

Homework # 2

Klaus Abels, Introduction to Syntax

Summerschool Wrocław 05

1 Syntactic Categories

What syntactic categories do you know in your native language or in English? I mean things like noun, verb, adjective, ... clause, nounphrase, verbphrase, subject, object, etc.

Pick two or three of them and come up with three or four properties that characterize them. What I mean by characterize is that you should come up with diagnostic properties that either work for all members of the category or that manage to pick out a particular subcategory.

For example, the present tense, third person singular ending -s in English identifies verbs. If something can appear with this ending, that something is a verb. Notice that it does not work the other way around, though because of verbs like have – *have ✓has – and be – *bes, *ares, *ams, ✓is. But it comes fairly close to picking out all the verbs of English.

This exercise should sufficiently prepare you for tomorrow.

2 Optional

Go back to the optional exercises on Homework # 1 if you haven't done them and look at them now.