Modular grammar postulates several autonomous generative systems interacting with one another as opposed to the prevailing theory of transformational grammar in which there is a single generative component – the syntax – from which other representations are derived. In this book Jerrold Sadock develops his influential theory of grammar formalizing several generative modules that independently characterize the levels of syntax, semantics, role structure, morphology, and linear order, as well as an interface system that connects them. Multi-modular grammar provides simpler, more intuitive analyses of grammatical phenomena and allows for greater empirical coverage than prevailing styles of grammar. The book illustrates this with a wide-ranging analysis of English grammatical phenomena, including raising, control, passive, inversion, do-support, auxiliary verbs, and ellipsis. The modules are simple enough to be cast as phrase structure grammars and are presented in sufficient detail to make descriptions of grammatical phenomena more explicit than the approximate accounts offered in other studies.

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Earlier issues not listed are also available
The Modular Architecture of Grammar

# Contents

*Acknowledgments*  
page x  

## Introduction  

0.1 Rule interaction  
0.2 The automodular solution  
0.3 Formalizability  
0.4 Concreteness  
0.5 Empirical content  
0.6 Coverage  
0.7 Plausibility  
0.8 Plan of the book  

## Autonomous modularity: syntax and semantics  

1.1 Basic principles  
1.2 Function-argument structure  
1.3 Syntax  
1.4 Lexical items  

## The interface  

2.1 Lexical correspondence  
2.2 Categorial redundancy  
2.3 Insertion and deletion  
2.4 Geometrical correspondence  
2.5 Geometrical non-correspondence  
2.6 Propositional modifiers  
2.7 Functors belonging to the category $F_{pa}$  
2.8 Properties of Raising versus Equi predicates  
2.9 Quantification  
2.10 Existential *there*  
2.11 Reflexive and non-reflexive pronouns  
2.12 Deep similarities between derivational and automodular approaches  

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## Contents

### 3 Role structure

3.1 Case-marking strategies 74
3.2 Passives 78
3.3 The argument for the cycle 84
3.4 Problems with RHO 86
3.5 The problematic verb *promise* 90
3.6 Agentive passives 94
3.7 Pseudo-passives 96
3.8 Role structure and miscellaneous classes of predicates 100
3.9 Summary 109

### 4 The linear order component

4.1 The independence of linearization 111
4.2 The linear order component (LOC) 111
4.3 Language-particular ordering facts 113
4.4 Verb second in Germanic 118
4.5 Pronoun position in Germanic 120
4.6 Verb second in English 121
4.7 Long-distance dependencies 122
4.8 Conjunction 124
4.9 Relative clauses 130
4.10 Disharmony islands 138
4.11 Summary 145

### 5 Morphology and morphophonology

5.1 Pure morphology 147
5.2 Morphophonology 150
5.3 Feature osmosis 154
5.4 Clitics 155
5.5 Incorporation 159
5.6 Tense and auxiliaries in English 160
5.7 Summary 181

### 6 Gaps and other defective elements

6.1 Gaps 184
6.2 Verb stem ellipsis in Inuktitut 185
6.3 VP ellipsis 187
6.4 Referential properties of anaphoric devices 190
6.5 The Kennedy–Merchant comparative gap 194
6.6 *Tough* “movement” 198
6.7 Summary 204
Contents

7 Conflict resolution 205
  7.1 The Great Chain of Speaking 205
  7.2 The competition for linear order 209
  7.3 Heavy NP “Shift” 211
  7.4 Dative “movement” 213
  7.5 Particle “Shift” 215
  7.6 Factivity 218
  7.7 Ineffability 220
  7.8 Summary 222

8 Some final observations 223

Notes 231
Bibliography 246
Index 263
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