

Between Neurolinguistic Analysis and Syntactic Theory: Problems with Theoretical Compatibility

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This paper presents an overview of selected neurolinguistic analyses of agrammatism relevant to the theories of generative grammar and investigates their theoretical compatibility with Minimalism-based frameworks. The Tree Pruning Hypothesis (Friedmann and Grodzinsky 1997) is outlined as reference for comments on further proposals. Then, a feature based approach to agrammatism (Wnzlaff and Clahsen 2004) is compared to the truncation model proposed by Gavarro and Martinez-Ferreiro (2007) in view of recent generative frameworks (Chomsky 1998, 1999, 2005) with additional comments on the possibility of T-C movement (Pesetsky and Torrego 2001). The Hierarchy Complexity Hypothesis (Pancheva and Ullmann 2001) is then viewed in opposition to both the feature based approach and the truncation model and its compatibility with recent syntactic theories (Chomsky 1998, 1999, 2005) is discussed.

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