# The Nature of Explanation in Linguistic Theory

December 3-5, 1999  
Department of Linguistics, UCSD  
(Robinson Building Complex, Rooms 3201 & 3202)

**Friday, December 3**

1:45 Opening Remarks and Welcome  
2:00 On the Notion of Showing Something  
   *Gregory Carlson, Univ. of Rochester*  
2:30 Generative Grammar and Beyond  
   *S.-Y. Kuroda, UC San Diego*  
3:00 Historical Explanations of Synchronic Binding Theory Facts  
   *Edward L. Keenan, UC Los Angeles*  
3:30 Theory and Analysis in Linguistic Explanation  
   *David M. Perlmutter, UC San Diego*  
4:00 Moderated Discussion  
4:30 break  
5:00 Conventionality as the Ultimate Explanation  
   *Charles J. Fillmore, UC Berkeley*  
5:30 The Distribution of English Resultative Phrases: A Matter of Syntax or Semantics?  
   *Beth Levin, Stanford University*  
6:00 The Relation between Verb Meanings and Argument Structure  
   *Angelika Kratzer, Univ. of Mass., Amherst*  
6:30 Moderated Discussion

**Saturday, December 4**

9:30 Explaining “Exotic” Uses of Pronouns in Edo within a Formal Generative Theory  
   *Mark C. Baker, Rutgers University*  
10:00 A Semantic Perspective on Object Incorporation in Chamorro  
   *Sandra Chang, UC Santa Cruz*  
10:30 The Syntax-Discourse Interface and the Explanation of Subject Pro-drop  
   *Ellen F. Prince, Univ. of Pennsylvania*  
11:00 Moderated Discussion  
11:30 lunch  
1:00 Neural and Cognitive Explanation in Linguistic Theory  
   *George Lakoff, UC Berkeley*  
1:30 Processing Efficiency in Grammatical Universals: Some Hypotheses and Issues  
   *John A. Hawkins, Univ. of Southern California*  
2:00 Explaining Infixation  
   *John Haiman, Macalester College*  
2:30 Explanation in Cognitive Linguistics and Cognitive Grammar  
   *Ronald W. Langacker, UC San Diego*  
3:00 Moderated Discussion  
3:30 break  
4:00 Linguistic Theory, Explanation, and the Dynamics of Language  
   *Peter W. Culicover, The Ohio State University*  
4:30 Minimalism and Explanation  
   *Robert D. Van Valin, SUNY Buffalo*  
5:00 Differential Case Marking: Iconicity vs. Economy  
   *Judith Aissen, UC Santa Cruz*  
5:30 Formal Linguistics and Functional Explanation: Bridging the Gap  
   *Frederick J. Newmeyer, Univ. of Washington*  
6:00 Moderated Discussion  
7:30 Conference Party

**Sunday, December 5**

9:30 Constraints and the Structure of Clauses  
   *Jane Grimshaw, Rutgers University*  
10:00 Exo-Skeletal vs. Endo-Skeletal Explanations: Syntactic Projections and the Lexicon  
   *Hagit Borer, Univ. of Southern California*  
10:30 “Explaining” the English Auxiliary System  
   *Ivan Sag, Stanford University*  
11:00 The English Verbal System—A Case Study in Chomskyan Explanation  
   *Howard Lasnik, Univ. of Connecticut*  
11:30 Moderated Discussion

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This seminar is supported by the Humanities Research Institute, Humanities Center at UCSD, and the Office of the Dean of Social Sciences at UCSD. The seminar is open to the general public and free of charge.

For further information visit our website: [http://ling.ucsd.edu/~explanation/](http://ling.ucsd.edu/~explanation/)