

Re: Universal grammar

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- *From:* groups@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
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Hi Hans,

Are you saying you want to look up what was said about linguistic universals to give you new ideas for constructing computer languages?

-Rob Freeman

Hans Aberg wrote:

...
The other end, though, is that I am into computer language construction, mainly using Bison/Flex, which are Yacc/Lex compatible programs. There is one constructed human language with a Yaccable grammar, Lojban <<http://www.lojban.org/>>. But other human languages are quite nondeterministic and ambiguous. Parsers, like Bison, now slowly get the capacity of handling ambiguous grammars. Bison does that by what is called GLR, "Generalized LR", which splits the parser when an ambiguity occurs, and merges it again when it is resolved. This is faster than parsing all possibilities. Parsing a human language is even more complicated, because the lexer needs to be split as well, which is currently not within scope, even though we have discussed the possibility.

Anyway, so I thought it might be good to have some references handy in the case of need.