

More Minimal Minimalist Syntax

Ever since the beginning of the minimalist enterprise in the early 90-ies, the Program has been trying to reconcile the ambitious task of formulating a comprehensive, compact and streamlined theory of grammar with the need for broad empirical coverage and adequacy. In the process, the theory has impacted research on particular constructions and languages and, in turn, particularly successful empirical analyses fed theory-oriented proposals. For the past 35 years the Program has been evolving but the concepts of movement, copy, Agree and feature valuation have been central to minimalist theorizing.

Until now. In a series of recent papers Noam Chomsky proclaims yet another revolutionary move in the theory of syntax: among other novel proposals successive cyclic movement of α is abandoned in favor of long-distance relations leading to Access (establishing scope of α) and Externalization (establishing the position for the pronunciation of α).

The workshop addresses recent developments in syntactic theory and minimalism, specifically the evolution of the notion of the derivational phase and a broad view on grammatical relations in a system without successive-cyclic movement and without multiple copies.

The new parsimonious theory raises many questions on phenomena that were previously accounted for with the use of successive cyclic movement, such as long distance relations in wh-dependencies, remnants left by moving constituents, the role of Subjacency and the role of the Phase Impenetrability Condition.

We invite contributions pertinent to minimalist syntax in general and these novel developments in particular, hoping that our session will provide a suitable venue for discussion of the pros and cons of the newest stage of the Program.

Confirmed Participants of the Thematic Session:

David T. Seely (Eastern Michigan University)

Hisatsugu Kitahara (Keio University)

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