

Binding Theory Tutorial

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Outline

- 1 Introduction
- 2 What the theory accounts for
- 3 What the theory is
- 4 Technical terms
- 5 Answering binding questions

Anaphors

Generalization

- | | | |
|------|---|--|
| i. | * Himself laughed. | An anaphor must have an antecedent in the same sentence. |
| ii. | John _i admires himself;
John _i 's father _j admires himself; | The antecedent must C-command the anaphor. |
| iii. | * John _i thinks she _j admires himself _i . | The antecedent must be in the same clause. |

Pronouns

Generalization

- | | | |
|------|---|--|
| i. | He _i laughed.
John _i thinks he _j is smart. | A pronoun may or may not have an antecedent in the same sentence. |
| ii. | John _i thinks he _j is smart.
John _i 's father _j admires him _j ; | The antecedent may but does not have to C-command the pronoun. |
| iii. | *John _i admires him _j ; | The antecedent may not C-command the pronoun and be in the same clause. |

Three principles

The theory

NP Type		Prin
Anaphors	An anaphor must be bound in its binding domain .	A
Pronouns	A pronoun must be free in its binding domain .	B
R-expressions	An R-expression must be free .	C

Additional technical terms in bold.

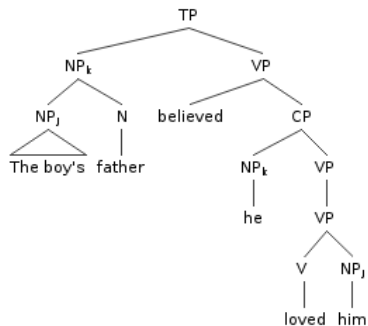
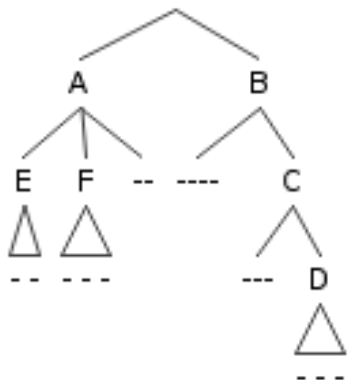
Binding

Definition

Node A binds node B in a tree if and only if

1. *Node A is coindexed with Node B.*
2. *Node A C-commands Node B.*

C-command



Binding domain

What is the binding domain in the following sentence?

She thinks John loves himself.

Binding domain

What is the binding domain in the following sentence?

She thinks John loves himself.

The question is ill-formed.

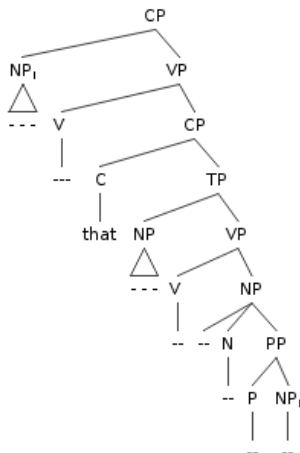
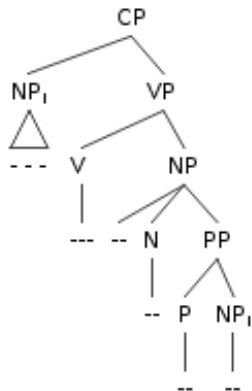
What is the binding domain of *She* in the following sentence?

She thinks John loves himself. [The entire sentence]

What is the binding domain of *himself* in the following sentence?

She thinks **John loves himself.** [The embedded clause]

Binding domain



The recipe for finding binding violations

See `binding_theory_tutorial_notes.pdf`

Writing it up

See `binding_theory_tutorial_notes.pdf`