

Linguistics 222

Midterm Exam

- I. Name one of the goals of a linguistic theory? Briefly describe it. (20)
- II. Draw a P-marker for the following sentences. Do not take any shortcuts: (40)
- (1) a. Nancy set the chipped china on the old mantle.
b. The very young mouse and the rat scampered very fast right up the rope.
c. Grace spitefully envies dull blue headbands.
- If any of the above Ss are grammatically ambiguous (i.e., if both readings are grammatical), draw at least two P-markers that resolve the ambiguity. If they are more than two ways ambiguous describe the additional ambiguity or draw more P-markers.
- III. What is wrong with the following sentences: (10)
- (2) a. *Out neighbor new took into the house daughter his.
b. *Cecile threw right out the very trash.
- IV. Give an example of a doubly embedded sentence (an embedding within an embedding) and explain the recursive nature of language. (15)
- V. Define competence and performance.? (15)