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Short version

Abstract
Modules, interfaces and some consequences thereof

The talk discusses what a modular architecture of language could look like, what predictions it makes and what consequences it has.

1. Modules require interfaces
   Modules process domain-specific vocabulary that is unintelligible by other modules. Hence inter-modular communication requires translation (interfaces).

2. Translation is lexical
   Spell-out upon the conversion of morpho-syntactic structure into phonological material (Vocabulary insertion) is list-based (lexical): it involves a dictionary-based lexical access where items are retrieved from long term memory. This interface mechanism is the same all through, i.e. also at the phonology-phonetics interface.

3. Phonetic arbitrariness
   The relationship between the two items of a dictionary entry $\alpha \leftrightarrow Y$ is arbitrary by definition. This is undisputed for Vocabulary Insertion and must also be true for the phonology-phonetics interface. Hence phonetic arbitrariness, substance-free phonology and the absence of "naturalness" from phonology.

4. Below vs. above the skeleton
   In a sense to be defined, items below the skeleton (features) are phonologically meaningless, while items at and above the skeleton are phonologically meaningful (they are not interchangeable). This distinction indicates the existence of distinct modules within the phonology.

5. No diacritics
   Unlike computational translation, lexical translation constrains the output, which needs to make a good lexical entry. Hence diacritics (items that are not part of the domain-specific vocabulary) do not qualify: hash-marks #, omegas ω, phis φ (prosodic hierarchy), etc.

6. Beyond the skin
   Cognitive systems that are related to the outside world (beyond the skin: light waves, sound waves etc.) relate discrete mental categories and real-world items through a dictionary with arbitrary associations.

7. Module-specific implementation of hierarchy
   Hierarchy in morpho-syntax is expressed by trees, but in phonology by lateral relations (government and licensing).