

24.900 Introduction to Linguistics

Syntax Quiz
April 19, 2002

Name _____

Section: (circle one)

- 1. For each sentence below, answer the following questions:**
- a. Which principle (or principles) of Binding Theory is responsible for each of the judgements?**
 - b. How does this principle account for the judgement? For example, *there is no c-commanding NP coreferent with the reflexive in the same clause.***

(1) a. *Mary likes himself.

b. *Bill_i will see him_i in the mirror.

c. *Herself_i saw Sue_i in the mirror. (Two principles)

d. *Bill_i thinks that Sue saw himself_i yesterday.

2. Draw trees for the following sentences:

a. Abelard wrote a poem about Héloïse.

b. The red volume of obscene verse from Italy shocked the puritan soul of the minister with the beard quite thoroughly yesterday.
(the phrase *from Italy* is ambiguous as to what it modifies)

- c. Draw two trees in order to account for the ambiguity in the following German sentence. (Assume the following: *Die* is always a determiner; *schlanke* is always an adjective. Ignore the rules of German capitalization).

Die schlanke Frau aus Frankreich isst Kuchen mit Sahne.
the thin woman from France eats cake with cream
“The thin woman from France eats cake with cream.”

(Bonus: What is the rule for the placement of German verbs in the main clause?)

3. Give the subcategorization restrictions for the following verbs:

a. handed _____

b. disappear _____

c. damn _____

d. hypothesize _____

e. suppose _____

4. It might be argued that the bracketed prepositional Phrase in (1) below is a *complement*, whereas that in (2) is an *adjunct*.

(1) the discussion [*of riots*]

(2) the discussion [*in the bar*]

Given these assumptions, show how they would account for the following contrasts (assuming the grammaticality judgements given):

1. a. *The discussion of the match was more animated than the one of the riots.
b. The discussion of the match was more animated than the one in the bar.

2. a. The discussion of the riots and of their implications was full and frank.
b. The discussion at the match and in the bar was full and frank.
c. *The discussion of the riots and in the bar was full and frank.

3.
 - a. The discussion of the riots in the bar was full and frank.
 - b. *The discussion in the bar of the riots was full and frank.

4.
 - a. The discussion was rather misleading in the document.
 - b. *The discussion was rather misleading of the document.

5.
 - a. Which document did they ban the discussion of?
 - b. *Which document did they ban the discussion in?