

“Introduction to Linguistics”
17312, WiSe 2020/2021
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Homework for session 9:

Recap:

I. Identify the word classes and, where applicable, the grammatical categories marked on the words:

1. They are absolutely great.
2. She flew to New York last year and is going to London now.

II. Specify the semantic roles of the underlined participants:

1. John was called by his father.
2. I am at home.
3. Susan threw the ball to Jack.
4. Jane heard the song.
5. We went to the cinema.
6. I will do it tomorrow.
7. He opened the bottle with a corkscrew.

III. The following sentences are ambiguous. Identify the phrases and draw a tree diagram for each of the “readings” to make the ambiguity visible.

1. She saw the man with the binoculars.
2. He shot the burglar in pyjamas.

3. We bought some vodka for our friends in Finland.

Preparatory questions for session 9:

IV. What is the principle of compositionality?

V. What is asymmetrical entailment?

VI. Provide an example of two sentences that contradict each other.

VII. Bieswanger & Becker (2017: 142) say that paraphrases like the dog chased the cat and the cat was chased by the dog are “very similar in meaning and one cannot be true without the other sentence also being true”. Why don’t they say identical? In what ways are the two sentences similar? Is there anything that is different?

VIII. Identify the presuppositions in the following sentences:

1. John passed the exam in Roman law this semester.

2. Anna’s grandma had a surgical operation.

3. So when are you going to announce that you're resigning?

4. What movie shall we watch tonight?