



Comparative Syntax

Professor Richard S. Kayne (New York University)

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 will invariably help us to crucially narrow down the set of hypotheses that we entertain about the language faculty. Comparative syntax in all its range can be seen as a new window on the language faculty that is just beginning to bear fruit. I will try to give a general characterization of comparative syntax work, with some examples.

Date: April 8, 2013 (Monday)

Time: 4:30pm - 6:00pm

Venue: 2/F, Activities Room, Art Museum East Wing, Institute of Chinese Studies,
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

ABOUT THE SPEAKER



Photo by Cynthia Munro Pyle (2007)

Richard S. Kayne is the author of *French Syntax* (1975), *Connectedness and Binary Branching* (1984), *The Antisymmetry of Syntax* (1994), *Parameters and Universals* (2000), *Movement and Silence* (2005) and *Comparisons and Contrasts* (2010). He has received a B.A. summa cum laude in mathematics from Columbia University in 1964, a Ph.D in linguistics from M.I.T. in 1969, a Doctorat ès Lettres from the University of Paris VIII in 1976, and honorary doctorates from the University of Leiden in 1995 and from the University of Bucharest in 2011. He has taught at the University of Paris VIII, M.I.T., and the CUNY Graduate Center, and is currently Silver Professor of Linguistics at New York University.

Co-organizer: Department of Chinese Language and Literature,
The Chinese University of Hong Kong



All are welcome

