

ON THE PERIPHERY: COMPARATIVE CORRELATIVES IN POLISH AND ENGLISH

Robert D. Borsley
University of Essex

Two very different trends can be seen in recent work in syntax. While Chomsky has narrowed the scope of syntax, suggesting that various traditional syntactic phenomena are not part of syntax proper, others such as Culicover (1999) have emphasized the size and the importance of the periphery of marked constructions with distinctive properties of their own. Among others Culicover highlights the comparative correlative construction exemplified by *The more I read, the more I understand*, which is explored in Culicover and Jackendoff (1999). Culicover and Jackendoff suggest that 'More cross-linguistic work is called for on this and other idiosyncratic constructions'. Accepting this, I will look in this talk at the Polish comparative correlative construction exemplified by *Im bardziej zmęczony jesteś, tym gorzej pracujesz*, IM more tired you-are TYM worse you-work, 'The more tired you are, the worse you work'. I will outline a formal analysis of the Polish construction within Head-driven Phrase Structure Grammar (HPSG), and also sketch a formal analysis of the English construction, which Culicover and Jackendoff do not. I will show that it is not too difficult to accommodate these constructions within HPSG but that they appear problematic for minimalism.

REFERENCES

- Culicover, P.W. (1999), *Syntactic Nuts: Hard Cases, Syntactic Theory and Language Acquisition*. Oxford University Press, Oxford.
- Culicover, P. W. and R.S. Jackendoff (1999), 'The view from the periphery: The English comparative correlative', *Linguistic Inquiry* 30: 543-571.