February 19, 2004
Ch 4.7-4.8
Pre-nominal constituents
Overview

- Correction from last time
- Prenominal complements vs. attributes (=adjuncts)
- Prenominal vs. postnominal dependents
- Putting it all together
- In-class exercise
- Next time: Review for Midterm #2
What’s wrong with this tree?

NP
  ────────
   │      ──
D   the  N'
    │  ────
    │     │
    N  PP  in the school
      │    ──
      │     │
      P   NP
      │    ──
      │     │
      on   PP
      │    ──
      │     │
      N    NP
      │    ──
      │     │
      with studs
      │    ──
      │     │
      belts
the ban on belts with studs in the school
Prenominal elements: Preview

- a [Cambridge] [physics] student
- Postnominal PPs divided into complements and adjuncts
- Prenominal NPs divided into complements and attributes
- As before, complements are sister to N, daughter of N’
- Attributes (like adjuncts) are sister to and daughter of N’
Prenominal elements: Rules

- \( N' \rightarrow [+NP] \ N' \) (attributes)
- \( N' \rightarrow (NP) \ N \) (complements)
- Still have the other rules, including:
  \( NP \rightarrow (D) \ N' \)
Prenominal elements: Tests

• Semantic: # of properties predicated
• Semantic: ambiguity
• Semantic: co-occurrence restrictions
• Semantic: recursivity/iterability
• Syntactic: ordering
• Syntactic: coordination
• [Syntactic: extraposition] – not applicable
• [Syntactic: preposing/extraction] – not applicable
# of properties predicated

- *a Cambridge student* \( \text{student}(x) \land \text{from-Cambridge}(x) \)
- *a physics student* \( \text{physics-student}(x) \), or \( \text{student}(x,\text{physics}) \)
- True for these further examples of complements? the pronography ban, personnel recruitment, charity appeal, famine relief, brain damage, fraud investigations, a Debbie Harry fan, the treachery allegations’
- True for these further examples of attributes? the corner shop, the shipyard strike, the iron lady, the river bridge, the typewriter keyboard, a cream sauce, China tea, the winter weather
Ambiguity

- *an English teacher*
- What does it mean if *English* is a noun?
- What does it mean if *English* is an adjective?
- Which structure does each alternative get?
- *I think it would be crazy to hire a French English teacher.*
- Which meaning does this have?
  - ... a French person to teach English
  - ... an English person to teach French
- How does that support the proposed model?
Co-occurrence restrictions

• (Not discussed in this part of the chapter)
• How would we test for a difference in this case?
• complement examples:
  the pronography ban, personnel recruitment, charity appeal, famine relief, brain damage, fraud investigations, a Debbie Harry fan, the treachery allegations’
• attribute examples:
  the corner shop, the shipyard strike, the iron lady, the river bridge, the typewriter keyboard, a cream sauce, China tea, the winter weather
Recursivity/iterability

• a [physics] [economics] [agriculture] student

• a [high quality] [1st year] [Cambridge] student

• complement examples:
  the pronography ban, personnel recruitment, charity appeal, famine relief, brain damage, fraud investigations, a Debbie Harry fan, the treachery allegations’

• attribute examples:
  the corner shop, the shipyard strike, the iron lady, the river bridge, the typewriter keyboard, a cream sauce, China tea, the winter weather
Ordering

- a Cambridge physics student
- *a physics Cambridge student

complement examples:
the pronography ban, personnel recruitment, charity appeal, famine relief, brain damage, fraud investigations, a Debbie Harry fan, the treachery allegations’

attribute examples:
the corner shop, the shipyard strike, the iron lady, the river bridge, the typewriter keyboard, a cream sauce, China tea, the winter weather
Coordination

- several [physics] and [chemistry] students
- several [Oxford] and [Cambridge] students
- *several [physics] and [Cambridge] students
- *several [Cambridge] and [physics] students
Prenominal v. postnominal dependents: Similarities

- Complements are always sister to N.
- Adjuncts and attributes are always sister to N'.
- Many of the same tests are applicable.
- Paraphrase relations exist:
  - the ban [on pornography]/the [pornography] ban
  - the shop [on the corner]/the [corner] shop
Prenominal v. postnominal dependents: Differences

- Prenominally we find NPs and some APs.
- Postnominally we find PPs and some (an overlapping set of) APs.
- The nature of the relationship between prenominal dependents and the head is much less explicit than with postnominal dependents:
  - Nancy Reagan’s [drugs] campaign
  - Ronald Reagan’s [re-election] campaign
Restrictions on prenominal NPs (1/2)

• Mostly lack determiners:
   an [opera] lover/*an [the opera] lover

• But not always:
  • an [all India] cricket match
  • the President’s [no compromise] policy
Restrictions on prenominal NPs

• In addition, the prenominal NPs are usually singular
  • the scissor kick (cf *a scissor)
  • *a mice cage (cf a mouse cage)

• NB: The *s that sometimes shows up is a linker morpheme for compounds (more common in German), e.g.:
  • a mens magazine
Putting it all together (1/2)

- NP $\rightarrow$ (D) $N'$
- $N'$ $\rightarrow$ $N'$ PP $|$ S (adjunct rule)
- $N'$ $\rightarrow$ N (PP $|$ S) (complement rule)
- $N'$ $\rightarrow$ NP $|$ AP $N'$ (attribute rule)
- $N'$ $\rightarrow$ (NP) N (complement rule)
Putting it all together (2/2)

- Do the rules allow both a prenominal and a postnominal complement in the same NP? Why or why not?
- Is this prediction correct?
- Do the rules allow AP and NP attributes to interleave?
- Is this prediction correct?
- How many different structures are assigned to the following:
  the Cambridge student with long hair
- Does it have that many readings?
In-class exercise: Ch 4, Ex VI

The following examples are ambiguous. What are the different readings for each, and what structures might we assign to them, using this model?

- the house in the wood near the park
- a toy factory
- a brass button holder
- the king of England’s people
In-class exercise (if time): Ch 4, Ex IX (1/2)

- the English king
  - (a) the king who is English
  - (b) the king of England
- Structural analysis: in (a), English is an attribute, in (b), it is a complement
- Pragmatic analysis: always an attribute, exact relationship underspecified
In-class exercise (if time): Ch 4, Ex IX (2/2)

- Use the following examples (and their possible interpretations) to argue for one analysis over the other:
  - Why do philosophers always use examples involving a bald French king instead of a bald English one.
  - There’s not much to choose between the present English and French kings except that the French king is less bald than the English one.
  - Henry VIII is the best known English Protestant king.
  - We’ve had relatively few English septuagenarian kings.
  - Boedicea was the most famous English pagan queen.
  - Henry IV was the last English French king.
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