Introduction
What the theory accounts for
What the theory is
Technical terms
Answering binding questions

Binding Theory Tutorial

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Linguistics 522
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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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th>Generalization</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>i.</td>
<td>* Himself laughed.</td>
<td>An anaphor must have an antecedent in the same sentence.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ii.</td>
<td>John(_i) admires himself(_i); John(_j)'s father(_j) admires himself(_j);</td>
<td>The antecedent must C-command the anaphor.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iii.</td>
<td>* John(_i) thinks she(_j) admires himself(_j).</td>
<td>The antecedent must be in the same clause.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Pronouns

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Generalization</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A pronoun may or may not have an antecedent in the same sentence.</td>
<td>i. He (i) laughed. John (i) thinks he (i) is smart.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The antecedent may but does not have to C-command the pronoun.</td>
<td>ii. John (i) thinks he (i) is smart. John’s father (j) admires him (i)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The antecedent may not C-command the pronoun and be in the same clause.</td>
<td>iii. *John (i) admires him (i)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
R-expressions

Generalization

1. *He$_i$ likes John$_i$. He$_i$ thinks John$_i$ is smart. John$_i$ thinks the man$_i$ is smart.

An R-expression may not be C-commanded by anything coindexed with it.
Three principles

The theory

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NP Type</th>
<th>Anaphors</th>
<th>Pronouns</th>
<th>R-expressions</th>
<th>Prin</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anaphors</td>
<td>An anaphor must be <strong>bound</strong> in its binding <strong>domain</strong>.</td>
<td>A pronoun must be <strong>free</strong> in its binding <strong>domain</strong>.</td>
<td>An R-expression must be <strong>free</strong>.</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pronouns</td>
<td>A pronoun must be <strong>free</strong> in its binding <strong>domain</strong>.</td>
<td>B</td>
<td></td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R-expressions</td>
<td>An R-expression must be <strong>free</strong>.</td>
<td>C</td>
<td></td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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
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_theoryTutorialNotes.pdf
Writing it up

See binding_theory_tutorial_notes.pdf