Phase Extension

Contours of a Theory of the Role of Head Movement in Phrasal Extraction

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Starting out from the central ingredients of the analysis of the locality restrictions on Predicate Inversion presented in *Relators and Linkers: The Syntax of Predication, Predicate Inversion, and Copulas* (Den Dikken 2006, MIT Press), in this talk I will present a theory of syntactic locality and the relationship between phrasal extraction and head movement that is predicated on the premises in (1)–(3):

(1)   *Phase Impenetrability*
           syntactic relationships (Agree) and processes (Move) are constrained by the Phase Impenetrability Condition (PIC) of Chomsky (2000 *et passim*): in phase α with head H, the domain is not accessible to operations outside α, only H and its edge are accessible to such operations

(2)   *Inherent Phase*
           an *inherent* phase is a *predication* (subject–predicate structure)

(3)   *Phase Extension*
           syntactic movement of the *head* H of a phase α up to the head X of the node β dominating α *extends* the phase up from α to β; α loses its phasehood in the process, and any constituent on the edge of α ends up in the domain of the derived phase β as a result of Phase Extension

The research program built on these premises reintroduces the dynamicity of barrierhood that *Barriers* was known for: the idea that constituents can inherit barrierhood (now phasehood) from categories they dominate. The present theory derives this by employing only the independently necessary concepts of predication and domination, plus head movement, a syntactic process that interacts with phrasal movement in readily predictable and empirically adequate ways.

        The talk explores the research program defined by (1)–(3) in a number of empirical domains, ranging from Predicate Inversion (for which the theory was initially developed) via Dative Shift and Holmberg's Generalisation to incorporation phenomena, quantifier scope interaction and locality restrictions on long-distance A′–movement. Covering a broad spectrum of syntactic A– and A′–dependencies, the talk highlights the versatility of Phase Extension and the centrality of head movement in the context of syntactic locality.