

Syntax Assignment VI
Ling 101
Due April 17, 2007

A. File 6.4 (1), (2) & (4)

B. Describe in prose the two interpretations for each of these ambiguous headlines, and say why they are ambiguous by discussing the grammatical categories of the key words.

1. Squad Helps Dog Bite Victim.
2. Man Eating Piranha Mistakenly Sold As Pet Fish
3. Teacher strikes idle kids
4. Two cars were reported stolen by the Groveton police yesterday.
5. Dealers will hear car talk at noon

C. Below are a list of phrase structure rules in Japanese:

| | |
|--------------|-----------------|
| S → NP VP | V → okot-ta |
| NP → N | P → de |
| VP → NP V | N → Warren |
| VP → PP NP V | N → Alice |
| PP → NP P | N → office |
| V → non-da | N → beer |
| V → tatai-ta | NP → NP Conj NP |
| Conj → to | VP → V |

Which of the following sentences can be generated by the presented phrase structure rules? Explain why they are or are not generated. (Please ignore case and tense markings in your analysis. Case markings are the affixes *-ga*, *-o* and tense markings are *-da* and *-ta*). Diagram those sentences that are grammatical in the language defined by the presented rules.

(1) Warren-ga beer-o non-da.
Warren-Nom beer-Acc drink-Past
'Warren drank beer.'

(2) Warren to Alicie-ga beer-o non-da
Warren and Alice-Nom beer-Acc drink-Past
'Warren and Alice drank beer.'

(3) Alice-ga Warren-o tatai-ta
Alice-Nom Warren-Acc hit-Past
'Alice hit Warren.'

(4) Alice-ga office de Warren-o tatai-ta
Alice-Nom office P Warren-Acc hit-Past
'Alice hit Warren at the office'

(5) Alice-ga Warren-o office de tatai-ta
Alice-Nom Warren-Acc office P hit-Past
'Alice hit Warren at the office'

(6) Alice-ga okot-ta
Alice-Nom get-angry-Past
'Alice got angry'

(7) Alice-ga office de okot-ta
Alice-Nom office P get-angry-Past
'Alice got angry at the office'