Syntax, Binding and Patterns of Anaphora, version 1.0
Ken Safir
Rutgers University

Since the inception of the Afranaph Project, the theoretical motivations for our interest in exploring the rich empirical evidence pertaining to patterns of anaphoric interpretation have been largely taken for granted, at least with respect to what has been visible on the website. However, in the course of writing a version of this essay for the Cambridge Handbook of Generative Syntax, I realized that it would be useful for visitors to the site to have a good source for references about the issues that underlie some of the areas we have chosen to focus on, both in our elicitations and in the anaphora sketches that we have written and that we will write in the future. Although this essay was originally written on the assumption that people who will read it are familiar with the assumptions of generative grammar, there are a number of issues, including those surrounding the interpretation of binding, the morphology of pronouns and anaphors, and some of he locality issues, that should still be intelligible, and hopefully useful, to those with less training in generative grammar. Besides the interpretation, locality effects and morphology of anaphoric forms and the meanings they represent, the essay also explores and evaluates leading theories and analyses designed to explain the form and distribution of anaphoric relations in natural language.