EL5101 review guide

1 Key terms

Make sure you are familiar with these terms. You should be able to define or describe these concepts and (if appropriate) identify and give examples.

- competence vs performance
- I-language vs E-language
- Y-model of grammar
- phrase/constituent structure
  - constituent, phrase, projection
  - head, complement, specifier, adjunct
  - root, leaf, branching vs non-branching
  - mother, daughter, sister
  - endocentricity
  - c-command
  - label, project, Merge, Adjoin
- features
  - strength: strong vs weak features
  - ϕ-features
  - uninterpretable
  - selectional, inflectional
  - values, Agree
- complementary distribution
- bound vs free morphemes
- verbs
  - auxiliaries
  - finite vs nonfinite/infinitival
  - subject-verb agreement
  - V-to-T movement
  - *do*-support
  - T-to-C movement
  - Verb-Second (V2)
- thematic roles:
  - agent, theme, goal
  - UTAH (Uniformity of Theta Alignment Hypothesis)
- Hierarchy of Projections
- movement
  - head movement
  - phrasal movement
  - EPP (Extra Peripheral Position requirement)
  - trace, chain
  - islands, Háj Ross's dissertation
  - A'-movement
  - successive cyclic movement
  - *wh*-in-situ
  - covert movement / (LF movement)
  - multiple *wh*-fronting
  - Copy Theory
- VP-Internal Subject Hypothesis
- Unaccusative Hypothesis
  - unaccusative, unergative
- noun phrases
  - R-expression
  - reflexive pronoun
  - Binding Conditions A, B, C
  - bound pronoun
  - antecedent
  - *wh*-word
  - expletive

- complementizer
- case
  - nominative, accusative
  - ergative, absolutive
  - tripartite
  - abstract Case
  - Jean-Roger Vergnaud's letter
  - Case Filter
  - Burzio's Generalization
  - ABS = NOM vs ABS = DEF
- subject control vs subject raising
- Exceptional Case Marking (ECM) vs object control

2 Lists

Make sure you know the following lists, can give English examples (if available), and can recognize the use of such tests/arguments:

Chomsky's three questions:

1.
2.
3.

Constituency tests:

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.
7.
8.
9.

NP asymmetries
(c-command tests):

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.
7.

Common properties of subjects:

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

Arguments for the VP-Internal Subject Hypothesis:

1.
2.
3.

Arguments for the Unaccusative Hypothesis:

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.
7.

Environments that trigger *do*-support:

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.

Diagnostics for subject raising vs subject control:

1.
2.
3.
4.

Islands:

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.

Arguments for successive cyclic movement through CP:

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.

3 English tree practice

The following sentences can be built from the lexicon below. Draw trees and give the steps of Merge, Agree, Adjoin, $\text{Move}_{\text{phrase}}$; you can ignore head movement steps.

(1) I always do the homework.

(2) Smart students always want to do the homework.

(3) Stephanie wants the students to all run.

(4) Stephanie seems to have done the homework.

(5) It seems that Stephanie has done the homework.

(6) What did Stephanie eat?

(7) Stephanie did not do the homework.

Can the following sentences be built using the lexical items below? Why or why not?

(8) The smart students have all arrived.

(9) Stephanie gave me homework.

(10) I will always do the homework.

(11) I always will do the homework.

(12) Stephanie has not arrived.

(13) The students want homework.

(14) What does Stephanie think that I ate?

(15) I want it to rain.

(16) * I want to rain.

Lexicon:

- [N, uN] all
- [N] PRO (unpronounced)
- [Adv] always
- [Neg] not
- [Det] the
- [Adj] smart
- [N, ϕ:3sg, uCase:___] Stephanie
- [N, ϕ:1sg, uCase:___] I/me
- [N, ϕ:3pl, uCase:___] students
- [N, ϕ:3sg, uCase:___] homework
- [N, ϕ:3sg, uCase:___, WH] what
- [N, ϕ:3sg, uCase:___] it (expletive)
- [V, uN] do
- [V, uN] eat
- [V, uN] arrive
- [V] run
- [V] rain
- [V, uN, uN] give
- [T, Infl:PAST, uN*, Case:NOM, uϕ:___]
- [T, Infl:PRES, uN*, Case:NOM, uϕ:___]
- [T, Infl:FUT, uN*, Case:NOM, uϕ:___] will
- [$T_{\text{NONFINITE}}$, Infl:NONFINITE, uN*] to
- [Perf, uInfl:___, Infl:PERF] have
- [v, uInfl:___, uN, Case:ACC]
- [V, uC] think
- [V, uC or $uT_{\text{nonfinite}}$] seem
- [V, $uT_{\text{NONFINITE}}$] want[1]
- [C] that
- [C, uT*, uWH*]
- [v, uInfl:___]

[1]The Adger presentation of control embeddings has a special unpronounced C; ignore this.