Problem Set 5

Due Sunday, October 27, 23:59. Submit on LumiNUS > Files > Student Submission > PS5.

The following exercise is reproduced (with minor adjustments) from Adger chapter 5, pp. 197–199:

~~As we saw earlier~~, it is possible in certain circumstances to get away without pronouncing a verb phrase. This is the *VP ellipsis* construction ~~we discussed in the text~~.

(1) I will eat a mango, and Gillian will [ ] too.

In example (1), the "elided" part of "Gillian will [ ] too" is interpreted clearly as "eat a mango" from the previous sentence. In general, VP ellipsis requires a previously mentioned, identical *v*P.[1] Adger calls this requirement the Identity Condition on VP-Ellipsis (ICVE):

(2) **Identity Condition on VP-Ellipsis (ICVE):**
A *v*P can only be elided it its content can be recovered from an identical *v*P in the preceding discourse.

Rewrite each of the following sentences without using VP ellipsis. Is this predicted by the ICVE? Discuss in relation to the theory of English affix hopping discussed in class.

(3) a. Raffi has made pasta, and David has [ ] too.
b. Brita is making scones, and Gillian is [ ] too.

(4) a. I ate a mango and Gillian did [ ] too.
b. Raffi makes pesto pasta, and David does [ ] too.

(5) a. Raffi slept well, and Gillian will [ ] too.
b. David ate mangoes and Raffi should [ ] too.

Your submission should be one to two typewritten pages.

EL5101R: The following examples are degraded for most speakers. Explain why.

(6) * Gillian has made pasta and David is too.

(7) * I am eating a mango and Gillian has too.

[1] We call this VP ellipsis for historical reasons, even though what's actually unpronounced is *v*P in size.

In some dialects these sentences can be dramatically improved by the addition of a version of the verb do. Why do you think this is?

(8) ? Gillian has made pasta and David is doing.

(9) ? I am eating a mango and Gillian has done.