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Roots and Beyond

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This course focuses on the nature of the most basic syntactic building blocks and the operations combining them, based, primarily but not exclusively, on the discussion in Borer (2013):

Borer, Hagit (2013) Taking Form, Structuring Sense Volume III. Oxford: Oxford University Press

Topics to be covered are (initial) categorial determination, properties of functions (functional terminals, or functors) and extended projections, and properties of roots. Once these pieces are in place, we will be in a position to discuss combinatorial operations that affects these building blocks such that they can give rise not only to canonical phrases, but also to complex words (e.g. *transitionalize*) and how, within a fundamentally syntactic approach, one should model the emergence of non-compositional word Content (encyclopedic meaning).

If you have access to Borer (2013), the course will cover material in chapters 1, 6-10. However, you may not have the book and even if you do, that's quite a bit of reading, enclosed are references to several papers which summarize at least some of that material (all available for download at http://webspace.qmul.ac.uk/hborer/download.html or at https://qmul.academia.edu/HBorer).

1. Borer, Hagit (2014) 'Derived nominal and the domain of Content,' Lingua 141 (2014) pp. 71-96
2. Borer, Hagit (2014) 'Wherefore roots,' Theoretical Linguistics 2014; 40(3/4): 343 – 359
3. Borer, Hagit (2015) 'The category of roots,' in Alexiadou, A. H. Borer and F. Schaffer Eds., The Roots of Syntax, the Syntax of Roots. Oxford: OUP Press.
4. Borer, Hagit (2017) 'The Generative Word'. In McGilvray, J. (Ed.). The Cambridge Companion to Chomsky. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press pp. 110-133

'The Generative Word' should provide a broad introduction on the approach to the lexicon/syntax partition; 'Wherefore roots' engages in ongoing debates in the literature regarding the nature of roots, and is a response to Harley (2014) which we will definitely touch upon.

'The category of roots' covers material otherwise discussed in Chapter 7 of Borer (2013).

"Derived nominals and the domain of Content" touches on matters discussed primarily in Chapter 9, but also in other chapters (including Chapters 3-5).

I will be spending some time discussing at least the publications below. I marked with a star those which I think you would benefit most from consulting (links provided where available):

5. Acquaviva, Paolo. (2008). 'Roots and lexicality in Distributed Morphology', MS. Lingbuzz.
6. *Anagnastopoulou, Elena and Yota Samioti (2015) 'Domains within words and their meanings: A case study,' in in Alexiadou, A. H. Borer and F. Schaffer Eds., The Roots of Syntax, the Syntax of Roots. Oxford: OUP Press.
7. Arad, Maya. (2003). 'Locality constraints on the interpretation of roots', Natural Language and Linguistic Theory 21:737–78.
8. *Chomsky, Noam. (1970). 'Remarks on nominalization', in Jacobs, R. A. and P.S. Rosenbaum (eds.) Readings in English Transformational Grammar. Waltham, MA: Ginn, 184–221.

9. Embick, David. (2010). *Localism vs. Globalism in Morphology and Phonology*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

10. Halle, Morris and Alec Marantz. (1993). 'Distributed Morphology and the pieces of inflection.' In Hale, Kenneth and S. Jay Keyser. Eds. 111-176.

11. *Harley, Heidi. (2014). 'On the identity of roots'. Theoretical Linguistics 2014; 40(3/4): 225–276

12. Kiparsky, Paul. (1982). 'Lexical morphology and phonology'. Linguistics in the morning calm: Selected essays from SICOL-1981. Ed. by Linguistic Society of Korea. Seoul, South Korea: Hanshin.

13. *Marantz, Alec. (1997) 'No escape from syntax,' Linguistics 4.2, 201-225.

14. Marantz, Alec. (2013b). Locality Domains for Contextual Allomorphy Across the Interfaces. In *Distributed Morphology Today*