GUEST EDITOR'S NOTE*

The present volume brings together a selection of papers from two events that I had the honour to organize at the Research Institute for Linguistics of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences in the summer of 2009. The first six contributions are selected from papers presented at the Second Budapest Generative Syntax Workshop (BGSW2), held on 19 June 2009, while the last paper was given at the conference titled Minimalist Approaches to Syntactic Locality (MASL), held 26–28 August 2009. Both of these events explored current transformational generative perspectives on issues that are central to the study of natural language syntax and the way it interfaces with the semantic–pragmatic and the phonological–prosodic components of grammar.

In transformational generative grammar, the role of the interfaces of syntax with adjacent grammatical components has come to the fore with the rise of the minimalist research programme, which has refocused attention on the shape of Universal Grammar as a computational–representational model of (morpho)syntax. The minimalist approach seeks to establish to what extent narrow syntax can be formulated as a generative module of cognition that satisfies its own boundary conditions optimally, including conditions on the way it interacts with its interface components. Part of the job is a thorough investigation of the division of labour between syntax and other grammatical components that interact with it.

It is this more general endeavour that furnishes the frame of reference for all the articles in this issue. The first four papers are devoted to the interaction of syntax with semantic/pragmatic interpretation. Jonathan MacDonald and Barbara Ürögdi's contribution "Against stativizing negation, expletive negation and NPI-*until*" is concerned with the interaction of negation and *for-* and *until*-adverbials at the interface of syntax with

information structure. The authors argue that concepts like 'stativizing negation', 'expletive negation' and the licensing of 'NPI(-eventive)-*until*' are theoretically undesirable and descriptively inadequate. They propose that *until-* and *for*-duratives are referential items that scope in the topic field (hence outside the scope of negation) and can receive a contrastive interpretation on analogy with nominal topics. If this novel uniform analysis is on the right track, then there is no need to posit that negation has a stativizing effect, or that expletive negation can license the occurrence of *until*-adverbials, or that *until* is to have two distinct entries in the Lexicon.

Jutta Hartmann's paper titled "Predicate inversion and English *there*-sentences" is a reappraisal of the syntax–semantics interface of English *there*-constructions, which takes into account the role of information structure, specifically, the role of logical subjecthood. The author argues—based, among others, on data from *wh*-extraction—that while a predicate inversion analysis (Moro 1997) can be made to work for *there*-verb sentences and for locative inversion, it is not the right analysis for existential *there*-sentences. It is proposed that the latter are derived from a predication configuration in which the locative element *there* is a logical subject expressing location, of which the sentence predicates that it contains the kind and amount of individuals expressed by the post-verbal pivot noun phrase. The existential reading arises from the interaction of this predication configuration and the existential closure of an empty D-layer in the noun phrase.

"Clitics and direct objects in Macedonian" by Slavica Kochovska investigates the syntax–semantics interface of clitic doubling in a little studied language: Macedonian. The contribution seeks to explain the co-occurrence restrictions on object clitics and object noun phrases by proposing a feature [strong] on noun phrases, a morphosyntactic feature that is related to Barwise and Cooper's (1981) notion of quantifier strength. It is argued that the Macedonian data call for a three-way morphosyntactic distinction among DPs, namely: [+strong], [−strong] and unspecified for strength.

Jonathan MacDonald's paper on the syntax–semantics interface "The phrase structure of phase verbs: An initial contrastive analysis of English and Russian" is a comparative study of the verb phrase structure and the aspectual interpretation of so-called phase verbs (aka aspecual verbs). According to the analysis proposed, while, in line with Fukuda (2009), English phase verbs can head either a high aspectual functional

projection located immediately above vP (H-AspP) or a low aspectual functional phrase situated between vP and VP (L-AspP), Russian phase verbs can only head the latter. It is suggested that in Russian the aspectual class of the complement to the phase verb plays a crucial role in some of the phase verb complement (in)compatibility patterns.

In their article titled "Closest c-command, Agree and Impoverishment: The morphosyntax of non-active voice in Albanian" Dalina Kallulli and Jochen Trommer investigate the syntax–morphology interface of non-active voice in Albanian, a complex morphosyntactic paradigm that exhibits a three-way alternation between inflectional affixation, cliticization, and auxiliary choice. The authors make a strong case that the distribution of the different types of morphosyntactic exponence of Albanian non-active voice is regulated by two independently motivated morphosyntactic operations, namely Agree and Impoverishment. These two operations are sensitive to the syntactic hierarchy of functional categories in the clause, as they are both governed in crucial respects by the same type of syntactic locality: closest c-command. The authors also evaluate the merits of their analysis by comparing it with the account proposed in Rivero (1990).

In "Structure sharing—the case of free relatives in Serbian" Nataša Milićević presents a minimalist syntactic analysis of free relative clauses in Serbian that pays special attention to yet another interface of narrow syntax: its interface with prosody. Regarding the key controversy regarding free relatives, namely the question whether they make up a complex DP whose head is a *wh*-pronoun or they are structurally a *wh*-clause without the overt external head, this paper adopts van Riemsdijk's (2006) proposal that free relatives are structurally ambiguous and they are derived by grafting, an application of Merge that combines the properties of Chomsky's (2001) Internal Merge and External Merge. It is shown that the grafting analysis of free relatives provides new insight into the workings of the syntax–prosody mapping involving second position cliticization in Serbian, in particular, into an instance of optionality in clitic placement. Based on its extensively argued analysis of the free choice particle *god* as a complementizer, the paper suggests that the relevant optionality in linear order derives from the fact that prosody can spell out a grafting structure in one of two alternative ways. This is because the *wh*-pronoun of free relatives is an element shared by two otherwise distinct syntactic trees that are derived in parallel; therefore, the *wh*-pronoun can be mapped to prosodic form as part of either of the two syntactic trees.

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The last article in this collection, Yasuyuki Kitao's "The presence of head-raising and resumptive-stranding in Japanese relative clauses" examines headed relative clauses in another language, namely Japanese, investigating the relation between the relative head and the apparent gap inside the relative clause. Concentrating on the syntactic side of the syntax–semantics interface phenomena commonly referred to as reconstruction effects, the paper proposes that Japanese relative clauses are uniformly derived by promotion: they involve head-raising of the relative head, stranding a silent *pro* resumptive pronoun at the gap position. It is argued that an amended version of Boeckx (2003) resumptive-stranding analysis can offer an account of both the movement properties and the non-movement properties of Japanese relatives in a way that conforms to the minimalist principle of Inclusiveness (Chomsky 1995). The proposed head-raising analysis is further defended against a potential objection based on the unavailability of A-scrambling in Japanese relative clauses, reducing the latter to the independent ban on improper movement (Müller–Sternefeld 1993).

I am grateful to all the authors for their contributions, which, I believe, make this volume an impressive collection of studies that amply represents some of the most exciting research directions in transformational generative syntax today. Offering novel perspectives on a wide variety of languages and constructions, these papers vividly testify to the significance and fertility of rigorous exploration of the interfaces in current syntactic theorizing.

In addition to the guest editor of the present issue, each manuscript was read by two anonymous reviewers. I would like to close this foreword by thanking them for their careful and thorough assessment of the manuscripts and for the constructive criticism they generously provided. Without their continued interest in this project and their expert advice, this volume could not have been produced.

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