Assignment 8: X-Bar Theory and CPs

1. Problem 1 from Chapter 6 of the textbook (page 160). Also consider the following sentence.

(1) Robert thinks that that student should eat asparagus.

Draw trees for all the sentences.

2. Consider the following boldfaced VP in the following sentence.

(2) Martyn [read this article on that train yesterday].

Assume that yesterday is an AdvP. This VP is structurally ambiguous.

a. Using X-bar notation throughout, construct a tree for the two readings of this VP indicating which tree goes with which reading.

b. Only one reading survives in the following sentence.

(3) Martyn read this article and took a nap on that train yesterday.

Identify the surviving reading, draw a tree for this sentence, and explain why the other reading is unavailable here.

c. Only one reading survives in the following sentence.

(4) Martyn read that article on this train and a book about vampires yesterday.

Identify the surviving reading, draw a tree for this sentence, and explain why the other reading is unavailable here.

d. Both readings survive in the following sentence.

(5) Martyn read this article on that train yesterday.

Bill did so last month.

Explain why do so substitution is compatible with both readings. Assume last month is an AdvP.

e. The following sentence is ungrammatical under either interpretation. Explain why.

(6) Martyn read this article on that train yesterday.

*Bill did so the paper on the bus last month.