9.S916, Fall 2016, Homework 3

Roger Levy

Disseminated 3 November 2016 – Due 10 November 2016

This is a lighter homework assignment and I'd like you to do it on your own, but feel free to discuss your work with others in the class.

1   Problem 1

In Pinker et al. (2008), page 834, it is stated that

> For an indirect bribe to be advantageous to the driver, his overall cost function must be nonlinear. This situation could come about if the honest and corrupt officers employ nonlinear decision functions L_h and L_c relating the probability they will act (p) to the directness of the bribe (d), and if the two decision functions are distinct.

Question: Does "could" scope over the final "and" in the last sentence of this quotation, or vice versa? That is, in order for an indirect bribe to be advantageous to the driver is it required *both* that the honest and corrupt officers employ nonlinear decision functions *and* that the two decision functions are distinct? Or can it be sufficient for only one of these two properties to hold? Figure 2 illustrates the case where both properties hold. If it is the case that it is sufficient for only one of the two properties to hold, give and explain an illustrating example.

2   Problem 2

Reflect on a memorable experience you've had in your life with a specific instance of indirect speech, describe it, and analyze it in the Pinker et al. (2008). Is the paper's rubric adequate for capturing the dynamics of your experience? (If you can't think of an experience that you're comfortable with sharing, it's fine to draw upon examples you've read or watched about from fiction or non-fiction.)