

## Introduction to Syntax: Problem Set #1

This problem set is due on Wednesday, July 6. You can turn it in either by physically handing a hard copy to either Norvin or Cristina, or by sending us a .pdf file. Please don't send us other kinds of electronic files. Feel free to consult with each other, or with us, but please write up your own answers.

1. Here's a joke from *Animal Crackers*, a 1930 Marx Brothers movie:

**I shot an elephant in my pajamas. How he got into my pajamas, I'll never know.**

Give trees for the two readings of the first sentence, and indicate which one represents the version used in the joke. Use Bare Phrase Structure to construct your trees, and don't include any "triangles"—that is, show the entire structure of the tree.

2. For purposes of this question, go back (temporarily!) to thinking about phrase structure rules as specific rules for generating NP, VP, PP, etc. (that is, rules like "VP → V (NP) (PP) (CP)") Below are some sentences from Tibetan:

- (i) nga Lhasa la 'gro giyin  
I Lhasa to go will  
'I will go to Lhasa'
- (ii) gyag-gi rca zapared  
yak grass ate  
'The yak ate the grass'
- (iii) Bkrashis-lags-gi nga shi gired se lappeded  
Tashi I die will that said  
'Tashi said that I will die'

Write the phrase structure rules that you would need to get the correct word order for Tibetan CP, VP, and PP. Compare these with the English phrase structure rules we developed in the first two days. Is there any generalization you can make about differences in word order? Try to find a single statement that holds true for all of these types of phrases.