

Current Work

—Greg Lee, August 2001

Greg's current projects are a reworking of McCawley's syntactic theory and *FM*,* a formatting tool he wrote to help prepare the manuscript for the essay on McCawley's theory. *FM* has special facilities for tree diagrams, both for screen display and printing on a PostScript printer. The current version of *FM* is available by anonymous ftp: `ftp://ling.lll.hawaii.edu/pub/greg/FM.tar.gz`.

In the same ftp directory, among other programs, you will find *LB*, `LB.tar.gz`, which is a set of tools he wrote to format dictionaries of Carolinian, Palauan, and Philippine botanical names.

Here is the abstract for the forthcoming work on McCawley's theory:

Generative Grammar in McCawley's Theory of Syntax

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Abstract

McCawley's syntactic theory can be reinterpreted as a monostatal theory which has much in common with nontransformational theories such as categorial grammar, relational grammar, and GPSG. An advantage of this reanalysis is that it provides a functional explanation for the strict cycle principle and the hierarchical nature of phrase structure: they are required for parsing. This account includes the mild departures from hierarchical structure found in constructions with discontinuous heads.

The reanalysis involves expanding the nodes in McCawley's tree structures so that they describe syntactic subcategories, rather than categories, and letting transformations apply to those, rather than to constituent trees. A version of the stratal uniqueness law of relational grammar can then be imposed in such a fashion that the number of possible nodes types is finite and the grammatical trees can consequently be described by a (rather large) context free phrase structure grammar.

* The PostScript code for printing this document was generated by *FM*