

Homework 7

LIN 311: Syntax, Fall 2018

Problem 1. Case in English.

Explain, referring specifically to principles of case assignment, how each bolded NP in the following sentences does or does not get assigned case. This means, for NPs that are OK, name the case assigner and which case they receive. For NPs that are not OK, explain why case is not assigned.

- (1)
- a. **Mary** has placed **a star** near **the sentence**.
 - b. I consider **sushi** to be delicious.
 - c. **Tom** arranged for **Sue** to leave.
 - d. *It is certain [**John** to have died].
 - e. *[his **destruction Rome**] failed. two nouns: **destruction** and **Rome**
 - f. *I am eager [**John** to leave].

Problem 2. Lakhota

Consider another head-final language, Lakhota. Assume that all heads in this language are located to the right of their complements. What can we say about adjuncts and specifiers? Are they on the right or on the left? Draw a tree of the following sentence. To get the right word order, you will have to figure out if verbs undergo V-to-T movement or not. Indicate all movements with arrows.

- (2) John wawapi k'uhe oyuke ki ohlate iyeye
John letter that bed the under found.
John found that letter under the bed.'

Problem 3. German V2.

Part 1:

The following sentence has the same word order in German and in English:

- (3)
- a. Dein Freund wird anrufen. German
your friend will call
'Your friend will call.'
 - b. Your friend will call. English

Given what we know about V2 in German, are the structures of these sentences the same? Draw the relevant trees (one tree is enough, if the structures are the same; if the structures are different, draw two trees: one for German, one for English). Indicate all movements with arrows.

Part 2:

Consider the following German sentence:

- (4) Mein Onkel hat dreimal aus der Schweiz angerufen.
my uncle has three.times from the Switzerland called
'My uncle called three times from Switzerland.'

Which of the following three sentences are grammatical in German? Explain why. Draw a tree of any grammatical sentence among those. Indicate all movements with arrows.

- (5) a. Angerufen hat mein Onkel aus der Schweiz dreimal.
 b. Aus der Schweiz hat mein Onkel dreimal angerufen.
 c. Dreimal aus der Schweiz hat mein Onkel angerufen.

Problem 4.* Double Modals in English Dialects.

Certain dialects of English allow the appearance of more than one modal in the same sentence. The following data are from Hawick (pronounced “hoik”) in Scotland:

- (6) a. He will can go.
 b. He might could go.

In this dialect *can/could* is always the second of the two modals:

- (7) a. *He can will go.
 b. *He could might go.
 c. *He can can go.

The modals seem to have to agree in Tense:

- (8) a. *He will could go.
 b. *He would can go.

Can/could can appear after *to* in an infinitival clause:

- (9) a. I would like to could swim.
 b. I want to can do it.
 c. He’s bound to could do it.
 d. *I would like to might do it.
 e. *He’s bound to should do it.

There are a number of possible analyses of this construction. Here are two competing hypotheses:

- **Hypothesis 1:** the double modal is a single word.
- **Hypothesis 2:** one of the modals is really an adverb.

Using the following data sets, evaluate these two hypotheses. If you end up deciding that they are both wrong, formulate your own hypothesis.

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| <p>(10) a. He will can do it.
 b. Will he can do it?
 c. *Can he will do it?
 d. *Will can he do it?
 e. *Can will he do it?</p> <p>(11) He might no could have done it.</p> <p>(12) a. He’ll no can do it, will he?
 b. He’ll no can do it, can he?</p> | <p>c. He might maybe do that, mightn’t he?
 d. *He might maybe do that, mayben’t he?
 e. He can’t possibly do that, can he?
 f. *He can’t possibly do that, possibly he?</p> <p>(13) a. All the boys should could go.
 b. The boys all should could go.
 c. The boys should all could go.
 d. The boys should could all go.</p> |
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