

A Note on Teaching English Syntax

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Abstract

The antisymmetry between complements and adjuncts based on X-bar Theory has been assumed to play an important role in explaining the linear order of complements and adjuncts. But Kuno (2006) and Kuno and Takami (2007) showed counter examples to this standard assumption and they concluded that this order is not derived from that antisymmetry, but is controlled by a functional constraint. This paper explores what instructors should do when faced with unexpected data in teaching English syntax.