Ling 580: Symmetry in Syntax?

Meeting Time: Tuesdays 3:30-5:50
Location: Sav 326

Instructor: Barbara Citko
Instructor’s Office: Padelford A210D
Office Hours: Thu 2-3pm
Office Phone: 3-6502
Email: bcitko@u.washington.edu

Course Description:

In this course, we will explore symmetry in syntax from a generative perspective. While there has been a lot of attention in the literature on asymmetric and antisymmetric aspects of syntax, symmetric aspects have been largely ignored, or claimed to be outright non-existent. This begs the question of how symmetric syntax really is, and if the answer is yes, how to account for the symmetry in syntax. To tackle these questions, we will look at constructions that at various times have been analyzed as symmetric (such as coordination or small clauses), languages that at various times have been analyzed as being inherently more symmetric than English (the so-called nonconfigurational languages), and syntactic operations that at various times have been analyzed as symmetry (or shape) preserving (symmetric passives, object shift and Holmberg’s Generalization, multiple wh-fronting).

Requirements:

Weekly readings and active participation 20%
Presentation of a journal article/book chapter 20%
Presentation of final project 20%
Final Paper 40%
(due during the finals week)

Prerequisites: LING 508 or my permission.

Textbook: There is no textbook for this course. The readings are journal articles and book chapters, available in the library or on reserve.

Course Website: http://faculty.washington.edu/bcitko/index_files/LING580symmetry.html
# Course Outline:

The course outline is subject to change. The readings marked with an asterisk are optional.

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<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic(s)</th>
<th>Reading(s)</th>
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And ONE paper from the following list (all in Theoretical Linguistics 31. 1-2):

- Anagnostopoulou, Elena 2004. Holmberg’s Generalization and Cyclic Linearization. Remarks on Fox and Pesetsky
- Bobaljik, J. 2004. Re: CycLin and the role of PF in Object Shift
- Sells, P. 2004. Comments on Object Shift and Cyclic Linearization
- Svenonius, P. 2004. How Phonological is Object Shift?
- Williams, E. 2004. A Note on “Cyclic Linearization”

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<tr>
<th>IX</th>
<th>Final Presentations</th>
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