Ling 461 Final Review

March 12, 2004

Clauses

- Yesterday we talked about 3 different types of clauses:
  - Ordinary Clauses (S')
  - Exceptional Clauses (S)
  - Small Clauses (SC)
- What is the constituent structure of the three types of clauses?

Clauses (cont'd)

- Some diagnostics for distinguishing clause types:
  - Subject Expressions can appear as the subject (i.e., the NP after the verb) with raising (ECM) verbs, but not with control verbs. (105-107),(110)
  - Verbal adjuncts can appear after the V-NP in control verbs, but not raising verbs. (116)
  - The V-NP sequence can prepose with control verbs, but not raising verbs (118-119).
  - With raising verbs, you can make the verb in the complement clause passive without changing the meaning. With control verbs, doing so changes the meaning. (122-123).

Clauses (cont'd)

- What kind of complement clauses can *believe* take?

- What kind of complement clauses can *persuade* take?

- What about *want*?

Complementizers

- What can overt complementizers tell us about what kind of clause they introduce?

- What structural insights can the presence of overt complementizers give us about a complement clause?

- How can we generalize complementizer features, and how do they relate to INFL?

INFL

- Internal structure of INFL:

    I $\rightarrow$ [αTNS, αAGR]

    [+TNS] $\rightarrow$ [+/- PAST]

    [+AGR] $\rightarrow$ [βNUM, γPER]

    - What function can a finite INFL perform for a sister NP?

Contrasts

- What generalization about constituent structure can we draw from the following grammaticality contrasts?

    - They are not sure [whether he should be a candidate]
    - *They are not sure [whether he should be candidates]
    - The president is not sure [whether to be a candidate]
    - *The president is not sure [whether to be candidates]

Control

John will pursuade Mary [PRO to eat a hot dog]

- What is the constituent structure of the bracketed clause?
- Does it have the status of S' or S?
- How can we test this?
- Where does PRO get its features?

Practice

- I know that you are a professor during the day with many students.
- Must you be so cruel?
- Barry let his sister use his computer.
- Sally picked up the book.
- Joel considers Neil judgmental.
- Ian persuaded Alistair to put the book on the shelf.

Where have we been?
Chapter 1

- competence v. performance
- well/ill-formedess (syntactic, semantic, pragmatic)
- creativity of language/infinitely many sentences
- observational/descriptive/explanatory adequacy
- universal grammar
- constraints on possible grammars
- markedness and core grammar

Chapter 2

- constituent structure
- word categories (classes)
- phrase categories
- tests for constituency
- single word phrases
- structural ambiguity

Chapter 3

- phrase markers (trees)
- (immediate) dominance
- (immediate) precedence
- (immediate) constituent
- structural definitions of grammatical functions
- c-command
- no crossing branches
- phrase structure rules/generating phrase markers
- recursive rules (infinitely many sentences)
- representing categories as bundles of features

Chapter 4

- complements/adjuncts/attributes/specifiers/heads
- N/N'/N''(=NP)
- tests for complement v. adjunct
- tests for complement v. attribute
- optionality of constituents

Chapter 5

- cross-categorial similarity
- complements/adjuncts/attributes/specifiers/ heads of
- constituents other than NP
- zero/single/double-bar adjuncts/attributes
- constraints on categorial rules:
  - endocentricity constraint
  - modifier maximality constraint
  - X' schema
- category variables/generalizing category rules

Chapter 6

- finite and non-finite clauses
- complementizers and S'
- main clauses as S'
- replacing M with I
- infinitival clauses and I
- empty categories
- complement clauses as S/S'/SC (depending)
- raising v. control verbs

A handy-dandy sampling of our diagnostics (not exhaustive, though)

- VP gapping/ellipsis
- Preposing/extraposing
- Passivization of embedded NPs
- Fronting in WH-questions
- Pro-forms
- Ordering of constituents
- Optionality
- Placement of adjuncts/emphatic reflexives
- Co-occurrence/selectional restrictions
- Number of semantic properties predicated

Good luck!