

LING 503, HOMEWORK 2

Due: Thursday September 12

1. Draw trees for the following sentences, *scrupulously* following X-bar theory. That is, every XP has an X' in it, and every X' has an X in it. (Note: this means you will have a lot of non-branching nodes in your trees, in cases when a phrase has neither a complement nor a specifier).

Some hints to remember:

- items that *modify* a phrase, *as well as subjects and possessors*, should appear as sisters to X' (or X", or X''' — they should be sisters to some bar-level, not sisters of the head).
- items that are *selected for* by a head should appear in complement position, as sisters to X.
- one way to tell the difference between modifiers and selected-for items: modifiers are always optional; selected-for items are not usually optional.
- another way to tell the difference: adverbs and adjectives are nearly always modifiers (except when they are predicates selected for by the verb *to be*).
- prepositional phrases are *often* modifiers, but sometimes are selected for by some other head. Use the optionality test as well as your own intuitions about the meaning of the phrases to tell the difference between the two.

- a. The dog's barking was bothering several older people.
- b. John believed that Mary could do anything.
- c. That an honest man could behave in that way was hard to believe.

2. Consider the following sentences:

- a. I did not think I would ever pass syntax.
- a'. *I thought I would ever pass syntax.
- b. Nobody will find anything.
- b'. I doubt whether anyone will find anything.
- b''. *He has found anything.
- b'''. *The man that I did not like has found anything.
- b'''' . The man that I liked did not find anything.

Make the following assumptions:

i) *not* is an example of a new category, Negation, that projects a NegP in between IP and VP, like this:

[_{IP} [_{DP} Subject] [_{I'} [_I Infl] [_{NegP} [_{Neg'} [_{Neg} Neg] [_{VP} verb phrase] Neg] NegP] I'] IP]

(use this bracketed structure to draw the tree for practice — I've helped by labelling the rightmost element).

- ii) Assume that *nobody* is a whole, unanalysed DP (like a proper name).
- iii) Assume that *ever* is an adverb.

What can you say about when *ever* and *anything* are grammatical, based on these sentences?
Hint: it will help you to figure it out if you draw the trees for these sentences.