ENG 135: Pedagogical Grammar ❖ Spring 2006: TUE & FRI 10.30-12.00 @ E 004
Linguistics Section ❖ Department of English Studies ❖ University of Cyprus
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CLASS 7: DIAGNOSTICS FOR STRUCTURE

HYPOTHESES

- *ambiguity* in *syntax*: *structural ambiguity* (what would be non-syntactic ambiguity?)
- *constituency* and *structure*: *phrase structure* [*tree*] / *labeled bracketing* [*square brackets*]
- *category – head – projection – phrase* /*node – branches – layers – hierarchy* (const'y tests)

(1) The student with the funny hat will answer the question immediately.

Looking at (1), what is the structure? What are the constituents? Let's explore several possibilities and formulate relevant hypotheses (and test them, look for predictions).

For starters, we already know that a sentence consists of a subject and a predicate.

(2) [The student with the funny hat] [will answer all questions immediately]

But is this enough? We can say more about the subject — for example, it's about a student and a hat, the hat has particular properties and stands in a particular relation to the student, so we should put that into our structure. Let's look at this:

(3) a. [[the student] [with the funny hat]]
b. [[the student] [with [the funny hat]]]
c. [the [student [with [the [funny hat]]]]]

Likewise, the predicate is quite complex — it contains an auxiliary and a verb, the verb is transitive and has an object, and there is adverbial modification. So:

(4) a. [[will answer] [all questions] immediately]
b. [will [answer [all questions]] immediately]
d. [will [[answer [all questions]] immediately]]

So, our final result should somehow be more similar to (5), and eventually to (6):

(5) [[The [student [with [the [funny hat]]]]]
[will [[answer [all questions]] immediately]]]

(6) $[_{IP}\ [_{DP}\ [_{D}$ The] $[_{NP}\ [_{N}$ student] $[_{PP}\ [_{P}$ with] $[_{DP}\ [_{D}$ the] $[_{NP}\ [_{AP}\ [_{A}$ funny]] $[_{N}$ hat]]]]]]
$[_{???}\ [_{I}$ will] $[_{VP}\ [_{VP}\ [_{V}$ answer] $[_{DP}\ [_{D}$ all] $[_{NP}\ [_{N}$ questions]]]] $[_{AdvP}\ [_{Adv}$ imm'ly]]]]