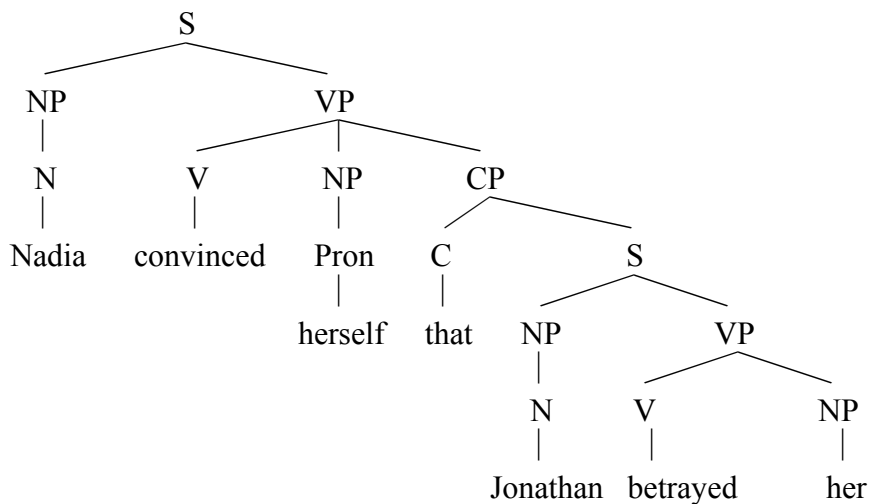


Ling 315, Assignment 4. Solution.

Part A.

Task 1. Provide a phrase structure tree for the following sentence:

(1) Nadia convinced herself that Jonathan betrayed her.



Task 2. Explain why (1) and (3) are grammatical, while (2) and (4) are ungrammatical, given our rules for *Reflexives* and *Pronouns*. In particular, explain for each sentence why *her* does or does not satisfy the *Pronouns* rule, and why *herself* or *himself* does or does not satisfy the *Reflexives* rule.

According to the Reflexives Rule, a reflexive pronoun must be coreferential with a preceding expression in the same minimal sentence. In (1), *herself* is coreferential with *Nadia*, which is in the same minimal sentence, and thus the Reflexives Rule is satisfied.

According to the Pronouns Rule, a pronoun must not be coreferential with a preceding expression in the same minimal sentence. In (1), *her* is coreferential with *Nadia*, which does not occur in the same minimal sentence, and thus the Pronouns Rule is satisfied.

As a consequence, the sentence is correctly predicted to be grammatical.

(2) *Nadia convinced her that Jonathan betrayed herself.

In (2), *her* is not in the same minimal sentence as *Nadia*, with which it is coreferential, and thus the Pronouns Rule is not satisfied.

Similarly, *herself* is not in the same minimal sentence as *Nadia*, with which it is coreferential, and thus the Reflexives Rule is not satisfied.

As a consequence, the sentence is correctly predicted to be ungrammatical.

(3) Nadia convinced Jonathan that she betrayed herself.

In (3), *she* is not in the same minimal sentence as *Nadia*, with which it is coreferential, and thus the Pronouns Rule is satisfied.

Similarly, *herself* is in the same minimal sentence as *Nadia*, with which it is coreferential, and thus the Reflexives Rule is satisfied.

As a consequence, the sentence is correctly predicted to be grammatical.

(4) *Nadia convinced Jonathan that she betrayed himself.

In (4), *himself* is not in the same minimal sentence as *Jonathan*, with which it is coreferential, and thus Reflexives Rule is not satisfied.

As a consequence, the sentence is correctly predicted to be ungrammatical.

Part B. Provide the phrase structure tree for the following sentence, including the feature structures (and results of feature checking) for each node.

(5) The residents of the town feel scared of the tsunami.

