Syntax

Pavel Caha

22 Nov 2021

What's coming

- Two more classes: Nov 29, Dec 6
- Test: Dec 13

(1)   Semantic role (also thematic role): a linguistically relevant type of participation in an event

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(5) a. Marušk-a   rozlila mléko (Agent)
         Mary-NOM   spilled milk

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     b. Marušc-e se   rozlilo mléko (Causer)
         Mary-DAT REFL spilled milk

Direct causation in the linguistic coding and individuation of causal events
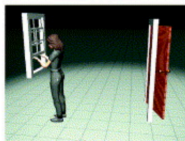
Phillip Wolff

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(6)   Patient-like roles (Undergoers)

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       c.   Petr otevřel oči   do   široka
             Petr opened his.eyes into wide

- Recipient (*give me the book*)

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         already arrived.3sg
         'He has already arrived.

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Grammatical role

(13)   the grammatical coding of a semantic role

▶ Subject

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- Subject
  - agrees with the verb

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- ► Subject
    - ► agrees with the verb
    - ► has nominative
    - ► precedes the verb
    - ► disappears in the infinitive

- Object

- Object
  - follows the verb

- Object
  - follows the verb
  - has the accusative

- Object
  - follows the verb
  - has the accusative
  - preserved in the infinitive

indirect object

- Indirect Object
  - give me the book

indirect object

- Indirect Object
    - give me the book
- Oblique
    - live in London

Two main generalizations

- With transitive verbs
  - Agent is the subject
  - *Patient* is the object

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(14)   a.   Mary visited Bill

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(14)   a.   Mary visited Bill

           b.   Bill opened the door

Intransitive verbs

(15)   a.   Mary works. (unergative)

Intransitive verbs

(15)   a.   Mary works. (unergative)

          b.   The soup cooled. (unaccusative)

Intransitive verbs

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(16) a. Als   die drei   eingeschlafen waren.   . .
          when the three fallen-asleep   were.3pl
          'When the three of them had fallen asleep. . . '

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          when the three fallen-asleep were.3pl
          'When the three of them had fallen asleep. . . '
      b. Wenn er gut   gekämpft hat
          when he well fought   has.3sg
          'When he has fought well'

Passive

(17)   a.   John built the house

Passive

(17)   a.   John built the house
         b.   The house was built in 1977

Passive

(17)   a.   John built the house
        b.   The house was built in 1977

Causative – inchoative alternation

(18) a. The sign turned.

Causative – inchoative alternation

(18)   a.   The sign turned.
          b.   Mary turned the sign.

Causative – inchoative alternation

(18) a. The sign turned.
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(19) A hierarchy of thematic roles
      agent > patient

(20) A hierarchy of grammatical functions
      subject > object

Expletive Subject

(21)   a.   It is raining

Expletive Subject

(21)   a.   It is raining
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(21)   a.   It is raining
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Expletive Subject

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(22)   Every sentence must have a subject, even if only formal

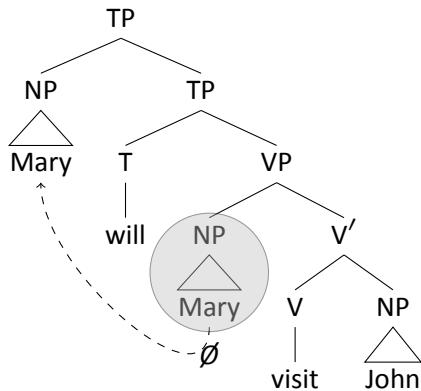▶ formal subject = expletive subject

(23)   There is a cat on the table.

VP-internal 'subject'
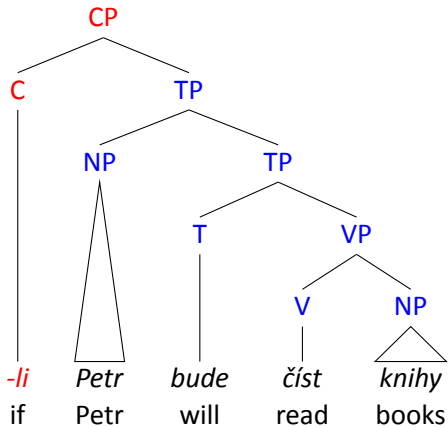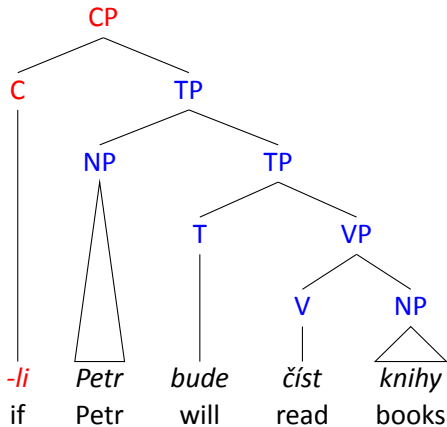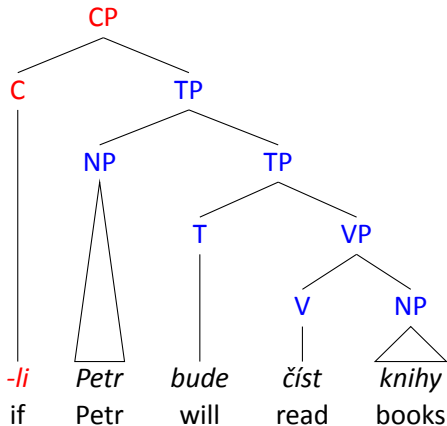
VP-internal 'subject'

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```
                    CP
             ┌──────┴──────┐
             C            TP
             │      ┌──────┴──────┐
             │     NP            TP
             │     /\      ┌──────┴──────┐
             │    /  \     T            VP
             │   /    \    │        ┌────┴────┐
             │  /      \   │        V        NP
             │ /        \  │        │        /\
            -li       Petr bude   číst    knihy
            if        Petr will   read    books
```

```
            CP
           /  \
          C    TP
          |   /  \
          |  NP   TP
          |  /\   / \
          | /  \ T   VP
          |/    \|  /  \
          |      | V    NP
          |      | |    /\
        -li    Petr bude číst  knihy
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```

(24)   a.   Jest -li Petr bude číst   knihy
              be -IF Petr will   read books

(24)   a.   Jest -li Petr bude číst knihy
            be -IF Petr will   read books
       b.   Bude -li Petr ~~bude~~ číst knihy, ...
            will -IF Petr   read books
            'if Petr reads books, ...'

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        host for that affix.

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  a. Strategy 1: insert an expletive
      He d-ed order the drinks.

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    b.   Strategy 2: use an existing host

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  b. Strategy 2: use an existing host
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      Bude -li Petr číst knihy, ..

VP-internal 'subject'

(26)   a.   Three students are now ~~three students~~ working on this project.

VP-internal 'subject'

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          b.   There are now three students working on this project.
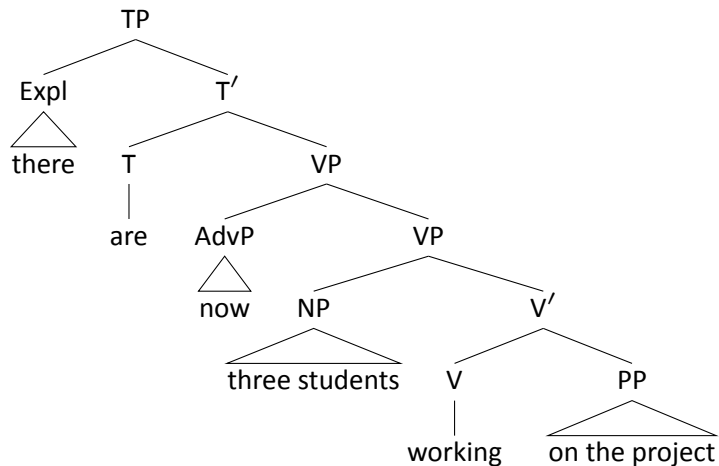
VP-internal 'subject'

```
                        VP
                  ┌─────┴──────┐
                AdvP          VP
                 △        ┌────┴────┐
                now      NP        V′
                        ╱  ╲     ┌──┴───┐
                  three students V     PP
                                 │    ╱ ╲
                              working on the project
```
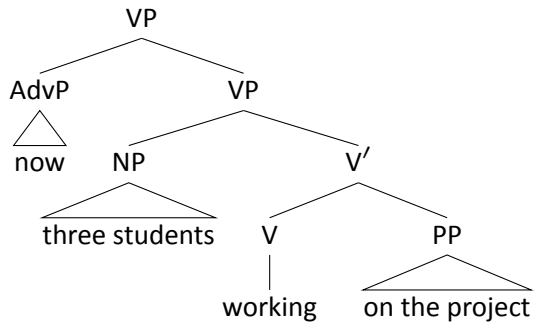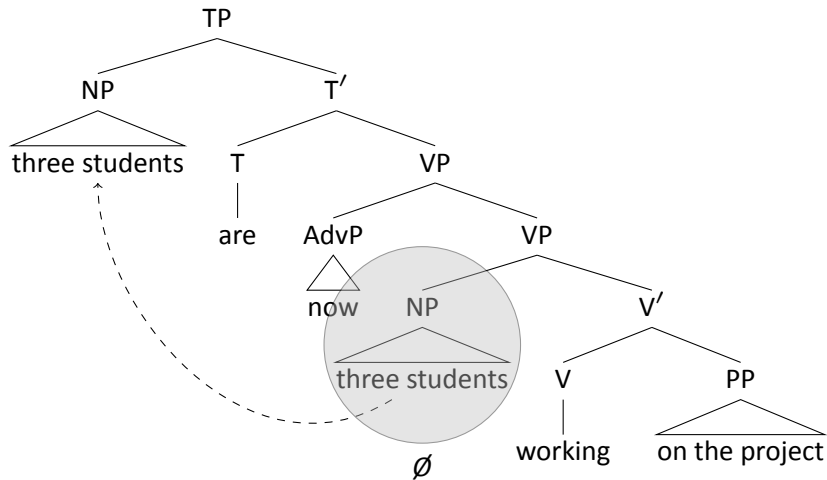
VP-internal 'subject'
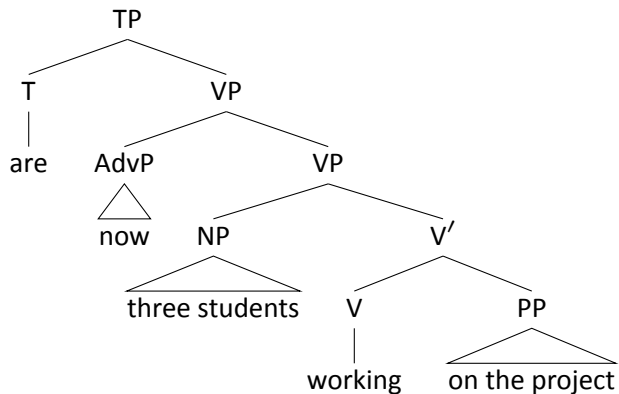
VP-internal 'subject'
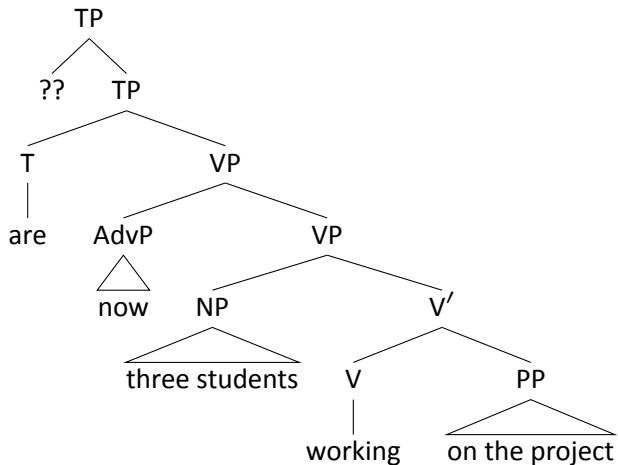
Expletive insertion
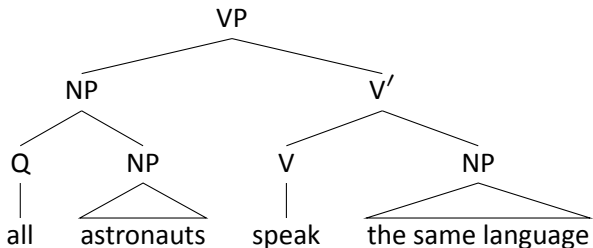
Subject movement

(27)   All astronauts don't ~~all astronauts~~ speak the same language
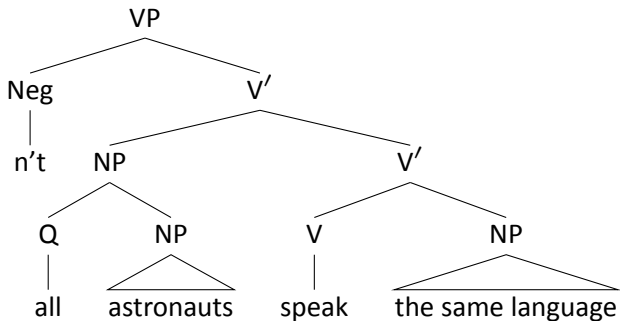
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(28)   Astronauts don't all speak the same language

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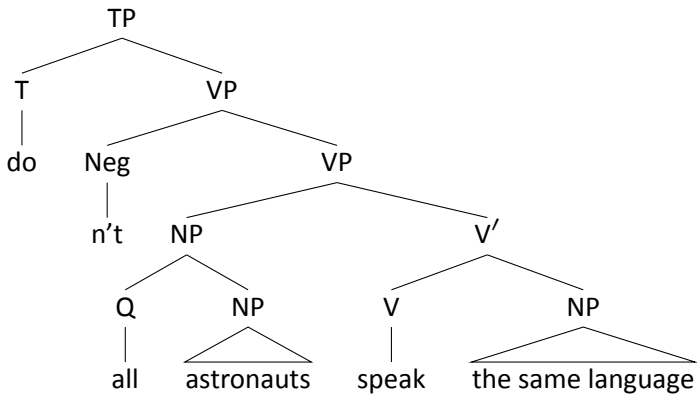
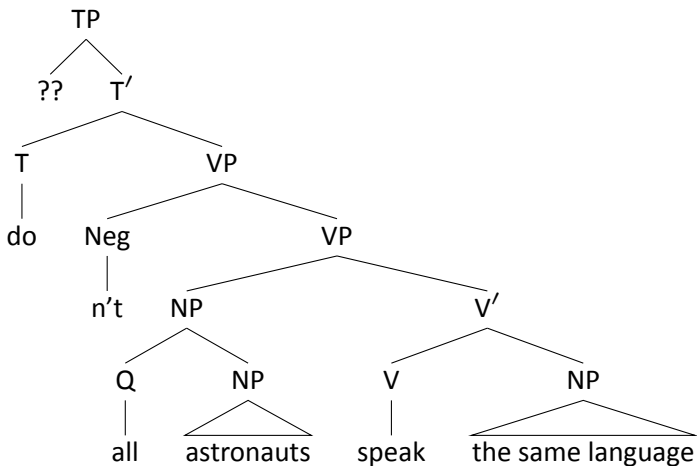(28)   Astronauts don't all speak the same language

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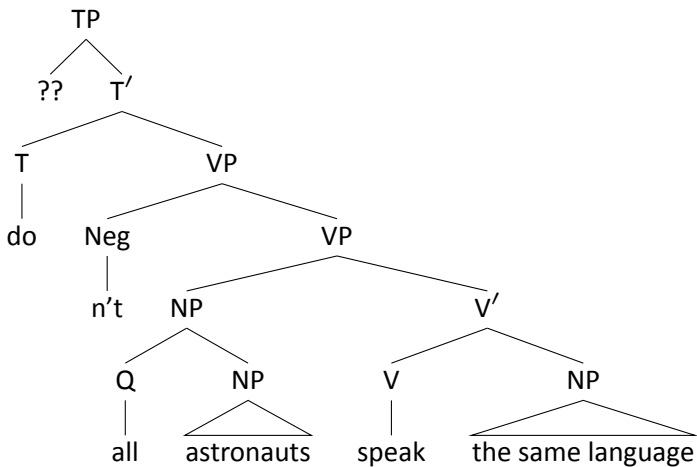
(30)   Astronauts don't all speak the same language

(31)   Astronauts don't all speak the same language

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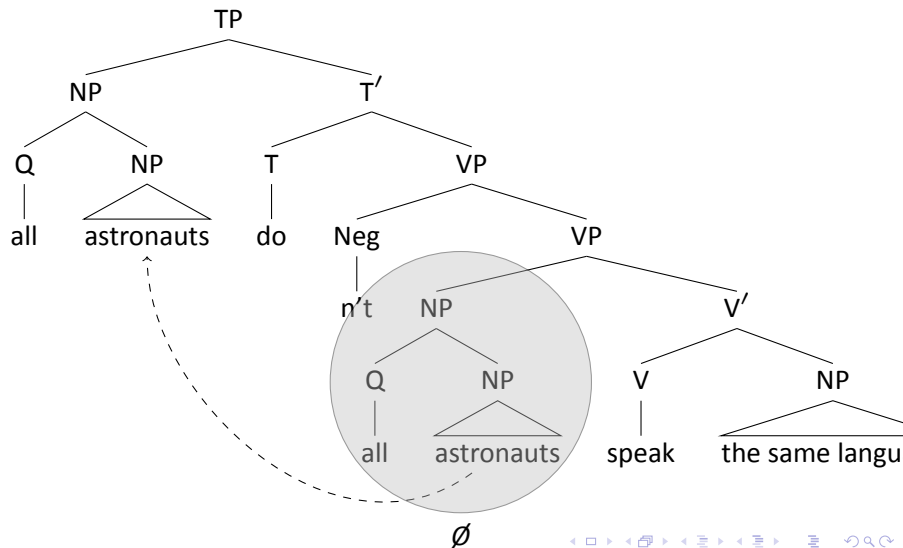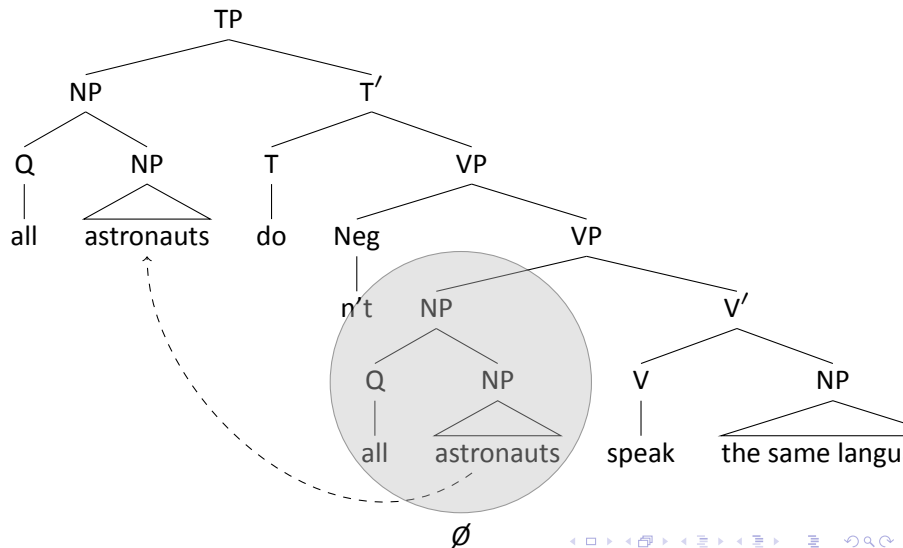
Economy of movement

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Causative-inchoative alternation

(37) a. inchoative verb: The sign turned

Causative-inchoative alternation

(37)   a.   inchoative verb: The sign turned

           b.   causative verbs: Mary turned the sign

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(37)   a.   inchoative verb: The sign turned
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(38)   a.   The road wide-n-ed

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(38)   a.   The road wide-n-ed

            b.   The workers wide-n-ed the road

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            vodka became.cheaper

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             vodka   became.cheaper

        b.   Automatizace   výroby   z-levn-i-la   vodku

             automatization of.production made.cheaper vodka

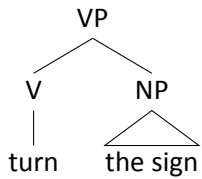# Causative-inchoative alternation

(37)   a.   inchoative verb: The sign turned

         b.   causative verbs: Mary turned the sign

(38)   a.   The road wide-n-ed

         b.   The workers wide-n-ed the road

(39)   a.   Vodka z-levn-i-la

            vodka   became.cheaper

         b.   Automatizace   výroby   z-levn-i-la   vodku

            automatization of.production made.cheaper vodka

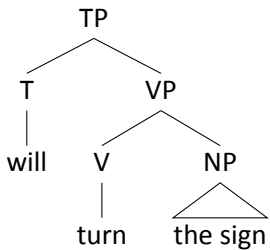(40)

```
              VP
             /  \
            V    NP
            |    /\
          turn  the sign
```

(41)

```
         TP
        /  \
       T    VP
       |    /  \
      will V    NP
           |    /\
         turn  the sign
```

(42)

```
              TP
            /    \
        ???       TP
                /    \
              T        VP
              |      /    \
            will   V       NP
                   |      /‾‾‾‾\
                 turn   the sign
```

(43)

```
              TP
            /    \
         ???      TP
                /    \
               T      VP
               |     /  \
              will  V    NP
                    |    /\
                   turn the sign
```

(44)

```
              VP
         ┌────┴────┐
        NP         VP
         △      ┌──┴──┐
       Mary     V     NP
                │      △
               turn  the sign
```

(45)

```
              TP
         ┌────┴────┐
         T         VP
         │      ┌───┴───┐
       will    NP       VP
             (Mary)  ┌───┴───┐
                     V       NP
                     │    (the sign)
                   turn
```

T: will
NP: Mary
V: turn
NP: the sign

(46)

```
                    TP
                 ╱      ╲
              ???        TP
                      ╱      ╲
                    T          VP
                    │       ╱      ╲
                   will   NP        VP
                         ╱╲       ╱    ╲
                       Mary     V       NP
                                │      ╱╲
                              turn  the sign
```

(47)

TP
- ??? TP
  - T
    - will
  - VP
    - NP
      - Mary
    - VP
      - V
        - turn
      - NP
        - the sign
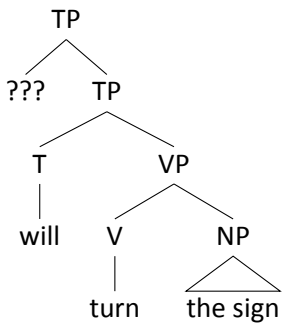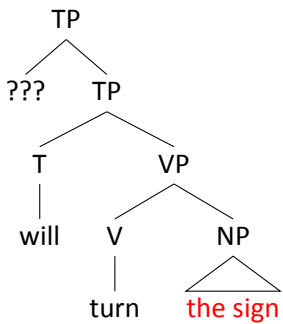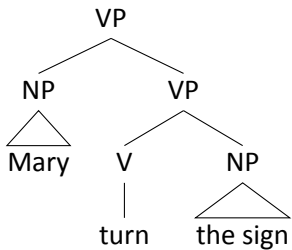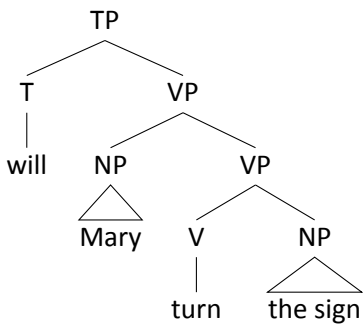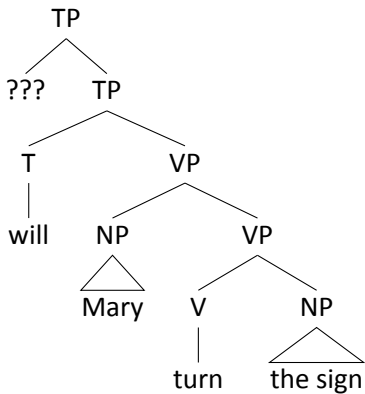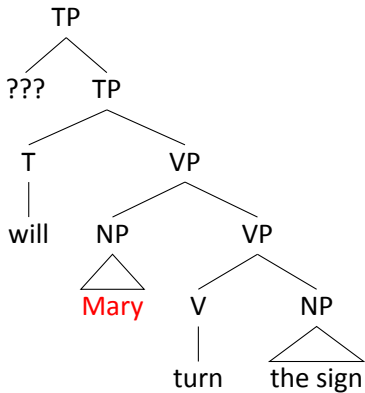
Semantic roles

Grammatical role

Mapping

Theory

Deriving the mapping between thematic roles and GFs

Conclusions

▶ Semantic roles (agent, patient, ...)

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- Grammatical functions (subject object)

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