

Assignment 8

ling 20: Introduction to Linguistic Analysis

Due: 8:00am, 7 March 2022

1

16 points

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

- (1) a. En svensk kvinna måste köpa en bokhylla med fyra hyllor
a Swedish woman must buy a bookshelf with four shelves
'A Swedish woman must buy a bookshelf with four shelves'
- b. Kvinna-n heter Lena
woman-the is.named Lena
'The woman is named Lena'
- c. Lena gick till IKEA på fredagskväll-en
Lena went to IKEA on Friday.evening-the
'Lena went to IKEA on Friday evening'
- d. Hon köpte den svarta bokhylla-n och gick hem
she bought the black bookshelf-the and went home
'She bought the black bookshelf and went home'
- e. Hon kan fatta de instruktioner
she can understand the instructions
'She can understand the instructions'

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.

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

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

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.

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

3

10 points

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