

Slicing the Pie: Morphosyntactic Domains across Grammars

After 25 years or so of an active research agenda attempting to integrate word structure into the syntax, the aim of this presentation would be to evaluate where we presently with respect to the formal building blocks and the formal operations involved in syntactically executed morphology. Wishing to focus on the ramifications for the model as a whole of inter-language variation, I will focus on the morpho-phonological properties of the Semitic verb and their ramification for morphosyntax, assessing the degree to which building blocks developed in the context of primarily concatenative systems (e.g., *root*, *functors*, *affixation*, *selection*, *allomorphy*, *merge*) can be integrated into Semitic (primarily Hebrew and Arabic), where notions such as root and affixation would require postulating non-continuous terminals. The conclusions I will draw would be that while a syntactic approach to morphological system receives robust support from the properties of the Semitic verbal system, it does require – and warrants – a re-evaluation of the relationship between syntax and phonology, as well as a re-evaluation of the relationship between phonological words and conceptual meaning (Content).