

Linguistics 5331–Advanced Formal Syntax

Fall 2009

UT Arlington

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Course Overview: This course is a continuation of Linguistics 5330 (Formal Syntax). The first half of this course will focus on the apparent unbounded nature of \bar{A} (A-bar)-movement rules such as *wh*-movement, topicalization, etc. The notion that such rules are unbounded relates to the observation that the moved element may be separated from its base (θ -) position over an apparently infinite distance as in, e.g., *Who did Sally say that she thinks Fred claimed that Suzy loves ___?* We will explore this property in some detail, devoting much time to the question of whether such examples involve truly unbounded movement, or whether this is simply apparent and unbounded movement reduces instead to a series of more local ‘successive-cyclic’ movements. Evidence from English and a variety of other languages (e.g., Irish, Chamorro) will be brought to bear on this question. Central to the discussion will be an investigation of syntactic ‘islands’—syntactic configurations (e.g., relative clauses) from which unbounded movement is systematically prohibited.

The second half of this course will focus on the syntax of anaphora. We will investigate the role that the syntax and semantics plays in determining admissible coreference relationships between pronouns and their antecedents. We will begin with the three Binding Principles of Chomsky (1981) (Principle A, B, and C), though we will go significantly beyond these principles in an attempt to characterize some of the more intricate facts relating to the architecture of anaphora.

Course Requirements: This course will differ little in overall structure from Linguistics 5330. However, rather than weekly assignments, we will devote more time to reading articles and book chapters from the primary syntactic literature. There will be roughly 1-2 readings per week. These readings will be a mix of ‘classics’ from the field as well as more contemporary works. In addition to the readings, there will be 2-4 problem sets handed out over the course of the semester. Finally, you will be required to write a 10-15 page term paper, due at the end of the semester.

Homework assignments will count as 10% to your final grade (the overall percentage will depend on how many assignments are handed out, which will depend on the class dynamics). Participation will also count as 10% of your final grade, the remainder of your grade will be based on your final terms paper. Guidelines for the final term paper will be issued early on in the semester.

Readings: All readings will be posted on final version of the syllabus. In the meantime, here are some highlights:

- Ross, Haj. 1967. *Constraints on Variables in Syntax*, PhD dissertation, MIT. (Selected chapters)
- Chomsky, Noam. 1977. ‘On Wh-movement’. In P. Culicover, T. Wasow, and A. Akmajian (eds.), *Formal Syntax*, 71-132. New York: Academic Press.

- McCloskey, James. 2007. 'Resumption, Successive Cyclicity, and the Locality of Operations,' in *Derivation and Explanation*, Samuel Epstein and Daniel Seeley, eds., Blackwell Publishers: 184-226.
- Chung, Sandra. 1994. 'Wh-Agreement and referentiality in Chamorro'. *Linguistic Inquiry*.
- Reinhart, Tanya. 1976. *The syntactic domain of anaphora*. PhD dissertation, MIT (Selected chapters).
- Reinhart, Tanya, and Eric Reuland. 'Reflexivity'. *Linguistic Inquiry*, 24:4