

Syntax

Pavel Caha

Nov 27, 2023

Recap

Selecting the host

Semantic roles

Grammatical role

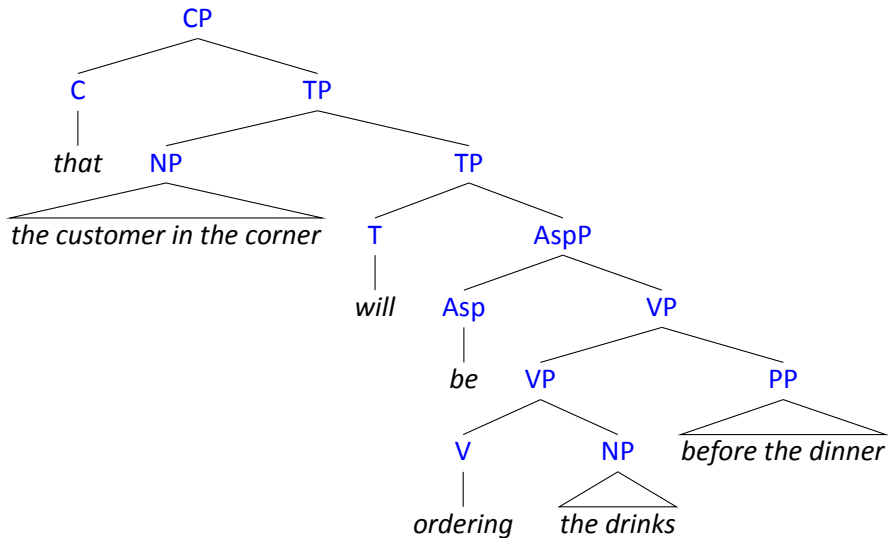
Mapping

Theory

How to become a subject

Czech expletives

Raising



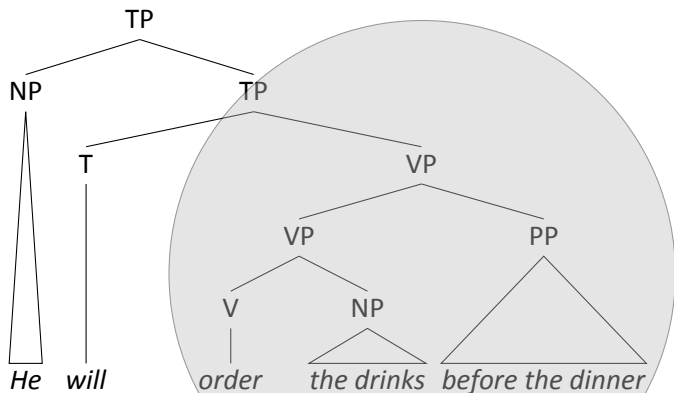
- (1)
- VP → describe an event
 - AspP → perspective: event seen from inside/outside
 - TP → anchor it in time with respect to the speech time
 - CP → the anchored event is a fact/wish/query/condition

ellipsis

- (2) A: The customer in the corner will order the drinks before the meal.
- (3) B: Actually, I wouldn't be so sure that he will —.

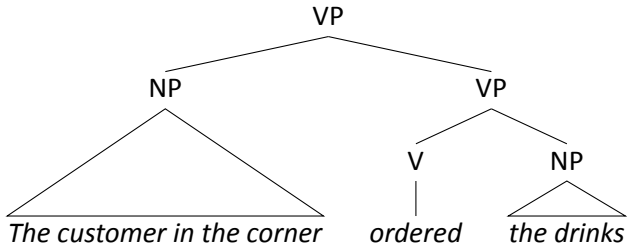
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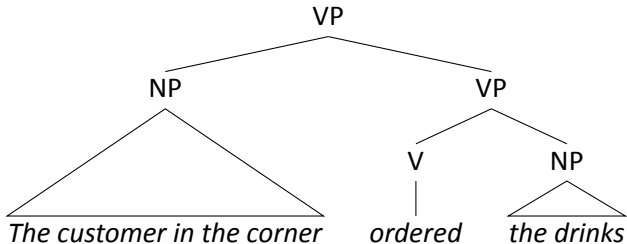


(4) A: The customer in the corner order-ed the drinks.

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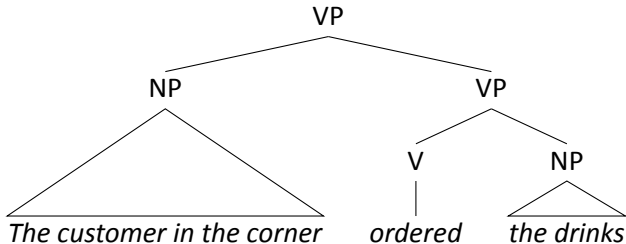


(4) A: The customer in the corner order-ed the drinks.



(5) B: *Actually, I wouldn't be so sure that he —.

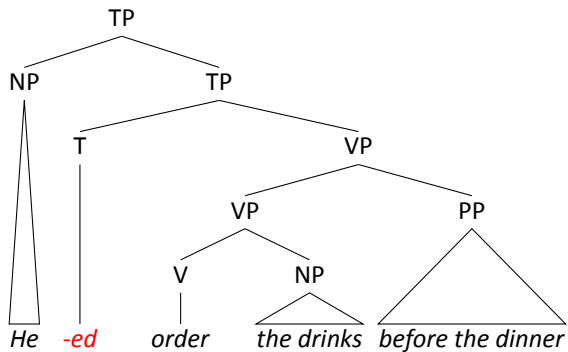
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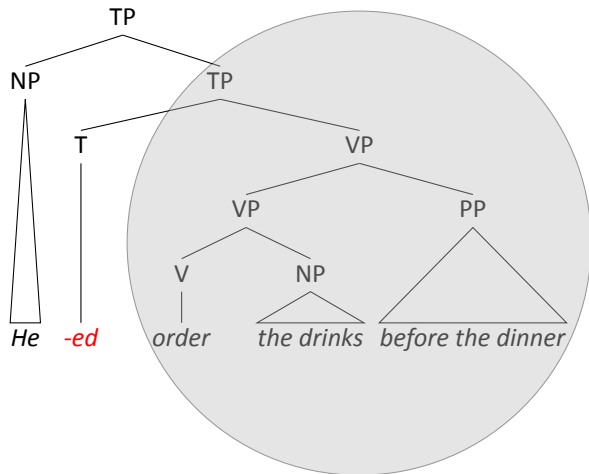
(5) B: *Actually, I wouldn't be so sure that he —.

(6) B: Actually, I wouldn't be so sure that he **did** —.

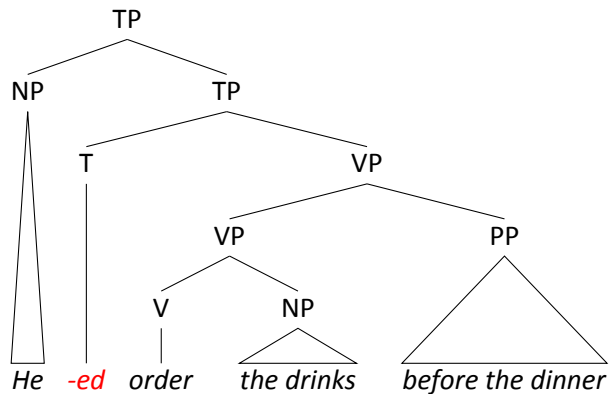
The sentence always has V and T



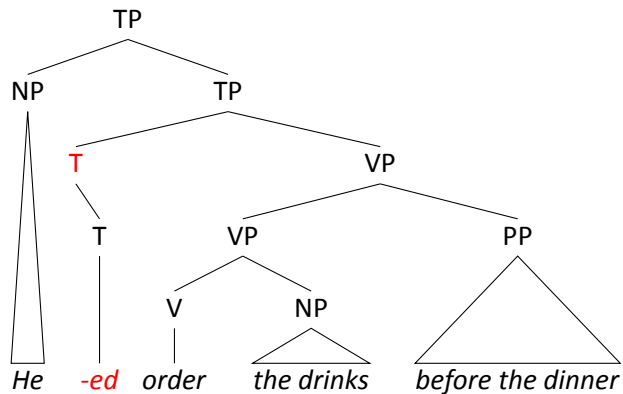
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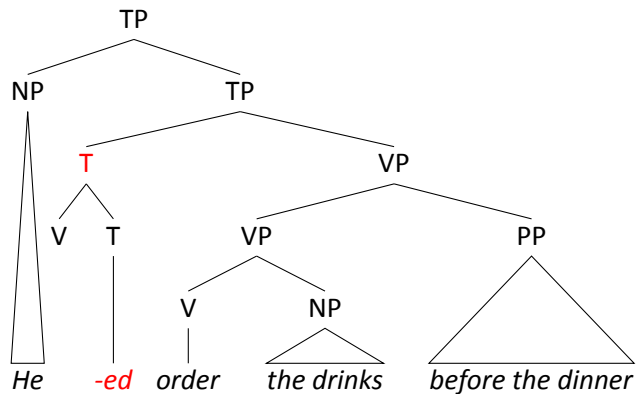
Do-support



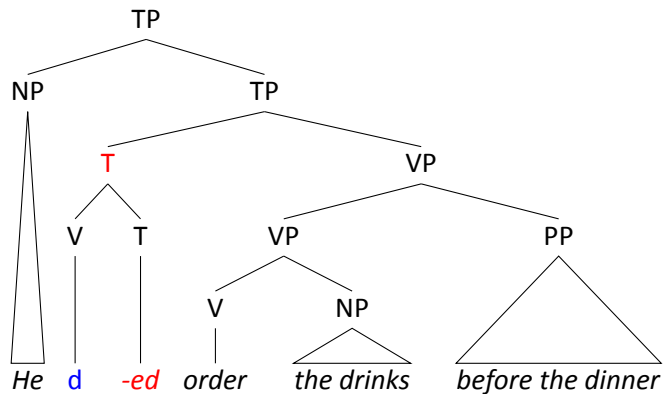
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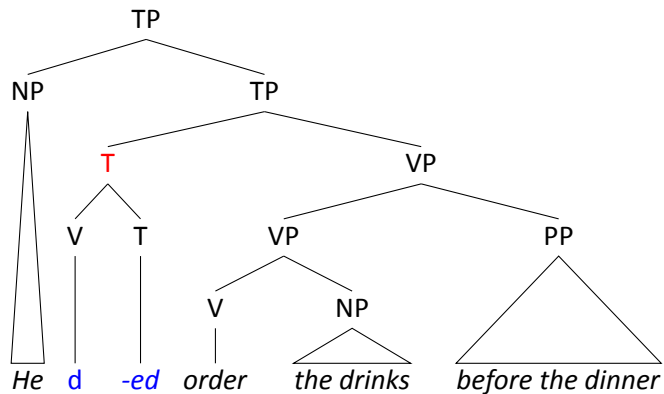
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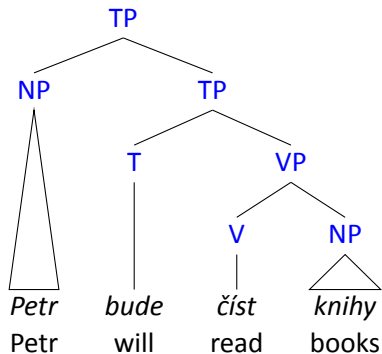


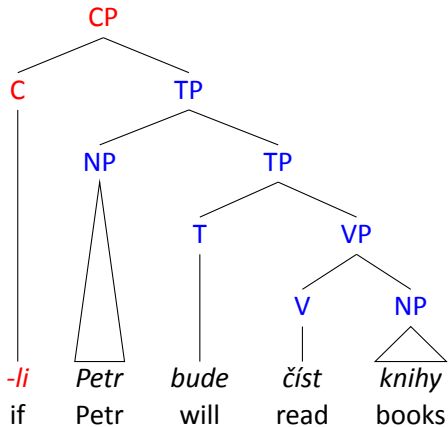
Czech Conditional

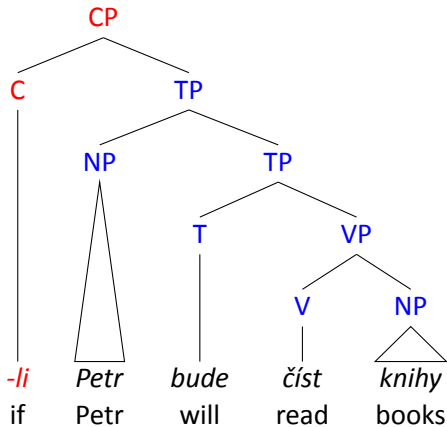
- (7) Petr bude číst knihy.
Petr will read books.
'Petr will be reading books'

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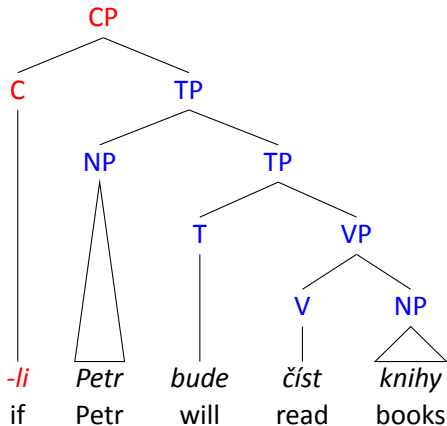
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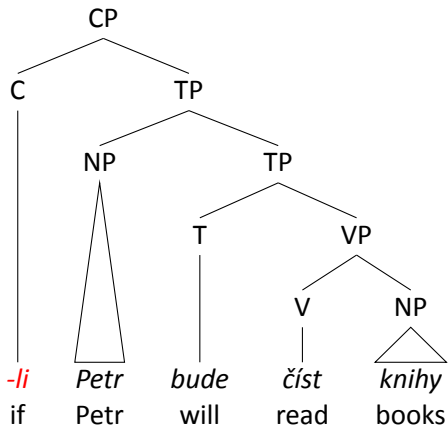


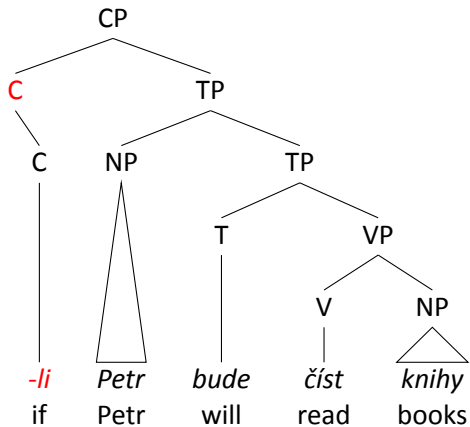


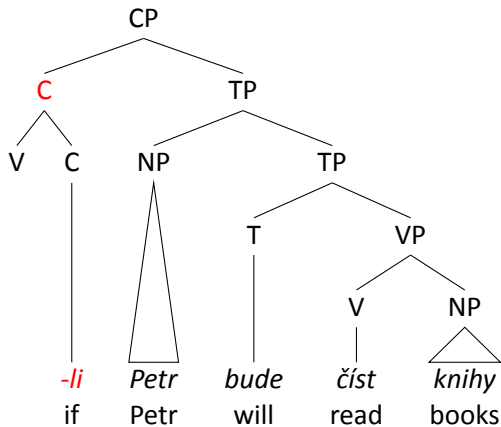
- (8) a. Jest -li Petr bude číst knihy
 be -IF Petr will read books

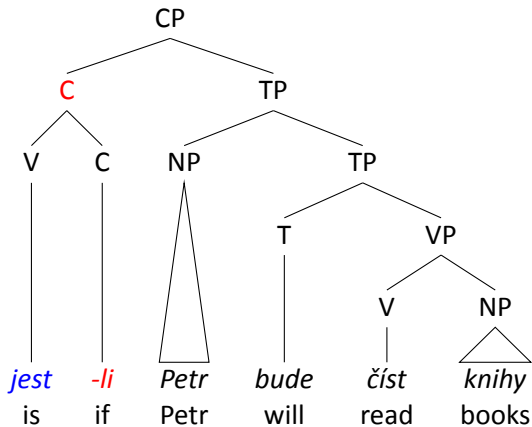


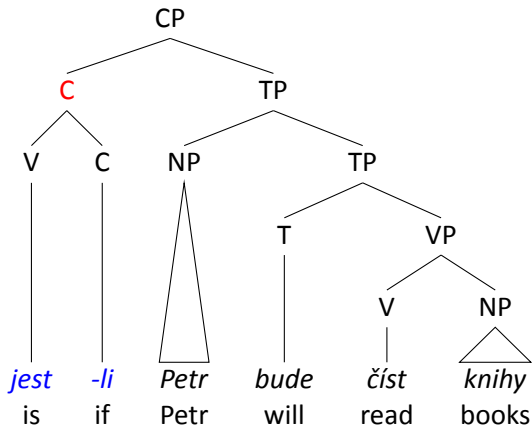
- (8) a. **Jest -li** Petr bude číst knihy
 be -IF Petr will read books
- b. **Bude -li** Petr bude číst knihy, ...
 will -IF Petr read books
 'if Petr reads books, ...'



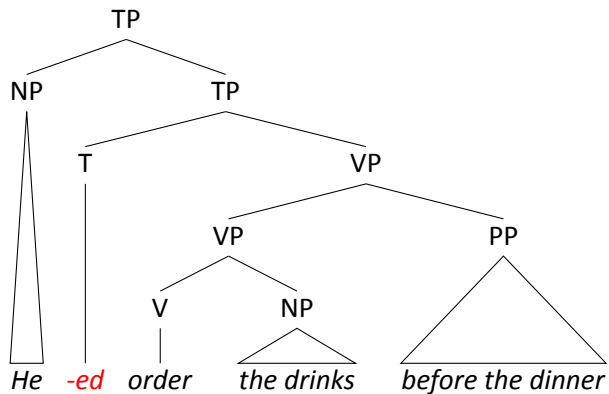




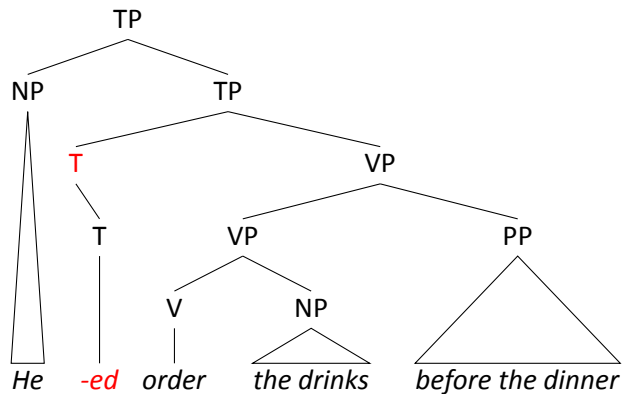




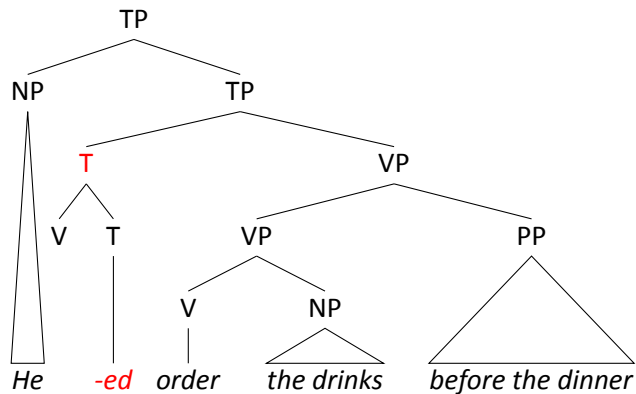
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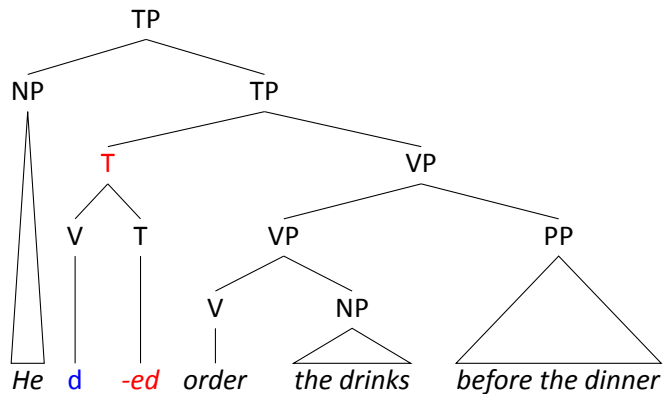
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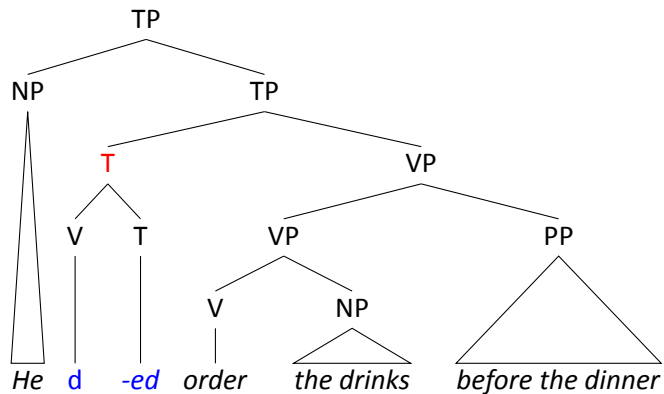
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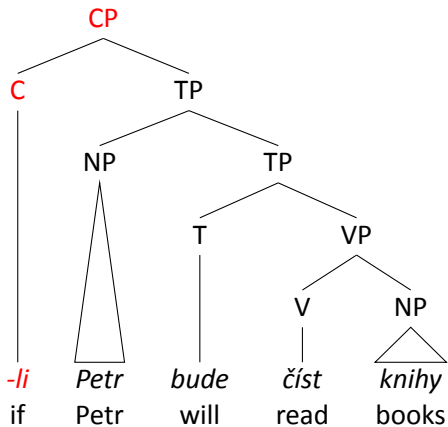


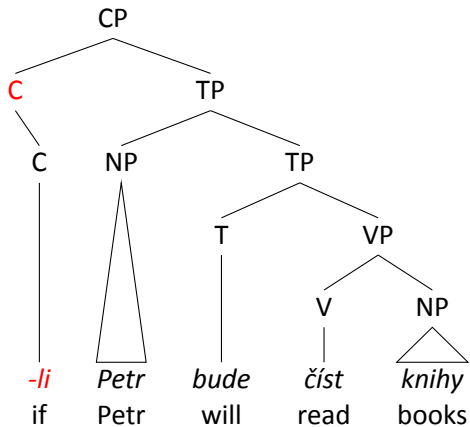
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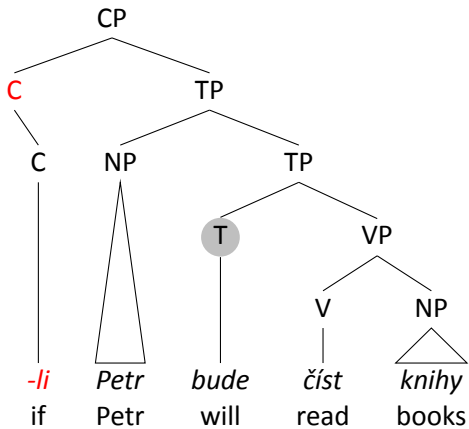


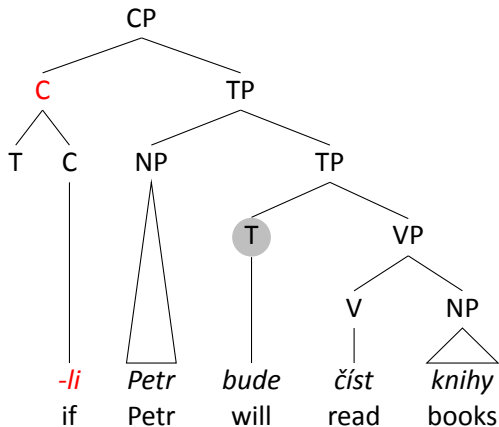
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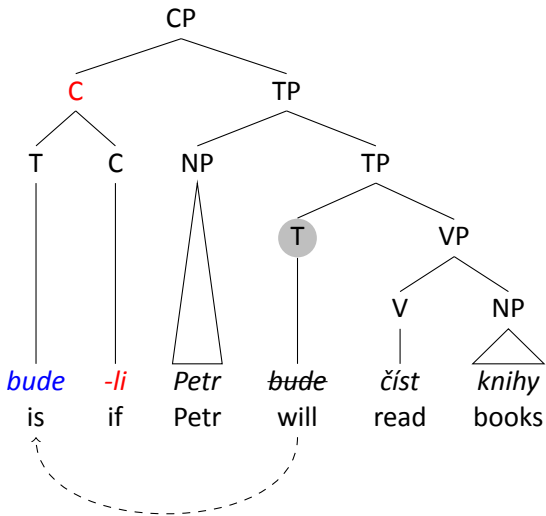


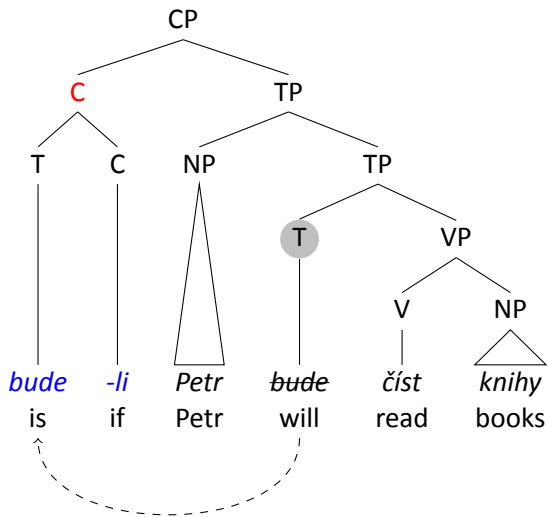












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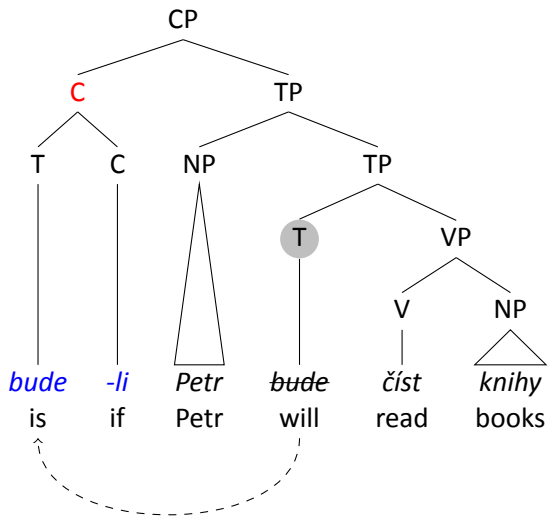
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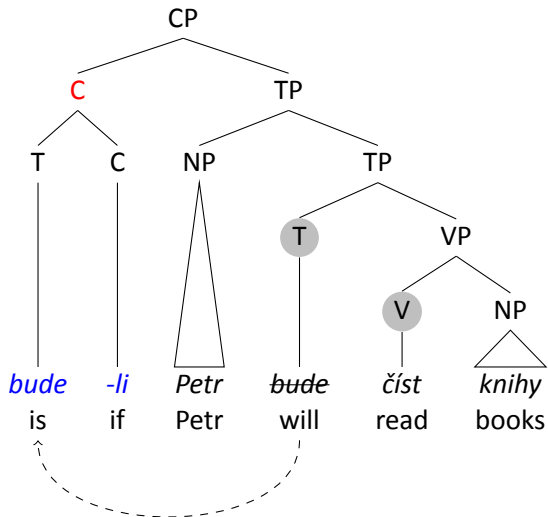
Theory

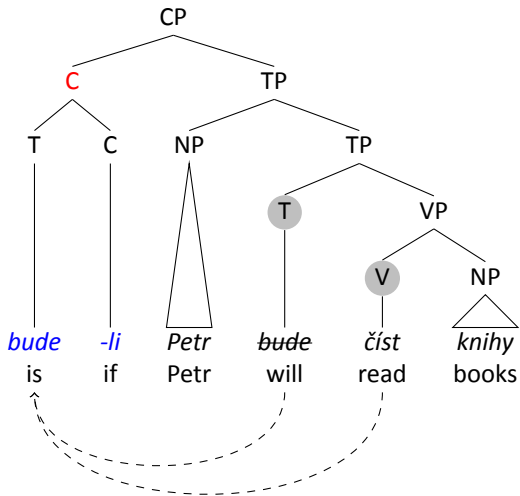
How to become a subject

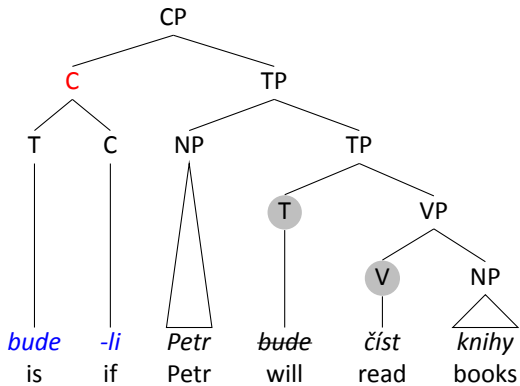
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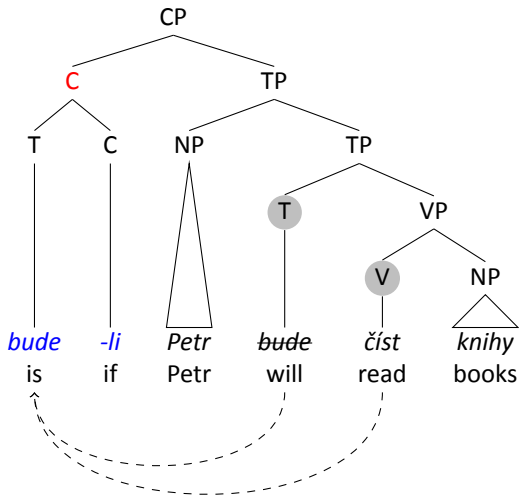








- (9) a. ??Číst- li Petr bude knihy, ...
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 - ▶ If universal, are these specific to language?

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

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The key opened the door.

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

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

Direct causation in the linguistic coding and individuation of causal events

Phillip Wolff  

Causal chain

Linguistic expression



Sara caused the door to open.
Sara opened the door.



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*Sara opened the door.

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Petr opened his.eyes into wide

- ▶ Recipient (*give me the book*)

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- ▶ ...

- ▶ Thematic roles are tightly associated to a particular predicate (with some degree of flexibility)

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already arrived.3sg
'He has already arrived.'

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what?

Typology of predicates

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(22)a. Der See ist gefroren.
the lake is frozen
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Petr has sneezed

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Grammatical role

(23) the grammatical coding of a semantic role

- ▶ Subject

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 - ▶ agrees with the verb

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Grammatical role

(23) the grammatical coding of a semantic role

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

▶ Object

- ▶ Object
 - ▶ follows the verb

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 - ▶ 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**

Recap

Selecting the host

Semantic roles

Grammatical role

Mapping

Theory

How to become a subject

Czech expletives

Raising

Two main generalizations

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

Two main generalizations

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

(24) a. Mary visited Bill

Two main generalizations

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

- (24)
- Mary visited Bill
 - Bill opened the door

Intransitive verbs

(25) a. Mary works. (unergative)

Intransitive verbs

- (25)
- a. Mary works. (unergative)
 - b. The soup cooled. (unaccusative)

Intransitive verbs

- (25) a. Mary works. (unergative)
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- (26) a. Als die drei eingeschlafen **waren**. ..
when the three fallen-asleep **were.3pl**
'When the three of them had fallen asleep. . . '

Intransitive verbs

- (25) a. Mary works. (unergative)
b. The soup cooled. (unaccusative)
- (26) a. Als die drei eingeschlafen **waren**. ..
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

(27) a. John built the house

Passive

- (27)
- a. John built the house
 - b. The house was built in 1977

Passive

- (27)
- a. John built the house
 - b. The house was built in 1977

Causative – inchoative alternation

(28) a. The sign turned.

Causative – inchoative alternation

- (28)
- a. The sign turned.
 - b. Mary turned the sign.

Causative – inchoative alternation

- (28) a. The sign turned.
b. Mary turned the sign.
- (29) A hierarchy of thematic roles
agent > patient
- (30) A hierarchy of grammatical functions
subject > object

Expletive Subject

(31) a. It is raining

Expletive Subject

- (31) a. It is raining
b. #What is raining?

Expletive Subject

- (31) a. It is raining
b. #What is raining?
- (32) Every sentence must have a subject, even if only formal

Expletive Subject

- (31) a. It is raining
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- ▶ formal subject = expletive subject

Expletive Subject

- (31) a. It is raining
b. #What is raining?
- (32) Every sentence must have a subject, even if only formal
- ▶ formal subject = expletive subject
- (33) There is a cat on the table.

Recap

Selecting the host

Semantic roles

Grammatical role

Mapping

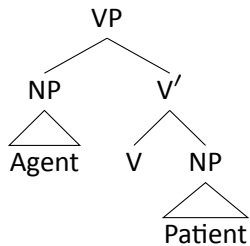
Theory

How to become a subject

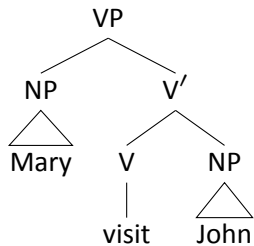
Czech expletives

Raising

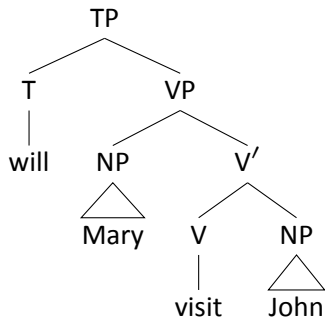
VP-internal 'subject'



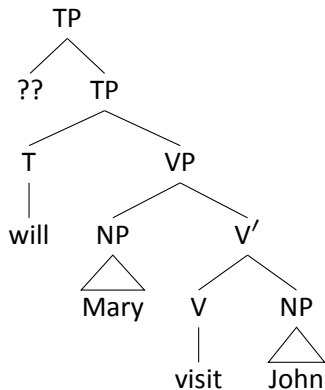
VP-internal 'subject'



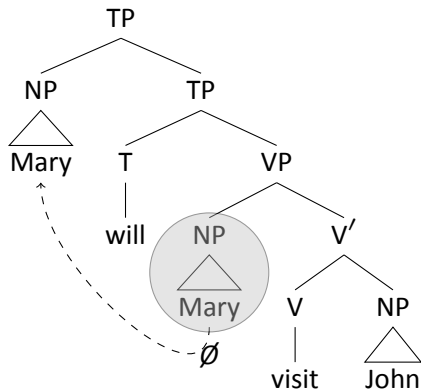
VP-internal 'subject'



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VP-internal 'subject'



- (34) When a head is expressed by an affix, syntax must provide a host for that affix.

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- a. Strategy 1: insert an expletive

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He d-ed order the drinks.

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Jest -li Petr bude číst knihy
 - b. Strategy 2: use an existing host
He **order-ed** the drinks.
Bude -li Petr číst knihy, ..

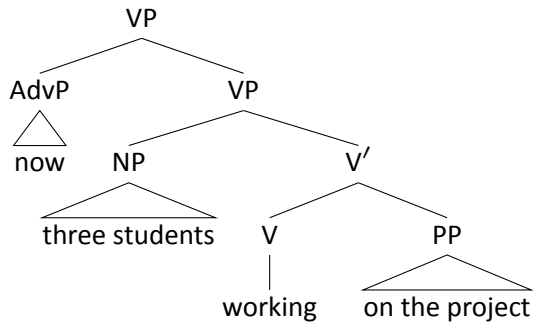
VP-internal 'subject'

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

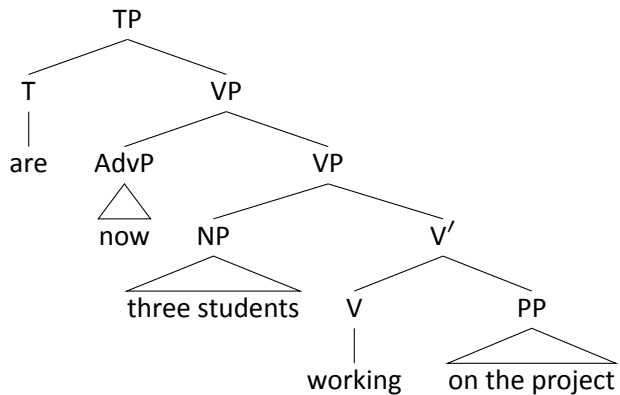
VP-internal 'subject'

- (35)
- a. Three students are now ~~three students~~ working on this project.
 - b. There are now three students working on this project.

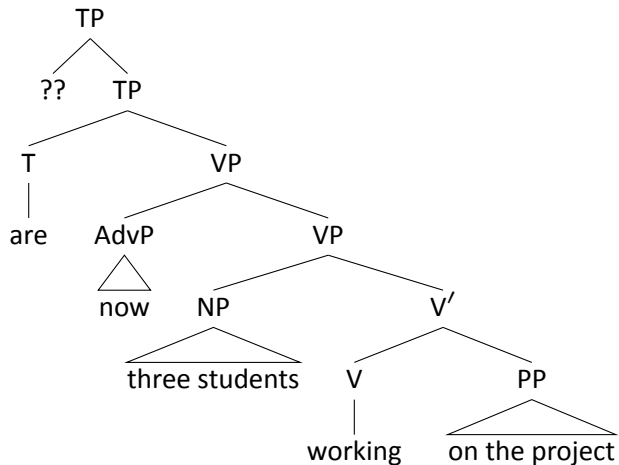
VP-internal 'subject'



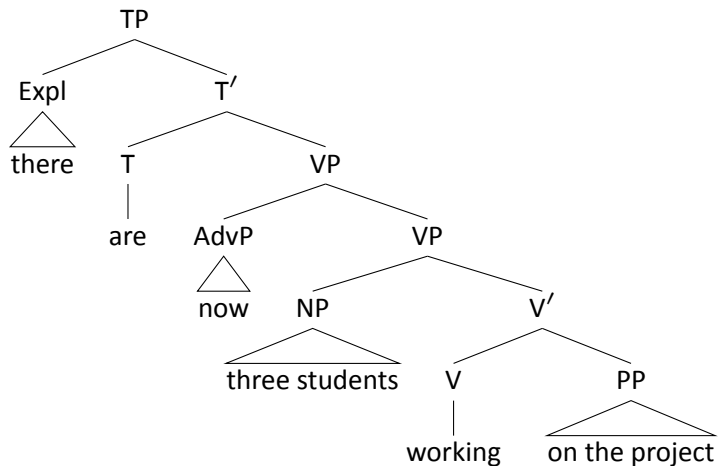
VP-internal 'subject'



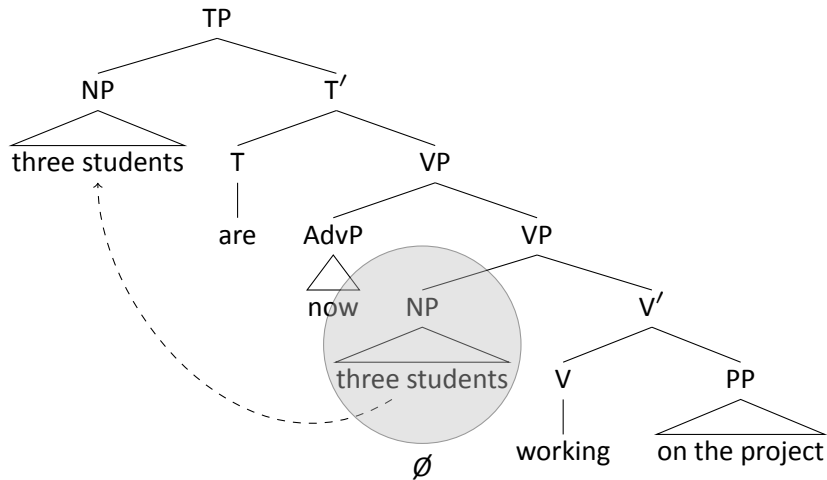
VP-internal 'subject'



Expletive insertion



Subject movement

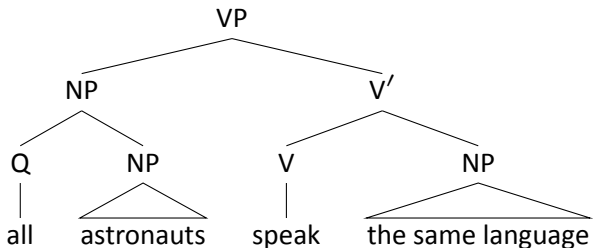


(36) **All astronauts** don't ~~all~~astronauts speak the same language

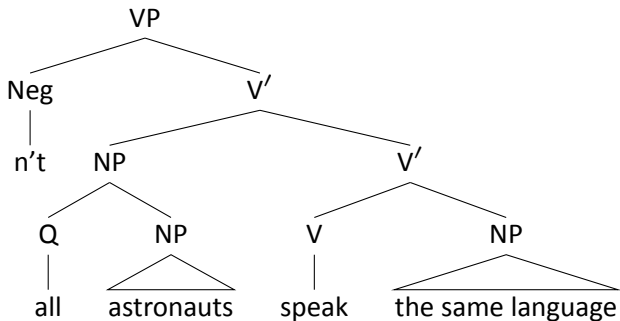
- (36) **All astronauts** don't ~~all~~ astronauts speak the same language
- (37) **Astronauts** don't **all** speak the same language

(36) **All astronauts** don't ~~all~~ astronauts speak the same language

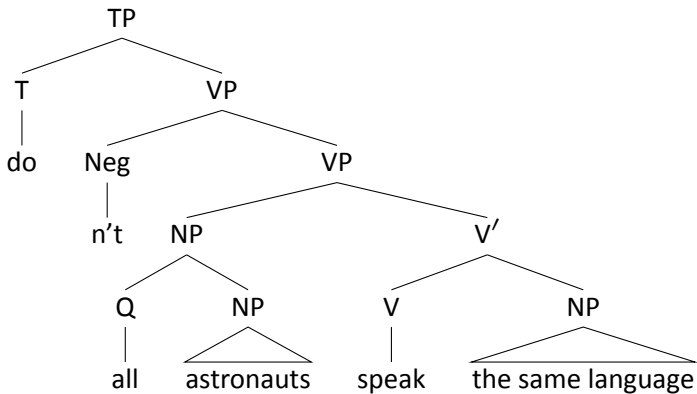
(37) **Astronauts** don't **all** speak the same language



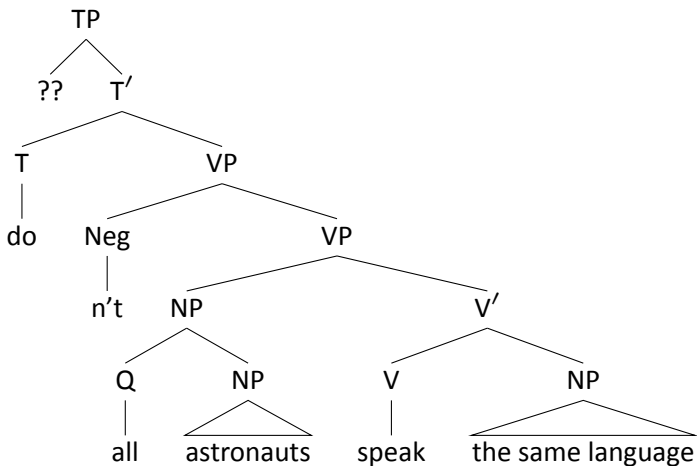
(38) Astronauts don't all speak the same language



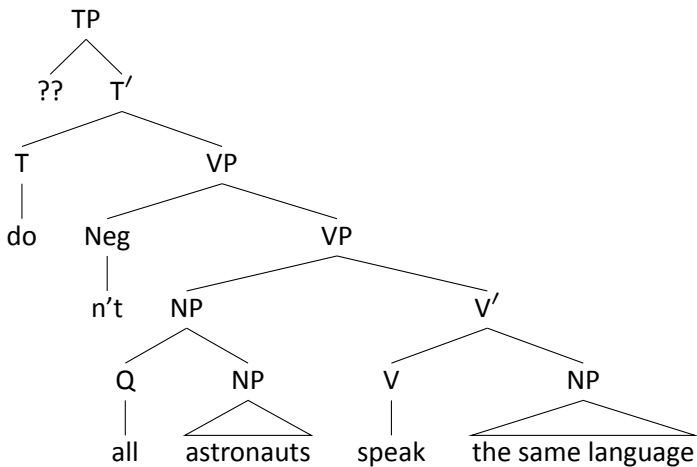
(39) Astronauts don't all speak the same language



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

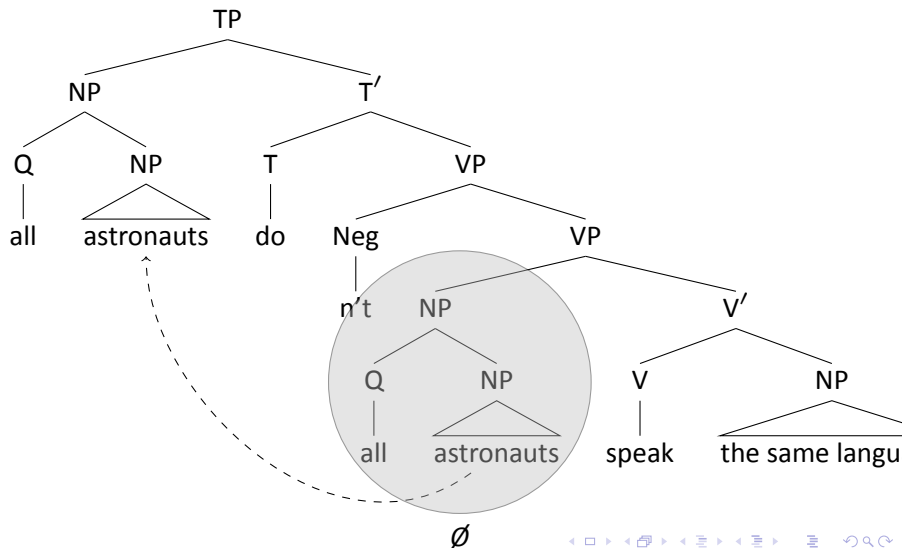


(41) Astronauts don't all speak the same language



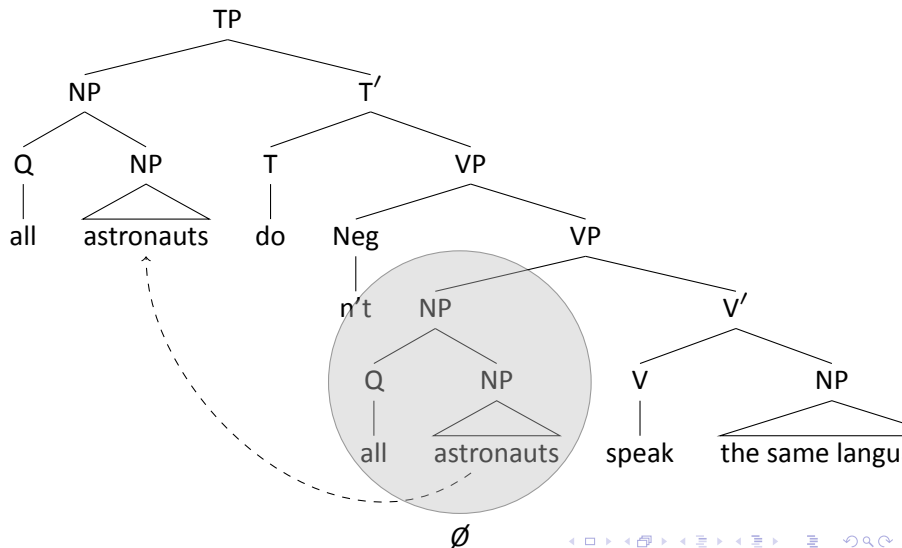
Economy of movement

(42) All astronauts don't speak the same language



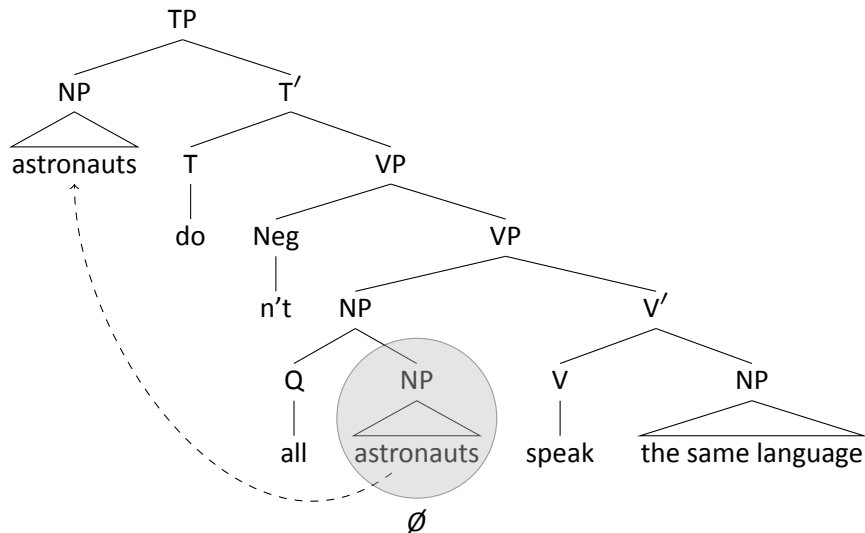
Economy of movement

(42) All astronauts don't speak the same language



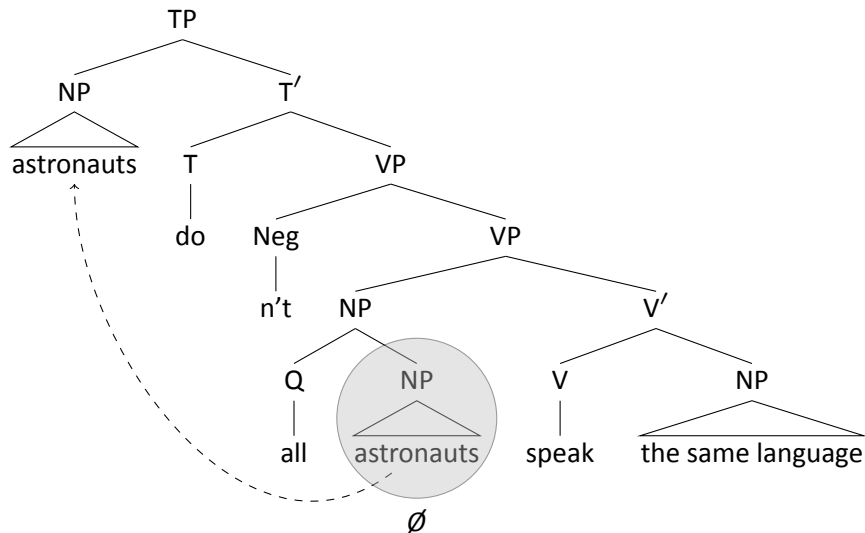
Economy of movement

(44) **Astronauts** don't **all** speak the same language



Economy of movement

(44) **Astronauts** don't **all** speak the same language



Recap

Selecting the host

Semantic roles

Grammatical role

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How to become a subject

Czech expletives

Raising

Causative-inchoative alternation

(46) a. inchoative verb: **The sign** turned

Causative-inchoative alternation

- (46)
- a. inchoative verb: **The sign** turned
 - b. causative verbs: Mary turned **the sign**

Causative-inchoative alternation

- (46) a. inchoative verb: **The sign** turned
b. causative verbs: Mary turned **the sign**
- (47) a. **The road** widened

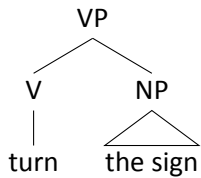
Causative-inchoative alternation

- (46) a. inchoative verb: **The sign** turned
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b. The workers widened **the road**

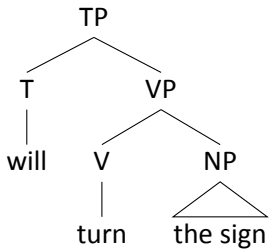
Causative-inchoative alternation

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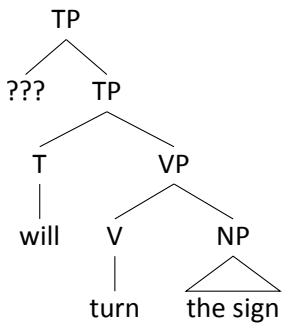
(48)



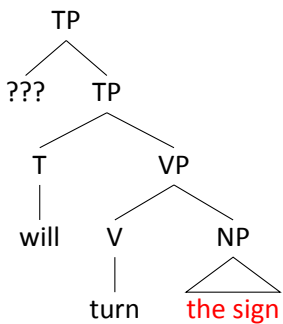
(49)



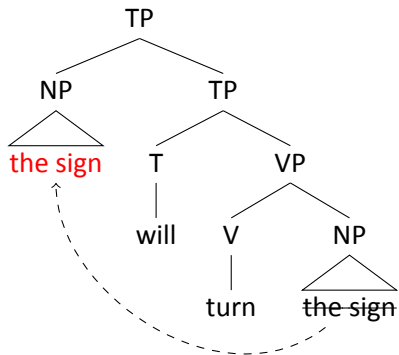
(50)



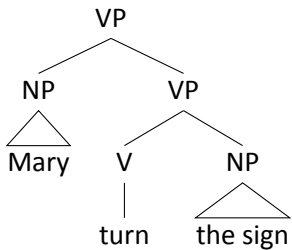
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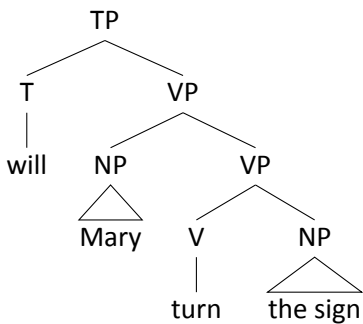
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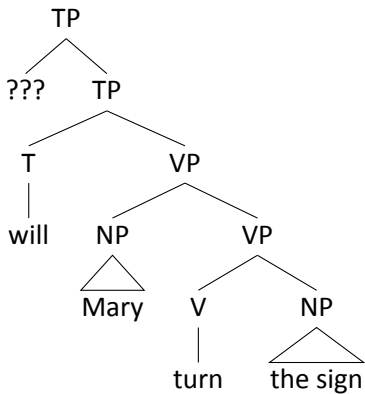
(53)



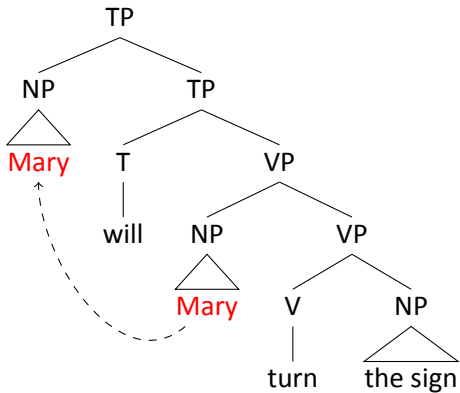
(54)



(55)



(56)



Recap

Selecting the host

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Czech expletives

Raising

Czech expletive doubling

- (57) a. prš-í (tam)
rain-s there
'It's raining (outside).'
- b. Vono (tam) prší
it there rains

Czech expletive doubling

- (57) a. prš-í (tam)
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'It's raining (outside).'
- (58) a. No, pan Beznoska je trochu cholerik.
well, mr Beznoska is a.bit.of a.choleric

Czech expletive doubling

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- (58) a. No, pan Beznoska je trochu cholerik.
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- b. No, von je pan Beznoska trochu cholerik.
well, he is mr beznoska a.bit.of a.cholerik

The Czech case is different from clitic doubling

(59) The expletive can double negative quantifiers

- a. vono tam nikdy nic není
it there never nothing neg.is
There is never anything there.

The Czech case is different from clitic doubling

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- a. vono tam nikdy nic není
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- b. Von nikdo nic neřekl
he nobody nothing neg.said
'nobody said anything.'

The Czech case is different from clitic doubling

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'nobody said anything.'

(60) Lecco Italian

a. Nisogn (*el) me capess
Nobody (he) me understands

b. El bagai *(el) mangia el pom
The boy (he) eats the apple

c. Lee *(la) leeuc un liber de storia
She she reads a book of history

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(61) The pronoun must precede the subject

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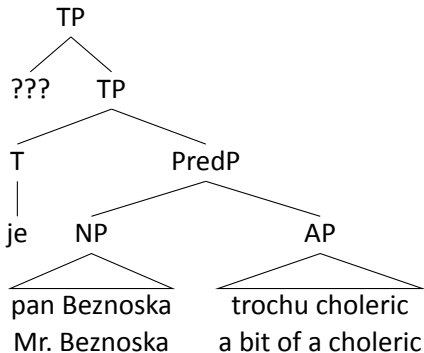
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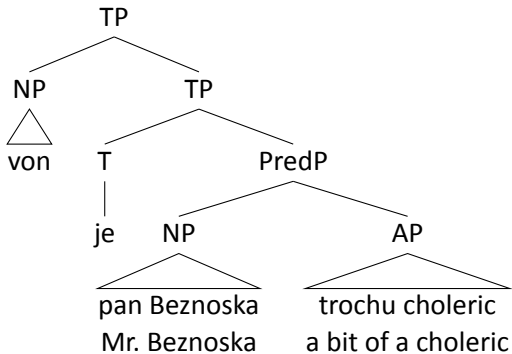
c. Nikdo nic neřekl
nobody nothing neg.said

(62) No, von je pan Beznoska trochu choleric.
well, he is mr beznoska a.bit.of a.choleric

- (62) No, von je pan Beznoska trochu cholerik.
well, he is mr beznoska a.bit.of a.choleric



- (63) No, von je pan Beznoska trochu cholerik.
well, he is mr beznoska a.bit.of a.choleric



Recap

Selecting the host

Semantic roles

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How to become a subject

Czech expletives

- (64)
- a. It seems that John is sick
 - b. John seems sick

- (64) a. It seems that John is sick
b. John seems sick

- (65) Na zelený čtvrtek se doporučovalo jíst zelenou
for green thursday refl it.was.recommended to.eat green.acc
stravu
food.acc

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b. John seems sick
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for green thursday refl it.was.recommended to.eat green.acc
stravu
food.acc
- (66) Na zelený čtvrtek se doporučovala jíst
for green thursday refl it.was.recommended to.eat
zelená strava
green.nom food.nom

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b. John seems sick
- (65) Na zelený čtvrtek se doporučovalo jíst zelenou
for green thursday refl it.was.recommended to.eat green.acc
stravu
food.acc
- (66) Na zelený čtvrtek se doporučovala jíst
for green thursday refl it.was.recommended to.eat
zelená strava
green.nom food.nom
- (67) Vona se na zelený čtvrtek doporučovala jíst
she refl on green thursday it.was.recommended to.eat
zelená strava
green food.nom

Recap

Selecting the host

Semantic roles

Grammatical role

Mapping

Theory

How to become a subject

Czech expletives

Raising

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

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- ▶ Grammatical functions (subject object)

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- ▶ Grammatical functions (subject object)
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 - ▶ the agent is closest (but if it is absent, other arguments may become subjects)
 - ▶ floating quantifiers

Recap

Selecting the host

Semantic roles

Grammatical role

Mapping

Theory

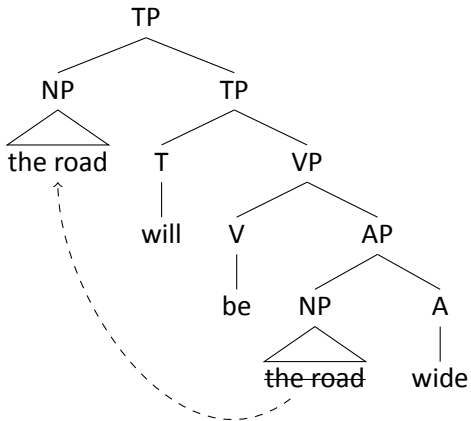
How to become a subject

Czech expletives

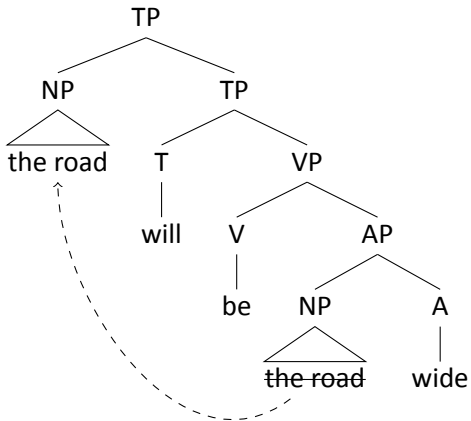
Raising

(68) The road will be wide

(68) The road will be wide

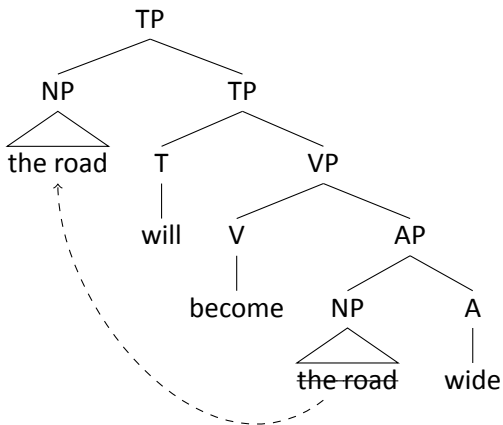


(68) The road will be wide



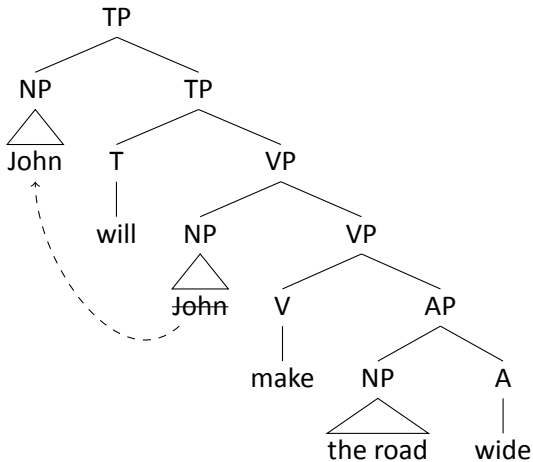
(69) The road will become wide

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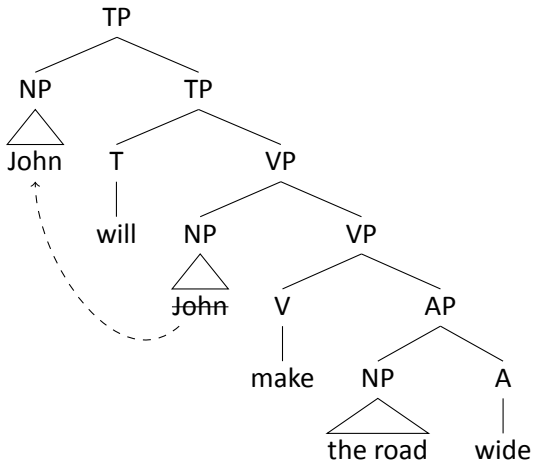


(70) John will make the road wide

(70) John will make the road wide



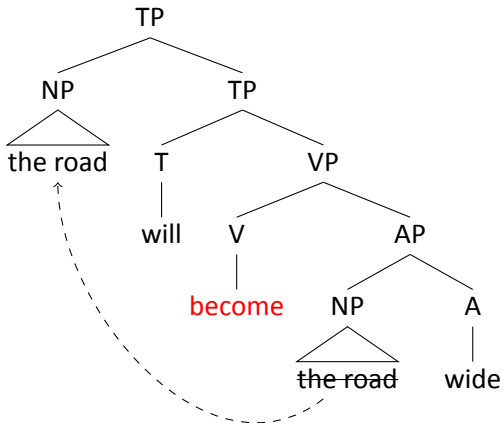
(70) John will make the road wide



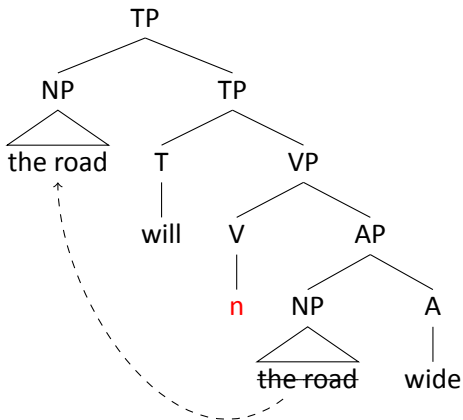
(71) a. The road will **become** wide

- (71) a. The road will **become** wide
b. The road will wide-**n**

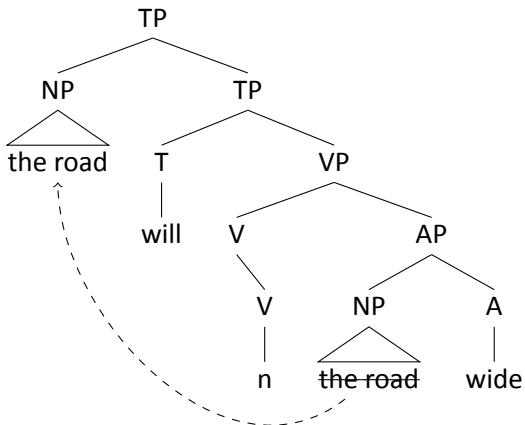
- (71) a. The road will **become** wide
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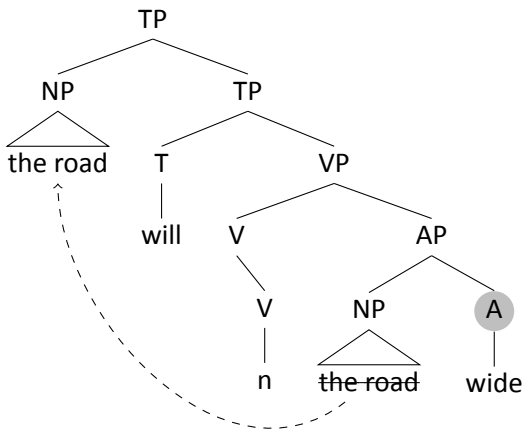
- (72) a. The road will **become** wide
b. The road will wide-**n**



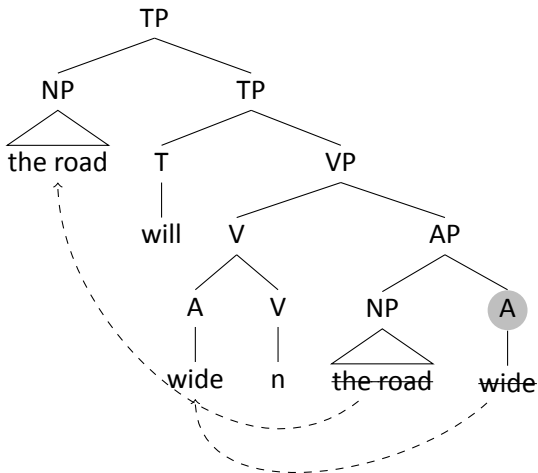
- (73) a. The road will **become** wide
b. The road will wide-**n**



- (74) a. The road will **become** wide
b. The road will wide-**n**



- (75) a. The road will **become** wide
b. The road will wide-**n**



(76) Turkish (courtesy Google translate)

(76) Turkish (courtesy Google translate)

- a. iyi sonuç-lar
good result-s

- (76) Turkish (courtesy Google translate)
- a. iyi sonuç-lar
good result-s
 - b. sonuç-lar-ı iyi-leş-ti
result-s-his good-become-past
His results improved

(76) Turkish (courtesy Google translate)

a. iyi sonuç-lar
good result-s

b. sonuç-lar-ı iyi-leş-ti
result-s-his good-become-past
His results improved

c. John sonuç-lar-ın-ı iyi-leş-tir-di
John result-s-his-acc good-become-cause-past
John improved his results

(76) Turkish (courtesy Google translate)

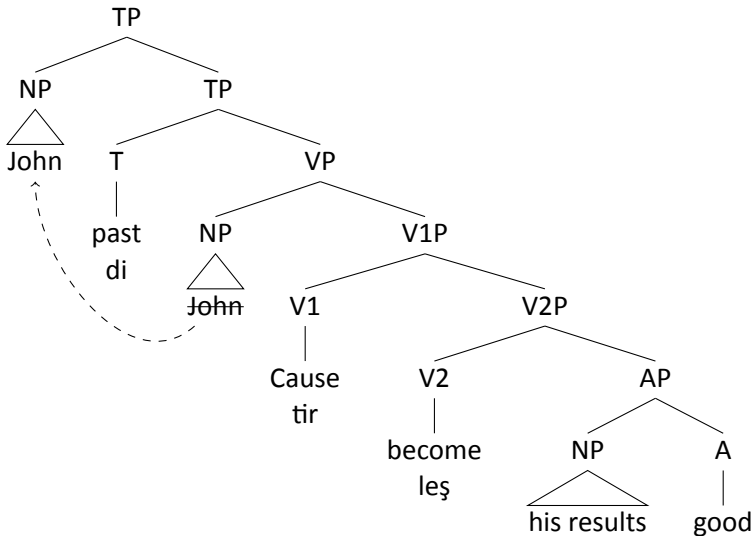
a. iyi sonuç-lar
good result-s

b. sonuç-lar-ı iyi-leş-ti
result-s-his good-become-past
His results improved

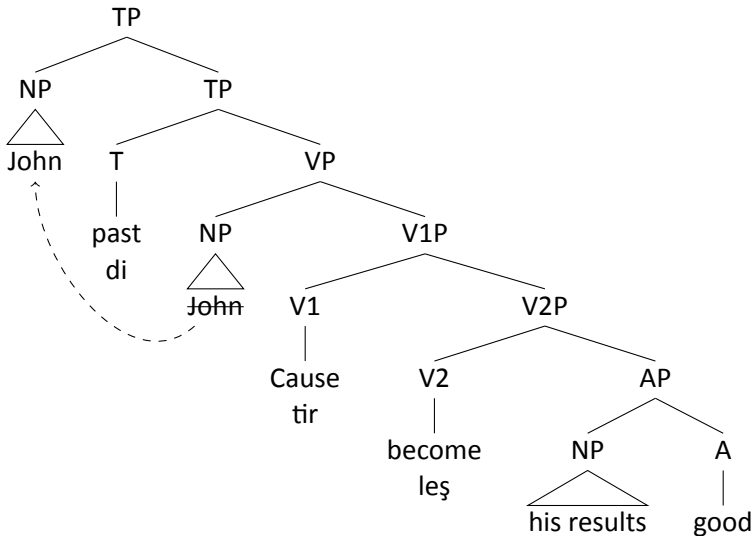
c. John sonuç-lar-ın-ı iyi-leş-tir-di
John result-s-his-acc good-become-cause-past
John improved his results

(77) John sonuç-lar-ın-ı iyi-leş-tir-di
John result-s-his-acc good-become-cause-past

(77) John sonuç-lar-ın-ı iyi-leş-tir-di
 John result-s-his-acc good-become-cause-past

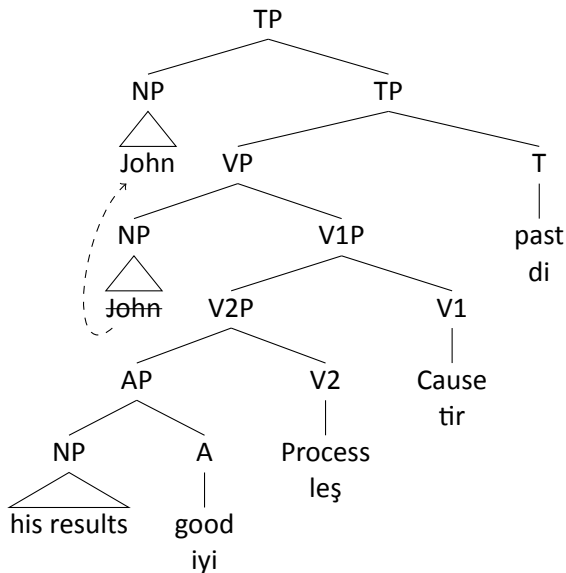


(77) John sonuç-lar-ın-ı iyi-leş-tir-di
 John result-s-his-acc good-become-cause-past

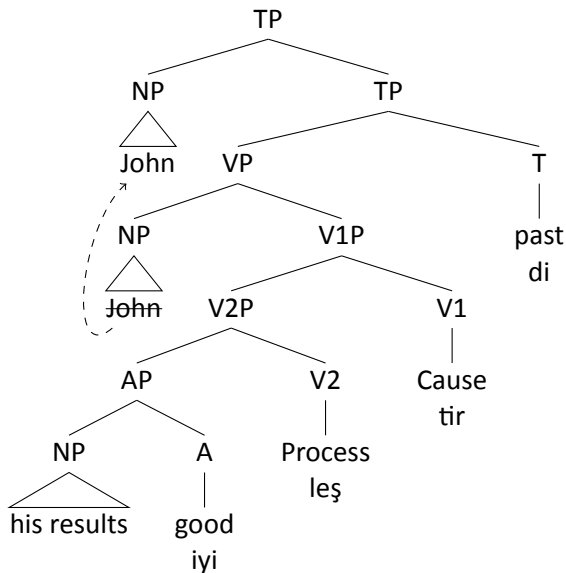


(78) John sonuç-lar-ın-ı iyi-leş-tir-di
John result-s-his-acc good-become-cause-past

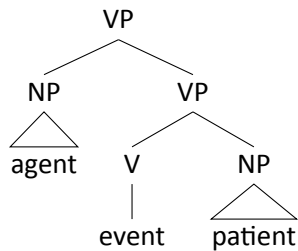
- (78) John sonuç-lar-ın-ı iyi-leş-tir-di
 John result-s-his-acc good-become-cause-past



- (78) John sonuç-lar-ın-ı iyi-leş-tir-di
 John result-s-his-acc good-become-cause-past



The point of it all



The point of it all

