensing in Toba Batak. *Language*, 94(3), 662-697.
- Mahajan, Anoop. 1990. *The A/A-bar distinction and movement theory*. PhD dissertation, MIT.
- Keine, Stefan. 2019. Selective Opacity. *Linguistic Inquiry* 50.1: 13–62.
- Reintges, Chris H., Philip LeSourd, and Sandra Chung. 2006. Movement, Wh-Agreement, and Apparent Wh-in-Situ. In *Wh-movement: moving on*. Cheng and Corver, Eds, 165-194.
- Van Urk, Coppe. 2015. *A uniform syntax for phrasal movement: A case study of Dinka Bor*. PhD Diss. MIT.
- Scott, Tessa. 2021. Formalizing three types of mixed A'/A agreement. Ms. UC Berkeley. Berkeley, CA.