

平成 30 年 2 月 1 日開催 (A101、14 : 00～16 : 00)

第 39 回 ICR セミナー

Robert Levine 先生ご講演概要

すでにポスターにてお知らせしております Robert Levine 先生の言語学に関するご講演の概要です。関心をお持ちの教員、学生のみなさまのご来聴を歓迎いたします。

(概要)

I will trace the origins of the modern analytic concept of phrase structure, originating in Franz Boas' linguistic relativism around the end of the 19th century and giving rise to the American Structuralists' analytic procedures, reified in early transformational grammar into a theory of syntactic form representing sentences as hierarchical objects comprising quasi-geometric relationships amongst their parts. The independent justification for such hierarchical structure consisted of facts about anaphoric reference and movement possibilities that, as I will detail in this talk, were allegedly explainable only by reference to configurational structure of exactly the sort captured in phrase markers. But the theory of constituency embodied in such representations proved to be in major conflict with a vast array of grammatical phenomena from the domains of coordination and ellipsis, requiring appeal to elaborate combinations of the movement and deletion of canonical phrase structure constituents, leading to a variety of quite dubious results that I will discuss (e.g., positing illegal movements that are only acceptable because the effects of the movement are deleted). Over the past two decades, however, the anaphoric and islandhood justifications for phrase structure have significantly weakened; recent treatments of anaphoric relations make no reference to the syntactic domains posited in the GB binding theory, and constraints on filler/gap linkages now appear to be largely due to functional factors (processing issues, discourse coherence, phonotactic considerations, etc). I will summarize these greatly shifted perspectives on phenomena that were once taken to be the chief support for hierarchical phrase structure, and exemplify, from my own joint research with Professor Yusuke Kubota, how they open the way for alternative accounts of a wide range of syntactic and semantic patterns in coordination and ellipsis.

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