

# Syntax-Semantics Interface

1st session

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Goals: introduce ourselves and the topics of this course, and talk about the assignments we'll have.

## 1 Course information

- Dozentin: Elena Castroviejo Miró
- Angaben
  - Hauptseminar, 2SWS, benoteter Schein
  - Zeit und Ort: Di 10:00 - 12:00, Neue Mensa 133
- Studienfächer / Studienrichtungen
  - KL-MA-B2 ab 1
  - GER-MAG ab 4
  - DEU-L3 ab 4
  - L3-D-FW-4 ab 4
- Voraussetzungen / Organisatorisches
  - Voraussetzung: Besuch der Veranstaltungen Syntax 1 und Semantik 1 und Bereitschaft englische Fachtexte zu lesen
  - Leistungsnachweis: Regelmäßige Teilnahme, Referat und Hausarbeit
  - Abgabetermin für die Hausarbeit: March 31 2009
- Inhalt

After giving an overview of the design of the Faculty of Language and the operations that take place at LF, we will concentrate on two basic interface topics, namely *wh*-movement and information structure, and we will approach them from a cross-linguistic perspective. Specifically, we will read about the fine structure of the left periphery and the motivation for movement, the different types of *wh*-clauses (e.g., rhetorical questions, *wh*-exclamatives), the notions of topic and focus, and the existence of both information focus and contrastive focus.

## 2 Contact information

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- Office hours: nach Vereinbarung (send me an email ;-)
- Where to find me:

### **Graduiertenkolleg “Satzarten: Variation und Interpretation”**

Raum 028

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[http://web.uni-frankfurt.de/fb10/grad\\_koll/index.htm](http://web.uni-frankfurt.de/fb10/grad_koll/index.htm)

## 3 Goals of this seminar

- Read papers that deal with topics relevant to the syntax-semantics interface.
- Identify the main arguments and crucial data that are behind the proposals made.
- Be able to discuss the claims defended in the papers.
- Get ready for more difficult papers.
- Resolve some doubts, but mainly come up with more puzzles.
- Learn/practice on how to present a linguistic talk.
- Become interested in this area of linguistics.

## 4 Contents of the course

1. The syntax-semantics interface: what is its role in the overall design of the faculty of language?
2. LF topics from theoretical and cross-linguistic perspectives.
3. Different approaches to information structure.
4. Annoying *wh*-movement: exclamatives and rhetorical questions.

## 5 Calendar

|          |          |          |
|----------|----------|----------|
| 14.10.08 | 21.10.08 | 28.10.08 |
| 04.11.08 | 11.11.08 | 18.11.08 |
| 25.11.08 | 02.12.08 | 09.12.08 |
| 16.12.08 | 13.01.09 | 20.01.09 |
| 27.01.09 | 03.02.09 | 10.02.09 |

## 6 Resources

- o Handbooks

- Buring (2005): *Binding Theory*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Carnie (2002): *Syntax. A generative introduction*. Malden, MA: Blackwell.
- Everaert, Riemsdijk, Goedemans and Hollebrandse (2006): *The Blackwell Companion to Syntax*. Malden, MA: Blackwell.
- Fromkin (2000): *Linguistics. An introduction to linguistic theory*. Malden, MA: Blackwell.
- Grewendorf (2002): *Minimalistische Syntax*. Tübingen: Francke-Verlag.
- Heim and Kratzer (1998): *Semantics in generative grammar*. Oxford: Blackwell.
- Hornstein (1995): *Logical Form. From GB to Minimalism*. Oxford/Cambridge: Blackwell.
- Hornstein, Nunes and Grohmann (2005): *Understanding minimalism*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Lappin (1996): *The Handbook of Contemporary Semantic Theory*. Malden, MA: Blackwell.
- Partee, ter Meulen and Wall (1990): *Mathematical Methods in Linguistics*. Dordrecht: Kluwer.
- Sauerland and von Stechow (2001): Syntax-Semantics Interface. In N. Smelser and P. Baltes (eds) *International Encyclopedia of the Social & Behavioural Sciences*, 15412-15418. Oxford: Pergamon.
- von Stechow and Wunderlich (1991): *Semantik. Ein internationales Handbuch zeitgenössischer Forschung*. Berlin/New York: Walter de Gruyter.

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- o Dictionaries

- Cruse (2006): *A glossary of semantics and pragmatics*. Edinburgh University Press.
- Crystal (2008): *Dictionary of Linguistics and Phonetics*. Malden, MA: Wiley/Blackwell.
- Matthews (2007): *The Oxford Concise Dictionary of Linguistics*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

- Trask (1993): *A dictionary of grammatical terms in linguistics*. New York: Routledge.
- Trask (1997): *A student's dictionary of Language and Linguistics*. London/New York: Arnold.
- Web sites
  - Workshop “What syntax feeds semantics?” from ESSLI 2008: <http://ling.uni-konstanz.de/pages/home/romero/essli/essli08.html>
  - Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy: <http://plato.stanford.edu/>
  - Professor Zimmermann's material for Semantik I-III: <http://web.uni-frankfurt.de/fb10/zimmermann/>
  - Lexicon of Linguistics: <http://www2.let.uu.nl/Uil-OTS/Lexicon/>

## 7 Participation

- Come to class every day.
- Present at least one paper.
- Share your thoughts in class.
- Add new definitions to our glossary (or improve the ones we have) and/or contribute to our list of resources.

## 8 Assignments

- Read the paper well in advance, so you can estimate its degree of difficulty.
- Come see me if you want us to go over the paper together.
- To present the paper use either a handout or slides.
- You will have a series of questions about the papers that must be part of your presentation (as in a guideline).
- It is highly recommended that you show the handout/slides draft to me before, so we can polish it a bit.

## 9 Last but not least

- We make this seminar together: we count on each other, we learn from each other, each contribution is important.
- If you believe you cannot make it (for whatever reason), let me know a week in advance or else the class will have to be canceled.

## References

- Büring, D.: 2005, *Binding Theory*, Cambridge University Press.
- Carnie, A.: 2002, *Syntax. A Generative Introduction*, Blackwell.
- Cruse, A.: 2006, *A glossary of semantics and pragmatics*, Edinburgh University Press.
- Crystal, D.: 2008, *A dictionary of linguistics and phonetics*, Blackwell, Malden, MA.
- Everaert, M., Riemsdijk, H. V., Goedemans, R. and Hollebrandse, B.: 2006, *The Blackwell Companion to Syntax*, Blackwell, Malden, MA.
- Fromkin, V.: 2000, *Linguistics: An Introduction to Linguistic Theory*, Blackwell, Malden, MA.
- Grewendorf, G.: 2002, *Minimalistische Syntax*, Francke-Verlag, Tübingen.
- Heim, I. and Kratzer, A.: 1998, *Semantics in Generative Grammar*, Blackwell, Malden, MA.
- Hornstein, N.: 1995, *Logical Form. From GB to Minimalism*, Blackwell, Oxford, UK/Cambridge, MA.
- Hornstein, N., Nunes, J. and Grohmann, K.: 2005, *Understanding Minimalism*, Cambridge University Press.
- Lappin, S.: 1996, *The Handbook of Contemporary Semantic Theory*, Blackwell, Malden, MA.
- Matthews, P.: 2007, *The Oxford Concise Dictionary of Linguistics*, Oxford University Press.
- Partee, B., ter Meulen, A. and Wall, R.: 1990, *Mathematical Methods in Linguistics*, Kluwer, Malden, MA.
- Sauerland, U. and von Stechow, A.: 2001, Syntax-Semantics Interface, in N. Smelser and P. Baltes (eds), *International Encyclopedia of the Social & Behavioural Sciences*, Pergamon, Oxford, UK, pp. 15412–15418.
- Trask, R. L.: 1993, *A dictionary of grammatical terms in linguistics*, Routledge, London.
- Trask, R. L.: 1997, *A Student's Dictionary of Language and Linguistics*, Arnold, London/New York.
- von Stechow, A. and Wunderlich, D.: 1991, *Semantik. Ein internationales Handbuch zeitgenössischer Forschung*, Walter de Gruyter, Berlin/New York.