

April 8, 2013

-Went over worksheet

-Complement= that part inside of the verb phrase that completes the meaning

-Ditransitive Verbs: require two complements

Ex. Put needs NP and PP

-Do not need to know them, just know that they exist

- I. Questions
 - a. What is the relationship between the elements in a sub-categorization frame and the concept "complement"
 - i. They are the same
 - b. Where do complements fit in the geometry of the tree?
 - i. Directly dominated by the VP node
 - c. Are complements optional or required?
 - i. Required
 - d. If a PP is optional for a particular verb, which VP structure(s) are compatible with this fact?
 - e. Notes
 - i. You never need a modifier
- II. Properties of Human Language
 - a. Same string of words can have two different meanings
 - b. Creative capacity of language= Recursion (allows rules to reapply)
 - i. Infinite number of sentences
 - ii. There is no longest sentence
 - iii. In our phrase structure rules, we have the ability to make ambiguous sentences because the prepositional phrase can be a complement of the noun phrase or verb phrase
 - c. There are two meanings associated with each sentence
 - i. Examples:
 1. They met at the bank
 2. We're selling an antique desk for a lady.
 - d. Ambiguity: refers to having more than one meaning
 - i. Lexical ambiguity: due to a single word having more than one meaning
 1. Example: bank (money bank, or river bank)
 - ii. Structural ambiguity: different meanings due to different structures
 1. Example: Kim smashed the vase on the table
 2. Two different interpretations which reflect two different tree diagrams
- III. In-class example on last page (didn't have to do one like this for the homework but we should be comfortable with something like this for the test)
 - a. Chris covered the woman with the blanket.
 - i. The woman with the blanket was covered
 - ii. Who did Chris cover with the blanket? The woman (B only, the woman is not a constituent in A)

- iii. What did Chris do? Cover the woman with the blanket (Both A and B)
 - iv. Both trees work but they have different meanings
 - 1. Meaning of tree A: The woman who already has a blanket is covered by Chris.
 - 2. Meaning of tree B: He took a blanket and he covered the woman.
 - b. Is this ambiguous?
 - i. Yes, there are two meanings that we can believe unless we have more context.
 - ii. Led to this by doing constituency testing.
 - c. Is it 3-ways ambiguous (compatible with 3 trees)?
 - d. How many trees pass the tests?
 - e. What are the meanings
- IV. To think about
 - a. Cases of ambiguity provide evidence for syntactic structure
 - b. How does a child learn about these structures?
- V. Syntax
 - a. $S \rightarrow NP VP$
 - b. $NP \rightarrow (Det) N (PP)$
 - c. $VP \rightarrow V (NP) (PP)$
 - d. $NP \rightarrow VP PP$
 - e. $PP \rightarrow P NP$
- VI. Recursion= a rule is recursive if it can apply to its own output
 - a. Example: $VP \rightarrow VP PP$