

Syntax 380L
August 30, 2001

Assignment 1

due in class on September 11

Please avoid undue verbosity. The length of your assignments should be no more than five pages of text. If you are on the right track, five pages should be more than enough for this assignment. You are welcome to ask me or Shannon for clarifications, in person or by email.

1. Draw trees for the following sentences and for each tree list the c-command relationships that hold between the nodes in the tree.

- a. Na-rae likes her.
- b. Judy thinks that Young-suk is brilliant.
- c. Martin's brother gave a book to Waltraud.
- d. Karlos told Tatjana that he disliked flamenco.

2. By determining co-reference possibilities for pronouns, determine where the following clauses occur in the structure:

- a. *if* clauses that follow the main clause:
I would be very happy [**if Hikyoung joined us**].
- b. *if* clauses that precede the main clause:
[**If Hikyoung joined us**], I would be very happy.
- c. *because* clauses that follow the main clause:
Faye left [**because Tim was singing**].
- d. *because* clauses that precede the main clause:
[**Because Tim was singing**], Faye left.

3. Some constituents seem to be **discontinuous** i.e. different parts of the constituent do not form a continuous string. By using coreference possibilities for the emphasized pronoun and name determine possible structural locations for the bracketed constituent.

- a. Extraposed Relative Clause
 - i. *She* told many people about the concert [who *Mary* made nervous].
 - ii. I told *her* that many people attended last year's concert [who made *Mary* nervous].
 - iii. I told *her* that the concert was attended by many people last year [who made *Mary* nervous].
- b. Result Clause
 - i. *She* told so many people about the concert [that *Mary* made Bill nervous].
 - ii. I told *her* that that so many people attended last year's concert [that I made *Mary* nervous].
 - iii. I told *her* that that the concert was attended by so many people last year [that I made *Mary* nervous].

4. The following sentences are ambiguous. The two readings for the first sentence are provided. Indicate the two readings for the second sentence and then provide a structural account for the ambiguity of these sentences.

- a. Mary claimed that Bill was so weird that he ate ants.

Reading 1: Mary's claim: Bill is so weird that he eats ants. In other words, according to Mary, Bill eats ants and this demonstrates how weird he is.

Reading 2: Mary claimed that Bill was very weird. This annoyed Bill and so just to prove a point he ate ants. Note that Bill's eating ants is not part of what Mary said.

- b. Mary claimed that Bill was so weird that we didn't invite him to dinner.

(Use the diagnostics that you have developed for exercise 3.)

5. Determine whether the following statements are true or false.

- a. if node α dominates node β and node β dominates node γ , then node α dominates node γ .
- b. if node α c-commands node β and node β c-commands node γ , then node α c-commands node γ .

If you believe a statement to be false, provide a counterexample. If you believe a statement to be true, provide an informal proof detailing why the statement follows.