

Word order variation in parallel syntax

Joost Kremers

University of Wuppertal

jkremers@uni-wuppertal.de

In languages with (domains of) flexible word order, there is usually a multitude of factors that influences the actual order of constituents within a clause. For example, Müller (1999, 2000) assumes at least five factors for the German *middle field*. These are modelled as syntactic (OT) constraints, Other authors argue for stress (as a phonological factor, cf. Fanselow, n.d.) or information structural factors (Lenerz 1977, and much subsequent work).

Modelling the influence of such disparate factors is a challenge, e.g. one factor may cancel out the effects other factors. For example, in German, definite NPs tend to precede indefinite ones, but if the indefinite NP happens to have nominative case, it may precede other NPs despite the definiteness constraint. Optimality Theory is often seen as a good way to handle such interactions (cf. Müllers model), but suffers from well-known problems, such as the need to give up the strict modularisation of grammar and the difficulty of modelling degrees of acceptability/grammaticality.

The aim of this talk is to suggest that structures are licensed by *schemata* (similar to, but not identical with HPSG schemata). A schema is a piece of structure, either semantic, syntactic or phonological, that can be small (i.e., a single head), or larger (a complex node describing some aspects of itself and its daughter nodes). In a parallel grammar model (e.g., Culicover and Jackendoff 2005, Sadock 2012), a piece of syntactic structure can have an *intermodular* link to a piece of semantic and a piece of phonological structure, thus creating either a lexical entry or a grammar rule. In the current proposal, a piece of syntactic structure can also have *intramodular* links, i.e., links to other *syntactic* schemata. This talk, thus, explores how this idea can express Müller's OT-style analysis of German scrambling. As it turns out, this is indeed feasible, and the required assumptions are conceptually even simpler than Müller's.

References: • Culicover, P. & R. Jackendoff. 2005. *Simpler syntax*. Oxford: OUP • Fanselow, G., 2007. The restricted access of information structure to syntax – a minority rReport. In C. Féry, G. Fanselow & M. Krifka (eds.), *The notions of information structure*, 205–220. • Lenerz, J. 1977. *Zur Abfolge nominaler Satzglieder im Deutschen*. Tübingen: Narr. • Müller, G. 1999. Optimality, markedness, and word order in German. *Linguistics* 37(5). 777–818. • Müller, G. 2000. *Elemente der optimalitätstheoretischen Syntax*. Tübingen: Stauffenburg. • Sadock, J. M. 2012. *The modular architecture of grammar*. Cambridge: CUP.