Remarks on Nominalization
Chomsky on Morphology and the Lexicon

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Linguistics 105: Morphology
Fall 2012

October 29, 2012

Administration

HWs

- HW 4 due right now.
- HW 5 posted, on the final project.

Readings

- Chomsky (1970) in a few minutes
- for next week: Mohanan (1995) on Hindi incorporation

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CONTEXT

THE POSITION OF SEMANTICS

QUESTIONS

- What is the timing of syntax wrt. semantic interpretation?
- How much of synonymy is encoded in the syntax?

- "Sentences with the *identical* meaning have the same deep structure."
- Notice that "identical meaning" can extend to words:

(1) a. Omar *caused Stringer to die.*
     b. Omar *killed Stringer.*

(2) a. Omar *shot* Stringer.
     b. Stringer *was shot* (by Omar).

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MORE ON GENERATIVE SEMANTICS

GENERATIVE SEMANTICS

Deep structures *are* the structures of semantic interpretation.

"INTERPRETIVE" SEMANTICS

Semantic interpreation is *interpretive* of the (final) syntactic representation.

- *Example:* Quantifier raising:

(3)   Every boy built a boat.

   a.   "There is one boat such that every boy built it (together)."

   b.   "Every boy built a boat by himself."

- Quantifier scope *is* c-command(?)

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WHY NOMINALIZATIONS MATTER

OBSERVATION

Certain nominalizations have similarities to their underlying verbs.

    (4)   Hank's punishing Bobby . . . NP_{agt} — X — NP_{pat}

    (5)   Hank punished Bobby. NP_{agt} — X — NP_{pat}

QUESTION

Are nominalizations formed by transformation of a deep structure?

    (6)   The peasants' revolution (worried Buster).

    (7)   The peasants revolted.

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THE DATA

Kinds of Nominalizations

Gerunds

- Term used for various kinds of *non*-finite verb forms.
- Two kinds in English:
  - (8) Poss-ing: Matt's rebuilding of the barn took all weekend.
  - (9) Acc-ing: Matt's rebuilding the barn took all weekend.

"Derived" Nominalizations

- Other nominalizations are a bit more heterogeneous.

(10) *belief, doubt, conversion, permutation, laughter, marriage, construction, actions, activities, trial, residence, qualifications, specifications, revolution . . .*

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    (11) John's being easy/difficult to please. . .

    (12) John's aumusing the children with his stories. . .

- . . . are semantically COMPOSITIONAL/TRANSPARENT:

    (13) Mark's rebuilding the barn took all weekend. . .

    (14) Mark rebuilt the barn. . .

- . . . have VERBAL SYNTAX.
    - No nominal elements available:

        (15) *Jim's unmotivated criticizing the book. . .

        (16) *Jim's three rebuildings the barn. . .

    - Verbal elements available:

        (17) Alan's having criticized the book. . .

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- ... are possibly LEXICALIZED:

  (20)   The Green Bay Packers' third-down conversions . . .

  (21)   The hiker converted snow into water . . .

- ... have NOMINAL SYNTAX:
  - Nominal elements available:

    (22)   The hurried proving of the theorem. . .

    (23)   The three simultaneous proofs of the theorem. . .

  - Verbal elements not available:

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Semantics	transparent	less transparent
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Syntax, II	no numerals	numerals
Syntax, III	accusative case	*of* required
Syntax, IV	verbal aspect	no verbal aspect

THE MORPHOLOGY CAN LIE

(25) The farmer's rebuilding the fence...

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THE ANALYSIS

TWO POSSIBLE ANALYSES

TRANSFORMATIONS
A nominal with a related verb is truly *deverbal* — transformations relate even derived nominals to underlying forms.

ENRICHING THE BASE
{Some, all} nominalizations are formed by Phrase Structure Rule — there can be no syntactically derived nominal for these forms.

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* Derived nominalizations' irregularities support the Base solution.
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- The nominalization transformation Xn is *marked* to exclude derived nominalizations.
- Some verbs have both (*rebuild*).

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- Some syntactic structures are being interpreted *idiomatically*.
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- There are actually two transformations, one for derived and another for gerundive nominalizations.

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The Structure of the Lexicon

Structured Feature Sets

- Lexical items come with subcategorization features *based upon their lexical category.*
- These subcategorization features encode, *e.g.*, whether or not there is a derived nominal.

- *Cf.*, *eager* and *easy*; only the former has a derived nominal.

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What about Gerundives?

- Gerundive nominals have nearly identical syntax wrt their underlying verbs.
- *Idea:* their ability to get a subject (possessor) and object (complement) is not a feature of their lexical category (*i.e.*, being a verb).

Contextual Categories

- Lexical entries can then be UNDERSPECIFIED wrt. lexical category.
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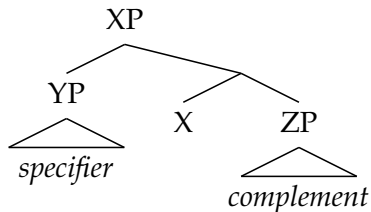
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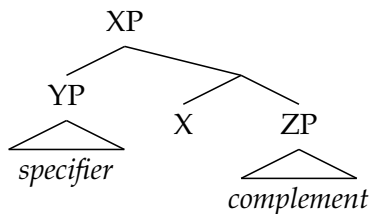- They are roots that can be *either* verbs or nouns appearing *in their nominal context.*

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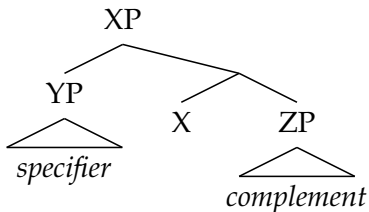
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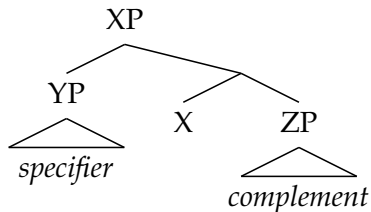- As well as the particular morphology involved (*-tion*, *-ity*, *etc.*).

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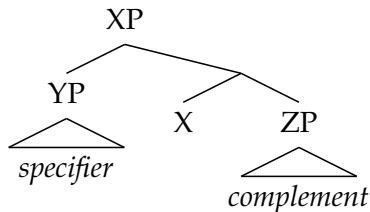
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YP

specifier

X

ZP

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