

will be of use as well to those who seek a broader understanding of the phenomenon through exposure to contributions of researchers whose perspectives differ from their own.

Susumu Kuno, *Functional syntax. Anaphora, discourse and empathy*. Chicago/London: The University of Chicago Press, 1987. viii + 320 pp. \$13.95 (cloth: \$49.00).

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A great many linguists and philosophers concerned with language may have interpreted Chomsky's statement that in his research "the focus of attention was shifted from 'language' to 'grammar'" (Chomsky (1981:4)) to mean that Chomsky is no longer interested in 'language' or 'languages' as the empirical basis and point of reference for any linguistic description, his focus of attention having shifted from dealing with the empirical morass to the heights of grammatical theory, where he is allowed to theorize about how to overcome any contradiction within his theory. These linguists and philosophers may then have turned their backs on the theory of generative grammar in frustration.

However, it is a trivial fact that great ideas, once formulated, develop a life of their own. Thus, any linguist who still starts linguistic research by considering the grammaticality, the acceptability and well-formedness of isolated sentences, and who attempts to detect the conditions and principles that control the usage of such sentences, must not turn her/his back on *the* paradigm and its ideas in principle, even if s/he has done so to the later work of the master of generative grammar. There are a great many linguists whose research excludes any of such interpretations (or misunderstandings?) as the one presented above.

One of these scholars who realized by analyzing certain syntactic problems that principles of syntax are not independent, and that more general cognitive mechanisms must be taken into account in explaining syntactic phenomena is Susumu Kuno.

His book *Functional syntax* presents his attempt to synthesize the results of research in functional syntax he has been carrying out for the past ten years. Although the book is heavily based on previously published papers, it is by no means a compilation of these papers. Rather it presents an original "account

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of pronouns, reflexives, and many other linguistic phenomena in the framework of functional syntax" examining – as already indicated by the figure of two Necker cubes on the cover – "these phenomena from a multitude of angles", and paying "full attention to the communicative functions that a given linguistic phenomenon performs", seeking "to explain the usage of the phenomenon on the basis of these functions" (p. 1).

In the introduction K. convincingly illustrates the "kind of mistaken generalizations that pure syntactic approaches often make by using three linguistic phenomena" (p. 2), namely interpretation of coordinate structure in a sentence and extraction from picture nouns with and without possessive noun phrases. He shows how functional syntacticians would analyze these phenomena taking into consideration sets of facts that are ignored by 'pure' syntacticians. K. classifies these sets of facts as belonging to the area of "perceptual strategies" and to the area of the "flow of information in sentences in discourse" (pp. 29 f.). However, there are two more areas in which functional approaches have been particularly fruitful in linguistic analyses, namely the areas K. calls 'direct discourse perspective' and 'empathy perspective'. It is with these two perspectives – clearly defined in the introduction – that K. primarily deals, demonstrating how they can account for various phenomena including pronouns and reflexives in English; moreover, K. also occasionally refers to corresponding phenomena in other languages (Latin, Greek, Japanese, Turkish, Korean, Icelandic, Italian, Navajo, Amharic, Coptic, Ewe, Russian). The author emphasizes repeatedly that although he assumes "in this book, a model of grammar that is close to the theory represented in Chomsky's *Aspects* ..., the generalizations ... presented ... are of the kind that need to be incorporated into any theory of grammar ... and ... that the generalizations are independent of the particular framework that one may be working in..." (p. 30; see also e.g. pp. 1, 118, 150, etc.).

After these introductory remarks, the second chapter on 'Pronouns and reflexives (1)' first reviews the unacceptable accounts of pronominalization proposed by Ross and Langacker, Lakoff, Postal, Jackendoff, Lasnik, Reinhart, the 'First phase of Trace theory', and by Chomsky's 'Government and Binding' (GB) theory, and then shows how functional syntax accounts for problems of the relation between reflexivization and pronominalization. A review like this cannot, of course, mirror and summarize the complex and detailed analyses and arguments presented by K. Thus, for the purposes pursued here, it must suffice to state that K. elegantly resolves rule ordering paradoxes and that the proposals made in this chapter constitute a major revision to GB theory. K. himself summarizes the quintessence of his arguments and analyses presented in this chapter as follows: "In chapter 2. I showed that reflexives with clause-mate antecedents require that their referents be targets of the actions or mental states represented by the verb-phrase" (p. 153).

Chapter 3, entitled 'Direct discourse perspective', discusses noun phrases (NPs) in complement clauses of logophoric verbs. The term 'logophoric' is taken as meaning "pertaining to the speaker/hearer" (p. 108). Kuno shows that these NPs "require special treatments in determining coreference or disjoint reference and that there are certain syntactic patterns which can appear only in logophoric complements" (p. 150). The examples – not only (though mainly) drawn from English, but also from other languages (see section 3.14) – and the respective analyses show quite strikingly the advantages the 'direct discourse perspective' offers to a theory of grammar. Although K. emphasizes that there are still some important open questions with respect to the 'logophoric rule' proposed in this chapter, it is easy for any reader who is willing to follow the arguments of 'Functional syntax' theory and its basic principles to accept "... that any theory of grammar would require some version of the direct discourse perspective described here" (p. 150).

In chapter 4, 'Pronouns and reflexives (2)', K. elaborates on the "semantic- and discourse-based nature of the constraints on the use of reflexive pronouns" (p. 153) and develops a (quantitative) model that explores the "relative strength of potential controllers for reflexivization" (p. 77). Here the discussion of the complex phenomenon of picture noun reflexivization is especially meritorious, because K. clearly demonstrates that this phenomenon is controlled by the interaction of many syntactic and semantic conditions. He presents seven factors that condition the picture noun reflexivization in detail. On the basis of these constraints he develops a quantitative model for picture noun reflexivization "to see how different factors interact with each other to produce acceptability judgements" (p. 183). I cannot discuss this complex and fascinating model in detail here; however, I want to comment at least on one aspect of this model. Kuno assigns so-called "trigger-weights to the items in the hierarchies that have been defined by the constraints" (p. 183). Though he emphasizes that these 'trigger-weights' "have been arbitrarily chosen" (p. 191), I find it hard to believe this: These 'arbitrarily chosen weights' make the model work too nicely and smoothly, indeed. The chapter ends with a demonstration of how this model can predict the acceptability status of picture noun reflexives and pronominals involving relative clauses. However, here – at the latest – a critical reader misses at least a hint to the problem of how to define the concept and the term 'acceptability' (for a critical discussion of this problem see e.g. Greenbaum (1976), Levelt (1972)).

Chapter 5 attempts to answer the question "why so many different factors interact with picture noun reflexivization" by showing "that many of the conditions are derivable from a higher-order generalization to the effect that picture noun reflexives are 'point of view' expressions that are best when they are used with the speaker taking the 'camera angle' of the referents of the reflexives" (p. 202). K. calls this approach the 'empathy perspective'. He

presents a "set of principles, all pertaining to camera angles, or the position of the speaker vis-à-vis the event/state that he describes in the sentence, which must be observed in sentence production" (p. 245). He discusses these principles referring to the respective linguistic phenomena in English, Japanese, and some other languages.

The conclusions, drawn in chapter 6, emphasize among other things that "syntactic and nonsyntactic factors interact, and that both bear on the acceptability of certain structures" (p. 271). K. clearly states that the nonsyntactic perspectives he discussed in detail, namely the 'direct discourse perspective' and the 'empathy perspective', are just two of many functional perspectives that syntacticians must take into account in their research, especially when they attempt to make syntactic generalizations.

The notes to the chapters 1-5 contain valuable information for the interested reader and mirror all over again the depths of the author's penetrating linguistic analyses. The index that follows the bibliography is clear and very helpful. To the reader's pleasure, the number of typographical errors is very small indeed.

To sum up, Kuno's book offers fascinating explanations of major syntactic processes in language and is an important contribution to the discussion of theoretical issues in linguistics. Kuno's arguments are so sound that the book will at least achieve the rather modest goal explicitly formulated by the author (p. 272), namely to "succeed in making some ... syntacticians more cautious and less liable to make blind syntactic generalizations".

References

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