Exercises

1. Discuss the syntax of the following sentences:

(i) (a) She complained bitterly that he let her down.
(b) She bitterly complained that he let her down.
(c) *She complained that he let her down bitterly.

(ii) (a) He recommended to her that she should try the restaurant.
(b) He recommended the restaurant to her.
(c) * He recommended that she should try the restaurant to her.

(iii) (a) She warmly congratulated the winner.
(b) * She congratulated warmly the winner.
(c) She congratulated the winner warmly.

(iv)(a) They definitely have proved that he is innocent.
(b) They have definitely proved that he is innocent.
(c) * They have proved definitely that he is innocent.

Model for answer 1

Assuming that *bitterly* can modify a verbal projection and so serve as a VP/vp adverb and that adverbial modifiers are adjoined to the left of the constituent they modify, we have the structure below and the ungrammaticality of (i) (c) is attributed to the fact that the adverb *bitterly* is in VP or vp -final position. But as sentence (i) (a) has *bitterly* is a VP -initial position and sentence (i) (b) has *bitterly* is a vp -initial position, they are grammatical.