

Linguistic Analysis #4
Due Thursday, May 23

10 points

Words such as *bug* and *glasses* are ambiguous; that is, they have more than one meaning. In the sentence *The glasses are ugly*, you don't know if the glasses are drinking glasses or eyeglasses. Sentences that allow more than one structure are also ambiguous. For example, in *Mulder saw the alien with the telescope*, the phrase *with the telescope* could describe the alien or explain how the alien was seen.

Your job is to collect examples of naturally occurring ambiguities. Each example that you collect is worth 2 points for a maximum of 10 points (5 examples max). You will turn in a typed list that includes:

- The ambiguity and its origin (e.g., date, publication or speaker, etc.).
- The two or more possible meanings.
- Whether all the meanings are possible for the given sentence.
- Whether you think the ambiguity is lexical (one word with more than one meaning) or syntactic (two or more possible structures). In some cases, it may be both.

While it is okay, even encouraged, to use current headlines, you may not use the funny lists of signs and headlines, which get sent along via e-mail or otherwise published. Trust me--you can do this assignment on your own!