Final Project

DUE DATE: 4 September 2008 (in English Department mailbox 27)

READ Falk (in preparation) “Islands: Pragmatics and F-Structure” (available on the course web site)

QUESTION

This paper proposes a theory of islands within LFG in which syntactic constraints on the $wh$ path are grammaticalizations of pragmatic and other non-syntactic constraints.

Write a short paper (approx. 3–5 pages) discussing the following aspects of the reading:

1. Most approaches to island constraints assume a relatively uniform account of island constraints. This paper proposes a mixed account in which some island constraints are purely pragmatic and others have been grammaticized. Which kind of approach do you think is preferable: a uniform one or a mixed one?

2. How does the theory proposed in the paper strike a balance between too much universality and too little universality in islands. How does this compare with standard LFG accounts of islands?

3. How does the paper deal with the varying islandhood judgments in adjuncts?

4. How does the formal LFG account proposed in the paper compare with other LFG formalizations mentioned in the paper (Kaplan-Zaenen and Dalrymple)?

5. Anything else you consider relevant.