

Yehuda N. Falk (2001) *Lexical-Functional Grammar: An Introduction to Parallel Constraint-Based Syntax*. Stanford, Calif.:CSLI Publications.

CHAPTER 2 NOTES

This chapter eases the student into formal LFG by discussing something (s)he is already familiar with: c-structure. As with the previous chapter, students without previous background in transformational syntax will require supplementary materials.

The chapter opens by contrasting the role that c-structure plays in LFG, which is more limited than its role in constituent-structure-centric theories, where all syntactic properties are expressed in constituent structure. This difference is embodied in Economy of Expression, taken over almost verbatim from Bresnan (2001). This eliminates many (but not necessarily all) functional categories and empty elements.

The chapter then continues with an outline of the basics of \bar{X} theory: category features (inconclusive, but the students should be aware of the concept), lexical categories, and functional categories. The difference between the LFG approach to functional categories and the GB/MP approach should be stressed.

Much of the chapter deals with endocentricity/exocentricity issues, as this is one of the main differences between LFG's theory of c-structure and GB/MP's. It is useful to distinguish between two different senses of endocentricity in GB: token endocentricity (each phrase has a head), and type endocentricity (every "phrasal" category is projected from a word-level category and has an \bar{X} structure). The textbook deals with these separately (with a discussion of phrase structure rules intervening). As for token endocentricity, headless CPs are discussed, with the conclusion that f-structural considerations license headlessness. The end-of-chapter exercises cover a different case of headless category (the "head movement" type, as in V-to-I movement).

This chapter (and the book in general) formalizes c-structure rules in the form of ID and LP rules rather than phrase structure rules. While this is not standard in LFG, it is used in some of the literature, and is descriptively superior.