CS674, Spring 2002
Lecture Handout, 4/8/02

1. From Noam Chomsky, *Syntactic Structures*, 1957:

> It is fair to assume that neither sentence (1) [Colorless green ideas sleep furiously] nor (2) [Furiously sleep ideas green colorless] ... has ever occurred .... Hence, in any [computed] statistical model ... these sentences will be ruled out on identical grounds as equally "remote" from English.[1] Yet (1), though nonsensical, is grammatical, while (2) is not.

[1] Interestingly, this claim has become so famous as to be self-negating, as simple web searches on "Colorless green ideas sleep furiously" and its reversal will show.