

Day 28: Syntax, Structure dependence and transformations
April 16, 2013

- I. Testing the model
 - a. Does our current model generate these sentences?
 - i. John can swim
 - ii. Bill is sleeping
 - iii. Susan has gone to the store
 - b. Does the current model undergenerate or overgenerate?
 - c. Where do Aux. verbs fit?
- II. Aux Verbs
 - a. Auxiliary verbs= forms 'to be' and 'to have' plus 'will', 'can', 'must', 'shall', 'could', 'should', etc.
 - b. One more change to PS rules:
 - i. $S \rightarrow NP (Aux) VP$
 - c. Generalizations to account for
 - i. Basic Word Order in English: Subject- Verb- Direct Object
 - ii. Correspondence between grammatical role and meaning
 1. Subject= performer of an action
 2. Direct Object= thing an action is performed on OFTEN, BUT NOT ALWAYS
- III. Subjects and Objects
 - a. Structural definition
 - i. Subject= NP directly dominated by S
 - ii. Object= NP directly dominated by VP
 - b. Thematic definition
 - i. Subject= Performer of an action
 - ii. Object= Receiver of an action
 - c. Usually these converge- but not always
 - d. Non-convergence of the 2 definitions
 - i. Who will Leo scare?
 - ii. Amy was scared by Leo
- IV. Proposal
 - a. PS rules generate simple declarative sentences that respect the subcategorization frames of the particular verb and the core meaning of an utterance (called "Deep Structure")
 - b. The output of Deep Structure can be transformed into: questions, negatives, passives, clefts, pro-form substitutions, etc.
 - c. Transformed sentences (called "surface structure") get sent to Phonological structure to be pronounced.
- V. Additional type of rule in the grammar: Transformation
 - a. Manipulates structure built by PS rules
 - b. We've seen this before
 - i. Phonology
 1. / / (level of mental representation)
 2. [] (surface form)

- ii. Syntax:
 - 1. Deep structure (level of mental representation)
 - 2. Surface structure

VI. So Far...

- a. PS Rules generate declarative sentences
 - i. In declaratives, the structural and thematic subject and object are the same
 - ii. Verb's subcategorization frame must be satisfied
- b. Passive, Question, Clefting, Negative, etc. versions of declarative sentences cannot be generated by the existing PS rules
 - i. In passive and wh- questions, the structural of a sentence is the thematic and the structural object is the thematic subject
 - ii. In wh- questions, the verb is often missing the complement that should follow it, but there is wh- word at the beginning of the sentences that seems to represent the complement