**Ambiguity**

1. This is my father's photograph.

a- This photograph 'belongs ' to my father.

b- Someone took my father’s snapshot.

2. He was carrying a woman's coat on his arm.

a- He was carrying on his arm a coat belonging to a certain woman.

b- He was carrying on his arm a coat designed for women's wear.

3. We bought one of Rutherford's paintings.

This sentence contains a possessive that may be 'multiply ' ambiguous as the sentence is susceptible of being interpreted in four different ways involving the relationships:

a-We bought one of the paintings 'belonging ' to Rutherford.

b- We bought one of the paintings (painted) by Rutherford.

c-Rutherford painted a painting which we bought .

d- Someone painted Rutherford a painting which we bought.

4. We like Shakespeare more than Shakespeare likes Shaw

The sentence is unacceptable, as the sense intended is that in the degree of our preference of one to the other ,i.e. we are more in favor of Shakespeare as a writer than we are of Shaw as a writer.

5. Rosy whacked a man with an umbrella.

a- Rosy had an umbrella and she whacked a man with it.

b- Rosy whacked a man and the man happened to be carrying an umbrella.

6. We met an American history teacher.

a. teacher of American history.

b- an American teacher of history.

7. Flying planes can be dangerous.

a- For someone to fly *planes/ a plane* can be dangerous.

Notice that "flying” is interpreted as a transitive verb with an implicit subject, whereas the second interpretation, i.e.

b- Planes, when flying can be dangerous.

exposes the fact that "flying " is being interpreted as a modifier modifying the succeeding noun ,i.e. ' planes ' .

8. The parents of the bride and groom were waiting.

a. The parents of the bride were waiting.

b. The parents of the groom were waiting.

c. The parents of the bride were waiting, and so was the groom.

d. The parents of the bride and the parents of the groom were waiting.

9. The chicken is ready to eat.

a- X eats the chicken.

b- The chicken eats X.

10. I saw her in the street.

a- I saw her when I was in the street ,or

b- I saw her when she was in the street .

**Some other examples**

He is a decent college graduate.

SQUAD HELPS DOG BITE VICTIM.

Take your mother-in-law out back and shoot her. (Kodak) •

John is easy to please.

They are encouraging reports

They are watching dogs