LING2005 Syntax I

Tutorial: Clause and Phrase Structure

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Based on tutorial handouts by Dr. Zhuo Chen

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Miscellaneous

- The answer key to your handouts will be uploaded to Blackboard
- HW1 is out, due 9:30am Fri, Feb 24

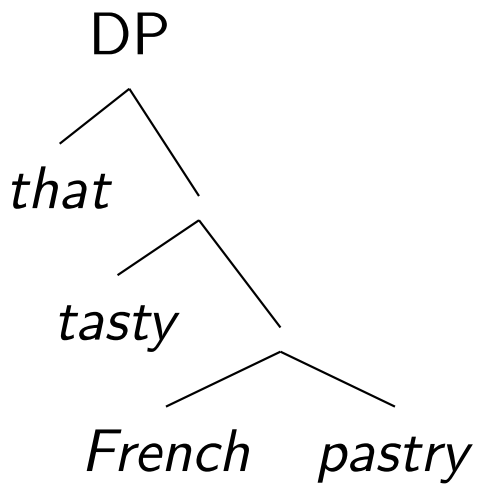
DP or NP?

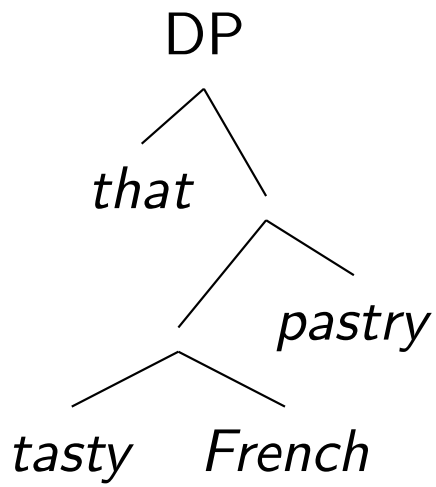
Eason Chan will meet that famous linguist at his home in the afternoon.

- *Eason Chan*: DP or NP?
- Replace with pronoun 'he': *he will meet that famous linguist at his home in the afternoon* → DP
- Conjunction: *Eason Chan and the student will meet that famous linguist at his home in the afternoon* → DP
- Conjunction: **Eason Chan and student will meet that famous linguist at his home in the afternoon* → not NP

Group Discussion

Which one is the right constituency for the phrase [$_{\text{DP}}$ *this tasty French pastry*]? Use one constituency test to support your answer.





Group Discussion

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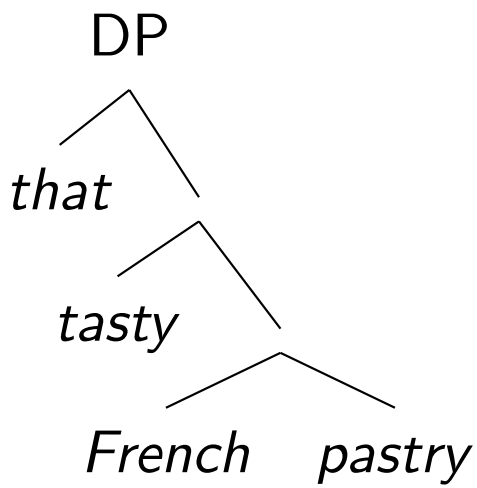
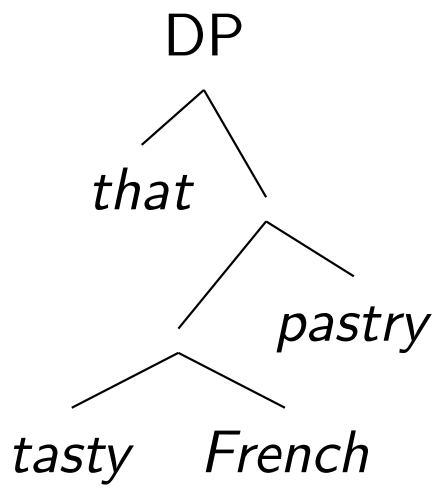




(1a) at the left is the correct structure, as "one" can replace "French pastry" in "that tasty one", showing that "French pastry" must be an NP constituent. Therefore, in the tree structure, there must be a node that exhaustively dominates "French" and "pastry", which is the case in (1a) but not (1b).

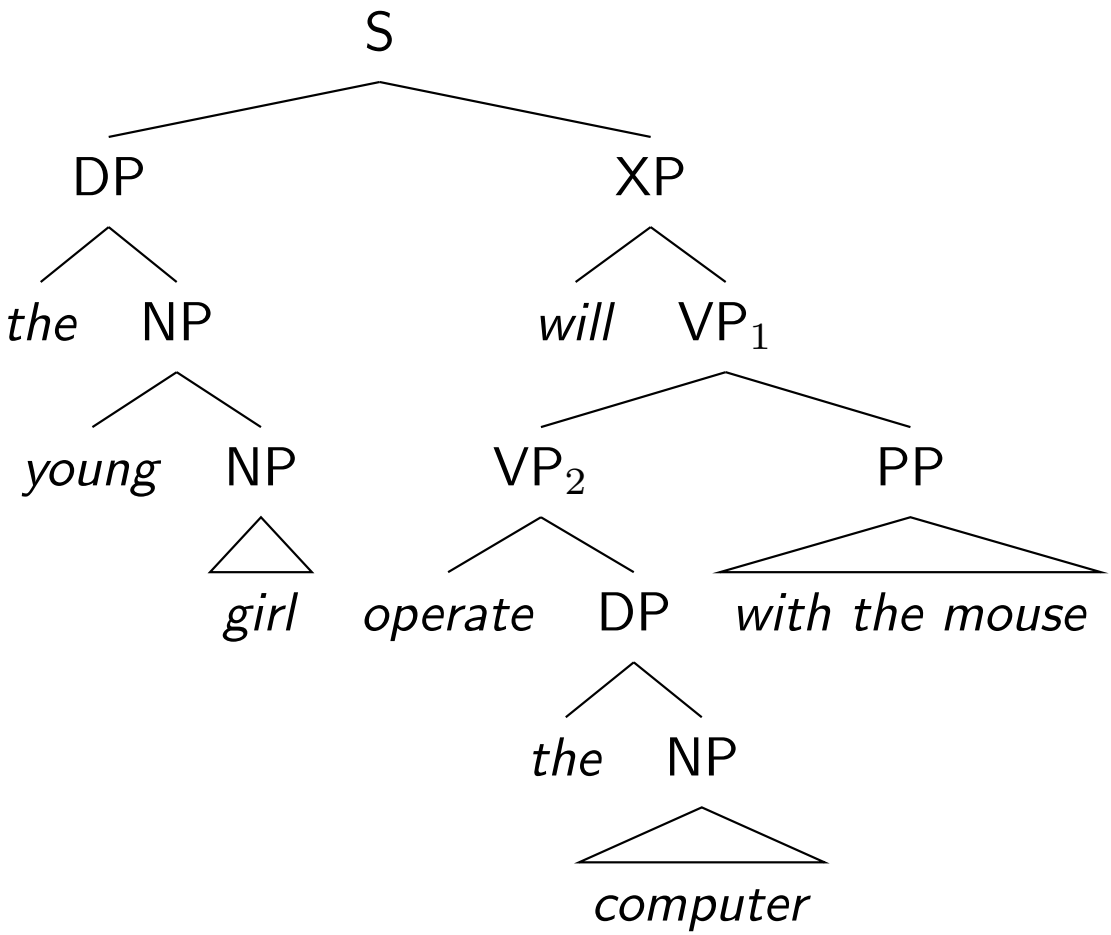
Group Discussion

The following sentence is ambiguous. For each reading, provide an unambiguous paraphrase and draw a tree structure corresponding to it. Use one constituency test to support the constituency of one tree but not the other.

The young girl will operate the computer with the mouse.

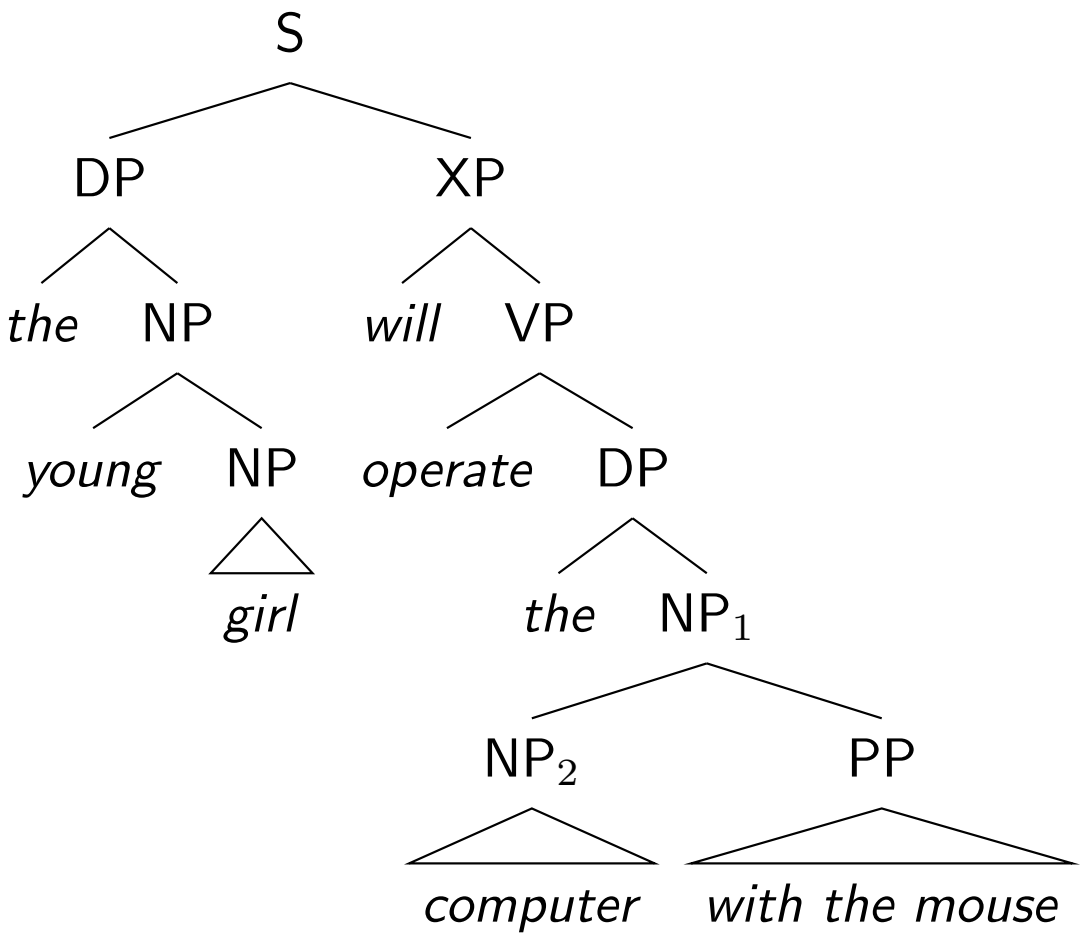
Group Discussion with Corrections

Reading A can be paraphrased as "The young girl will use the mouse to operate the computer". Hence [$_{PP}$ with the mouse] is modifying [$_{VP2}$ operate the computer], and these two constituents should be sisters to each other, which corresponds to the right tree. Using *do so* replacement test, "The young girl will do so with the mouse" shows that "operate the computer" is a VP constituent, and in the right tree VP_2 is the node that exhaustively dominates "operate the computer"; whereas there is no such node in the left tree



Group Discussion with Corrections

Reading B can be paraphrased as "The young girl will operate the computer which has a mouse". Hence [$_{PP}$ with the mouse] is modifying [$_{NP2}$ computer], and these two constituents should be sisters to each other, which corresponds to the left tree. Using *one* replacement test, "The young girl will operator the one" shows that "computer with the mouse" is an NP constituent, and in the left tree NP_1 is the node that exhaustively dominates "computer with the mouse"; whereas there is no such node in the right tree.



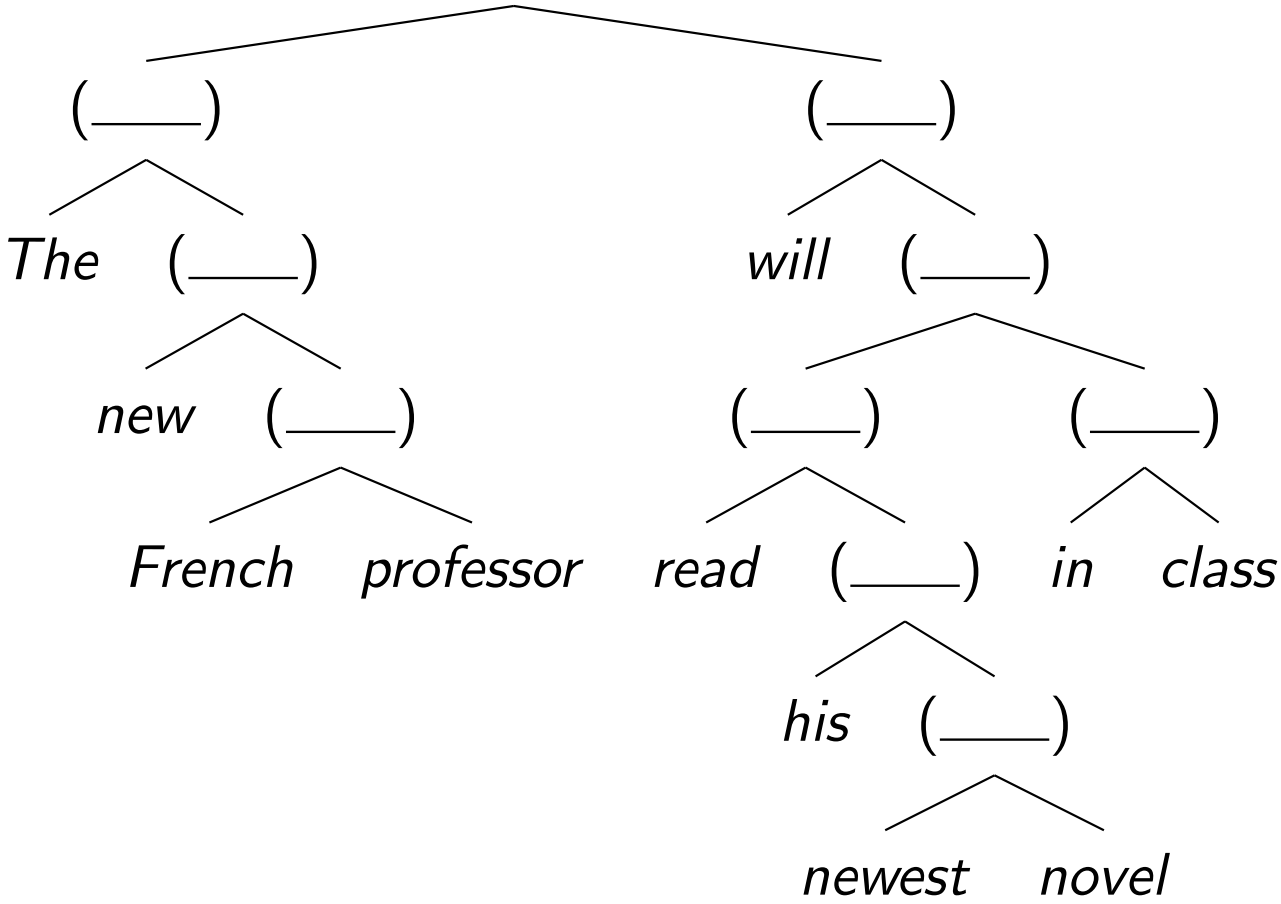
Group Discussion

The examples in (4) show the result of applying a number of constituency tests to the sentence in (3). The tree in (5) shows the constituency of the sentence in (3). For each of the unlabeled node, find the corresponding example that supports its constituency.
Note that there are fewer constituency tests in (4a)-(4g) than there are branching nodes in (5). So not every constituent in (5) is illustrated by a constituency test in (4).

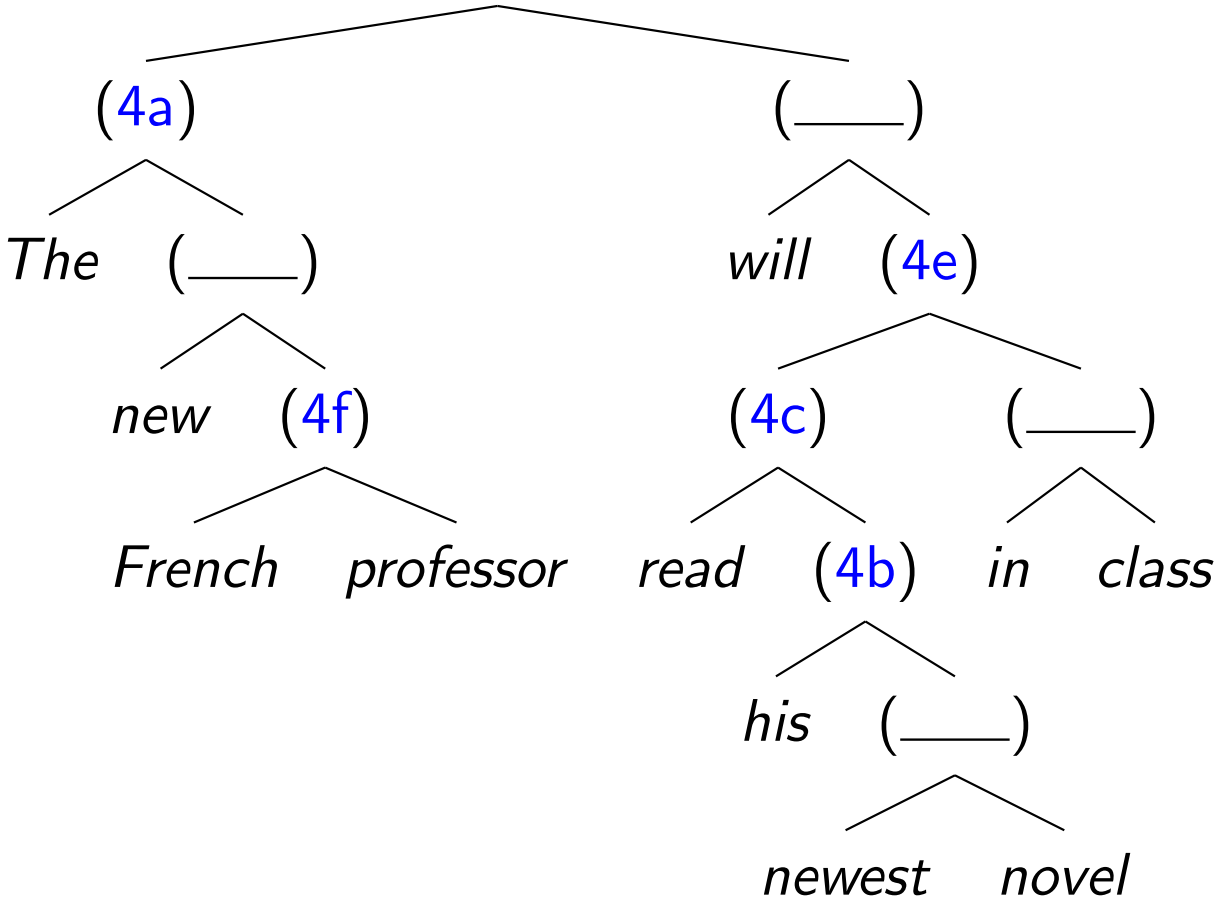
3. *The new French professor will read his newest novel in class.*

4. a. He will read his newest novel in class.
   b. It is his newest novel that the new French professor will read in class.
   c. The new French professor will do so in class.
   d. *New French professor, the will read his newest novel in class.
   e. Read his newest novel in class is what the new French professor will do.
   f. The new one will read his newest novel in class.
   g. *It is newest novel that the new French professor will read his in class.

Group Discussion



Group Discussion



Attendance

- Please scan the QR code and complete the attendance form