

ARISTOTLE UNIVERSITY OF
THESSALONIKI
SCHOOL OF ENGLISH
Department of Theoretical & Applied
Linguistics
Dr M. Dimitrakopoulou

Ling 2-410
COMPARATIVE SYNTAX

Winter Semester 2018-19
Wednesday 16.00-18.30 / Room 417

Consultation (308Γ): Mon 12.30-14.30; Thurs 13.30-15.30
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Ling2-410

COMPARATIVE SYNTAX

This is an advanced linguistics course, which presupposes knowledge of both Greek and English and aims at the close study of specific morphosyntactic properties of the two languages. At the theoretical level, a number of questions will be raised as regards the descriptive and explanatory adequacy of syntactic theories (typology vs parameterization in the framework of Minimalism). Discussion will include phenomena such as the notion of ‘subject’; word order; finiteness and definiteness in the NP all of which have been shown to cause learnability problems in second language (L2) acquisition.

The aim of the course is to familiarize students with

- those syntactic theories that adequately describe and explain cross-linguistic variation
- provide them with the tools necessary for the adequate description of actual linguistic data (both from native speakers and L2 learners)

Students will be assessed through written exams.

COURSE OUTLINE

1. *Frameworks of linguistic comparability*
 - 1.1 Language Universals
 - 1.2 Linguistic Typology
 - 1.3 Parameters of Linguistic Variation
2. *Typological characteristics of English and Modern Greek*
 - 2.1 Morphology
 - 2.2 Syntax
3. *Focus on*
 - 3.1 The ‘subject’
 - 3.2 Word-order differences
 - 3.3 Finiteness
 - 3.4 Complement clauses
 - 3.5 Definiteness and the noun phrase

SUGGESTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- ADGER, D. 2003. *Core Syntax: a Minimalist Approach*. Oxford University Press.
- COMRIE, B. 1989. *Language Universals and Linguistic Typology: Syntax and Morphology*. 2nd Edition. Oxford: Basil Blackwell.
- CULICOVER, P. W. 1997. *Principles and Parameters: An Introduction to Syntactic Theory*. Oxford University Press.
- HAEGEMAN, L. (ed.). 1997a. *Elements of Grammar: Handbook of Generative Syntax*. Dordrecht: Kluwer Academic Publishers.
- HAEGEMAN, L. (ed.). 1997b. *The New Comparative Syntax*. London & New York: Longman.
- HASPELMATH, M., M. S. DRYER, D. GIL, & B. COMRIE (with the collaboration of H.-J. Bibiko, H. Jung, and C. Schmidt). 2005. *The World Atlas of Language Structures*. Oxford University Press. AVAILABLE ONLINE at: <<http://wals.info/>>.
- HOLTON, D., P. MACKRIDGE & I. PHILIPPAKI-WARBURTON. 1997. *Greek: A Comprehensive Grammar of the Modern Language*. London: Routledge.
- JOSEPH, B. D. & I. PHILIPPAKI-WARBURTON. 1987. *Modern Greek*. London: Croom Helm.
- NEWMAYER, F. J. 2005. *Possible and Probable Languages: A Generative Perspective on Linguistic Typology*. Oxford University Press.
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