

6 Conclusion

In the preceding chapters, after presenting the possible word orders of a number of nominal subprojections, and one crucial restriction on the Head of a projection in building a restrictive theory of linearization for the nominal and the verbal extended projections, I have discussed four generalizations that any theory of linearization should try to account for that the physics of speech does not help us understand: (i) the systematic absence of certain orders, (ii) the left-right asymmetry found in every domain, (iii) the word order asymmetry falling under the FOFC, and (iv) the increasing rarity of certain attested orders. While it is not be excluded that a linearization algorithm distinct from the LCA may perhaps be conceived that can account for these generalizations, I suggested that the LCA may provide a unified answer to all of them once we admit the existence of meaningless movement and the restriction that just the Head of each (sub)projection can move (with pied piping of the two available types, *whose-pictures* and *pictures-of-whom*, or without pied piping).

Needless to say, the above-mentioned considerations have only scratched the surface of the complex system underlying word order variation, trying to impose additional restrictions on how hierarchical structures are built before they map to linear order. For this program to make progress, more needs to be learned

about the fine structure of the subprojections of the clause and of its phrases and about the word orders characterizing each language, which ideally involve just different options among the movement possibilities made available by UG.

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Toward a Restrictive Theory

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