ABSTRACT

THE PARALLEL ARCHITECTURE AND ITS ROLE IN LINGUISTICS AND COGNITIVE SCIENCE

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The Parallel Architecture shares the concerns of classical generative grammar with the psychological and biological foundations of the language capacity. However, it argues for different formal machinery, in which there are multiple independent sources of combinatoriality “phonology, syntax, and semantics” connected by interface components. Each of the major components in turn is articulated into a number of independent tiers. Words are treated as part of the interface components, linking the independent structures. This approach integrates aspects of many nonclassical generative theories, makes possible more perspicuous descriptions of many well known linguistic phenomena, and provides a far closer linkage to psycholinguistics, neuroscience, and evolutionary psychology than has been heretofore possible.