

Linguistics 610 Fall 2008

Review Paper assignment

Due Thursday, November 6

In no more than 10 pages (2 spacing; 11 or 12 point font; 1 inch margins), review an article in syntactic theory. Summarize the major arguments and show precisely what the author was trying to account for and how the account was intended to work. Do not feel that you have to cover everything in the article. Decide what is most important. Feel free to leave out less central portions. If portions of the article are unclear, feel free to say so, or to ignore them.

Do not simply repeat what the author said. Instead, try to digest it and restate it in your own terms. Make sure to relate some of your discussion to the concepts, theories, and analyses we have examined in class. If possible, also present some additional data that could be handled by the proposals in the article. Or briefly discuss some phenomenon that seems problematic for the proposal of the article. Here are some articles that are closely related to things we have been discussing in class:

Chomsky, N. (1970) "Remarks on Nominalization" in R. Jacobs and P. Rosenbaum, eds., Readings in English Transformational Grammar. [Also in N. Chomsky (1972) Essays on Semantics in Generative Grammar.]

Lasnik, Howard. (1981) "Restricting the theory of transformations: A case study" in Explanation in Linguistics, ed. Norbert Hornstein and David Lightfoot, 152-173. London: Longmans. [Reprinted, **with corrections**, in Essays on Restrictiveness and Learnability, Howard Lasnik, 125-145. Dordrecht: Kluwer, 1990].

Ross, J. R. (1969) "Auxiliaries as Main Verbs", Studies in Philosophical Linguistics 1.1, 77-102.

Chomsky, N. (1995) The Minimalist Program Ch. 1, Sect. 1.4.3 "Case Theory" (pp. 110-124)

[[If you would prefer to review some other article, come talk to me about your choice.]]