

# LING2005 Syntax I

## Tutorial: Binding Theory II

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- It is very likely that we won't include any questions concerning languages other than English in the final exam
  - No guarantee though...



Unless specified otherwise, let us assume that the three principles are defined as follows:

- Principle A: An anaphor  $\alpha$  must be bound in the smallest XP with a subject that contains  $\alpha$ .
- Principle B: A pronoun  $\beta$  must not be bound in the smallest XP with a subject that contains  $\beta$ .
- Principle C: An R-expression must not be bound.

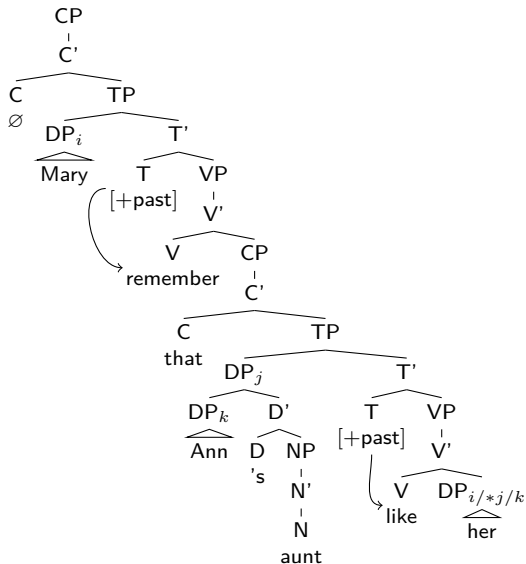
Note: Binding Principles are like systems that try to capture the properties of natural languages. That being said, they may not be perfect as it is hardly the case that a system can handle all exceptions.



Explain why *her* can only be co-indexed with *Mary* and *Ann* but not *Ann's aunt* using the Binding Theory.

- 1  $Mary_i$  remembered that  $[Ann_k's\ aunt]_j$  liked  $her_{i/*j/k}$ .

# Q1. Interpretation of Pronoun



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- The binding domain of *her* is the embedded TP of the sentence because it is the minimal XP with a subject (i.e. *Ann's aunt*) that contains (i.e. dominates) *her*. According to Principle B, the pronoun must be free in this binding domain of embedded TP.
  - i On the *i*-interpretation, *Mary* and *her* carry the same index *i*, and *Mary* c-commands *her*. As a result, *Mary* binds *her*. However, since *Mary* is outside the binding domain of *her*, interpreting *Mary* as *her* does not render *her* to be bound in the binding domain, observing Principle B. As a result, the *i*-interpretation is acceptable.
  - ii On the *j*-interpretation, *Ann's aunt* and *her* carry the same index *j*, and *Ann's aunt* c-commands *her*. As a result, *Ann's aunt* binds *her*. Since *Ann's aunt* is inside the binding domain of *her*, interpreting *her* as *Ann's aunt* renders *her* bound in the binding domain, violating Principle B. As a result, the *j*-interpretation is unacceptable.
  - iii On the *k*-interpretation, *Ann* and *her* carry the same index *k*, and *Ann* does not c-command *her*. As a result, *Ann* does not bind *her*. Since no antecedent binds *her* inside the binding domain of *her*, even if *Ann* is interpreted as *her*, *her* is not bound in the binding domain, observing Principle B. As a result, the *k*-interpretation is acceptable.

## Q2. Anaphor across Languages (A)



Mandarin Chinese offers some intriguing data for the binding theory. In what way is Chinese reflexive *ziji* different from English reflexive *himself*? (Assume that *shuo* 'say' and *renwei* 'think' take a CP complement like English *say* and *think*.)

- (1) 張三<sub>i</sub> 說 自己<sub>i</sub> 會 來。  
*Zhangsan<sub>i</sub> shuo ziji<sub>i</sub> hui lai.*  
Zhangsan say self will come  
'Zhangsan said that himself will come.'
- (2) 張三<sub>i</sub> 說 自己<sub>i</sub> 有 沒 有 錢 沒 關係。  
*Zhangsan<sub>i</sub> shuo ziji<sub>i</sub> you mei you qian mei guanxi.*  
Zhangsan say self have not have money not matter  
'Zhangsan said that whether himself has money or not didn't matter.'
- (3) 約翰<sub>i</sub> 認為 瑪莉 喜歡 自己<sub>io</sub>。  
*Yuehan<sub>i</sub> renwei Mali xihuan ziji<sub>i</sub>.*  
John think Mary like self  
'John thinks that Mary likes himself.'

Note: The English translations in (1)–(3) are ungrammatical. The authors use them to illustrate the position of reflexives in the respective sentences.

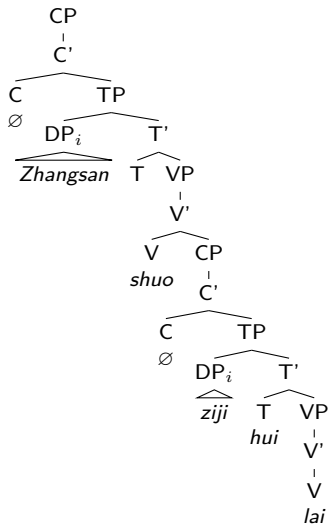
## Q2. Anaphor across Languages (A)



- The goal of this question is to compare reflexives across languages. For simplicity, we assume that the syntactic structure of English and Chinese is largely similar, though this actually needs to be defended if we are really serious about it.
- ① English reflexive cannot serve as the subject of a clause but Chinese reflexive can, as illustrated in (1) and (2).
- ② The patterns of binding of the two languages differ significantly. According to Principle A (for English), the binding domain of an anaphor should be the smallest XP with a subject that contains the anaphor.



## Q2. Anaphor across Languages (A)



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If Chinese reflexive *ziji* behaves in exactly the same way as English reflexives, the binding domains for *ziji* should be:

- the embedded TP dominating *ziji hui lai* for (1),
- the embedded subject TP dominating *ziji you mei you qian* for (2), and
- the embedded TP dominating *Mali xihuan ziji* for (3).

However, as indicated by the index, the antecedent is not located inside the respective binding domains. If Chinese *ziji* behaves in the same way as English reflexives, Principle A should have ruled out each case. However, Mandarin speakers consider (1)–(3) to be well-formed. The DP outside the binding domain, e.g. *Zhangsan* in (1, 2) and *Yuehan* in (3), can serve as the antecedent of *ziji*. [Such cases are referred to as “long distance reflexives” in the literature.]

## Q2. Anaphor across Languages (B)



Are the anaphors in Japanese and Korean more similar to Mandarin Chinese or English?

- (4) 張三<sub>i</sub> 知道 [李四<sub>j</sub> 認為 [王五<sub>k</sub> 最 喜歡 自己<sub>i/j/k</sub> ]]  
*Zhangsan<sub>i</sub> zhidao [Lisi<sub>j</sub> renwei [Wangwu<sub>k</sub> zui xihuan ziji<sub>i/j/k</sub> ]]*  
Zhangsan know Lisi think Wangwu most like self  
'Zhangsan<sub>i</sub> knows that Lisi<sub>j</sub> thinks that Wangwu<sub>k</sub> likes self<sub>i/j/k</sub>.'
- (5) 수미<sub>i</sub> 가 [수지<sub>j</sub> 가 [영희<sub>k</sub> 가 자기<sub>i/j/k</sub> 를 싫어한다고]  
*Sumi<sub>i</sub>-ka [Suji<sub>j</sub>-ka [Younghee<sub>k</sub>-ka caki<sub>i/j/k</sub>-lul silehan-ta-ko]*  
Sumi-NOM Suji-NOM Younghee-NOM self-ACC hate-DEC-COMP  
생각한다고] 알고있다.  
*sayngkakhan-ta-ko] al-ko-iss-ta.*  
think-DEC-COMP know-CONN-be-DEC  
'Sumi<sub>i</sub> knows that Suji<sub>j</sub> thinks that Younghee<sub>k</sub> hates self<sub>i/j/k</sub>.'
- (6) 隆<sub>i</sub> が [健司<sub>j</sub> が 自分<sub>i/j</sub> を 推薦したと] 思った。  
*Takasi<sub>i</sub>-ga [Kenji<sub>j</sub>-ga zibun<sub>i/j</sub>-o suisenshita-to] omotta.*  
Takasi-NOM Kenji-NOM self-ACC recommended-COMP thought  
'Takasi<sub>i</sub> thought that Kenji<sub>j</sub> recommended self<sub>i/j</sub>.'



- Korean *caki* and Japanese *zibun* behave like Mandarin *ziji*. Both languages allow binding between the antecedent and the anaphor to occur over “long distance”(beyond the binding domain defined for English reflexives) as described in Part A.



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