Linguistics 610 Fall 2015 HW #4 25 points Due Tuesday November 24

Use the LGB framework for these exercises (summarized in Part D of the HO "Overview of Binding Theory 1973-1986").

3 points

- 1. We have seen evidence for the following binding conditions:
 - A An anaphor must be A-bound in its governing category (GC).
 - B A pronoun must be A-free in its GC.
 - C An r-expression must be A-free. Discuss what would go wrong, and how, if the conditions on anaphors, pronouns and r-expressions were switched in the following fashion:
 - A' An anaphor must be A-bound
 - B' A pronoun must be A-free.
 - C' An r-expression must be A-free in its GC.

3 points

- Suppose that the binding conditions apply at exactly one level of representation. Use the following 2. examples, and at least some additional evidence, to show that that level must be S-structure rather than D-structure.
 - a. *John is believed is intelligent
 - b. They seem to each other to be intelligent

2 points

3. Most theories explicitly define c-command as irreflexive (i.e., nothing bears the c-command relation to itself). What goes wrong for Binding Theory if we drop this requirement? Present at least 2 distinct difficulties that would arise.

2 points

4. Early versions of the modern theory of anaphora (as in "Conditions on Transformations" or "Conditions on Rules of Grammar") distinguished between 'specified' subjects and other subjects. Discuss and illustrate the notion 'specified subject', and exactly how specified subjects differ from other subjects. Then show how this complication in the theory could be eliminated.

4.5 points

- 5. As far as Binding Theory is concerned, the trace of 'NP movement' (an A-trace) has the same abstract distribution as a lexical anaphor (i.e., they occur in the same kinds of structural positions (as proposed by Chomsky "Conditions on Rules of Grammar" and carried over into LGB)).
 - a) Discuss and illustrate this parallelism with grammatical and ungrammatical examples (and indicating just what the relevant structural configurations are).
 - b) Show that the actual, as opposed to the abstract, distribution of A-trace and lexical anaphors is complementary rather than identical (that is, in actual sentences, where one is good, the other is bad).
 - c) Explain the phenomenon in (b). That is, show how the complementary distribution follows from independent principles. Be explicit.

10.5 points

- 6. Explain the ungrammaticality of each of the following examples within the LGB Binding Theory (as augmented by the handout where relevant). Be explicit about all the rules or principles you use in your explanation, and show relevant portions of the structures with trees. When Governing Category is *relevant, say exactly what the GC is, and how you determined it.* If some example cannot be handled by devices we have discussed, indicate precisely how they fail. [In this exercise, assume that 'John', 'Bill, and 'Harry' denote males while 'Mary', 'Susan', and 'Barbara' denote females.] a. *I gave John's pictures to himself

 - b. *Mary saw Bill's picture of herself
 - c. *Myself solved the problem
 - d. *Barbara tried PRO to solve the problem [with Barbara and PRO not coreferential]
 - e. *They believe Mary to like each other
 - f. *Mary believes her to be clever [with Mary and her coreferential]
 - g. *Susan admires PRO