LING403/504 Homework 1
due Thursday, Sept. 5.

1. INNATENESS

We argued that some amount of syntax is innate (inborn). Can you think of an argument that might be raised against innateness? (It doesn't have to be an argument that works, just a plausible one). Alternately, could you come up with a hypothetical experiment that could disprove innateness? What would such an experiment have to show? Remember that cross-linguistic variation (differences between languages) is **NOT** an argument against innateness or UG, because UG contains parameters that allow both large and minute variations.

2. ENGLISH PARAMETER SETTING

Describe, using the terminology we have so far learned in class, the differences you observe between the Shakespearean sentences below and their Modern English counterparts. (For non-native speakers, I've provided Modern English versions of Shakespeare's sentences). Hint: many of the differences have to do with the behavior of main verbs and auxiliaries. One way to organize your answer is to describe a difference that you observe between the two Englishes, and then list which of the sentences below instantiate it.

Modern English versions of Shakespearian phrases
1. Speak you not for him! = Don't speak for him!
2. How came you hither? = How did you come here?
3. Hast any more of this? = Do you have any more of this?
4. You are come to see my daughter Anne? = You came to see my daughter Anne?
5. Whether had you rather lead mine eyes or eye your master's heels? = Would you rather lead my eyes or eye your master's heels? *or* Which would you rather: lead my eyes or eye your master's heels?
6. Hath he not a son? = Doesn't he have a son?
7. What an ass art thou! I understand thee not. = What an ass you are! I don't understand you.
8. Yourself shall go first. = You will go first.
9. I do repent me. = I repent.
10. Friend hast thou none. = You have no friend(s).
11. Our corn's to reap. = Our grain is for reaping.
12. A heavier task could not have been impos'd than I to speak my griefs unspeakable. = A heavier task could not have been imposed on me than (for me) to describe my griefs, which are indescribable/terrible.
13. In our sight they three were taken up. = Those three were taken up right in front of our eyes/while we were watching.
14. Is there any ship puts forth tonight? = Is there any ship that leaves tonight?/Does any ship leave tonight?
15. Who heard me to deny it? = Who heard me deny it?

3. GERMAN

In class, and as we saw in Baker, we claimed that the head parameter always has a uniform setting in a given language: either it is *head-initial* (so that all heads precede their complements) or it is *head-final* (so that all heads follow their complements. However, although this does seem to be true of many languages, there are some which don't seem to show a uniform setting for the head parameter. In this respect, discuss the German phrases and sentences below, and try to characterize how they behave with respect to headedness:

1.   Hans muss   stolz auf seine Mutter sein
        Hans must   proud of his Mother   be
        "Hans must be proud of his mother"

2.   Hans muss   auf seine Mutter stolz sein.
        Hans must   of his Mother proud be
        "Hans must be proud of his Mother"

3.   Hans geht den Fluss entlang
        Hans goes the river   along
        "Hans goes along the river"

4.   Hans muss die Aufgaben lösen
        Hans must the exercises do
        "Hans must do the exercises"

5.   Ich glaube dass Hans die Aufgaben lösen muss
        I think   that Hans the exercises do   must
        "I think that Hans must do the exercises".

Make the following assumptions:
a) in 1 and 2, *muss* is a verb, Hans is its subject and 'stolz auf seine Mutter sein' is its complement; *sein* is a verb and 'stolz auf seine Mutter' is its complement, *stolz* is an adjective and 'auf seine Mutter' is its complement, *auf* is a preposition and 'seine Mutter' is its complement, *seine* is a determiner and 'Mutter' is its complement.

b) in 3, *geht* is a verb, Hans is its subject, and *den Fluss entlang* is its complement. *entlang* is a postposition and *den Fluss* is its complement, *den* is a determiner and *Fluss* is its complement.

c) in 4, *muss* is a verb, Hans is its subject, and *die Aufgaben lösen* is its complement; *lösen* is a verb and *die Aufgaben* is its complement, *die* is a determiner and *Aufgaben* is its complement.

d) in 5, *glaube* is a verb, *ich* is its subject, and *dass Hans die Aufgaben lösen muss* is its complement; *dass* is a complementizer and *Hans die Aufgaben lösen muss* is its complement, *muss* is a verb, *Hans* is its subject and *die Aufgaben lösen* is its complement, *lösen* is a verb and *die Aufgaben* is its complement, and *die* is a determiner and *Aufgaben* is its complement.

Bonus question: Draw the best tree you can, using the category labels we have seen in class, for German sentence 5.