

LING2005 Syntax I

Tutorial: Binding Theory II & Head Movement

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Based on tutorial handouts by Dr. Zhuo Chen

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An anaphor 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 that has a specifier and that **has a DP c-commanding the anaphor**.
 - According to this definition the anaphor **cannot** be the specifier of the XP.



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.
 - According to this definition the pronoun can be the specifier of the XP.



R-expressions cannot be bound.

- An R-expression cannot be c-commanded by another DP that is co-indexed with it.



For each of the following sentences, based on the current version of binding theory, please discuss whether it is predicted to be grammatical or not. Note that the question is concerned with what our theory predicts, and NOT what the actual grammaticality is.

- ① [Loki_i's brother]_j disappointed himself_i.
- ② [The managers]_i knew that [each other]_i's assistants would quit.
- ③ That his_i assistant would quit surprised [Tony Stark]_i.
 - The binding domain is (_____)
 - The sentence is predicted to be (____) with the co-indexed antecedent because (_____)A. grammatical B. ungrammatical



- ① [Loki_i's brother]_j disappointed **himself**_i.
- The binding domain of *himself* is (_____)
 - The sentence is predicted to be (____) with the co-indexed antecedent because (_____)
- A. grammatical B. ungrammatical



- ① $[\text{Loki}_i\text{'s brother}]_j$ disappointed **himself** $_i$.
- The binding domain of *himself* is $[\text{TP } [\text{Loki}_i\text{'s brother}]_j \text{ disappointed himself}_i]$.
 - The sentence is predicted to be **ungrammatical** with the co-indexed antecedent because **The intended antecedent Loki_i does not c-command the anaphor himself_i , hence the anaphor is not bound within its binding domain, violating Principle A.**



- ① [The managers]_{*i*} knew that [each other]_{*i*}'s assistants would quit.
- The binding domain of *each other* is (_____)
 - The sentence is predicted to be (____) with the co-indexed antecedent because (_____)
- A. grammatical B. ungrammatical



- ① [The managers]_i knew that [each other]_i's assistants would quit.
 - The binding domain of *each other* is [_{TP} [The managers]_i knew that [each other]_i's assistants would quit].
 - The sentence is predicted to be grammatical with the co-indexed antecedent because Under the final version of Principle A, the binding domain for the reciprocal [each other]_i in this sentence should be extended to the entire TP, which includes a DP-commanding the reciprocal. In such binding domain, the intended antecedent [The managers]_i does c-command the reciprocal. Hence, Principle A is satisfied and the sentence is therefore predicted to be grammatical.



- ① That his_i assistant would quit surprised $[Tony\ Stark]_i$.
- The binding domain of *Tony Stark* is (_____)
 - The binding domain of *his* is (_____)
 - The sentence is predicted to be (____) with the co-indexed antecedent because (_____)
- A. grammatical B. ungrammatical



- ① That his_i assistant would quit surprised $[Tony\ Stark]_i$.
- The binding domain of *Tony Stark* is N/A .
(note this is a trick question as there is no binding domain for any R-expression)
- The binding domain of *his* is $[_{DP}\ his_i\ assistant]$
- The sentence is predicted to be grammatical with the co-indexed antecedent because Although the R-expression $[Tony\ Stark]_i$ is co-indexed with a preceding DP pronoun his_i , the pronoun does not c-command the R-expression, hence the R-expression is not bound and there is no Principle C violation. On the other hand, within the binding domain of the pronoun, which is $[_{DP}\ his_i\ assistant]$, the pronoun his_i is free as there is no c-commanding DP that is co-indexed with the pronoun. Note that the co-indexed DP does not c-command the pronoun and is obviously outside the pronoun's binding domain. Hence there is no Principle B violation either.



- When the T head is not otherwise occupied already (by a modal verb), **auxiliary verbs** in **both English and French** move from V to T;
- When the T head is not otherwise occupied already (by a modal verb or an auxiliary verb), **lexical verbs in French** move from V to T.



Please draw the surface tree for the following sentences (please feel free to ignore the French negative concord *ne* and you need not include it in your tree).

① English

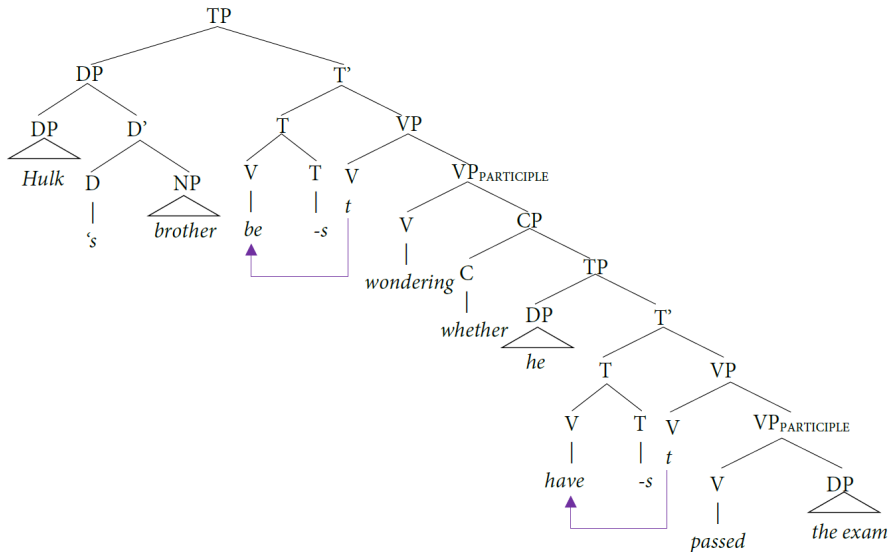
Hulk's brother is wondering whether he has passed the exam.

② French

Je (ne) savais pas que Patrice oublie souvent ses chaussures
I knew NEG that Patrice forgets often his shoes
“I didn't know that Patrice often forgets his shoes.”

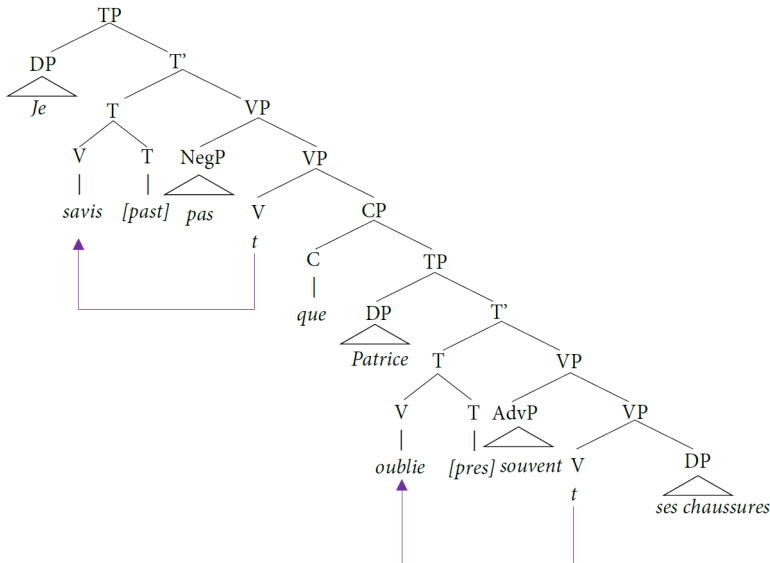


Hulk's brother is wondering whether he has passed the exam.





Je (ne) savais pas que Patrice oublie souvent ses chaussures.





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