

## 13 Conclusion

Coordination and ellipsis represent two major empirical domains that have been extensively investigated in the literature of generative grammar. As should be clear by now, the complex and recalcitrant issues that are abundant in these two empirical domains constitute the touchstone for any adequate theory of the syntax-semantics interface of natural language. We hope to have convinced the reader through the detailed analyses of some of the major phenomena in these respective empirical domains that the explicit and flexible syntax-semantics interface of Hybrid TLCG offers an attractive alternative to the currently dominant phrase structure–based architecture of grammar (in the broader sense encompassing both transformational and nontransformational approaches).

The conceptual shift tied to this alternative perspective is to take the notion of “proof” (as opposed to hierarchical constituent structure) as the central guiding principle underlying the combinatoric component of syntax. At first sight, this may appear to be a rather radical move, entailing an (almost) wholesale abandonment of one of the most fundamental notions of contemporary syntactic theory. One of the points we tried to make in the present monograph is that the distance between the familiar syntactic theories and the logic-based approach we have argued for is not as large as it may initially appear, and the latter can be seen as a proper extension of (at least the core component of) the former, for the following two reasons.

First, there are certain phenomena that receive straightforward analyses only by taking the logic-based approach, such as the Gapping/auxiliary scope interaction and the interactions between various scopal expressions and nonconstituent coordination phenomena. Second, as we have noted in several places throughout the monograph, the logic-based approach often enables us to synthesize various analytic ideas that have been proposed separately whose connection to each other has so far been almost entirely overlooked in the literature. This includes the local and nonlocal analyses of respective predication, the derivability relation between the higher-order and lower-order entries of modal auxiliaries, and the anaphora-based analysis of ellipsis that is

sensitive to (certain types of) syntactic information. In this sense, nothing important (at least nothing fundamentally important as a primitive “building block” for a theory of syntax) is lost by giving up the notion of phrase structural constituency. This is unsurprising, since from the logic-based perspective, the traditional architecture taking phrase structural constituency as a primitive notion is, in a sense, just an impoverished proof system that has only *modus ponens* (and no hypothetical reasoning) as a deductive rule. Thus, it is only natural that hidden similarities of related ideas become fully explicit by recasting them in a fully general system.

We thus hope to have convinced the reader that the logic-based architecture embodied in Hybrid TLCG (and TLCG more generally) offers an interesting alternative perspective on the basic architecture of a formal theory of natural language syntax and semantics. But even limiting our attention to English, the empirical domains we have focused on in the present monograph by no means exhaust the entire domain of study in syntactic research, and it is important to keep in mind that the success of our approach should ultimately be evaluated against a much wider range of empirical facts than we have been able to cover in the present monograph. Some of the major issues we have left out include the following:

- a detailed investigation of extraction phenomena, in particular, the treatment of multiple-gap phenomena (including “parasitic gaps” and ATB extraction)
- partially productive patterns in syntax that are not easily lexicalizable, such as phrasal idioms and “constructions” (Boas and Sag 2012; Goldberg 1995)
- aspects of compositional semantics in which the notion of inference (in the broader sense) plays a central role, such as anaphora and “projective content” (including pre-supposition projection) (Tonhauser et al. 2013)

These are all empirical domains that have been actively investigated in the current literature, and for this reason, we believe that exploring them in detail in future study in our approach, in comparison with alternative proposals in competing approaches, will shed further light on the nature of syntactic theory as well as on the empirical phenomena themselves.

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# Type-Logical Syntax

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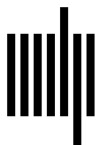
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