

BOOK REVIEWS

Deane, Paul D.: *Grammar in Mind and Brain*.
Berlin, Mouton de Gruyter 1992. 355 pp. ISBN 3-11-013183-8.

This publication is Volume Two in Cognitive Linguistics Research edited by René Dirven and Ronald W. Langacker. The author is tackling the fundamental issue of the relation of grammar to mind and brain, one of the basic issues of the study of language nowadays. Understandably enough, he cannot remain within the narrow confines of classical linguistics. Instead he believes that the physical embodiment of grammatical competence in the brain should be examined as well. The two opposite views on the subject concern continuity between language and other mental capacities. In the author's opinion the properties of grammar involve innate aspects of human cognition although it is far from clear whether the innate principles underlying language acquisition are specific to language or constitute general principles of cognitive structure. This controversy is, of course, paralleled by the question of the autonomy of grammar.

The present publication concentrates upon the following goals: (1) to establish the relevance of cognitive concerns even for core syntactic phenomena, (2) to present an integrated cognitive theory, (3) to elaborate a cognitively grounded account of syntactic structure, (4) to explore the consequences of the Spatialization of Form Hypothesis for English syntax, (5) to examine the relation between grammatical structure and the management of attention, (6) to apply the theory to the neurology of grammar (pp. 3-4). Let us mention here that the Spatialization of Form Hypothesis entails a close connection

between bodily experience, spatial thought and grammar.

Various arguments are given against the autonomy of syntax. Naturally enough, psychological terminology is used and explained as a background for the explanation of syntactic phenomena.

Chapter Two (pp. 55-94) expounds an integrated cognitive theory focusing on knowledge representation, categorization and polysemy. The role of short term memory in speech is discussed at some length and various types of activation are described.

The cognitive basis of syntactic knowledge is described at a considerably greater detail in Chapter Three (pp. 95-136) and the role of attention in grammar is investigated (pp. 187-250).

The implications of Deane's theory are varied and extend to such domains as, for example, certain kinds of extralinguistic creativity.

According to the author, there are four basic types of syntactic dependency, all of them motivated outside grammar, in semantic and distributional patterns. These are constrained by the inherent properties of the link, part-whole and centre-periphery schemes and the way in which these conform to general patterns of salience and attention (pp. 297-299).

Deane's book is certainly worth careful rereading, despite the fact that his theory would no doubt need further elaboration and modification.

Viktor Krupa