24.900 Introduction to Linguistics

Syntax Quiz November 15, 2002

Recitation Instructor			
	If you use another sheet(s) for your answers, please be sure to number and letter them clearly.		
a.		In a short answer, explain how subcategorization accounts for the ungrammaticality of the following:	
	a.	*The instructor suggested the students to study.	
	b.	*The customer requested for a fork.	
	C	*After getting home, they devoured.	
	C.	After getting nome, they devoured.	
2.	Deterr	nine which of the following bracketed sequences in the sentences form tuents.	

a. If a bracketed sequence is not a constituent, support your answer by demonstrating this with **two** constituency tests that indicate the non-

b. If a bracketed sequence is a constituent, support your answer with one

constituency of the sequence.

constituency test that demonstrates this.

1. [The tragedy] upset the entire family.

2. The environmental [movement is gaining momentum.]
3. The goslings [swam across] the lake.
3. Determine the possible complements for each of the following words:
Nouns a. debate
b. hammer
Verbs c. expire
d. destroy
Adjectives e. strong
f. bored
4. The following data is from Malagasy, spoken on the island of Madagascar.4. Entin' kafe izy brings coffee he
'He brings coffee.'
5. Mankany amin' ny restauranta izy.

goes to the restaurant he 'He goes to the restaurant.'

- g. Draw tree diagrams to show the phrase structure for each of the Malagasy sentences.
- h. Do complements precede or follow their heads in Malagasy?
- 5. The following sentences are ambiguous. Provide a paraphrase for each of the possible meanings, and then draw two trees of the <u>original</u> sentence that distinguish the meanings. Be careful not to draw the tree of the paraphrase.
- a. Visiting friends can be boring.
- b. Harry saw the people with a telescope.
- c. Two sisters reunited after 18 years in a checkout counter. (headline)

Bonus: Extra credit. You cannot lose by attempting to write an answer to this question.

6. Why do *flat* tree structures not allow us to capture accurately the hierarchical syntactic generalizations about natural language. Be specific. Use examples.