

Instructor: Arsalan Kahnemuyipour

Lecture: T 3-5, UC 44

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Evaluation:	Weight	Date
Participation	10%	Ongoing
Discussion Questions/Comments	15%	Ongoing
Leading discussion of readings	25%	TBD
Paper topic proposal	--	Feb 6
Abstract	10%	Feb 27
Presentation (Conference style)	15%	Apr 2
Final paper (Proceedings style)	25%	Apr 9

Course Description: This course is an investigation of the syntax of noun phrases, with a focus on nominal linkers, little elements you find in the noun phrases of some languages with no obvious meaning or function. We build the theoretical foundation of the course in the first 3-4 weeks with a quick overview of some topics in the syntax of noun phrases and nominal modification. We will then explore the literature on nominal linkers, starting with Ezafe and Reverse Ezafe in Iranian languages (Persian, Kurdish, Zazaki, Gilaki, etc.) and moving to other languages for which such elements have been posited (Albanian, Japanese, Kalenjin, Korean, Mandarin, Romanian, etc.). Our ultimate goal is to gain a better understanding of the syntax of noun phrases, in general, and the syntax of nominal linkers, more specifically.

Some DP syntax questions:

- What is the structure of the noun phrase?
- How is definiteness/indefiniteness syntactically realized across languages?
- How is word order variation in the nominal domain across languages derived?
- What is the syntax of modifiers within the noun phrase?
- Are different adjectives strictly ordered and if so, how do we account for variation in this regard?
- What is the syntax of (different types of) relative and complement clauses?
- How do we capture agreement/concord within the noun phrase?

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Some linker specific questions?

- What is the function of these elements? What do they realize, case, agreement or something else?
- Is there a fundamental difference between EZ and REZ (languages)?
- More generally, is it reasonable to try to find a unified account of these elements across languages? Or could they be entirely different morphosyntactic elements in different languages?

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I cannot promise you will find the final answer to these questions, but I surely hope you will be as intrigued as I am about (some of) these questions by the end of the course.

Readings: Readings are assigned on a weekly basis. Every student is expected to come to class having read the assigned readings. If the readings are not available online, I will make them available on Quercus.

Leading discussion of readings: As of the second week of classes, the discussion of readings will be led by the students. (Note: Two chapters of Kayne, Leu and Zanuttini (2014) count as one reading, to be elaborated below.) The assignment of readings to students will be sorted out in the first class. Various members of the Syntax of Nominal Linkers project (including myself) may lead the discussion of some readings. These readings are marked as LT (for Linker Team) in the schedule below. Registered students should not choose these readings for presentation. Once registered students have made their choices, auditors are free to choose any article they may wish to present. We have two readings every week. One of the two is considered to be the main article and will take up roughly 55-70 minutes of class discussion and the other one 30-45 minutes. Students leading the discussion of an article should prep accordingly. The main articles in a given week are highlighted in bold in the list below.

Discussion Questions/Comments: Starting in the second week, every student should submit one discussion question/comment on every assigned reading. The questions should be thoughtful, engaging, roughly 150-250 words long and can involve discussion of problematic argumentation in the paper, data that the analysis fails to account for, extension of proposals in the paper to other data/problems, etc. These questions are due on the same day the readings are discussed. (Students leading the discussion of an article in a given week do not have to submit questions/comments at all that week.)

Term Project: Each student should work on a project related to the theme of the course, broadly defined, throughout the semester. Some possible topics are linkers in the nominal (or verbal) domain in any language of your choice or any issue within the larger domain of DP syntax. The project has different components. The first component is the topic proposal (approx. 1 page, double-spaced) due Feb 6. You should discuss your topic with me in advance. The next step in the project is an abstract (conference-style, default: CLA or MOTH) due Feb 27. You should receive feedback on your abstract by Mar 12. You will then work on your project and present it to the class in the final week of class (conference-style, 20 minutes plus 10 minutes for questions). You will receive feedback on your presentation and will use that to write up your final paper (proceeding-style, default: CLA, approx. 12 pages). The final paper is due Apr 9.

***Side note:** MOTH would be a great option if you want to present an actual paper arising from this course. The deadlines seem to fit our course really well.*

Abstract deadline: February 25

Conference: Carleton University, April 6-7

Course Schedule (approximate):

Week	Date	Topic	Item Due (in addition to weekly questions)
1	Jan 9	Introduction (LT)	
		Readings: TWPL Volume Intro (Taghipour and Kahnemuyipour 2023)	
2	Jan 16	DP Syntax	
		Readings: KLZ 21, 22 ; KLZ 26, 35 https://lingbuzz.net/lingbuzz/005220	
3	Jan 23	DP or smaller?	
		Readings: Pereltsvaig (2006) (pages 433-470) , Danon (2006)	
4	Jan 30	Syntax of Nominal Modification	
		Readings: Cinque (2010), Chap 1-3 , Atlamaz (2016) (LT)	
5	Feb 6	Ezafe – PF Story	Paper Topic Proposal
		Readings: Ghomeshi (1997) , Ghaniabadi (2010) (Chapters 1 & 5)	
6	Feb 13	Ezafe – Case Story	
		Readings: Larson and Yamakido (2008) , Larson and Samiian (2020a)	
	Feb 20	Reading Week - No class	
7	Feb 27	Ezafe – Roll-up Story	Abstract
		Readings: Kahnemuyipour (2014) (LT) , Gundogdu et al. (2023) (LT)	
8	Mar 5	Reverse Ezafe	
		Readings: Larson (2009), Kahnemuyipour et al. (to appear) (LT)	
9	Mar 12	Ezafe in the context of CPs and PPs	
		Readings: Gundogdu et al. (2023) (LT) , Larson and Samiian (2020b) (LT)	
10	Mar 19	Linkers in other languages I	
		Readings: Franco et al. (2015) , Jambrovic and Kahnemuyipour (2023) (LT)	
11	Mar 26	Linkers in other languages II	
		Readings: Philip (2013) , Kouneli (2019, Chapter 5)	
12	Apr 2	Presentations	
	Apr 9	Final Paper Due	

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