PROJECT 2

This is the second of four projects to be assigned this semester in Linguistic Applications in ESL.   It is due in class on **Tuesday, July 29**, 2003.

Introduction

Your textbook (on p. 12) develops the concept of the distinction between a speaker's **linguistic competence** and **linguistic performance**. Competence consists of what a speaker knows about a language; this knowledge can be both explicit and implicit. Performance reflects what happens when the speaker actually uses the language. Slips of the tongue such as spoonerisms occur, irregular plurals like *mice* come out instead as *mouses*, and so on.

Your task this week is to collect examples of performance errors that you hear in the speech around you. You will categorize these errors and report on your findings.

Procedures

1) Throughout the coming week, listen carefully to the people around you as they speak.
2) Keep a notebook handy. Write down examples of performance errors in the speech that you hear.
3)   Make a note of the context of each example — that is, who was speaking? who was listening or participating in the conversation? What was the relationship of the participants? Where did this take place?
4) Categorize each performance error. Was it lexical? morphological? syntactic? phonological? (We're less interested in phonological errors at this point in the course.)
5) For each example, make a note of how you think the speaker's competence differs from his or her performance.
6) Choose 6 examples that reflect different categories of performance error and write a 3-5 page report in which you include the example and related information from points 3, 4, and 5 above.   Draw a tree — as best you can — to reflect the speaker's performance and underlying competence for each example. Comment on what you find most interesting about the performance errors.

NOTE: Collect your examples from spontaneous speech, and not from scripted language. Do not use examples that allow speakers to be identified unless you receive permission from the speaker (or the speaker is a public figure).

To hand in on July 29

1) Your 3-5 page report