

Syntax

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16 Nov 2020

Recap

The complementizer

Aspect

The structure of words

Ambiguity

(1) black cab drivers

Ambiguity

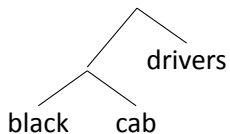
- (1) black cab drivers
 - a. drivers of black cabs

Ambiguity

- (1) black cab drivers
 - a. drivers of black cabs
 - b. cab drivers who are black

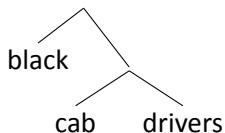
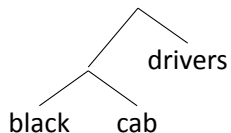
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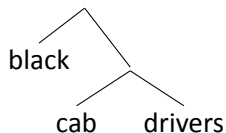
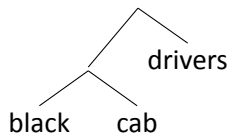
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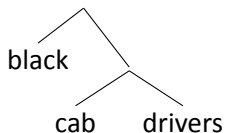
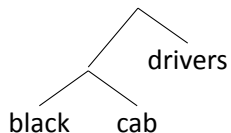
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- The discovery of structure

Ambiguity

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- ▶ The discovery of structure
- ▶ How can we find out more about it?

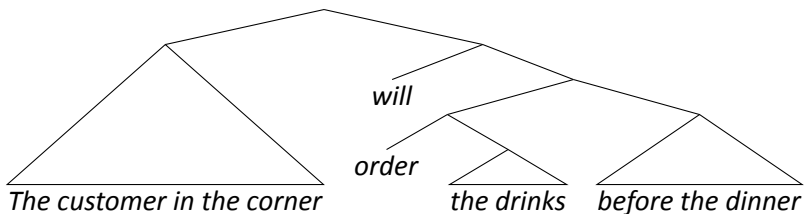
Constituency tests

- (2) Constituents can be
- a. replaced by a pronoun
 - b. moved around
 - c. provided as an answer to a question
 - d. co-ordinated
 - e. elided

- (3) a. The customer in the corner will order the drinks before the meal.

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- (4) Binary composition hypothesis
All syntactic structure is (at most) binary.

(5) $[_V \text{ order}] + [_N \text{ milk}]$

- (5) [V order] + [N milk]
a. order milk

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 - b. will + [order milk]

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 - b. will + [order milk]
 - c. will + [V_P order milk]

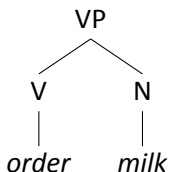
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- (6) The head
- a. determines the type of meaning that the mother node has

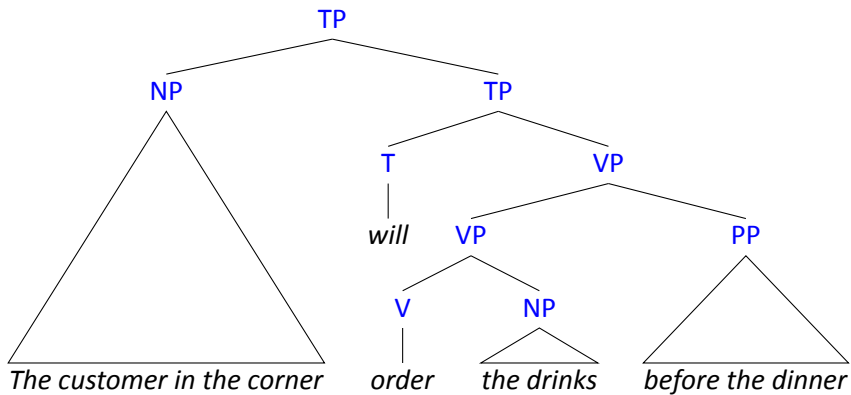
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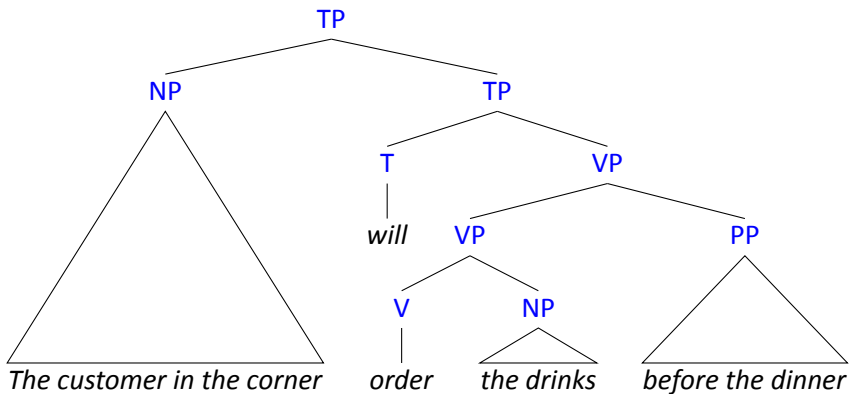
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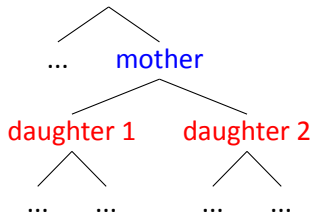
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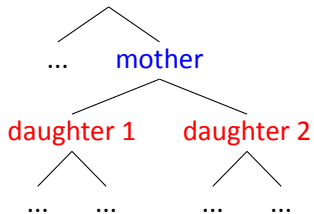


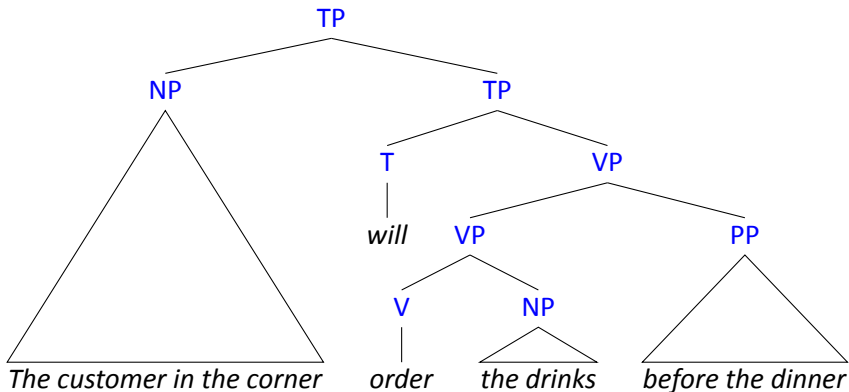




- (7)
- VP → describe an event
 - TP → anchor it in time with respect to the speech time







(8) notions

- complement = the sister of the head
- adjunct = optional modifier
- specifier = obligatory modifier

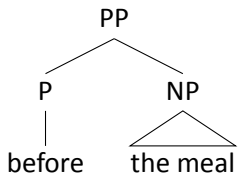
(9) a. before the meal

- (9)
- a. before the meal
 - b. before that

(9) a. before the meal

b. before that

c.



Recap

The complementizer

Aspect

The structure of words

Complementizer

(10) a. I think **that** he smokes.

Complementizer

- (10) a. I think **that** he smokes.
b. I wonder **whether** he smokes.

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c. say whether the anchored event is ...
 (i) a fact (declarative)

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 (iv) something you want to see done (desiderative, ...)

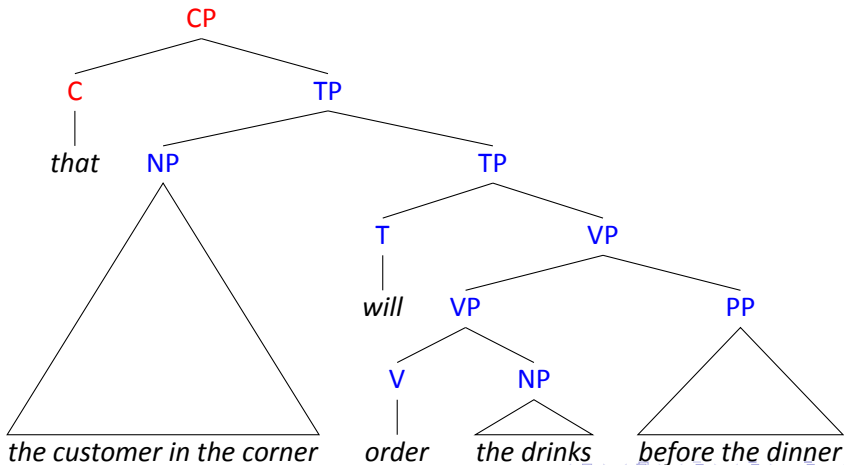
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Recap

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- (12) Simple vs. progressive
- a. He **will read** the book.

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- ▶ Both boil down to the notion of boundedness

(14) Cumulativity

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- On Monday, he bought rice.
- On Tuesday, he bought rice.
- So now, he has rice.

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- On Monday, he bought rice.
- On Tuesday, he bought rice.
- So now, he has rice.

(15) non-cumulativity

- On Monday, he bought a chair.

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- On Monday, he bought a chair.
- On Tuesday, he bought a chair.
- ≠ So now, he has a chair.
- He has **two** chairs

(16) Cumulativity

- a. On Monday, he was reading a book.

(16) Cumulativity

- a. On Monday, he was reading a book.
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(16) Cumulativity

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- b. On Tuesday, he was reading a book.
- c. ...
- d. So the whole week, he was reading this book.

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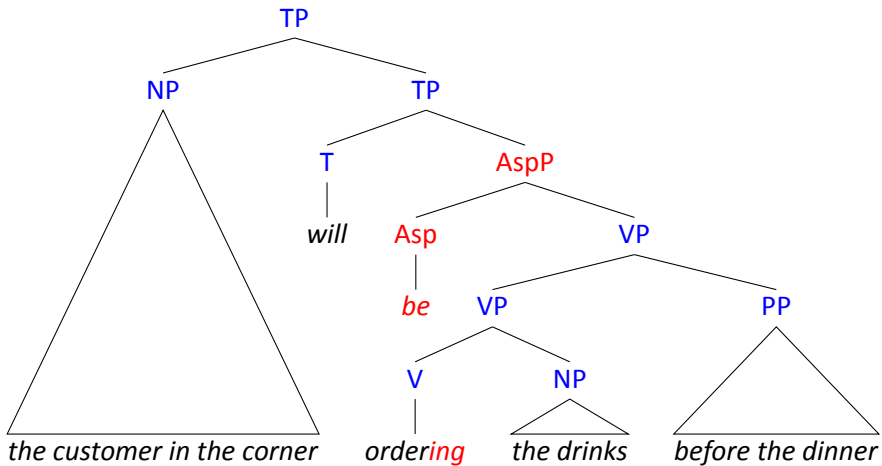
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- ▶ the progressive lacks a boundary where one event stops and another one begins (just like mass nouns)



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Aspect

The structure of words

Czech

- (18) a. **objedn -at**
order -INF
'to order'

Czech

- (18) a. **objedn -at**
order -INF
'to order'
- b. **objedn -áv -at**
order -PROG -INF
'to be ordering'

Czech

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- a. **objedn -at**
order -INF
'to order'
 - b. **objedn -áv -at**
order -PROG -INF
'to be ordering'
 - c. **objedn -áv -á -š**
order -PROG -PRES -2.SG
'you are ordering'

Czech

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'I am ordering'
 - e. **objedn - -á -m**
order - -PRES -1.SG
'I will order'

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'I will order'
 - f. **objedn -áv -á -š -li**
order -PROG -PRES -2.SG -COND
'if you are ordering'

(19) **objedn** -**áv** -**á** -**š** -**li**
order -PROG -PRES -2.SG -COND
'if you are ordering'

(20) Czech order
event > **asp** > *tense* > **subject** > **mood**

Czech vs. English

(21) Czech order

event > **asp** > *tense* > **subject** > **mood**

Czech vs. English

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event > **asp** > *tense* > **subject** > **mood**

(22) English order:

that **you** *will* **be** **ordering** the drinks
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- ▶ we can see that if we switch the "precede" sign > by a "follow" sign < in one of the languages.

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(23) a. English: **mood** > **subject** > *tense* > **aspect** > **event**

b. Czech: **mood** < **subject** < *tense* < **aspect** < **event**

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- ▶ The order in (23a) reads 'mood precedes the subject' while the order (23b) reads 'mood follows the subject.'

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- ▶ The order in (23a) reads 'mood precedes the subject' while the order (23b) reads 'mood follows the subject.'
- ▶ They are 'the same' order, but they go in different directions

- ▶ An important generalization about languages is (24). (It has exceptions.)

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(24) The Mirror Principle
 The order of morphemes inside words is the mirror image of
 the order of words in syntax

- ▶ The following two trees bring out the 'mirror image' nature of the two systems. If we draw a vertical line in between the two trees, the line will serve as a symmetry axis.

