Chapter 12, Problem 7: There, There...

Our answer to this problem assumes the answer to Problem 6 as background.

A.
$$\left\langle \text{be} , \begin{bmatrix} \textit{orv-lxm} & \\ \text{ARG-ST} & \left\langle \begin{bmatrix} \text{FORM} & \text{there} \\ \text{NUM} & \boxed{1} \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} \text{NUM} & \boxed{1} \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} \text{PRED} & + \\ \text{SEM} & \begin{bmatrix} \text{INDEX} & \boxed{4} \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix} \right\rangle \\ \text{SEM} & \begin{bmatrix} \text{INDEX} & \boxed{4} \\ \text{RESTR} & \langle\,\rangle \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix} \right\rangle$$

B. This lexical entry leaves the NUM value of its second argument underspecified, but says that it must match the NUM value of its first argument. The lexical entry for *there* will have an underspecified NUM value as well. However, when this lexical entry undergoes the finite verb form lexical rules (to produce *is*, *are*, *was*, *were*, etc. – see note 34 of Chapter 8 on lexical rules and the *be* paradigm), those rules will constrain the AGR value of the verb. By the SHAC, that AGR value is identified with the AGR value of the SPR. By the ARP, the SPR is the same as the first ARG-ST element. And by the constraint given in the lexical entry above, the NUM of the first and second ARG-ST elements is the same. The upshot of this chain of identities is that a [NUM sg] word related by lexical rule to this entry will select for a [NUM sg] second argument, and a [NUM pl] one an [NUM pl] second argument. This matches the data shown in (i) and (ii).

C. This analysis makes the correct predictions about (iii) and (iv). Although the base form *be* doesn't constrain the NUM value of its SPR, the lexical entry still identifies the NUM value of the SPR with the NUM value of the first complement. The lexical entry for *continue* identifies its SPR with the SPR of its complement. Furthermore, *continue* is subject to the SHAC, so it must share this NUM value as well. Thus through the chain of identities, *continue* must have the same NUM value as the complement of *be*. In (iii) and (iv), that complement is singular, so only the singular form *continues* is possible; the plural form *continue* is not. (The form *continue* is compatible with 1st or 2nd person singular subjects, but *there* is specified as [PER 3rd], so *continue* must be as well.)