

September 25, 2003

CLASSES 11-12: MORE ON PHRASES

PHRASE STRUCTURE RULES FOR ENGLISH

In this class we go over most of the exercises on the previous handout (CLASSES 9-10), so be sure you understand all of this. You will need the material for three main reasons:

1. These exercises will be featured in the mid-term (October 2).
2. Phrase structure exercises will also come up in the final (October 25).
3. Phrases and their structure will be *the* most prominent topic in *MASOE* (2nd half!).

You should basically know the **basic phrase structure rules** for English:

- (1) a. $S \rightarrow NP VP$
b. $NP \rightarrow D N$
c. $VP \rightarrow V (NP) (PP)$
d. $PP \rightarrow P NP$

Moreover you should be aware of the fact that the remaining categories we have considered so far (**Adj** and **Adv** — D less so for the time being) **may also project** their own phrases.

- (2) a. $AdjP \rightarrow (AdvP) Adj$
b. $AdvP \rightarrow (AdvP) Adv$

This said, (**1c-d**), maybe even (**1a**), may also be modified by AdvP, (**1b**) by AdjP.

One really neat feature of the phrase structure system presented here is that it captures all **structural ambiguity** (and you can bet that one exercise in the mid-term will be on this!).

- (3) John shot the man with the rifle.
- (4) a. John [shot [the man] [with the rifle]]
b. John [shot [the man [with the rifle]]]

It's up to you to integrate the **more structure-revealing N'** convention instead of the flat trees.

Readings for next class [for this afternoon — repeated from last handout, CLASSES 9-10]:

📖 van Gelderen 2002: Ch. 4 (pp. 61-77) — 📖 *SKIM*: Brinton 2000: Ch. 10 (pp. 263-288)