

An Element-theoretical Approach to Cohesion and Repulsion in Syntax

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Invited speaker

There is a (rather marginal) line of research in syntax that is concerned with, on the one hand, the internal cohesion of (extended) projections in terms of categorial identity (CIT: cf. Grimshaw (1991,2005) and Van Riemsdijk (1990, 1998)) and, on the other hand, the repulsion of maximal phrases in the vicinity of categorially similar heads. Hoekstra (1984) proposed the Unlike Category Constraint, Van Riemsdijk (1988) argued that Hoekstra's UCC should be replaced by the Unlike (Categorial) Feature Constraint (UFC: *[+N][+N] and *[+V][+V]). In Van Riemsdijk (1998) an attempt was made to unify the CIT and the UFC, but the attempt largely failed. In my presentation I will suggest that the failure was due to the formulation of the CIT and the UFC in terms of the usual binary, equipollent features [\pm N, \pm V]. An idea presented in my 1988 paper in monovalued privative features was strongly neglected. An element-theoretic approach will be proposed that will link ideal templates like CVCVCV to NVNVNV and will solidify the extension of the OCP from phonology to syntax. This element-theoretical account (cf. Harris and Lindsey 1995) purports to elucidate one of the most basic organizational principles governing linguistic structures.