Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

NetID: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Discussion section: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Linguistics 1010 – Week 5**

**Make-up assignment**

1. Describe the Code Talker Paradox. How does this relate to the Principles and Parameters Theory?

2. One power of Principles & Parameters is its ability to capture large amounts of variation with very few parameters. If the number of parameters is 4, and each parameter has 2 values, then what is the number of languages that can be created? What if there were 6 parameters? How did you arrive at those answers?

3. Look at the English sentence “Doug wants some stinky cheese on that purple plate.” The syntactic category is labeled for each word.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| N | V | D | ADJ | N | P | D | ADJ | N |
| Doug | wants | some | stinky | cheese | on | that | purple | plate. |

For the three parameters below (null subject, head, and nominal adjective), there are two values that you can set for each. This means that there are **eight** different languages that can be created.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Null Subject Parameter | If set to no, a subject is always required in (tensed) sentences. If set to yes, subjects are not required if they can be recovered from the context. |
| Head Parameter | If set to no, heads come last in their phrases. If set to yes, heads come first in their phrases. |
| Nominal Adjective Parameter | If set to no, adjectives come after nouns they’re modifying. If set to yes, adjectives come before they’re modifying. |

Fill in the table below with all the different combinations that can be created from the three parameters. Then modify the English sentence above to match the parameter values. The first combination has been done for you.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Null Subject | Head | Nominal Adjective | Sentence |
| a. | No | No | Yes | Doug wants some stinky cheese on that purple plate. |
| b. |  |  |  |  |
| c. |  |  |  |  |
| d. |  |  |  |  |
| e. |  |  |  |  |
| f. |  |  |  |  |
| g. |  |  |  |  |
| h. |  |  |  |  |

4. Look at the tree structure for sentences in Japanese and in English below. In terms of the head parameter, how do Japanese and English differ?

(1)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | S | | |  | |
|  |  |  | | VP | |
|  |  | PP | |  |  |
|  | NP | NP |  | NP |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | N | N | P | N | V |
| Japanese: | John-wa | gakkou | -de | syukudaio | sita |
| glosses: | John | school | at | homework | did |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | S | |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | VP | |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | PP | |
|  | NP |  | NP |  | NP |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | N | V | N | P | N |
| English: | John | did | homework | at | school |

(2)

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | S |  |  | |
|  |  |  |  | |
|  |  |  | VP | |
|  |  | PP | |  |
|  |  |  | |  |
|  | NP | NP |  |  |
|  | N | N | P | V |
| Japanese: | Mary-wa | kouen | -ni | itta |
| glosses: | Mary | school | to | went |

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | S |  |  |  |
|  |  | VP |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | PP |  |
|  | NP |  |  | NP |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  | N | V | P | N |
| English: | Mary | went | to | school |

5. Match the words on the left with the correct definition on the left.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| parameters | the field that studies the structure of sentences |
| formants | the section of long-term memory dedicated to storing words |
| the lexicon | the smallest segment of speech that leads to a meaningful difference between words |
| semantic network | the study of patterns of sequences of sounds in language |
| phonemes | a finite number of options/setting that determine how languages can vary |
| syntax | the idea that words (or concepts) are connected based on their semantic relatedness |
| phonology | the highest amplitude peaks in the frequency spectrum created by the human vocal tract |

6. True or False? If false, explain why.

a. All languages use the same set of articulatory features to create phonemes.

b. Parameters capture all linguistic variation.

c. Descriptive rules are stylistic rules for how you should speak.

d. The word “soccer” has only 1 morpheme.

e. You can see meaning in the speech signal.