

Linguistics

The Grammar of Repetition

Nupe grammar at the syntax–phonology interface

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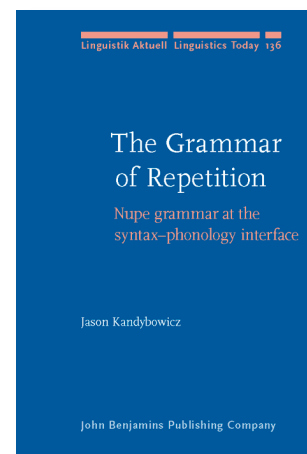
Displacement is a fundamental property of grammar. Typically, when an occurrence moves it is pronounced in only one environment. This was previously viewed as a primitive/irreducible property of grammar. Recent work, however, suggests that it follows from principled interactions between the syntactic and phonological components of grammar. As such, the phonetic character of movement chains can be seen as both a reflection of and probe into the syntax-phonology interface. This volume deals with repetition, an atypical outcome of movement operations in which displaced elements are pronounced multiple times. Although cross-linguistically rare, the phenomenon obtains robustly in Nupe, a Benue-Congo language of Nigeria. Repetition raises a tension of the descriptive-explanatory variety. In order to achieve both measures of adequacy, movement theory must be supplemented with an account of the conditions that drive and constrain multiple pronunciation. This book catalogs these conditions, bringing to light a number of undocumented aspects of Nupe grammar.

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“In this masterly account of the grammar of repetition, Kandybowicz uses descriptively meticulous and theoretically sophisticated analyses of the syntax of Nupe to illuminate our understanding of the nature of language. He has combined original fieldwork with a deep understanding of current theory to present us with new data analysed in such a way that they provide real explanations for the phenomena of repetition.”

Neil Smith, Emeritus Professor of Linguistics,
University College London

“Kandybowicz’s book strikes me as the most detailed, careful and refreshing description of [Nupe]... I can certainly recommend this book to anyone who is interested in empirical description and its consequences for theory building.”

Enoch O. Aboh, University of Amsterdam

“Kandybowicz’s study is a paradigmatic example of how the careful analysis of a less studied language can have clear consequences for the theory of Universal Grammar.”

Chris Collins, New York University

“Clearly written, empirically rich, and theoretically persuasive, this book constitutes a must-read contribution to the research on the copy theory and the mapping from syntax to PF.”

Jairo Nunes, Universidade de São Paulo

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