

Syntactic Theory 2

Homework 3: Bare Phrase Structure and Linearization

Due 03/14

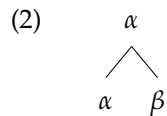
Dustin A. Chacón

February 17, 2017

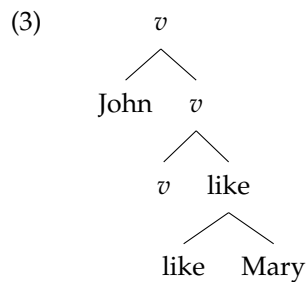
In this homework, we'll explore the ways that linearization and bare phrase structure interact. After abandoning D-Structure, our theory has one primary phrase structure component Merge, which takes two syntactic objects and creates an unordered, labeled pair, which selects one as the "label"

$$(1) \quad \text{Merge}(\alpha, \beta) = \{\alpha, \{\alpha, \beta\}\}$$

For readability's sake, we may represent the output of Merge using the more familiar tree notation:

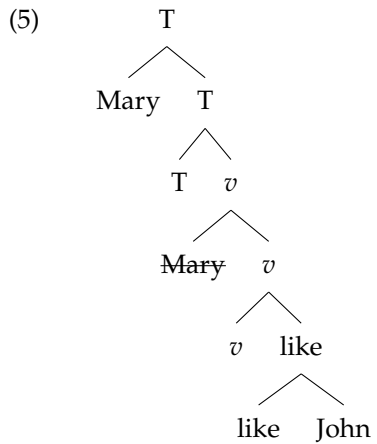


This produces trees without bar-levels:

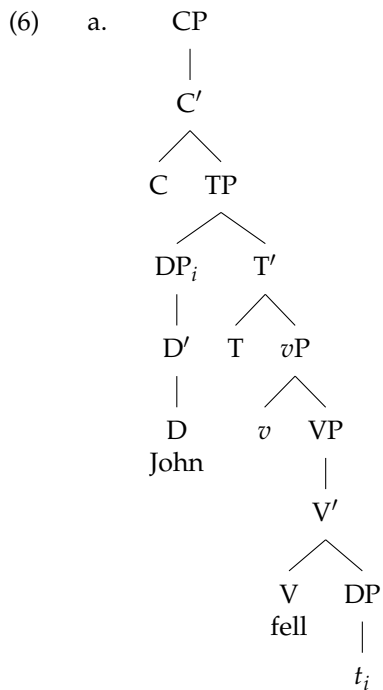


Additionally, because of the Inclusiveness Condition and the No Tampering Condition, we assume the copy theory of movement, i.e., there are no traces.

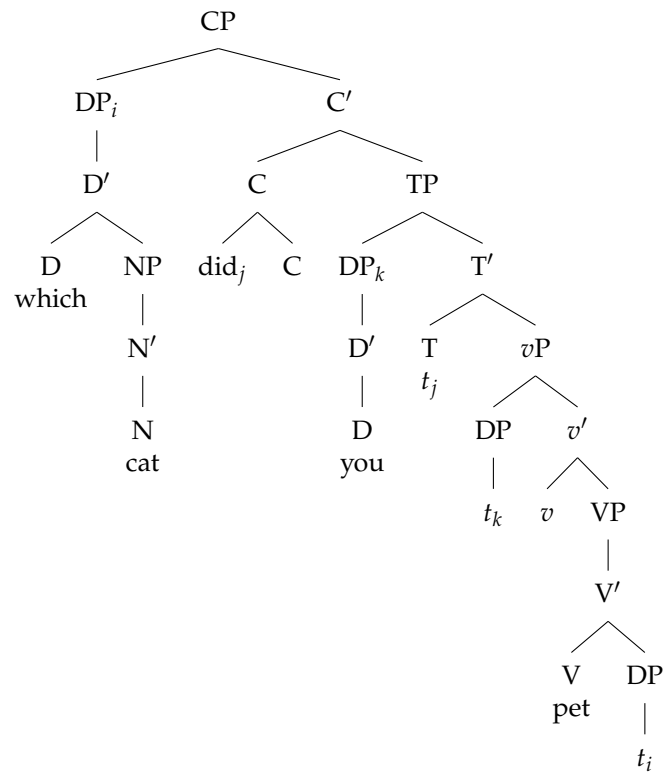
- (4)
- a. Merge(like,John) = [like like John]
 - b. Merge(v,like) = [v v [like like John]]
 - c. Merge(Mary,v) = [v Mary [v v [like like John]]]
 - d. Merge(T,v) = [T T [v Mary [v v [like like John]]]]
 - e. Merge(Mary,T) = [T Mary [T T [v Mary [v v [like like John]]]]]



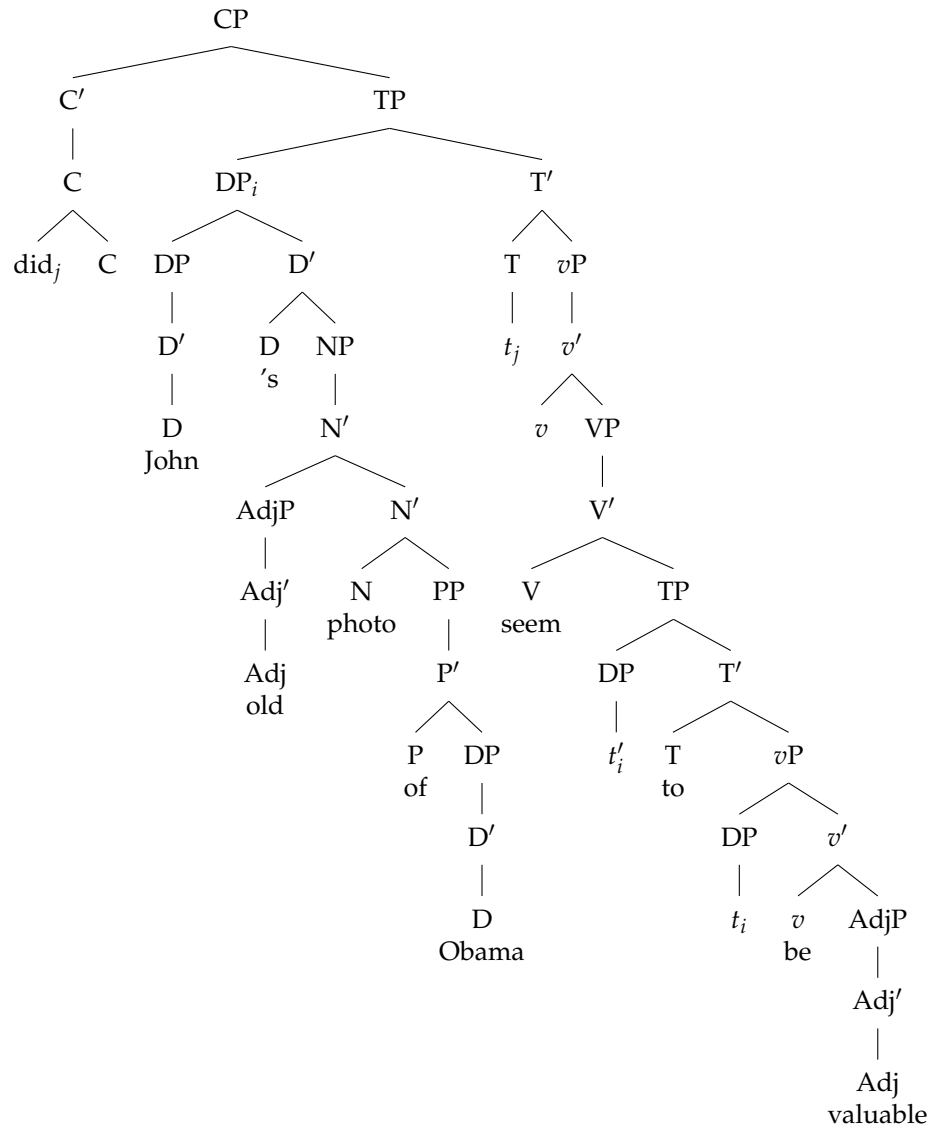
A. (10 points). Translate the following three trees from their GB S-Structure representation to their BPS representation Spell-Out representation. You may either use set notation or tree notation. For this exercise, please do not use the GB-esque “short-hand” representations – i.e., your answers should not include t , XP , X' , etc. Be sure that lower copies are represented. For the moment, treat head-movement on par with head-movement in GB, i.e., assume that head movement targets and adjoins to the next highest head, despite the extension condition.



b.

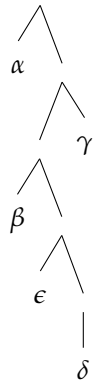


c.

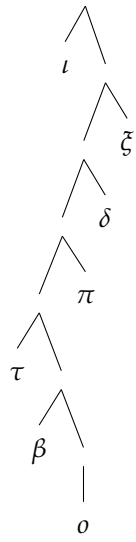


B. (10 points). Kayne's (1994) Linear Correspondence Algorithm tells us that if α c-commands β , then $\alpha \prec \beta$ at PF. Provide the linearizations for the following four (abstract, non-X'-Theory-compliant) trees. One of these is unlinearizable.

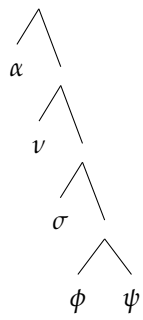
(7) a.



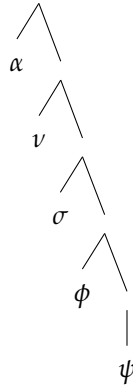
b.



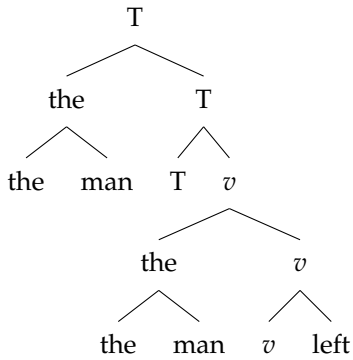
c.



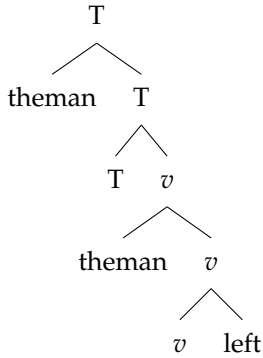
d.



C. (10 points). The following structure is unlinearizable given the LCA. There are two parts of the tree that leads to problems. Identify the problem.



To resolve this, Uriagereka (1999) proposes that specifiers undergo Spell-Out before merger, in what is called the "Multiple Spell-Out Model". Thus, the proper derivation for the sentence is as below:



D. (10 points). This resolves one linearization issue, but leaves another unresolved. Explain how Spelling Out specifiers before merger solves one issue, and identify the issue that remains. **Hint:** Remember that we have two copies of *theman*! How is it spelled out relative to the other words in the structure?

Next, let's examine the subject/object asymmetry in English. We find that subjects are islands for extraction, but not objects:

- (8) a. Who did you believe [_{the} the rumor about ~~wh_o~~]?
 b. *Who did [_{the} the rumor about ~~wh_o~~] surprise you?

E. (10 points). Assume Uriagereka's proposal that specifiers are Spelled-Out as a complex word before Merge in order to be linearized. Can we explain the subject/object asymmetry in English? Hint – words are islands:

- (9) a. John is a big steak-eater.
 b. *What is John a big ~~what~~-eater?

F. (10 points). Next, examine the two sentences. Assume Uriagereka's idea that specifiers are spelled-out in order to be linearizable. How would we explain the following contrast?

- (10) a. [_{CP} De qué autora [_{TP} [_{VP} han ganado muchos permios internacionales las traducciones ~~de qué autora~~]]]
 Of what author have won many prizes international the translations
 'Of what author did the the translations of ~~what author~~ win many international prizes?'
 b. *[[_{CP} De qué autora [_{TP} las traducciones ~~de qué autora~~ [_{VP} han ganado muchos permios internacionales]]]
 Of what author the translations have won many prizes international
 intended: 'Of what author did the the translations of ~~what author~~ win many international prizes?'

G. (10 points). Next, examine the following sentence from Spanish, in which a DP is extracted from a *wh*-phrase in Spec,CP. Is this surprising, given your explanation of subject islands in English on the asymmetries in question F? If so, can you think of an alternative explanation for why this might occur? (There is no real "right answer" here)

- (11) De qué autora no sabes [_{CP} qué traducciones ~~de qué autora~~ están a la venta]
 of what author NEG you.know what translations are on sale
 'Of what author don't you know which translations are on sale?'
 For which author *x*, you don't know which translations of *x* are on sale

H. (10 points). Let's assume the strong version of the LCA – namely, $\alpha < \beta$ iff α c-commands β . This entails that a complement that precedes its head must have moved to a higher specifier position that c-commands its head. Are the following examples for Uriagereka's Spell-Out-based analysis of subject/object asymmetries? Why or why not? (Both positions are arguable here).

- (12) a. Tarō-ga [_{CP} Hanako-ga nani-o tabeta-to] itt-eta-no?
 Taro-NOM Hanako-NOM what-ACC ate-C say-ASP-Q?
 'What was Taro saying that Hanako ate?' (Japanese)

- b. Ram [CP Sita kəkhon khabe] bollo?
 Ram Sita when will eat said
 'When did Ram say that Sita will eat?' (Bangla)

I. (10 points). Next, examine the following sentences. In both cases, the *wh*-phrase has been overtly scrambled out of the embedded clause. Is this surprising given the strong version of the LCA and Uriagereka's Multiple Spell-Out analysis of specifier/complement asymmetries? Why or why not?

- (13) a. Nani-o Tarō-ga [CP Hanako-ga nani-o tabeta-to] itt-eta-no?
 what-ACC Taro-NOM Hanako-NOM ate-C say-ASP-Q? (Japanese)
 'What was Taro saying that Hanako ate?'
 b. Ram kəkhon [CP Sita kəkhon khabe] bollo?
 Ram when Sita will eat said
 'When did Ram say that Sita will eat?' (Bangla)

J. (10 points). Any questions/comments/concerns about Merge, Linearization, or Spell-Out?

Bibliography

Kayne, Richard. 1994. *The Antisymmetry of Syntax*. Cambridge: MIT Press.

Uriagereka, Juan. 1999. Multiple Spell Out. In S. Epstein & N. Hornstein (eds.) *Working Minimalism*. Cambridge: MIT Press.