A. Sociolinguistics

(1) Consider this difference between reflexive pronouns in Standard American English versus another variety of English, which we will call Variety X.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Standard American English</th>
<th>English Variety X</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>myself</td>
<td>ourselves</td>
<td>myself</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>yourself</td>
<td>yourselves</td>
<td>yourself</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>himself</td>
<td>themselves</td>
<td>hisself</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>herself</td>
<td></td>
<td>herself</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>itself</td>
<td></td>
<td>itself</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

How would you describe the mental grammar for SAE and Variety X with respect to the formation of reflexive pronouns?

• Does either variety use a rule? If so, state the rule as explicitly as you can.
• Do any rules have exceptions that need to be listed in the mental lexicon?

B. Historical linguistics

(2) Change in progress: The syntactic category of fun

(a) Consider the following sentence frames.
    The party will be _____.
    My parties are more _____ than yours.
    Oscar’s parties are so_____!
    Oscar’s parties are so much _____!
    This will be a _____ party.

Indicate whether each sentence frame is grammatical or ungrammatical according to your personal mental grammar when each of the following words is inserted in the blank: fantastic (adjective), trouble (noun), and fun (?). (Optional: Survey a few friends also.)

(b) Discuss your results. In the mental grammar(s) whose data you have just observed, is fun an A, a N, or something with characteristics of both?

(3) In Modern English, we can say I was told. In Old English, speakers could say the equivalent of Me was told. However, it is not the case that me could always be used for a subject in Old English. For example, the Old English translation of Modern English I told them would be equivalent to I told them, not to *Me told them.

Look at Ch 5, sec 5.3, in our textbook. We didn’t read this section in the syntax unit, but we can use it now. Assume that the discussion in sec 5.3 applies equally to Old English and Modern English. What is different between Old and Modern English is the rule that determines when a pronoun should have subject case (like I) and when it should have object case (like me). Explain the difference between these two historical stages of English. Make sure your explanation accounts for the fact that the Old English first-person pronoun has a different case in Me was told than in I told them. Your answer should refer to syntactic structure in some way; you may want to use trees.