

Syntactic Theory: Test Exam WS2008-2009

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Please, provide the following info at the top of all the sheets you will submitting:

1. your name and surname;
2. your semester;
3. your registration number;
4. your M.Sc. program (LST or EM LCT)

Questions

1. (10 pts.) The LFG architecture was originally developed with only two structures - the c-structure and the f-structure - set in correspondence, but the correspondence idea provides a general way of correlating many different kinds of linguistic information through modular specifications. Name the rest of the structures used in LFG for linguistic representations.
2. (10 pts.) What does the *sign* consist of in HPSG? In other words, what is the architecture of the *sign* in HPSG?
3. (10 pts.) What does the *f-structure* of LFG consist of? In other words, what is the architecture of the *f-structure* in LFG?
4. (10 pts.) What are the main similarities and the main differences between the AVM in HPSG and the AVM in LFG (name at least 3 similarities and 3 differences).
5. (20 pts.) Consider the sentences below:
 - (1) *That he might be wrong* he didn't think of.
 - (2) Winning the gold medal in Athens delighted Mary.

(a) Provide a LFG analysis for the sentence in (1), treating *that* as a *complementizer (COMP)*, which combines with a *Sentence (S')*.

- (b) Provide a Dependency Grammar analysis for the sentence in (2).
6. (20 pts.) Provide an HPSG traceless account for the sentence in (3):
 - (3) I forgot which guests you said are here.
7. (20 pts.) Provide a TAG analysis for the sentence in (4):
 - (4) *Books*, I know you gave Kim.
8. (20 pts.) In LFG, the TOPIC function is a place holder for old information; its value must be linked, either functionally or anaphorically, to some other element.

In the case of *tough* constructions in LFG, the TOPIC is functionally controlled by the following schema in the adjective's lexical entry:

$$(5) \quad \textit{tough} \quad A \quad (\uparrow \text{PRED}) = \text{'tough } <(\uparrow \text{SCOMP})>' \\ (\uparrow \text{SCOMP TOPIC}) = (\uparrow \text{SUBJ})$$

THE TASK: With this in mind, provide an LFG analysis for the following sentence:

(6) **The sonata is tough for him to play ___ on the violin.**

For your analysis, you need to provide the c- and the f-structure of the sentence, as well as the appropriate equations in order to relate the TOPIC with its "trace(s)".

The following rules are of help, but in NO case are they the only ones you need for this specific task:

$$(7) \quad AP \rightarrow A \quad S' \\ (\uparrow \text{SCOMP}) = \downarrow$$

Rule (7) shows an expansion for AP (Adjectival Phrase) which allows the adjective to be followed by a Sentential Complement (SCOMP).

$$(8) \quad S' \rightarrow \textit{for} \quad NP \quad VP \\ (\uparrow \text{SUBJ}) = \downarrow \quad \uparrow = \downarrow$$

Finally, *tough* predicates take infinitival sentential complements. So the category S' must also have an alternative expansion. Rule (8) allows S' to expand as a *for*-complementizer followed by a subject NP and a VP.

8 questions, Total = 120 Points, To pass you need = 60 Points
Total duration of the exam = 2 hours, Beginning: 2pm - End: 4pm
Good Luck!