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LING 20 Homework 8

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Problem 1

The sentences in (1) are from Swedish, a Germanic language spoken in Sweden and Finland.

(1)

	En	svensk	kvinna	måste	köpa	en	bokhylla	med	fyra	hyllor
a.	a	Swedish	woman	must	buy	a	bookshelf	with	four	shelves

'A Swedish woman must buy a bookshelf with four shelves'

	Kvinna-n	heter	Lena
b.	woman-the	is.named	Lena

'The woman is named Lena'

	Lena	gick	till	IKEA	på	fredagskväll-en
c.	Lena	went	to	IKEA	on	Friday.evening-the

'Lena went to IKEA on Friday evening'

	Hon	köpte	den	svarta	bokhylla-n	och	gick	hem
d.	she	bought	the	black	bookshelf-the	and	went	home

'She bought the black bookshelf and went home'

	Hon	kan	fatta	de	instruktioner
e.	she	can	understand	the	instructions

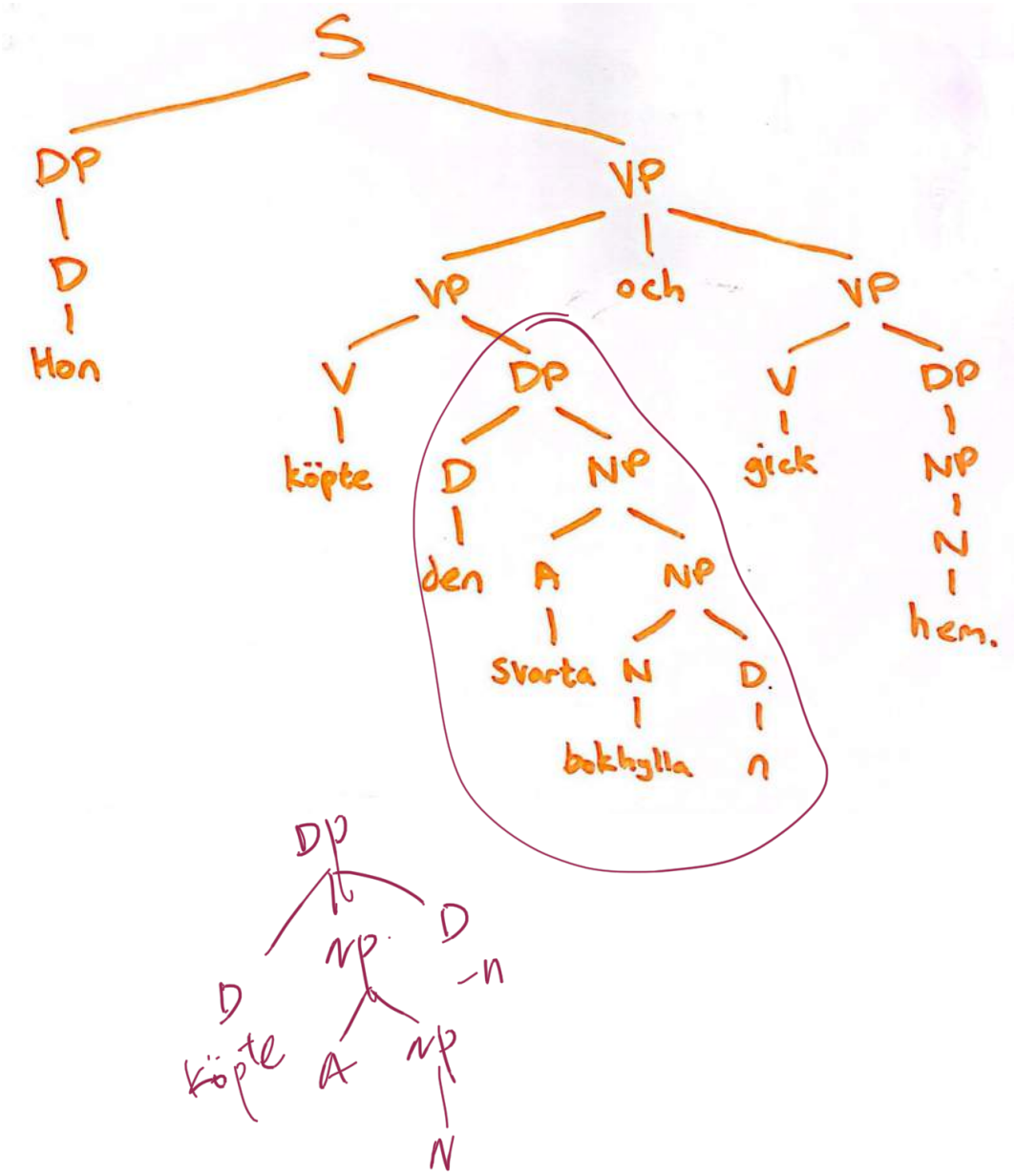
'She can understand the instructions'

a) Please develop a complete set of phrase-structure rules that produces these sentences. Treat every morpheme indicated in the data as a separate lexical item, i.e. separate terminal nodes. For example, in (1b), *kvinna-n* should be treated as being made up of two nodes, but *heter* only one. Your phrase-structure rules should be as similar as possible to the ones we have for English.

- $S \rightarrow DP\ (Aux)\ VP$
- $DP \rightarrow (D)\ NP$
- $DP \rightarrow D$
- $NP \rightarrow A\ NP$
- $NP \rightarrow NP\ PP$
- $NP \rightarrow N\ (D)$
- $PP \rightarrow P\ DP$
- $VP \rightarrow V\ (DP)$
- $VP \rightarrow VP\ PP$
- $\alpha \rightarrow \alpha$ och α

DP → (D) NP (D)
DP → D
NP → N.

b) Using your phrase-structure rules for Swedish, please provide the syntactic tree for the sentence in (1d).



Problem 2

The sentences in (2) are from Finnish, a Uralic language spoken in Finland and Sweden. Note that Finnish does not have equivalents of English *the* and *a(n)*.

(2)

	Lapsi	söi	voileivän	eilen			
a.	child	ate	sandwich	yesterday			
	'The child ate a sandwich yesterday'						
	Anna	luki	kiehtovan	kirjan	kauniin	puun	alla
b.	Anna	read	intriguing	book	pretty	tree	under
	'Anna read an intriguing book under the pretty tree'						
	Liisa	on	nähnyt	elokuvan			
c.	Liisa	has	watched	movie			
	'Liisa has watched the movie'						
	Jukka	meni	vajan	takaa	talon	eteen	
d.	Jukka	went	shed	from.behind	house	to.in.front.of	
	'Jukka went from behind the shed to in front of the house'						

a) Please develop a complete set of phrase-structure rules that produces these sentences. Your phrase-structure rules should be as similar as possible to the ones we have for English.

$S \longrightarrow NP\ (Aux)\ VP$
$NP \longrightarrow A\ NP$
$NP \longrightarrow N$
$PP \longrightarrow NP\ P$
$VP \longrightarrow V\ (NP)$
$VP \longrightarrow VP\ PP$
$VP \longrightarrow VP\ Adv$

b) What is unexpected about Finnish word order given the word-order correlations from Greenberg that we saw in class?

Finnish seems to exhibit instances of both a head-initial word order ($VP \longrightarrow VP\ PP$) and a head-final word order ($PP \longrightarrow NP\ P$).

Problem 3

Consider the following sentence:

(3) Alex is sometimes late.

The sentence in (3) seems to lead to the inference that "it is not the case that Alex is always late". That is, *sometimes* seems to imply *not always*.

a) Please show that this inference is an implicature by using both of the diagnostics for implicatures: Cancellability and Reinforceability.

Alex is sometimes late. He's always late.
⇒ this inference satisifes cancellability, as this sentence is logically sound.

Alex is sometimes late. But he's not always late.
⇒ this inference satisifes reinforceability, as this sentence is logically sound.

b) Please give a step-by-step walk-through of the Gricean reasoning that gives rise to the inference in (3).

- It is stated that Alex is sometimes late
- We assume the sentence follows the Maxim of Quantity, and therefore, enough information is given, but not too much
- Since we know that enough information is given, we know that since Alex is sometimes late, there must exist situations in which Alex is not late, otherwise the sentence would have said *always*
- Therefore, it is implied Alex is not always late

Quality ?

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