

**A corpus-based dynamic approach  
to para-hypotaxis:  
Implications for diachronic  
corpus linguistic analysis**



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Ireneusz Kida

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Implications for diachronic  
corpus linguistic analysis**

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# Contents

<b>Introduction</b> . . . . .	9
The purpose of the book . . . . .	9
The structure of the book . . . . .	10
Chapter 1	
<b>State of the art</b> . . . . .	13
1.1. Corpus linguistics . . . . .	13
1.2. Definition of <i>corpus</i> . . . . .	15
1.3. Corpus composition, annotation, size and representativeness . . . . .	17
1.4. Diachronic corpora of English . . . . .	21
1.4.1. Unannotated diachronic corpora of English . . . . .	22
1.4.2. Annotated diachronic corpora of English . . . . .	28
1.4.3. Other corpora . . . . .	34
1.5. Parataxis versus hypotaxis . . . . .	35
1.6. What developed first in Indo-European: parataxis or hypotaxis? . . . . .	38
1.7. What is para-hypotaxis? . . . . .	41
1.8. The problem of modern punctuation in mediaeval texts . . . . .	43
1.9. Main or dependent Old English clauses? . . . . .	44
1.10. Ambiguity and some techniques of resolving it . . . . .	47
1.11. Introduction to the following chapters . . . . .	54
Chapter 2	
<b>Para-hypotaxis</b> . . . . .	57
2.1. The way we see para-hypotaxis . . . . .	57
2.2. Static Intrinsic Para-Hypotaxis . . . . .	60
2.3. Mobile Intrinsic Para-Hypotaxis . . . . .	64
2.4. Our annotated corpus taking PH clauses into account . . . . .	70

## Chapter 3

<b>Static Intrinsic Para-Hypotaxis in the <i>Anglo-Saxon Chronicle</i></b> . . . . .	75
3.1. SIPH-taxis: $PH-siph\{[=x/[con^*]$ clauses . . . . .	76
3.1.1. $PH-siph\{[cj=x/[cj=con^*]$ clauses . . . . .	81
3.1.2. $PH-siph\{[0=x/[0=con^*]$ clauses . . . . .	82
3.1.3. The ambivalence corridor for the ASC A $PH-siph\{[=x/[con^*]$ clauses and their sequence variants . . . . .	85
3.1.4. The ambivalence corridor for the ASC E $PH-siph\{[=x/[con^*]$ clauses and their sequence variants . . . . .	87
3.2. SIPH-taxis: $PH-siph\{[=s/[con^*]$ clauses . . . . .	88
3.2.1. $PH-siph\{[cj=s/[cj=con^*]$ clauses . . . . .	93
3.2.2. $PH-siph\{[0=s/[0=con^*]$ clauses . . . . .	94
3.2.3. The ambivalence corridor for the ASC A $PH-siph\{[=s/[con^*]$ clauses and their sequence variants . . . . .	96
3.2.4. The ambivalence corridor for the ASC E $PH-siph\{[=s/[con^*]$ clauses and their sequence variants . . . . .	98
3.3. SIPH-taxis: $PH-siph\{[=io/[con^*]$ clauses . . . . .	99
3.3.1. $PH-siph\{[cj=io/[cj=con^*]$ clauses . . . . .	101
3.3.2. $PH-siph\{[0=io/[0=con^*]$ clauses . . . . .	101
3.3.3. The ambivalence corridor for the ASC A $PH-siph\{[=io/[con^*]$ clauses . . . . .	102
3.3.4. The ambivalence corridor for the ASC E $PH-siph\{[=io/[con^*]$ clauses . . . . .	103
3.4. SIPH-taxis: $PH-siph\{[=do/[con^*]$ clauses . . . . .	104
3.4.1. $PH-siph\{[cj=do/[cj=con^*]$ clauses . . . . .	108
3.4.2. $PH-siph\{[0=do/[0=con^*]$ clauses . . . . .	108
3.4.3. The ambivalence corridor for the ASC A $PH-siph\{[=do/[con^*]$ clauses . . . . .	108
3.4.4. The ambivalence corridor for the ASC E $PH-siph\{[=do/[con^*]$ clauses . . . . .	109
3.5. SIPH-taxis: $PH-siph\{[=0/[0^*]$ clauses . . . . .	110
3.5.1. $PH-siph\{[=0/[0^*]$ from <i>s</i> clauses . . . . .	111
3.5.2. $PH-siph\{[=0/[0^*]$ from <i>x</i> clauses . . . . .	118
3.5.3. $PH-siph\{[=0/[0^*]$ from <i>io</i> clauses . . . . .	119
3.5.4. $PH-siph\{[=0/[0^*]$ from <i>do</i> clauses . . . . .	119
3.5.5. SIPH-taxis: $PH-siph\{[cj=0/[cj=0^*]$ and $PH-siph\{[0=0/[0=0^*]$ clauses . . . . .	120
3.5.6. $PH-siph\{[cj=0/[cj=0^*]$ from <i>x</i> clauses . . . . .	120
3.5.7. $PH-siph\{[0=0/[0=0^*]$ from <i>x</i> clauses . . . . .	122
3.5.8. $PH-siph\{[cj=0/[cj=0^*]$ from <i>s</i> clauses . . . . .	122
3.5.9. $PH-siph\{[0=0/[0=0^*]$ from <i>s</i> clauses . . . . .	123
3.5.10. $PH-siph\{[cj=0/[cj=0^*]$ from <i>io</i> clauses . . . . .	124
3.5.11. $PH-siph\{[0=0/[0=0^*]$ from <i>io</i> clauses . . . . .	125
3.5.12. $PH-siph\{[cj=0/[cj=0^*]$ from <i>do</i> clauses . . . . .	125
3.5.13. $PH-siph\{[0=0/[0=0^*]$ from <i>do</i> clauses . . . . .	125
3.5.14. The ambivalence corridor for the ASC A $PH-siph\{[=0/[0^*]$ clauses and their sequence variants . . . . .	126
3.5.15. The ambivalence corridor for the ASC E $PH-siph\{[=0/[0^*]$ clauses and their sequence variants . . . . .	127
3.6. The maximum range of the ambivalence corridor produced by the ASC A SIPH clauses . . . . .	128

3.7. The maximum range of the ambivalence corridor produced by the ASC E SIPH clauses . . . . . 130

Chapter 4

**Mobile Intrinsic Para-Hypotaxis in the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*** . . . . 135

4.1. MIPH-taxis:  $PH\text{-}miph\} = x\} / [con^*$  clauses . . . . . 136

4.1.1.  $PH\text{-}miph\} cj = x\} / [cj = con^*$  clauses . . . . . 142

4.1.2.  $PH\text{-}miph\} 0 = x\} / [0 = con^*$  clauses . . . . . 143

4.1.3. The ambivalence corridor for the ASC A  $PH\text{-}miph\} = x\} / [con^*$  clauses and their sequence variants . . . . . 145

4.1.4. The ambivalence corridor for the ASC E  $PH\text{-}miph\} = x\} / [con^*$  clauses and their sequence variants . . . . . 146

4.2. MIPH-taxis:  $PH\text{-}miph\} = s\} / [con^*$  clauses . . . . . 148

4.2.1.  $PH\text{-}miph\} cj = s\} / [cj = con^*$  clauses . . . . . 150

4.2.2.  $PH\text{-}miph\} 0 = s\} / [0 = con^*$  clauses . . . . . 150

4.2.3. The ambivalence corridor for the ASC A  $PH\text{-}miph\} = s\} / [con^*$  clauses . . . . . 152

4.2.4. The ambivalence corridor for the ASC E  $PH\text{-}miph\} = s\} / [con^*$  clauses and their sequence variants . . . . . 153

4.3. MIPH-taxis:  $PH\text{-}miph\} = io\} / [con^*$  clauses . . . . . 154

4.3.1.  $PH\text{-}miph\} cj = io\} / [cj = con^*$  clauses . . . . . 154

4.3.2.  $PH\text{-}miph\} 0 = io\} / [0 = con^*$  clauses . . . . . 155

4.4. MIPH-taxis:  $PH\text{-}miph\} = do\} / [con^*$  clauses . . . . . 155

4.4.1.  $PH\text{-}miph\} cj = do\} / [cj = con^*$  clauses . . . . . 159

4.4.2.  $PH\text{-}miph\} 0 = do\} / [0 = con^*$  clauses . . . . . 160

4.4.3. The ambivalence corridor for the ASC A  $PH\text{-}miph\} = do\} / [con^*$  clauses and their sequence variants . . . . . 163

4.4.4. The ambivalence corridor for the ASC E  $PH\text{-}miph\} = do\} / [con^*$  clauses and their sequence variants . . . . . 164

4.5. MIPH-taxis:  $PH\text{-}miph\} = 0\} / [0^*$  clauses . . . . . 166

4.5.1.  $PH\text{-}miph\} = 0\} / [0^*$  from *x* clauses . . . . . 166

4.5.2.  $PH\text{-}miph\} = 0\} / [0^*$  from *s* clauses . . . . . 168

4.5.3. MIPH-taxis:  $PH\text{-}miph\} = 0\} / [0^*$  from *io* . . . . . 168

4.5.4. MIPH-taxis:  $PH\text{-}miph\} [= 0\} / [0^*$  from *do* . . . . . 169

4.5.5. MIPH-taxis:  $PH\text{-}miph\} cj = 0\} / [cj = 0^*$  and  $PH\text{-}miph\} 0 = 0\} / [0 = 0^*$  clauses . . . . . 169

4.5.6.  $PH\text{-}miph\} cj = 0\} / [cj = 0^*$  from *x* clauses . . . . . 170

4.5.7.  $PH\text{-}miph\} cj = 0\} / [cj = 0^*$  from *s* clauses . . . . . 171

4.5.8.  $PH\text{-}miph\} cj = 0\} / [cj = 0^*$  from *io* clauses . . . . . 172

4.5.9.  $PH\text{-}miph\} cj = 0\} / [cj = 0^*$  from *do* clauses . . . . . 172

4.5.10.  $PH\text{-}miph\} 0 = 0\} / [0 = 0^*$  from *x* clauses . . . . . 173

4.5.11.  $PH\text{-}miph\} 0 = 0\} / [0 = 0^*$  from *s* clauses . . . . . 174

4.5.12.  $PH\text{-}miph\} 0 = 0\} / [0 = 0^*$  from *io* clauses . . . . . 174

4.5.13.  $PH\text{-}miph\} 0 = 0\} / [0 = 0^*$  from *do* clauses . . . . . 175

4.5.14. The ambivalence corridor for the ASC A  $PH\text{-}miph\} = 0\} / [0^*$  clauses . . . . . 177

4.5.15. The ambivalence corridor for the ASC E  $PH\text{-}miph\} = 0\} / [0^*$  clauses and their sequence variants . . . . . 178

4.6.	The maximum range of the ambivalence corridor produced by the ASC A MIPH clauses . . . . .	179
4.7.	The maximum range of the ambivalence corridor produced by the ASC E MIPH clauses . . . . .	181
Chapter 5		
<b>Extended-Para-Hypotaxis in the <i>Anglo-Saxon Chronicle</i> and implications for further study . . . . .</b>		187
5.1.	EPH clauses . . . . .	187
5.2.	Uninterrupted EPH doublets . . . . .	189
5.3.	Uninterrupted quasi-EPH doublets . . . . .	196
5.4.	Interrupted EPH doublets . . . . .	199
5.5.	Interrupted quasi-EPH doublets . . . . .	200
Chapter 6		
<b>Conclusions . . . . .</b>		203
6.1.	Introduction . . . . .	203
6.2.	Calibration of the data for the ASC A — proportions . . . . .	205
6.3.	Calibration of the data for the ASC E — proportions . . . . .	209
6.4.	Comparison of the ASC A and the ASC E after calibration . . . . .	212
6.5.	Final conclusions, remarks and implications . . . . .	217
<b>Bibliography . . . . .</b>		221
References . . . . .		221
Sources . . . . .		231
Websites . . . . .		232
Streszczenie . . . . .		235
Résumé . . . . .		237



# Introduction

## The purpose of the book

This book, consisting of six chapters, inscribes itself in the field of diachronic corpus linguistics and is the result of research focused on finding new corpus tools for solving the problem of clause ambivalence in Old English. The efforts resulted in the creation of an authored research methodology allowing for systematic classification, description, automatic search and analysis of ambivalent clauses, which form a separate syntactic category called para-hypotaxis, on the basis of a specific manually compiled corpus consisting of two manuscripts of the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*: manuscript A and manuscript E. The *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle* was chosen because in the scientific literature it is considered to have a purely native character and to have been written in colloquial style. Thus the type of Old English used in it is more natural than that found in translated works. Not incidentally, the oldest manuscript (A), also referred to as the *Parker Chronicle* or the *Winchester Chronicle*, is compared with the youngest one (E), also referred to as the *Peterborough Chronicle* or the *Laud Manuscript*, because it was assumed that the comparison of these two manuscripts would allow for a more interesting confrontation.

The concept of para-hypotaxis is traditionally applied in Romance linguistics in relation to the Old Italian sequences of dependent clauses followed by main clauses introduced by certain coordinating conjunctions. However, in this book it receives a distinct meaning by being identified with ambivalence, which is the key issue here. In our view, para-hypotaxis is the phenomenon of ambivalent clauses which can be found in an intermediate stage of the transition of a language from parataxis to hypotaxis or vice versa. Since these clauses are ambivalent, we propose that they be analysed in two different ways, namely either as main clauses being in paratactic relation to the immediately preceding/following clauses, or as dependent ones being in hypotactic relation to the

clauses immediately preceding/following them; in this book, *main* is used also in the sense of *independent* or *coordinate*.

Apart from discovering, classifying, describing and comparing Old English ambivalent clauses, we aim at measuring the extent of the influence carried by their dual analysis on the overall picture of surface word order in both manuscripts of the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*. It has been demonstrated that the results of the analysis substantially differ depending on whether the ambivalent clauses are approached from the point of view of parataxis and treated as main or from the point of view of hypotaxis and treated as dependent. Therefore, it is significant how these clauses are approached.<sup>1</sup>

By writing this book, we also intend to encourage creation of innovative research tools and methods, as well as to promote corpus linguistics, in which there are still many unresolved problems and open questions.

In sum, we aim at fulfilling the following objectives:

- a) creation of a research methodology for the phenomenon of para-hypotaxis,
- b) creation of a typology of para-hypotactic clauses,
- c) development and promotion of diachronic corpus linguistics.

Last but not least, we do not follow any established linguistic model but rather assume a theory-neutral eclectic approach and thus our book is directed to both model-oriented and not model-oriented readers.

## The structure of the book

In Chapter 1 we discuss the state of the art. At the beginning we concentrate on some notions related to corpus linguistics such as corpus composition, annotation, corpus size and representativeness. Then the well-known and influential diachronic corpora of English, both annotated and unannotated, are discussed. Afterwards, we focus on the problem of parataxis and hypotaxis, which are syntactic phenomena that are defined in different ways by different

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<sup>1</sup> In Kida (2007, 2010a, 2011b, 2011c) we already mentioned the problem of the para-hypotaxis in question (though we did not use the term para-hypotaxis then), but our views concerning it were very vague and far from being systematic or detailed. We briefly discussed this problem only theoretically without putting our ideas into practice. Although at that time we were aware of the existence of ambivalence in certain Old English clauses, so far in our analysis we have treated them not as ambivalent but as unambivalent, and analysed them like that. Nevertheless, we suggested that the problem might be treated in a more systematic way in the future; which we are doing now by isolating para-hypotaxis and dealing with it as a separate category. As regards other authors, to the best of our knowledge a similar classification, description, annotation and analysis of the para-hypotaxis we are dealing with here has not been proposed yet.

authors. The notion of para-hypotaxis is the next problem to be discussed and here we present the meanings that this notion is normally used to convey. In this chapter we also discuss the problems of modern punctuation in English mediaeval texts and of ambivalent Old English clauses. At the end of this chapter we discuss ambiguity, some ways of resolving it, and make an introduction to the following chapters.

In Chapter 2 we discuss how we ourselves see para-hypotaxis and suggest that it should be approached in a dynamic way. We distinguish two large subcategories of para-hypotaxis, namely *Static Intrinsic Para-Hypotaxis* and *Mobile Intrinsic Para-Hypotaxis*. We employ the following acronyms for the respective types of para-hypotaxis: *SIPH-taxis* (or *PH-siph*) and *MIPH-taxis* (or *PH-miph*). Within *SIPH-taxis* we distinguish *SIPH clauses* and *SIPH elements*, and analogically within *MIPH-taxis* *MIPH clauses* and *MIPH elements*. In order to comprise both types of para-hypotaxis in a more general way, we sometimes employ the terms *PH-taxis*, *PH clauses* and *PH elements*. Apart from making an introduction to these two kinds of para-hypotaxis, in this chapter we present the basics of our annotated corpus and the way we used it in the analysis.

In Chapter 3 we discuss in more detail the problem of Static Intrinsic Para-Hypotaxis (*SIPH-taxis*). In *SIPH-taxis* we identify 24 types of *SIPH clauses* on the basis of different *SIPH elements* that introduce them. A *SIPH element* always belongs to its corresponding *SIPH clause* no matter if the clause in which it appears is approached from the point of view of parataxis or from the point of view of hypotaxis. Moreover, apart from providing a classification and a theoretical description of the different kinds of *SIPH clauses*, we provide numerous examples from the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle* for illustration. Towards the end of this chapter we gather together all the data obtained for each kind of *SIPH clauses* and establish the maximum range of the corridor of ambivalence that the *SIPH clauses* offer together, both in the *Parker Chronicle* and in the *Peterborough Chronicle*.

In Chapter 4 we discuss in more detail the phenomenon of Mobile Intrinsic Para-Hypotaxis (*MIPH-taxis*). There are 24 different kinds of ambivalent clauses that belong to *MIPH-taxis*. There is a significant difference between *SIPH-taxis* and *MIPH-taxis*, namely a *MIPH element* does not always belong to its corresponding *MIPH clause* but it changes its position depending on whether the *MIPH clause* is approached from the point of view of parataxis or from the point of view of hypotaxis; it belongs to its corresponding *MIPH clause* only in hypotaxis. Moreover, as was the case with *SIPH clauses*, we provide a detailed classification and theoretical description of the different kinds of *MIPH clauses*. We also illustrate them by means of numerous examples from the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*, we discuss the corridor of ambivalence offered by each kind of the *MIPH clauses*, and finally we establish the maximum range of the corridor of

ambivalence offered by all the MIPH clauses taken together, both in the *Parker Chronicle* and in the *Peterborough Chronicle*.

In Chapter 5 we discuss the phenomenon of Extended-Para-Hypotaxis (EPH-taxis). However, unlike was the case with SIPH-taxis and MIPH-taxis, we describe it in very general terms and leave the reader with some implications for further study. As a matter of fact, EPH-taxis is not true para-hypotaxis because EPH clauses are not intrinsically ambivalent, unlike SIPH clauses and MIPH clauses. What can be ambivalent in EPH-taxis, however, are EPH elements but only partly and this partial ambivalence has no influence upon the status of the clauses involved because they are always unambivalent. EPH-taxis always implies a mutual co-existence of at least two clauses, one of which is unambivalently main and the other is unambivalently dependent, no matter if their EPH elements are approached from the point of view of parataxis or hypotaxis. Moreover, we consider EPH-taxis as being of minor importance and that is why we discuss it very generally and do not establish the maximum range of the corridor of ambivalence offered by them. Nevertheless, it would be interesting to do an analogical analysis of EPH clauses to the one we did with respect to SIPH and MIPH clauses, and see what the final outcome of this analysis would be.

In Chapter 6 we measure the extent of the influence of the dual analysis of PH clauses and we arrive at some conclusions and implications. When we approach the PH clauses from the point of view of parataxis, they are treated as main and need to be added to the total number of unambivalent main clauses. On the other hand, when the same PH clauses are approached from the point of view of hypotaxis, they are treated as dependent and need to be added to the total number of unambivalent dependent clauses. Both procedures offer very interesting results and it can be observed how the picture of word order configurations changes in the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle* depending on the approach. We are basically concerned with calculating the percentages and with establishing the proportion of PH clauses treated as main to the unambivalent main clauses, and the proportion of PH clauses treated as dependent to the unambivalent dependent clauses in both manuscripts of the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*. At the end of this chapter we arrive at further conclusions and discuss some problems and implications of our study.

Ireneusz Kida

## **Dynamiczne korpusowe podejście do para-hipotaksy: implikacje dla diachronicznej korpusowej analizy języka**

### Streszczenie

Niniejsza książka przedstawia dynamiczne, oparte na analizie korpusowej podejście do zjawiska para-hipotaksy oraz implikacje tej metody badawczej. Celem pracy jest usystematyzowanie elektronicznej analizy para-hipotaksy. Proponowane podejście ma na celu ustalenie możliwego wpływu podwójnej (czyli dynamicznej) analizy ambiwalentnych para-hipotaktycznych zdań (zdań PH) na wyniki otrzymane z analizy różnych szyków składniowych, głównie takich jak VO, OV, SV2 i XV2. Owa dynamiczna analiza przeprowadzona została na podstawie ręcznie anotowanego komputerowego korpusu tekstowego zawierającego dwa rękopisy *Kroniki Anglosaskiej*, a mianowicie *Kronikę Parker* (czyli rękopis A) i *Kronikę Peterborough* (czyli rękopis E). Prezentację wyników badań poprzedza jednak szczegółowa klasyfikacja i opis ambiwalentnych zdań PH.

Książka zawiera wskazania praktyczne dotyczące tego, jak powinno się anutować zdania para-hipotaktyczne do celów analizy elektronicznej. Zdania PH są ambiwalentne w tym sensie, że z jednej strony można je traktować jako zdania główne, a z drugiej strony jako zdania podrzędne. Z tego też względu sugerujemy, żeby podchodzić do nich z dwóch różnych perspektyw, odpowiednio parataktycznej i hipotaktycznej. Takie podwójne podejścia do zdań PH znacząco zmienia całościowy obraz konfiguracji szyków składniowych w danym tekście. Dzieje się tak nie tylko dlatego, że ogólna liczba zdań głównych/podrzędnych zmienia się po dodaniu zdań PH traktowanych jako główne/podrzędne, lecz także dlatego, że wszystkie konfiguracje szyków składniowych zdań PH zaliczane są albo do zdań głównych, albo do zdań podrzędnych, w zależności od tego, czy podchodzimy do nich z parataktycznego czy hipotaktycznego punktu widzenia.

W niniejszej pracy wprowadzono rozróżnienie na dwa podstawowe rodzaje zdań PH: zdania SIPH oraz zdania MIPH, które należą odpowiednio do Statycznej Inherentnej Para-Hipotaksy (SIPH-taksa) oraz do Mobilnej Inherentnej Para-Hipotaksy (MIPH-taksa). Wprowadzamy również trzeci rodzaj zdań PH, które należą do tak zwanej Ekstensywnej Para-Hipotaksy (EPH-taksa), ale ten rodzaj para-hipotaksy nie ma większego wpływu na wyniki analizy konfiguracji szyków składniowych, dlatego też omawiamy go bardzo ogólnie, a następnie formułujemy tylko pewne sugestie dotyczące dalszej analizy.

Ireneusz Kida

## **L'approche dynamique à la para-hypotaxe en corpus : les implications pour l'analyse diachronique de la langue en corpus**

### R é s u m é

Le livre présente une approche dynamique, appuyée sur une analyse du corpus, du phénomène de para-hypotaxe, ainsi que les implications de cette méthode de recherche. L'objectif de la présente étude est de systématiser l'analyse électronique de la para-hypotaxe. L'approche proposée a pour but de déterminer une influence possible d'une double (c'est-à-dire dynamique) analyse des propositions ambivalentes para-hypotaxes (phrases PH) sur les résultats reçus de l'analyse de différentes syntaxes, surtout comme VO, OV, SV2 et XV2. Cette analyse dynamique a été effectuée à la base du corpus textuel électronique, annoté manuellement, qui comprend deux manuscrits de la *Chronique anglo-saxonne*, à savoir la *Chronique de Parker* (c'est-à-dire le manuscrit A) et la *Chronique de Peterborough* (c'est-à-dire le manuscrit E). La classification détaillée des propositions ambivalentes PH et leur description précède la présentation des résultats de recherches.

Le livre contient des conseils pratiques concernant l'annotation des phrases para-hypotaxes dans l'analyse électronique. Les propositions PH sont ambivalentes en ce sens que d'un côté on peut les traiter comme des propositions principales, mais de l'autre — comme des propositions subordonnées. C'est pour cette raison l'auteur suggère de les examiner de deux perspectives, respectivement paratactique et hypotactique. Cette double approche aux propositions PH change considérablement l'image globale de la configuration des syntaxes dans un texte donné. Il en est ainsi non seulement à cause du changement du nombre global des propositions principales/subordonnées après l'addition des propositions PH, traitées comme principales/subordonnées, mais aussi à cause de la classification de toutes les configurations des syntaxes des propositions PH soit dans les propositions principales, soit dans les propositions subordonnées, selon que l'on les approche de point de vue paratactique ou hypotactique.

Dans l'étude suivante, l'auteur introduit la division entre deux types principaux des propositions PH : propositions SIPH et propositions MIPH, qui appartiennent respectivement à la Para-Hypotaxe Statique Inhérente (SIPH-taxe) et à la Para-Hypotaxe Mobile Inhérente (MIPH-taxe). L'auteur introduit également le troisième type des propositions PH, qui appartiennent à la Para-hypotaxe Extensive (EPH-taxe), mais ce type de para-hypotaxe a peu d'effet sur les résultats de l'analyse des syntaxes, c'est pourquoi l'auteur le décrit très généralement et ensuite formule seulement des suggestions concernant une analyse plus approfondie.

Copy editor  
Krystian Wojcieszuk

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Edward Wilk

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