



Engl 294
Spring 2004
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Final Exam

- I. Using X'-theory, draw trees for the following sentences: (32 pts)
- The witches wondered whose enemies Macbeth's armies would crush.
 - There have been different accounts of what occurred.
 - Knowing what they did, Joan and Mary refused the offer.
 - He might tell Sarah and I certainly hope he will.
- II. Using information about the descriptive rules and principles of grammar provide an explanation for the unacceptability of the following sentences. (*Hint: It helps to contrast each of the unacceptable sentences with one that is both acceptable and minimally different.*) (25 pts)
- *Are no reasons for it.
 - *Othello did not something terrible.
 - *Ophelia_i told John about her_i.
 - *Ophelia wonders that Hamlet left.
 - *You showed herself some pictures of Ophelia.
- III. Draw the tree for the following sentence: (17 pts)
- (i) Othello believes that the picture of Desdemona belongs to him.
- List all the NPs c-commanded by the NP Desdemona
 - List all the NPs c-commanded by the NP Othello.
 - Knowing the conditions on the distribution of pronouns, explain why the sentence in (i) has the reading where *Othello* and *him* are coreferent.
 - The following sentence is ill-formed. Explain why.
- (ii) *Othello believes that the picture of Desdemona belongs to himself.
- IV. Consider the following contrast: (26 pts)
- (i) a. *Portia saw *anything/ anybody*.
b. Portia did not see *anything/ anybody*.

A negative polarity item (NPI) is an expression that may occur only in the presence of a negative expression, as illustrated in (i) above. Accordingly, *anything* and *anybody* are NPIs, since they require the presence of *not*.

Interestingly the relation of NPIs to negative expressions is also constrained by a syntactic principle. It is the purpose of this exercise to get you to identify this principle.

- (ii) a. The elves said that the fairies did not see anything/anybody.
- b. The elves did not say that the fairies saw anything/anybody.
- c. The elves did not tell anybody that the fairies liked witchcraft.
- d. The elves did not say that anybody liked witchcraft.

- (iii) a. *Anybody said that the fairies did not see the elves.
- b. *The elves told anybody that the fairies did not like witchcraft.

- (1) Although the NPI *anybody* occurs in the presence of the negative *not* in (iii), the sentences remain ill-formed. Provide a possible explanation for their ill-formedness. Make sure that your explanation accounts for the difference between the sentences in (ii), on one hand, and those in (iii), in the other.

- (2) Does your explanation in (1) account for the ill-formedness of (iv) below?

- (iv) *The news that the elves did not leave surprised anybody.

- (3) Draw trees for the sentences in (iv) and (iib).

- (4) What can you conclude about the syntactic relation between the negative *not* and the NPI in each of the trees you drew in (3)? Formulate the principle that constrains the distribution of NPIs.

- (5) Can this principle explain the contrast between the following two sentences?

- (v) a. *Anybody did not see Portia.
- b. Portia did not see anybody.