

Morphosyntax

Pavel Caha

A puzzle

- (1) a. t-a žen-a
the-fem.nom woman-fem.nom

A puzzle

- (1) a. t-a žen-a
 the-fem.nom woman-fem.nom
- b. t-u žen-u
 the-fem.acc woman-fem.acc

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- b. t-u žen-u
 the-fem.acc woman-fem.acc
- c. t-é žen-y
 that-fem.gen woman-fem.gen

full paradigm, fem

	that, FEM.SG	woman, FEM.SG	good, FEM
NOM	žen-a	t-a	dobr-á
ACC	žen-u	t-u	dobr-ou
GEN	žen-y	t-é	dobr-é
LOC	žen-ě	t-é	dobr-é
DAT	žen-ě	t-é	dobr-é
INS	žen-ou	t-ou	dobr-ou

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NOM	žen-a	t-a	dobr-á
ACC	žen-u	t-u	dobr-ou
GEN	žen-y	t-é	dobr-é
LOC	žen-ě	t-é	dobr-é
DAT	žen-ě	t-é	dobr-é
INS	žen-ou	t-ou	dobr-ou

full paradigm, neut

	that, FEM.SG	woman, FEM.SG	good, FEM
NOM	lét-o	t-o	dobr-é
ACC	lét-o	t-o	dobr-é
GEN	lét-a	t-o-ho	dobr-é-ho
LOC	lét-ě	t-o-m	dobr-é-m
DAT	lét-ě	t-o-mu	dobr-é-mu
INS	lét-em	t-ím /i:m/	dobr-ým /i:m/

CLASS	PREFIX	DA	SC	OC	AC	a	b	c	d	e
1	u-m-	u	u-	m-	m-		u		m	
2	a-ba-	a-ba	ba-	ba-	ba-	a-		ba		
3	u-m-	u	u-	u-	m-		u		m	
4	i-mi-	i	i-	i-	mi-		i		mi	
5	i-li-	i-li	li-	li-	li-	i-		li		
6	a-ma-	a-	a-	a-	ma-		a		ma	
7	i-si-	i-si	si-	si-	si-	i-		si		
8	i-zi-	i-zi	zi-	zi-	zi-	i-		zi		
9	i-N-	i	i-	i-	i-N		i			N
10	i-zi-N	i-zi	zi-	zi-	zi-n	i-		zi		N

Russian

Table: Declension II and a feminine DEM (Timberlake 2004)

	woman DECL II	this FEM.SG	notebook III, FEM.SG
NOM	žen-a	et-a	tetrád'-Ø
ACC	žen-u	et-u	tetrád'-Ø
GEN	žen-y	et-o-j	tetrád'-i
LOC	žen-e	et-o-j	tetrád'-i
DAT	žen-e	et-o-j	tetrád'-i
INS	žen-o-j	et-o-j(u)	tetrád'-ju

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NOM	žen-a	et-a	krasn-a-ja	tetrád'-Ø
ACC	žen-u	et-u	krasn-u-ju	tetrád'-Ø
GEN	žen-y	et-o-j	krasn-o-j	tetrád'-i
LOC	žen-e	et-o-j	krasn-o-j	tetrád'-i
DAT	žen-e	et-o-j	krasn-o-j	tetrád'-i
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ACC	žen-u	et-u	krasn-u-ju ?	tetrád'-Ø
GEN	žen-y	et-o-j	krasn-o-j	tetrád'-i
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ACC	žen-u	et-u	krasn-u-ju ?	tetrád'-Ø	et-o
GEN	žen-y	et-o-j	krasn-o-j	tetrád'-i	et-o-go
LOC	žen-e	et-o-j	krasn-o-j	tetrád'-i	et-o-m
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The problem of declension classes

Features

Phrasal spellout (Starke 2018)

The basic intuition

Decomposing case

Number, Gender, declension

Declension III

Declension IV

The problem of declension classes

- (2) Two noun stem (roots)
 - a. **metel'**- (snowstorm)
 - b. **nedel'**- (week)

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- ▶ Corbett (1982) “both of these are feminine, and both have a stem ending in a soft consonant, but they decline differently.”

The problem of declension classes

- (2) Two noun stem (roots)
 - a. metel'- (snowstorm)
 - b. nedel'- (week)

► Corbett (1982) “both of these are feminine, and both have a stem ending in a soft consonant, but they decline differently.”

- (3) The nominative
 - a. metel'-∅ (snowstorm)

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► Declension class membership is arbitrary

The problem of declension classes

Table: The full paradigms (Timberlake 2004)

	lip II (FEM)	notebook, III (FEM)
NOM	gub-á	tetrád'-Ø
ACC	gub-ú	tetrád'-Ø
GEN	gub-ý	tetrád'-i
LOC	gub-é	tetrád'-i
DAT	gub-é	tetrád'-i
INS	gub-ój	tetrád'-ju

The problem of declension classes

Table: The four declensions (Timberlake 2004)

	factory I (MASC)	place IV (NEUT)	lip II (FEM)	notebook, III (FEM)
NOM	zavód-Ø	mést-o	gub-á	tetrád'-Ø
ACC	zavód-Ø	mést-o	gub-ú	tetrád'-Ø
GEN	zavód-a	mést-a	gub-ý	tetrád'-i
LOC	zavód-e	mést-e	gub-é	tetrád'-i
DAT	zavód-u	mést-u	gub-é	tetrád'-i
INS	zavód-om	mést-om	gub-ój	tetrád'-ju

Introduction

- ▶ how to force that week-INS is nedel'-ju
and not *nedel'-ej

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(5) a. nedel' = [N, II]

Introduction

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- (5) a. nedel' = [N, II]
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- (6) Müller (2003)

- a. I: $[+\alpha, -\beta]$
- b. II: $[-\alpha, +\beta]$
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- d. IV: $[+\alpha, +\beta]$

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- ▶ “Inflection class features are arbitrary and irreducible by definition; this is reflected in the labels. Still, it is worth emphasizing that the features $[+/-\alpha]$, $[+/-\beta]$ are no more arbitrary than standardly adopted features like [class I], [class II].”

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- ▶ **Word & Paradigm** (Blevins 2016)
 - ⇒ Words are more than pure sums of their parts and should not be decomposed
- ▶ Arbitrary diacritics are only needed to “restore information about the co-occurrence of stems and exponents” (which has been lost after decomposition).

Declension Features vs. UG

Chomsky (2004):

FL appears to be a species property, close to uniform across a broad range. It has a genetically-determined initial state S_0 , which determines the possible states it can assume. [...] S_0 determines the set $\{F\}$ of properties (“features”) available for languages.

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[Haspelmath \(2007\):](#)

“descriptive linguists still have no choice but to adopt the Boasian approach of positing special language-particular categories for each language. Theorists often resist it, but the crosslinguistic evidence is not converging on a smallish set of possibly innate categories” (p. 119).

The research question

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- ▶ What we need:
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 - (ii) a hierarchy of features
- ▶ As a side-effect, the analysis also avoids context specifications

The problem of declension classes

Features

Phrasal spellout (Starke 2018)

The basic intuition

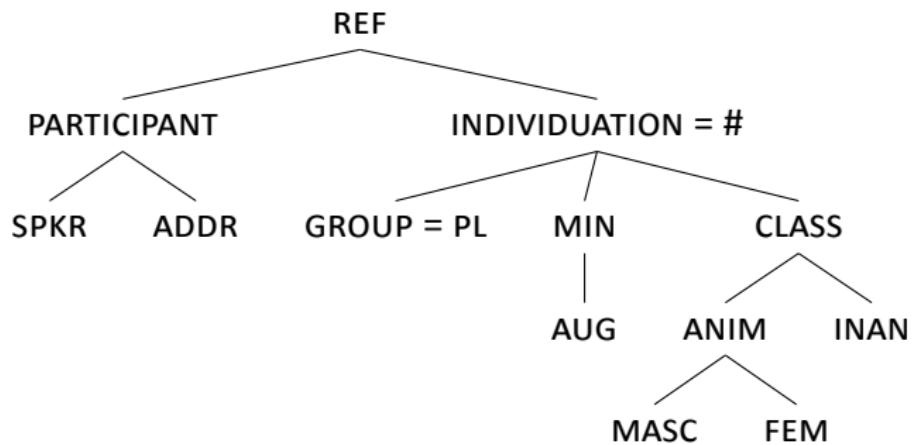
Decomposing case

Number, Gender, declension

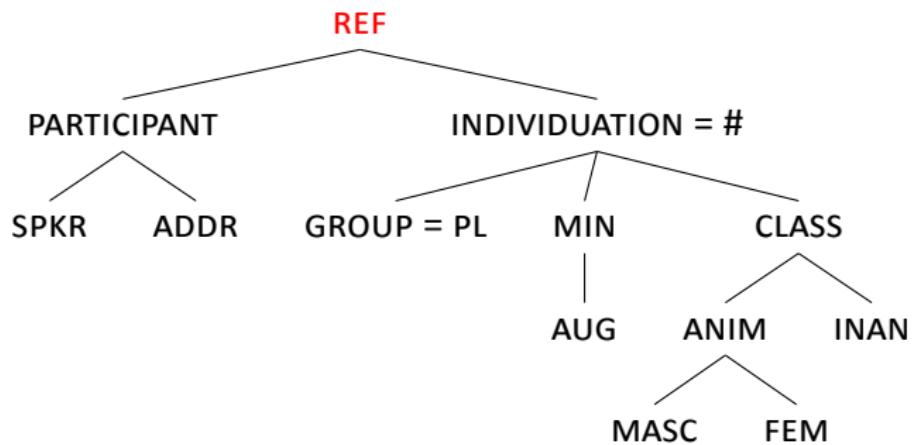
Declension III

Declension IV

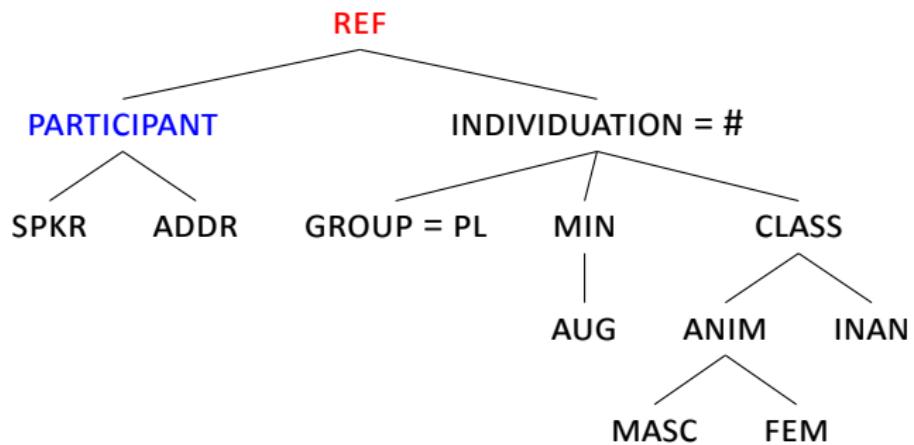
Harley & Ritter (2002)

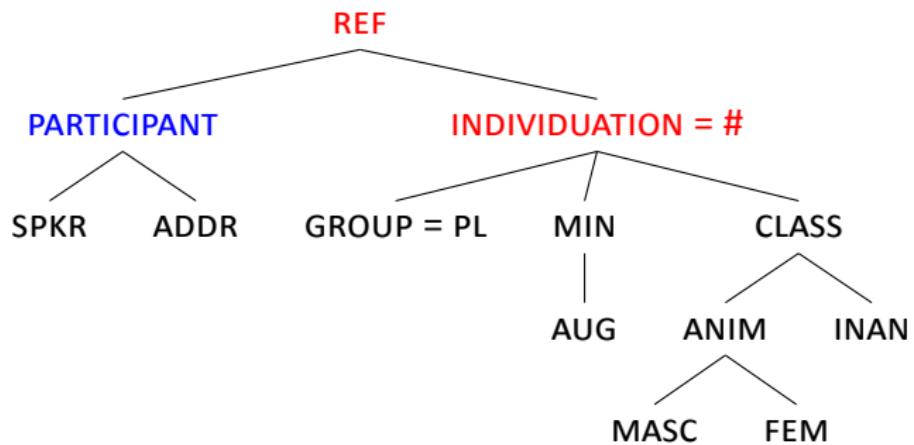


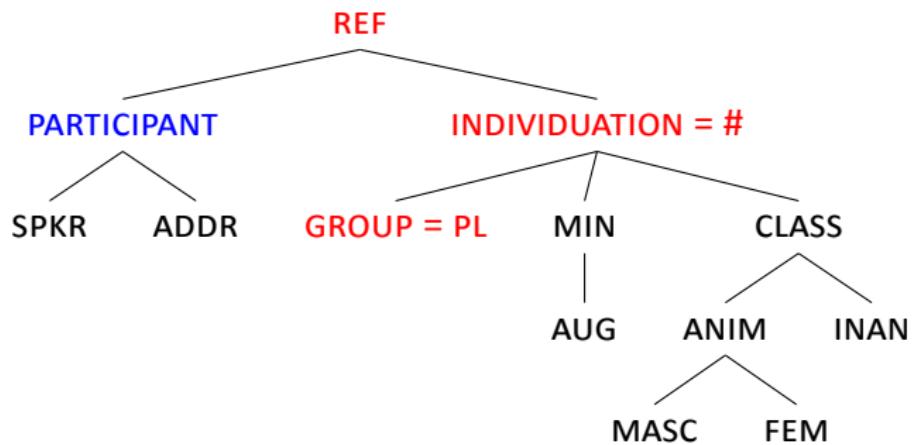
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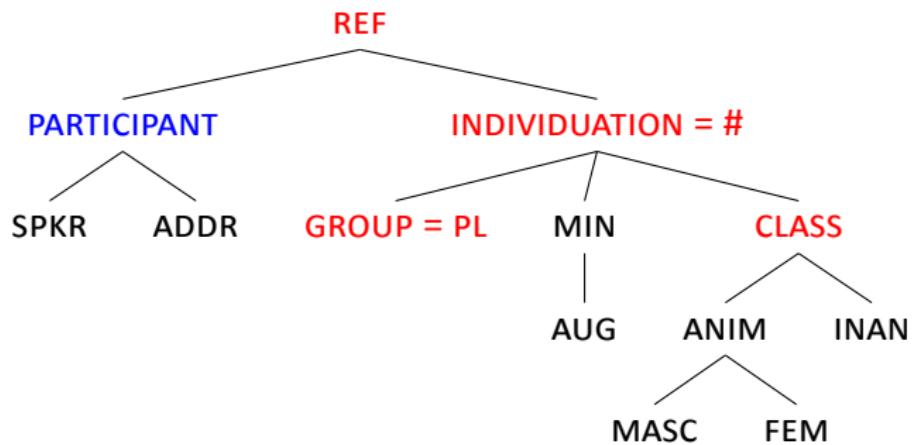


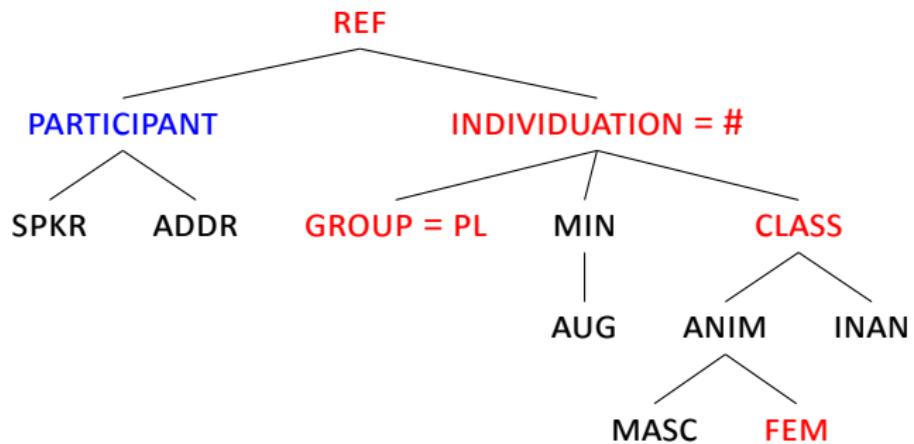
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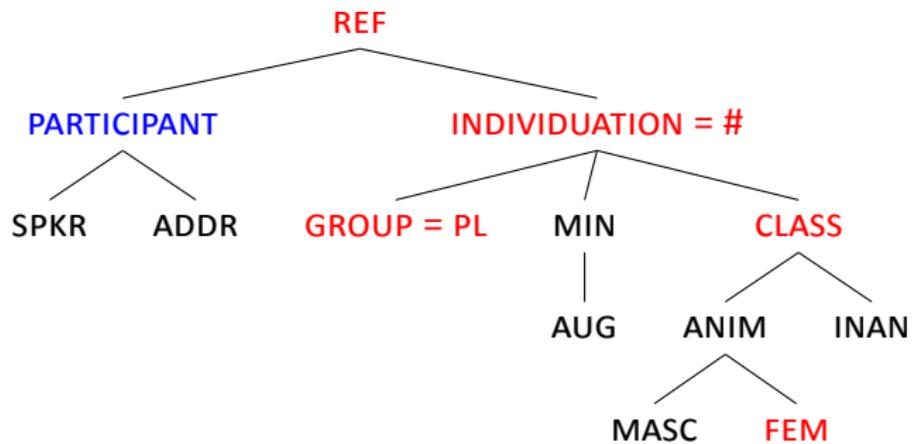






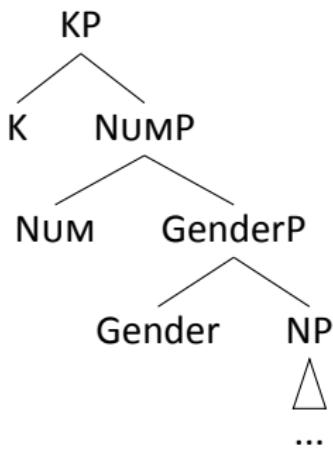


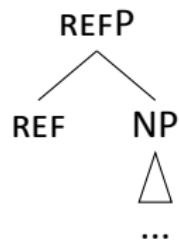


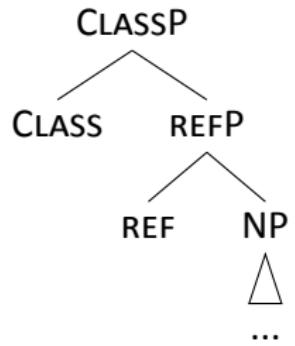


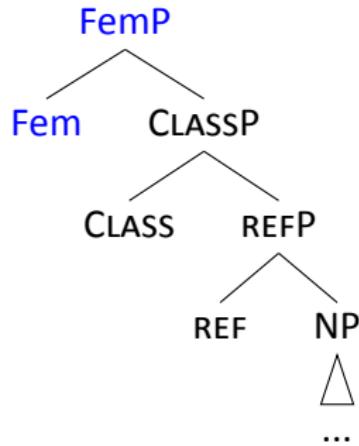
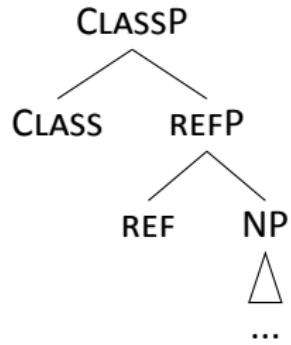
I also need case features

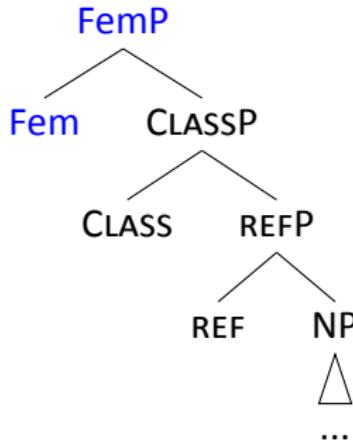
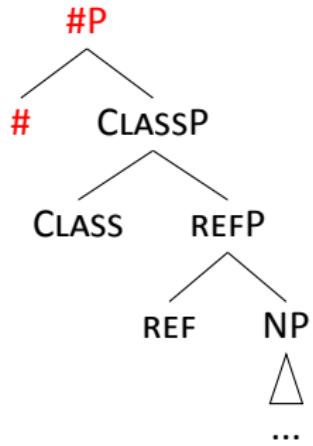
The general architecture of the NP

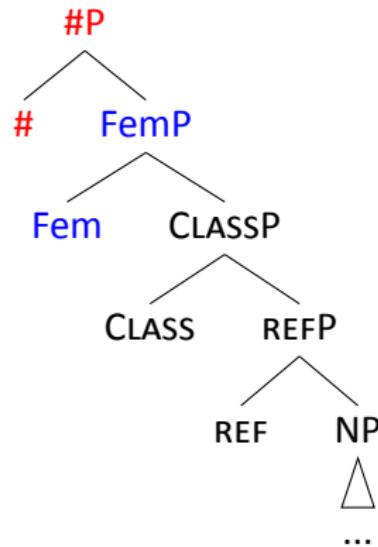
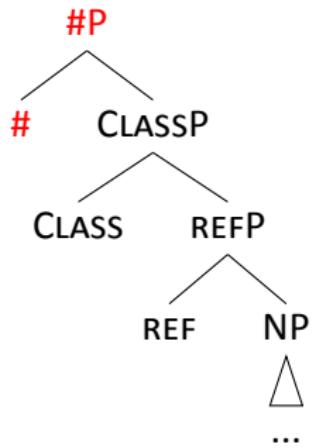


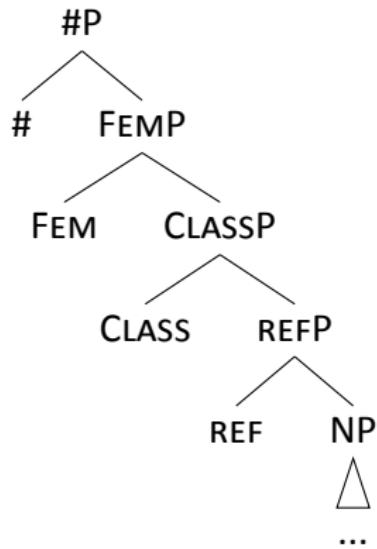


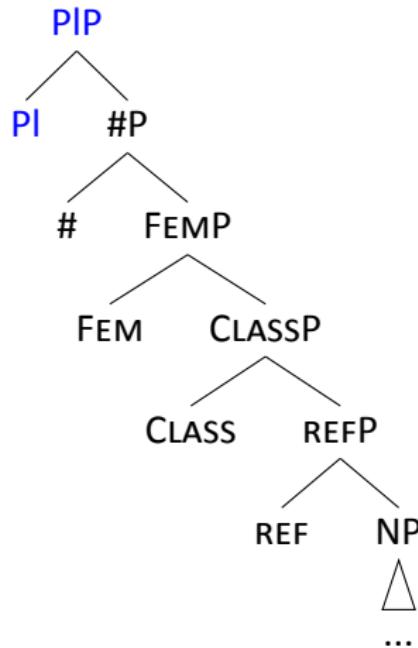
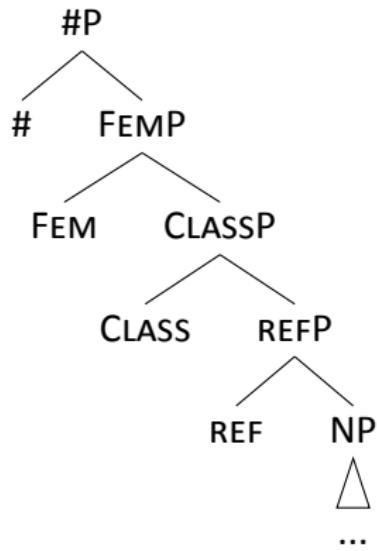


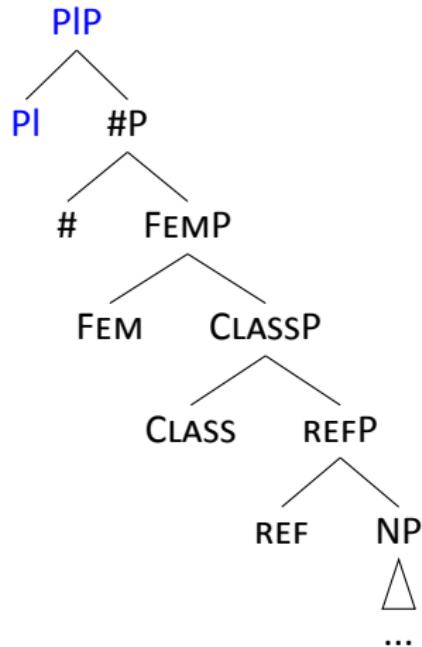
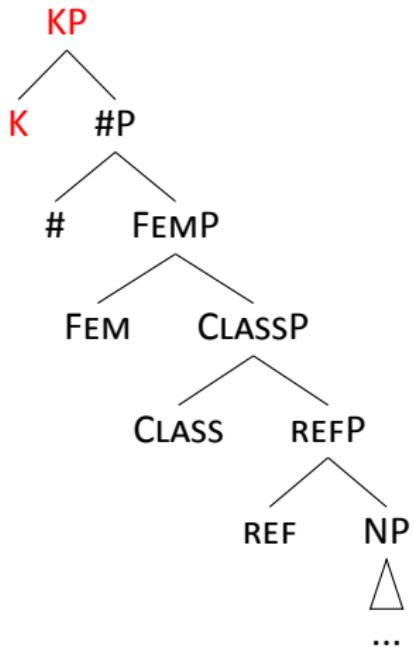


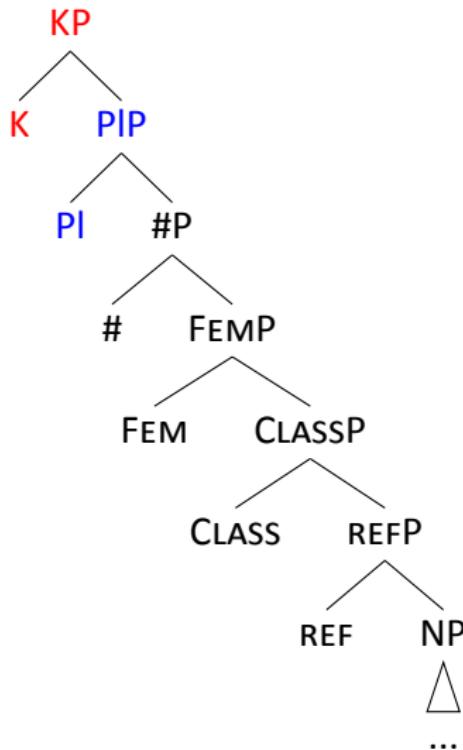
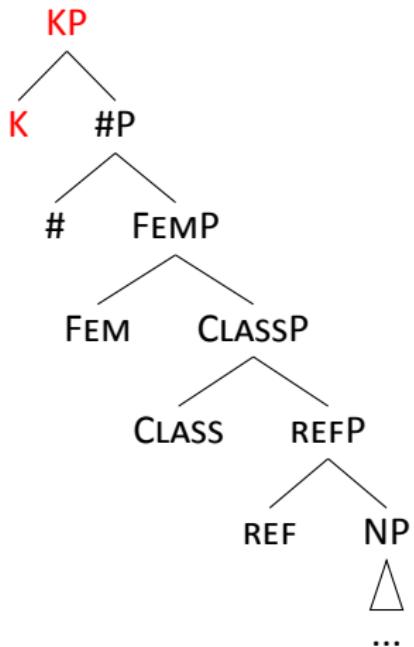












The problem of declension classes

Features

Phrasal spellout (Starke 2018)

The basic intuition

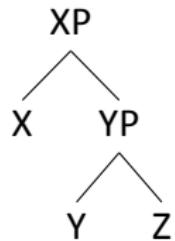
Decomposing case

Number, Gender, declension

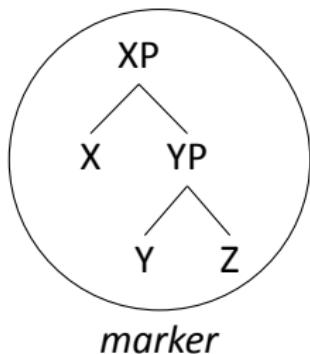
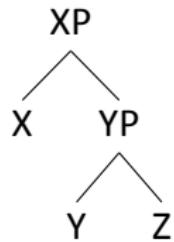
Declension III

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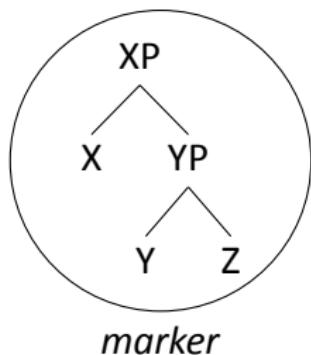
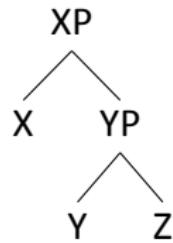
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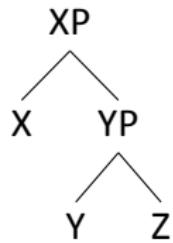


Phrasal spellout (Starke 2018)



marker

\Leftrightarrow

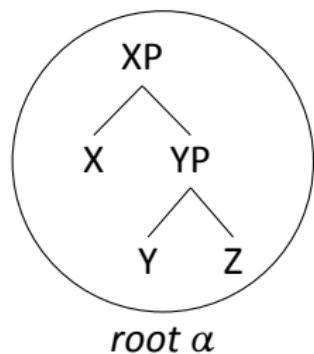


Phrasal spellout (Starke 2018)

- ▶ Roots come in different sizes Vanden Wyngaerd et al. 2020)

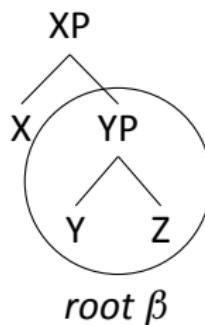
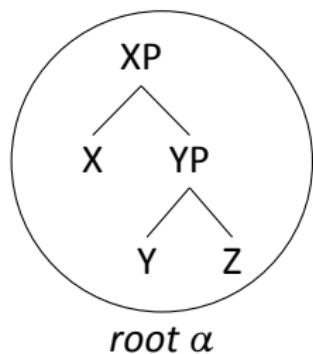
Phrasal spellout (Starke 2018)

- ▶ Roots come in different sizes Vanden Wyngaerd et al. 2020)



Phrasal spellout (Starke 2018)

- ▶ Roots come in different sizes (Vanden Wyngaerd et al. 2020)



Phrasal spellout (Starke 2018)

(8) English plural

Phrasal spellout (Starke 2018)

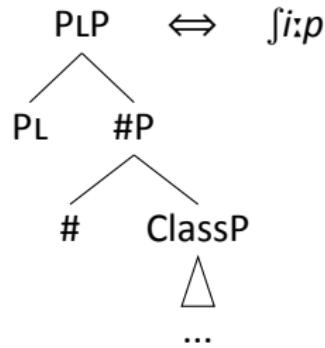
- (8) English plural
- a. sheep — sheep (syncretism)

Phrasal spellout (Starke 2018)

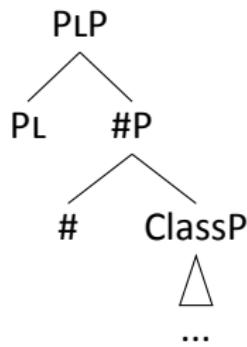
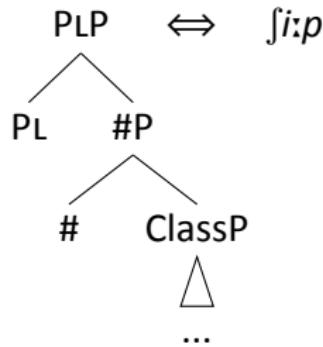
(8) English plural

- a. sheep — sheep (syncretism)
- b. cat — cat-s (stacking)

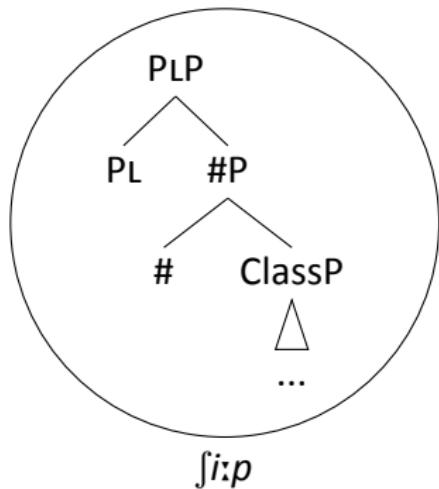
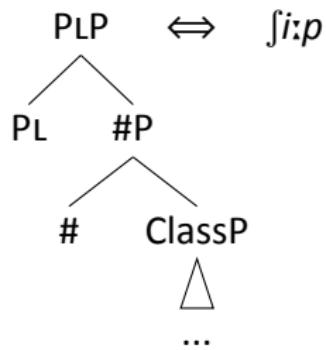
Phrasal spellout (Starke 2018)



Phrasal spellout (Starke 2018)



Phrasal spellout (Starke 2018)

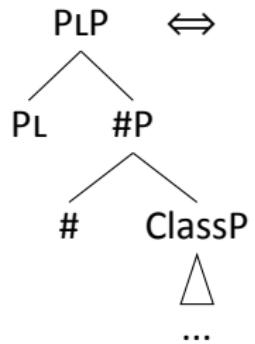


(9) *Superset Principle* (Starke 2009)

A lexically stored tree L matches a syntactic node S iff L contains the syntactic tree dominated by S as a subtree

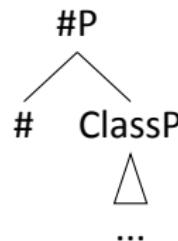
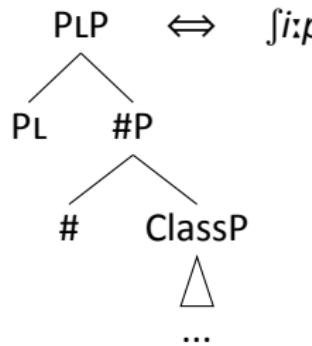
(9) *Superset Principle* (Starke 2009)

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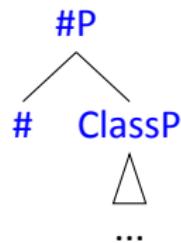
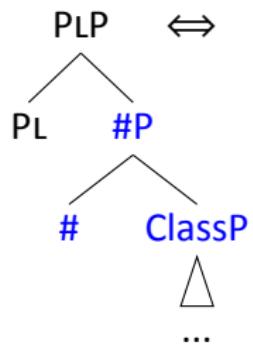
(9) *Superset Principle* (Starke 2009)

A lexically stored tree L matches a syntactic node S iff L contains the syntactic tree dominated by S as a subtree



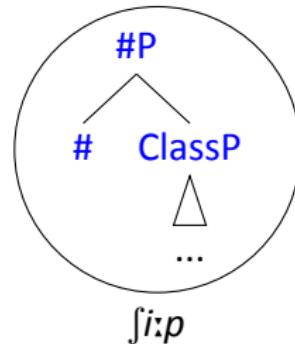
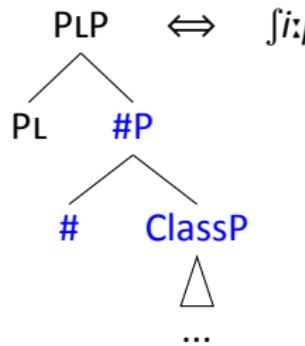
(10) *Superset Principle* (Starke 2009)

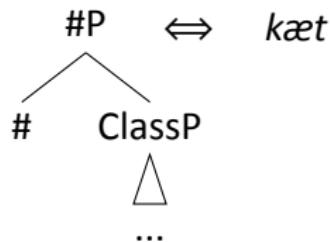
A lexically stored tree L matches a syntactic node S iff L contains the syntactic tree dominated by S as a subtree

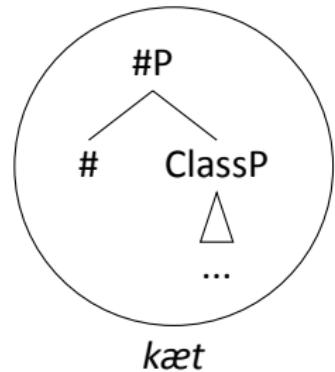
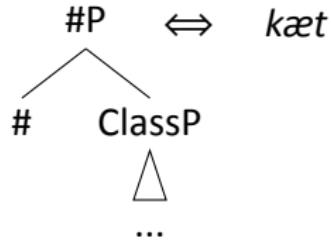


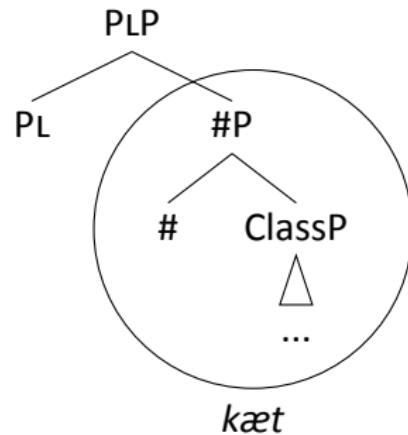
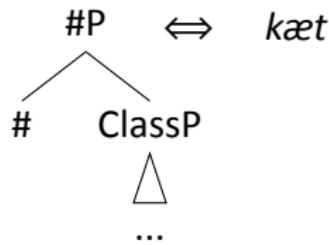
(11) *Superset Principle* (Starke 2009)

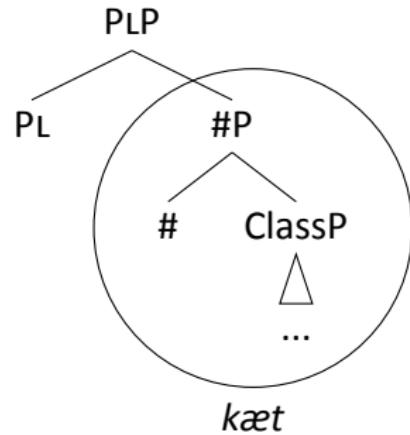
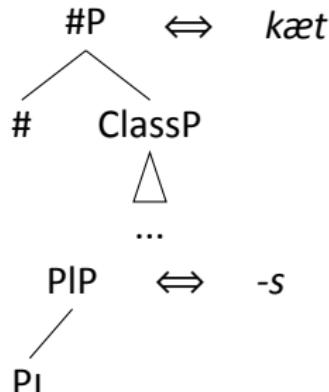
A lexically stored tree L matches a syntactic node S iff L contains the syntactic tree dominated by S as a subtree

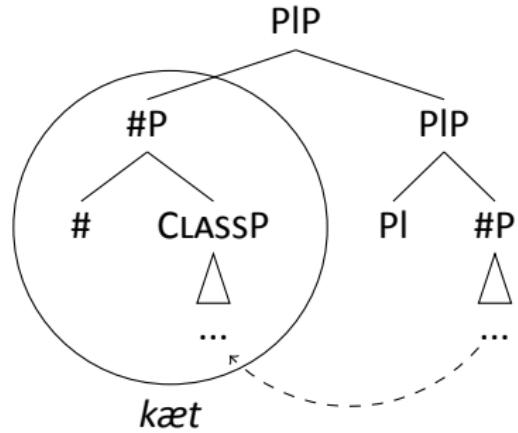
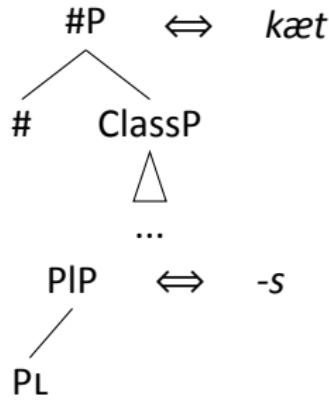


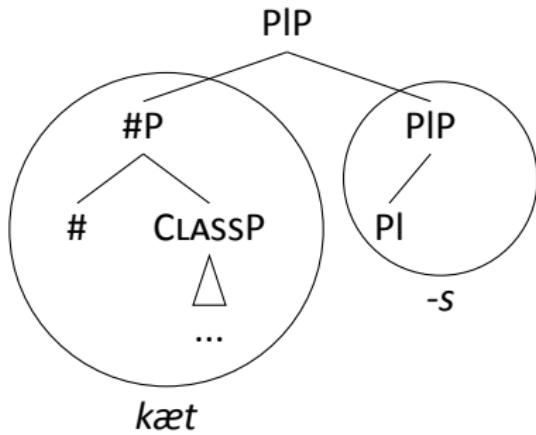
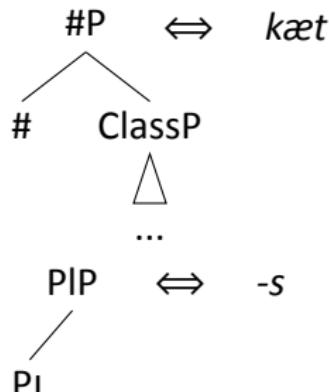












Phrasal spellout

- ▶ Different roots have different ‘sizes’

Phrasal spellout

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 - ▶ *sheep* is of the size PLP (it does not need the plural *-s*)

Phrasal spellout

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Phrasal spellout

- ▶ Different roots have different ‘sizes’
 - ▶ *sheep* is of the size PLP (it does not need the plural *-s*)
 - ▶ *cat* is of the size #P (it can not express plural)
 - ▶ When a root cannot express all the features, it moves to the left and a suffix appears

The problem of declension classes

Features

Phrasal spellout (Starke 2018)

The basic intuition

Decomposing case

Number, Gender, declension

Declension III

Declension IV

(12) Zero marking

- a. metel'-∅ (III)

(12) Zero marking

- a. metel'-∅ (III)
- b. sheep-∅

(12) Zero marking

- a. metel'-∅ (III)
- b. sheep-∅

(13) Overt marking

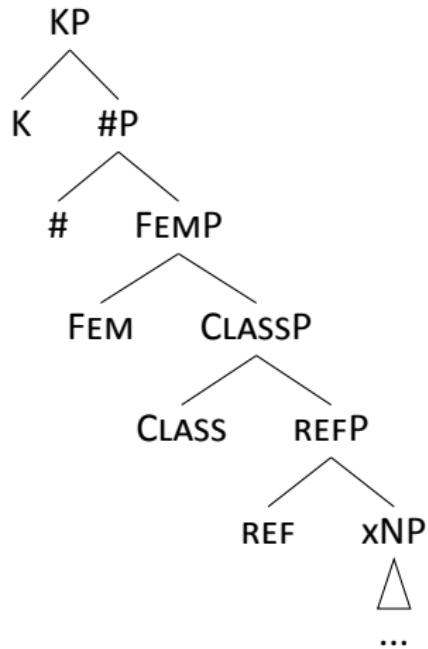
- a. nedel'-a (II)

(12) Zero marking

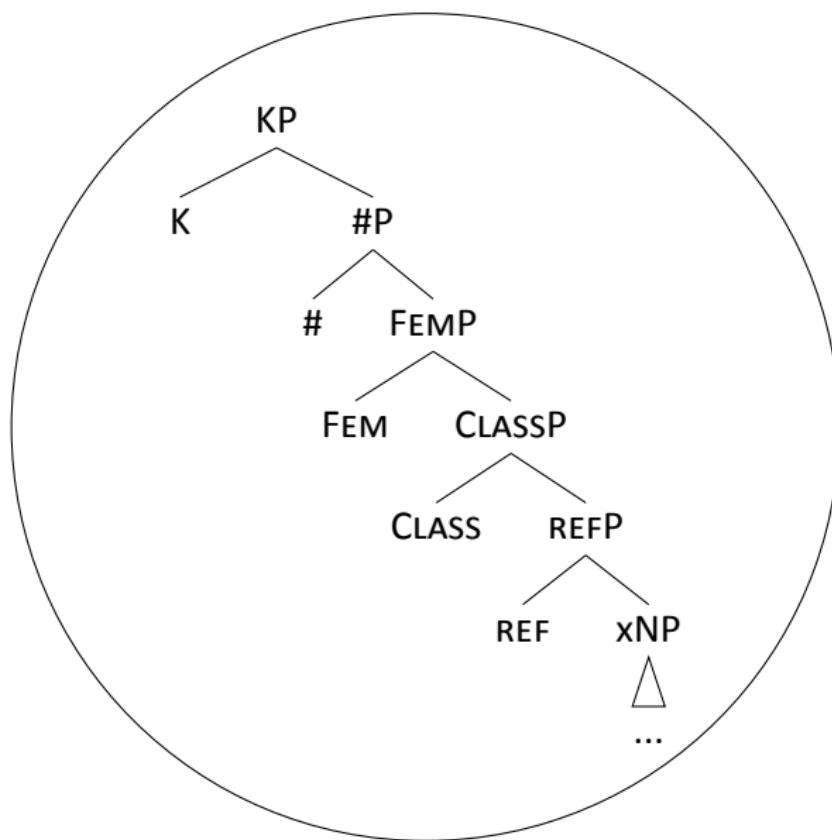
- a. metel'-∅ (III)
- b. sheep-∅

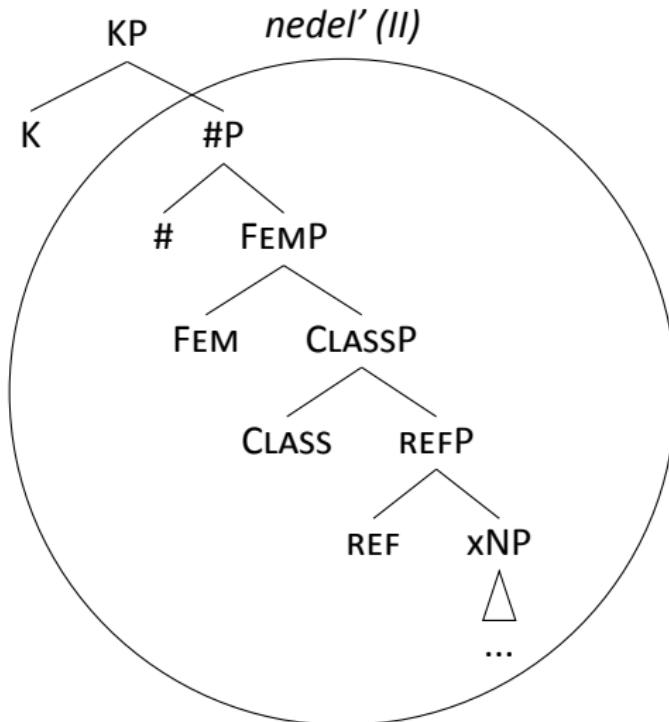
(13) Overt marking

- a. nedel'-a (II)
- b. cat-s



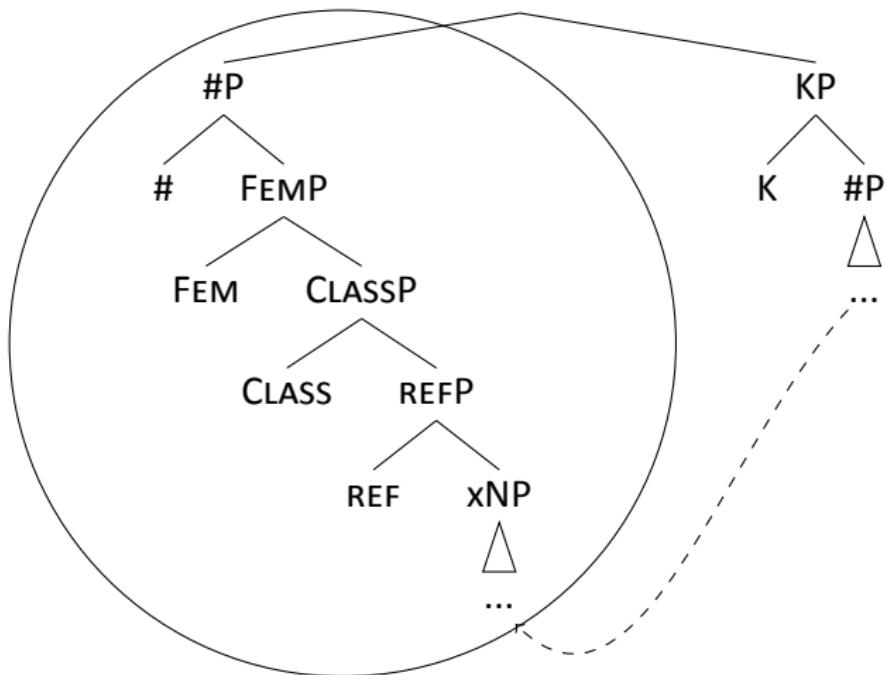
metel' (III)

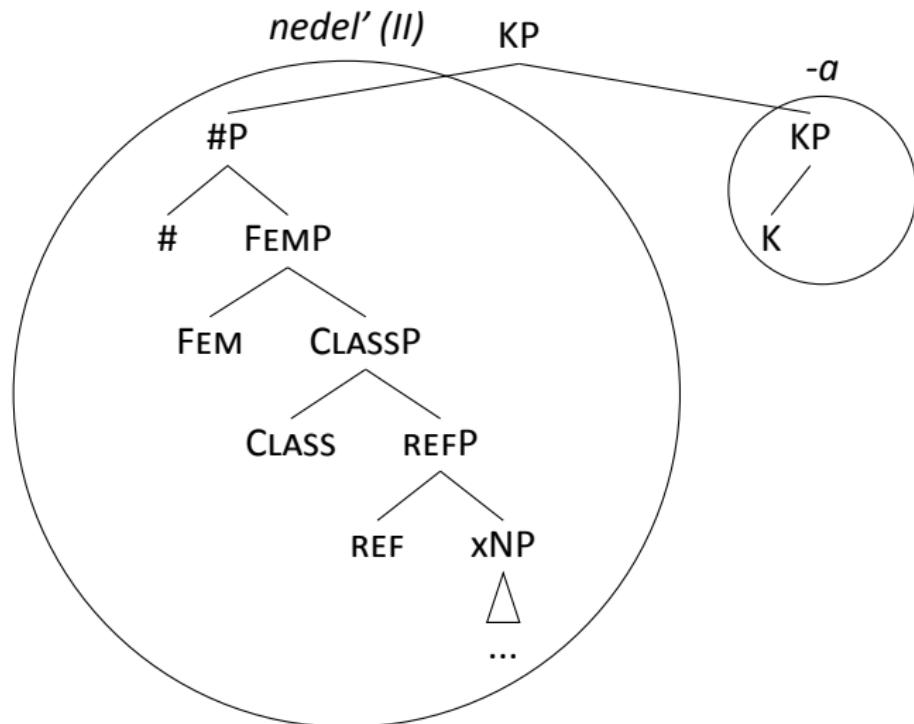




nedel' (II)

KP





- ▶ Declension classes reduce to differences in ‘root size’

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- ▶ The difference in root size is arbitrary → declension classes are arbitrary

- ▶ Declension classes reduce to differences in ‘root size’
- ▶ The difference in root size is arbitrary → declension classes are arbitrary
- ▶ Declension classes exist – but are not encoded via declension features

The problem of declension classes

Features

Phrasal spellout (Starke 2018)

The basic intuition

Decomposing case

Number, Gender, declension

Declension III

Declension IV

(14) The locative

- a. metel'-i (snowstorm)

(14) The locative

- a. **metel'-i** (snowstorm)
- b. **nedel'-e** (week)

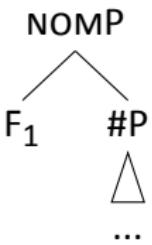
*ABA

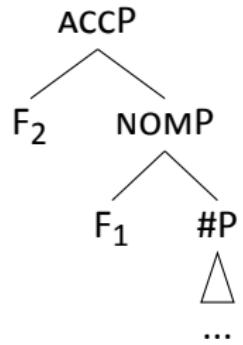
Syncretism in Russian (McCreight & Chvany 1991)

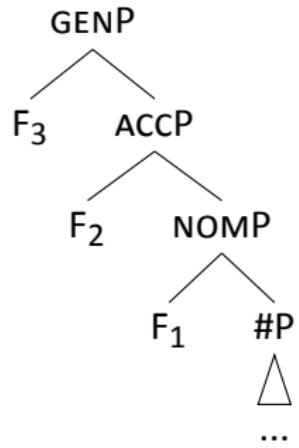
	window, sg.	teacher, pl.	both, m.i.	book, sg.	100
NOM	OKN-O	učitel-ja	dv-a	knig-a	st-o
ACC	OKN-O	UČITEL-EJ	dv-a	knig-u	st-o
GEN	okn-a	UČITEL-EJ	DV-UX	knig-y	ST-A
LOC	okn-e	učitel-jax	DV-UX	KNIG-E	ST-A
DAT	okn-u	učitel-am	dv-um	KNIG-E	ST-A
INS	okn-om	učitel-ami	dv-umja	knig-oj	ST-A

Table: Cummulative feature decomposition

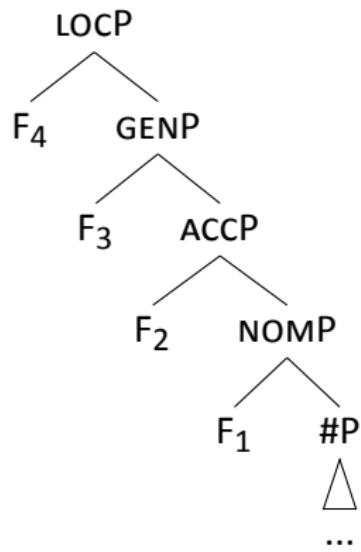
CASE	FEATURES
NOM	F1
ACC	F1, F2
GEN	F1, F2, F3
LOC	F1, F2, F3, F4
DAT	F1, F2, F3, F4, F5
INS	F1, F2, F3, F4, F5, F6



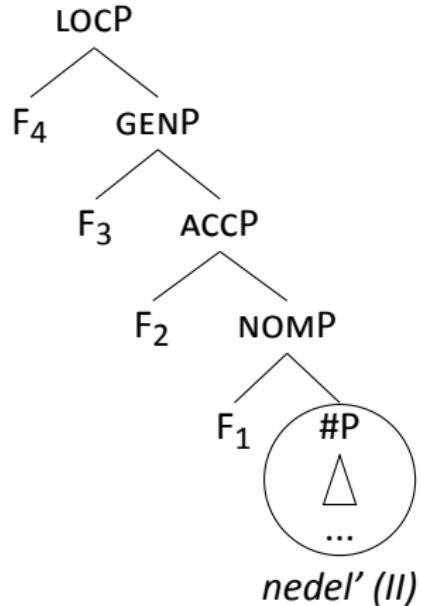




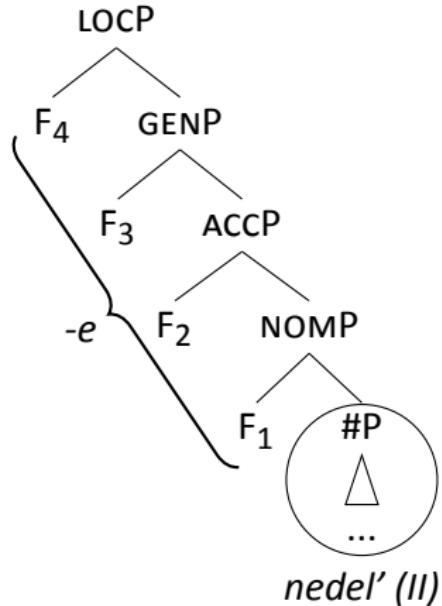
Decomposing case



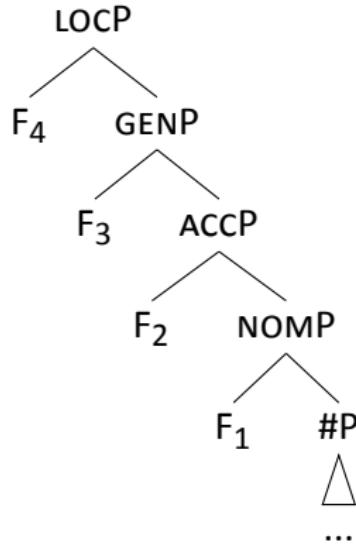
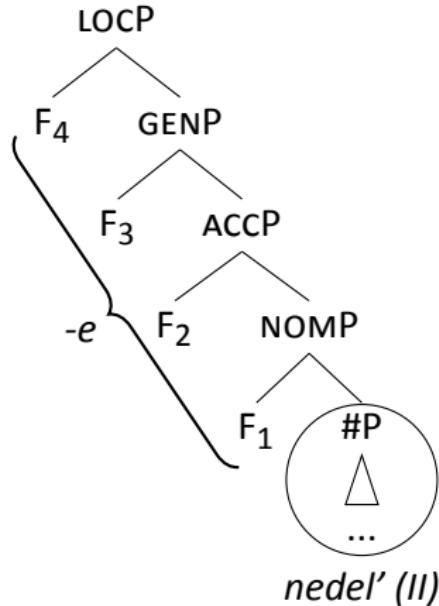
Decomposing case



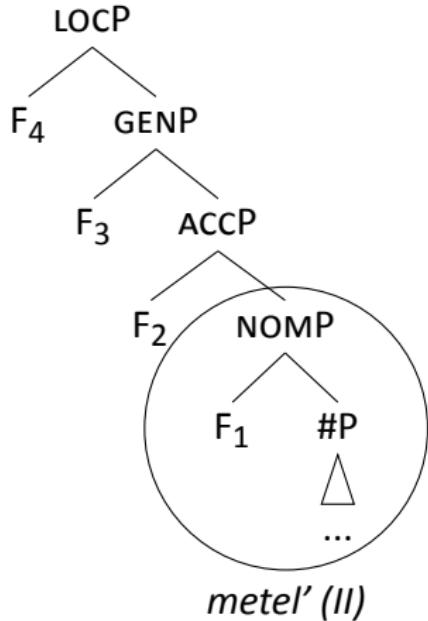
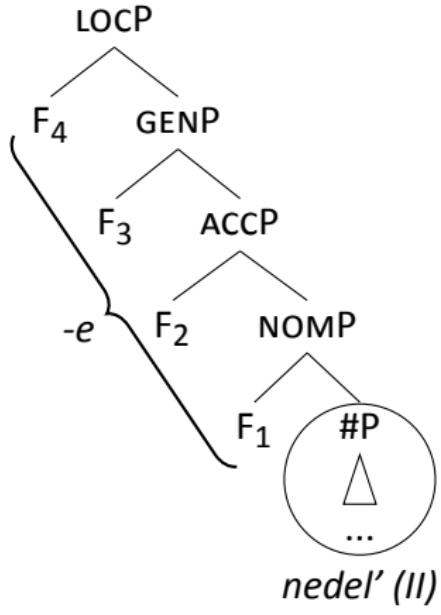
Decomposing case



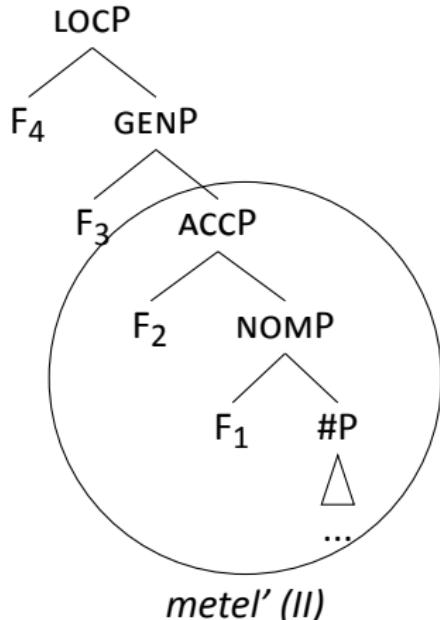
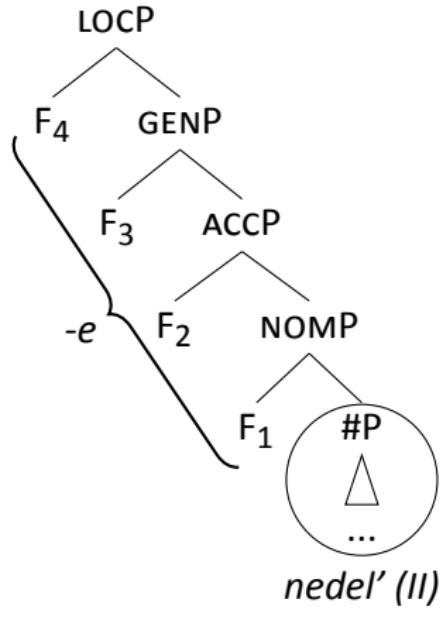
Decomposing case



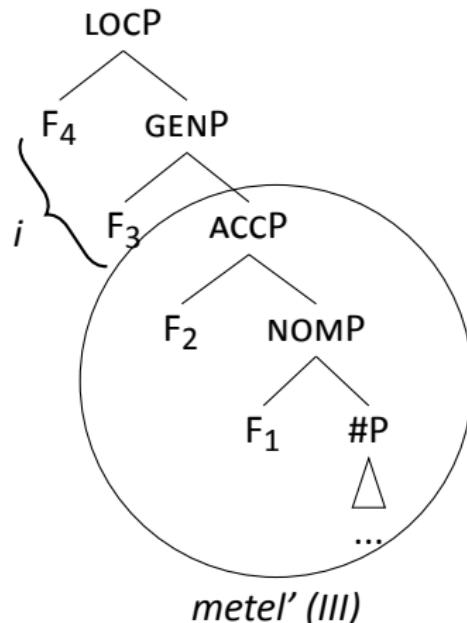
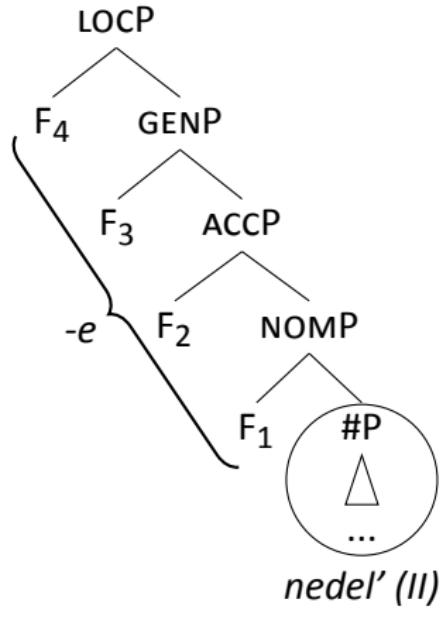
Decomposing case



Decomposing case



Decomposing case



Decomposing case

	xNP	REF	CLASS	FEM	#	F1	F2	F3	F4	F5	F6
NOM			III (metel')								
ACC			III (metel')								
GEN			III (metel')					i			
LOC			III (metel')					i			
DAT			III (metel')					i			
INS			III (metel')					ju			

Decomposing case

	xNP	REF	CLASS	FEM	#	F1	F2	F3	F4	F5	F6
NOM	III (metel')										
	III (metel')										
	III (metel')								i		
	III (metel')								i	i	
	III (metel')								i		
	III (metel')								ju		
ACC	II (nedel')						a				
	II (nedel')								u		
	II (nedel')								i		
	II (nedel')								e	e	
	II (nedel')								e		
	II (nedel')								ej		

The problem of declension classes

Features

Phrasal spellout (Starke 2018)

The basic intuition

Decomposing case

Number, Gender, declension

Declension III

Declension IV

Number, Gender, declension

(15) Declensions and gender, inanimates (Corbett 1982)

Number, Gender, declension

- (15) Declensions and gender, inanimates (Corbett 1982)
- a. I → masculine

Number, Gender, declension

- (15) Declensions and gender, inanimates (Corbett 1982)
- a. I → masculine
 - b. II → feminine

Number, Gender, declension

- (15) Declensions and gender, inanimates (Corbett 1982)
- a. I → masculine
 - b. II → feminine
 - c. III → feminine (15 exceptions)

Number, Gender, declension

(15) Declensions and gender, inanimates (Corbett 1982)

- a. I → masculine
- b. II → feminine
- c. III → feminine (15 exceptions)
- d. IV → neuter

Number, Gender, declension

	xNP	REF	CLASS	FEM	#	F1	F2	F3	F4	F5	F6
NOM			žen			a					
ACC			žen				u				
GEN			žen					y			
LOC			žen						e		
DAT			žen						e		
INS			žen						oj		

Number, Gender, declension

	xNP	REF	CLASS	FEM	#	F1	F2	F3	F4	F5	F6
NOM			žen			a					
ACC			žen				u				
GEN			žen					y			
LOC			žen						e		
DAT			žen						e		
INS			žen						oj		

	xNP	REF	CLASS	#	F1	F2	F3	F4	F5	F6

Number, Gender, declension

	xNP	REF	CLASS	FEM	#	F1	F2	F3	F4	F5	F6
NOM			žen			a					
ACC			žen				u				
GEN			žen					y			
LOC			žen						e		
DAT			žen						e		
INS			žen						oj		

	xNP	REF	CLASS	#	F1	F2	F3	F4	F5	F6
NOM			meuter		a					

Number, Gender, declension

	xNP	REF	CLASS	FEM	#	F1	F2	F3	F4	F5	F6
NOM			žen			a					
ACC			žen				u				
GEN			žen					y			
LOC			žen						e		
DAT			žen						e		
INS			žen							oj	

	xNP	REF	CLASS	#	F1	F2	F3	F4	F5	F6
NOM			meuter		a					
ACC			meuter			u				
GEN			meuter				y			
LOC			meuter					e		
DAT			meuter					e		
INS			meuter						oj	

Number, Gender, declension

	xNP	REF	CLASS	FEM	#	F1	F2	F3	F4	F5	F6
NOM			žen			a					
ACC			žen				u				
GEN			žen					y			
LOC			žen						e		
DAT			žen						e		
INS			žen						oj		

Number, Gender, declension

	xNP	REF	CLASS	FEM	#	F1	F2	F3	F4	F5	F6
NOM			žen			a					
ACC			žen				u				
GEN			žen					y			
LOC			žen						e		
DAT			žen						e		
INS			žen						oj		

Number, Gender, declension

Table: SG. vs. PL. (Timberlake 2004)

	woman, II (SG)	woman, II (PL)
NOM	žen-a	žen-y
ACC	žen-u	žen-y
GEN	žen-y	žen-Ø
LOC	žen-e	žen-ax
DAT	žen-e	žen-am
INS	žen-oj	žen-ami

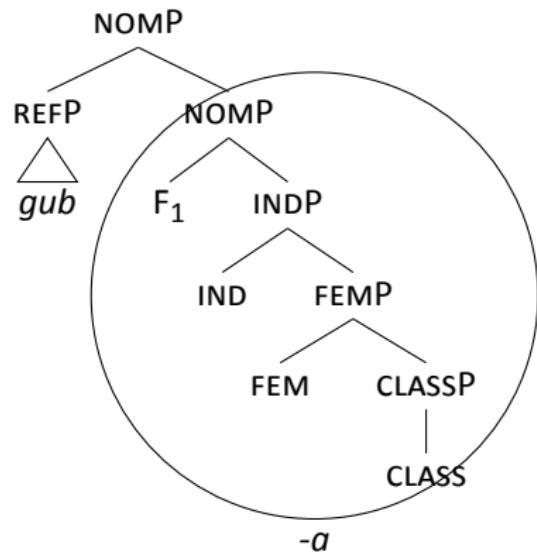
Number, Gender, declension

	xNP	REF	CLASS	FEM	#	F1	F2	F3	F4	F5	F6
NOM		žen			a						
ACC		žen				u					
GEN		žen					y				
LOC		žen					e				
DAT		žen						e			
INS		žen						oj			

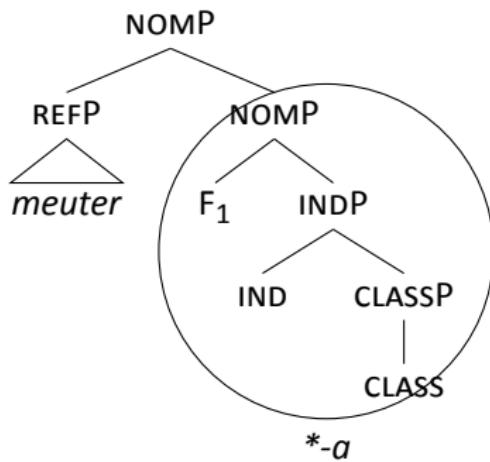
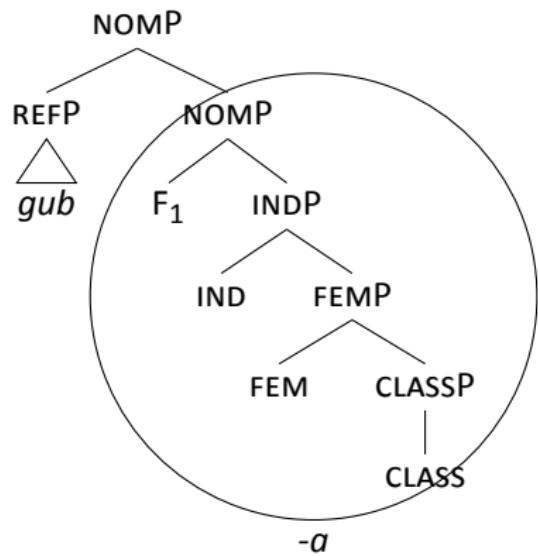
Number, Gender, declension

	xNP	REF	CLASS	FEM	#	F1	F2	F3	F4	F5	F6
NOM	žen				a						
ACC	žen					u					
GEN	žen						y				
LOC	žen						e				
DAT	žen							e			
INS	žen							oj			

Number, Gender, declension



Number, Gender, declension



Number, Gender, declension

	xNP	REF	CLASS	FEM	#	F1	F2	F3	F4	F5	F6
NOM	žen				a						
ACC	žen					u					
GEN	žen						y				
LOC	žen						e				
DAT	žen							e			
INS	žen							oj			

Number, Gender, declension

	xNP	REF	CLASS	FEM	#	F1	F2	F3	F4	F5	F6
NOM	žen				a						
ACC	žen					u					
GEN	žen						y				
LOC	žen						e				
DAT	žen							e			
INS	žen							oj			

	xNP	REF	CLASS	#	F1	F2	F3	F4	F5	F6

Number, Gender, declension

	xNP	REF	CLASS	FEM	#	F1	F2	F3	F4	F5	F6
NOM	žen				a						
ACC	žen					u					
GEN	žen						y				
LOC	žen						e				
DAT	žen							e			
INS	žen							oj			

	xNP	REF	CLASS	#	F1	F2	F3	F4	F5	F6
NOM	meut			*a						

Number, Gender, declension

	xNP	REF	CLASS	FEM	#	F1	F2	F3	F4	F5	F6
NOM	žen				a						
ACC	žen					u					
GEN	žen						y				
LOC	žen						e				
DAT	žen							e			
INS	žen							oj			

	xNP	REF	CLASS	#	F1	F2	F3	F4	F5	F6
NOM	meut			*a						
ACC	meut			*u						
GEN	meut			*y						
LOC	meut			*e						
DAT	meut			*e						
INS	meut			*oj						

Number, Gender, declension

	xNP	REF	CLASS	FEM	#	F1	F2	F3	F4	F5	F6
NOM	žen				a						
ACC	žen					u					
GEN	žen						y				
LOC	žen						e				
DAT	žen							e			
INS	žen							oj			

	xNP	REF	CLASS	#	F1	F2	F3	F4	F5	F6
NOM	mest			o						
ACC	mest				o					
GEN	mest					a				
LOC	mest						e			
DAT	mest							u		
INS	mest							om		

The problem of declension classes

Features

Phrasal spellout (Starke 2018)

The basic intuition

Decomposing case

Number, Gender, declension

Declension III

Declension IV

Declension III

(16) Declensions and genders for inanimates (Corbett 1982)

- a. I → masculine
- b. II → feminine
- c. III → feminine (15 exceptions)
- d. IV → neuter

Declension III

(17) Declensions and genders for inanimates (Corbett 1982)

- a. I → masculine
- b. II → feminine
- c. III → feminine (15 exceptions)
- d. IV → neuter

Declension III

	xNP	REF	CLASS	FEM	#	F1	F2	F3	F4	F5	F6
NOM	žen				a						
ACC	žen					u					
GEN	žen						y				
LOC	žen						e				
DAT	žen							e			
INS	žen							oj			

	xNP	REF	CLASS	FEM	#	F1	F2	F3	F4	F5	F6
NOM			tetrád'								
ACC			tetrád								
GEN			tetrád					i			
LOC			tetrád					i			
DAT			tetrád					i			
INS			tetrád						ju		

Declension III

	xNP	REF	CLASS	FEM	#	F1	F2	F3	F4	F5	F6
NOM	žen				a						
ACC	žen				u						
GEN	žen				y						
LOC	žen				e						
DAT	žen				e						
INS	žen				oj						

	xNP	REF	CLASS	FEM	#	F1	F2	F3	F4	F5	F6
NOM			tetrád'		Ø						
ACC			tetrád		Ø						
GEN			tetrád		i						
LOC			tetrád		i						
DAT			tetrád		i						
INS			tetrád		ju						

Declension III

	xNP	REF	CLASS	FEM	#	F1	F2	F3	F4	F5	F6
NOM	žen				a						
ACC	žen					u					
GEN	žen						y				
LOC	žen						e				
DAT	žen							e			
INS	žen							oj			

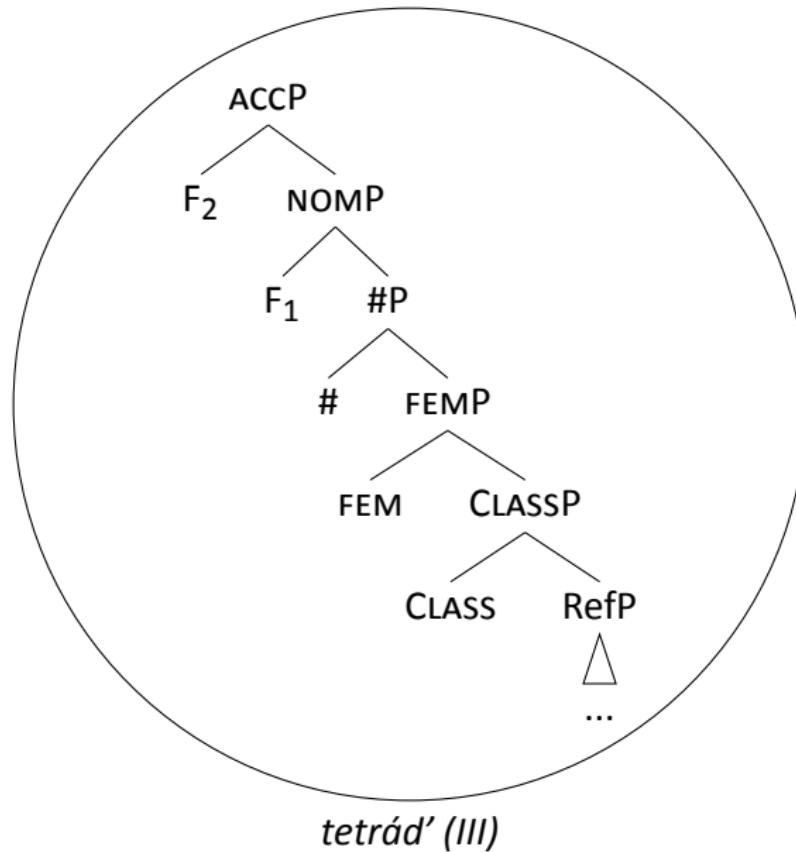
	xNP	REF	CLASS	FEM	#	F1	F2	F3	F4	F5	F6
NOM	tetrád'				Ø						
ACC	tetrád				Ø						
GEN	tetrád					i					
LOC	tetrád						i				
DAT	tetrád						i				
INS	tetrád							ju			

Declension III

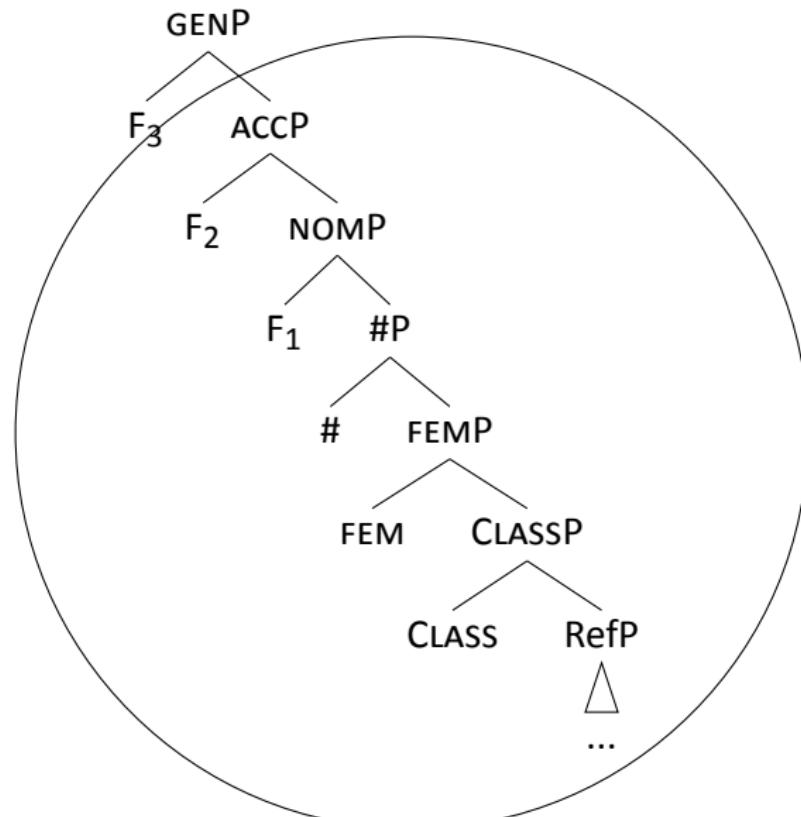
	xNP	REF	CLASS	FEM	#	F1	F2	F3	F4	F5	F6
NOM	žen				a						
ACC	žen					u					
GEN	žen						y				
LOC	žen						e				
DAT	žen							e			
INS	žen							oj			

	xNP	REF	CLASS	FEM	#	F1	F2	F3	F4	F5	F6
NOM	tetrád'				Ø						
ACC	tetrád					Ø					
GEN	tetrád						i				
LOC	tetrád						i				
DAT	tetrád						i				
INS	tetrád							ju			

Declension III

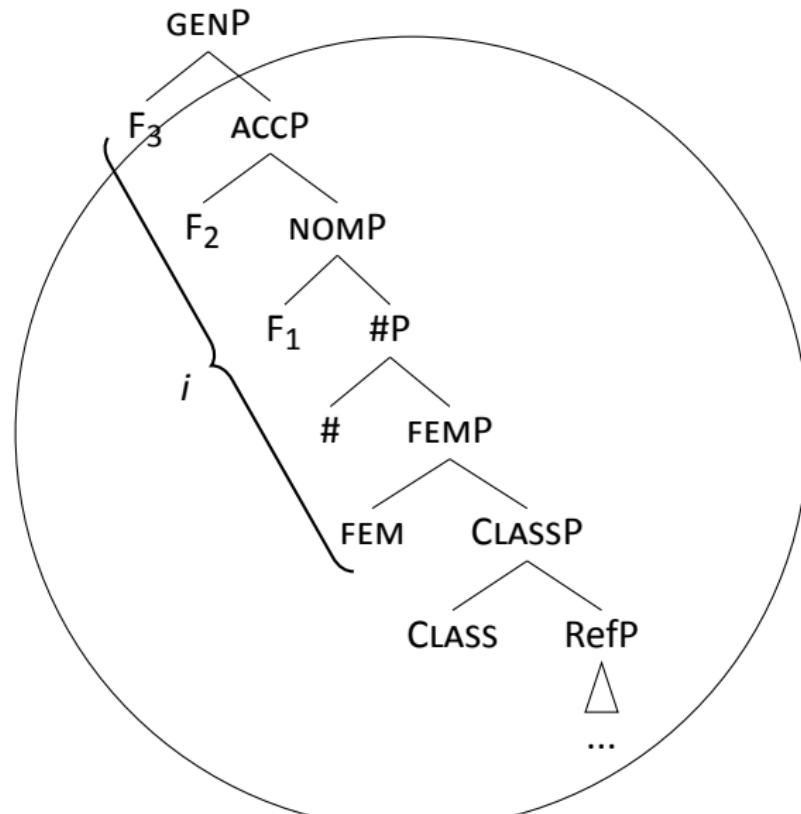


Declension III



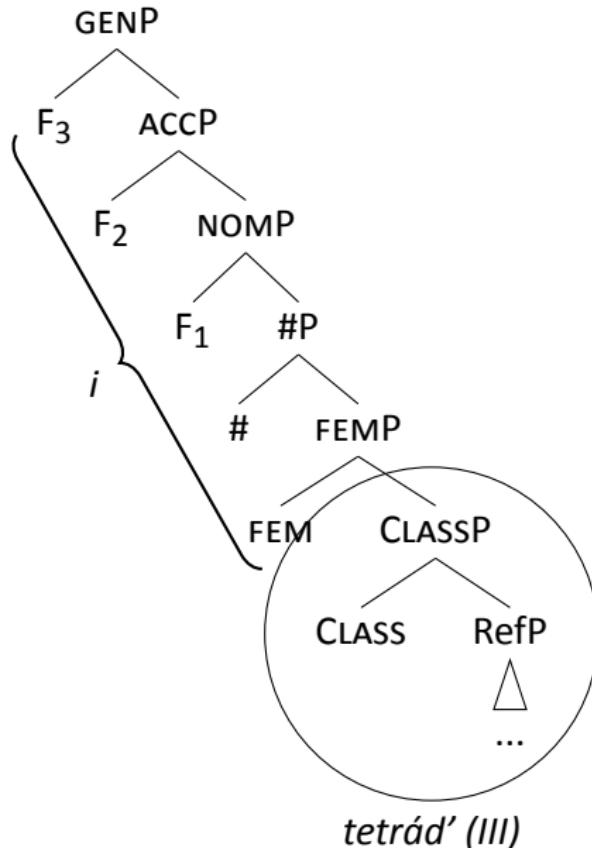
tetrád' (III)

Declension III



tetrád' (III)

Backtracking (Starke 2018; Vandenh Wyngaerd et al. 2020)



Declension III

	xNP	REF	CLASS	FEM	#	F1	F2	F3	F4	F5	F6
NOM	žen				a						
ACC	žen					u					
GEN	žen						y				
LOC	žen						e				
DAT	žen							e			
INS	žen							oj			

	xNP	REF	CLASS	FEM	#	F1	F2	F3	F4	F5	F6
NOM	tetrád'										
ACC	tetrád'										
GEN	tetrád'					i					
LOC	tetrád'						i				
DAT	tetrád'						i				
INS	tetrád'							ju			

The problem of declension classes

Features

Phrasal spellout (Starke 2018)

The basic intuition

Decomposing case

Number, Gender, declension

Declension III

Declension IV

Declension IV

(18) Declensions and genders for inanimates (Corbett 1982)

- a. I → masculine
- b. II → feminine
- c. III → feminine (15 exceptions)
- d. IV → neuter

Declension IV

Table: The non-feminine declensions (Timberlake 2004)

	factory I (MASC)	place IV (NEUT)
NOM	zavód-Ø	mést-o
ACC	zavód-Ø	mést-o
GEN	zavód-a	mést-a
LOC	zavód-e	mést-e
DAT	zavód-u	mést-u
INS	zavód-om	mést-om

Declension IV

	xNP	REF	CLASS	#	F1	F2	F3	F4	F5	F6
NOM	mest			o						
ACC	mest			o						
GEN	mest			a						
LOC	mest			e						
DAT	mest			u						
INS	mest			om						

	xNP	REF	CLASS	#	F1	F2	F3	F4	F5	F6

Declension IV

	xNP	REF	CLASS	#	F1	F2	F3	F4	F5	F6
NOM	mest			o						
ACC	mest			o						
GEN	mest			a						
LOC	mest			e						
DAT	mest			u						
INS	mest			om						

	xNP	REF	CLASS	#	F1	F2	F3	F4	F5	F6
NOM		zavód								
ACC		zavód								

Declension IV

	xNP	REF	CLASS	#	F1	F2	F3	F4	F5	F6
NOM	mest			o						
ACC	mest			o						
GEN	mest			a						
LOC	mest			e						
DAT	mest			u						
INS	mest			om						

	xNP	REF	CLASS	#	F1	F2	F3	F4	F5	F6
NOM	zavód									
ACC	zavód									
GEN	zavód			a						
LOC	zavód			e						
DAT	zavód			u						
INS	zavód			om						

The problem of declension classes

Features

Phrasal spellout (Starke 2018)

The basic intuition

Decomposing case

Number, Gender, declension

Declension III

Declension IV

A thought experiment

	xNP	REF	CLASS	FEM	#	F1	F2	F3	F4	F5	F6
NOM	žen				a						
ACC	žen				u						
GEN	žen				y						
LOC	žen				e						
DAT	žen				e						
INS	žen				oj						

	xNP	REF	CLASS	FEM	#	F1	F2	F3	F4	F5	F6
NOM	tetrád'				tetrád'						
ACC	tetrád'				tetrád'						
GEN	tetrád'				i						
LOC	tetrád'				i						
DAT	tetrád'				i						
INS	tetrád'				ju						

	xNP	REF	CLASS	FEM	#	F1	F2	F3	F4	F5	F6
NOM	mest				o						
ACC	mest				o						
GEN	mest				a						
LOC	mest				e						
DAT	mest				u						
INS	mest				om						

A thought experiment

	xNP	REF	CLASS	FEM	#	F1	F2	F3	F4	F5	F6
NOM	žen				a						
ACC	žen				u						
GEN	žen				y						
LOC	žen				e						
DAT	žen				e						
INS	žen				oj						

	xNP	REF	CLASS	FEM	#	F1	F2	F3	F4	F5	F6
NOM	tetrád'				tetrád'						
ACC	tetrád'				tetrád'						
GEN	tetrád'				i						
LOC	tetrád'				i						
DAT	tetrád'				i						
INS	tetrád'				ju						

	xNP	REF	CLASS	FEM	#	F1	F2	F3	F4	F5	F6
NOM	mest				o						
ACC	mest				o						
GEN	mest				a						
LOC	mest				e						
DAT	mest				u						
INS	mest				om						

A thought experiment

	xNP	REF	CLASS	FEM	#	F1	F2	F3	F4	F5	F6
NOM	žen				a						
ACC	žen				u						
GEN	žen				y						
LOC	žen				e						
DAT	žen				e						
INS	žen				oj						

	xNP	REF	CLASS	FEM	#	F1	F2	F3	F4	F5	F6
NOM	tetrád'				tetrád'						
ACC	tetrád'				tetrád'						
GEN	tetrád'				i						
LOC	tetrád'				i						
DAT	tetrád'				i						
INS	tetrád'				ju						

	xNP	REF	CLASS	FEM	#	F1	F2	F3	F4	F5	F6
NOM	mest				o						
ACC	mest				o						
GEN	mest				a						
LOC	mest				e						
DAT	mest				u						
INS	mest				om						

	xNP	REF	CLASS	FEM	#	F1	F2	F3	F4	F5	F6
NOM	X				???						
ACC	X				???						
GEN	X				???						
LOC	X				???						
DAT	X				???						
INS	X				???						

A thought experiment

	xNP	REF	CLASS	FEM	#	F1	F2	F3	F4	F5	F6
NOM	žen				a						
ACC	žen				u						
GEN	žen				y						
LOC	žen				e						
DAT	žen				e						
INS	žen				oj						

	xNP	REF	CLASS	FEM	#	F1	F2	F3	F4	F5	F6
NOM	tetrád'				tetrád'						
ACC	tetrád'				tetrád'						
GEN	tetrád'				i						
LOC	tetrád'				i						
DAT	tetrád'				i						
INS	tetrád'				ju						

	xNP	REF	CLASS	FEM	#	F1	F2	F3	F4	F5	F6
NOM	mest				o						
ACC	mest				o						
GEN	mest				a						
LOC	mest				e						
DAT	mest				u						
INS	mest				om						

	xNP	REF	CLASS	FEM	#	F1	F2	F3	F4	F5	F6
NOM	X				o	???					
ACC	X				o	???					
GEN	X				o	???					
LOC	X				o	???					
DAT	X				o	???					
INS	X				o	???					

A thought experiment

	xNP	REF	CLASS	FEM	#	F1	F2	F3	F4	F5	F6
NOM	žen				a						
ACC	žen				u						
GEN	žen				y						
LOC	žen				e						
DAT	žen				e						
INS	žen				oj						

	xNP	REF	CLASS	FEM	#	F1	F2	F3	F4	F5	F6
NOM	tetrád'				tetrád'						
ACC	tetrád'				tetrád'						
GEN	tetrád'				i						
LOC	tetrád'				i						
DAT	tetrád'				i						
INS	tetrád'				ju						

	xNP	REF	CLASS	FEM	#	F1	F2	F3	F4	F5	F6
NOM	mest				o						
ACC	mest				o						
GEN	mest				a						
LOC	mest				e						
DAT	mest				u						
INS	mest				om						

	xNP	REF	CLASS	FEM	#	F1	F2	F3	F4	F5	F6
NOM	X				-i						
ACC	X				-i						
GEN	X				-i						
LOC	X				-i						
DAT	X				-i						
INS	X				-ju						

Table: Declension II and a feminine DEM (Timberlake 2004)

	woman	hypothetical	this
	FEM.SG	FEM.SG	FEM.SG
NOM	žen-a	wug-o-j	et-a
ACC	žen-u	wug-o-j	et-u
GEN	žen-y	wug-o-j	et-o-j
LOC	žen-e	wug-o-j	et-o-j
DAT	žen-e	wug-o-j	et-o-j
INS	žen-o-j	wug-o-ju	et-o-j(u)

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