

C-command is irrelevant for quantificational binding

Chris Barker, NYU

For the past 25 years (roughly, for as long as there has been something approximating the current Santa Cruz linguistics department), the field has labored under the assumption that bound anaphora, including quantificational anaphora, requires that binders c-command any pronoun that they bind. This is despite well-known systematic counterexamples, including donkey anaphora ("If John sees a donkey, he beats it") and binding out of DP ("Someone from every city hates it"). However, now that we have more sophisticated theories of semantic processing in view, we can approach quantificational binding phenomena such as weak crossover, reconstruction, and the like with something more promising than mere linear precedence. As a result, we can begin to take seriously the following claim: c-command is irrelevant for quantificational binding.