

MSc Introduction to Syntax

Answers to lecture 2

Exercise 2.1

(1a) yes (cf. substitution: *I put it in the garage*; movement: *the car I put in the garage*)

(1b) yes (cf. *I put the car there*; *In the garage I put the car*)

(1c) no (cf. **The car in the garage I put*)

(2a) no (cf. **The guy I know with the fedora*)

(2b) yes (cf. *I know him*; *The guy with the fedora I know*)

(3a) no (cf. **In the towel they threw*)

(3b) yes (cf. *They threw the towel there*; *In the closet they towel the towel*)

Exercise 2.2

(1a) wrong (*the car in the garage* is represented as a constituent, but shouldn't be)

(1b) wrong (for the same reason)

(1c) ok

(2a) misleading (*the guy with the fedora* is correctly represented as a constituent, but so, incorrectly, is *guy with the fedora*)

(2b) ok

(2c) wrong (*the guy with the fedora* is not represented as one constituent)

Problem 2.2

If the assumption that only constituents can be coordinated is to be maintained, then at the least we need to make some additional assumptions. In particular, we need to assume that sometimes parts of one of the coordinated constituents can be *deleted* or *elided*. For example, something like *Kim the pattern* in (ib) never seems to function as a constituent in English. However, the meaning of this conjunct is such that there is a hidden *saw* in it, which apparently may be left out because the first conjunct already contains *saw* as its verb. Therefore, we may assume that the second conjunct is really *Kim saw the pattern*, which is indeed a constituent (namely a whole sentence), from which *saw* is deleted. Similarly for (ic) and (id) (in the latter we have to assume that *children* is deleted in the first conjoined noun phrase).