THEORY AND HISTORY OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE

INTRODUCTION

The research group Theory and History of the English Language in the Department of English, French and German at the Faculty of Humanities studies English syntax both from the perspective of the description and analysis of the English language itself and from the perspective of syntactic theory. The aspect within minimalist syntactic theory (generative framework) that is our focus of study is the relation between syntax and morphology, more precisely the role played by morphology in core or narrow syntax, and this both as regards English as a specific language, and English as a member of the Germanic family, and the contrast between the latter and the Romance family. This contrast is relevant on the synchronic axis as well as the diachronic axis. One further relevant domain of study that has been at the centre of interest of this Group for the very last years is the processing of syntax and morphology from a neuro-physiological point of view: we are mainly interested in this respect in the analysis of the limits, if any, between the cited power of processing or computing of our brain/mind and the formal structure or architecture of what we call language.

RESEARCH TOPICS

- Study of English contemporary grammar and Spanish contemporary grammar within the framework of minimalist generative theory.
- Contrastive study English/Spanish, and contrastive study Germanic languages/Romance Languages.
- Study of diachronic syntax of English and the Germanic family in general.
- Study of language processing through neuroimaging.

SCIENTIFIC-TECHNICAL SERVICES

- Advice given on the differences between English and Spanish languages.
- Linguistic development advice on textbooks.
- Grammar advice on bilingual dictionaries.
- Support given in the development of guides in learning English.
- Lines of research advice on theoretical linguistics.
- Advice and support on the construction of linguistic paradigms for neuroimaging experiments.

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