

Contents

	<i>page xi</i>
<i>Preface</i>	
1 What Is a Theory of English Syntax About?	1
1.1 Linguistic and Syntactic Competence	1
1.2 Generative Grammars	5
1.3 How We Discover Descriptive Rules	5
1.4 Two Different Views of Generative Grammar	9
1.4.1 Deductive Reasoning and the Nativist View	10
1.4.2 Inductive Reasoning and the Constraint-Based View	12
1.5 Evidence That Grammar Is Construction-Based	14
1.6 Goals of This Book	15
2 Lexical and Phrasal Signs	19
2.1 Linguistic Signs and Constructions as Form-Meaning Pairs	19
2.2 From Lexical Signs to Phrasal Signs as a Continuum	20
2.3 Lexical Signs	24
2.3.1 Classifying Lexical Signs	24
2.3.2 Grammar with Lexical Categories Alone	29
2.4 Phrasal Constructions and Constituency Tests	31
2.5 Forming Phrasal Constructions: Phrase Structure Rules	34
2.5.1 NP: Noun Phrase	34
2.5.2 VP: Verb Phrase	35
2.5.3 AP: Adjective Phrase	37
2.5.4 AdvP: Adverb Phrase	38
2.5.5 PP: Preposition Phrase	39
2.5.6 CP and ConjP: Complementizer and Conjunction Phrases	40
2.6 Grammar with Phrasal Constructions	40
2.7 Multi-word Expressions: Between Lexical and Phrasal Constructions	45
2.7.1 Fixed Expressions	45
2.7.2 Semi-fixed Expressions	46
2.7.3 Syntactically Flexible Multi-word Expressions	47
2.8 Conclusion	49

3	Syntactic Forms, Grammatical Functions, and Semantic Roles	53
3.1	Introduction	53
3.2	Grammatical Functions	54
3.2.1	Subjects	54
3.2.2	Direct Objects and Indirect Objects	56
3.2.3	Predicative Complements	58
3.2.4	Oblique Complements	59
3.2.5	Modifiers	59
3.3	Bringing Form and Function Together	60
3.4	Form-Function Mismatches	61
3.5	Semantic Roles	63
3.6	Conclusion	66
4	Head, Complements, Modifiers, and Argument Structures	70
4.1	Building a Phrase from a Head	70
4.1.1	Internal vs. External Syntax	70
4.1.2	The Notion of Head, Complements, and Modifiers	71
4.2	Differences between Complements and Modifiers	73
4.3	PS Rules, X'-rules, and Features	76
4.3.1	Problems of PS Rules	76
4.3.2	Intermediate Phrases and Specifiers	78
4.3.3	Intermediate Phrases for Non-NPs	84
4.4	Lexicon and Feature Structures	84
4.4.1	Feature Structures and Basic Operations	85
4.4.2	Feature Structures for Linguistic Entities	87
4.5	Arguments and Argument-Structure Constructions	89
4.5.1	Basic Properties of Argument Structure	89
4.5.2	Types of Argument-Structure Constructions	90
4.5.3	Argument Structures as Constructions: Form and Meaning Relations	94
4.6	Conclusion	96
5	Combinatorial Construction Rules and Principles	99
5.1	From Lexemes to Words	99
5.2	Head Features and Head Feature Principle	101
5.2.1	Parts of Speech Value as a Head Feature	101
5.2.2	Verb Form as a Head Feature	101
5.2.3	Mapping between Argument-Structure and Valence Features	104
5.3	Combinatory Construction Rules	105
5.4	Nonphrasal, Lexical Constructions	111
5.5	Feature Specifications on the Syntactic Complement	113
5.5.1	Complements of Verbs	113

	5.5.2 Complements of Adjectives	116
	5.5.3 Complements of Common Nouns	117
5.6	Feature Specifications on the Subject	118
5.7	Clausal Complement and Subject	119
	5.7.1 Verbs Selecting a Clausal Complement	119
	5.7.2 Verbs Selecting a Clausal Subject	126
	5.7.3 Adjectives Selecting a Clausal Complement	128
	5.7.4 Nouns Selecting a Clausal Complement	129
	5.7.5 Prepositions Selecting a Clausal Complement	131
5.8	Conclusion	131
6	Noun Phrases and Agreement	134
6.1	Classification of Nouns	134
6.2	Syntactic Structures	135
	6.2.1 Common Nouns	135
	6.2.2 Pronouns	139
	6.2.3 Proper Nouns	140
6.3	Agreement Types and Morphosyntactic Features	141
	6.3.1 Noun-Determiner Agreement	141
	6.3.2 Pronoun-Antecedent Agreement	143
	6.3.3 Subject-Verb Agreement	143
6.4	Semantic Agreement Features	145
6.5	Partitive NPs and Agreement	150
	6.5.1 Basic Properties	150
	6.5.2 Two Types of Partitive NPs	151
	6.5.3 Measure Noun Phrases	157
6.6	Modifying an NP	158
	6.6.1 Adjectives as Prenominal Modifiers	158
	6.6.2 Postnominal Modifiers	160
6.7	Conclusion	161
7	Raising and Control Constructions	164
7.1	Raising and Control Predicates	164
7.2	Differences between Raising and Control Verbs	165
	7.2.1 Subject Raising and Control	165
	7.2.2 Object Raising and Control	168
7.3	A Simple Transformational Approach	169
7.4	A Nontransformational, Construction-Based Approach	172
	7.4.1 Identical Syntactic Structures	172
	7.4.2 Differences among the Feature Specifications in the Valence Information	174
	7.4.3 A Mismatch between Meaning and Structure	178
7.5	Explaining the Differences	181
	7.5.1 Expletive Subject and Object	181

viii	Contents	
	7.5.2	Meaning Preservation 181
	7.5.3	Subject vs. Object Control Verbs 182
	7.6	Conclusion 183
8	Auxiliary and Related Constructions	186
	8.1	Basic Issues 186
	8.2	Transformational Analyses 188
	8.3	A Construction-Based Analysis 190
	8.3.1	Shared Properties of Raising Verbs 190
	8.3.2	Modals 191
	8.3.3	<i>Be</i> and <i>Have</i> 193
	8.3.4	Periphrastic <i>Do</i> 196
	8.3.5	Infinitival Clause Marker <i>To</i> 198
	8.4	Capturing NICE Properties 199
	8.4.1	Auxiliaries with Negation 199
	8.4.2	Auxiliaries with Inversion 204
	8.4.3	Contracted Auxiliaries 208
	8.4.4	Auxiliaries with Ellipsis 209
	8.5	Conclusion 212
9	Passive Constructions	216
	9.1	Introduction 216
	9.2	The Relationship between Active and Passive 217
	9.3	Approaches to Passive 219
	9.3.1	From Structural Description to Structural Change 219
	9.3.2	A Transformational Approach 220
	9.3.3	A Construction-Based Approach 221
	9.4	Prepositional Passives 226
	9.5	The <i>Get</i> -Passive 229
	9.6	Conclusion 233
10	Interrogative and Wh-question Constructions	237
	10.1	Clausal Types and Interrogatives 237
	10.2	Movement vs. Feature Percolation 239
	10.3	Feature Percolation with No Abstract Elements 242
	10.3.1	Basic Systems 242
	10.3.2	Nonsubject Wh-questions 245
	10.3.3	Subject Wh-questions 250
	10.4	Indirect Questions 253
	10.4.1	Basic Structures 253
	10.4.2	Non-wh Indirect Questions 257
	10.4.3	Infinitival Indirect Questions 258
	10.4.4	Adjunct Wh-questions 261
	10.5	Conclusion 263

11	Relative Clause Constructions	266
11.1	Introduction	266
11.2	Nonsubject Wh-Relative Clauses	267
11.3	Subject Relative Clauses	272
11.4	That-Relative Clauses	274
11.5	Infinitival and Bare Relative Clauses	276
11.6	Restrictive vs. Nonrestrictive Relative Clauses	279
11.7	Island Constraints on the Filler-Gap Dependencies	284
11.8	Conclusion	287
12	Tough, Extraposition, and Cleft Constructions	290
12.1	Introduction	290
12.2	‘Tough’ Constructions and Topichood	291
12.2.1	Basic Properties	291
12.2.2	Transformational Analyses	292
12.2.3	A Construction-Based Analysis	293
12.3	Extraposition	297
12.3.1	Basic Properties	297
12.3.2	Transformational Analysis	298
12.3.3	A Construction-Based Analysis	299
12.4	Cleft Constructions	303
12.4.1	Basic Properties	303
12.4.2	Distributional Properties of the Three Clefts	304
12.4.3	Syntactic Structures of the Three Types of Cleft: Movement Analyses	305
12.4.4	A Construction-Based Analysis	307
12.5	Conclusion	314
	<i>Afterword</i>	317
	<i>Appendix</i>	320
	<i>Bibliography</i>	337
	<i>Index</i>	352