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Logic and linguistics in the twentieth century.

The development of modern logic, 775–847, Oxford Univ. Press, Oxford, 2009.

This 16th chapter of the impressive volume *The development of modern logic* does not provide a general account of the development of logic and linguistics during the past century as the title might suggest. It deals mainly with the convergence of the core research in generative theoretical linguistics, born from the Chomskyan revolution, with the research and the aims in the field of logical grammar.

As the authors write, “the history of the relationship between logic and theoretical linguistics in the past decades is rather a deeply dialectic one. It is a history of profound and synergic efforts toward the common aim of understanding the nature and universal principles of human language and its formal structure, but it is also [a] history of harsh conflicts and divergences on the nature of universal grammar itself. At the core of this confrontation lies the issue of the relationship between grammatical form and logical form, that is to say, the possibility itself of carving out the natural language syntactic and semantic space as a logical space.”

The history of the interaction between logic and linguistics on the nature of universal grammar is divided into three phases covering the first from the beginning of the century up to the 1960s (sections 2, 3 and 4), the second from the late 1960s throughout the 1970s (sections 5 and 6), and the third starting from the beginning of the 1980s (section 7). The discussion is focused on trying to reconstruct the dynamics and interactions between the “approaches in logic and in linguistic theory, which represent the major landmarks in the quest for the individuation of the universal structure of language.”

The sections of the text are: (1) Introduction; (2) Logical Grammar: 2.1. Frege and Russell; 2.2. Husserl’s Theory of Meaning Categories; 2.3. The Polish School; 2.4. Lesniewski and Adjukiewicz: The Grammar of Semantic Categories; 2.5. The Categorical Grammar of Bar-Hillel; (3) Truth-Conditional Semantics; (4) Chomsky’s Revolution in Linguistics: 4.1. The Birth of Transformational Generative Grammar; 4.2. The Autonomy of Syntax; 4.3. Semantic Theory in Early Generative Grammar; (5) Deep Syntax and Generative Semantics; (6) Montague Grammar and Model-Theoretic Semantics: 6.1. Compositionality and Universal Grammar; 6.2. PTQ: The Standard Model of Montague Grammar; 6.2.1. The Interpretation of Noun Phrases; 6.2.2. Intensionality and Meaning Postulates; 6.2.3. The Treatment of Scope; (7) The Problem of Logical Form in Generative Linguistics.

{For the entire collection see [MR2895603 \(2012i:03008\)](#)}

Reviewed by *Jaime Nubiola*