1 Binding Theory

Goal: Interested in NPs that require a referent.

- Narrow interest: *How?* Distribution and licensing of NPs
- Broad interest: *Why?* Binding as diagnostics for structure dependence, configurationality, movement, existence of silent elements...

1.1 Three kinds of referential NPs

- Anaphors
- Pronouns
- R-Expressions

Antecedent: NP on which the reflexive/pronoun depends its interpretation.

Co-indexation: same referent
-features matter because reflexives depend on its antecedent for interpretation

C-Command
For any two nodes, $\alpha$, $\beta$ such that $\alpha$ does not dominate $\beta$, $\beta$ does not dominate $\alpha$, and $\alpha \neq \beta$: $\alpha$ \textit{c-commands} $\beta$ iff the first node dominating $\alpha$ also dominates $\beta$.

Binding
$\alpha$ binds $\beta$ iff $\alpha$ and $\beta$ are co-indexed and $\alpha$ c-commands $\beta$

1.2 Practice with C-Command & Binding

1. For the following tree:

```
  A
 / \    
B   E
 / \    
C D   F
    / \  
    H I  
      /  
      J
```

- Does A c-command B?
- What are the letters that c-commands J?
• Does C c-command D?
• What does G c-command?
• Does B c-command F?

2. For the following sentence, does the first NP bind the second NP? Explain why?

• John₁ thinks he₂ will win.
• I₁ don’t like them₂.
• Mary₁ saw herself₁ in the mirror.
• Robert₁ went to the store to meet his₂ sister.
• We₁ cheered for our₁ team on game day.

1.3 Three Principles

Principle A: Anaphors must be bound locally
Principle B: Pronouns must not be bound locally
Principle C: R-Expressions must be free everywhere

2 Judgments with Yuta

3 More In-Class Exercises

3.1 The status of epithets

(1) I saw the President on TV last night and the poor fellow looked tired.
(2) The President said that the poor fellow was tired.
(3) I met Bill and the guy looks desperate for company.
(4) Bill believes the guy to be desperate for company.

3.2 zi ji data

Remember: *John thinks Bill believes Sue likes himself.

(5) Zhangsan₂ shuo zi ji₂ hui lai.
Zhangsan say self will come
‘John said that himself will come.’

(6) Zhangsan₂ shuo zi ji₂ you mei qian mei guanxi.
Zhangsan say self have not have money not matter
‘Zhangsan said that whether himself has money or not didn’t matter.’
(example from Aoun, 1984: 16-17)

(7) Yuehan⁷ renwei Mali like zi ji⁷.
John think Mary like self
‘John thinks that Mary likes himself.’
(example from Lasnik and Uriagereka, 1988: 122)
4 Studies in acquisition and sentence processing