

Contents

Preface	viii
Symbols and Abbreviations	xiii
Chapter 1 What is Syntax?	1
1 Preliminaries	1
2 Studying the world	6
2.1 Explanation	6
2.2 Observation	12
2.3 Description	13
3 Studying language	16
3.1 Overview	16
3.2 Structure	16
3.3 Function	19
3.4 Location	19
4 Why do languages have syntax?	21
5 Conclusions	24
Notes	25
Exercises	26
Chapter 2 Linear Order	28
1 Preliminaries	28
2 Temporal relations: some possibilities	30
2.1 The general schema	30
2.2 Relations	31
2.3 Terms	33
2.4 Context	34
2.5 Modalities	34
2.6 Summary	35
3 Temporal relations in syntax: some facts	37
3.1 Relations	37
3.2 Terms	43
3.3 Context	55
3.4 Modalities	56
4 Conclusions	56

vi Contents

Notes	60
Exercises	61
Chapter 3 Selection	63
1 Preliminaries	63
2 Selection: some possibilities	66
3 Selection in syntax: some facts	69
3.1 Order and selection	69
3.2 The selection of words	71
3.3 The selection of word forms	77
3.4 A comparison of word selection and word form selection	91
4 Conclusions	94
Notes	99
Exercises	99
Chapter 4 Categories	101
1 Preliminaries	101
2 Partonomy and taxonomy: some possibilities	105
2.1 Unequal parts and unequal subtypes	109
2.2 Parts that belong to more than one whole and tokens that belong to more than one type	112
3 Partonomy and taxonomy in syntax: some facts	115
3.1 Selection and inventory	115
3.2 The birth of a syntactic category	118
3.3 The partonomic and taxonomic status of nouns	121
3.4 Complex patterns of syntactic partonomy and taxonomy	127
4 Conclusions	136
Notes	137
Exercises	137
Chapter 5 Syntax, Meaning and Sound Form	140
1 Preliminaries	140
2 Symbolic correspondence: some possibilities	144
3 Symbolic correspondence in syntax: some facts	151
3.1 Syntactic structure and meaning	151
3.2 Syntactic structure and sound form	169
4 Conclusions	172
Notes	174
Exercises	175
Chapter 6 Variation and Change	179
1 Preliminaries	179
2 Variation and change: some possibilities	182

3	Syntactic variation	191
3.1	Verb agreement	191
3.2	Constituent order	194
3.3	Accusative and ergative systems	197
4	Syntactic change	203
4.1	The historical evolution of definite articles	204
4.2	The first-language acquisition of wh-questions	207
5	Conclusions	210
Notes		211
Exercises		212
Chapter 7 Explaining Syntax		214
1	Preliminaries	214
2	Structural explanations	217
2.1	Wh-questions in English	217
2.2	Relative clauses in Basque	221
3	Evolutionary explanations	225
3.1	Direct objects in French	225
3.2	Direct and indirect objects in English	229
4	Functional explanations	236
4.1	Co-ordinate ellipsis in English and Japanese	238
4.2	Constituent order in Mandarin Chinese	243
5	Conclusions	246
Notes		247
Exercises		249
Glossary		251
References		259