BINDING THEORY

• How pronouns get their meaning
• Coreference
• Binding theory
  ✓ Principle A
  ✓ Principle B
  ✓ Principle C
3 TYPES OF DP s

Anaphors: reflexives + each other
1. Grace saw herself.

Pronouns
2. Grace saw her.

R-expressions: everything else
3. Grace saw the girl.

How pronouns get their meaning
R-EXPRESSION & PRONOUN MEANING

4. Brinley is glad.

5. She is holding the baby.

6. Brinley is glad she is holding the baby.
WE INDICATE REFERENCE WITH INDICES

7. Brinley$_i$ is glad that she$_i$ is holding the baby.

8. Brinley$_i$ is glad that she$_j$ is holding the baby.

Coreference
WHAT IS COREFERENCE?

When 2 DPs refer to the same person, we say that they corefer.

Coreference only applies to DPs

The first coreferent is called the antecedent.
WHAT IS THE ANTECEDENT?

7. Brinley is glad that she is holding the baby.

8. Brinley is glad that she is holding the baby.
9. She$_i$ is glad that [Brinley]$_{i/j}$ is holding the baby.

10. [Brinley]$_i$ likes her$_{i/j}$. 

DP DISTRIBUTION IS RESTRICTED
DISTRIBUTION OF ANAPHORS

How would you characterize the distribution of anaphors?

11. Grace$_i$ saw herself$_i$.
DISTRIBUTION OF ANAPHORS

What about now?

14. *[Grace]_i’s sister saw herself_i.
15. [Grace’s sister]_j saw herself_j
DISTRIBUTION OF ANAPHORS

An anaphor must be BOUND.

Binding – Principle A
DISTRIBUTION OF ANAPHORS

What about...

17. Grace$_i$ said that Brin$_j$ saw herself$_j$.
18. *Grace$_i$ said that Brin$_j$ saw herself$_i$.
19. *Grace$_i$ said that Carl$_j$ saw herself$_i$. 
The domain of a DP is the smallest TP that contains the DP.
An anaphor must be bound (have a c-commanding antecedent) in its domain.
PRACTICE

Explain, using principle A, why the following sentences are grammatical or ungrammatical:

*Mary_{i} saw several pictures of herself_{j}.

*Bill_{j} decided that John_{i} should drive himself_{j}.
DISTRIBUTION OF PRONOUNS

Pronouns are in complementary distribution with anaphors.

19. Grace$_i$ saw herself$_i$.
20. *Grace$_i$ saw her$_i$.
21. Grace$_i$ saw her$_j$.
22. She$_i$ laughed.
DISTRIBUTION OF PRONOUNS

23. [Grace]_i’s sister saw her_ i.
24. *[Grace’s sister]_j saw her_ j
DISTRIBUTION OF PRONOUNS

25. *Grace$_i$ said that Brin$_j$ saw her$_i$.  
26. Grace$_i$ said that Brin$_j$ saw her$_i$.  
27. Grace$_i$ said that Brin$_j$ saw her$_k$.  

Binding – Principle B
An pronoun must not be BOUND in its domain.
DISTRIBUTION OF R-EXPRESSIONS

31. Shei thinks that [that girl]*i/j should win.
32. *Shei knows that shej likes Caroline*i/*j.
33. [Heri sister]j saw Brini/*j.
An R-expression must not be BOUND.
Using binding theory, explain why each of the following sentences is ungrammatical. In your answer, make sure to include (i) which DP is violating a binding principle, (ii) which principle it is violating, and (iii) how it is violating that condition. Draw trees for each sentence.

a. *Gracei likes heri.
b. *[Sam]i’s girlfriend worships himselfi.
c. *Shei saw Carolinei in the mirror.
Using binding theory, explain why each of the following sentences is ungrammatical. In your answer, make sure to include (i) which DP is violating a binding principle, (ii) which principle it is violating, and (iii) how it is violating that condition. Draw trees for each sentence.

a. *Grace \textsubscript{i} likes her \textsubscript{i}.

(i) her
(ii) Principle B
(iii) Principle B states that a pronoun must not be bound in its domain. But her is bound in its domain because it has an antecedent, Grace, that c-commands it. Therefore Principle B is violated.

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TP
  /   \nDP    T'
  /    /  \nGrace T  VP
      /   /  \n     + pres V'  DP\textsubscript{i}
         /     \
        /      \
       /       \\n      v        her
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Using binding theory, explain why each of the following sentences is ungrammatical. In your answer, make sure to include (i) which DP is violating a binding principle, (ii) which principle it is violating, and (iii) how it is violating that condition. Draw trees for each sentence.

b. *[Sam]ʼs girlfriend worships himself.

(i) himself
(ii) Principle A
(iii) Principle A states that an anaphor must be bound in its domain. Himself is not bound. It has an antecedent, Sam, but it is not c-commanded by its antecedent. Therefore the sentence is ungrammatical.
Using binding theory, explain why each of the following sentences is ungrammatical. In your answer, make sure to include (i) which DP is violating a binding principle, (ii) which principle it is violating, and (iii) how it is violating that condition. Draw trees for each sentence.

c. *She saw Caroline in the mirror.

(i) Caroline  
(ii) Principle C  
(iii) Principle C states that an R-expression must not be bound. But Caroline is bound because it has a c-commanding antecedent, she. Therefore the sentence is ungrammatical.