Semantic Theory 2025: Exercise 5 Key

Question 1

Translate the following sentences into Davidsonian (event semantics) representations. Underlined expressions may be treated as a single term with the specified type.

a. *John went to the bus stop*$_e$ $\quad \exists e[go(e) \wedge theme(e, j') \wedge goal(e, b')]$

b. *Bill saw an elephant in the park*$_e$
$\exists e \exists x[see(e) \wedge experiencer(e, b') \wedge elephant(x) \wedge goal(e, x) \wedge loc(e, p')]$

c. *Mary will see an accident in the park*$_e$ *tomorrow*
$\exists e_1 \exists e_2[see(e_1) \wedge e_u < e_1 \wedge experiencer(e_1, m') \wedge accident(e_2) \wedge goal(e_1, e_2) \wedge time(e_1, t') \wedge loc(e_1, p')]$

d. *The page*$_e$ *was cut with scissors* $\quad \exists e[cut(e) \wedge e < e_u \wedge patient(e, p') \wedge instrument(e, s')]$

Question 2

Draw a Davidsonian model structure in which the following sentence holds (hint: translate it to logical form first). You may ignore the temporal aspects of the sentence:

Bill hit John with a rock

$\exists e \exists x[hit(e) \wedge agent(e, b') \wedge patient(e, j') \wedge rock(x) \wedge instrument(e, x)]$