

港中文大學 中國文化研究所 吳多泰中國語文研究中心 語言學講座

LINGUISTICS SEMINAR T.T. NG CHINESE LANGUAGE RESEARCH CENTRE, INSTITUTE OF CHINESE STUDIES The Chinese University of Hong Kong

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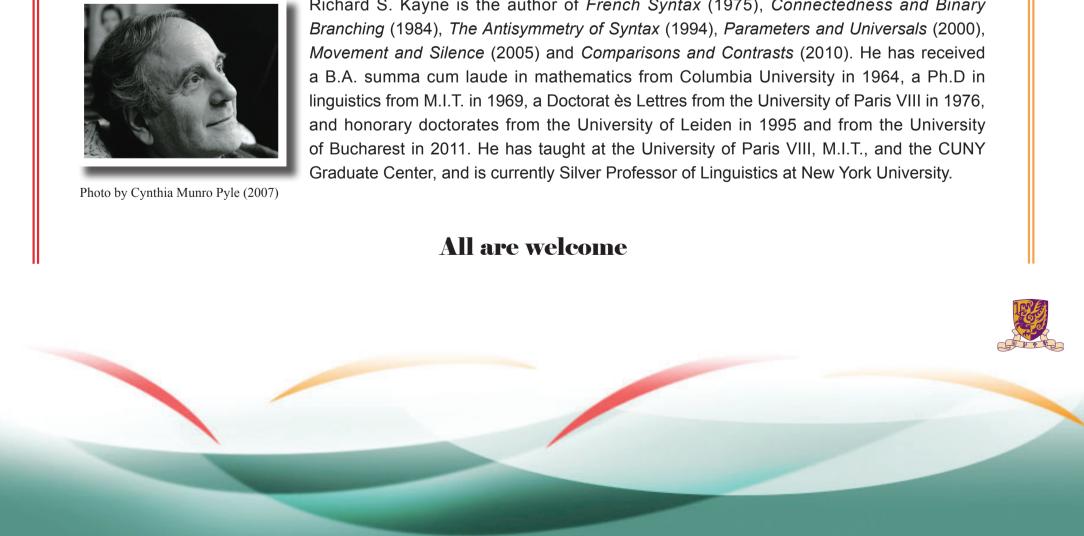
Comparative Syntax and English *is to*

Professor Richard S. Kayne (New York University)

Descriptive adequacy in the case of comparative syntax involves discovering generalizations over cross-linguistic differences and similarities. Explanatory adequacy in the case of comparative syntax involves trying to understand, in general UG terms or beyond, why a given cross-linguistic correlation should hold in the first place. The primary importance of comparative syntax lies in the fact that it provides us with new kinds of evidence bearing on questions concerning the general character of the language faculty. Figuring out what cross-linguistic generalizations hold and why exactly they hold helps to narrow down the set of hypotheses that we entertain about the language faculty. In this talk, I will be interested in looking at the implications of English is to (as in You are to return by midnight), from a (Romance and Germanic) comparative perspective.

Date: May 16, 2012 (Wednesday) Time: 11:00am - 12:30pm Venue: Swire Hall 2, Fung King Hey Building, The Chinese University of Hong Kong

ABOUT THE SPEAKER



Richard S. Kayne is the author of *French Syntax* (1975), *Connectedness and Binary*