Assignment 3

1: Assuming the judgements given, give an account of the given pattern of grammaticality in terms of the argument-adjunct distinction. In particular determine what the status of of-PPs and in-PPs is.

a. i. *The discussion of the match was more animated than the one of the riots.
    ii. The discussion at the match was more animated than the one in the bar.

b. i. The discussion of the riots and their implications was full and frank.
    ii. The discussion at the match and in the bar was full and frank.
    iii. *The discussion of the riots and in the bar was full and frank.

c. i. The discussion of the riots in the bar was full and frank.¹
    ii. *The discussion in the bar of the riots was full and frank.

2. Provide trees for the bracketed NPs in the following sentences, presenting empirical arguments in each case to support your analysis.

   a. I met [a specialist in fibroptics from Reykjavik].
   b. [The journey from Dusseldorf to Paris on All Saints Day] was tiring.
   c. [The ban on chains with gang symbols in the school] has been widely appreciated.
   d. [The DJ at the club last week] rang Olafur up yesterday.

3. Evaluate the following alternative structures for [the king of England]. This evaluation will involve providing arguments for the (un)suitability of the following structures for the string the king of England.
(a.)

(b.)

¹This sentence is structurally ambiguous. Analyze both structures.
4. For this question, assume the grammaticality judgements given. Also assume that both no and lack are negative elements. You have to provide an explanation for the pattern of grammaticality seen in the following examples.

a. i. [No king of any country] abdicated.
   ii. [No king of any importance] abdicated.
   iii. [No king of any country of any importance] abdicated.

b. i. [The lack of any discipline in some schools] worried them.
   ii. *[The lack of discipline in any schools] worried them.
   iii. [The lack of teachers with any qualifications] worried them.

5. The following noun phrases are structurally ambiguous. Provide as many trees for each noun phrase as it has interpretations, and indicate which tree goes with which interpretation. Try to provide arguments for why you are associating a particular structure with a particular interpretation.

(1) a. The discussion of the problems in the office was necessary.
   b. Dogs and cats with fleas live in this house.
   c. Dogs and some cats with fleas live in this house.
   d. The juggler on the stage in a dress is a friend of Hafdis.

(Do not provide trees for the italicized parts of the above sentences. The trees should limit themselves to the NP’s.)

6. Use the constituency tests discussed in class to find the constituent structure of the construction exemplified below:

Comparatives
a. John couldn’t possibly be more surprised than Chunghye was disappointed.

b. Steve has written more books than Mark has ever read.