Ling 620 Advanced Formal Syntax

San Diego State University
Schedule # 17979
Spring 2023
Th 4:00pm–6:40pm
PSFA-318

This course serves as an introduction to the study of syntax within the Lexical-Functional Grammar (LFG), a lexicalist constraint-based grammar framework. We will explore a number of phenomena of natural language morphosyntax in a variety of typologically diverse languages. Topics to be covered include relative and interrogative clauses, auxiliaries and clause structure, mixed category constructions, and computational grammars. Prerequisite: Ling 522 or equivalent.

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Real office: SHW 244
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Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion, students will have the knowledge and skills to:

1. describe the formal mechanisms of Lexical Functional Grammar;

2. compare LFG to other syntactic frameworks;

3. apply LFG grammars to constructions in English and other languages;

4. analyze morphosyntactic constructions in English and other languages using LFG;

5. carry out research applying relevant theoretical approaches to the analysis of morphosyntax;

6. engage with literature that applies syntactic theory to a range of linguistic phenomena.

Course Materials

The textbook for this course is:

*   Kersti Börjars, Rachel Nordlinger, and Louisa Sadler. 2019. *Lexical-Functional Grammar: An Introduction*. Cambridge University Press.

This is available through the bookstores and the usual other sources. Additional readings will include:

- Bresnan, Joan. 2021. Formal grammar, usage probabilities, and auxiliary contraction. *Language* 97(1):108–150.

- Bresnan, Joan and Jonni M. Kanerva. 1989. Locative inversion in Chicheŵa: A case study of factorization in grammar. *Linguistic Inquiry* 20(1):1–50.

- Dalrymple, Mary. 1993. *The Syntax of Anaphoric Binding*. Stanford: CSLI Publications. (Chapter 4)

- Kaplan, Ronald M. and Annie Zaenen. 1989. Long-distance dependencies, constituent structure, and functional uncertainty. In Mark R. Baltin and Anthony S. Kroch (eds.), *Alternative Conceptions of Phrase Structure* Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 17–42.

- Sadler, Louisa. 2016. Agreement in Archi: An LFG perspective. In Oliver Bond, Greville G. Corbett, Marina Chumakina, and Dunstan Brown (eds), *Archi: Complexities of Agreement in Cross-Theoretical Perspective*. Oxford University Press.

All other course information, additional readings, assignments, slides, etc. will be available on Canvas.

Course Design

The grade for the course will be based on readings and problem sets (20%), a take-home midterm exam (40%), and a final paper (40%). Working in groups on homework assignments is encouraged. However, please turn in your own individual write-up. Late homework will be accepted (with a grade penalty) for one week only after the deadline.

Schedule

Week	Topic	Reading
1	Frameworks and theories	Chapter 1
2—3	Constituency and constructions	Chapter 2, 3
4—5	Morphosyntax	Chapter 4
6—7	Raising and control	Chapter 5
8	**Midterm**	

Week	Topic	Reading
9—10	Long distance dependencies	Chapter 6, Kaplan & Zaenen (1989)
11	Pronouns	Chapter 7, Dalrymple (1993)
12	Lexical Mapping Theory	Chapter 8, Bresnan & Kanerva (1989)
	Draft paper due	**April 21**
13	Archi agreement	Sadler (2016)
14	LFG in the 21st century	Bresnan (2021)
15	Wrap up and review	
	Final paper due	**May 12**