

**Ling 206: Syntactic Structure and Argument Structure**  
**a.k.a. Some questions about roots**  
Heidi Harley, Thurs. 1-3, Boylston 303  
Catalog #9020

## 1. Requirements

15% → 1 topic statement or outline/draft of paper, <10 pages.

*due:* April 7th

75% → 1 paper, 10-*n* pages. Can be combined with/identical to another project, e.g. for another class (if the other instructor agrees), prelim, dissertation, etc.

*due:* May 5th

10% → Attendance, reading, participation, etc. May fold a presentation requirement in here.

## 2 Topics

Three things I think are true about the language faculty:

- a) Bare Phrase Structure
- b) Distributed Morphology
  - i) Syntax all the way down
  - ii) Late insertion
  - iii) Acategorical roots, category-creating *v*, *a*, *n* heads
- c) Semantics (is)(begins with) a model-theoretic interpretation of the terminals of the syntactic structure

*Topic A*

→ Put together, they do some very cool things.

*Topic B*

→ Put together, they lead to some very difficult problems

## 3 Schedule (approximate, subject to slippage, etc.)

February

3 Today: Some cool things about DM + BPS

("Readings", not that you'll have been able to do them. But shouldn't need to, for this stuff)

Harley 2002. "A Minimal(ish) Theta Theory." Handout, Maryland Minimalist Mayfest)

Panagiotidis, Phoevos 2003. "One, Empty Nouns And Theta Assignment." Linguistic Inquiry 34, 281-292

10 Some cool things about DM + semantics

Kratzer, A. (1994)1996. "Severing the external argument from its verb", in Rooryck & Zaring, *Phrase Structure and the Lexicon*

McGinnis, M. 2001. "The systematic aspect of idioms"

17 The paper that's the source of most of my problems, because I really think it's right about the things it talks about:

Harley 2005(1999, 2001). "How do verbs get their names? Denominal verbs, Manner Incorporation and the ontology of verb roots in English," in Nomi Erteschik-Shir and Tova Rapoport, eds., *The Syntax of Aspect*. Oxford University Press.

→ but: *Manner* 'incorporation'? Category & arguments? Late insertion?

24 Aside: Some questions about denominal verbs

Kiparsky, P. (1997). Remarks on denominal verbs. In A. Alsina, J. Bresnan and P. Sells, (Eds.), *Complex Predicates*. Palo Alto, CA, CSLI Publications: 473-499.

Arad, M. 2003. Locality constraints on the interpretation of roots: the case of Hebrew denominal verbs. *Natural Language and Linguistic Theory* 21:737-778

\*\*\*\**Problem 1: "Manner Incorporation"*\*\*\*\*

March

3 *Two topics: Vs of motion, double objects*

Talmy 1985(2002) "Lexicalization patterns: semantic structure in lexical forms," In Shopen, T., ed., *Language typology and syntactic description: Grammatical categories and the lexicon*. Cambridge: CUP. 57-149.

Harley (1995)2002. "Possession and the double object construction," *Linguistic Variation Yearbook*,

10 *Double objects*

Pinker, Steven. 1989. Chapter 2 of *Learnability and Cognition*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

Snyder, W., & Stromswold, K. 1997. The structure and acquisition of English dative constructions. *Linguistic Inquiry* 28, 281-317.

17 *Verbs of motion*

Mateu, J. 2002. Chapter 3 of *Argument Structure: Relational construal at the syntax-semantics interface*. Doctoral dissertation, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona.

Zubizarreta, M. and E. Oh. 2004. Chapter 3 of *The Lexicon-Syntax Interface: The Case of Motion Verbs*. Ms., USC

(Also: Miyoshi? Naoko Tomioka?)

24 *Both*

McIntyre, A. 2004. "Event paths, conflation, argument structure and VP shells," *Linguistics*, 42.3, 523-571

Marantz (2001). "Words," keynote talk, WCCFL 2001

\*\*\*\*Problem 2: Category? Arguments?\*\*\*\*

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Barner, D., Bale, A., 2002. No nouns, no verbs: psycholinguistic arguments in favor of lexical under-specification. *Lingua* 112, 771–791.

Davis, H. and H. Demirdache 2000. On Lexical Verb Meanings: Evidence from Salish. In J. Pustejovsky and C. Tenny (eds.), *Events as Grammatical Objects: the Converging Perspectives of Lexical Semantics and Syntax*. CSLI: Stanford University Press, 97-142.

April

7 (back to denominal verbs)

Don, J. 2004. "Categories in the Lexicon," *Linguistics* 42.5, 931-956

Panagiotidis, P. 2004. "Against category-less roots in syntax and word learning: objections to Barner and Bale (2002)," *Lingua*

\*\*\*\*Problem 3: Late insertion of roots?\*\*\*\*

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Pfau, R. 2000. (Part one of) Chpt. 4 of *Features and Categories in Language Production*. Doctoral dissertation, Johann Wolfgang Goethe-Universität zu Frankfurt am Main

Marantz, Alec. 1997. "Cat as a phrasal idiom: stem suppletion, or the arbitrariness of the sign". Paper presented at the Université de Paris VIII, August.

Harley & Noyer. 2000. "Formal vs. encyclopedic properties of vocabulary," in B. Peeters, ed., *The Lexicon-Encyclopedia Interface*, Elsevier.

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*Possible add-on bonus material: the advent of the hi-lo attachment analysis*

Embick on resultatives, Eric Jackson from UCLA on Pima stativizers, Kratzer on progressives, Pylkkanen on applicatives, (my take on) Miyagawa on Japanese causatives

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May

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