

Reading guide: Baker (1985), day 1 (sec 1-4)

Baker, Mark. 1985. The Mirror Principle and morphosyntactic explanation. *Linguistic Inquiry* 16: 373-415.

For this assignment, focus on sections §1-§4 of the paper.

- Terminology notes (p 379): An *oblique* phrase (abbreviated *obl* in the paper) is, loosely speaking, a phrase in a sentence that has a relationship to the verb that is less 'central' than that of a subject, direct object, or indirect object. They are sometimes optional modifier-like phrases, and sometimes related to a verb that has a large number of arguments. In English, obliques are often introduced by prepositions such as *by* (*the committee*) or *for* (*my friend*).

Baker uses the abbreviation *i-object* for *indirect object*.

- (1) [not for RR] What is the Mirror Principle? How is it explicitly stated/defined, and what does that mean? What kind of language data would constitute a counterexample to the Mirror Principle?
- (2) The architecture of the grammar in Baker's proposal
 - (a) What view does Baker take of the structure or important characteristics of the morphological component?
 - (b) What view does Baker take of the structure or important characteristics of the syntactic component?
 - (c) Of the three types of grammar model discussed by Haspelmath (2002), which one(s) do you think would be closest to the system Baker is proposing?
 - (d) Could something similar to the Mirror Principle be proposed within one of Haspelmath's other two grammar model types? Choose one grammar type that is different from your answer to (c) and explain, as explicitly as you can, how this alternative Mirror Principle would have to be stated. Or alternatively, explain why such a principle could not be stated for the type of grammar model you have chosen to discuss.
- (3) [not for RR] What is a GF-rule? How is it different from what Baker calls an 'agreement process'?
- (4) For each language example that Baker discusses in §3-§4, think about why it is discussed (and be prepared to be asked about this in class). What properties of that example are relevant, and how? What does Baker want to show with that example? How convincing do you find his example? [If you choose this question for your RR, select one example to discuss in detail. Describe the pattern itself, showing relevant data, and discuss how it forms part of Baker's argument.]