Assignment #5: Word classes and basic syntax

Due Thursday, March 9

(1) The word onazi ‘same’ is often used as a modifier (as its translation would suggest) — but is it an adjective, a noun, or an adjectival noun? To explore this question, use information provided on the handout “onazi data from Google search (2011).” Based on these Google search results, what can you say about the word-class status of onazi? Does it clearly belong to one class or another? Are there any word classes (from among A, N, AN) to which it clearly does not belong? For full credit, give a thoughtful and well-structured argument.

(2) Use the X-bar model to draw trees for the following sentences. You only need to show the completed tree, but be sure that the trees that you draw are compatible with the X-bar model. For these particular sentences, it is safe to use your intuitions about constituent structure in the English translations in order to make assumptions about the Japanese sentences.

(a) Ken-ga odot-ta.
   Ken-NOM dance-PST
   ‘Ken danced.’

(b) Ken-ga Aya-ni ano keeki-o age-ta.
   Ken-NOM Aya-DAT that cake-ACC give-PST
   ‘Ken gave Aya that cake.’

(c) Aya-ga Ken-ga ano keeki-o yai-ta to omot-ta.
   Aya-NOM Ken-NOM that cake-ACC bake-PST C think-PST
   ‘Aya thought that Ken baked that cake.’

(3) Consider the following sentence. Give a plausible translation into English (more than one may be possible; you only need to give one). Then draw an X-bar tree for the sentence.

Warat-ta to omo-u.

laugh-PST C think-NPST

(4) Here are some sentences that are somewhat different from examples we have examined in class. Use what you know about the X-bar model to propose trees for these cases (review the syntax handouts!). If you are unsure about a particular aspect of a structure, feel free to include an explanation of the choice that you have made, or mention alternatives.

Some hints:
- Think about subject and predicate.
- Remember that words belonging to open-class categories (X) project phrases (XP).
- Consider whether other phrases inside a particular phrase are required by the head of that phrase, or are optional additional information.

(a) Ken-ga oisi-i keeki-o yai-ta.
   Ken-NOM delicious-NPST cake-ACC bake-PST
   ‘Ken baked (a) delicious cake.’

(b) Keeki-ga oisi-katta.
   cake-NOM delicious-PST
   ‘(The) cake was delicious.’