

慶應言語学コロキウム

Explaining Linguistic Variation in Minimalism – A Third-Factor Underspecification Approach –

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日時: 5月9日(土) 13:00-18:30

会場: 慶應義塾大学三田キャンパス東館ホール(8階)

参加費無料 申込不要 (使用言語: 日本語)

The goals of this talk are [1] to provide a selective (historical) review of several approaches to explaining linguistic variation in generative grammar, [2] to consider how traditional approaches are (in)compatible with the minimalist perspective in Chomsky (2005), and [3] to present an alternative approach by appeal to third factor computational efficiency.

In Chomsky (1981), it was postulated that parameters are placed within UG principles. UG is composed of finite principles and parametric values are set through exposure to primary linguistic data. By this assumption, UG becomes more restrictive than previous approaches assuming construction-specific/language-specific transformational rules and phrase structure. Chomsky (2005) further pushes this line of argument and suggests that the first factor (i.e. UG) must be as simple and empty as possible. In this talk, I demonstrate that (at least) some of the parameters can be eliminated from the narrow syntax and also the third factor can be a locus of linguistic variation, namely rule-ordering underspecification, as proposed in Obata, Epstein and Baptista (2015) and Obata and Epstein (to appear). (cf. Richards 2008, Boeckx 2011)

Aspects of this talk are based on joint work with Samuel Epstein (University of Michigan) and Marlyse Baptista (University of Michigan).

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