
Review

Reviewed Work(s): *Syntax: A Generative Introduction* by Andrew Carnie

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exotic or surprising morphology, but as I hope I have indicated, there are sufficient problems to raise a number of interesting points. Alternatively, anyone who has ever set an assignment along the lines of 'for any language of your choice, find n features in the morphology which cast light on current theoretical disputes . . .' will find this an invaluable book for the reading list. But students using the works in this way may not understand references to Chomsky adjunction or small clauses (207) and surely do not need discussion of the notation of categorial morphology (160 fn.). Such features make it look as though the book is aimed at morphologists who want a relatively thorough discussion of the morphology of a particular language, along the lines of the less comprehensive morphological sketches presented in Spencer & Zwicky 1998. As such, I consider it a successful project, although a little elementary at times. I just hope that it has a large enough market to encourage Oxford University Press to commission other parallel books.

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Syntax: A generative introduction. By ANDREW CARNIE. Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishers, 2002. Pp. xv, 390. ISBN: 0631225447. Paper \$34.00.

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This new textbook covers the basic concepts of generative syntax and linguistic argumentation in an exceptionally clear and student-friendly way. The perspective taken is solidly within the GB/principles and parameters/minimalism camp although there are two chapters on other frameworks and many problem sets that would be useful in any syntax class, regardless of framework. The book is aimed at students with little or no background in syntax.

As Carnie freely admits, the innovation in this book is not in the material covered but in the style of presentation. The goal is to present the important concepts in the simplest possible way. Details and complexities are noted in grey boxes throughout, but the emphasis is on making sure that students have a solid understanding of every concept. Key concepts are highlighted, and at the end of each chapter, there is a list of all the 'Ideas, rules and constraints' that have been discussed in the chapter. Each chapter also includes excellent problem sets and a list of further readings.

On the whole, C does a very good job of stripping away complexities while retaining depth of explanation. Some potential users of the text may at times feel he has gone too far. In general, he does not engage in discussion of debates over the precise way to state particular theoretical constructs, and he is purposely not trying to give a thorough overview of the data that have been

important in research over the past 20 years. Almost half of the book is on phrase structure, and the emphasis is on clarity rather than historical accuracy, so those who want to focus on A movement, A' movement, and Binding may prefer other texts. There is no mention of parasitic gaps, the ECP, small clauses, or v-shells, for example, and the discussion of islands mentions only *wh*-islands and NP-islands (although many of the problem sets do introduce complicating data and invite the students to think about alternative accounts). My own opinion is that the emphasis of C's book is effective and appropriate. The kind of grounding that this book provides will equip students with the tools they need to understand and evaluate specific theories.

One exciting feature of this book is the wealth of excellent problem sets dealing with a wide variety of languages. There are problem sets at the end of each chapter, a total of 88 syntax problem sets on more than 25 different languages. The problems are very clearly laid out. Some are designed to review and apply the concepts in the relevant chapter while others are designed to get students thinking and questioning. The problem sets alone are worth the price of the book, even for people who do not agree with C's assumptions or preferred framework.

The first chapter is an overview of basic premises of generative grammar. The focus is on explaining why and how linguistics is a science. C's intent is not to argue conclusively for the various premises of generative grammar but just to lay them out and explain them as clearly as possible. The chapter lays the groundwork for a discussion of syntax in which the existence of some sort of innate language faculty is assumed and shows how we can study human language scientifically by looking at data from both instantiated natural language and the grammaticality judgments of native speakers. Readers who do not already agree with these assumptions may not find themselves convinced and probably will not want to use this book for their classes. For those who share C's general perspective, this is a very readable introduction.

Ch. 2 features a very clear discussion of constituents and parts of speech. It includes the best description of how to draw trees that I know of. It gives a step-by-step method and shows students how to draw trees from the bottom up or from the top down. Further, it shows how to translate from trees to brackets and how phrase structure rules correspond to trees. C presents tree-drawing techniques before any extended discussion of structural ambiguity or constituency tests. This method is effective at demonstrating the divide between structure and meaning as it first presents constituent phrases as syntactic entities and then relates the meanings of words and phrases to their structure. The method also allows him to introduce constituency tests as tests for an already articulated hypothesis rather than as arguments in favor of constructing a particular hypothesis. This makes it much easier for the teacher to present data that do not fit the tests and to use them as the basis for a discussion of when and how to formulate alternative hypotheses.

Ch. 3 introduces structural relations. C gives clear and explicit definitions of many concepts that, unfortunately, are often raced through in syntax classes. Among other things, he carefully defines NODE, LABEL, BRANCH, MOTHER, DAUGHTER, TERMINAL NODE, ROOT NODE, and SISTER. He goes on to explain *c*-command and to give a structural definition of grammatical relations. The definitions and discussion of structural concepts are laid out in full, separate from extensive discussion of the data they are designed to explain. The problem sets in each chapter give students the opportunity to apply the concepts to data as they go along. Teachers should note that in the 'ideas' section at the end of this chapter, 'exhaustive domination' is mistakenly defined in terms of domination rather than immediate domination. This could give students trouble with a few of the problem sets.

Binding theory is covered in Ch. 4. C's goal is to explain concepts such as ANTECEDENT, COINDEXING, and ANAPHOR and to show in schematic terms how rules of language work. The main point of the chapter, which is communicated very effectively, is that binding theory allows us to account for a complex set of data with a few simple rules. There is no attempt to cover the whole range of binding data that have been investigated, nor is there a complete overview of the history of definitions of binding domains, specified subjects, and the like. The one thing that this brief discussion does not allow is a clear view of how the various binding principles form a system—it is not made obvious that every NP is an anaphor, *r*-expression, or pronoun.

In Ch. 5, on X-bar theory, C introduces SPECIFIERS, COMPLEMENTS, ADJUNCTS, and BAR LEVELS. (HEADS were introduced in earlier chapters.) Although C's own research has presented arguments

against X-bar theory (see Carnie 1995), he follows convention closely in this text, using phrase structure rules and progressing gradually from branching structures through intermediate bar levels to the concept of generalizing across categories. As in other chapters, he refrains from showing students the various interesting complications that he has discovered in his own work, and the result is a presentation that is so understandable that it puts the students in a position to find the interesting complications on their own.

In Ch. 6, C introduces the 'extended' notions of DP, CP, and TP. The background he has given so far makes these abstract notions seem quite natural. In fact, it comes off as a bit odd when he claims that there is a problem 'fitting' clauses into X-bar theory (a problem that he introduces rather abruptly on p. 151, only to solve it on pp. 152–56). This chapter is also where embedded sentences and clause types are introduced.

Ch. 7 introduces theta roles in the context of the need for constraints on X-bar theory. This is generally effective, although the discussions of the projection principle and the extended projection principle are likely to need additional clarification in class.

Ch. 8 is the first of five chapters on transformations. C makes the innovative move of using head movement to introduce the concept of transformations. Those using this book in a class will need to pay attention to the fact that head movement is a transformation whose underlying form does not surface. This could be confusing, but it could also be an asset, making it easier for students to understand what underlying forms are. Those who plan to use the chapter at the end on HPSG may be irritated by C's assertion on p. 190 that 'Chomsky (1957) observed that a phrase structure grammar (such as X-Bar Theory) cannot generate all the sentences of a language'.

Ch. 9 is about NP/DP movement. For some reason, C sometimes uses 'NP' as the notation for arguments in some of the trees, rather than 'DP/NP' or simply 'DP'. He notes that it is common to use these interchangeably, but since he did such an admirable job of convincing the students that the phrases in question are DPs, it is not clear why he does not simply use DP throughout. Otherwise, the discussion is clear, although denser than previous chapters.

Ch. 10 covers raising, control, and empty categories. I find this to be the weakest chapter. The motivation for empty categories seems weak, and there is at least one error in presenting traditional accounts. On p. 263, C says that 'Chomsky (1981) claims that the reason PRO is null and silent is precisely *because* it appears in a Caseless position'. However, Chomsky specifically argued AGAINST characterizing PRO in terms of a theory of case. Bouchard (1983) argued for an account of PRO in terms of case. This error is far from trivial, because Chomsky's view is in part what led him to the 'PRO theorem', which C presents as something of an embarrassment for the theory. This, combined with the fact that C fails to discuss the apparent parallel between the inventory of empty NPs and the inventory of overt NPs, makes this chapter less effective than the others.

Ch. 11 covers WH-movement. Some may regret the lack of detail here. The discussion is characteristically clear, but only NP islands and WH-islands are discussed, and the accounts given go no further than the subjacency condition, the *that*-t filter, and the doubly-filled CP filter. Of course, teachers can supplement the book with materials of their own if they wish to cover this area more thoroughly.

Ch. 12, 'Towards minimalism', is a bit of a whirlwind. This is perhaps unavoidable, but it contrasts rather sharply with the careful pace of the rest of the book. Students will probably not be able to absorb all of this material, but I do think that the chapter will leave them with a sense that there are many interesting questions still to be addressed.

The final section, 'Alternatives', contains a chapter on LFG and a chapter on HPSG. Within Ch. 13, on LFG, a callout box mentions various other theories as well. I had a mixed reaction to these chapters. It is nice that students using this book will have at least some notion that GB/minimalism is not the only existing theory, but C's approach is definitely that of the GB/minimalist trying to be open-minded. He does a good job of bringing out some specific empirical differences among the theories, but he also has a tendency to interchange the words 'theory' and 'formalism' in these and only these chapters. The discussion at the end of Ch. 14 of how

'the theories quite liberally borrow from one another' (372) would no doubt irritate proponents of 'alternative' theories, but with the right teaching these chapters could be used to generate fruitful discussion of the ways in which we can evaluate a linguistic theory.

All in all, I would enthusiastically recommend this book to anyone who wants a text that presents principles and parameters syntax and linguistic argumentation in a very accessible style, with a wealth of data from a vast array of languages.

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A practical introduction to phonetics. 2nd edn. By J. C. CATFORD. New York: Oxford University Press, 2001. Pp. xiii, 229. ISBN: 0199246351. Paper \$23.95.

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This is truly a remarkable book. I first became acquainted with it in its first edition (1988) when I made the wise decision to use it for my graduate course, Linguistic Phonetics. It made the task of teaching articulatory and auditory phonetics so much more efficient. In those days, up to my retirement, such training was required for all students in our program in experimental phonetics; it was also a prerequisite, along with courses in phonology and syntax, for anyone taking Field Methods in Linguistics. The second edition is in a larger format with additions and corrections as well as an updated list of readings. I myself was brought up on such earlier works as those by Henry Sweet (1877), M. Grammont (1930), Otto Jespersen (1933), Kenneth L. Pike (1943), R. M. S. Heffner (1952), and Daniel Jones (1956). Such later general works as Abercrombie 1967, Ladefoged 1971, 1975, and Ladefoged & Maddieson 1996 were important additional sources for my students. All of the foregoing and others not mentioned still merit attention, but the book under review has new virtues. It is, I think, the most innovative in its gripping way of making the student cognizant of his or her vocal tract and its control.

J. C. Catford is a product of the traditional European or, more narrowly, British school of phonetics, which demands hours and hours of mimicry and drill. This approach is rarely found in North American departments of linguistics and departments of speech and hearing. It seems to me that this book is especially appropriate for teachers of phonetics who themselves are not the product of such intensive training. Such a plausible claim, by the way, is made neither by the author nor, in its blurb on the back cover, by the publisher.

The reader might well wonder why the word 'practical' appears in the title of the book. After all, no matter how much attention is given to theories of the production and perception of speech between its covers, any phonetics book is bound to present rather detailed accounts of practical matters. In his 'Preface' (v) the author remarks, 'the title of this book is, designedly, "A Practical Introduction to Phonetics" and not "An Introduction to Practical Phonetics"', for it is, indeed, an introduction to general, or theoretical, phonetics, though it proceeds towards that goal in a highly practical way'. He goes on to say, 'Readers are introduced to the phonetic classification of the sounds of speech by means of a series of simple introspective experiments carried out inside their own vocal tracts . . .'. The phonetic transcription used is, advisedly, the current one