Assignment 1: Pronominal Coreference

1 Two Rules

(1) **Pronoun Rule:** to check if a pronoun can be used to refer to a noun phrase, replace the pronoun with an appropriate reflexive pronoun and check if the resulting sentence allows for the reflexive to refer to the noun phrase in question. If a reflexive is possible, a pronoun cannot be used.

(2) **Name Rule:** A pronoun cannot refer to a name if the pronoun is a subject and the name appears within its (= the pronoun’s) predicate.

Now consider the following examples. For each indicate whether the boldfaced noun phrases can co-refer according to your own judgements. Next apply the Pronoun Rule and the Name Rule to each example and report what predictions they make.

(3) a. She likes Mina.
   b. Mina likes her.

(4) a. Her mother likes Mina.
   b. Mina’s mother likes her.
   c. She likes Mina’s mother.
   d. Mina likes her mother.

(5) a. The fact that she is famous gives Mina little pleasure.
   b. The fact that Mina is famous gives her little pleasure.

(6) a. He believes that Tom is a genius.
   b. He believes that he is a genius.
   c. Tom believes that he is a genius.
   d. He believes Tom to be genius.
   e. He believes him to be genius.
   f. Tom believes him to be genius.

(7) a. Tom told her that Mina had just won the lottery.
   b. Tom told Mina that she had just won the lottery.