

Minimalist Syntax

Exploring the Structure of English

ANDREW RADFORD

University of Essex



Contents

<i>Preface</i>	<i>page xi</i>
1 Grammar	1
1.1 Overview	1
1.2 Traditional grammar	1
1.3 Universal Grammar	6
1.4 The Language Faculty	10
1.5 Principles of Universal Grammar	13
1.6 Parameters	16
1.7 Parameter-setting	21
1.8 Evidence used to set parameters	23
1.9 Summary	25
Workbook section	26
2 Words	33
2.1 Overview	33
2.2 Grammatical categories	33
2.3 Categorising words	38
2.4 Functional categories	40
2.5 Determiners and quantifiers	41
2.6 Pronouns	44
2.7 Auxiliaries	47
2.8 Infinitival <i>to</i>	49
2.9 Complementisers	52
2.10 Labelled bracketing	57
2.11 Grammatical features	58
2.12 Summary	60
Workbook section	62
3 Structure	66
3.1 Overview	66
3.2 Phrases	66
3.3 Clauses	71
3.4 Specifiers	76
3.5 Intermediate and maximal projections	80
3.6 Testing structure	84
3.7 Syntactic relations	90
3.8 Bare phrase structure	94

3.9	Summary	96
	Workbook section	98
4	Null constituents	106
4.1	Overview	106
4.2	Null subjects	106
4.3	Null auxiliaries	111
4.4	Null T in auxiliariesless finite clauses	115
4.5	Null T in bare infinitive clauses	121
4.6	Null C in finite clauses	124
4.7	Null C in non-finite clauses	128
4.8	Defective clauses	131
4.9	Case properties of subjects	134
4.10	Null determiners	140
4.11	Summary	145
	Workbook section	146
5	Head movement	151
5.1	Overview	151
5.2	T-to-C movement	151
5.3	Movement as copying and deletion	154
5.4	V-to-T movement	158
5.5	Head movement	162
5.6	Auxiliary raising	166
5.7	Another look at negation	170
5.8	DO-support	173
5.9	Head movement in nominals	178
5.10	Summary	181
	Workbook section	183
6	Wh-movement	188
6.1	Overview	188
6.2	Wh-questions	188
6.3	Wh-movement as a copying operation	190
6.4	Wh-movement, EPP and the Attract Closest Principle	197
6.5	Explaining what moves where	202
6.6	Wh-subject questions	206
6.7	Pied-piping	211
6.8	Yes-no questions	220
6.9	Wh-exclamatives	222
6.10	Relative clauses	223
6.11	<i>That</i> -relatives	228
6.12	Summary	234
	Workbook section	236
7	A-movement	241
7.1	Overview	241
7.2	Subjects in Belfast English	241

7.3	Quotatives and idioms	244
7.4	Argument structure	248
7.5	Thematic roles	250
7.6	Unaccusative predicates	254
7.7	Passive predicates	260
7.8	Long-distance passivisation	264
7.9	Raising	266
7.10	Comparing raising and control predicates	268
7.11	Summary	274
	Workbook section	276
8	Agreement, case and movement	281
8.1	Overview	281
8.2	Agreement	281
8.3	Feature valuation	284
8.4	Uninterpretable features and feature-deletion	287
8.5	Expletive <i>it</i> subjects	291
8.6	Expletive <i>there</i> subjects	298
8.7	Agreement and A-movement	307
8.8	EPP in control infinitives	309
8.9	EPP in other infinitives	313
8.10	Summary	322
	Workbook section	323
9	Split projections	327
9.1	Overview	327
9.2	Split CP: Force, Topic and Focus projections	327
9.3	Split CP: Finiteness projection	332
9.4	Split VPs: VP shells in ergative structures	336
9.5	VP shells in resultative, double-object and object-control structures	344
9.6	VP shells in transitive, unergative, unaccusative, raising and locative inversion structures	348
9.7	Transitive light verbs and accusative case assignment	356
9.8	Evidence for a further projection in transitive verb phrases	362
9.9	Extending the shell analysis to nominals	367
9.10	Summary	372
	Workbook section	374
10	Phases	381
10.1	Overview	381
10.2	Phases	381
10.3	Intransitive and defective clauses	385
10.4	Wh-movement through spec-CP	388
10.5	Wh-movement through spec-vP in transitive clauses	391
10.6	Evidence for successive-cyclic wh-movement through spec-CP	394

10.7	Evidence for wh-movement through spec-vP in transitive clauses	401
10.8	The role of phases in lexical selection	407
10.9	Questions about phases	409
10.10	The nature of A-bar movement	419
10.11	Summary	426
	Workbook section	427
	<i>Glossary</i>	432
	<i>References</i>	485
	<i>Index</i>	498