

Ling 20: Introduction to Linguistic Analysis

Homework 9

This is the final assignment for the course. It does not have to be turned in. However, you need to do it since final exam will include a section on Binding Theory.

I. Do the following problems from Ch. 6 of the textbook.

Pg. 256, ex. 14

Pg. 256, ex. 15

II. For each sentence below, explain why it is or is not grammatical, or why it (dis)allows the stated reading(s). Specifically, for each grammatical sentence explain how **ALL** its pronouns satisfy Binding Theory; for each ungrammatical sentence, identify ONE pronoun that violates Binding Theory. If a particular reading is specified, you need only justify why that reading is (not) available. In all cases, draw tree structures to justify your answers. You may abbreviate one-word NPs with triangles. (Assume referents of proper names have their most common genders.)

Example:

**I hate himself.*

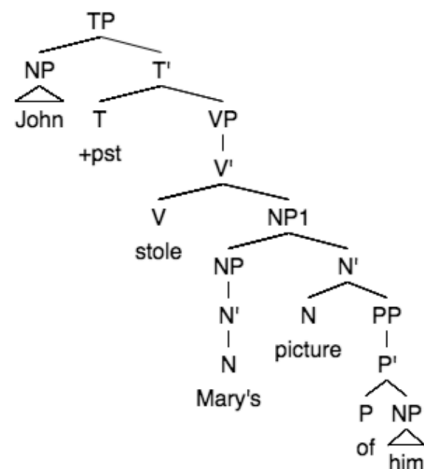
Answer: *himself* is a reflexive, subject to Principle A. In this sentence it has no possible antecedent (*I* mismatches it in person), so Principle A is violated.

Note: In some cases, you will need to identify the domains of the pronouns in order to establish whether they satisfy the relevant Binding Principle. The domains will correspond to a node in the tree structure. You can add a number to each relevant node label so you can refer to it unambiguously—see the next example.

Example:

John stole Mary's picture of him. [*him* = *John*]

Answer: *him* is a pronominal, subject to Principle B. Its domain is NP1 in the tree below. The Principle requires it not to have a c-commanding antecedent within that domain. *John* is allowed to be its antecedent because *John* is outside NP1.



- a) *Jason's mother drove himself to school.
- b) Carol disagreed with Fred's criticism of her. [*her* = Carol or someone not mentioned in the sentence]
- c) *Fred disagreed with Carol's criticism of himself.
- d) Sue sent Mary a drawing of herself. [*herself* = Mary or Sue]
- e) Sue told Mark that he should give her his notes.
[*he* = Mark and *her* = Sue and *his* = Mark or someone not mentioned in the sentence]
- f) Sue's mother's friend asked her whether she has been calming herself.
 - i) [*her* = Sue's mother and *she* = Sue and *herself* = Sue]
 - ii) * [*her* = Sue and *she* = Sue's mother and *herself* = Sue's mother's friend]
(* = explain why this combination of interpretations is not possible)