

Assignment 2

1: Assuming the judgements given, give an account of the given pattern of grammaticality in terms of the argument-adjunct distinction. In particular determine what the status of *of*-PPs and *in*-PPs is.

- a. i. *The discussion of the match was more animated than the one of the riots.
ii. The discussion at the match was more animated than the one in the bar.
- b. i. The discussion of the riots and their implications was full and frank.
ii. The discussion at the match and in the bar was full and frank.
iii. *The discussion of the riots and in the bar was full and frank.
- c. i. The discussion of the riots in the bar was full and frank.¹
ii. *The discussion in the bar of the riots was full an frank.

2. Provide trees for the bracketed NPs in the following sentences, presenting empirical arguments in each case to support your analysis.

- a. I met [a specialist in fibreoptics from Reykjavik].
- b. [The journey from Dusseldorf to Paris on All Saints Day] was tiring.
- c. [The DJ at the club last week] rang Olafur up yesterday.

3.: For this question, assume the grammaticality judgements given. You have to provide an explanation for the pattern of grammaticality seen in the following examples.

- a. i. [No king of any country] abdicated.
ii. [No king of any importance] abdicated.
iii. [No king of any country of any importance] abdicated.
- b. i. [The lack of any discipline in some schools] worried them.
ii. *[The lack of discipline in any schools] worried them.
iii. [The lack of teachers with any qualifications] worried them.

4: A Noun Phrase such as *the English King* might be argued to have the following two distinct interpretations:

- a. the king who is English
- b. the king of England

We can provide two accounts for this dual interpretation:

¹This sentence is ambiguous. Show both structures.

- a. STRUCTURAL AMBIGUITY: in the (a) reading, *English* is an adjunct, but in the (b) reading, *English* is a complement.
- b. PRAGMATIC ANALYSIS: *English* is an adjunct on both interpretations. The relationship between *English* and *king* is left vague - something like 'king connected in some unspecified way with England'.

What predictions would each of the two accounts make about possible and impossible interpretations of *English* in the bracketed phrases below? Which set of predictions is correct, and what is the implication of this for each of the analyses proposed?

- a. Why do philosophers always use examples involving a bald French king, rather than [a bald English one]?
- b. There's not much to choose between the present English and French kings, except that the French king is less bald than [the English one].
- c. Henry VIII is [the best known English Protestant king].
- d. We've had relatively few [English septuagenarian kings].
- e. Boadicea was [the most famous English pagan queen].
- f. Henry IV was the last English French king.