

PROF. MARCUS KRACHT: LING 20. WINTER 2007.

Assignment F (5 Points per exercise, do 4 out of 5 exercises)

Exercise F.1. Give the θ -role of each NP in the following sentences.

- (1) John likes the painting.
- (2) Maria delivered the pizza to their home.
- (3) Paul lives in Los Angeles.

Answer: (1) John is experiencer, the painting theme. (2) Maria is agent, the pizza theme, and their home goal. (3) Paul is theme, LA is location.

Exercise F.2. Show at least two alternative structures and describe how their meanings differ. (Recall that by structure I only mean constituent structure without labels. Furthermore, only relevant detail need to be shown.)

- (4) The senator opposed every new bill and legislation.
- (5) The police arrested a thief with a gun.

Answer: (4)

The senator opposed every new [bill and legislation].

The senator opposed every [new bill] and legislation.

First structure: The senator opposed every new bill as well as every new legislation. Second structure: The senator opposed every new bill as well as every new or old legislation. (5)

The police arrested [a thief with a gun].

The police [arrested [a thief] with a gun].

First sentence: the thief had a gun. Second sentence: the police had a gun and used it to arrest the thief.

Exercise F.3. Here is a real newspaper headline. It has (for me at least) at least three different interpretations. Can you find two of them?

- (6) Eye operation ends lifetime in darkness.

Answer:

Eye operation ends [lifetime in darkness].

Eye operation [ends [lifetime] in darkness]].

① First reading (intended): the patient was blind (lifetime in darkness) and got cured as an effect of the operation. ② Second reading: the operation took place in the dark and ended in the death of the patient. ③ Third reading: the lifetime in darkness (blind patient) was ended through the operation by the patient's death.

① and ③ are based on the first structure.

Exercise F.4. Give two interpretations of

(7) Everybody thought he was right.

in terms of the binding possibilities of the pronoun and say why none of them violates Principle B.

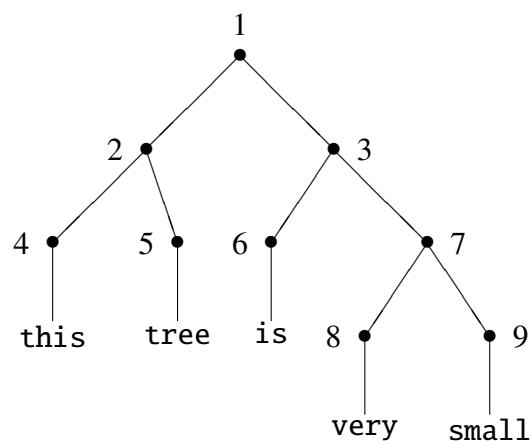
Answer:

Everybody₁ thought that he₁ was right.

Everybody₁ thought that he₂ was right.

By principle B, the pronoun may not be bound inside the next IP. For the next IP dominating the pronouns is the embedded IP and not the main IP; it does not contain the quantifier.

Exercise F.5. In the following tree, say which node c-commands which node and which node dominates which node. (You may safely ignore the words here.)



Answer: 1 dominates 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9; 2 dominates 4, 5; 3 dominates 6, 7, 8, 9; 7 dominates 8 and 9. No other node dominates any node. 2 c-commands 3, 6, 7, 8, 9; 3 c-commands 2, 4, 5; 4 c-commands 5; 5 c-commands 4; 6 c-commands 7, 8, 9; 7 c-commands 6; 8 c-commands 9; 9 c-commands 8; and that's all.