LING 721 "Advanced Seminar 1: Questions, focus, and friends"

## **Assignment 1**

Due: September 15, before 1:30pm Email to michael.erlewine@mcgill.ca, hadas.kotek@mcgill.ca

- (1) If you weren't there on day 1, read the day 1 handout on the website.
  - a. For each of the following sentences, give (i) the prejacent proposition, (ii) the focused constituent, (iii) some alternatives to the focused constituent, and (iv) the set of alternative propositions. (See (14) in day 1 handout.)
    - i. David wears a BOW TIE when teaching.
    - ii. David wears a bow tie when TEACHING.
  - b. Paraphrase the meanings of the following sentences, based on your answers in part (a) above. (See (18) in day 1 handout.)
    - i. David even wears a BOW TIE when teaching.
    - ii. David only wears a bow tie when TEACHING.
- (2) For each of the following types, give at least one word with this type:
  - a.  $\langle \langle e, t \rangle, \langle e, t \rangle \rangle$
  - b.  $\langle \langle e, t \rangle, e \rangle$
  - c.  $\langle t, \langle t, t \rangle \rangle$
- (3) The meaning of the sentences (a) "John smokes and Mary smokes" is similar to that of (b) "John and Mary smoke."
  - a. Define a meaning for "and" that can be used in (a), using lambda notation.
  - b. Define a meaning for "and" that can be used in (b), using lambda notation.
  - c. Are the meanings you defined in (a) and (b) related to one another—that is, is there a way to derive one from the other? Why (or why not)?
- (4) Draw trees and compute the truth conditions for the following sentences. Give types and meanings for each node in the tree, using lambda notation. Define your own lexical entries as needed.
  - a. Two students gave Mary the red rose.
  - b. Fido barked quickly and loudly.
- (5) Suppose that the adjectives "common" and "wrong" are both of type  $\langle e, t \rangle$ , as we have been assuming in class.
  - a. Show that in our current system, "a common wrong answer" and "a wrong common answer" are predicted to have the same meaning. (Hint: this requires Predicate Modification.)
  - b. Does this accord with your intuitions?