LIN6049 Advanced Semantics: Puzzles in Meaning 2024/2025

Handout 2 (week 4)

- (1) [Context description: several students came to Fred's office hours. I know that. I say:]
 #The student who came to Fred's office hours asked some questions about the assignment
- (2) A student came to Fred's office hours. **The student** asked some questions about the assignment.
- (3) *Two students* came to my office hours today. **#The student** asked some questions about the assignment
- (4) A student came to Fred's office hours. The student asked some questions about the assignment. The student/she was one of many students to come to Fred's office hours today with questions about the assignment. I guess his assignment instructions were unclear
- (5) I saw [NP students] in the library studying for an exam
- (6) I saw [NP Physics students] in the library studying for an exam
- (7) *I saw student in the library studying for an exam
- (8) Akan
 Mè-tò-ò èkùtú.
 1SG-buy-PST orange
 'I bought an orange.'
- (9) Akan
 Mè-tò-ò àtààdéź bí ńnórà.
 1SG-buy-PST dress INDEF yesterday
 'I bought a dress yesterday'
- (10) Akan

Mè-tò-òàtààdé٤bíńnórà.1SG-buy-PSTdressINDEFyesterdayÀtààdé٤nóy٤f٤.dressDETCOPnice'I bought a dress yesterday.The dress was nice'

(11) Akan

Mè-tò-ò	àtààdéé		bí	ńnórà.
1SG-buy-PST	dress		INDEF	yesterday
#Àtààdéć	yέ	fè.		
dress	COP	nice		
Intended: 'I bou	ught a o	dress y	esterday.	The dress was nice'

(12) Akan

Dùá	bí	sì	m̀pómá		nó	àkyí,	nà
tree	INDEF	be.on	window		DEF	behind	and
n-nòmà	á	m̀mìÈǹsá	SÍ	só	m̀-mà	rímáá	nó
PL-bird		three	be.on	top	PL-bo	у	DEF
nyìnáá		hù-ù	à-nòm	àá	bí		
all		See-PST	sg-birc		INDEF		

'There is a tree behind the window, and three birds are sitting on it. All the boys saw a bird.'

(13) Akan

Dùá	bí	sì	mpómá	nó	àkyí,	nà
tree	INDEF	be.on	window	DEF	behind	and
n-nòmà	aá	mmìÈnsá	sí só	. m̀-ma	arímáá nó	
PL-bird		three	be.on top	PL-bc	y DEF	
nyìnáá		hù-ù	à-nòmàá	#nó		
all		SEE-PST	SG-bird	DEF		

Intended: 'There is a tree behind the window, and three birds are sitting on it. All the boys saw the bird.'

(14) Akan

[Context: Afia is sitting on a bus, when a woman she doesn't know sits down beside her. The woman says:]

Àwìà (nó) ré-bò Ènné sun DEF PRG-hit today 'The sun is shining today'

(15) Akan

[Context: Yesterday was the Ghanaian national day and there were a lot of celebrations in Accra. Your friend asks you whether you saw anyone famous. You say:]

Mè-hù-ù **omanpanin (nó)** 1SG-see-PST president DEF 'I saw the president'

(16) Akan

[Context: there is a new teacher at a school. A colleague is explaining to him how everything works. This is the beginning of the conversation, and the colleague explains to the new teacher:]

Headmaster (nó) bέ-má wò timetable headmaster DEF FUT-give 2SG timetable 'The headmaster will give you a timetable'

(17) Mauritius Creole

Later	turn	otur	soley		
earth	revolve	around	sun		
'The earth revolves around the sun'					

(18) Mauritius Creole

Enn	garso	n	ek	enn	tifi	ti	ре	lager.
one	boy		and	one	girl	PST	PROG	argue
Garso	n	la	ti	paret		an	koler	
boy		DEF	PST	appea	ar	in	rage	
tifi	la	ti	res	kalm				
girl	DEF	PST	stay	calm				
'A boy	and a g	girl wer	e argui	ng. Th	e boy s	seemed	d furious	s, the girl stayed calm.'