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Hans Broekhuis, Ralf Vogel (eds.)

Optimality Theory and Minimalism:
Interface Theories

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Optimality Theory and Minimalism: Interface Theories

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Preface

This issue of *Linguistics in Potsdam* contains a number of papers that grew out of the workshop “Interface theories: the filtering of the output of the generator (DEAL II)”, held in Leiden on February 22-23, 2008. This workshop should be seen as a follow-up to the DEAL I conference held in December 2005 in Berlin, the proceedings of which have been published earlier as LiP 25 (www.ling.uni-potsdam.de/lip). Whereas the focus of DEAL I was on problems concerning the *descriptive and explanatory adequacy* of the more traditional versions of the minimalist program and optimality theory, DEAL II was devoted more specifically to issues concerning the *interfaces* between syntax proper and the other components of the grammar, i.e., semantics, morphology, and phonology (see <http://let.uvt.nl/deal08/call.html> for the call for papers).

The papers contained in this issue share the insight that the different components of the grammar sometimes impose conflicting requirements on the grammar’s output, and that, in order to handle such conflicts, it seems advantageous to combine aspects from minimalist and OT modelling. The papers show that this can be undertaken in a multiplicity of ways, by using varying proportions of each framework, and offer a broad range of perspectives for future research.

We hope that this collection will encourage people who are currently working within just one of the two frameworks to broaden their vision by also considering the possibilities that the alternative framework offers, and that this will stimulate further fruitful debate among syntacticians from the two frameworks, just as the conference itself did.

Hans Broekhuis

Ralf Vogel

Leiden and Potsdam, Dec 6, 2008

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