Syntax Seminar (BBN-ANG-252): Midterm test

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- The I-language is a finite system internal to the mind. T|F

- Word categories are determined based on syntactic, semantic and morphological properties. T|F

- The identity of the phrase is determined by its head. T|F

- Coordination is possible only between phrases of the same type; moreover, they must have the same function. T|F

- Theta-roles are lexically determined, while grammatical functions are purely syntactic. T|F

- External arguments are listed in the subcategorization frame of the verb. T|F

- In the X-bar theory, the specifier is the sister of X'. T|F

- In the X-bar theory, the mother of the head and the complement is X'. T|F

- According to the UTAH, a particular theta-role must always be assigned to the same syntactic position. T|F

- Provide an example from English that shows that syntactic rules can be recursive.
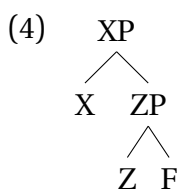
    (1)

- Insert English words that match the bracketed structure:

    (2) a. $[_{DP}$ $[_{NP}$]]
         b. $[_{PP}$ $[_{DP}$]]
         c. $[_{DegP}$ $[_{AP}$]]
         d. $[_{AP}$ $[_{PP}$]]
         e. $[_{VP}$ $[_{PP}$]]

- Explain why the sentence in (3) is ambiguous.

    (3) John saw the girl with the binoculars.

- Answer the questions about the tree diagram in (4).

    (4) XP

    What is the sister of X?

    What are the immediate constituents of XP?

    What is the mother of F?

- Apply the constituency tests to the italicized elements in (5) and (6):

  (5) I met John *in Australia.*
    a. Substitution/replacement:
    b. Movement/displacement:
    c. Cleft:

  (6) I met the *woman* with brown eyes.
    a. Substitution/replacement:
    b. Movement/displacement:
    c. Cleft:

  Q: Based on the tests, what can we conclude about the italicized elements in (5) and (6)?

- Consider (7). Which constituency test has been applied in (7b)? And what does the result tell us about the italicized element in (7a)?

  (7) a. I consider *Peter an idiot.*
      b. I consider *Peter an idiot* and *John a genius.*

- Provide English examples that have the following categorial features:

  (8) a. [+F, +N, −V]
      b. [−F, +N, +V]
      c. [+F, −N, −V]

- Give an English example of one-place, two-place and three-place predicates.

- Give an English example of intransitive, (mono)transitive, ditransitive and complex transitive verbs.

- What theta-roles are assigned to the arguments in (9)?

  (9) a. Peter gave two red roses to Mary.
      b. There is a man at the front door.
      c. The exam sheets were corrected by the teacher.
      d. Peter doesn't know how to solve this.

- Why are the following sentences ungrammatical? Hint: the Theta Criterion is violated.

  (10) a. *John Simon met Peter.
       b. *John put the book.
       c. *Sang in the afternoon.

- Provide the lexical entry (category, theta-grid, subcategorization frame) for the italicized predicates in (11).

  (11) a. Peter is *proud* of Mary.
       b. Peter will *buy* a book.
       c. Peter *smiled*.
       d. Peter *sent* Mary a postcard.

- Give examples of three types of phrases in which the specifier position is filled with a phrase.

- For all sentences in (12):
  (A) list the arguments of the verbs; list the adjuncts
  (B) draw the X-bar structures

  When drawing the trees pay attention to: (i) the position of arguments, (i) verb movement (if any). If the PP is an adjunct, you can omit it from the tree. Use the triangle for the DPs and PPs. Bonus point for representing the internal structure of the PP in (12a) ☺

  (12) a. The post office is right across the street.
       b. David put a letter on the desk.
       c. David wrote a letter on the desk.
       d. Peter danced in the night club.

- Complete exercises (19), (20), and (23) from HO4.