

The PROIEL syntactic annotation is based on dependency grammar (DG). While DG is relatively close to traditional school grammar and also a much-used formalism in computational linguistics, it is not much used in theoretical linguistics. In this paper I discuss the relationship between DG and Lexical-Functional Grammar, which consists of two components, a feature (f-)structure and a constituent (c-)structure. The mapping to f-structure is relatively straightforward given the nature of the PROIEL annotation. The mapping to c-structure is more complex, but also more interesting for scholars who want to approach PROIEL data from other theoretical angles, such as minimalism and other phrase structure based formalisms.

In this paper I present ongoing work on computational transformation of PROIEL structures, based on an algorithm which identifies the category of all nodes and then search for the largest projective (continuous) dependency subgraph of that category, given a set of phrase structure rules. The results are of interest for studies on topicalization, long distance dependencies and other syntactic operations that are driven by information structure.