

Binding

Based on Koenenman & Zeiljstra (2017)

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Reflexives

- (1) a. I_i like myself _{i} .
b. Mary _{i} sees herself _{i} in the mirror.
c. [Peter and Bill] _{i} excused themselves _{i} .

coreference

Pronouns

Bound pro forms
pronouns.

"antecedent"

- (2) a. John_i told Mary_j that she_j can call him_i at 7pm.
b. They_i didn't tell John_j that he_j had misrepresented them_i.

} bound

- (3) a. Mary called me.
b. They said I was wrong.

} free pronouns

bound vs. free

- (4) Every boy_i who knows his_i house can direct you to it. → he called you.
the cathedral

Ted's house

M1:

Ted (3rd party)

Ted's house

M2:

M3:

M4:

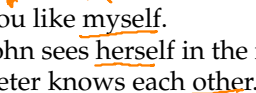
The notion

Binding is a semantic phenomenon, namely coreference, that obeys syntactic constraints.

Syntactic constraints

Reflexives

Reflexives **must** be bound:

- (5) a. *You like myself.
b. *John sees herself in the mirror.
c. *Peter knows each other.
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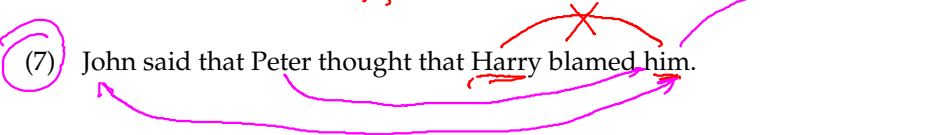
Syntactic constraints

Domain of binding

(6) John said that Peter thought that Harry blamed himself.



(7) John said that Peter thought that Harry blamed him.



The generalization



Principle A:

A reflexive **must** be bound by a nearby antecedent.



Principle B:

A non-reflexive pronoun **cannot** be bound by a nearby antecedent.



him

them

us

se

