

REVIEW

Marcel den Dikken (ed.). 2013. *The Cambridge Handbook of Generative Syntax*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. x + 1153 pp.

Imola-Ágnes Farkas*

The present volume appears in the *Cambridge Handbooks in Language and Linguistics* series. As each handbook in this series, it covers key issues within the field of language and linguistics, and provides a broad (if not complete) picture of the state of the art of one major sub-discipline within the study and research of this field. More precisely, this handbook is a comprehensive survey of the major theoretical and empirical advances in the domain of generative syntax, and an outlook of the interfaces of syntax with other components of the human language system.

Before I embark on this long voyage, let me say a few words about the structure of the book. The volume is presented in six large parts, each of which covers a different major focus of syntactic research, and the twenty-six chapters are thematically grouped into one of these parts. These chapters encompass the most important issues and topics within each subject, and they together offer a coherent picture of the latest theories of and approaches to generative syntax.

Part I, entitled “Background”, is a presentation of the general framework and an illustration of the historical context for what is happening in the field of generative syntax these days. The three introductory chapters belonging to this part constitute an indispensable tool for a better understanding of the various synchronic and diachronic aspects of generative syntax, and they are somehow meant to pave the way for the more technical chapters.

In the first chapter, “Introduction” (pp. 3-25), the editor clearly states the main aims of the handbook, sketches its organization, highlights its main focus, and admits its limitations. Then, he focuses on the theory of generative syntax, and emphasizes the major interests of generative syntactic research and their interconnections. Similarly to the following chapter, much of the discussion (especially on the beginnings of generative syntax) is from the perspective of the sharp contrast between the generative and structuralist approaches to sentence structure and language acquisition.

“Brief overview of the history of generative syntax” (pp. 26-60), by Howard Lasnik and Terje Lohndal, continues the previous chapter by digging deep into the history of generative syntax, and discussing the most important stages of the theory and the landmarks in its development. Choosing the chronological order, it starts with the earliest generative attempts (Chomsky 1957, 1965) and discusses the characteristics of the theories, frameworks and conceptions of grammar presented in *Syntactic Structures*, on the one hand, and *Aspects of the Theory of Syntax*, on the other hand. Then it turns to the way syntax is considered to have related to semantics in the 1960s and 1970, and the way Deep Structure and Surface Structure contribute to semantic interpretation. After that, it provides a historical overview of the development of phrase structure (phrase structure grammars, X-bar Theory, Bare Phrase Structure), and discusses the role of rules/ filters and principles. It closes with the way different non-transformational theories (especially Lexical-Functional Grammar and Generalized Phrase Structure Grammar) relate to derivational and representational approaches to syntax. The entire chapter is interwoven

* “Babeş-Bolyai” University, Faculty of Letters, Department of English Language and Literature, farkas_imola_agnes@yahoo.com.

with the presentation of several shifts in perspective, thinking, and interest that give rise to research and studies impossible to find half a century ago.

In “Goals and methods of generative syntax” (pp. 61-92), Frederick J. Newmeyer discusses the aims and methodology of generative syntax. The three complementary goals that are identified here are the following: the universalist goal (which characterizes what a possible human language might be and distinguishes the grammatical processes that can occur in language from those that cannot), the particularist goal (which provides formal statements characterizing the grammar of individual languages or the grammars of individual speakers), and the typological goal (which explains why some grammar types appear to be cross-linguistically more common than others, for instance, why is it the case that in almost all languages of the world the subject precedes the object). Whereas all generative syntacticians advocate the first two goals, not all of them share the third one. Furthermore, generative grammarians, although not very concerned with methodology, rely on introspection. What the author stresses is that it is true that the introspective data do have their own disadvantages, but it is equally true that relying on purely conversational (and experimental) data would not lead to theories with significantly different properties. Finally, in order to fully understand generative syntax, some ideas are mentioned about the goals and methodology of formal models outside the Principles and Parameters framework (e.g. Lexical-Functional Grammar, Head-driven Phrase Structure Grammar, Construction Grammar and Cognitive-Functional Linguistics).

Part II, “Modern generative approaches to the study of sentence structure”, is an overview of various contemporary approaches to syntactic structure and syntactic theory. Their contextualization is meant to highlight the main differences between these theories and the more mainstream Chomskyan theories.

Željko Bošković’s contribution, “Principles and Parameters theory and Minimalism” (pp. 95-121), is a brief description of the two most dominant models of generative syntax. As the Minimalist Program builds upon the Government and Binding Theory, or, in other words, the former is the descendant of the latter, the chapter opens with the main assumptions of the Government and Binding Theory, and facets of the Minimalist Program are introduced against this background. The bulk of the chapter presents conceptual and empirical reasons for reconsidering, reformulating, replacing, or, in some cases, eliminating these assumptions or even the technical machinery. The changes under discussion extend to the levels of representation, the last resort nature of movement, government, the copy theory of movement, Bare Phrase Structure and late insertion, the economy principle, the nature of overt versus covert movement, and feature checking.

The next chapter, “Minimalism and Optimality Theory” (pp. 122-161), by Hans Broekhuis and Ellen Woolford, goes one step further and contrasts the Minimalist Program with Optimality Theory. In spite of a lack of consensus among researchers (i.e. some argue that the two approaches are perfectly compatible, but others consider that there is a serious tension between them), the authors emphasize and convincingly demonstrate that the two frameworks are not incompatible but are complementary parts of a more general model of grammar. Contrary to its name, Optimality Theory is shown to be a research program, and it is precisely this resemblance between the two theories that makes it possible to develop a new model, called the hybrid MP + OT model, which incorporates the basic assumptions of both, and hence proves to be superior to the two constituting parts in isolation. To give only one example, the hybrid system can eliminate the need for many devices currently used in the Minimalist Program to capture cross-linguistic differences (i.e. it can eliminate EPP features and postulate EPP constraints). Moreover, this new grammatical system is able to capture language variation in a way Minimalist Program cannot and it can account for apparently optional movements like Object Shift in Scandinavian.

In the chapter entitled “Lexical-Functional Grammar” (pp. 162-201), Peter Sells provides an introduction to a less influential syntactic model. Some of the typical properties of Lexical-Functional Grammar that set it apart from generative grammar are the following: (i) although this model also operates with different levels of representation, which encode different kinds of information, and are not in a one-to-one mapping relation, in this syntactic theory, there are no movements or other transformational operations; (ii) according to this model, a sentence is well-formed if it satisfies the relevant constraints on each level of representation; and (iii) grammatical relations or grammatical functions, which are also organized into a hierarchy, are directly represented. The chapter concentrates mostly on aspects related to the architecture of grammar from the viewpoint of Lexical-Functional Grammar, as well as the basic properties of constituent structure (c-structure), functional structure (f-structure) and argument structure (a-structure), and their interaction.

James P. Blevins and Ivan A. Sag’s “Phrase Structure Grammar” (pp. 202-225) is another outlook on syntactic analysis that shares the general objectives of the generative enterprise but makes rather different assumptions on several central issues. The chapter opens with the origins of phrase structure analysis, and then turns to extended phrase structure systems and Generalized Phrase Structure Grammar. The subsequent developments of this approach to syntactic theory give rise to models such as Head-Driven Phrase Structure Grammar and Sign-Based Construction Grammar. The chapter goes far beyond the mere presentation of these syntactic models, as careful readers can also find details about the similarities and dissimilarities between them.

The last chapter of this section, “Tree Adjoining Grammar” (pp. 226-261), by Robert Frank, addresses the fundamental question of the nature of the basic computations used to construct grammatical representations. The chapter outlines the operations and assumptions of Tree Adjoining Grammar, explores its implications in the domain of long-distance dependencies, and the role it plays in discussions on computational constraints on grammar. More precisely, making use of the derivational operations of substitution and adjoining, this lesser-known syntactic model produces recursive syntax from a set of elementary trees. The section on Tree-Adjoining Grammar derivations reveals some operations common to the ones known from Minimalism, but the differences between the two models are significant. The last section of the chapter is on the role the formalism of this model can play in empirical explanations. The discussion is mostly on displacement and locality, more exactly, adjunct islands, super raising, and *wh*-islands.

The five chapters included in Part III, entitled “Syntactic structures”, present the main building blocks of syntactic structures by offering an overview of the most important lexical and functional categories, and their syntactic projections.

The chapter on “Argument structure and argument structure alternations” (pp. 265-321) is written by Gillian Ramchand. Its aim is to examine the major theoretical results in the semantics of verbal predicate argument relations. The first issue is related to the Lexicon and its role in deciding how much and what kind of information is necessary for the listing of verbal lexical entries. Then, the author talks about thematic roles and thematic hierarchies, and the most influential mapping principles (the Projection Principle and Theta Criterion). A very interesting discussion is the one on linguistic patterns that involve argument alternation (dative, locative, contactive, conative, causative-inchoative alternations, as well as constructional variability). Closely related to this, two sections are devoted to the patterns in argument structure related to the position of Subject and Object. The chapter ends with a presentation of the interaction of case and argument structure, on the one hand, and the relationship between argument structure and the architectural interfaces, on the other hand.

Caroline Heycock’s contribution, “The syntax of predication” (pp. 322-352), proves that there has been a tremendous amount of discussion in the generative literature regarding the syntactic representation of primary and secondary predication. The chapter manages to offer a

bird's-eye view of the most important aspects of predication such as its interpretation in syntax and semantics, evidence for its licensing, the way it is perceived in Government and Binding, and Minimalism, its locus and syntactic representation, the exact categorial status of the predication node (i.e. lexical or functional), the properties of several copular constructions, and the conditions under which a predicate can undergo A-bar movement. If naïve readers have so far considered that predication is an accessible topic, this chapter surely reveals that there is more to predication than the syntactic and semantic relation between a subject and a predicate.

It is not surprising that Norbert Corver's "Lexical categories and (extended) projection" (pp. 353-424) is the largest chapter. This is indeed a very generous topic and a lot has been written on lexical categories. The necessary background is provided by the first sections, which discuss the projection of phrasal structure, and show how phrase structure rules developed into X-bar Theory. Narrowing down the focus of attention, the author deals with the featural characteristics of X-bar structures and discusses a number of phrase structural properties including dominance, precedence, binary branching, multi-dominance, and multiplanar phrase structure. The sections on the Functional Head Hypothesis (Grimshaw 1991, 2005) and more generally on extended projections foreshadow the topic of the following chapter, as they focus on the emergence of some very important functional projections, which all lead to further developments in X-bar Theory. On the one hand, the above hypothesis leads to a conception of phrase structure in which it is the lexical projection (VP) that is embedded within the functional projection (IP and CP), and not vice versa (contrary to the Lexical Head Hypothesis; cf. Grimshaw 1991, 2005). On the other hand, as the principles of X-bar Theory constrain the form of syntactic structures (specifier-head-complement) but do not constrain the content of these categories (i.e. the X-bar schemata can be applied to both lexical and functional categories), with the emergence of functional categories, the newly-formed projections do not violate the spirit of this theory. The most important sections of the chapter are the ones that focus on the functional structure of the extended nominal, adjectival, and adpositional projections.

"The functional structure of the sentence, and cartography" (pp. 425-457), by Luigi Rizzi, is a natural continuation of the ideas introduced in the previous chapter. In order to be able to answer the (seemingly) very easy question "What is the head of the sentence?", the author takes as a point of departure an important development within X-bar Theory concerning the inflectional domain. Based on the observation that in sentences with adverbs and negation finite verbs behave differently from non-finite verbs, a single Infl position proves to be insufficient to account for their non-uniform behaviour. Therefore, inflection (I) should be split (at least) into tense (T) and agreement (Agr). This Split IP Hypothesis (Pollock 1989) famously opens up the inflectional domain (and other domains) for future cross-linguistic explorations. But not only does this hypothesis find an echo in many subsequent proposals, but the newly-decomposed IP is put again under the knife and split into further smaller and smaller parts. Also, the identification of more and more functional categories especially in the complementizer (Rizzi 1997) and adverbial domain (Cinque 1999) leads to the desire to map out the functional structure of natural language sentences, or to draw precise and detailed maps of syntactic configurations. This leads to the birth of Cartography, a research program within the Principles and Parameters framework of syntactic theory.

Artemis Alexiadou's contribution, "Adverbial and adjectival modification" (pp. 458-484), closes this part of the book. First, the chapter takes up questions regarding the lexical status of adjectives and adverbs, and the similarities between these two modifiers. Then, it presents certain distributional and semantic classifications of adjectives and adverbs that have been proposed in the vast literature. The author does not limit herself to a mere enumeration of their typology, but also discusses their properties in view of the intersectivity hypothesis (see Kamp 1975, Kamp and Partee 1995). Next, it discusses a number of proposals concerning the licensing of modifiers: (i)

modifiers can be adjoined to the modified phrase, (ii) they can occupy a head position, or (iii) they can be complements. Finally, some words are said about one influential proposal according to which adverbs and adjectives are specifiers of designated functional projections in the extended verbal and nominal projections, respectively. Naturally, as any approach receives criticism, the last part of the chapter mentions the problems this proposal faces.

Part IV, “Syntactic processes: Their nature, locality, and motivation”, covers core areas of syntactic empirical investigation and it is a detailed presentation of the principal modules of generative syntactic theory.

In “Economy of derivation and representation” (pp. 487-514), Samuel D. Epstein, Hisatsugu Kitahara, Miki Obata and T. Daniel Seely begin by reviewing some of the conceptual and empirical reasons for shifting from the Government and Binding perspective to the minimalist viewpoint. Despite being a very successful theory of grammar, the Government and Binding theory faces some serious problems such as the way the structural relation of government is defined, lack of explanation for some principles and filters (Empty Category Principle and Case Filter), its four-level division of grammatical representation, and the way it explains language variation and parameters. The sections on the principles of methodological economy (economy in derivation and representation) form the basis for the more technical sections on the complexities of some current speculations that have a minimalist flavour.

Binding has long been of interest within generative grammar, so the following chapter, “Syntax, binding, and patterns of anaphora” (pp. 515-576), Ken Safir presents the extremely interesting way we relate the reference of a linguistic expression to the value of a previously mentioned linguistic expression. It first raises the problem of the boundary conditions for the syntax/semantics interface that anaphora questions invoke, it defines terms such as coreference, sloppy reading versus strict reading, bound variable coconstruals, anaphors and obviation, strong crossover versus weak crossover, and insists on the distribution of non-local, non-obligatory anaphora. The discussion on Binding Theory and its three principles casts light on the fact that this theory faces several theoretical and empirical challenges, which all lead to its minimalist reconsideration. Among the families of theories that have been put forth as more explanatory alternatives to Binding Theory, we find predication-based, competition-based, and agreement-based theories, as well as locality in coconstrual-as-movement approaches. The author rounds off the discussion with an illustration of the richness of anaphoric morphology and its consequences for the syntax of anaphora.

In “Raising and control” (pp. 577-606), Maria Polinsky explores the relationship between two closely-related constructions. It is worth underlining here that despite the existence of some common properties of raising and control structures, and their similar syntactic behaviour, the existence of some significant syntactic differences point to the existence of a clear borderline between them (and also between obligatory and non-obligatory control structures). Although current Minimalist views impose some changes on their analysis of raising and control, and there are even tendencies to unify them (or at least bring them closer), with the rethinking of the basics of Government and Binding the main differences do not disappear. And the same can be said about the main approaches to the two structures in Lexical-Functional Grammar, Head-Driven Phrase Structure Grammar and Cognitive Grammar. Before closing the chapter, the author touches upon silent categories in the briefest way.

The purpose of the chapter “Agreement and case” (pp. 607-654), by Mark C. Baker, is to treat case and agreement together, as the two sides of the same coin. After some preliminary considerations on the syntax of agreement, the author sketches the conditions on the relation of Agree. In order to talk about a Specifier-Head Agreement (between an NP in [Spec,TP] and T, or, roughly speaking, between a subject and a finite verb), there are some conditions that must be met, such as the c-command condition, the intervention condition, the activity condition, and the phase

condition. Strange as it may seem, when we look at the languages of the world, we see that there is not only subject and object agreement (with a further distinction between direct object versus indirect object agreement, or definite and indefinite object agreement, etc.), but also agreement on adpositions, and even complementizers. As for agreement within an NP, the author convincingly shows that they are cases of concord. The section devoted to case addresses the problems related to case throughout the history of generative grammar: conditions on case assignment, the way Burzio's generalization (Burzio 1986) leads to the account of little *v*, the relationship between case and agreement, types of case, and the role of case assignment in syntactic derivations.

The closing chapter of this part, "The locality of syntactic dependencies" (pp. 655-697), by Marcel den Dikken and Antje Lahne, approaches the problem of locality, "one of the pivotal issues for any formal theory of grammar" (p. 655), from the perspective of two research questions: (i) How is locality motivated and defined? and (ii) How big are locality domains? Starting from the basic split between the notions of absolute barrier and relative barrier, the authors present, in a chronological order, the major developments in the study of locality, with special interest in locality in the early Chomskyan generative grammar of the 1960s and 1970s (Chomsky 1957, 1965), and in the theory of Barriers of the 1980s (Chomsky 1986). With this short historical background in mind, they discuss subject/object asymmetries, and Rizzi's (1990) Relativized Minimality, and return to early minimalist approaches to locality by discussing the Minimal Link Condition (Chomsky 1995). This part of the chapter closes with the minimalist, derivation-by-phase model of locality. In order to be able to answer the second question, the authors discuss some empirical pieces of evidence for the existence of locality domains (i.e. intermediate landing sites for successive-cyclic movements). The concluding section summarizes the types of locality.

Part V, "Syntax and the internal interfaces", is an investigation of the interfaces of syntax with other domains of linguistic inquiry.

In "Ellipsis phenomena" (pp. 701-745), Jeroen van Craenenbroeck and Jason Merchant focus on three types of deletions, and their main properties and features are presented from the perspective of two major issues concerning the condition(s) ensuring recoverability of deletion and ellipsis licensing. What we learn about predicate ellipsis is that it encompasses a large variety of ellipsis phenomena, their basic features are best discussed from the perspective of agreement and movement, their licensing contexts constitute a fairly diversified group, there are four types of ellipsis-antecedent mismatches, and one and the same head may or may not license ellipsis in different languages. The section on clausal ellipsis uncovers the main subtypes of this ellipsis and the similarities between them, presents the evidence for a movement+deletion-analysis of clausal ellipsis, shows that certain types of mismatches are common with predicate ellipsis but others are specific to clausal ellipsis, and shows that we can talk about a *wh*/sluicing correlation. Finally, nominal ellipsis is illustrated mostly with examples from languages other than English. There seems to be an interesting generalization on the relation between gender and ellipsis, and much of the discussion is on the role of agreement on elements outside the ellipsis site.

Karen Zagana's chapter is entitled "Tense, aspect, and modality" (pp. 746-792). It is the close connection between tense, aspect and modality, or rather the structural configuration in which they appear that allows for their unified treatment. Separate sections are dedicated to each of these three functional categories. The first section begins with an overview of the two semantic approaches to tense (the tense logic approach and the referential theory). Making use of the fine structure of the left periphery (Rizzi 1997), and functional categories that express deixis (DeixisP), tense (TP), illocutionary force (ForceP) and finiteness (FinP), Zagana discusses the relevant features of these categories and sketches both how they are encoded in clause structure and how they derive properties of tense in simple main clauses and embedded clauses. As for the section on aspect, the discussion considers how grammatical aspect (and, consequently, AspP) can be given a phase-based analysis and it discusses issues related to the analysis of perfect tenses. Last but not

least, the final section captures the distinctions in the interpretation of epistemic and deontic modals in syntactic terms by analyzing them as grammatical formatives merged in the functional structure of the CP-TP phase. The chapter closes with an analysis of Spanish subjunctive mood and subjunctive clauses.

There may be a general consensus that negation is an independent syntactic category heading its own maximal projection (NegP), but it is not hard to find proposals or approaches where negation is in some non-head position (e.g. in specifier or adjunction position), or different negative elements (e.g. French *ne* and *pas*) are in different X-bar theoretic positions. Be that as it may, the fact remains that things are not that straightforward if we have a look at the form or position of negative elements, or the way negation is expressed cross-linguistically. In his contribution, “Negation and negative polarity” (pp. 793-826), Hedde Zeijlstra gives an excellent summary of the most important findings and insights gained in the study of the syntax of negation and polarity. In the section on the syntax of negative markers, the author sets the stage for further (syntactic) considerations on negation by making a distinction between sentential and constituent negation, describing the range of variation attested with respect to the expression of sentential negation, and dealing with the syntactic status and position(s) of negative markers. Interested readers may also find in this chapter details on the syntax and semantics of negative and positive polarity items, and on negative concord.

The chapter entitled “The syntax of scope and quantification” (pp. 827-859), by Veneeta Dayal, gives the readers a clear historical context for the subject matter and documents major influential strands of research. It concentrates on the most important milestones in the history of our understanding of scope and scope interaction. In order to achieve this, it goes back to Montague’s seminal paper (Montague 1974). Focusing primarily on the syntactic literature but without neglecting semantic aspects either, the author first discusses quantifier scope and the syntax of scope as applied to quantified NPs and *wh* expressions. This section reveals that there are several syntactic theories of quantifier scope and what they share is the notion of operator–variable chains of the type seen in semantic theories (i.e. predicate logic). But the author draws the readers’ attention to the fact that “there are no semantic imperatives forcing the creation of operator–variable chains and semantically viable alternatives are available in the literature” (p. 846). Moreover, she addresses the serious syntactic and semantic challenges posed by those cases where the quantifier and the associated quantified phrase appear at a distance from each other (the phenomena of quantifier split and quantifier float). Finally, some words are said about *wh*-scope marking and *wh*-copy constructions.

The chapter that closes this part of the handbook is “Syntax, information structure, and prosody” (pp. 860-895), by Daniel Büring. As suggested by the title, it is concerned with the relationship between syntactic structure, information structure, and prosodic structure. It starts with syntax-prosody interface and how prosody influences syntax. It defines and exemplifies the most important terms (prominence, pitch accent, stress, boundary tones, downstep, metrical structure, intonational structure, head, etc.), and illustrates some constraints and principles in order to make sure that the readers understand them before the discussion gets more technical on how prosodic phrasing corresponds to syntactic phrases, or on the basic mapping from narrow syntax to prosody. Next, the author reviews some cases with prosodically motivated variations in word and constituent order. The two cases under discussion are Heavy NP Shift and prosodic extraposition in (embedded) relative clauses. Then, the attention is turned to meaning-related aspects of prosody and the discussion is limited to information structure, more precisely, the marking of focus and its complements (background or given). The last section discusses how information structure influences syntax. In a nutshell, the conclusion drawn by the author is that “there are many phenomena that jibe well with prosody-based approaches [...] the multiplicity of focus positions, the coexistence of movement into focus positions [...] and away from focus positions [...] and the coexistence of positional and prosodic marking strategies in the same language” (p. 890).

Part VI, "Syntax and the external interfaces", is a discussion of linguistic variation.

In "Microsyntactic variation" (pp. 899-926), Sjef Barbiers talks about syntactic variation more generally and the changing role of dialects in generative grammar more specifically. Whereas in the 1980s it is hard to find generative studies on dialects, the years beginning with 1990 witness the emergence of some serious studies on (mostly European) dialects; cf. Haegeman (1992), Henry (1995), Poletto (2000), among others. The author leads his readers through variation within three generative models (Transformational Generative Grammar, Principles and Parameters, and the Minimalist Program), and shows that dialect research can provide interesting answers to questions on the relation of V-movement and rich inflection, for instance. Zooming in on microsyntactic variation, the remainder of the chapter discusses two case studies: finite verb placement and complementizer agreement, and word order variation in three-verb-cluster constructions, both in Dutch dialects. As the syntax of dialects raises a number of research issues that are not sufficiently addressed in the generative literature, these case studies emphasize, among others, the importance of study on dialectal variation.

"Parameters: The pluses and the minuses" (pp. 927-970), by Rosalind Thornton and Stephen Crain, is largest chapter of this part of the handbook. It is related to the previous chapter as most language variation is explained by innate parameters. The chapter first reviews several models of parameters and parameter setting, starting from the early conception of parameters and how they were initially stated (Chomsky 1981). The main point here is the degree to which parameters are taken to be part of the human faculty for language or involve third factor effects. Due to some theoretical and empirical concerns raised for the early model, the authors introduce and discuss some current conceptions of parameters as well, such as Baker (2001, 2005) and Lightfoot (2006). After discussing how and when parameters are set, and whether they can be misset or not, the authors compare Chomsky's (1981) classic model of parameters to five recent models of parameters: the Very Early Parameter Setting model, the Hierarchical Acquisition model, the Underspecification model, the PF-Constrained model, and the Variational model. The chapter closes with a description of new directions and alternatives to parameters advanced both inside and outside the generative framework.

The closing chapter of the handbook, "Syntax and the brain" (pp. 971-1005), is written by Jon Sprouse and Ellen F. Lau. In my opinion, there is no better way to close such a generative handbook than with a few pages on general questions about generative linguistic theory. As the scope of this chapter transcends the individual areas of syntactic investigation addressed in the previous chapters, it has some significance beyond itself. To put it briefly, this is a review chapter on psycho- or neurolinguistics approach to sentence processing. It begins with the three levels of description (the computational level, the algorithmic level, and the implementational level), necessary for a complete description of any information-processing device, and their interaction. As a complete cognitive neuro-science of syntactic processing requires several types of studies, the three separate sections are devoted to mentalistic commitments of syntactic theories, electrophysiological responses, and hemodynamic responses, respectively. The chapter proves to be extremely fascinating and I am sure that anyone interested in neurolinguistics can take this chapter as a starting point for studies or research in this domain.

Edited by a leading expert and scholar, the present volume includes contributions from key academics from around the world, and manages to present a comprehensive survey of the field of generative syntactic research in all its variety. In the general evaluation of the volume, we should not lose sight of the fact that this handbook is meant to be a compass that shows its readers where generative syntax and its interfaces with other components of the human language system stand. Consequently, the book merely sums up the current state of understanding certain well-defined topics within generative syntax, it identifies researchers, it gives the readers a clear (mostly historical) context for the subject matter by summarizing and documenting the most influential

strands of research, and it discusses works within the area previously published by others. The authors do not (and cannot) commit themselves to doing justice to all the works on the topic they discuss, they do not report new experimental results, and they do not identify gaps in the research.

As for the chapters, most (if not all) of them are free-standing and they can be used independently of one another, with cross-references to related phenomena discussed in other chapters making the book a coherent whole. The references are not presented after the last section of the individual chapters but they are collected at the end of the handbook in the general bibliography.

If there were one negative aspect, that would be the following: although the editor draws the readers' attention to the fact that "the book is not intended as a tabula rasa introduction to generative syntax" and that "basic knowledge of generative linguistics is presupposed" (p. 3), in some cases it is difficult to follow the material if the chapter has no introduction and/or conclusion, and especially if we have an *in medias res* beginning with no information about the structure of the chapter. Needless to say, this remark does not reduce by any means the real value and importance of the handbook.

All in all, the volume is a useful resource for postgraduate students, linguists, generative grammarians or syntacticians, but there is no doubt that some of its material may also be found interesting and helpful by researchers in related fields of inquiry.

References

- Baker, M. C. 2001. *The Atoms of Language: The Mind's Hidden Rules of Grammar*. New York: Basic Books.
- Baker, M. C. 2005. Mapping the terrain of language acquisition. *Language Learning and Development* 1: 93-129.
- Burzio, L. 1986. *Italian Syntax: A Government-Binding Approach*. Dordrecht: D. Reidel.
- Chomsky, N. 1957. *Syntactic Structures*. The Hague: Mouton de Gruyter.
- Chomsky, N. 1965. *Aspects of the Theory of Syntax*. Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press.
- Chomsky, N. 1981. *Lectures on Government and Binding*. Dordrecht: Foris.
- Chomsky, N. 1986. *Barriers*. Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press.
- Chomsky, N. 1995. *The Minimalist Program*. Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press.
- Cinque, G. 1999. *Adverbs and Functional Heads: A Cross-Linguistic Perspective*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Grimshaw, J. 1991. Extended projection. Ms, Brandeis University, Waltham, MA.
- Grimshaw, J. 2005. *Words and Structure*. Stanford, CA: CSLI Publications.
- Haegeman, L. 1992. *Theory and Description in Generative Grammar: A Case Study in West-Flemish*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Henry, A. 1995. *Belfast English and Standard English: Dialect Variation and Parameter Setting*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Kamp, H. 1975. Two theories about adjectives. In E. Keenan (ed.), *Formal Semantics of Natural Language*, 123-155. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Kamp, H., Partee, B. H. 1995. Prototype theory and compositionality. *Cognition* 57: 121-191.
- Lightfoot, D. 2006. *How New Languages Emerge*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Montague, R. 1974. *Formal Philosophy: Selected Papers of Richard Montague*, In R. H. Thomason (ed.). New Haven, CT: Yale University Press.
- Poletto, C. 2000. *The Higher Functional Field: Evidence from Northern Italian Dialects*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Pollock, J.-Y. 1989. Verb movement, Universal Grammar, and the structure of IP. *Linguistic Inquiry* 20: 365-424.
- Rizzi, L. 1990. *Relativized Minimality*. Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press.
- Rizzi, L. 1997. The Fine Structure of the Left Periphery. In L. Haegeman (ed.), *Elements of Grammar: Handbook in Generative Syntax*, 281-337. Dordrecht: Kluwer Academic Publishers.

Tiparul s-a executat sub c-da nr. 3843/2015
la Tipografia Editurii Universității din București