
CHAPTER 1 NOTES

The chapter as written is designed for students who are already familiar with basic concepts of transformational grammar. Concepts like constituent structure, movement, etc., are assumed and not explained. Anyone using the book with students who do not have the requisite background will have to supplement the material in this chapter.

The idea behind this chapter is to introduce LFG on an informal conceptual basis. The closest the chapter comes to formalism is in the introduction of the notation for f-structure, and some basic notions of f-structure. Given the centrality of f-structure to LFG, this cannot be delayed; however, even this formalism is introduced largely impressionistically and informally. The reason for this low-key approach is that students familiar with GB and/or MP are not likely to be accustomed to a full-blown mathematical formalism of the kind LFG has. (This of course would not be true for students learning LFG with a background in HPSG.)

The theory fortunately has a name which highlights the ways in which it differs from GB/MP. The chapter, after an overall introduction, goes through each part of the name and spells out the concepts behind it. The chart on the next page may be useful as a handout, slide, or simply something to write on the blackboard. (The two pages after that outline the history of generative syntax in general and LFG in particular graphically.)

As for the introduction of f-structure, the chapter introduces the student to the basic attribute-value nature of f-structure. It surveys the most important attributes found in an f-structure. It should be noted that lexical forms in this chapter are introduced without the standard functional designator notation (parentheses and up-arrows). It is not appropriate to introduce that notation until after the c-structure–f-structure mapping has been introduced and the role of the $\uparrow$ and $\downarrow$ metavariables explained. To introduce it here would be confusing. The formalism of f-structure is extended in the end-of-chapter exercises, where the use of sets as the value of the attribute ADJ is introduced. The exercises, and in particular exercise 2, should be considered an integral part of the chapter.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Grammar</strong></th>
<th><strong>Functional</strong></th>
<th><strong>Lexical</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• “grammar” = “generative grammar”</td>
<td>• autonomous representation of grammatical functions</td>
<td>• obeys the Lexical Integrity Principle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• more realistic approach to universals</td>
<td>• grammatical functions are feature-like</td>
<td>• non-transformational/non-derivational</td>
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<td>• higher psychological and computational plausibility makes it a better approach</td>
<td>• f-structure</td>
<td>• psychologically/computationally more plausible locally</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• unification-based</td>
<td>• treats syntactic phenomena locally</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• typologically more plausible</td>
<td>• monotonic</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• parallel architecture</td>
<td>• constraint-based</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• grammars are formalized, and thus testable</td>
<td>• one level of constituent structure: c-structure</td>
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Generative Grammar
Some History

1970

LFG
- developed in mid-to-late 70s

G&B
- basic concepts developed

1980

GPSG
Generalized Phrase Structure Grammar
- Gazdar, Klein, Pullum and Sag 1984

Relational Grammar
- Perlmutter 1983

evolved into

1990

HPSG
Head-driven Phrase Structure Grammar
- Pollard and Sag 1994
- Sag and Wasow 1999

2000

Contributed by Nina Sværke Hansen
LFG
A short history

1970

Joan BRESNAN
- syntactician
- former student of Chomsky's

↓

developed

↓

1975

Realistic Transformational Grammar
- Bresnan 1978

↓

realised they were pushing in similar directions

↓

and LFG was born in mid-to-late 70s

1980

Ronald M. KAPLAN
- computational linguist
- psycholinguist

↓

worked on

↓

ATN
Augmented Transition Network
- Kaplan 1972

Contributed by Nina Sværke Hansen