

Some asymmetries

1. Binding Theory

Condition A

- (1) a. {Arnold₁ / He₁ } likes himself₁.
b. *Himself₁ likes him₁.
- (2) a. The candidates hate each other('s supporters).
b. *Each other('s supporters) hate the candidates.

[*Condition B (included for completeness)*

- (3) *{Arnold₁ / He₁ } likes him₁.]

Condition C

- (4) a. Arnold₁ thinks we like him₁.
b. *He₁ thinks we like Arnold₁.
c. *We told him₁ that we like Arnold₁.

2. Quantifier phrase-pronoun binding

- (5) a. [{Every / No} water treatment]₂ plant served its₂ city better.
b. ??Its₂ water treatment plant served [{no /every} city]₂.

3. Weak Crossover (WCO)

- (6) a. Who₂ praised his₂ boss?
b. ??Who₂ did his₂ boss praise?
- (7) a. Who₂ said his₂ boss was great?
b. ??Who₂ did his₂ boss say was great?

4. Strong Crossover (SCO)

- (8) a. Who₃ praised himself₃?
b. *Who₃ did he₃ praise?
- (9) a. Who₃ said Lucy praised him₃?
b. *Who₃ did he₃ say Lucy praised?

5. Superiority

- (10) a. Who praised who(m)?
b. *Who(m) did who praise?

6. *Each ... the other* (discontinuous reciprocals)

- (11) a. Each girl helped the other('s friend).
b. *The other('s friend) helped each girl.

7. Negative polarity items (NPIs)

- (12) a. No-one praised anyone.
b. *Anyone praised no-one.

8. Relative scope (only of certain quantifier combinations)

- (13) a. No water treatment plant serves more than three cities. (no >3 ; *>3 no)
b. More than three water treatment plants serve no cities. (>3 no ; *no >3)

9. Extractions

- (14) a. Who did you see [a picture of ___]?
b. *Who did [a picture of ___] frighten you?
(15) a. Who did you read [a book by ___] this summer?
b. *Who was [a book by ___] a bestseller this summer?

10. Idioms

- (16) Bill [spilled the beans]/[kicked the bucket]/[let the cat out of the bag]/...
(17) a. *[The cat licked] Bill. / *[The riot act caught] Bill. / *[Beans spilled on] Bill.