MERGE AND THE STRONG MINIMALIST THESIS

Noam Chomsky  
*University of Arizona*

T. Daniel Seely  
*Eastern Michigan University*

Robert C. Berwick  
*Massachusetts Institute of Technology*

Sandiway Fong  
*University of Arizona*

M. A. C. Huybregts  
*Utrecht University*

Hisatsugu Kitahara  
*Keio University*

Andrew McInnerney  
*University of Michigan*

Yushi Sugimoto  
*University of Tokyo*
Abstract: The goal of this contribution to the Elements series is to closely examine Merge, its form, its function, and its central role in current linguistic theory. It explores what it does (and does not do), why it has the form it has, and its development over time. The basic idea behind Merge is quite simple. However, Merge interacts, in intricate ways, with other components including the language’s interfaces, laws of nature, and certain language-specific conditions. Because of this, and because of its fundamental place in the human faculty of language, this Element’s focus on Merge provides insights into the goals and development of Generative Grammar more generally, and its prospects for the future.

Keywords: Merge, minimalism, generative syntax, Strong Minimalist Thesis, third factor

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