

PROBLEM SET #5: SEMANTICS

There are 3 parts to this assignment; part 1 is worth 20% of the overall grade, and parts 2 and 3 are each worth 40%.

1. Draw Venn diagrams showing the relationships between each of the following sets. Make sure that it is completely clear what the boundaries of each set are. (Note that you may legibly handwrite your answers to this part of this problem set, as long as you submit a scanned image of your response as part of the PDF document that you submit via the WebCT dropbox for this assignment.) It may be helpful for you to consult a dictionary if you are unfamiliar with any of these terms.
 - (a) women ~ grandmothers ~ mothers ~ daughters ~ widows
 - (b) butter ~ margarine ~ shortening ~ olive oil ~ bacon grease
 - (c) dinosaurs ~ trees ~ things containing wood ~ tables ~ currently living things
 - (d) sheep ~ lambs ~ cats ~ hairless cats ~ things with hair
 - (e) wildebeests ~ balloons ~ backpacks ~ red things ~ gnus
 - (f) leaves ~ feathers ~ chairs ~ green things ~ brown things

2. For each of the following sentences, offer one sentence that is entailed by the given sentence. Take care that the sentence you offer is not simply a paraphrase of the given sentence.
 - (a) I recorded Pat's voice on an audiocassette
 - (b) I videotaped Pat
 - (c) My computer has grey speakers
 - (d) I dialed Pat's number on the phone in my office
 - (e) I need to clean up my office
 - (f) I have never seen a wild wildebeest

3. Each of the following sentences is ambiguous. For each sentence, determine whether the ambiguity is the result of structural or lexical ambiguity. If it is lexical ambiguity, point out the word(s) that give rise to the ambiguity, and give the meanings that result from each meaning. If it is structural ambiguity, show the syntactic structures that go with each meaning, giving the meanings that result from each structure. (If the ambiguity is both lexical and structural, do both.) Some of these may have more than two possible readings; in such cases, you can stop at two readings for that sentence.
 - (a) The old men and women left the room
 - (b) Students hate annoying professors
 - (c) Put the box on the table by the window in the kitchen
 - (d) Kids make nutritious snacks
 - (e) Milk drinkers are turning to powder