

Flexible Semantics

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This talk explores how to compositionally interpret the structures proposed in FS in the semantics. Semantic interpretation in GB/Minimalist type framework generally relies on properties of the syntactic structure explicitly rejected in FS, most crucially the assumption that function-argument composition is driven by hierarchical structure only, and, presumably, universally so. A system like FS, in which the same thematic relation can be realized in different syntactic configurations is obviously incompatible with that assumption. Essentially the idea I explore here is that the arguments of a verb (or any 2+n-ary relation) are not schönfinked/curried in any particular order, but are 'abstracted on demand', as it were, as triggered by morphosyntactic configurations.