

Ling 315, Lecture Notes. 21 Mar 2007.

1. Binding Theory. The Binding Theory subsumes our previous rules for reflexives and pronouns:

Binding Theory.

- Principle A: A reflexive must be bound in its minimal CP.
Principle B: A pronoun cannot be bound in its minimal CP.
Principle C: An r-expression cannot be bound.

Definitions:

A binds B iff A c-commands B and A and B are co-referential.
A node A c-commands a node B iff A's sister either is B, or contains B.
An antecedent is an expression a pronoun or reflexive depends on for its reference.
An R-expression is an expression that refers to some entity.

These rules account for examples like the following:

- (1) Marc_i surprised *him_i/himself_i.
- (2) He_i surprised *Marc_i/*him_i/himself_i.
- (3) He_i talked about himself_i.
- (4) My evaluation of Marc_i surprised him_i/*himself_i.
- (5) My evaluation of him_i/*himself_i surprised Marc_i.
- (6) [Her_i sister]_j thinks that she_{i/j} is crazy.
- (7) [Her_i sister]_j thinks that Zelda_{i/*j} is crazy.
- (8) I_i was not listening to what you told me_i/*myself_i.
- (9) We assigned Zelda_i to herself_i.
- (10) *We assigned herself_i to Zelda_i.

2. The other theory

A reflexive pronoun is used iff at least two arguments of a predicate co-refer.

This theory accounts for certain potential problematic examples for the BT:

- (11) Zelda_i saw a snake near her_i/??herself_i.
- (12) I_i have no money with me_i/*myself_i.

3. Irish. Irish has VSO word order (Data from Carnie 2002):

- (13) Phóg Máire an lucharachán.
kissed Mary the leprechaun
“Mary kissed the leprechaun.”
- (14) Tá Máire ag-pógail an lucharachán.
Is Mary ing-kiss the leprechaun
“Mary is kissing the leprechaun.”
- (15) Tá Máire [ag-pógail an lucharachán] agus [ag-goidú a ór].
Is Mary ing-kiss the leprechaun and ing-steal his gold
“Mary is kissing the leprechaun and stealing his gold.”
- (16) Is [ag-pógáil an lucharachán] atá Máire.
It-is ing-kissing the leprechaun that.be Mary.
“It’s kissing the leprechaun that Mary is.”
- (17) Chonaic Síle_i i-fein_i. *Chonaic í-fein_i Síle_i.
Saw Sheila her-self. Saw her-self Sheila.
“Sheila saw herself.”
- (18) Dúirt mé gur phóg Máire an lucharachán.
Said I that kissed Mary the leprechaun.
“I said that Mary kissed the leprechaun.”
- (19) An bhfaca tú an madra?
Q see you the dog
“Did you see the dog?”
- (20) Ar chuir tú isteach air? Chuir.
Q put.PAST you in on-it put
“Did you apply for it?” “I did.”
- (21) Sciob an cat an t-erieaball de-n luch. Ar sciob
snatched the cat the tail from-the mouse Q snatched
“The cat cut the tail off the mouse.” “Did it?”
- (22) All the kittens are sleeping.
- (23) The kittens are all sleeping.