
Preface

This book explores the role of the Tree Adjoining Grammar (TAG) formalism in syntactic theory. The idea that TAG might be useful in this context is of course not new. So, before starting, I think it would be useful to lay out a bit of history, and some reasons for my writing this book.

The TAG formalism was first defined in a 1975 paper by Aravind Joshi, Leon Levy, and Masako Takahashi. TAG provides operations for composing pieces of tree structure to form larger structures, in a manner reminiscent of Chomsky's (1955) generalized transformations, which in part inspired Joshi's proposals. Since the publication of this paper, Joshi has continued to study TAG's formal and computational properties with a number of students and colleagues at the University of Pennsylvania. However, work directly investigating the importance of TAG for linguistic theory began only in the early 1980s when Anthony Kroch, working with Joshi, observed that the transformational analyses of a number of constructions could be elegantly recast into the TAG formalism. Kroch and Joshi showed that the TAG reanalyses not only retained the explanatory power of the originals, but also were able to derive without stipulation the effects of a variety of constraints on transformational derivations. The most comprehensive presentation of Kroch and Joshi's work was a 1985 technical report entitled "The Linguistic Relevance of Tree Adjoining Grammar," which was accepted to appear in *Linguistics and Philosophy*, but never did. Pieces and elaborations of this work, dealing with *wh*-movement and extraposition, ultimately appeared in Kroch 1987, 1989b, and Kroch and Joshi 1987. However, these publications differed from the more comprehensive, but unpublished, technical report in lacking a general statement of the TAG perspective on syntactic theory. Perhaps as a result, Kroch and Joshi's work went largely unnoticed by the wider community of theoretical syntacticians. Nonetheless,

work on TAG approaches to syntax continued within a small community of researchers largely centered at the University of Pennsylvania. Though this line of work has resulted in numerous articles and PhD dissertations, including my own, much of the research has been published in settings outside the usual purview of most generative syntacticians.

The appearance of Chomsky's (1993) paper on the Minimalist Program marked the reintroduction of generalized transformations into mainstream syntactic theory. This change meant that the TAG conception of syntactic derivation was now more directly compatible with a more widely adopted approach. With recent developments in minimalist syntax, especially the introduction of derivational *phases*, the possibilities for cross-fertilization between TAG and minimalist syntax have increased still further. Yet, as mentioned above, with only a couple of exceptions, researchers in minimalist and other generative approaches to syntax remain largely unaware of the detailed empirical and conceptual advantages afforded by the TAG system of phrase structure composition. One goal of this book, then, is a bit of bridge building, by providing an accessible and comprehensive presentation of "TAG syntax" for the broader community of theoretical syntacticians.

I must hasten to point out that the perspective I adopt here in incorporating TAG into syntactic theory is my own, growing out of Kroch and Joshi's early proposals and those from my 1992 dissertation and my 1994 and 1995 papers (coauthored with Tony Kroch), and as such it represents only one of a range of possibilities. Depending on one's perspective, it is either a great vice or a great virtue of the TAG formalism that it remains silent on many issues of grammatical analysis. Thus, one can pursue TAG syntax using the basic ontological assumptions of any number of frameworks. Because of the close connections noted above, in this book I have adopted many of the leading ideas of minimalist syntax into a TAG setting, as the possibilities for theoretical integration are clearest to me in that context. Nonetheless, it is my hope that this book will also prove useful to researchers with other tastes in grammatical theories and will mark the beginning of productive interaction with the TAG tradition of syntactic analysis for syntacticians of a variety of stripes.