

Linguistic Principles of English Grammar, ENG 595G

Study Questions #3

Due in your first class session of week 4 (October 23rd or October 26th)

Reading: Berk, Chapter 1 (again) and beginning of 2

1. For each of the underlined constituents in the following sentences, indicate its semantic role(s) and its grammatical relation (s) (passage from "Rain", by W. S. Maugham):

a. "I'll just go down and see how she is now," said Dr. Macphail.

b. When he knocked at her door it was opened for him by Horn.

c. Miss Thompson was in a rocking chair, sobbing quietly.

d. "What are you doing there?" exclaimed MacPhail.

e. "I told you to lie down."

f. "I can't lie down. I want to see Mr. Davidson."

g. "My poor child, what do you think is the good of it? You'll

never move him."

h. "He said he'd come if I sent for him."

i. MacPhail motioned to the trader. "Go and fetch him."

2. Circle all of the nominal elements (noun phrases, pronouns) in the above passage (Hint: Not all of them are underlined).

3. Provide English example clauses that contain each of the following construction types. Try to think of examples not found in the text or mentioned in class.

a. Predicate nominal:

b. Predicate adjective:

h. Prototypical transitive clause:

i. Ditransitive clause:

4. Give an example of each type of noun mentioned below. Try to use different examples for each type, and think of examples not mentioned in the text or in class:

a. Common noun:

b. Proper noun:

c. Abstract count noun:

d. Abstract non-count noun:

e. Concrete non-count noun:

f. Collective noun:

5. List four morphosyntactic properties of nouns in English:

6. Circle the "syntactic head" of each of the following noun phrases:

a. the Queen of England's crown

b. a bunch of flowers

c. a lot of apples

d. the attorney general of the United States

e. a sensitive but not too brilliant boyfriend

f. a decorated camel-litter, which carried the daughters of the sheikh

g. a hole in the wall

j. a large number of people

h. a tall, spare, weatherbeaten man of few words

i. the tribal equivalent of regimental colours