CAMBRIDGE TEXTBOOKS IN LINGUISTICS

# Syntax Structure, meaning and function

Robert D. Van Valin, Jr. Randy J. LaPolla

9 30-

## SYNTAX

#### STRUCTURE, MEANING AND FUNCTION

#### ROBERT D. VAN VALIN, JR

STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AT BUFFALO

#### RANDY J. LAPOLLA

CITY UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG AND ACADEMIA SINICA, TAIWAN







### CONTENTS



	List of figures	Х
	List of tables	xvi
	Acknowledgments	xix
	Notes for instructors	xxi
	List of abbreviations	xxiii
1	The goals of linguistic theory	1
1.0	Introduction	1
1.1	Goals of linguistic theory	2
1.2	Explanation in linguistics	4
1.3	Contrasting perspectives on the goals of linguistic theory	8
1.4	Concluding remarks	15
	Further reading	16
2	Syntactic structure, I: simple clauses and noun phrases	17
2.0	Introduction	17
2.1	General theoretical issues	17
2.2	The layered structure of the clause in simple sentences	25
2.3	The layered structure of adpositional and noun phrases	52
2.4	Heads and headedness	67
2.5	Conclusion: the nature of morphosyntactic structure	69
	Further reading	75
	Exercises	76
	Semantic representation, I: verbs and arguments	82
	Introduction	82
	A typology of states of affairs and their participants	82
3.2	The lexical representation of verbs and their arguments	90
3.3	Summary	128
	Further reading	129
	Exercises	130
		vii

#### Contents

4	Semantic representation, II: macroroles, the lexicon	
	and noun phrases	139
4.0	Introduction	139
4.1	Semantic macroroles	139
4.2	Valence, transitivity and macrorole assignment	147
4.3	Lexical entries for verbs	154
4.4	The representation of adjuncts and operators	159
4.5	Linking syntactic and semantic representations	
	(a brief introduction)	172
4.6	Lexical rules	178
4.7	The semantic representation of nouns and noun phrases	184
4.8	Summary	195
	Further reading	195
	Exercises	196
5	Information structure	199
5.0	Introduction	199
5.1	Focus structure	201
5.2	Focus types	206
5.3	The morphosyntactic coding of focus structure	210
5.4	The formal representation of focus structure	214
5.5	Focus structure and the scope of negation and quantification	219
5.6	Intrasentential pronominalization	223
5.7	Intersentential pronominalization	231
5.8	Syntactic templates, linking and focus structure	235
	Further reading	235
	Exercises	236
6	Grammatical relations	242
6.0	Introduction	242
6.1	Conceptions of grammatical relations	242
6.2	The cross-linguistic diversity of grammatical relations	250
6.3	A theory of grammatical relations	274
6.4	Discourse reference-tracking mechanisms and voice	285
6.5	Some typological issues	303
	Further reading	309
	Exercises	309
7	Linking syntax and semantics in simple sentences	317
7.0	Introduction	317
7.1	Semantic and syntactic representations: a brief review	320

Contents

7.2	The linking algorithms	324
7.3	Case marking, agreement and adposition assignment	352
7.4	The two phases of linking	384
7.5	Reflexivization	392
7.6	Focus structure, linearization and linking	417
7.7	Templates, constructions and linking	430
	Further reading	436
	Exercises	437
8	Syntactic structure, II: complex sentences and	441
	noun phrases	441
	Introduction	441
	Theoretical issues	
	Levels of juncture	442
	Nexus relations	448
	The interaction of nexus and juncture	454
	Focus structure in complex sentences	484
	The structure of complex noun phrases	492
8.7	Syntactic templates for complex sentences	505
	Further reading	507
	Exercises	508
9	Linking syntax and semantics in complex sentences	517
9.0	Introduction	517
9.1	Linking in clausal, core and nuclear junctures	517
9.2	Case marking in complex sentences	575
9.3	Linking in complex noun phrases	590
9.4	Reflexivization in complex sentences	604
9.5	Constraints on linking in WH-questions and related	
	constructions	615
	Further reading	634
	Exercises	634
	Epilog: the goals of linguistic theory revisited	640
	Notes	650
	References	676
	Index of languages	703
	Subject index	706