

## Syntax II – Assignment #5

### Reflexivity

due Thursday April 2nd

The goal of this assignment is to familiarize you with the similarities and differences between the classic *Government-Binding Theory* approach to binding, and Reinhart & Reuland's *Reflexivity* approach.

For the examples below, give a *brief but explicit* explanation of how they are ruled in or out by the two theories. Do both theories cover all of the examples correctly? In which situations do the two approaches differ in whether the sentence is ruled in/out by Principle A or by Principle B (or something else)?

- (1) a. Gromit<sub>i</sub> washed himself<sub>i</sub>.  
b. \*Gromit<sub>i</sub> washed him<sub>i</sub>.
- (2) a. \*Wallace<sub>i</sub> thinks Wendolene likes himself<sub>i</sub>.  
b. Wallace<sub>i</sub> thinks Wendolene likes him<sub>i</sub>.
- (3) a. Wallace<sub>i</sub> considers himself<sub>i</sub> to be a fine inventor.  
b. \*Wallace<sub>i</sub> considers him<sub>i</sub> to be a fine inventor.
- (4) a. Max<sub>i</sub> schaamt zich<sub>i</sub>.  
b. \*Max<sub>i</sub> schaamt hem<sub>i</sub>.  
'Max is ashamed.' [Dutch]
- (5) a. \*Himself<sub>i</sub> likes Wallace<sub>i</sub>.  
b. \*He<sub>i</sub> likes Wallace<sub>i</sub>.
- (6) a. Wallace<sub>i</sub> put the cracker next to him<sub>i</sub>/\*himself<sub>i</sub> on the couch.  
b. Wallace<sub>i</sub> sent the crackers to himself<sub>i</sub>/\*him<sub>i</sub> for his birthday.

You can use the version of the government-binding theory approach to binding as described in Roberts' textbook (e.g. p.142), and the discussion of Reinhart & Reuland's approach on pp.165-175 should be adequate to complete the assignment. Reinhart & Reuland's original 1993 paper *Reflexivity* is available in the course mailbox in the Linguistics mail-room.