

AM3a: typology of A-bar constructions

Practical information

Instructor	Dr. Luis Vicente
Office	Haus 14, 3.29
Email	vicente@uni-potsdam.de
Office hours	Mondays 09:00–12:00, or by appointment
Course module	AM3a, Wahlpflichtbereich “Grammatik einzelner Sprache” (6LP)
Time and place	Wednesdays 10:00–12:00, Haus 6.101.
Course website	http://www.luisvicente.net/coursematerials/am3a-ss15
Language policy	Classes will happen in English, but the squibs and the final paper can be written in either English or German
Work submission	The squibs and the final paper have to be sent to vicente@uni-potsdam.de no later than their due date. I will deduct 2 percentage grade points for every 24 hours pass the deadline. Please submit your work in .pdf format only

Pass requirements

		Percentage grade	UP grade
Active class participation	10%	96–100	1.0
Squib 1 (due June 17)	15%	91–95	1.3
Squib 2 (due July 22)	15%	86–90	1.7
Final paper (due August 31)	60%	81–85	2.0
	100%	76–80	2.3
		71–75	2.7
		66–70	3.0
		61–65	3.3
		56–60	3.7
		50–55	4.0
		≤ 49	5.0

Active class participation This course is not meant to be a series of lectures where I talk and you take notes. I expect you to take active part in the meetings, by asking questions and contributing to the discussion of the material.

What I am looking for in class: if you don't understand something, maybe it is because I'm not explaining it properly. Don't be afraid to interrupt me and ask for clarification. Try to be as precise as you can as to where you got lost or what is not clear to you. Similarly, if you think I'm saying something wrong, you can try to correct me; and if you can think of an example that is relevant to the topic we are discussing, bring it up.

Squibs A squib is a very short paper (3 pages absolute maximum; one page is perfectly acceptable). Have a look at *Snippets* (a journal that only publishes squibs,

<http://www.ledonline.it/snippets>) to get a better idea of what a good squib looks like. In their own words:

“Squibs are to be brief, explicit, and self-contained: they may do any of the following things: (i) point out an empirical phenomenon that goes against accepted generalizations or that shows that some aspect of the theory is problematic; (ii) point out unnoticed minimal pairs that fall out of the scope of any existing theory; (iii) point out an empirical phenomenon that confirms the predictions of a theory in an area where the theory has not been tested; (iv) explicitly describe technical inconsistencies in a theory or in a set of frequently adopted assumptions; (v) explicitly describe unnoticed assumptions that underlie a theory or assumptions a theory needs to be supplemented with in order to make desired predictions; (vi) call attention to little-known or forgotten literature in which issues of immediate relevance are discussed.”

What I am looking for in your squibs: the ability to identify any issue covered by points (i)-(vi) in the quote above and to write a few concise and intelligent paragraphs about it.

Final paper It has to be between 15 and 20 pages long (excluding bibliography), assuming a 12pt font, single space and 2.5cm margins all around. It can be on any topic related to the class; you can use one of your squibs as a base for the paper.

What I am looking for: essentially the same as in the squibs, but in a longer format. There is one important difference between squibs and papers that you need to keep in mind: a good squib can be produced relatively quickly, but a good paper cannot. You should start thinking about possible topics for the paper early in the course, or ask me for advice if you have trouble identifying a suitable topic.

Tentative schedule

Date	Topic	Reading
April 15	No class (Luis in Paris)	
April 22	General introduction	Chomsky 1977; Radford 2004
April 29	Wh- fronting vs. wh- in situ	Huang 1982; Cheng 1990; Hagstrom 1998; Cable 2007
May 6	Varieties of wh- fronting	Rudin 1988; Richards 1997
May 13	Cyclicity	
May 20	Reconstruction effects	
May 27	Intervention effects	Beck 2007; Kotek 2014
June 3	Resumption effects	Salzmann 2005, McCloskey 2006
June 10	No class (Luis in California)	
June 17	Squib 1 due	
June 24	Islands (I)	
July 1	Islands (II)	
July 8	Islands (III)	
July 15	Islands (IV)	
July 22	Squib 2 due	

Caveat 1 This is a *tentative* schedule, meaning that I reserve the right to modify it at any point to suit your interests better (any changes will be announced in advance in the course website). Let me know if there is any topic you want me to talk about.

Caveat 2 Depending on everybody’s preferences, we may end up scheduling additional meetings to cover for one or both of the two sessions I’m going to be away. These will also be announced in advance both in class and in the course website.

References

- Beck, Sigrid. 2006. Intervention effects follow from focus interpretation. *Natural Language Semantics* 14:1–56.
- Cheng, Lisa Lai-Shen. 1991. On the typology of wh-questions. Doctoral Dissertation, Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

- Chomsky, Noam. 1977. On wh-movement. In *Formal syntax*, ed. P. Culicover, T. Wasow, and A. Akmajian. New York, New York: Academic Press.
- Hagstrom, Paul. 1998. Decomposing questions. Doctoral Dissertation, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Massachusetts.
- Huang, C.-T. James. 1982. Logical relations in Chinese and the theory of grammar. Doctoral Dissertation, Massachusetts Institute of Technology.
- McCloskey, James. 2000. Quantifier float and wh-movement in an Irish English. *Linguistic Inquiry* 31:57–84.
- McCloskey, James. 2002. Resumption, successive cyclicity, and the locality of operations. In *Derivation and explanation in the minimalist program*, ed. Samuel David Epstein and T. Daniel Seely, 184–226. Malden, Massachusetts: Blackwell Publishing.
- Richards, Norvin W., III. 1997. What moves where when in which language? Doctoral Dissertation, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Massachusetts.
- Rudin, Catherine. 1988. On multiple questions and multiple wh-fronting. *Natural Language and Linguistic Theory* 6:445–501.
- [I realize that this is way more than you can reasonably read for a course like this. You will need to make a decision as to which readings you want to invest time on]