

2.2.3 L233: Head-Driven Phrase Structure Grammar (HPSG)

Terms taught: 3, Weeks 2-9

Convened by: SJ Harlow

Prerequisites: L130 Elementary Syntax

Credits: 20

Aims

HPSG is one of a family of non-transformational approaches to syntax (and language more generally). This module provides an introduction to HPSG, presenting basic concepts and their application to constructions of English. It provides a conceptual alternative and challenge to transformational theories

Contact hours: 3 hours per week.

Teaching Programme

Classes will be in lecture/seminar format. The language of exemplification will be English and the course will be concerned with investigating how the core structures of English (sub-categorisation, complementation, passives, Wh-movement, control and raising constructions, adjuncts, constituent order) are to be represented in a consistent, explicit and well-motivated manner. Although the principal focus will be on syntax, HPSG incorporates a treatment of semantics and the course will also deal with the integration of semantic interpretation into natural language description.

Teaching Materials A course pack will be available. Useful references include the following:

- Pollard C, Sag I (1987) *Information-based Syntax and Semantics*. Center for the Study of Language and Information, Stanford California.
- Pollard C, Sag I (1994) *Head-Driven Phrase Structure Grammar*. University of Chicago Press, Chicago & London.

Assessment

A 3 hour closed examination in Week 10 of Term 3.