## Homework 4

**1. Adjectives and argument structure** In class, we discussed the argument structure of verbs and nouns. Study the following examples to determine the argument structure of adjectives. The bracketed material is an "adjective phrase". Feel free to make up additional examples if that would be helpful.

Sandy is [sick]. Alex made Sandy [sick]. The box is [green]. Pat painted the box [green]

That judge is [incompetent]. The court declared that judge [incompetent]

Dolphins are [intelligent]. I consider dolphins [intelligent].

\*Dolphins are [intelligent of communicating].

Kim is [proud].

Kim is [proud of her son]. I consider Kim overly [proud of her son].

Is the argument structure of adjectives more like that of verbs or nouns? Can adjectives appear in contexts where their argument structures are "hidden", as nouns can? Can you think of any adjectives that have a different argument structure from the ones illustrated here?

Next, consider simple compounds involving adjectives, such as *seasick*, *pea-green*, *sick-day*, and *greenhouse*. What are the argument structures of these examples?

- **2. Verb-verb compounds** In class, we discussed the argument structure of simple verbs. We have also seen verb-verb compounds in English. Below are some simple examples of how these can be used in sentences.
- a. Sandy dropkicked the ball and it went into the neighbouring yard.
- b. You should stir-fry those vegetables.
- c. Pat push-starts the car every morning since the battery died.
- d. Our company freeze-dries the beans immediately for maximum freshness.

What is the argument structure of these examples? How is the argument structure derived from the argument structure of the verb roots? Your answer should account for the syntax and semantics of these compounds. Recall that we called these dicentric compounds.

We have also seen that Chinese has very productive verb-verb compounding. Based on the examples below, does it seem to use the same rules for argument structure as English or not? You may assume that the argument structure of the verb roots in Chinese is roughly the same as that of their English translations.

- Baoyu xia-shu-le qi
  Baoyu play-lose-past chess
  'Baoyu played a game of chess and lost it.'
- 2. Jiaoda de zhuren da-ying-le zhe yi zhang. Jiaoda 's master fight-win-past this one battle 'Jiaoda's master fought and won the battle.'

- 3. Xiangling hei-hui-le zheshou shi.
  Xiangling memorize-know-past this poem
  'Xiangling tried to memorize the poem and thus learned it.'
- 4. Baoyu qi-lei-le ma.
  Baoyu ride-get.tired-past horse
  'Baoyu rode the horse and got tired.'
- 5. Ta wan-wang-le zijide zhize.he play-forget-past own duty'He played in such an absorbed way that he forgot his duty.'[note that the Chinese word for 'play' here is different from the one in (1).]