Grammatical-function (GF) 'changes' in Lexical-Functional Grammar (LFG)

MIT, 24.951, Fr 10 Oct 2003

LFG Exercise I:

Explain the contrast in (1)

(1) a. We cooked (for Mary)
b. *We cooked Mary (with the reading: We cooked for Mary)

Show the 'derivation' for the passive verb in (2)

(2) Mary was cooked dinner

Explain the contrast in (3)

(3) a. Mary was cooked dinner

b. *Dinner was cooked Mary.

Explain the contrast in (4)

(4) a. *Dinner was cooked Mary

b. Dinner was cooked for Mary.

Finally consider (5) with the reading Mary was happy as a result of their cooking dinner for her:

- (5) a. *They cooked Mary dinner happy
 - b. *They cooked Mary happy dinner

Can the ungrammaticality of (5) accounted for, without extra stipulation, by LFG as described in readings and in class? Explain. (in no more than one page)

Throughout, be as explicit as you can in your use of the LFG principles discussed in class and in the readings. In particular, show all the relevant a-structures/f-structure mappings that are relevant to understanding the facts above. (Once these mappings are made explicit, your answers can be made quit concise.)

LFG Exercise II:

Consider the following Japanese data, some of which was briefly discussed in class a few lectures ago.

Japanese is SOV:

(6) Taro-ga hon-o katta Taro-NOM book-ACC bought "Taro bought a book"

Numeral quantifiers:

(7) a. $Gakusei-ga \quad \underline{2-nin} \quad hon-o \quad \underline{3-satu} \quad katta$ students-NOM 2-CL_h book-ACC 3-CL_b bought "2 students bought 3 books"

Some observations on the distribution of NumQs:

- (8) * Gakusei-ga hon-o <u>2-nin</u> katta students-NOM book-ACC 2-CL_h bought "2 students bought books"
- (9) a. Gakusei-ga <u>2-nin</u> [kono kagi de] doa-o aketa students-NOM 2-CL_h this key by door opened "2 students opened the door with this key"
 - b. * Gakusei-ga [kono kagi de] <u>2-nin</u> doa-o aketa
- (10) * [Tomodati no car] -ga $\underline{3\text{-nin}}$ kasyoosita friends GEN car NOM $3\text{-}CL_h$ broke-down "Three friends' cars broke down"
- (11) a. Kuruma-ga <u>3-dai</u> doroboo-ni nusum-are-ta car-NOM $3-CL_m$ thief-by steal-PASS-Past "3 cars were stolen by the thief"
 - b. Kuruma-ga doroboo-ni <u>3-dai</u> nusum-are-ta
- (12) a. Doa-ga <u>2-tu</u> [kono kagi de] aita door-NOM 2-CL_g this key by opened "2 doors opened with this key"
 - b. Doa-ga **[kono kagi de**] <u>2-tu</u> aita
- (13) a. $Gakusei-ga \quad \underline{2-nin} \quad [ofisu-ni] \quad kita$ student-NOM 2-CL_h office-to came "2 students came to the office"

b. Gakusei-ga [ofisu-ni] <u>2-nin</u> kita

(14) Generalization?

What generalization can be drawn from the above regarding the syntactic positions where NumQs can(not) surface? (Answer no longer than half a page)

(15) Japanese NumQs in LFG

Try and sketch an LFG account for your generalization in (14). Discuss these implications of the above data vis-à-vis the architecture of LFG. (Answer no longer than one page)