NLP   Quiz 8   22.11.2010   Name: _____

1. Consider the following utterances that occur one after the other in a dialog: "A: Can you tell me what time it is? B: Sure, it's about 12:30". What portion of sentence **B** could be considered a *rheme* **AND** what *discourse device* could the speaker use to make that clear to the listener ?

RHEME: "about 12:30"
DEVICES: The speaker could provide head or hand movement, add a pitch accent to the voice or literally show the watch

2. The following conversation takes place between a driver and passenger of a car: "P: Hit the break! D: What's wrong? P: Sheep up ahead! D: Really? P: At least one, but I'm sure the lambs are right behind her!". What is the *information status* of the following noun phrases (assume they each have a different information status!): (1) The break, (2) Sheep, (3) The lambs, (4) Her. The choices are: *Textually evoked, Situationally evoked, Inferrable, New.*

1. Situationally evoked (from driving in a car), 2. New (the driver is unaware of this new threat), 3. Inferrable (can be inferred from having sheep around), 4. Textually evoked (from the sheep that appeared earlier in the text).

3. Name at least **two** properties that could help you identify a *discourse segment* in a body of text.

Discourse markers, local context (local reference resolution), clear segment purpose (goal/intent), same topic, same background assumptions,...

4. If you come across the phrase "Ok, so anyway..." in a dialog, what is the operation that most likely was just carried out on the *attentional stack*?

As this completes a digression of some sort, it POPs a discourse state off the stack.

5. Imagine that you are a computer taking care of customers that call into a movie theatre hotline. Your job is to list movies that are showing at certain times at the theatre. You have just heard a customer say "tonight at 8 pm". Give **two different examples** of responses you could give to this input. One where you *ground implicitly* and one where you *ground explicitly.*

EXPLICIT: "Did you say 'tonight at 8pm'?"
IMPLICIT: "At 8 pm tonight we are showing the following movies..."