Choose either your dialogue sample or your text/monologue sample for this assignment. Identify all the noun-phrase referring expressions used in your sample; both definite descriptions and pronouns must be identified. Apply one of the pronoun-resolution algorithms discussed in class or covered in the readings to five third-person pronouns (he, she, it, they or their equivalents) appearing in the sample. To the extent you can, discuss constraints on the speaker or writer's generation of these pronouns (e.g., explain why a pronoun rather than a full definite description is chosen), as well as explaining the way a hearer or reader would interpret them according to the algorithm.

Be sure to indicate clearly at the top of the first page the algorithm you are using.

The assignment should include all of the following:

1. Your whole discourse with the referring expressions—pronouns and definite descriptions—marked and the utterances to which you have applied the algorithm or formalism clearly indicated.

2. A step-by-step simulation of the algorithm applied to the selected portion(s) of the sample. Clearly indicate the utterance(s) that provide the background referents that are possible antecedents for each pronoun.

3. A critique of the algorithm (3-5 pages in length). This is an important part of the assignment; it should include discussion of questions like the following: Does the algorithm handle the referring expressions in your discourse? If not, can you locate the source of the problem? What ideas can you suggest to fix the problems (i.e., can you provide a modified algorithm)?

Some examples of algorithms you might use follow. These are only suggestions. You may use any of the algorithms in the required or background readings. It is also possible to use other algorithms (e.g., one you find from a reference list in one of the readings), but you must get approval from Professor Grosz first.

- Lappin and Leass (1994): there's a description in Jurafsky and Martin; you might also read the original paper.
- Hobbs (1978): there's a description in Jurafsky and Martin; you might also read the original paper.
- Brennan et al. (1987): there's a description in Jurafsky and Martin; you might also read the original paper.
- Tetreault (1999)