

# The Syntax of Nonsententials

Multidisciplinary perspectives

*Edited by*

Ljiljana Progovac

Kate Paesani

Eugenia Casielles

Ellen Barton

Wayne State University

John Benjamins Publishing Company

Amsterdam/Philadelphia

# Table of contents

<b>Preface</b>	<b>ix</b>
<b>Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>
<i>Ljiljana Progovac, Kate Paesani, Eugenia Casielles, and Ellen Barton</i>	
1. Background: Defining and describing nonsententials	1
2. Goals of the current volume	4
3. Volume overview	6
CHAPTER 1	
<b>Toward a nonsentential analysis in generative grammar</b>	<b>11</b>
<i>Ellen Barton</i>	
1. Introduction	11
2. Early arguments for an ellipsis analysis	12
3. Early arguments for a nonsentential analysis	17
4. Mixed analyses	21
5. Data and sentential/nonsentential analyses in Minimalism	25
6. Conclusion	27
CHAPTER 2	
<b>The syntax of nonsententials: Small clauses and phrases at the root</b>	<b>33</b>
<i>Ljiljana Progovac</i>	
1. Introduction	33
2. Outline of the proposed analysis	37
3. Sentence and Tense	42
4. Noun Phrase, Determiners, and Case	45
5. Small clauses in current syntactic theory	52
6. Tense, Time, assertion, and the role of context	54
7. Conclusion	61
CHAPTER 3	
<b>“Small structures”: A sententialist perspective</b>	<b>73</b>
<i>Jason Merchant</i>	
1. Introduction	73
2. Fragment answers	74

3. Discourse-initial (?) fragments	83
4. Conclusion	89
CHAPTER 4	
<b>Neither fragments nor ellipsis</b>	<b>93</b>
<i>Robert J. Stainton</i>	
1. Introduction	93
2. Merchant's proposal and its advantages	95
3. Empirical objections	103
4. A methodological objection: "Fragments" and simplicity	113
5. Concluding remarks	114
CHAPTER 5	
<b>Big questions, small answers</b>	<b>117</b>
<i>Eugenia Casielles</i>	
1. Introduction	117
2. The elliptical view	119
3. The nonelliptical view	122
4. The sluicing view	125
5. Toward a phrasal analysis of small answers	130
6. Conclusions and further issues	134
CHAPTER 6	
<b>Extending the nonsentential analysis: The case of special registers</b>	<b>147</b>
<i>Kate Paesani</i>	
1. Introduction	147
2. An overview of special registers	149
3. The (non)sentential nature of special registers	157
4. The syntax of nonsententials in special registers	159
5. Expressing time in special registers	167
6. Conclusion	172
CHAPTER 7	
<b>The narrowing acquisition path: From expressive small clauses to declaratives</b>	<b>183</b>
<i>Christopher Potts and Tom Roeper</i>	
1. Expressive small clauses	183
2. Small clauses in adult English	185
3. Small clauses in child English	186
4. A note on expressive content	187
5. When speaking expressively, we're all children	188
6. Self-directed disapprobation cross-linguistically	189
7. The acquisition of expressive small clauses	193
8. Analysis of self-disapprobation small clauses	194

9. Analysis of incredulity small clauses 198
10. Summary and conclusions 199

## CHAPTER 8

**Nonsententials and second language acquisition 203***Nicola Work*

1. Introduction 203
2. Background 204
3. Early L2 acquisition data: The Basic Variety 206
4. Learner language and native adult nonsententials 211
5. Nonsentential grammar and theories of L2 acquisition 219
6. Teacher talk 221
7. Conclusion 223

## CHAPTER 9

**How language adapts to the brain: An analysis of agrammatic aphasia 229***Herman Kolk*

1. Overview 229
2. Variability of symptoms 230
3. Theories of agrammatism as a variable phenomenon 232
4. Evidence for the temporal-window hypothesis 234
5. Adaptation 237
6. Conclusion 251

## CHAPTER 10

**Nonsententials and agrammatism 259***Patricia Siple*

1. Introduction 259
2. Syntactic deficits associated with agrammatic production 260
3. Theoretical accounts of agrammatic production 263
4. Extending Kolk: Syntactic structure and adaptation theory 268
5. Conclusion 277

## CHAPTER 11

**Reduced syntax in (prototypical) pidgins 283***Donald Winford*

1. Introduction 283
2. Structural characteristics of pidgins 286
3. Processes of pidginization 288
4. Pidgins and second language acquisition 292
5. Stages of development in pidginization and early IL 295
6. Conclusion 304

## CHAPTER 12

**Copula variation in Guyanese Creole and AAVE: Implications  
for nonsentential grammar** 309*Walter Edwards*

1. Introduction 309
2. The copula in Rural Guyanese Creole 309
3. Urban Guyanese Creole and the present-tense copula 311
4. Copula variation in Urban Guyanese Creole 311
5. Guyanese Creole and the nonsentential analysis 314
6. Copula variation in AAVE 315
7. AAVE, Guyanese Creole, and the nonsentential analysis 318
8. Discussion 319

**Epilogue: Wherefrom and whereto?** 323*Ljiljana Progovac, Kate Paesani, Eugenia Casielles, and Ellen Barton*

1. Nonsententials, individual variation, and multiple grammars 323
2. Why nonsententials: A historical perspective 328
3. Elliptical versus nonsentential approaches 333
4. Some remaining issues and future prospects 343

**Index of languages** 355**Index of names** 357**Index of subjects** 361