Syntax & Semantics Quiz 1

1. Use constituency tests to show whether or not the *italicized* sequences in the sentences below are constituents (phrases) or not.

One test is enough to prove that a sequence is a constant; but use at least 2 tests to prove that a particular sequence is not a constituent.

- a. She likes her dinner cold.
- b. The handsome man offered to buy **her dinner**.
- 2. The sentence I saw a man running down the stairs with binoculars is ambiguous.
 - a. Make clear what the two meanings are by giving two unambiguous paraphrases (one for each meaning of the original sentence).
 - b. Explain using tree diagrams, how the example shows that the meaning of a sentence is partly determined by its structure.
- 3. Study the following pairs of sentences carefully and:
 - for each of the pairs of utterances identify whether the sentence in (a) is connected to the sentence in (b) by entailment or implicature
 - if they are connected by entailment, explain why this is necessarily an entailment, using proof by contradiction
 - if they are connected by implicature, describe a context which defeats the implicature

i.

- a. Usman went into a nearby house
- b. The house was not his own house

ii.

- a. It continued to rain
- b. It has been raining

iii.

- a. The baby fell off his high-chair.
- b. The baby was sitting on a high-chair.
- 4. Draw complete tree diagrams for the following:
 - a. I saw a woman with a scarf.
 - b. The man was very handsome.
 - c. The students have been revising their work diligently.
 - d. Thakuru often takes his son to the park.