

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.

They (**Pronoun 3Pl**) are (**Verb 3Pl/Present**) absolutely (**Adverb**) great (**Adjective**).

2. She flew to New York last year and is going to London now.

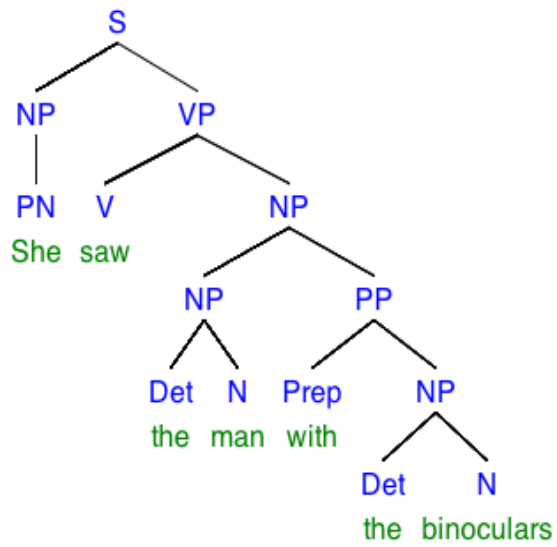
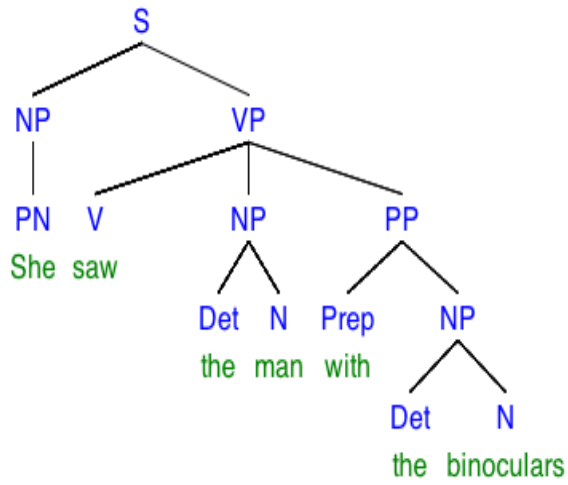
She (**Feminine pronoun 3Sg**) flew (**Verb/Past**) to (**Preposition**) New York (**Proper Noun**) last (**Adjective**) year (**Noun**) and (**CONJ**) is (**Auxiliary Verb/3Sg/Present**) going (**Verb/Participle I**) to (**Preposition**) London (**Proper Noun**) now (**Adverb**).

II. Specify the semantic roles of the underlined participants:

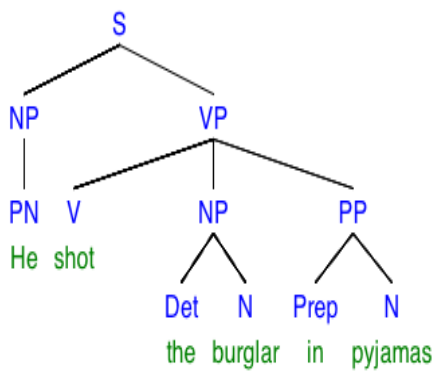
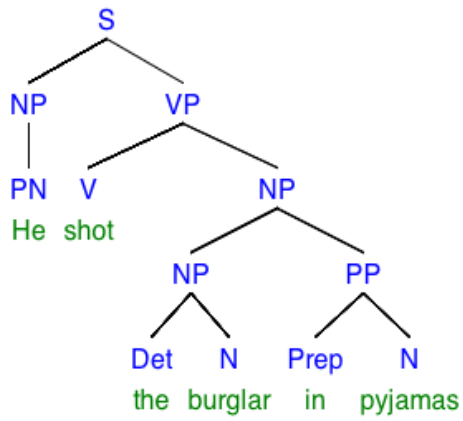
1. John (patient) was called by his father (agent).
2. I am at home (location).
3. Susan threw the ball to Jack (recipient).
4. Jane (experiencer) heard the song (stimulus).
5. We went to the cinema (location).
6. I (agent) will do it tomorrow (time).
7. He opened the bottle with a corkscrew (instrument).

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

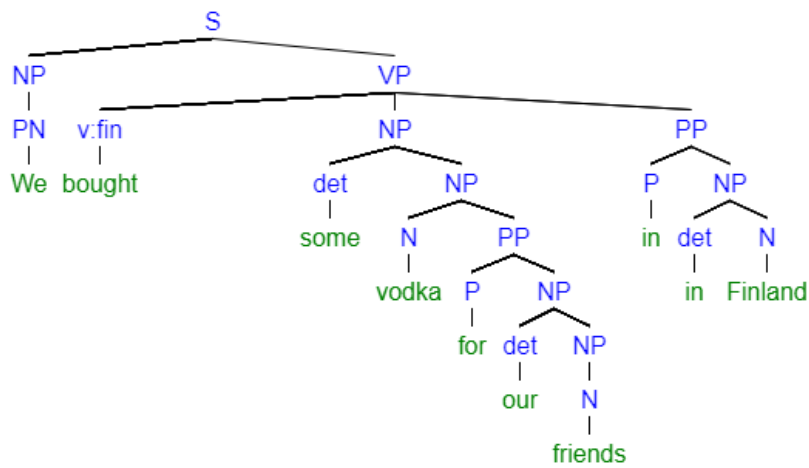
1. She saw the man with the binoculars.

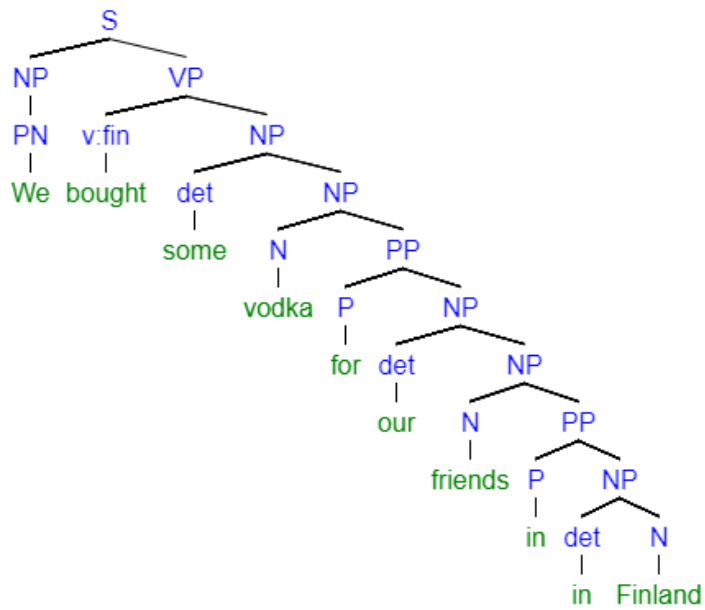


2. He shot the burglar in pyjamas.



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





Preparatory questions for session 9:

IV. What is the principle of compositionality?

The meaning of a phrase or a sentence is determined by the meaning of its component parts and the way they are combined structurally (Bieswanger & Becker 2017: 141).

V. What is asymmetrical entailment?

Asymmetrical entailment is when one sentence entails the other, but the reverse is not the case:

Anna likes every single kind of fruit.

Anna likes oranges. (Bieswanger & Becker 201: 142-143)

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?

The dog chased the cat.

The cat was chased by the dog.

Answer: These clauses have different topics.

- VIII.** Identify the presuppositions in the following sentences:

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

Presuppositions:

John exists.

John is a student.

The exam in Roman law took place.

John took the exam in Roman law.

John signed up for the subject Roman law this semester.

The exam in Roman law has already been graded.

Entailments: His studies/his effort were/was successful.

- 2.** Anna’s grandma had a successful surgical operation.

The grandma exists.

Anna has a grandma.

Anna exists.

There was a need/desire for a surgical operation.

Entailments: Anna’s grandma is after the procedure.

The procedure went well.

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

Presuppositions:

The person exists.

The person holds a specific position.

The person X talked to person Y.

Entailments:

The person is planning to resign./The person is planning to announce the resignation.

The fact hasn't been announced yet.

4. What movie shall we watch tonight?

Presupposition:

We exist.

We have an access to movies.

We are planning to meet.

Entailments:

We are watching a movie tonight.