Questions on Movement, Binding, and Gender

(1)   **Quantificational Scope and Binding**

The sentence in (a) allows a reading where it has the T-conditions in (b). We know that it has such a reading, as it can be understood as true in a scenario like (c).

a.   <u>Sentence:</u>   A boy likes every girl who hates him.

b.   <u>Truth Conditions:</u>   There is some z such that z is a boy and for all y, if y is a girl y and y hates z, then z likes y.

c.   <u>Verifying Scenario:</u>   Bill likes Mary; Mary hates Bill.
                                                Bill likes Sue; Sue hates Bill
                                                Bill likes Jenny; Jenny hates Bill

d.   **Question 1**
        Please show how our semantics predicts that (a) can be interpreted as having the T-conditions in (b).

Although (b) is a reading for (a), (e) below is not. We know this because (a) cannot be understood as being true in a scenario like (f).

e.   <u>Not Possible T-Conditions for (1a):</u>
        For all y, if y is a girl, then there is some z such that z is a boy, and z likes y and y hates z.

f.   <u>Not a Verifying Scenario for (1a):</u>
        Bill likes Mary; Mary hates Bill.   Bill hates Jenn; Jenn hates Bill.
        Tom likes Jenn; Jenn hates Tom.   Tom hates Sue; Sue hates Tom.
        Roger likes Sue; Sue hates Roger.   Roger hates Mary; Mary hates Roger.

g.   **Question 2**
        Does our system correctly predict that (e) is not a possible reading for (a)? Why or why not?

(2)   **Binding and Gender**

Consider the sentence in (a), which we will assume to have the syntax in (b) and the T-conditions in (c).

a.   Only Mary smokes.

b.

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                        S
          DP                      VP
     Only      DP             smokes
               Mary
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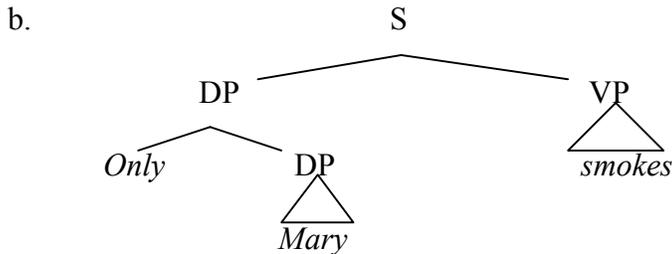
c.   Mary smokes, and for all x, if x is not Mary, then x does not smoke.
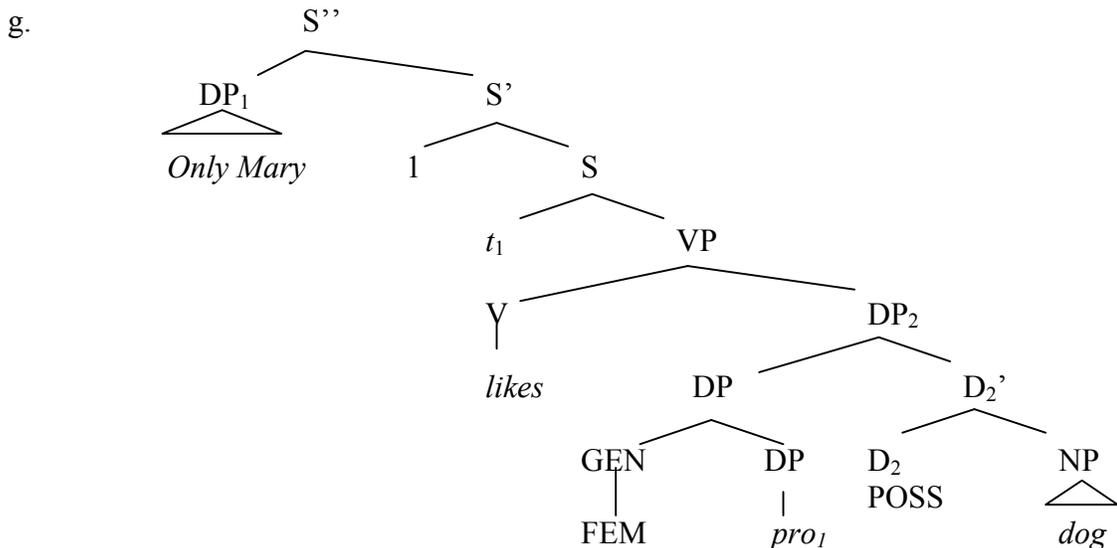
d.   **Question 1**
       Please provide a semantics for *only* which will assign structure (b) the T-conditions in (c).
       (HINT: *Only Mary* should be of type <et,t>)

Now consider the sentence in (e). It allows for a 'bound reading' where it is assigned the T-conditions in (f). Consider also the LF in (g).

e.   Only Mary likes her dog.

f.   Mary likes the unique y such that y is a dog and y belongs to Mary, and for all x, if x is not Mary, then x does not like the unique y such that y is a dog and y belongs to x.

g.

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                        S''
          DP_1                     S'
     Only Mary              1            S
                                   t_1         VP
                                         Y              DP_2
                                         likes     DP         D_2'
                                               GEN    DP    D_2      NP
                                               FEM   pro_1  POSS    dog
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h.   **Question 2**
Please show that our semantics can assign LF (g) the T-conditions in (f).

For this question, recall the semantics for possessives that we discussed in class:

[[POSS]]   =

[$\lambda f_{<et>}$: [λx_e : there is exactly one y such that f(y) = T and y belongs to x .
        the unique y such that f(y) = T and y belongs to x]

i.   **Question 3**
What presuppositions does our semantics predict LF (g) to have? Are these in fact presuppositions that sentence (e) has under the bound reading (f)?