

# Assignment One

TO BE TURNED IN AT CLASS TIME ON FRIDAY JAN 14TH

## Reading

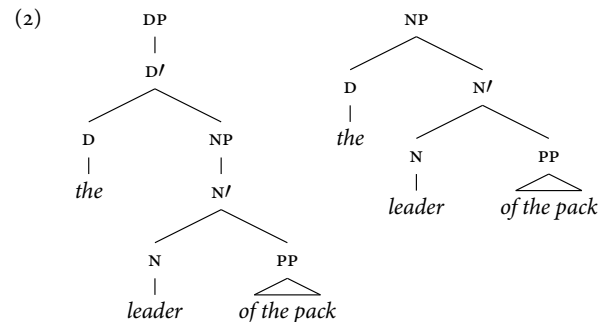
There is background reading for this assignment, namely Chapter Five ('Nouns and determiners' pp 70–107) of *A Student's Grammar of the English Language*, by Sidney Greenbaum and Randolph Quirk, published by Longman in 1990. Chapter 6 of the same book (pp 108–128, on 'Pronouns') is also good, useful, relevant but not essential. Both chapters are, or will be, available on the class web-site.

## Writing

Let us use the neutral term 'nominal phrases' for English expressions such as those in (1):

- (1)
- Fred
  - our dependence on foreign oil
  - the leader of the pack
  - these interesting times

One possible assumption is that 'nominal phrases' are NP's whose head is N. An alternative view is that these are in fact 'determiner phrases' (DP's) whose head is D. The difference between the two proposals is illustrated in (2), with respect to example (1c):



## Task One

For each of these two proposals, say where do you think Adjective Phrases should attach. Give reasons for your answer, and provide representative examples and representative structures to illustrate your answer.

## Task Two

Based on the evidence below, construct arguments for or against the DP proposal. You should also draw selectively and judiciously from the observations in the Greenbaum & Quirk reading.

### Data Set One

- (3)
- This book is very expensive.
  - This is very expensive.
- (4)
- That house is very beautiful.
  - That is very beautiful.
- (5)
- These snacks are very bad for you.
  - These are very bad for you.

### Data Set Two

- (6)
- \*Table is very dirty.
  - \*Floor is very clean.
  - \*New record is great.
  - \*House is for sale.
- (7)
- Rice is nice.
  - Laptops are expensive.

### Data Set Three

- (8)
- \*The he is in the bedroom.
  - \*Sally's he is a Biology major.
  - \*A they went to the movies.
  - \*Those you are working hard.

How are such examples ruled out given the NP hypothesis? How are they ruled out given the DP hypothesis? How will the grammatical examples in (9) be treated on the two analyses?

- (9) a. He is in the bedroom.  
b. He is a Biology major.  
c. They went to the movies.  
d. You are working hard.

### Task Three

How are possessors (like those in (10)) analyzed in the two proposals?

- (10) a. the dog's tail  
b. Sally's friend  
c. the crazy scientist's ideas  
d. the guy from Arizona's truck

Is there a reason to prefer one treatment over the other?

How do we rule out (11) in the two analyses?

- (11) a. \*the dog's the tail  
b. \*Sally's the friend  
c. \*the crazy scientist's those ideas  
d. \*the guy from Arizona's a truck

### Extra Credit

Many nominal phrases consist only of a proper name (*Sandy* or *Kim* or *George*). How might such names be treated in the context of the two frameworks under consideration here?