Grammaticality and Features

1 Grammaticality

(1) a. I am SO next!.
   ok: 86%, *: 14%

b. The puppy seems sleeping.
   ok: 0%, *: 100%

c. Tami has more bikes than what Brian does.
   ok: 7%, *: 93%

d. The A train had an existential crisis.
   ok: 100%, *: 0%

e. The actor that the director favored is a friend of mine.
   ok: 100%, *: 0%

f. The actor that the director that the students admired favored is a friend of mine.
   ok: 24%, *: 76%

g. I heard that Sue the movie disliked.
   ok: 3%, *: 97%

h. The butter was passed to Marsha.
   ok: 100%, *: 0%

i. The actor was resembled by Phil.
   ok: 28%, *: 72%

- Processing Complexity

- Dialectal Variation

- Prescriptive Grammar
2 Prescriptive Grammar

(2) In Progress:

a. Split Infinitives:
   to **boldly** go where no man has gone before!

b. Preposition Stranding:
   Who are you referring to?
   To whom are you referring?
   To whom are you referring to?

c. *who* vs. *whom*

(3) They Won (Sort Of)

a. *ain’t*:
   Ain’t ain’t a word.

b. Double Negatives (Negative Concord):
   I can’t get no satisfaction.
   Don’t look at me. I didn’t do nothing.
3 Constraining Phrase Structure Rules

(4) Some Rules
   a. NP → (D) N
   b. VP → V (NP)
   c. N → students | student | actor | John
   d. V → yawned | like

Using features to block overgeneration:

(5) Subcategorization:
   a. VP → V[tr] NP
   b. VP → V[intr]
   c. V[tr] → like
   d. V [intr] → yawned

(6) Other cases to handle:
   a. Determiner-Noun Restrictions
   b. Agreement
   c. Case

(7) Two Important Notions:
   a. Underspecification
   b. Feature Percolation