



University of Cyprus

Department of English Studies

AIT542 Introduction to the Syntax-Lexicon Interface

ROOM XΩΔ02 - 119

7.5 ECTS

Tuesday & Friday

15:00 – 16:30

INSTRUCTOR:

MARIJKE **DE BELDER**

OFFICE HOURS:

Tuesday 10:30-11:30

13:30-14:30

Friday 10:30-11:30

13:30-14:30

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OBJECTIVE:

Do words use sentences or do sentences use words? When formulating a sentence, do humans start with selecting the words or do they start with building the syntactic structure? Which module is the dominant one, the syntax or the lexicon?

In this course we will organize a scientific debate between defenders of the syntax and defenders of the lexicon. Each student is invited to choose a side and each party will work as a team to defend its views. We will read and discuss famous articles, reflect on their implications and you will learn how to use the information to strengthen the team's view. The aim of the course is to learn how to gather information, how to formulate an argument and how to challenge an opponent in a reasonable way.

COURSE OUTLINE

Lecture 1	Tuesday	Introduction: historical overview of the debate (Borer 1998, 2017)
	Friday	
Lecture 2	Tuesday	
	Friday	
Lecture 3	Tuesday	
	Friday	
Lecture 4	Tuesday	Introduction to a strong lexicon
	Friday	
Lecture 5	Tuesday	Introduction to a strong syntax
	Friday	
Lecture 6	Tuesday	Debate 1: verbal inflection Preparation: Reading relevant literature, formulating hypotheses and selecting arguments.
	Friday	
Lecture 7	Tuesday	
	Friday	
Lecture 8	Tuesday	Debate 1: 'Teams' presentations
	Friday	
Lecture 9	Tuesday	Debate 2: verbal and adjectival passives Preparation: Reading relevant literature, formulating hypotheses and selecting arguments.
	Friday	
Lecture 10	Tuesday	
	Friday	
Lecture 11	Tuesday	Debate 2: 'Teams' presentations
	Friday	
Lecture 12	Tuesday	Chomsky 1970
	Friday	Chomsky 1970
Lecture 13	Tuesday	No classes (May 1)
	Friday	Chomsky 1970

Literature

See the following articles and references mentioned therein:

Borer, Hagit (1998) Syntax and Morphology: an overview. In: Spencer, Andrew & Arnold M. Zwicky (eds.) *The Handbook of Morphology*. Malden: Wiley-Blackwell.

Borer, Hagit (2017) *The Generative Word*. In: McGilvray, James (ed.) *The Cambridge Companion to Chomsky*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Chomsky, Noam (1970). Remarks on nominalization. In R. Jacobs and P. Rosenbaum (eds.) *Readings in English transformational grammar*. Massachusetts: Ginn. Waltham.

ASSESSMENT

Debates:	30%
Paper:	60%
Class attendance & preparation:	10%