

Ling 320. Last Assignment. Due Thursday, November 29th.

Directions: Answer (i)-(vi) below.

(i) In class, we looked at examples such as:

(1) Kinneret_i loves her_i mother.

We observed that when *Kinneret* antecedes *her*, there are two possible interpretations for the pronoun. What are those two interpretations? What are the resulting two possible interpretations for the VP *loves her mother*? I.e., provide the two sets that the VP can denote. Recall that both interpretations yield the same truth-conditions.

(ii) We also looked at examples such as:

(2) Only Kinneret_i loves her_i mother.

This example is ambiguous, permitting the following two readings:

- (3) a. Kinneret loves her (own) mother, and no one else loves his/her own mother.
b. Kinneret loves Kinneret's mother, and no one else loves Kinneret's mother.

Explain, thoroughly but concisely (in a few sentences), our account of this ambiguity, making reference to the two different interpretations of the VP.

(iii) Consider now (4), which contains the reflexive pronoun *herself*.

(4) Kinneret_i loves herself_i.

(Assume that *herself* is just like *her*, only *herself* needs to be anteceded by the subject--in this case, *Kinneret*. *Her* need not be anteceded by the subject, as we can say *Kinneret loves her mother*, where *her* refers to someone other than Kinneret.)

Given this example alone, what are the two possible interpretations for the pronoun *herself*, and what are the resulting two possible interpretations for the VP *loves herself*? Again, provide the two distinct sets that the VP could denote. Note here, too, that both interpretations will yield the same truth-conditions.

(iv) Consider now:

(5) Only Kinneret_i loves herself_i.

Unlike (2), this example is (reported to be) *unambiguous*. It permits the reading in (a) below, but *lacks* the reading in (b):

- a. Kinneret loves herself_i, and no one else loves herself/himself.
b. (**Lacking!**) Kinneret loves herself_i, and no one else loves Kinneret.

Given this lack of ambiguity, what can you conclude about the interpretation of reflexive pronouns? That is, which of the two possible interpretations that you gave in (iii) cannot be right for reflexive pronouns?

(v) We have also looked at examples like (6), which are ambiguous:

(6) Charles_i loves his_i mother. Erik does, too.

What are the two possible interpretations for the missing VP (i.e., the VP following *Erik does*), and why is the example ambiguous?

(vi) The following example, in contrast, is (often claimed to be) *unambiguous*:

(7) Charles_i loves himself_i. Erik does, too.

What is the only possible interpretation for the missing VP (i.e., the VP following *Erik does*)? Which interpretation is lacking? Given your answer to (iii), is this lack of ambiguity predicted?