The original concept of allomorphy envisioned by Structuralists was based on phonemic distinctness, resulting in the assumption of separate allomorphs also in cases of highly regular alternations. Rejecting a phonemic level of representation altogether, Generativists abandoned this approach, focusing their efforts on minimizing allomorphy by way of deriving surface variants from a single underlying representation whenever they saw grounds for motivating relevant rules. That approach has been deemed superior not only because of yielding a more parsimonious lexicon, but also because of not being plagued by missed generalizations due to non-mentioning of the rules in question.

In my presentation I will, however, take issue with this view and argue for the original approach to allomorphy based on phonemic distinctness. The arguments concern generalizations which require reference specifically to the phonemic level of abstractness, including the following:

- Phonological optimization as a conditioning factor for stable allomorphy in affixes or function words, both in "regular" and in "suppletive" cases;
- Syncretism patterns;
- Iconicity (correlations between morphological and phonological markedness in stem allomorphy);
- Systematic loss of stem allomorphs (due to violation of some phonological markedness constraint)

Children with High Functioning Autism (HFA) show deficit in linguistic abilities involving perspective-taking and pragmatic judgments (Baron-Cohen, Leslie, & Frith, 1985). In line with this assumption, many studies showed a relationship between deficit in pronoun production and deficit in Theory-of-Mind capacity among children with autism (e.g., Fay, 1979; Hale & Tager-Flusberg, 2005; Novogrodsky, 2013; Rumpf, Kamp-Becker, Becker, & Kauschke, 2012). In this talk I will present findings from a sentence elicitation task of children with HFA. Based on syntactic measures, Theory-
of-Mind scores and type of errors in the pronoun elicitation task, the syntactic deficit in children with HFA disorder will be discussed.