

Syntax Seminar BBN-ANG-252

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(or use Neptun to contact me)

group i Wednesday 15:30–17:00, R414
group j Wednesday 13:30–15:00, R253

1 Overview

The course aims to introduce students to basic concepts of syntax and the main principles of syntactic analysis. Considering data from English and other languages, we will discuss such topics as categories, constituency, hierarchical structure, X-bar syntax, clausal syntax. In addition to this course, students are advised to also attend the Syntax lecture (BBN-ANG-251).

2 Preliminary schedule

This is a preliminary schedule and slight changes to the topics might be possible. The date of the mid-term test and of the final in-class test will not be changed, however.

| Date | Topic | Materials |
|-------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 11/09 | Lexicon and grammar. Lexicon (categories, predicates and arguments, theta-roles, subcategorization of complements) | BESE Chapter 1 |
| 18/09 | Phrases, constituents. Grammatical functions: subject and direct object | BESE Chapter 2 1 – 2.2 |
| 25/09 | Grammatical functions: indirect objects. Testing for structure: substitution, movement, coordination, single-word phrases | BESE Chapter 2 2.3 – 3.4 |
| 02/10 | X-bar theory: rewrite rules, heads and complements, specifiers, adjuncts | BESE Chapter 3 1.1 – 1.6 |
| 09/10 | Theoretical aspects of movement 1.: move-alpha; D-structure and S-structure | BESE Chapter 3 2.1 – 2.2 |
| 16/10 | In-classe practice; mid-term test | |
| 23/10 | National holiday (no class) | |
| 30/10 | Autumn brake (no class) | |
| 06/11 | Theoretical aspects of movement 2.: Traces. Locality restrictions on movement | BESE Chapter 3 2.3 – 3 |
| 13/11 | Verb phrases: event structure and aspect, verb types 1.: unaccusative verbs, light verbs, ergative verbs | BESE Chapter 5 1 – 2.3 |
| 20/11 | Verb types 2. Transitive verbs, intransitive verbs, multiple complement verbs, phrasal verbs, verbs with clausal complements | BESE Chapter 5 2.4 – 2.9 |
| 27/11 | Aspectual auxiliary verbs. Adverbs, PPs and clausal modifiers | BESE Chapter 5 3.1 – 5 |
| 04/12 | An introduction to inflectional phrases | BESE Chapter 6: to be precised |
| 11/12 | Final in-class test | |

3 Readings and course materials

Obligatory: Mark Newson et al. 2006. Basic English Syntax with Exercises. Budapest: Bölcsész Konzorcium (abbreviated as 'BESE'). <https://mek.oszk.hu/05400/05476/05476.pdf>

You are expected to read chapters 1–3 and 5–6 of BESE.

The course materials will be uploaded to <http://seas3.elte.hu/coursematerial/>

4 Requirements

Regular attendance is required. Missing more than three classes means that you will not get a grade for the course.

Weekly home assignments: we will check them at class, please come prepared.

One final in-class written exam for a grade. The exam will consist of tasks similar to those in the homework and the ones covered in class. Those who do not write the final exam will not get a grade. If you receive a failing grade (1) at the final exam, you will be granted one opportunity to improve it

There will also be a midterm exam, similar to the final one. It is obligatory as it is a pre-test ("beugró") for the final test (if you do not submit it, you will not be allowed to take the final exam). The midterm exam is not for a grade but it might be used for rounding at the end of the semester.