LING2005 Syntax I

Tutorial: Binding Theory I

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Based on tutorial handouts by Dr. Zhuo Chen

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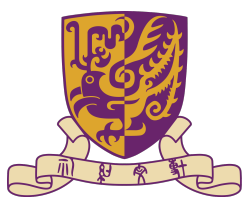

Review: Binding Principle A (version 4)

An anaphor (reflexives like himself, themselves, etc.; and reciprocals like each other) must be bound in its binding domain.

- **Binds**: A binds B if and only if (i) A **c-commands** B and (ii) A and B are **coindexed**.
  - C-Command: The relationship between a node, its sister, and the stuff dominated by its sister.
- **Binding domain**: The smallest XP containing the anaphor that has a specifier.
  - According to this definition the anaphor can be the specifier of the XP.

Practice: Binding Principle A

For each of the sentences below, state the binding domain of the anaphor and indicate whether the sentence is expected to be grammatical or ungrammatical with the co-indexed antecedent. Make sure to use the fourth version of Principle A!

[NB: This question is not asking whether the sentence is actually grammatical or not!]

1. Eason Chan$_i$ wondered whether Lady Gaga will invite himself$_i$.
2. Eason Chan$_i$ knows that himself$_i$ will definitely pass the exam.

- The binding domain is (____)
- The sentence is predicted to be (____) with the co-indexed antecedent because (____)
  A. grammatical B. ungrammatical

Practice: Binding Principle A

Eason Chan$_i$ wondered whether Lady Gaga will invite himself$_i$.

- The binding domain is (____)
- The sentence is predicted to be (____) with the co-indexed antecedent because (____)
  A. grammatical B. ungrammatical

Practice: Binding Principle A

Eason Chan$_i$ wondered whether Lady Gaga will invite himself$_i$.

- The binding domain is the embedded TP, i.e., [$_{\text{TP}}$ *Lady Gaga will invite himself$_i$*].
- The sentence is predicted to be ungrammatical with the co-indexed antecedent because the intended antecedent *Eason Chan$_i$* is outside the binding domain of the anaphor *himself$_i$*, violating Principle A.

Practice: Binding Principle A

Eason Chan$_i$ knows that himself$_i$ will definitely pass the exam.

- The binding domain is (____)
- The sentence is predicted to be (____) with the co-indexed antecedent because (____)
  A. grammatical B. ungrammatical

Practice: Binding Principle A

Eason Chan$_i$ knows that himself$_i$ will definitely pass the exam.

- The binding domain is the matrix TP, i.e., [$_{\text{TP}}$ *Eason Chan$_i$ knows that himself$_i$ will definitely pass the exam*].
- The sentence is predicted to be grammatical with the co-indexed antecedent because the intended antecedent *Eason Chan$_i$* is with the binding domain of the anaphor *himself$_i$*, and the former is c-commanding the latter, hence there is no Principle A violation (Note that this sentence is predicted to be grammatical given our current understanding of Principle A, although it is not consistent with our judgment about the actual grammaticality of this sentence. Therefore, our current theory does not necessarily make correct empirical predictions, which shows that it needs improvement).

Review: Binding Principle B

A pronoun must be free (cannot be bound) in its binding domain.

- **Binds**: A binds B if and only if (i) A **c-commands** B and (ii) A and B are **coindexed**.
  - C-Command: The relationship between a node, its sister, and the stuff dominated by its sister.
- **Binding domain**: The smallest XP containing the pronoun that has a specifier.
  - NB: According to this definition the pronoun can be the specifier of the XP.
- Note that, unlike anaphors, a pronoun can but does not have to be bound.
  - A pronoun does not have to be bound, i.e., it is possible for a pronoun to have no binder/antecedent in a sentence.
  - A pronoun can be bound as long as its binder/antecedent is outside its binding domain, i.e., there is no Principle B violation;

Practice: Binding Principle B

Eason Chan$_j$ invited him$_i$.

- The binding domain is (____)
- The sentence is predicted to be (____) with the co-indexed antecedent because (____)
  A. grammatical B. ungrammatical

Practice: Binding Principle B

Eason Chan$_j$ invited him$_i$.

- The binding domain is the matrix TP, i.e., [$_{\text{TP}}$ *Eason Chan$_j$ invited him$_i$*].
- The sentence is predicted to be grammatical with the co-indexed antecedent because although *Eason Chan$_j$* is c-commanding the pronoun him$_i$ in its binding domain, they are not co-indexed. Hence the pronoun is not being bound within its binding domain and it is free, so there is no Principle B violation.

Practice: Binding Principle B

That Eason Chan would visit his sister$_i$ surprised her$_i$.

- The binding domain is (____)
- The sentence is predicted to be (____) with the co-indexed antecedent because (____)
  A. grammatical B. ungrammatical

Practice: Binding Principle B

That Eason Chan would visit his sister$_i$ surprised her$_i$.

- The binding domain is the matrix TP, i.e., [$_{\text{TP}}$ *That Eason Chan would visit his sister$_i$ surprised her$_i$*].
- The sentence is predicted to be grammatical with the co-indexed antecedent because although his *sister$_i$* is co-indexed with the pronoun *her$_i$* within its binding domain, the former does not c-command the latter. Hence the pronoun is not being bound within its binding domain and it is free, so there is no Principle B violation.

Attendance

- Please scan the QR code and complete the attendance form