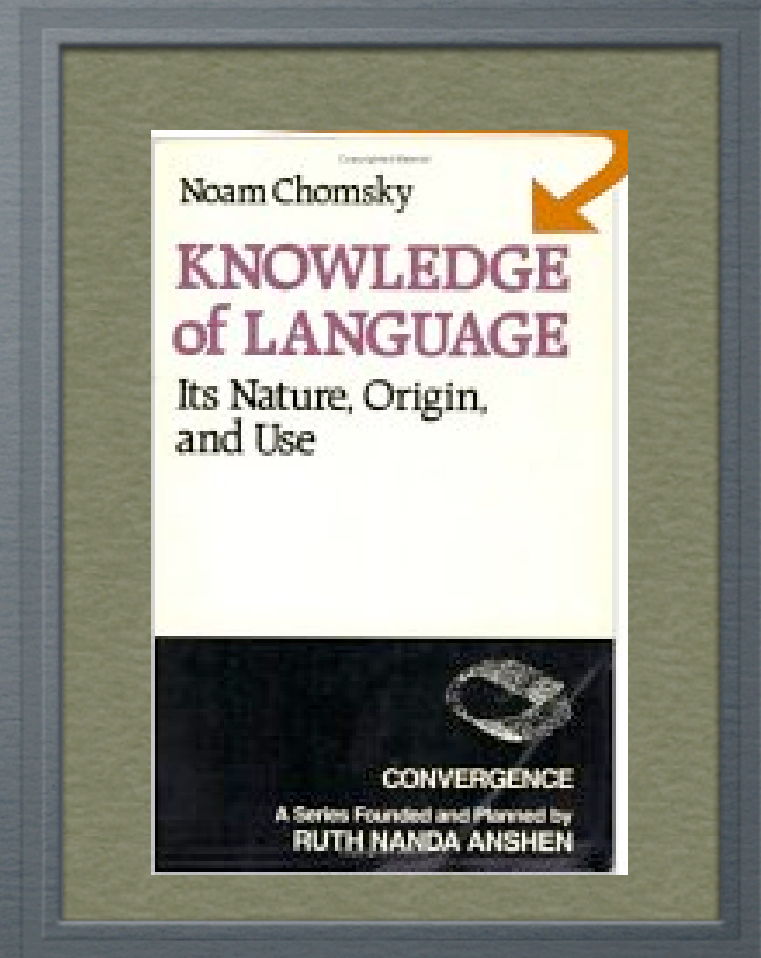


ADVANCED TOPICS IN BINDING THEORY

KNOWLEDGE
OF LANGUAGE
(1986)
BINDING
THEORY
INFORMED BY
MORE RECENT
RESEARCH.



Review from Unit 5

- ✻ Antecedent, Anaphor, index, pronoun, R-expression, co-reference
- ✻ **BINDS:**
 - ✻ A binds B if and only if
 - ✻ A c-commands B AND
 - ✻ A and B are co-indexed
- ✻ **FREE:** not bound
- ✻ **BINDING DOMAIN:** The clause containing the anaphor/Pronoun

Review from Unit 5

- ✱ **BINDING PRINCIPLE A:** An anaphor must be bound in its binding domain.
- ✱ **BINDING PRINCIPLE B:** Pronouns must be free in their binding domain
- ✱ **BINDING PRINCIPLE C:** R-expressions must be free

LEVELS OF REPRESENTATION

- ✻ Do the binding conditions hold at D-structure? PF? or LF?
- ✻ Evidence for D-structure. Binding condition A happening BEFORE wh-movement:
 - ✻ [Which pictures of himself] did John hate?
- ✻ Here himself is only c-commanded by John at D-structure.

LEVELS OF REPRESENTATION

- ✱ However, there is evidence from Raising that binding conditions might hold AFTER movement:

✱ [CP Chris wants himself [CP t to be appealing]]



Binding domain after movement. Anaphor is bound in this domain: meets condition A

Binding domain before movement. Anaphor is NOT bound in this domain: condition A violation

LEVELS OF REPRESENTATION

- ✱ We thus have a contradiction. We have evidence that binding conditions both hold before and after movement.
- ✱ Notice that ordering isn't the solution because we technically only have one rule (MOVE)
- ✱ The level that binding should hold at is LF, because that's the level of that interfaces with the semantics and binding is ultimately about meaning.

THE COPY THEORY OF MOVEMENT

- ✿ Chomsky (1993)'s solution: movement isn't really movement, but a copying operation, where the original copy simply isn't pronounced (cf. the the Haitian and resumptive pronoun problems where the trace is "pronounced")
- ✿ [which pics of himself] did Chris like [~~which pictures of himself~~]
- ✿ The link between the two copies is called a **chain**

Solving the Paradox

- ✿ **BINDING PRINCIPLE A:** One copy of an anaphor in a chain must be bound in its binding domain at LF.
- ✿ **IS THIS TRUE OF BINDING CONDITION B?**
Try Challenge Problem set 1

THE PROBLEM OF BINDING DOMAIN

BINDING DOMAIN = CLAUSE????

- ✱ Heidi_i believes any description of herself_i
- ✱ *Heidi_i believes Martha_k's description of herself_i
- ✱ The second sentence SHOULD be ok in parallel to the first one. The problem seems to be the intervening DP Martha. Yet it appears to be a condition A violation

If you come from Arizona or California you might find this sentence acceptable. There seem to be two dialects about this kind of sentence. We'll be concerned here with the "East Coast" dialect.

BINDING DOMAIN = CLAUSE???

- ✱ A related problem:
 - ✱ Heidi likes her violin
 - ✱ Heidi likes her violin
- ✱ Assume *her* is a pronoun. The co-referent version should be ungrammatical since the pronoun is bound in its clause. (Condition B violation)

EVEN WORSE...

John_i said [_{CP} that pictures of himself_i were appealing]

ARGHHGHGH!

But there is a way out...

MAYBE THE BINDING DOMAIN FOR PRONOUNS AND ANAPHORS ARE DIFFERENT?

- ✻ Anaphors seem to want to FIND an antecedent within some small local space. If their antecedent is too far away, then a condition A violation.
- ✻ Pronouns seem to want to AVOID a local antecedent within some small local space.
- ✻ But those small spaces seem to be different.

DIFFERENT BINDING DOMAINS

- ✱ [John_i saw [his_i book]] (binding domain must = inner DP)
- ✱ [John saw [the book about himself]] (Binding domain must = CP)
- ✱ For the purposes of pronouns we want the smaller structure to be the BD, for the purposes of the anaphor we want the larger structure to be the BD
- ✱ Solution: Chomsky 1986 (KOL). **PRONOUNS AND ANAPHORS HAVE DIFFERENT BINDING DOMAINS!**

KOL+ BINDING THEORY

- ✱ PRINCIPLE A. One copy of an anaphor in a chain must be bound within the smallest CP or DP containing it and a *potential* antecedent.
- ✱ PRINCIPLE B. A pronoun must be free within the smallest DP or CP containing it but not containing a *potential* antecedent. If there is no such domain, then the root CP is the binding domain.

BINDING DOMAIN FOR ANAPHORS

- ☼ Smallest DP or DP containing a **POTENTIAL ANTECEDENT NP**.

1. [_{CP} John loves any [_{DP} any pic of himself]]
(pic doesn't count because it heads the DP dominating himself).
2. *John loves [_{DP} Mary's pictures of himself]

BINDING DOMAIN FOR PRONOUNS

- ☼ Smallest DP or CP **NOT** containing a Potential Antecedent. If there is no such node, then the root is the BD.

1. John loves [DP his puppy]

His can't be an antecedent for itself.

Pronoun is free in its binding domain

AN INTERESTING PREDICTION.

1. [_{CP} John_i thinks that pictures of himself_i are amusing.]

- ✱ Himself is bound within the smallest CP containing a potential antecedent. Meets condition A.

2. John_i thinks that [_{DP} pictures of him_i] are amusing

- ✱ Him is free within the smallest DP NOT containing a potential antecedent. Meets condition B.

Correctly predicts that pronouns and anaphors can alternate freely in this position.

ONE MORE LOOSE END

✻ Why isn't:

*John_i said that himself_i was appealing

are acceptable

✻ Solution: English has no nominative anaphors (**heself*). So this sentence is really a morphology problem.