

A PF View of Syntactic Derivation

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When characterizing a “phase” at first, Chomsky (1998/2000) states, based on the minimalistic view of the grammar, that a phase should be “a natural syntactic object SO, an object that is relatively independent in terms of interface properties” (2000:106). Among the two interfaces, LF and PF, Chomsky focuses on the “meaning side” and takes such SO to be the closest syntactic counterpart to a proposition, defining a phase as CP or vP. In Chomsky (1999/2001), he further argues that “the choice of phases has independent support: these are reconstruction sites, and have *a degree of phonetic independence*” (1999:9, italics are mine).

In this presentation, I focus on the “sound side” of the two interfaces, and consider (mainly conceptual) advantages of the PF-based approach to phases. I show that the PF-based approach to syntax-PF mapping calls for left-to-right (as opposed to bottom-up) structure-building in the computational component.

If time permits, I will compare my approach to syntax-PF mapping with Dobashi’s (2003) and Tokizaki’s (2005), and consider how mine could be different from theirs.