

Problem 1: Ambiguity. The following sentences each have (at least) two completely distinct meanings, due to structural ambiguity, lexical ambiguity, or referential ambiguity. For each sentence, carefully describe the two different meanings, and identify whether the ambiguity is structural, lexical, or referential. For structurally ambiguous sentences, draw the two relevant phrase structure trees (you can use short-hand triangles within your trees for the portions of the trees that have no impact on the ambiguity).

- (1) The prostitutes were released because they appealed to the judge.
- (2) The boss nervously read a letter to the secretary.
- (3) Oscar gave Bill and his mother some money.
- (4) This bank usually has a lot of gold deposits.

Problem 2: Paraphrase, contradiction, and entailment. Consider the following sentences:

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|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| (5) Someone failed a quiz. | (11) Someone didn't pass any quizzes. |
| (6) Everyone failed the same quiz. | (12) Someone didn't fail any quizzes. |
| (7) Everyone failed every quiz. | (13) No one passed every quiz. |
| (8) Someone passed a quiz. | (14) No one failed every quiz. |
| (9) Everyone passed the same quiz. | (15) No quiz was passed by everyone. |
| (10) Everyone passed every quiz. | (16) No quiz was failed by everyone. |

a. For each sentence in (5)–(16), list which of the other sentences (if any) it is a paraphrase of. Note that paraphrasing is mutual: if sentence *X* is a paraphrase of sentence *Y*, then *Y* is necessarily also a paraphrase of *X*, so be sure to list both!

b. For each sentence in (5)–(16), list which of the other sentences (if any) it contradicts. Again, contradiction is mutual, so list both.

c. For each sentence in (5)–(16), list which of the other sentences (if any) it entails. Note that paraphrases always entail each other, but you can ignore this fact and list only the non-paraphrases that are entailed by each sentence.

Problem 3: Context. Suppose Lee says “Did I see you here yesterday?” upon unexpectedly running into Chris in Paresky on November 3rd, 2008. What are the intensional and extensional meanings of *I*, *you*, *here*, and *yesterday*? What does the existence of words like these tell us about the specific contextual information that is usually immediately accessible to all participants in any given conversation? Explain carefully what is different about words like *he*, *her*, *there*, and *then*, even though they are superficially similar to *I*, *you*, *here*, and *yesterday* in having contextually-dependent meanings. It may help to consider Lee greeting Chris with sentences like “Did he see her there?” or “Did he see her then?”.

Problem 4: Presuppositions. For each of the following sentences, determine if the bracketed CP is a presupposition or not.

- (17) Jon realized [that Odie was lost]_{CP}.
- (18) Jon asked Garfield [if Odie was lost]_{CP}.
- (19) Jon forgot [that Odie was lost]_{CP}.
- (20) Jon was afraid [that Odie was lost]_{CP}.
- (21) Jon was unaware [that Odie was lost]_{CP}.
- (22) Jon was sure [that Odie was lost]_{CP}.
- (23) Jon was upset [that Odie was lost]_{CP}.
- (24) Jon heard the rumor [that Odie was lost]_{CP}.

(continued on back)

Problem 5: Implicatures. Consider the following conversation between Akbar (who is bleeding profusely), including some implicatures of the sentences generate (implicatures are marked with ~> and slanted text):

- (25) Akbar: [bleeding profusely]
Can you take me to the hospital? ~> *I want you to take me to the hospital.*
- (26) Jeff: Are you okay?!
- (27) Akbar: Oh, of course, I'm just fine! ~> *No, obviously not, you idiot!*
- (28) Jeff: How did this happen?
- (29) Akbar: I got shot. ~> *I don't know who shot me.*
- (30) Jeff: Do you know who shot you?
- (31) Akbar: Where is your car parked? ~> *Take me to the hospital now, you epic idiot.*

State which Conversational Maxim(s) generate the implicatures for (25), (27), (29), and (31). Fully and carefully, explain how these Maxims generate these implicatures.

Problem 6: Humor. Fully and carefully, explain why the following comic strip ("her time!" from the series *her! girl vs pig*) is funny, referring to appropriate semantic and/or pragmatic terminology:



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Available online at <http://www.girlvspig.com/archives/her103.html>.