CS6742: NLP and Social Interaction, Fall 2016
Sept. 20, 2016: Introduction to discourse analysis: Examples

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1. Anaphora as a clue to hidden sentence structure

1**(a)** Jill blames herself

1**(b)** *Jill blames himself

1**(c)** *Jill thinks Bob blames herself

1**(d)** Mary confronted Marcy all by herself

2. Anaphora as a clue to the strength of semantic constraints vs. discourse constraints. Allen's (1995, pg. 435) adaptation of Wilks [1975]. (Also discussed in Hirst [1981, pg. 55].)

John drank the wine on the table. It was brown and round.

3. Anaphora as a clue to hidden discourse structure. Adapted from Sidner [1979].

3**(a)**

1. Albert is a nice guy but a little clueless.
2. He told me he was sending me a book, but he sent it by surface mail.
3. It was actually a pretty interesting book —
4. apparently there's a weird new theory involving "sideways" quarks.
5. Anyway, I finally got it about two weeks ago.

3**(b)**

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3**(c)**

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2. He told me he was sending me a book, but he sent it by surface mail.
3. It was actually a pretty interesting book —
4. apparently there's a weird new theory involving "sideways" quarks.
5. Anyway, I finally got it about two weeks ago.
6. They've been fundamental to understanding the "new relativity".

4. Credited by Grosz and Sidner [1986] to Polanyi and Scha "forthcoming":

4**(a)** John came by and left the groceries.
4**(b)** Stop that you kids.
4**(c)** And I put them away after he left.

5. The importance of intentions, specifically *discourse segment purposes* and the recognition of DSPs. Example from Grishman [1986, pg. 157].

A1: Do you know when the train to Boston leaves?
B1: Yes.
A2: I want to know when the train to Boston leaves.
B2: I understand.

References

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