

Preface

It has now been five years since Chomsky presented his Lectures on Government and Binding in Pisa. Some of the first articles inspired by the new theory were published in *Levels of Syntactic Representation* (1981). The articles grew out of talks presented at a Round Table held in Paris in December 1979 and organized by Jan Koster and Robert May. This was the starting point of what we would like to think of as a tradition of working meetings among European linguists.

The last Round Table was held at the Université d'Aix-Marseille-II in Luminy, France, in January 1983. The articles in this volume were given in preliminary form on that occasion. Taking the Government-Binding theory as their frame of reference, they attempt to contribute to the development of the theory through the study of linguistic materials and problems which have not been hitherto examined in that framework, if at all. As in the first volume, the theoretical proposals are based on the study of a variety of languages, here Italian, Dutch, French, English, German, Danish, and Eskimo.

Since its introduction in *Lectures on Government and Binding*, the Binding theory has proved to be an extremely fruitful area of research. In this volume, Bok, Koster, and Pica propose extensions to the Binding Theory to account for anaphors bound outside their minimal governing category. A second important domain of study centers on the principles governing the constitution of chains. The crucial role of chains with respect to Case theory, Theta theory, and Binding theory is explored by Godard, Guéron, Pollock, and Reuland. The properties of syntactic paths are investigated by Longobardi, May, and Obenauer. Kayne's article on particles in English draws crucially on his "unambiguous paths" hypothesis first presented in *Levels of Syntactic Representation*. Nespor and Scorretti argue in favor of an autonomous prosodic component, and Hirst proposes linearization constraints on initial consonant clusters.

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