Long Distance Dependencies

A long distance dependency has a filler (*Ann*) and a gap (—).

(1) a. Ann, I think he likes —.

b.* I think he likes —. (*incomplete*)

c.* Ann, I think he likes women.

d. Ann, I think he likes her. (*resumptive pronoun*)

The filler can be a long distance from the gap. Distance is measured in how many clauses the filler is from the gap, not how many words away it is.

(2)

a. Ann, I think he told you he tried to like —.

Some Examples of Constructions with Long Distance Dependencies

Topicalization:

(3) Ann, I think he likes —.

Wh-questions:

(4) Who do you think he likes —.

Relative Clauses:

(5) The woman who you think he saw — is tall.

Embedded Wh-questions

(6) I wonder who he thinks he saw —.

Tough Movement

(7) These problems are tough to even try to solve —.

More-More

(8) The more people I try to pretend I know —, the more confused I get —.

Where can the gap be?

(9) a. Who — saw you.

b. Who did you see —.

c. Who did you talk to —.

d. To whom did you talk —.

e. Who do you believe — left.

f. Who do you think he saw —.

g. Who do you think he talked to —.

Where can't the gap be?

Inside a COMP that is inside a SUBJ or OBJ

(10) a.* Who do believe the fact that he saw —.

b.* Who did the fact that he saw — bother you.

Inside a SUBJ

(11)

a.* Who did stories about — bother you.

Inside a coordinate structure

(12) a.* Who did you see him and —.

b.* Who did you see Sue and pictures of —.

c. Who did you see pictures of — and books about —.

Subject of an embedded clause after a complementizer

(13) a.*Who do believe that — left.

Inside an embedded wh-question

(14) a.* Who do you wonder whether he talked to —.

b. Who do you wonder what he gave — to —.

c. What do you wonder who he gave — to —.

Inside a relative clause

(15)

a.* Who did you see the person who — talked to —.

Functional Uncertainty

Assign an uncertain grammatical function to a filler.

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(^ { COMP | XCOMP }*  GF) = |
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Where GF is SUBJ, OBJ, OBLx, or OBLx OBJ.
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Inside-out Function Application

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(x f') refers to an f-structure f
such that (f x) = f'.

(OBJ ^) refers to an f-structure f
such that (f OBJ) = ^.

((OBJ ^) TOP) = ^ means that (f TOP) = ^
for f such that (f OBJ) = ^.

( {COMP|XCOMP}* GF ^) refers to f such that
(f {COMP|XCOMP}* GF) = ^.

(({COMP|XCOMP}* GF ^) TOP) = ^ means that
(f TOP) = ^ for f such that
(f {COMP|XCOMP}* GF) = ^.
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Another Wellformedness Condition

Extended Coherence: The discourse functions TOP and FOC must be integrated into the f-structure.