Seminar on A'-dependencies

Technical specs:
Time: Tuesdays 3-5:50pm
Place: Cobb 402
Instructor: Jason Merchant

Office hours: M 11am-1pm or by appointment
Office: Classics 305
Tel: (70)2-8523
email: merchant@uchicago.edu

Goals and course description:
This seminar explores recent work on the nature of A'-dependencies in a wide variety of languages. Topics include wh-movement and nonmovement in interrogatives, relatives, and comparatives, partial wh-movement, wh-expletives, resumptivity, islands (selective and strong), reconstruction effects, intervention effects, and the nature of successive cyclic movement, depending in part on participant interests. The course will have a strong cross-linguistic aspect to it, examining data from Irish, Hungarian, Turkish, Tzotzil, Swahili, Chinese, Japanese, Greek, Slavic, Romance, and Germanic languages, Chamorro and other Austronesian languages, and varieties of Arabic, among others.


Coursework:
Coursework will consist of reading and discussion of the assigned papers, writing a ca. 5 page squib (which may contain gaps, as a paper outline, to be filled in later) on a topic related to this course (to be chosen in consultation with me by the end of week 5), writing a one page abstract based on that squib/paper (which will be distributed to all class participants in an abstract book for the miniconference), making a 15-20 minute presentation (with handout) of your work, and submitting a final paper incorporating comments and suggestions made at the miniconference.

Evaluation:
Your evaluation for this course will be based on the above coursework as well as on class participation.
Readings:
[Rough weekly overview; readings may be added, and order may change]

1  multiple A'-movement languages, non-A'-movement languages: Richards chs 2-3
2  Richards chs 4-5
3  Slavic: Boäković, Pesetsky, Grewendorf
4  Morphosyntactic reflections of wh-movement: Irish and Chamorro: McCloskey, Chung
5  Relative clauses, resumptive pronouns, correlatives: Aoun and Li
6  Internally headed relatives: Basilico
7  Comparatives: Kennedy
8  wh-scope marking, partial wh-movement: Lutz et al
9  Odds and ends: Bouma et al, Chomsky, Simpson
10  Mini-conference

References

Kennedy, Chris. To appear. Comparative Deletion and Optimality in Syntax. NLLT.