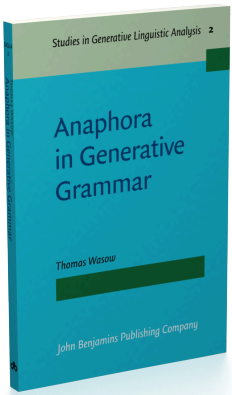
Preface

https://doi.org/10.1075/sigla.2.02pre



Pages vii–viii of
Anaphora in Generative Grammar
Thomas Wasow
[**Studies in Generative Linguistic Analysis**, 2]
1979. x, 181 pp.

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PREFACE

Although linguistics is commonly defined as "the scientific study of language," a more honest characterization might be "anything anyone has to say about language that someone else is willing to listen to." "Linguistics" is an umbrella term used to cover a wide variety of only loosely connected disciplines.

One of these disciplines is generative grammar. Generative grammar aims to characterize formally what it means to "know a language." In principle, a generative grammarian seeks to write a set of rules (known as a "grammar") which will enumerate all (and only) the well-formed sentences of a language. Most generative grammarian agree that this enumeration should include information about the meaning and the pronunciation of these sentences. Further, it is widely held that a grammar of a language should explicate certain intuitions which speakers have regarding relatedness among sentences and regarding relationships among elements within a single sentence.

In fact, however, work on generative grammar has consisted less of actual attempts to write grammars than of discussions regarding what kinds of rules such grammars should employ. This is not surprising, in light of the newness of the field and the broader implications of these more theoretical questions. There is a good deal of disagreement among generative grammarians regarding basic theoretical questions. The present monograph continues in this theoretical vein. Discussions of specific rules will be oriented towards trying to discover what categories of rules grammars must include. This orientation is especially evident in Part II, which is less concerned with reviewing existing arguments than is Part I.

I will not attempt to provide definitions for all of the technical terms employed; nor will I attempt to outline the full history of every issue discussed. I assume that the issues considered here are of interest primarily to people already well versed in the literature of generative grammar. Hence, I take the reader to be familiar with the "standard theory" of transformational grammar (as outlined by Katz and Postal (1964) and Chomsky (1965)), with the inadequacies of that theory discovered in the late 1960's, and with the "interpretive" and "generative semantic" theories which have been developed to try to remedy these inadequacies. Specifically, I assume familiarity with the basic ideas outlined in such work as Chomsky (1971, 1972), Jacken-

doff (1972), Lakoff (1965, 1970c), McCawley (1970), Postal (1970b, 1971), and Ross (1967a). I will feel free to use such terms as "transformation," "base," "deep structure," "derivational constraint," "lexical insertion," and "cycle" without detailed explanation. The reader who is unfamiliar with these works and terms should expect to encounter difficulties.

This monograph is a revised and expanded version of my 1972 MIT dissertation, *Anaphoric Relations in English*. Much has been written in the last six years that bears on the issues raised here. For the most part, however, I have not made major revisions to accomodate these later works; rather, I have tried to work out more thoroughly and carefully the ideas in my thesis. I believe that many of these ideas are relevant to much current work, and I hope readers will forgive the sketchiness of my references to the most recent literature.

One inadequately referenced item which deserves special mention is Gilles Fauconnier's 1971 University of California at San Diego dissertation, *Theoretical Implications of Some Global Phenomena in Syntax*. There are a number of points of striking overlap between Fauconnier's ideas and mine, most notably in § 3.1.1 and Appendix I. In other places, Fauconnier's work disagrees with mine and poses serious problems for an approach like mine. I did not have an opportunity to read Fauconnier's work until this monograph was nearly completed. Rather than delay publication further, so that I could take his work into account, I have chosen simply to cite its existence and relevance here, and to recommend it to the reader.