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LINGUISTICS

# Specifiers

*Minimalist Approaches*

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# Specifiers Minimalist Approaches

**Sebastian Brünink**



## **Specifiers Minimalist Approaches:**

*Specifiers* David Adger, 1999-01-01 By the late 1980s Government and Binding Theory which was central to almost all research in generative grammar threatened to become as large and as intricate as the language it described To counter this Noam Chomsky introduced a minimalist program with the aim of making explanations of language as simple and general as possible It has since gained widespread if not quite universal acceptance to the extent that the most recent first year textbook in syntax Radford CUP 1997 is based on it One of the areas subjected to this minimalist scrutiny has been phrase structure the fundamental basis of grammar This book focuses on the most controversial area of phrase structure the notion of specifier a notion encompassing the traditional categories of subjects possessors determiners auxiliaries and adjuncts It examines what place the notion has in the new theory and how the projection of specifiers is to be eliminated or extended The contributors prominent American British and European scholars draw on empirical theoretical research in cross linguistic phenomena and first and second language acquisition The substantial introductory chapter provides an up to date account of minimalist syntactic theory and a critical evaluation of the notion of specifier within it

**Grammatical theory : From transformational grammar to constraint-based approaches** Stefan Müller, 2023-01-04 This book introduces formal grammar theories that play a role in current linguistic theorizing Phrase Structure Grammar Transformational Grammar Government Binding Generalized Phrase Structure Grammar Lexical Functional Grammar Categorical Grammar Head Driven Phrase Structure Grammar Construction Grammar Tree Adjoining Grammar The key assumptions are explained and it is shown how the respective theory treats arguments and adjuncts the active passive alternation local reorderings verb placement and fronting of constituents over long distances The analyses are explained with German as the object language The second part of the book compares these approaches with respect to their predictions regarding language acquisition and psycholinguistic plausibility The nativism hypothesis which assumes that humans possess genetically determined innate language specific knowledge is critically examined and alternative models of language acquisition are discussed The second part then addresses controversial issues of current theory building such as the question of flat or binary branching structures being more appropriate the question whether constructions should be treated on the phrasal or the lexical level and the question whether abstract non visible entities should play a role in syntactic analyses It is shown that the analyses suggested in the respective frameworks are often translatable into each other The book closes with a chapter showing how properties common to all languages or to certain classes of languages can be captured

*Core Syntax* David Adger, 2003 This fast track introduction to syntax assumes no prior knowledge of linguistic theory It is designed for specialist undergraduates and for those coming to linguistics for the first time as graduates

*Grammatical theory: From transformational grammar to constraint-based approaches (Fifth revised edition)* Stefan Müller, 2023-01-23 This book introduces formal grammar theories that play a role in current linguistic theorizing Phrase Structure Grammar Transformational Grammar Government Binding

Generalized Phrase Structure Grammar Lexical Functional Grammar Categorical Grammar Head Driven Phrase Structure Grammar Construction Grammar Tree Adjoining Grammar The key assumptions are explained and it is shown how the respective theory treats arguments and adjuncts the active passive alternation local reorderings verb placement and fronting of constituents over long distances The analyses are explained with German as the object language The second part of the book compares these approaches with respect to their predictions regarding language acquisition and psycholinguistic plausibility The nativism hypothesis which assumes that humans possess genetically determined innate language specific knowledge is critically examined and alternative models of language acquisition are discussed The second part then addresses controversial issues of current theory building such as the question of flat or binary branching structures being more appropriate the question whether constructions should be treated on the phrasal or the lexical level and the question whether abstract non visible entities should play a role in syntactic analyses It is shown that the analyses suggested in the respective frameworks are often translatable into each other The book closes with a chapter showing how properties common to all languages or to certain classes of languages can be captured

*The Nature and Function of Syntactic Categories* Robert Borsley, 1999-10-15 To paraphrase of the making of syntactic categories there is no end For any theory of syntax questions arise about its classificatory scheme what are the categories What properties do they have How do they relate to each other Eleven essays address these questions by inquiring whether there is a clear distinction between lexical and functional categories how syntactic categories relate to semantic categories the relation between syntactic and morphological information as well as other inquiries Above all the essays highlight the centrality of questions about syntactic categories for a number of different theoretical frameworks It discusses a broad range of questions about syntactic categories and presents a number of theoretical frameworks

**Grammatical theory** Stefan Müller , This book introduces formal grammar theories that play a role in current linguistic theorizing Phrase Structure Grammar Transformational Grammar Government Binding Generalized Phrase Structure Grammar Lexical Functional Grammar Categorical Grammar Head Driven Phrase Structure Grammar Construction Grammar Tree Adjoining Grammar The key assumptions are explained and it is shown how the respective theory treats arguments and adjuncts the active passive alternation local reorderings verb placement and fronting of constituents over long distances The analyses are explained with German as the object language The second part of the book compares these approaches with respect to their predictions regarding language acquisition and psycholinguistic plausibility The nativism hypothesis which assumes that humans possess genetically determined innate language specific knowledge is critically examined and alternative models of language acquisition are discussed The second part then addresses controversial issues of current theory building such as the question of flat or binary branching structures being more appropriate the question whether constructions should be treated on the phrasal or the lexical level and the question whether abstract non visible entities should play a role in syntactic analyses It is shown that the analyses suggested

in the respective frameworks are often translatable into each other The book closes with a chapter showing how properties common to all languages or to certain classes of languages can be captured *Grammatical theory* Stefan Müller,2020-09-28 This book introduces formal grammar theories that play a role in current linguistic theorizing Phrase Structure Grammar Transformational Grammar Government Binding Generalized Phrase Structure Grammar Lexical Functional Grammar Categorical Grammar Head Driven Phrase Structure Grammar Construction Grammar Tree Adjoining Grammar The key assumptions are explained and it is shown how the respective theory treats arguments and adjuncts the active passive alternation local reorderings verb placement and fronting of constituents over long distances The analyses are explained with German as the object language The second part of the book compares these approaches with respect to their predictions regarding language acquisition and psycholinguistic plausibility The nativism hypothesis which assumes that humans possess genetically determined innate language specific knowledge is critically examined and alternative models of language acquisition are discussed The second part then addresses controversial issues of current theory building such as the question of flat or binary branching structures being more appropriate the question whether constructions should be treated on the phrasal or the lexical level and the question whether abstract non visible entities should play a role in syntactic analyses It is shown that the analyses suggested in the respective frameworks are often translatable into each other The book closes with a chapter showing how properties common to all languages or to certain classes of languages can be captured The book is a translation of the German book Grammatiktheorie which was published by Stauffenburg in 2010 This book is a new edition of <http://langsci.press.org/catalog/book/25> <http://langsci.press.org/catalog/book/195> and <http://langsci.press.org/catalog/book/255> **Triggers** Anne Breitbarth, Henk van Riemsdijk,2008-08-22 The concept of trigger is a core concept of Chomsky's Minimalist Program The idea that certain types of movement are triggered by some property of the target position is at least as old as the notion that the movement of noun phrases to the subject position is triggered by their need to receive nominative case In more recent versions of syntactic theory triggering mechanisms are thought to regulate all of movement Furthermore a quite narrow range of triggering mechanisms is permitted As is to be expected such a restrictive approach meets a variety of difficulties Specifically the question is whether all triggering elements required to cover displacement of all kinds in natural language can be independently motivated Further how can a trigger theory which crucially relies on the idea that all movement is obligatory deal with apparently optional movement processes Are features an adequate means to express the triggering function in all cases More radically are all movement phenomena really the result of the checking of trigger features And what about apparent triggering factors that are external to syntax such as prosody can they be captured in a rigid trigger theory In other words could certain aspects of triggered movement be due to interface conditions Such is the range of questions addressed by the fourteen contributions to this book They cover a considerable range of languages including Afrikaans Breton Bulgarian Dutch English French German Gungbe Hungarian Italian Japanese

Kiswahili Romanian These papers present materials both empirical and theoretical that will not fail to have considerable impact on the further development of the concept of trigger in syntactic theory **Linguistics and Language Behavior Abstracts** ,2006-07 **Modification and Reference in the Chinese Nominal** Joanna Ut-seong Sio,2006 **The Linguistic Review** ,2005 **ZAS Papers in Linguistics** ,2001 **Journal of Linguistics** ,2016 Copular Sentences in Russian Asya Pereltsvaig,2007-04-06 This book provides a detailed study and a novel Minimalist account of copular sentences in Russian focusing on case marking alternations nominative vs instrumental and drawing a distinction between two types of copular sentences On the assumption that Merge is defined in the simplest way possible it is argued that not all syntactic structures are anti symmetrical One of the copular sentence types is analyzed as a poster child for symmetrical structures while the other type is treated as asymmetrical The originality of this study lies in treating the copula in the two types of copular sentences neither as completely identical nor as two distinct lexical items instead the two types of copula are derived through the process of semantic bleaching Furthermore it is argued that the two types of the copula need to combine with post copular phrases of different categories It is concluded that Russian draws a distinction between saturated DPs and unsaturated NPs in spite of its renowned lack of overt articles **Notes on Linguistics** ,2001 **UCL Working Papers in Linguistics** ,2000 *Linguistische Berichte* ,2005 **Studies in Language, Speech and Communication** Shōsuke Haraguchi, Osamu Fujimura, Bohumil Palek,2006 *Proceedings from Semantics and Linguistic Theory XIII* Robert B. Young, Yuping Zhou,2003 *Current Issues in Formal Slavic Linguistics* Gerhild Zybatow,2001 Formal Slavic Linguistics stands for explicit descriptions of Slavic languages considering all linguistic levels and interfaces The authors of this volume apply recent formal models in linguistics and demonstrate their descriptive accuracy and explanatory power The authors investigate issues in psycholinguistics and computational linguistics as well as phonetic syntactic semantic and morphological aspects of Slavic languages applying recent formal models in linguistics such as Minimalism Optimality theory HPSG formal semantics Contents Phonetics Phonology Information Structure Semantics Computational Linguistics Morphology Lexicon Argument Structure The Editors Gerhild Zybatow is professor of Slavic linguistics at the Slavic Department at the University of Leipzig Uwe Junghanns Grit Mehlhorn and Luka Szucsich hold research and teaching positions at the University of Leipzig In 1995 the editors called into being FDSL the European forum for the formal description of Slavic languages The FDSL conferences take place biannually in Leipzig and Potsdam

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