Labeling Algorithm and Beyond

Chomsky (2013, 2015) claims that a syntactic object (SO) must have a label. It is claimed in two talks that unlabeled SOs can exist as long as they are interpretable, and that they have an effect on externalization.

2017年1月28日（土）13:00-18:30
Unlabeled Syntactic Objects and Sideward Movement
講師：高野 祐二氏（金城学院大学文学部教授）

In this talk, I will argue for unlabeled syntactic objects (SOs) and sideward movement. I will begin by discussing Chomsky’s (2013, 2015) views on Merge, labeling, and movement, focusing particularly on his claim that all SOs need labels as well as on his skepticism about sideward movement. I will argue against these views on the basis of previously unnoticed properties of multiple clefts (clefts with multiple foci) in Japanese. I will show that those properties fall into place under an analysis that relies crucially on the idea that multiple foci form an unlabeled SO and that such unlabeled SOs are formed in the course of a derivation by a new form of sideward movement carried out by (external) Merge. I therefore claim that an SO can be unlabeled if it does not cause problems for interpretation and that UG should permit sideward movement. In the rest of the talk, I will consider consequences of this proposal for related issues.

2017年1月29日（日）13:00-18:30
Labels and Interpretation in the Processes of Externalization
講師：土橋 善仁氏（新潟大学人文学部准教授）

The past two decades have seen some remarkable developments in the study of syntax-phonology interface, with the introduction of theoretical notions, such as multiple spell-out, phases, and label-free phrase structure. Researchers have come to mores less the same conclusion, that a spell-out domain (SOD) equals a phonological phrase (PhP). In this talk, I will first review such developments, showing how those theoretical devices have overcome some conceptual problems lurking behind traditional approaches. I will then point out that the thesis concluding that SOD=PhP is not without a problem: there is no a priori reason why SOD should correspond to a specific prosodic domain PhP, even though there are some other prosodic domains, such as intonational phrase or prosodic word. I will suggest that each prosodic domain can find its own ground in terms of interpretability in the processes of externalization. Specifically, I will propose a principle of asymmetry in interpretability, which states that syntactically inert elements (e.g., an unlabelable root R, SOD as in Phase Impenetrability Condition, and/or intermediate “projection,” etc.) are actually interpreted as prosodic domains in the processes of externalization.

※The audience is expected to be familiar with the derivational system of Labeling Algorithm (Chomsky 2013, 2015).