

SYNTACTIC THEORY AND THE STRUCTURE OF ENGLISH

A MINIMALIST APPROACH

ANDREW RADFORD

DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGE AND LINGUISTICS, UNIVERSITY OF ESSEX



CONTENTS

Preface

page xi

1 Principles and parameters

1.1 Overview	1
1.2 Grammar	1
1.3 Criteria of adequacy	4
1.4 Language faculty	6
1.5 Creativity	9
1.6 Principles	12
1.7 Parameters	16
1.8 Parameter-setting	20
1.9 Evidence	22
1.10 Summary	24
Workbook section	25

2 Categories and features

2.1 Overview	37
2.2 Morphological evidence	37
2.3 Syntactic evidence	40
2.4 Functional categories: determiners and pronouns	45
2.5 Auxiliaries and infinitival <i>to</i>	49
2.6 Complementizers	54
2.7 Parsing	58
2.8 Subcategorial features	59
2.9 Cross-categorial features	63
2.10 Summary	68
Workbook section	70

3 Syntactic structure	
3.1 Overview	86
3.2 Forming phrases	86
3.3 Specifiers	89
3.4 Forming sentences	94
3.5 Tree diagrams	97
3.6 Configurational relations	99
3.7 Testing structure	102
3.8 Additional tests	107
3.9 C-command	110
3.10 Summary	116
Workbook section	117
 4 Empty categories	
4.1 Overview	131
4.2 PRO subjects	131
4.3 Null auxiliaries	135
4.4 Unfilled INFL	137
4.5 Bare infinitives	144
4.6 Null complementizers	147
4.7 Null determiners	151
4.8 Pronouns	154
4.9 Attributive adjectives	157
4.10 Summary	159
Workbook section	159
 5 Checking	
5.1 Overview	170
5.2 Interpretable and uninterpretable features	170
5.3 Checking	174
5.4 Phrases	178
5.5 Percolation	184
5.6 Determiner phrases	187
5.7 PRO subjects	191
5.8 Objective subjects	193
5.9 Bare phrase structure	198
5.10 Summary	200
Workbook section	202

6 Head movement	
6.1 Overview	216
6.2 Auxiliary inversion	216
6.3 Traces	219
6.4 Verb movement	222
6.5 Strong and weak features	226
6.6 Negation	231
6.7 The syntax of <i>have</i>	235
6.8 Tense affix	240
6.9 Question affix	245
6.10 Summary	250
Workbook section	252
 7 Operator movement	
7.1 Overview	267
7.2 Wh-operators	267
7.3 Enlightened self-interest and shortest movement	271
7.4 Pied-piping	276
7.5 Embedded questions in Belfast English	282
7.6 Embedded questions in Standard English	286
7.7 Subject questions	292
7.8 Yes–no questions	294
7.9 Nonoperator questions	298
7.10 Summary	299
Workbook section	301
 8 A movement	
8.1 Overview	315
8.2 VP-internal subject hypothesis	315
8.3 Evidence that subjects originate in spec-VP	318
8.4 Argument structure and theta-marking	324
8.5 Case-checking via head-adjunction and attraction	329
8.6 Raising predicates	334
8.7 Differences between raising and control predicates	337
8.8 Passivization	341
8.9 Explanation	345
8.10 Summary	349
Workbook section	351

9 VP shells	
9.1 Overview	367
9.2 Ergative predicates	367
9.3 Adverbs and prepositional particles	370
9.4 Ditransitive and resultative predicates	377
9.5 Three-place predicates with clausal complements	379
9.6 Object-control predicates	382
9.7 Monotransitive predicates	388
9.8 Unergative predicates	390
9.9 Unaccusative predicates	392
9.10 Summary	401
Workbook section	403
 10 Agreement projections	
10.1 Overview	422
10.2 Subject agreement projections	422
10.3 Evidence from other varieties of English	427
10.4 Object agreement projections	431
10.5 Exceptional case-marking	439
10.6 Indirect object agreement projections	444
10.7 Genitive DPs	448
10.8 <i>For</i> -infinitives and prepositional objects	449
10.9 Passives and unaccusatives reconsidered	454
10.10 Summary	459
Workbook section	461
 <i>Glossary and list of abbreviations</i>	490
<i>References</i>	536
<i>Index</i>	543