

Homework #7
due Wednesday, March 13th

A. Consider the lexical entry for *eager*:

- (1) *be eager*, V, [__ (CP_{for})]
(experiencer, theme)

This says that this verb takes a CP_{for} argument (which is optional syntactically). There are two semantic roles - the first, the experiencer, refers to the thing that experiences the mental state of eagerness; the second is the theme – that is, the stimulus/cause of the eagerness. Here are some sentences that come from deep structures that are consistent with the lexical entry in (1):

- (2) a. I am eager for everyone to understand Equi.
b. You are eager to understand Equi.

Give the deep structures for (2a-b) and discuss how these deep structures are consistent with the ‘who does what to whom’ (you should also give a lexical entry for *understand*). Briefly say which transformations have applied in each example (but don’t give derivations).

B. The following sentences are bizarre (indicated by ‘#’):

- (3) a. # The dishes are eager for the cook to find the silverware.
b. # The dishes are eager to fall off the table.

Discuss how the lexical entry in (1) predicts that the examples in (3) are bizarre.

C. The sentence in (4), which is very similar to (3b), is grammatical and not bizarre:

- (4) The dishes are likely to fall off the table.

Discuss carefully why (3b) and (4) contrast in this way - your discussion should mention the lexical entry for *be likely* and should discuss the relevant deep structures.

The sentence in (5) *is* bizarre - what is going on here?

- (5) # The dishes are likely to understand Equi.