

Derivational vs. Nonderivational Linguistic Models in the 20th and 21st Centuries

Dominant in the linguistics of the 20th century has undoubtedly been the research framework established by Noam Chomsky and known in its successive stages as the „standard“ theory, the „extended standard“ theory, the „revised extended standard“ theory, the „government-binding“ theory (GB, or the „principles-and-parameters“ approach), and the „minimalism program“. That research framework has been widely accepted as a standard in recent years, especially among an extensive community of syntacticians in the United States and much of continental western Europe, including Greece. But it has also motivated the existence of competing frameworks, like Kaplan and Bresnan’s LFG (Lexical Functional Grammar) and Pollard and Sag’s HPSG (Head-Driven Phrase Structure Grammar).

This paper discusses the ontological presuppositions and the formal mechanisms of all the three paradigms – GB, LFG and HPSG – by looking at the linguistic analyses the three of them offer for the phenomenon of **anaphoric binding** in English and Modern Greek. The discussion emphasises their similarities, their differences, and the consequences for pursuing various linguistic aims in them, providing this way timely and objective information about the comparative strengths and weaknesses of GB, LFG and HPSG in linguistic research, and thereby indicating which (if any) would best tackle the linguistic phenomenon of anaphoric binding at hand.

References

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