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Permutation test

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Philipp Stoeckle

permutation test

constituent test which involves the movement of sequences of connected words.

Permutationstest

Konstituententest, bei dem zusammengehörende Wortfolgen gemeinsam umgestellt werden.

A permutation test is applied in the analysis of clause structure. Sequences of connected words which can be moved together within a clause without leading to ungrammaticality can be considered a constituent. The sequence of words *last year* in (1a) can only be moved to the front of the sentence as a whole (1b), thus showing that it is a constituent.

(1a) She went to Paris last year.

(1b) Last year she went to Paris.

(1c) * Last she went to Paris year.

The permutation test can also be applied to explain syntactic ambiguities like *He invited all of her new colleagues and (new) friends* .

References

substitution test (Theories and Methods in Linguistics)

syntax (Theories and Methods in Linguistics)

Permutationstest (Grammatik: Syntax)

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