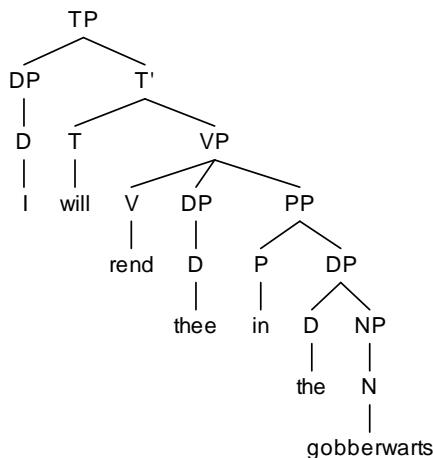


Homework 6, due October 18 at the beginning of class.

Part 1: Vogon poetry (5 points). The following example of Vogon poetry is taken from Douglas Adams' *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*. (Vogons are an alien species in the novel.) The poem contains a number of unfamiliar nonsense words.

Oh freddled gruntbuggly,
 Thy micturations are to me
 As plurdled gabbleblotchits
 On a lurgid bee.
 Groop, I implore thee, my foonting turlingdromes
 And hooptiously drangle me
 With crinkly bindlewurdles,
 Or I will rend thee in the gobberwarts with my blurglecruncheon,
 See if I don't!

1. a) What does the poet want the gruntbuggly to groop?
 b) What should the gruntbuggly drangle the poet with, and in what manner?
 c) What will happen to the gruntbuggly if it doesn't do what the poet asks?
 2. Although you don't know the meanings of many of the words in this poem, you were presumably able to answer questions 1a-1c. How is this possible? Write a brief explanation (2-4 sentences), referring to relevant concepts from recent assigned readings.
 3. The phrase *I will rend thee in the gobberwarts* in the second-to-last line has (at least) two readings, depending on what the nonsense word *gobberwarts* means:
 - **Possibility (i):** *Gobberwarts* refers to a body part; correspondingly, the sentence has a structure similar to *I will kick you in the stomach*.
 - **Possibility (ii):** *Gobberwarts* refers to a location where the event will take place; correspondingly, the sentence has a structure similar to *I will kick you in the library*.
- a) *Fill in the blanks:* Possibility ___ corresponds to the tree below, where the PP *in the gobberwarts* is part of the verb's **complement** (along with the direct object DP *thee*; notice that the VP node here is ternary-branching). Possibility ___ corresponds to a different tree - which you will draw - where *in the gobberwarts* is represented as a verb-phrase (VP) **modifier**.



- b) Draw a tree with node labels for the **VP-modifier** reading. Hint: this tree should be uniformly binary-branching.
- c) What kind of constituency test(s) could/did you use to decide which tree was appropriate for which reading? Write a brief answer (2-4 sentences), including the specific results of the constituency test(s) and explaining their significance.

Part 2: Word Order (5 points). As you saw on page 3 of the Week 6 handout, verb-second (V2) word order is required in (at least) the following contexts in standard modern English:

- a) Direct questions: **Which brownie should Seonghoon eat for breakfast tomorrow?**
- b) 'Negative-topic' sentences: **Never would Seonghoon eat brownies for breakfast.**

V2 cannot occur, however, in indirect questions or other kinds of topicalization structures:

- c) Indirect questions: **Emma will tell us what Seonghoon will eat for breakfast.**
- d) Topicalization: **Lowfat brownies I will eat, but mocha brownies I would rather do without.**

4. For each of the sentences (a)-(d) above, (i) put square brackets around each moved constituent (there may be more than one); (ii) write a letter (**t**) in the position you think each moved constituent moved from; and (iii) draw an arrow from each (**t**) to its corresponding bracketed constituent.

5. In the blanks for (a') and (b') below, write down what the sentences (a) and (b) from above would look like without V2 word order (i.e. if the auxiliary hadn't moved). In blanks (c') and (d'), write down what (c) and (d) would look like with V2 word order. All of the resulting sentences will be ungrammatical, so I've already marked them with *'s.

a') * Which brownie _____ ?

b') * Never _____

c') * Emma will tell us what _____

d') * Lowfat brownies _____

6. Recall the child's question-formation error from Homework 4: **Why Kitty can't stand up?** Explain in one sentence what the child has done 'wrong' here, referring specifically to V2 word order.

7. Consider the following sentences from German. In the first example, a declarative sentence with a present-tense verb, the word order is exactly the same as it would be in English. In the other examples, where there's a modal/auxiliary ('will, would') in addition to the main verb 'eat', we see that **there are clear differences between English and German word order. What are they?** (In all of these examples, the top line is the German sentence, the second line is a word-by-word translation, and the third line (in quotes) is a translation of the sentence as a whole.)

Seonghoon isst Kuchen zum Frühstück.
Seonghoon eats cake for breakfast
'Seonghoon eats cake for breakfast.'

Seonghoon wird Kuchen zum Frühstück essen.
Seonghoon will cake for breakfast eat
'Seonghoon will eat cake for breakfast.'

Emma wird uns sagen dass Seonghoon Kuchen zum Frühstück essen wird.
Emma will us tell that Seonghoon cake for breakfast eat will
'Emma will tell us that Seonghoon will eat cake for breakfast.'

Ich würde niemals Kuchen zum Frühstück essen.
I would never cake for breakfast eat
'I would never eat cake for breakfast.'

8. Now look at these additional German sentences, where some kind of noun-phrase or adverb-phrase constituent has moved to the first position of the sentence. Notice the position of the auxiliary in each

type of construction, comparing the grammatical version to the ungrammatical version in each case.
Which contexts require V2 word order in German, and which contexts forbid it? How does this compare to the distribution of V2 in standard modern English?

Direct question: Was wird Seonghoon zum Frühstück essen?
what will Seonghoon for breakfast eat
'What will Seonghoon eat for breakfast?

* Was Seonghoon wird zum Frühstück essen?

Indirect question: Emma wird uns sagen was Seonghoon zum Frühstück essen wird.
Emma will us tell what Seonghoon for breakfast eat will
'Emma will tell us what Seonghoon will eat for breakfast.'

*Emma wird uns sagen was Seonghoon soll zum Frühstück essen.

Topicalization: Kuchen werde ich essen.
cake will I eat
'Cake I will eat (but ice cream I won't).'

* Kuchen ich werde essen.

Negative-topic sentence: Niemals würde ich Kuchen zum Frühstück essen.
never would I cake for breakfast eat
'Never would I eat cake for breakfast.'

* Niemals ich würde Kuchen zum Frühstück essen.