

Editor's introduction

 <https://doi.org/10.1075/cilt.82.01edi>

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Advances in Role and Reference Grammar

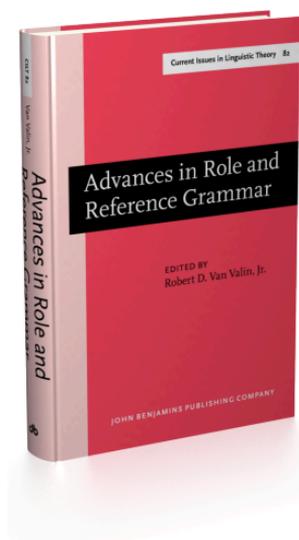
Edited by Robert D. Van Valin Jr.

[*Current Issues in Linguistic Theory*, 82] 1992. xiii, 569 pp.

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Editor's Introduction

This volume presents research within Role and Reference Grammar [RRG] which has been built on the foundations laid in *Functional Syntax and Universal Grammar* [*FSUG*] (Foley & Van Valin 1984). The papers represent both expansions and applications of the theory to a wide range of phenomena, many of which were not discussed in *FSUG*. None of them have been published before. The volume is divided into two sections: the first is a general introduction to RRG, and the second includes papers on specific subjects.

Part One consists of "A Synopsis of Role and Reference Grammar", written by the editor, which is the most thorough statement of the theory since *FSUG*. It is intended to replace *FSUG* as the basic introduction to RRG; where the two differ, e.g. the definition of "core argument", the account in the "Synopsis" should be followed. Throughout the discussion features of RRG are compared and contrasted with comparable features of other syntactic theories. It presents a revised version of the theory of clause structure and introduces a formal notation to represent it; this is integrated with a theory of information structure, something not discussed in earlier work. The theory of lexical representation and semantic roles from *FSUG* is summarized, and a number of issues which were not explicated in detail there are clarified. The RRG theories of grammatical relations and complex sentence formation are reprised and expanded. The algorithm linking semantic and syntactic representations was mentioned only informally in *FSUG*, while in the "Synopsis" they are presented explicitly and applied to a range of constructions in both simple and complex sentences. One of the major features of the discussion of complex sentences is an account of the constraint on extraction constructions known as "subjacency" in Government-Binding Theory [GB] in RRG and its application to languages with and without "WH-movement".

Part Two contains ten papers, nine of which present RRG analyses of specific phenomena. The tenth paper is "Of Nominatives and Datives: Universal Grammar from the Bottom Up" by Michael Silverstein. Originally written in 1980, it is not a paper on RRG but has strongly influenced research on case marking in RRG. It puts forth a theory of the fundamental case oppositions in universal grammar, a theory which plays an important role in the analyses of case in Van Valin (1991) and the Michaelis paper herein.

The other papers may be divided into two general topics: clause-internal syntax, and complex sentence syntax. With respect to clause-internal syntax, all of the papers deal with case marking in some way; two papers focus primarily on case marking, one on NP structure, and one on split-intransitivity. "Preposition Assignment in English" by Julia A. Jolly builds upon the analysis of English prepositions presented in *FSUG*. Most current syntactic theories treat prepositions as something to be listed in the lexical entry of the verb they cooccur with; no attempt is made in GB, Lexical-Functional Grammar [LFG] and Relational Grammar [RelG] to account for them in any systematic way. Jolly summarizes the initial attempt presented in *FSUG* to predict the occurrence of prepositions with a given verb from its semantic structure and extends it to take account of a wider range of English prepositions, including *to*, *from*, *with* and *for*. Laura A. Michaelis' contribution, "On Deviant Case Marking in Latin", addresses a long-standing problem in the analysis of Latin, the marking of direct objects with cases other than the accusative, e.g. dative or ablative; she shows how the RRG theory of linking between semantic and syntactic representations together with the theory of case marking uncovers surprising generalizations about this so-called "deviant" or "quirky" case marking. Case marking in the form of preposition assignment within the English NP is one of the foci of "Argument Linking in English Derived Nominals" by Mary L. Nunes. NP structure was not explored in *FSUG*, and Nunes pioneers research in RRG in this area. She investigates how the system of lexical representation proposed for verbs can be applied to the analysis of nominals derived from verbs and the constraints on the realization of their arguments. She shows that an analysis based on the RRG layered conception of NP structure and theory of semantic roles is superior to either grammatical-relations-based or configurational analyses. Underlying these discussions is the RRG theory of verb classes, and Linda Schwartz, in her paper "On the Syntactic and Semantic Alignment of Attributive and Iden-

tificational Constructions”, examines the semantics of attributive/identificational constructions, e.g. *the ball is round* and *John is a lawyer*, respectively, and shows that while they would be expected on semantic grounds to fall into the unaccusative class, they behave cross-linguistically as if they were unergative; she presents data from Italian, Russian, French, Dakota, and Hausa. She shows that an analysis of these constructions as two-place stative predicates, as opposed to the analysis of them as one-place in *FSUG*, provides a non-ad hoc explanation for their otherwise unexpected behavior.

The remaining papers address issues in the theory and analysis of complex sentences. They examine phenomena in English, Mandarin, Mparntwe Arrernte, Nootka, and Turkish. Control phenomena continue to be a major focus of work in syntactic theory. L. Michelle Cutrer briefly reviews the major syntactic and semantic theories of control in “Semantic and Syntactic Factors in Control”, and then presents the RRG account as presented in *FSUG*. She shows how it can account for the phenomena which in other theories are treated as lexical exceptions with a non-ad hoc, independently motivated analysis, and she then extends the analysis beyond the data discussed in *FSUG*, arriving at a theory which not only correctly predicts the controller in cases of obligatory control but also predicts the distribution of arbitrary control. Mandarin Chinese presents a rich variety of complex sentences, many of which present significant analytic and theoretical problems for contemporary theories of syntax. After presenting the essential facts of serial verb, complement of result, and potential complement constructions, Mark Hansell shows in “Verb Serialization and Complementation in Mandarin Chinese: A Clause Linkage Analysis” how the RRG theory of clause linkage provides a unified and independently motivated account of all of these phenomena. Nootka, a Wakashan language of British Columbia, has long presented vexing problems for both descriptive and theoretical linguists, and in “Subordination and Cosubordination in Nootka: Clause COMING in a Polysynthetic Verb-initial Language”, William H. Jacobsen, Jr. shows how the RRG theory of juncture and nexus, in particular its unique notion of cosubordination, provides an explanatory framework for the analysis of complex sentences in this language. The primary theoretical paper addresses one of the most fundamental issues in linguistic theory, the relationship between syntax and semantics, and “Predicting Syntactic Structure From Semantic Representations: *Remember* in English and Mparntwe Arrernte” by the editor and David P.

Wilkins argues that it is possible to predict the form that the complement of a verb will take from the semantic representation of the verb and its complement. The discussion focuses on the verb *remember* in English and its equivalents in Mparntwe Arrernte, an Aboriginal language of Central Australia, and involves extending the RRG system of lexical decomposition beyond the scheme adapted from Dowty (1979). This paper shows that the RRG theory of interclausal syntactic and semantic relations is central to developing predictions about verb semantics and complement form. Finally, Turkish presents an interesting set of problems for theories of clause linkage, because it has very few finite complements and employs nominalization extensively in dependent clauses. James K. Watters investigates these phenomena in "Clause Linkage in Turkish", showing how many of their most problematic aspects are illuminated by an RRG analysis. The facts regarding adverbials in these constructions led to the revision of the RRG theory of clause structure presented in the "Synopsis".

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Part I: The Theory