Linguistics 322

Midterm Exam

Friday, June 25th, 2004

Answer Sheet

Name: _____

Student ID_____

Bold font indicates emphasis.

I.   Define the following; [20]

      a.   prescriptive grammar

The grammar rules written to be the official grammar of a language sometimes based on arbitrary or obsolete data.

      b.   recursion

The repeated embedding of clauses or phrases.

      c.   universal

A property found in all languages of the world.

      d.   constituent

A set of a nodes exhaustively dominated by a single node.

      e.   root node

The only node that is not dominated in a sentence.

      f.   mother

A is the mother of B if A immediately dominates B.

      g.   sister

The set of nodes that are immediately dominated by the same node.

      h.   c-command

A c-commands B if the first branching node that dominates A also dominates B, and if neither A nor B dominates the other.

      i.   subject (structural definition)

The NP that is immediately dominated by S.

      j.   terminal node

A node which does not dominate anything. (The mother of nothing)

II. Determine the P-structure of the following sentence in the X^0 format: [30]

> (1) The cynical student consumed a hot bowl of spicy cereal.

III. Structural Relations [20]

> a. How is a head represented? Use two lexical heads as an example.
>
> X^0: N^0, V^0, A^0, P^0 (any two of these).
>
> b. How is the lowest level of a phrase represented. Use two lexical phrases as an example.
>
> X^1: N^1, V^1, A^1, P^1 (any two of these).
>
> c. How is a maximal projection indicated? Use two lexical phrases as an example.
>
> XP: NP, VP, AP, PP (any two of these).
>
> d. Write the rule that expands V and its direct object.
>
> V^0 (NP) <--> V^1
>
> e. Write the rule that expands the above and any PP objects.
>
> V^1 PP <--> V^2

IV. Name four structural relations that are logically transitive. [10]

> dominate, c-command, precede, sister, constituent of, symmetrical c-command,

V. In your tree above (1) draw ovals (circles) around each group of lexical sisters. [10]

VI. What are the three goals of a linguistic (actually any) theory? [10]

> 1) Observational Adequacy
>
> To account for all grammatical and ungrammatical sentences.
>
> 2) Descriptive Adequacy
>
> To find the best description.
>
> 3) Explanatory Adequacy
>
> To find an explanation or principle that can account for as many rules as

possible.