CAS LX 522 Syntax I Spring 2013

Homework #3 DUE THU FEB 14

1 Trees and Merge

Suppose that you pulled the following items from your lexicon. I've given you the pronunciation for the verb and the preposition.

[N, acc, 3, masc, sg] [N, acc, 2, pl] *called* [V, *u*N, *u*N, past] [N, nom, 1, pl] *for* [P, *u*N]

Part 1. Using Merge and/or Adjoin, assemble these into an interpretable structure. Show the structure *after each application of Merge or Adjoin*, crossing out uninterpretable features as they are checked. You will draw four trees, the last being the biggest one. **Note:** There are a few different ways you could do this, but the way you provide must satisfy this condition: **The word with the [nom] feature must be a specifier.** I've done one for you, so you can see what it looks like (but note that this wasn't the only first step you could have taken.)



Part 2. What is the sentence you just drew a tree for?

Part 3. What other sentence could you have made with these same lexical items (again, with the condition that the word with [nom] be in a specifier position)?

Part 4. In the last tree you drew, what two nodes are complements?

2 Trees again

Parts 1–2. Repeat parts 1–2 from the previous problem, but for the following lexical items instead. *Hint:* It's harder to think of an appropriate verb for this one. If you do not want to rely on your intuitions, glance at the handout for ideas. For this tree, just as before: **The word with the [nom] feature must be a specifier.**

[N, acc, 1, sg] [V, *u*N, *u*P] [N, nom, 3, pl] [P, *u*N]

3 Tree relations

Task. Answer the following questions about the abstract tree below.

- (1) Which nodes in this tree does F c-command?
- (2) Which nodes in this tree does J c-command?
- (3) Which nodes in this tree does E c-command?
- (4) Which nodes in this tree c-command F?
- (5) Which nodes in this tree does E dominate?
- (6) Which nodes in this tree dominate F?



4 Binding theory

Binding theory. For each ungrammatical sentence below, name the principle of Binding Theory that is violated. Circle the anaphor, pronoun, or R-expression that is in violation of the principle of Binding Theory you identified. If the noun you circled is bound, underline any nouns that bind it.

- (7) * Jack_i remembered that himself_i had met Desmond before.
- (8) * He_{*i*} was not happy to discover that Jack_{*i*} hurt himself_{*i*}.
- (9) * Jack_i vowed that he_i would take better care of him_i.