

April 19, 2013

Day 30: One last transformation

Coming up: 4/22 Guest Lecturer, Debbie Chen Pichler, Gallaudet University. "American Sign Language", Read Jackendoff Ch. 7, Read LF 1.5 & 5.7

Review: Phrase structure rules generate deep structure, lexical restrictions (e.g. subcategory restrictions) are satisfied at deep structure, transformations apply to deep structure to create surface structure, surface structure is sent to phonology

- I. Deep Structure
 - a. Step 1: Phrase structure rules + lexical insertion generate structure
 - b. Step 2: Wh- phrase and Aux move to front of sentence
- II. Wh-Question transformation
 - a. Wh-Movement: movement of Wh- phrase (who, what, etc.) to Comp
 - b. Aux- Movement: movement to main Aux to position before subject
- III. Transformations
 - a. Transformations are structure dependent
 - i. Apply to constituents
 - ii. Apply to particular constituents in particular configurations
- IV. 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

Notes on Language Files Readings:

- I. 1.5: Language Modality
 - a. Modality= mode of communication
 - b. Code= artificially constructed system for representing a natural system; it has no structure of its own but instead borrows its structure from the natural language it represents.
 - c. An indication that manual codes are not natural languages is the striking differences between manually coded English and natural languages such as English and ASL in the rate of transmission of information.
 - d. Signed Language vs. Pantomime
 - i. The first misconception is that signed languages do not have any internal structure
 - ii. Second misconception is that the words in a signed language are completely iconic
 - iii. Third misconception is that there is only one signed language that is used by deaf speakers all over the world.