

João Costa (ed). *Portuguese Syntax: New Comparative Studies*. Oxford: Oxford UP, 2000.

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Portuguese Syntax: New Comparative Studies is one of very few works available in English that deal with the particularities of the syntax of Portuguese. The theoretical approach adopted by the essays in the collection is that of Generative Grammar and follows the model outlined in “The Theory of Principles and Parameters” (Chomsky and Lasnik 1993) and *The Minimalist Program* (Chomsky 1995). The book successfully presents an overview of the current theoretical issues that Portuguese syntax raises as well as enlarging the empirical scope of modern comparative syntax. The nine articles deal variously with clitics, V-movement, richness of inflection and functional clausal structure.

Manuela Ambar’s article “Infinitives Versus Participles,” drawing on her previous work on infinitival and participial structures that under her approach have Tense, tries to answer the question of why these structures have different behaviors. Her argument focuses on the value of tenses, agreement, case, word order, passive voice, negation and cliticization of Portuguese.

Pilar Barbosa, in her article “Clitics,” studies the behavior of subjects in Null Subject Languages (NSL). Barbosa challenges the claim that subjects in NSL are ever raised to a preverbal A-position. She argues that there are important structural differences between preverbal subjects in Portuguese/Italian/Catalan and preverbal subjects in French or English. She further argues that the real A-position for lexical subjects in NSL is the post-verbal position and that Clitic Left Dislocation (CLLD) and A'-movement are responsible for instances of overt subject initial constructions.

In his article “Word Order and Discourse-Configurability in European Portuguese,” João Costa studies the different properties subjects in European Portuguese show according to their position in the different word orders Portuguese allows. He studies what position the subjects occupy in these orderings due to discourse factors as well as the intuition that European Portuguese is basically SVO in spite of allowing many different orderings but excluding SOV.

Inês Duarte and Gabriela Matos, in “Romance Clitics and the Minimalist Program,” examine the syntax of clitics in European Portuguese. They study why clitics behave differently than DPs and suffixes with regard to syntactic

movement and what makes the clitics surface in different positions from one language to another and even within the same language.

Charlotte Galves, in "Agreement, Predication and Pronouns in the History of Portuguese," studies the development of Portuguese from Classical Portuguese until its split into different grammars: Modern European Portuguese and Brazilian Portuguese. She is particularly interested in the correlation between the licensing of subjects and the licensing of clitics and weak pronouns. Following Chomsky (1995) and based on her research on the development of Portuguese, she argues that that correlation follows from viewing agreement not as a syntactic category but as a feature.

Ana Maria Martins, in "A Minimalist Approach to Clitic Climbing," studies the phenomenon of clitic climbing in Romance languages. She shows that the movement of clitics out of an infinitival clause is in certain instances needed, even though *The Minimalist Program* (Chomsky 1995), in which she couches her analysis, assumes that movement is driven only by morphological necessity.

Sérgio Menuzzi, in "First Person Plural Anaphora in Brazilian Portuguese," studies the binding properties of the first person plural anaphora *a gente* in Brazilian Portuguese, which has an intriguing pattern in which it can be the antecedent of a first person plural pronoun only if the dependency is not "local." He argues that Binding Theory has two agreement-like requirements: Agreement-on-Chains and the Feature-Compatibility Condition on Indexing.

Gertjan Postma, in "Distributive Universal Quantification and Aspect in Brazilian Portuguese," studies the properties of the quantifiers *todo+sg* and *cada+sg* of Brazilian Portuguese and discusses their properties compared to the existing literature on universal quantification. In particular, Postma focuses on the relation between aspect and argumental quantification and draws conclusions on why the quantifiers *all*, *every* and *each* behave so differently across languages with different aspectual systems.

The final article in this worthy collection of essays, Eduardo Raposo's "Clitic Positions and Verb Movement," studies enclisis in European Portuguese. Raposo argues that enclisis in European Portuguese and in other Romance dialects is a side effect of the movement of inflection containing the verb to the specifier position of a phrase called FP, and to which the clitic is left-adjoined.

The volume is an invaluable addition to comparative syntax, and will prove useful to all those interested in theoretical linguistics as well as those drawn to the study of Portuguese or, more generally, Romance-language syntax.

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