Syntax: An Introduction

Splash at Stanford University
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Instructor: Ji Hun Wang
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Lecture Room: 200-013
Time: 1:00-2:45pm for Section 1, 3:00-4:45 for Section 2

| Course Introduction |

Syntax is a branch of linguistics that studies sentences and semantic relationship between words that comprise sentences. This two-hour course aims to introduce the fundamental concepts of syntax and syntactic theory, as well as the diverse syntactic structures of natural languages.

In this course, students will have opportunities to work on drawing syntax trees and encounter different languages other than English, in addition to hearing lectures on syntax prepared by the instructor. Students may also expect to delve into critical thinking questions pertaining to syntax and real-life implications of syntax in Natural Language Processing.

| Course Plan | **Expected time**

Part 1: What is Syntax?
- History of syntax
- Formal definition of syntax
- Research questions in syntax

5-10 minutes

Part 2: Terminology of Syntax
- Grammatical terms
- Speaking like a syntactician

10-15 minutes

Part 3: Syntactic Rules and Phrases
- Formation of sentences
- Noun phrases, verb phrases, etc.

15-20 minutes

Part 4: Syntactic Diagrams
- Tree diagrams
- Illustration and analysis of tree diagrams
- Exploration of other diagrams

25-30 minutes

Part 5: Dependency Grammar, Constituency Grammar and Parsing
- Phrase structure grammar and Tesnière
- Grammatical constituents
- Difference between dependency and constituency
- Parsing methods

10-15 minutes

Part 6: Applications of Syntax
- Natural Language Processing
- Translation theory

10-15 minutes

Part 7: Questions to Ponder About

5 minutes

| **After the Course** |

Due to the time constraints and the pace of the lecture, students may feel slightly overwhelmed by a deluge of information and may be left with a number of questions after the lecture. This is good and encouraged! This course is a mere introduction to syntax, or linguistics in general, designed to motivate the students to develop their understanding and curiosity to the topics.
If there are further questions or needs for clarification of the concepts covered in the lecture, they can explore individually and/or also contact the instructor.