

Chapter 12, Problem 8: Reflexives in Infinitival Complements

A. Yes, we make the right predictions in all of these cases.

- (i) *We* is on the ARG-ST list of *expect*, and *us* is on the ARG-ST list of *examine*. There is no ARG-ST list they are both on. Hence, neither outranks the other. Since *us* is [MODE ref], Principle B is satisfied, and the sentence is well-formed.
- (ii) *Ourselves* is [MODE ana], so Principle A says it must be outranked by a coindexed NP. But the only NP that appears on the same ARG-ST list (namely *examine*'s) with it is *the doctor*, which can't be coindexed with it since they don't agree (by the Anaphoric Agreement Principle). Hence, Principle A is violated, and the sentence is ill-formed.
- (iii) Since *expect* is an object raising verb, *them* is tagged as identical to the SPR of *to*, which in turn is tagged as identical to the SPR of *examine*. Hence, *them* outranks *themselves*, because the former precedes the latter on the ARG-ST list of *examine*. Principle A is therefore satisfied (since *themselves* is [MODE ana]).
- (iv) By the same reasoning as in (iii), the first *them* outranks the second *them*. Since *them* is [MODE ref], Principle B does not allow the two occurrences of *them* to be coindexed. Consequently, the sentence is ill-formed with the indicated indexing.
- (v) The reasoning on this example is exactly the same as in (i). The fact that *expect* is a raising verb and *persuade* is a control verb is irrelevant.
- (vi) Likewise, the reasoning in this example is exactly like that in (ii).
- (vii) Since *persuade* is an object control verb, *them* is coindexed with the SPR of *to*, which in turn is coindexed with the SPR of *examine*. So if *them* and *themselves* have the same INDEX value, so do the two elements on the ARG-ST of *examine*. And this means that *themselves* (which is [MODE ana]) is outranked by a coindexed element, satisfying Principle A.
- (viii) By the same reasoning as in (vii), if the two occurrences of *them* are coindexed, then the second one is outranked by a coindexed element. But this violates Principle B (since *them* is [MODE ref]).

B. In (ix), the subject of *support* must be coindexed with *themselves*, in order for Principle A to be satisfied. In (x), the SPR of *support* must have the INDEX value i, in order for Principle B to be violated.

C. In (xi) and (xii), the subject of *support* cannot be coindexed with *They*, or (xi) would be licensed by Principle A and (xii) would be blocked by Principle B. The semantics makes it clear that the understood subject of *support* is us, and coindexing the object of the preposition *to* with the subject of the complement verb gives the right results with respect to binding.