

Collateral movement

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A striking property of long-distance movement is that it proceeds successive-cyclically (Chomsky 1973, 1977). On the standard view, successive-cyclic movement involves a daisy chain of movement steps: movement proceeds serially, and cyclically, from the base position through each intermediate landing site on the way to the final landing site. In this talk, I explore a different approach to long-distance movement that is inspired by properties of long-distance agreement (in Hindi-Urdu). On this approach, movement proceeds directly from the base position to the final landing site, but it creates, counter-cyclically, intermediate landing sites as a by-product. Thus, this approach views intermediate movement as collateral: all landing sites are derivationally related to the base position, but not to each other. The motivation for this approach comes from (i) opaque interactions between intermediate landing sites and the structure surrounding them, and (ii) position that may only exist as intermediate landing sites. One consequence of this approach to intermediate movement steps is that the requirement for movement to be successive-cyclic can no longer be attributed to locality restrictions on extraction.