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978-1-107-00555-6 - Symmetry in Syntax: Merge, Move, and Labels

Barbara Citko

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SYMMETRY IN SYNTAX

While much has been written on asymmetric aspects of sentence structure, symmetric aspects have been largely ignored, or claimed to be non-existent. Does symmetry in syntax exist, and if it does, how do we account for it? Barbara Citko sets out to tackle these questions and offers a unified approach to a number of phenomena that have so far been studied only in isolation. Focusing on three core minimalist mechanisms, Merge, Move – and Labeling – she advances a new theory of these mechanisms, by showing that, under certain well-defined circumstances, Merge can create symmetric structures, Move can target either of two potentially moveable objects, and labels can be constructed symmetrically from the features of two objects. This book is aimed at researchers and graduate students interested in minimalist syntax, the structure of questions, relative clauses, coordination, double object constructions, and copular sentences.

BARBARA CITKO is Assistant Professor of Linguistics at the University of Washington in Seattle. Her research includes work on phrase structure, coordination, relative clauses, wh-questions and the syntax of Slavic languages.

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Merge, Move, and Labels

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MERGE, MOVE, AND LABELS

BARBARA CITKO

University of Washington, Seattle



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I dedicate this book to the memory of my parents, Krystyna and Stanisław Citko.

Abbreviations

ACC	accusative
APPL	applicative
ASP	aspect
CL	clitic
CPR	comparative
DAT	dative
DEF	definite
DEM	demonstrative
EPP	Extended Projection Principle
EXP	expletive
FEM	feminine
FOC	focus
FUT	future
FV	final vowel
GEN	genitive
HAB	habitual
IMPERF	imperfective (aspect)
INDEF	indefinite
INF	infinitive
INSTR	instrumental
LOC	locative
MASC	masculine
NACT	non-active
NEG	negative
NEUT	neuter
NML	nominalizer
NOM	nominative
OA	object agreement
OB	object
PASS	passive

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PAST	past (tense)
PERF	perfective (aspect)
PL	plural
POSS	possessive
PRES	present
PROG	progressive
REFL	reflexive
REL	relative
SA	subject agreement
SE	se (reflexive marker)
SG	singular
SP	subject prefix
SUBJ	subject
VAL	value