CAS LX 522 Syntax I Fall 2011

1. Trees. For each of the sentences a–c, **draw the structure of the sentence, and indicate the case of each DP** (nominative, genitive, null, *of*, or accusative) **with an arrow from the head that values the case feature**. Just like on the previous two homeworks. **Where something moves, draw an arrow from the trace to its next position**.

Triangles and DP: Except where there is something interesting inside DP, you are now excused from drawing out the full internal structure. Proper names can be written as DP with a triangle (and the triangle can be implicit). If there is a pronounced D, you should draw the D, but the *n*P can be drawn with a triangle (possibly implicit). You should still draw adjuncts to *n*P (as below), and where something would have been in Spec*n*P (such as an Agent), draw out the *n*P as before (so it is clear where the Agent was).





- (1) a. The runaway hamster seems to have arrived in Alaska.
 - b. Lois expected Reese to be cooking dinner.
 - c. Craig tried to stop the opening of the safe.

2. Binding theory and *wh***-movement.** (Inspired by a problem from Roberts 1997). Under certain circumstances, anaphors can be bound inside DPs. So, (2) is grammatical.

(2) John_{*i*} likes [DP songs about himself_{*i*}].

Part A. Draw a tree for (3) (same ground rules as in problem #1).

(3) Who did Mary give a song about herself to?

Part B. Draw a tree for (4).

(4) [DP which song about himself_{*i*}] does John_{*i*} like?

Part C. (4) is grammatical, so it must satisfy Principle A. It doesn't *look* like it does, though. Assume Principle A is correct as it is (anaphors must be bound within their binding domain). Briefly explain how (4) satisfies Principle A. *Hint*: Think about what we write as "<DP>"—that's just a shorthand, really. "Movement" is a process of making a copy of the thing we're moving and then Merging/Adjoining the copy at the top. You can assume that when you make a copy of an anaphor, only one of the copies needs to be bound.

Part D. Briefly explain why she in (5) cannot be Mary.

(5) * [DP which song about Mary_{*i*}] does she_{*i*} like?

Part E. What is the binding domain for Principle A? (Is it TP or CP?) We've not so far been very explicit about what the binding domain (for Principles A and B) is exactly—it's just been "the clause." That could mean either TP or CP. But, we're in a position now to make this determination. Consider (6), where *himself* can refer either to *David* or to *Nigel*. This is predicted, but it also indicates that an anaphor like *himself* need not be bound by the closest possible binder—it just has to be something within the binding domain. Both *David* and *Nigel* are inside the binding domain.

(6) David_{*i*} gave Nigel_{*j*} a picture of himself_{*i*/*j*}.

Now consider (7)—in (7), *himself* can be *Derek*, but it can't be *David*.

(7) David_{*i*} believes Derek_{*j*} to have taken a picture of himself_{*j*/**i*}.

So, here's the question: What is the binding domain for Principle A (TP or CP)?

Part F. Go back to Part C and remind yourself about what you said. Then, consider (8). **Draw a tree for (8)**.

(8) [DP which songs about himself_{*i*/*i*}] did Nigel_{*i*} say that Derek_{*j*} likes?

Part G. Explain how it is possible in (8) for *himself* to refer to *Nigel*, and how it is possible for *himself* to refer to *Derek*.

Part H. (Inspired partly by Adger 2003, ex. 9.6.). What seems to be the problem with (9)? There's no easy solution to this problem, the traditional solution has been to slightly complicate the definition of "binding domain." More recent solutions often involve altering the means by which accusative case is checked. For now, you just need to identify what it is about (9) that would have led us to predict that is should be ungrammatical.

(9) Derek believes himself to have the role of lukewarm water.