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Edges in Syntax

Scrambling and Cyclic Linearization

HEEJEONG KO
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General preface

The theoretical focus of this series is on the interfaces between subcomponents of the human grammatical system and the closely related area of the interfaces between the different subdisciplines of linguistics. The notion of ‘interface’ has become central in grammatical theory (for instance, in Chomsky’s Minimalist Program) and in linguistic practice: work on the interfaces between syntax and semantics, syntax and morphology, phonology and phonetics, etc. has led to a deeper understanding of particular linguistic phenomena and of the architecture of the linguistic component of the mind/brain.

The series covers interfaces between core components of grammar, including syntax/morphology, syntax/semantics, syntax/phonology, syntax/pragmatics, morphology/phonology, phonology/phonetics, phonetics/speech processing, semantics/pragmatics, and intonation/discourse structure, as well as issues in the way that the systems of grammar involving these interface areas are acquired and deployed in use (including language acquisition, language dysfunction, and language processing). It demonstrates, we hope, that proper understandings of particular linguistic phenomena, languages, language groups, or interlanguage variations all require reference to interfaces.

The series is open to work by linguists of all theoretical persuasions and schools of thought. A main requirement is that authors should write so as to be understood by colleagues in related subfields of linguistics and by scholars in cognate disciplines.

The notion of cyclicity has been fundamental since the 1960s in generative grammar, requiring syntactic rules to apply within cyclic domains, usually identified as clauses and noun phrases. Over the years, however, how cyclic domains interact with the structures that embed them became equally important and wide-ranging theories of movement relations came to depend on this. Chomsky’s suggestion in the early 2000s that cyclic domains have the syntactic properties they do because they are points where syntactic information connects with semantic and phonological systems provided a new set of research questions about these domains and their role at the interfaces. In the current volume, Heejeong Ko addresses some of these questions, arguing that cyclic domains can be identified by a fundamentally semantic notion (the subject–predicate relation) but that they also govern the linear order of elements. Her proposals throw new light on the intricate connection between semantic predication, syntactic locality, and linear order.

David Adger
Hagit Borer
Preface

I first started to look at the syntax of edges when I wrote my syntax term paper at MIT in 2003. There are still many questions left for future research, but I believe that this is a good time to ‘Spell-out’ my thoughts so far on syntactic edges.

Some ideas developed in this book have their origins in my MIT doctoral dissertation, ‘Syntactic edges and linearization’ (Ko 2005a). After I finished my thesis, however, a number of interesting proposals on cyclic syntax were published, and I have naturally been influenced by the development of the field. In writing this book I have incorporated novel ideas on cyclic syntax, and subsequently the book has turned into a substantially different work from my thesis both in fundamental content and in organization. Most notably, this book adopts the research program that a predicational structure in general constitutes a Spell-out domain. Such a possibility was not considered in any depth when I wrote my thesis. The idea that a predicational structure matters in cyclic Spell-out was first inspired by a series of special lectures by Marcel den Dikken given at the 2007 Seoul International Conference on Generative Grammar, and it has become a major part of this book. Chapters 1, 4, and 5, in particular, extensively discuss this issue.

In my previous works on floating quantifiers (Ko 2005a; 2007; Ko and Oh 2012), I have suggested that some floating quantifiers must be considered as adnominal, whereas some must be categorized as adverbial. I remained silent, however, about which factors might contribute to the different types of floating quantification. In this book, I provide some principled reasonings on how adnominal floating quantifiers differ from adverbial floating quantifiers in their syntax and semantics. In Chapter 3, in particular, I have incorporated Fitzpatrick’s (2006) theory of floating quantification and É. Kiss’s (2010) theory of focus into my proposals on syntactic edges and linearization. In my previous works on secondary predication (Ko 2005a; 2011), I had not considered the role of anti-locality for linearization. In this book, I explore the issue in depth and derive an interesting correlation between predicate fronting and order-preservation effects within non-primary predicational domains. The discussion on Subject-to-Object Raising and Sentential Predication is also newly added. Chapters 3, 4, and 5, in particular, are composed of new material that presents my perspectives on these issues.

An earlier version of parts of Chapter 2 (sections 2.1–2.4) appeared in Linguistic Inquiry 38 as a paper entitled ‘Asymmetries in scrambling and Cyclic Linearization’ (Ko 2007), and parts of section 4.2 and sections 5.1–5.3 are based on my article ‘Predication and Edge effects’ which appeared in Natural Language and Linguistic Theory (Ko 2011). In this book, however, I present a perspective that derives the
peculiar properties of subject scrambling and object scrambling discussed in Ko (2007; 2011) from a general proposal regarding syntactic edges. I also extend the empirical coverage of the core proposal to sub-extraction in Russian in Chapter 2. In addition, I have incorporated into Chapter 5 some discussion on ditransitive verbs which is not available in Ko (2011). The general discussion of cyclic syntax has also undergone extensive revisions so that the book may provide a better theoretical backdrop for the reader. This book includes new chapters providing critical reviews on current debates regarding cyclic Spell-out and evaluating my proposals against other general theories of cyclic syntax (see Chapters 1 and 6).

This work was supported by a National Research Foundation of Korea Grant funded by the Korean Government (NRF-2007-361-A0016). At various stages, helpful discussions with colleagues and scholars at conferences have influenced development of the research reported here. I wish to thank in particular: audiences at Ling-Lunch (MIT), Approaching Asymmetry at Interfaces Workshop (Université du Québec à Montréal), the 78th and 79th LSA Annual Meeting, WCCFL 23 (UC Davis) and WCCFL 26 (UC Berkeley), the 2004 Linguistic Society of Korea International Conference (Yonsei University), the Workshop in Altaic Formal Linguistics 2 (Boğaziçi University), the Japanese/Korean Workshop: the COE project and the JSPS project (Kyoto University), the Workshop on SOV Variation (Syracuse University), the Workshop on Raising and Control (Harvard University), the 11th Harvard International Symposium on Korean Linguistics (Harvard University), CUNY Supper (CUNY Graduate Center), the Workshop on Interphase (University of Cyprus), the 9th Seoul International Conference on Generative Grammar (Kwang-Woon University), the 7th GLOW in Asia (EFL-Univ, Hyderabad), Japanese/Korean Linguistics 19 (University of Hawaii, Manoa), and the Spring Conference of the Korean Generative Grammar Circle in 2011 (Kyunghee University).

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This book would not exist without the generous support of my family. I thank my husband, Joon Yong, my son, Jungwon, and baby girl, Suh-yeon, for their love and patience. Finally, my deepest gratitude goes to my parents for their everlasting love and support. This work is dedicated to them.

Heejeong Ko

Seoul, October 2013