Using the Online LaTeX Previewer for Drawing Trees

LGCS 105: Syntax

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1 What is LaTeX?

- LaTeX is a system for preparing documents with high-quality type-setting. One way to think of it is as the equivalent of the code, or engine, that makes apps like Microsoft Word work. LaTeX itself doesn't come with a user interface, so people use many different applications to access LaTeX.

- LaTeX is a very powerful tool for creating well-formatted documents, and is especially good at producing complicated graphics, equations, diagrams, etc.

- If you want to write your papers in LaTeX let me know and I can point you to some resources.

2 Using The Online Previewer

In this class we will only be using LaTeX for drawing trees using the online previewer, rather than using it to write entire papers. You can type the structure of a tree into the web app, preview and then download the image of that tree, and then drag & drop that image into Microsoft Word or another word processor.

1. First, go to the following URL: `http://www.tlhiv.org/ltxpreview/`. (Or, google "latex previewer" and it will bring you to the same spot.)

2. At the bottom of the page, click on "Packages," which will bring up a list of available packages on the right side of the page.

3. When first learning to draw trees, the only package we need is "qtree" - select "qtree" from the "Available" list on the left and click the right-arrow button to move it to the "Included" list.

4. Later in the course, you will find the packages "tipa" and "tree-dvips" useful. (These are useful for drawing arrows in trees, and for inserting IPA characters, but neither of these are necessary at the beginning.)

5. Use the document "Trees in LaTeX" to write in the code to draw a tree structure.

6. Click "Preview" on the bottom left of the page and the previewer will draw the tree on the right side of the page (if the code has been constructed correctly).

7. From the dropdown menu on the bottom right that says "Download," click a format that you would like to download your image in. PDF seems to give the clearest image for me, but you may find other formats better. Your web browser will then download the file.

8. From your Downloads folder on your computer (or, wherever your browser puts downloaded files), drag & drop the downloaded file into your Word document (or into whatever app you are using to write your paper).