

The Semantic Syntax treatment of negation in English

Pieter Seuren

Semantic Syntax is a syntactic theory developed by the author as from the 1970s to give formal substance to what used to be known as Generative Semantics (Seuren 2018). The theory is based on the notion that a syntax takes as input a language-specific input tree (the Semantic Analysis or SA) representing the linguistic meaning of the sentence to be generated as a composition of (type-level) propositions and propositional functions. It then transforms this SA into the (or a) corresponding surface structure (SS), which is subsequently fed into the morphology. The syntax consists of the Cycle, followed by the Postcycle. Complementation is one large section of the syntax; the Auxiliary System is another. In this paper I will show in main outline how negation, as part of the Auxiliary System of the syntax of English, is treated in Semantic Syntax. In the process, many aspects of Semantic Syntax will be elucidated.

References

Seuren, Pieter. 2018. *Semantic syntax*. Leiden: Brill, 2nd edition.