

Assignment 11

1.: This question deals with the phenomenon of *to*-contraction displayed in (1-3).

- (1) a. I want to go there tomorrow.
b. I wanna go there tomorrow.
- (2) a. You have to go there tomorrow.
b. You hafta go there tomorrow.
- (3) a. I used to go to the movies.
b. I useta go to the movies.

(1-3b) illustrate the so-called *to*-contraction phenomenon, in which the infinitival marker *to* is contracted with the preceding verb. The sequence *want*+ *to* in (1a), for instance, is replaced by *wanna* in (1b). The contraction of *want* + *to* to *wanna* is referred to more specifically as *wanna*-contraction. *To*-contraction is not completely free. It is not the case that any sequence of *want to*, for instance, can be contracted to *wanna*. Consider (4-6).

- (4) a. Whom do you want to invite?
b. Whom do you wanna invite?
c. Whom do you want to invite Mary?
d. *Whom do you wanna invite Mary?
e. Whom do you want to succeed? (ambiguous)
Reading 1: Who is such that you want to succeed them?
Reading 2: Who is such that you them to succeed?
f. Who do you wanna succeed? (unambiguous)
Only Reading 1
- (5) a. I don't want to flagellate oneself in public to become standard practice in this monastery.
b. *I don't wanna flagellate oneself in public to become standard practice in this monastery.
- (6) a. I don't want anyone who continues to want to stop wanting.
b. *I don't want anyone who continues to wanna stop wanting.
- (7) a. This is the car in which she used to go to the movies.
b. This is the car in which she usedta go to the movies.
c. This is the car which she used to go to the movies.
d. *This is the car which she usedta go to the movies.

On the basis of the above data, identify the constraints that are operative on *wanna*-contraction and more generally the contraction of *to* with a preceding verb.

2. The following examples are ambiguous.

- (8) a. Where did John say that Harry met Sally?
Reading 1: What is the location of John's saying that Harry met Sally?
Reading 2: What is the location such that John said that it was in that location that Harry met Sally?
- b. This is the place where John said that Harry met Sally.
(similarly ambiguous)

Provide an explanation for the ambiguity of (8a, b).

The examples in (9) are not ambiguous.

- (9) a. Who did John say that Harry met?
- b. This is the person who John said that Harry met.

Explain why (9a, b) are not ambiguous and identify what differentiates the ambiguous examples in (8) from the unambiguous examples in (9). Use your analysis to explain the following contrast.

- (10) a. This is the place where Mary believes Bilbo found the ring.
- b. # This is the place where Mary believes the claim that Bilbo found the ring.
- c. # This is the place where Mary wonders whether Bilbo found the ring.
(# indicates pragmatic oddness.)

3. Consider the following data from West Ulster English.

- (11) a. What all did you get for Christmas?
- b. Who all did you meet when you were in Derry?
- c. Where all did they go for their holidays?
- (12) a. What did you get for Christmas?
- b. Who did you meet when you were in Derry?
- c. Where did they go for their holidays?
- (13) a. What did you get all for Christmas?
- b. Who did you meet all when you were in Derry?
- c. Where did they go all for their holidays?
- (14) a. I don't remember what all I said.
- b. I don't remember what I said all.
- (15) a. What all did he say (that) he wanted?
- b. What did he say (that) he wanted all?

- c. What did he say all (that) he wanted?
- (16)
- a. Where do you think all they'll want to visit?
 - b. Who did Frank tell you all that they were after?
 - c. What do they claim all (that) we did?
- (17)
- a. What all did he tell him (that) he wanted?
 - b. What did he tell him all (that) he wanted?
 - c. *What did he tell all him (that) he wanted?
 - d. ?What did he tell his friends/Mickey all (that) he wanted?
 - e. *What did he tell all his friends/Mickey (that) he wanted?
- (18)
- a. What all did he say to him that he wanted to buy?
 - b. *What did he say all to him that he wanted to buy?
 - c. ?What did he say to him all that he wanted to buy?
 - d. ?*What did he say to his friends all that he wanted to buy?
 - e. *What did he say all to his friends that he wanted to buy?
- (19)
- a. What all do you think (that) he'll say (that) we should buy?
 - b. What do you think all (that) he'll say (that) we should buy?
 - c. What do you think (that) he'll say all (that) we should buy?
 - d. What do you think (that) he'll say (that) we should buy all?

Propose a hypothesis to explain the above data. How does the entire set of West Ulster English data provided above bear on the theory of *wh*-movement? Once you have constructed and written out your hypothesis for the West Ulster English data provided above, please read McCloskey (2000) and discuss how your proposal differs from his.

References

McCloskey, J. (2000) "Quantifier Float and Wh-Movement in an Irish English," Linguistic Inquiry 31:1, 57-84.