

tH Test 2 (50 pts)

(Assigned 4.22.2024, Due 5.13.2024)

General instructions: On Canvas you see the second take-home test in two files: a PDF and a Word file. Download the latter and **complete the test on a computer**. Read, carefully, the instruction for each subsection. If necessary, you should reread and restudy the Lecture Notes, your notes, homework problem sets, in-class problem sets, or other materials covered in the course. Your answers ought to be accurate, adequate and concise. Be reminded that **incomplete answers** are not graded one iota and what you put down demonstrates what has been learned in the course as this is an achievement test. Please work independently and do NOT share your test with someone else. And please do NOT alter the test. To submit, email your test to enchao.shi@csun.edu before the due date. Please submit your finished work as a PDF file to ensure its quality and readability.

Q1 (.25 pt per two underlined, 5 pts in total) Name the syntactic category of each underlined using the such abbreviations: N, V, A, Adv, D, P, T or M, Aux, Cop(ula), Relative Pro(noun), C(complementizer), as shown in the samples.

(Excerpt from Lisa Feldman Barrett's *Seven And Half Lessons About The Brain*)

P

D

You might have noticed that I've now offered two different descriptions of the evolution of the human brain. In the earlier half-lesson, I wrote that brains evolved increasingly elaborate sensory and motor systems while budgeting the energy resources of increasingly complex bodies. But the trium brain story says the brain evolved in layers that allow rationality to conquer our animalistic urges and emotions. How can we reconcile these two scientific views?

Fortunately, we don't have to reconcile them, because one of them is wrong. The triune brain idea is one of the most successful and widespread errors in all of science. It's certainly a compelling story, and at times, it captures how we feel in daily life. For example, When your taste buds are tempted by a luscious slice of velvety chocolate cake but you decline it because, honestly, you just finished breakfast, it is easy to believe that your impulsive inner lizard and your emotional limbic system pushed you in a cake-ward directions, and your rational neocortex wrestled the pair into submission.

The three-layered brain was proposed by several scientists over the years and formularized in the mid-twentieth century by a physician named Paul MacLean. He envisioned a brain that was structured like Plato's battle and confirmed his hypothesis using the best technology available at the time: visual inspection. That meant peering through a microscope at the brains of various dead lizards and mammals, including humans, and identifying their similarities and differences by sight alone.

Q2 - Q6 (1.5 pt per, 9 pts in total) Read each question carefully and respond accordingly.

2. I found out only last week that for some reason that needs no explanation, the world-famous moral philosopher Peter Singer, of Princeton, has, with two equally high-powered

colleagues, created an open-access, peer-reviewed academic journal called the Journal of Controversial Ideas, for its academic contributors to submit papers pseudonymously, “to protect themselves from threats to their careers or physical safety”.

(Adopted from India Knight, ‘Cancel culture brings out the French resistance’, Apr 25 2021, The Sunday Times)

Q. The two uses of ‘for’ are the same or different? Explain why. Be wary that your answer is sufficient.

A.

3. a. Ted wanted Tom to complete the job by noon.
- b. Ted asked Tom to complete the job by noon.

Q. We’ve learned about three types of verbs. In (3a) and (3b), the verbs, *wanted* and *asked* come from the same class or not? Explain.

A.

4. One in seven Americans believe the theories of QAnon, the group that thinks a Satan-worshipping cabal of international paedophiles conspired to keep Donald Trump out of the White House last year, according to a poll.

(Alistair Dawber, ‘QAnon has trust of 1 in 7 Americans’, May 29 2021, The Times)

Q. Few recognize that the sentence in question is ill-formed. Can you spot and then explain the nature of the problem in accordance with our attained I-language systems?

A.

5. “To see our students go on to Oxford, Cambridge, Ivy League colleges and to study medicine and dentistry is great,” Ismail says. “But there is only 600 students that we can take and we’re getting in excess of 4,000 applications for 300 places every year
(Damian Whitworth, July 30 2021, The Times)

Q. What grammatical error did Damian Whitworth commit? Explain, on the basis of the standard English, the problem.

A.

6. The little girl saw the little cat on the little balcony.

Q. Supposedly Sentence-6, which is structurally ambiguous, can be interpreted in three different ways. Use three paraphrases to exhibit this phenomenon.

A. a)
b)
c)

Q7 - Q12 (1.5 pts per, 9 pts in total) For each square-bracketed phrase, label-bracket it and then do the same for each identifiable phrase inside. Take a close look at the sample before starting. Precision is the key.

Sample: In recent weeks, May has tried to [sell her formulation of Brexit to the nation].

[VP sell [DP her [NP formulation [PP of [NP Brexit]]]] [PP to [DP the [NP nation]]]]

7. While [most of the one in four people with high blood pressure across the UK] are older adults, they are not the only ones who should be concerned.

(Dr Mark Porter, Nov 24 2020, The Times)

Note: 'blood pressure' = N

8. There may [be no one in the arts with a harder job than that of a modern choreographer].

(Joan Acocella, 'Must the show go on?', July 1 2019, The New Yorker)

(Adopted from Julie Schumacher, 'Dear Committee Members')

9. Your memo of August 30 requests [that we on the English faculty recommend some luckless colleague for the position of director of graduate studies].

10. Well, [you can scratch all prior nominees from your mailing lists but the promising Darren Browles].

11. My agent is [adequately apprised of Darren's tender satire full of witty, incisive, original, brutally sophisticated, erotic tour de force].
12. She [chewed at the lime-green polish on her fingernails in the interstices of our conversation].

Q13 - Q17 (1 pt per, 5 pts in total) Questions in the subsection are concerned with the differences between arguments and adjuncts. For each underlined V^0 , label and name its argument(s) using a pair of square-brackets and its adjunct(s), if you see them, using a pair of parentheses and **explain your answers** (see Sample).

Sample: Malcolm Gladwell is hoping that property prices will fall if the exodus from cities such as London and New York continues.

(Adopted from Josh Glancy's interview with Malcolm Gladwell, the Sunday Times, Apr 18 2021)

[_{extArg} property prices] will fall (_{Conditional} if the exodus from cities such as London and New York continues).

Account. 'property prices' functions as the external argument for verb 'fall', which is used as an intransitive variant. As it is, the NP is compulsory and can be pronominalized like 'they will fall ..'. The if-clause is an adjunct since it is a conditional and all conditionals are adjunct clauses. Also, the expression will stand without the if-clause.

13. California in 2017 bumped up its population to an estimated forty million people as it saw roughly 209,000 new out of state residents.

Account.

14. Betelgeuse, a vast star, a red supergiant, about 600 times larger and 10,000 times brighter than our sun will unfortunately explode at any minute when it runs out of fuel at its core. (Based on Paul Simons, Jan 1 2020)

Account.

15. There was a flurry of excitement on December 8 when Edward Guinan of Villanova University, Pennsylvania, and his colleagues reported a significant dimming of the star since October. (Paul Simons, Jan 1 2020)

Account.

16. Mandy Manning, the recipient of the National Teacher of the Year award, told the US President in an interview after the presentation of the honor to her that her students “make the United States the beautiful country that it is.”

Account.

17. Silvia has lived in a rented apartment with a mattress on the floor inside a giant bedroom with a five-foot-tall pot plant on the balcony alone since she moved to the city 10 years ago. (Mariana Enriquez, 'Our Lady of the Quarry', The NYorker, Dec. 21, 2020)

Account.

Q18 - Q21 (2 pts per, 8 pts in total) Explain, based on Theta Theory, what goes wrong with each utterance. Make sure that your account is adequate (see sample). The Theta Criterion is given below.

Sample: They have seen in the neighborhood numerous times.

[_{ExtArg} They] have seen (in the neighborhood) (numerous times).

see: < Exp, Theme >

NP DP

Account: The clause in question is ill-formed because of the violation of the condition-b of Theta Criterion. Specifically, the target clause has a single sole argument, which is mapped onto the theta role of Experiencer, resulting in the satisfaction of condition-a. By contrast, condition-b is violated since as shown in the theta-structure for 'see', there are two theta roles. While Exp is assigned to 'They', the external argument, Theme-theta role is left with no internal argument to be assigned to, which counts as a breach of condition-be of Theta Criterion.

Theta Criterion

- a) Each argument must be assigned one and only one θ -role.
- b) Each θ -role must be assigned to one and only one argument.

18. Sam boiled to make some tea for her guests.

Account:

19. The customer saw at the famous painting on display.

Account:

20. The teacher shut the door, the light right in front of her pupils in a dramatic sort of way.

Account:

21. Sam wrote a letter to the mayor's office about the unnecessary expansion of the city.

Specific instructions: Q6 demonstrates the problem of structural ambiguity. Below is another similar expression. The difference is this time it is three-way ambiguous. Explain how to interpret Q21 variably in terms of verb class and theta structure.

Paraphrases:

- a)
- b)
- c)

Account.

Q22 - Q30 (1 pt per, 14 pts in total) From each identify an embedded clause, if you see one, using a pair of square-brackets. Then, do the three following things: a) name and explain its type (eg complement clause, conditional); b) identify and explain its finiteness (eg finite, infinitival, small) and explain; c) determine its relation to an element of the main clause. Note in case you see no embedded clause, explanation is still in need.

Sample: [When a jog will be your only chance to taste fresh air], even I manage to lumber reluctantly out of the house each evening.

Type: A temporal adverbial clause because it consists of the complementizer-when and the TP 'a jog will .. air'.

Finiteness: Finite as the modal 'will' is in present tense.

Relation: Related to the main verb 'manage,' outlining the temporal frame for its event.

22. We drove from France straight to northern Portugal through Castilla la Vieja and back the same way a few weeks later.

(John McPhee, Jan. 13, 2020, The New Yorker).

Type:

Finiteness:

Relation:

23. Though Charles Dickens would have been baffled by the distinction, popular or genre fiction has a patchy record in terms of literary recognition while crime novels normally fare better.

Type:

Finiteness:

Relation:

24. It invariably emerges that there is Something Going On, and that to resolve that something Jack Reacher is going to bash some baddies and rescue some goodies.

Type:

Finiteness:

Relation:

25. That there are weeks of lockdown ahead of us entails that you're wasting lockdown if you don't see yourself build up a new skill that applies to lockdown literature.

Type:

Finiteness:

Relation:

26. A friend, in her less svelte days, was offered a seat on a train in Paris by a young man who mistook her for being in the family way.

Type:

Finiteness:

Relation:

27. According to Crystal, while Chaucer was around fifty when he conceived “The Merchant’s Tale],” Shakespeare was about forty-one or -two when he wrote “King Lear.”

Type:

Finiteness:

Relation:

28. Nicola made me buy another jumper even though I would have enough jumpers to keep me warm if I live to be 150. (Based on Bob Crampton, The Times, June 16 2020).

Type:

Finiteness:

Relation:

29. Many people of Sweden saw its government keep many schools, bars and shops open although it did encourage social distancing. (based on The Times, June 3 2020)

Type:

Finiteness:

Relation:

30. If an apple is magnified to the size of the earth, the atoms in the apple are approximately the size of the original apple. (Richard Feynman, 1963)

Type:

Finiteness:

Relation:

31. This week we discovered that, to help to halt the spread of coronavirus, we must all wash our hands ten times a day. (The Times Mar 5 2020)

Type:

Finiteness:

Relation:

32. Anna Jordan wrote that “There remains this niggling idea that there is some secret that other entrepreneurs know, some magic they have learnt that lets them go out confidently and build something.”
(‘That Confidence Trick,’ The Times, Apr 30 2020)

Type:

Finiteness:

Relation:

33. Jacob Rees-Mogg, who imagines himself a haughtily rational free speech libertarian, is campaigning to have the left-wing writer Afua Hirsch banned from Whitehall.
(James Marriott, Aug 17 2022, The Times)

Type:

Finiteness:

Relation:

34. Sarah bought a couple of light readings at the newsstand of the airport for her to read on the long flight.

Type:

Finiteness:

Relation:

35. In support of the proposal to remove the prohibition on the sale of chocolates, ices and cigarettes in theatres, music halls and cinemas after 8pm, a deputation representing theatrical interests has put its case before Mr Shortt, the Home Secretary.
(Mar 5 2020, The Times)

Type:

Finiteness:

Relation: