

**Core and Periphery**  
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Asking what exactly constitutes the capacity for human language has been (and still is) an important question ever since *Cartesian* times. Generative linguistics has provided us with some significant answers (not always properly understood) that became increasingly abstract, abstracting from construction- and language-specific details: LAD (*Aspects*), UG (*Principles and Parameters*), Basic Property (*SMT*). The conceptual, theoretical and empirical arguments involved are a powerful and useful means for reaching better understanding of some of the core ingredients of human language. One characteristic design trait is the fundamental asymmetry in the mappings to the CI and SM systems at the interfaces. Rules of grammar are structure dependent: they rely exclusively on complexities of hierarchical structure and entirely dismiss simplicities of linear order. The mapping to sound is a secondary phenomenon. Speech depends on externalized language conforming to conditions on linear precedence and reflecting properties of sensorimotor modalities. Individual languages result from interactions between core and periphery (parameters eating at what is left over by the basic property of language). This generative insight has important consequences for the study of language, its acquisition and use, and how language evolved in evolutionary time.