Foundations of Syntax

Instructor: Irina Burukina

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When & where: Wednesday 08:15 – 09:00, GvA, DELG.

1 Overview

The course aims to introduce students to the basic ideas and principles of syntactic analysis and sentence structure, as well as to the syntax-related terminology. We will discuss the notion of syntax and syntactic rules, talk about the major principles behind dividing sentences into smaller parts, and get familiar with syntactic hierarchies. We will also talk about the history of syntactic studies, syntax in language acquisition and language learning, and Universal Grammar (if you don't know what that is – join the course!)

As this is the first part of the three-part syntax program (Foundations, Syntax and Advanced Syntax), the students are expected not to have any prior knowledge on the subject.

2 Schedule

This is a preliminary schedule for the course. Changes to it will be announced in class in advance.

For each class there will be a handout/slides.

Date	Topic
14/02	Syntax as a system of rules
21/02	Rules. Comprehension vs production. Prescription vs description. Data.
28/02	Words. Word categories. Part I
06/03	Words. Word categories. Part II
13/03	Constituents and Phrases. Part I
20/03	Constituents and Phrases. Part II
27/03	Spring break (no class)
03/04	Grammatical functions
10/04	Hierarchical structures
17/04	The over-generation problem. Selection
24/04	Universal Grammar. Principles and Parameters. Minimalism
01/05	National holiday (no class)
08/05	Super Linguistics
15/05	Revision

3 Requirements

At the end of the semester the students have to take a test (multiple-choice/true-false tasks).

Attendance: Since this is a lecture course, the attendance will not be checked. However, the students are strongly recommended to attend the lectures.

4 Readings

The required materials:

- handouts/slides,

- *Basic English Syntax with Exercises* (BESE). Newson M. et al. 2006

Recommended:

- Andrew Carnie, Syntax: A Generative Introduction, 2013 (3d ed.)

5 Where to find the course

The course materials will be uploaded to the website:

http://seas3.elte.hu/coursematerial/BurukinaIrina/index.html

6 Other

Dr. Irina Burukina. Contact e-mail address: irina.burukina@btk.elte.hu

Please, use only this email address to send me emails. Do not forget to add your name and indicate your group.

If you have any questions, I will be glad to meet with you. Please, send me an email in advance to schedule an appointment; we can meet either at ELTE or via Zoom.