Binding Theory

Binding theory accounts for the distribution of nominal expressions. Three basic types of nominal expressions are distinguished:

1. R-expressions (i.e. nouns)
2. anaphors (i.e. reflexive pronouns)
3. pronouns (i.e. personal pronouns)

Describe the distribution of the three types of expressions based on the following examples:

(1) **John** likes Mary.

(2) *He_1 likes **$John_1$**.

(3) *He_1 thinks that I like **$John_1$**.

(4) **He** likes Mary.

(5) *$John_1$ likes **him_1**.

(6) $John_1$ thinks that I like **him_1**.

(7) $John_1$ likes **$himself_1$**.

(8) $John_1$ believes **$himself_1$** to be sick.

(9) *$John_1$ thinks that I like **$himself_1$**.

Consider now the sentences in (10) to (12). Modify your description of the distributional properties such that it also accounts for these sentences.

(10) ***$John's_1$** mother likes **$John_1$**.

(11) **$John's_1$** mother likes **him_1**.

(12) ***$John's_1$** mother likes **$himself_1$**.