

Preliminary syllabus

Syntax seminar: Case and voice

Linguistics 46000

Jason Merchant, merchant@uchicago.edu

University of Chicago

Fall 2005, Tuesdays 3:00-5:50 Harper 125

This seminar provides a look at a variety of case systems from a typological perspective (including various split ergative systems, Kasusaufnahme, and differential object marking) and aims to develop a theoretical understanding of them, in particular the role of case in voice alternations (passive, antipassive, and other valence-changing morphology). Special attention is paid to Austronesian, Australian, Native American, Indo-Aryan, European, Turkic, Eskimo, Basque, and Caucasian languages.

Requirements

Active participation (reading and discussion); presentation of one of the assigned readings or a substitute of your choice (agreed upon with me) to the class (with a handout); a final paper.

Weeks (very rough, subject to change)

1. Introduction. Jespersen, Fillmore, Blake, Dixon, [Rude, Bok Bennema, Silverstein]
2. Ura, Woolford, Marantz, Mahajan, Bobaljik
3. Maling et al, Bresnan, Perlmutter and Postal [Pollard and Sag]
4. Bittner and Hale
5. Aissen [Jäger?]
6. How (morphologically) complex is the passive?: Kratzer
7. Legate, Svenonius
8. Acquisition and processing: Fox and Grodzinsky, Marantz et al., processing, deficits
9. Open
10. Open

Readings

- Aissen, Judith. 2003. Differential Object Marking: Iconicity vs. Economy. *Natural Language and Linguistic Theory* 21:435-483.
- Bittner, Maria & Kenneth Hale. 1996a. The structural determination of case and agreement. *Linguistic Inquiry* 27.1:1-68.
- Bittner, Maria & Kenneth Hale. 1996b. Ergativity: towards a theory of a heterogeneous class. *Linguistic Inquiry* 27.4:531-604.
- Blake, Barry. 1994. *Case*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

- Bobaljik, Jonathan. 1993a. Nominally absolutive is not absolutely nominative. In Jonathan Mead (ed.), *The Proceedings of the 11th West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics*, 44-60. CSLI: Stanford.
- Bobaljik, Jonathan. 1993b. On Ergativity and Ergative Unergatives. In *MIT Working Papers in Linguistics 19*, 45-88. Department of Linguistics and Philosophy, MIT, Cambridge, Mass.
- Bok Bennema, Reineke. 1991. *Case and Agreement in Inuit*. Dordrecht: Foris.
- Bresnan, Joan. 1982. Passive in a lexical grammar. In Joan Bresnan (ed.), .
- Dixon, R.M.W. 1994. *Ergativity*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Fillmore, Charles. 1968. The Case for Case. In Emmon Bach and Harms (Ed.): *Universals in Linguistic Theory* (pp. 1-88), Holt, Rinehart, and Winston, New York.
- Fox, Danny & Grodzinsky, Y. 1998. Children's passive: a view from the by-phrase. *Linguistic Inquiry*, 29.2, pp. 311-332.
- Givón, Talmy (ed.). 1994. *Voice and inversion*. John Benjamins: Amsterdam.
- Jespersen, Otto. 1924. The philosophy of grammar. [Object, active and passive (ch. 12), Case (ch.13) pp. 157- 187.] University of Chicago Press: Chicago.
- Kratzer, Angelika. 1996. Severing the External Argument from Its Verb. In *Phrase Structure and the Lexicon*, ed. Johan Rooryck & Laurie Zaring, 109-137. Dordrecht: Kluwer.
- Legate, Julie Ann. 2005. 2005 Morphological and Abstract Case. Ms., UDelaware (available as pdf from her webpage, <http://john.ling.yale.edu/jlegate/>)
- Mahajan, Anoop. 2000. "Oblique Subjects and Burzio's Generalization," to appear in *Arguments and Case: Explaining Burzio's Generalization*, ed. by E. Reuland, 77-100. 2000. John Benjamins Publishing Company, Amsterdam /Philadelphia.
- Maling, Joan, Ray Jackendoff and Moira Yip. 1986. *Case in tiers*. Language.
- Marantz, Alec. 1991. Case and Licensing. In *Proceedings of the Eighth Eastern States Conference on Linguistics*, 234-253.
- Perlmutter, David and Paul Postal. 1984. Towards a universal characterization of passive. In David Perlmutter (ed.), *Studies in Relational Grammar 1*. U of Chicago Press.
- Pollard, Carl and Ivan Sag. 1994. *Head-driven phrase structure grammar*. Ch. X. U of Chicago Press.
- Ramchand, Gillian and Peter Svenonius. 2005. *Prepositions and External Argument Demotion*. Ms., University of Tromsø/CASTL.
- Rude, Noel. 1988. Ergative, Passive, and Antipassive in Nez Perce. In M. Shibatani (ed), *Passive and Voice*, 547-560. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.
- Silverstein, Michael. 1976. Hierarchy of features and ergativity. In R. M. W. Dixon (ed.) *Grammatical categories in Australian languages*, 112-171. Canberra: Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies.
- Svenonius, Peter. 2000. Impersonal Passives: A Phase-based Analysis. In Holmer, Svantesson & Viberg (eds.), *Proceedings of the 18th Scandinavian Conference of Linguistics*. *Travaux de l'Institut de Linguistique de Lund*.
- Svenonius, Peter. 2005. *Case Alternations in the Icelandic Passive*. Ms., University of Tromsø.

- Ura, Hiroyuki. 2001. Case. In *The Handbook of Contemporary Syntactic Theory*, ed. Mark Baltin and Chris Collins, 334-373. Oxford: Blackwell.
- Woolford, Ellen. 1997. Four-way Case Systems: Ergative, Nominative, Objective, and Accusative. *Natural Language and Linguistic Theory* 15: 181-227.