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Phase Theory

Phase Theory is the latest empirical and conceptual innovation in syntactic theory within the Chomskyan generative tradition. Adopting a crosslinguistic perspective, this book provides an introduction to Phase Theory, tracing the development of phases in minimalist syntax. It reviews both empirical and theoretical arguments in favor of phases, and examines the role phases play at the interface with semantics and phonology. Analyzing current phasehood diagnostics, it applies them in a systematic fashion to a broad range of syntactic categories, both phases and non-phases. It concludes with a discussion of some of the more contentious issues in Phase Theory, involving crosslinguistic variation with respect to phasehood and the dynamic versus static nature of phases.

Barbara Citko is Associate Professor of Linguistics at the University of Washington.

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An Introduction

BARBARA CITKO

University of Washington

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Given that the literature on phases in syntactic theory is vast and ever-growing, it is impossible to do justice here to all the phenomena that bear on all the issues surrounding phases, to all the literature on phases and to all the researchers working on phases. I alone remain responsible for any omissions or misinterpretations.

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Abbreviations

The following list includes not only abbreviations used in this book but also the abbreviations often used in the primary literature on phases.

φ	Phi-features
Φ	Phonological component
Σ	Semantic Component
ACC	Accusative
ACD	Antecedent Contained Deletion
ATB	Across the Board
AUGB	Approaching UG from Below
AUX	Auxiliary
BPS	Bare Phrase Structure
C	Case
C_{HL}	Computation of Human Language
CAUS	Causative
C-I	Conceptual–Intentional
CP	Complementizer Phrase
DNS	Derivation of Narrow Syntax
DP	Determiner Phrase
ECM	Exceptional Case Marking
EM	External Merge
EPP	Extended Projection Principle
ERG	Ergative
FEM	Feminine
FI	Feature Inheritance
FIFA	Feature Inheritance from Above
FIFB	Feature Inheritance from Below
FL	Language Faculty
FP	Functional Projection
G	Goal
H	Head

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IC	Interface Condition(s) *or* the Inclusiveness Condition
iF	Interpretable Feature
IM	Internal Merge
INDEF	Indefinite
INTER	Interrogative
iwh	Interpretable wh-feature
LA	Lexical Array
LBE	Left Branch Extraction
LCA	Linear Correspondence Axiom
LDA	Long-Distance Agree
Lex	Lexicon
LF	Logical Form
LI	Lexical Item
MASC	Masculine
MOM	Merge over Move
MSO	Multiple Spell-Out
N	Numeration
NEUT	Neuter
NMLZ	Nominalizer
NOM	Nominative
NPI	Negative Polarity Item
NS	Narrow Syntax
NSL	Null Subject Language
NSR	Nuclear Stress Rule
NUM	Number
P	Probe
PART	Participle
PF	Phonological Form
P-feature	Periphery Feature
PH	Phase
PIC	Phase Impenetrability Condition
PL	Pair List *or* Plural
PLA	Properly Local Agreement
PP	Prepositional Phrase
PrP	Predication Phrase
PST	Past
Q	Question *or* Interrogative
QP	Quantified Phrase
QR	Quantifier Raising
RNR	Right Node Raising
RP	Relator Phrase
SA	Single Answer
SG	Singular

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SM	Sensorimotor
SMT	Strong Minimalist Thesis
S-O	Spell-Out
SOR	Subject to Object Raising
SOT	Sequence of Tense
T	Tense
TNP	Traditional Noun Phrase
TP	Tense Phrase
uF	uninterpretable *or* unvalued feature
uQ	uninterpretable Q feature
val	Feature Value
VIR	Virile
*v*P	verb Phrase
VPE	VP Ellipsis

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