

Linguistics 611 Spring 2009
HW #1 22 points
Due Thursday 2/12

[Chomsky 1991 = Ch. 2; Chomsky 1993 = Ch. 3]

- (1) a. For Chomsky 1991, what, if anything, prevents overt raising of main verbs to Infl in English?
b. For Chomsky 1991, what, if anything, prevents overt 're-raising' of main verbs to Infl in English?
[5 points]
- (2) On the Chomsky 1991 and 1993 accounts, explain how overt raising of 'auxiliary' verbs is allowed.
[4 points]
- (3) We examined how Chomsky accounted for the difference between English and French negative sentences:
a *John likes not Mary
b Jean (n')aime pas Marie
Discuss how to account for the partially parallel differences with respect to adverb position:
a *John kisses often Mary
b Jean embrasse souvent Marie
BUT
c *John not kisses Mary
d John often kisses Mary
[4 points]
- (4) The Chomsky 1991 analysis relied on a very specific proposal about deletion: that it results in a featureless empty category [e] and, crucially, that adjunction to that category is prohibited. Ilhan Cagri suggested a simpler conception of deletion: When something is deleted, it is entirely eliminated. Show how the two accounts work for the crucial examples.
[3 points]
- (5) Discuss the major conceptual and technical differences between the Chomsky 1991 and 1993 treatments of the English vs. French verbal system. Comment on the role played by 'economy' in each account.
[6 points]