

LING2005 Syntax I

Tutorial: X-bar Theory

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Based on tutorial handouts by Dr. Zhuo Chen

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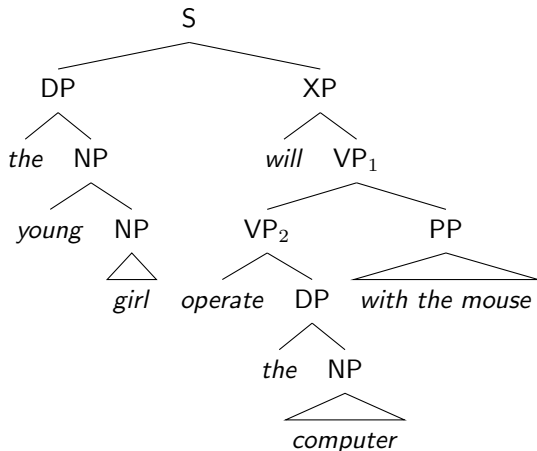




- HW1 due 9:30 am Fri, Feb 24
- Previous slides posted at
<https://lukeyigechen.com/teaching/ling2005/sp23>

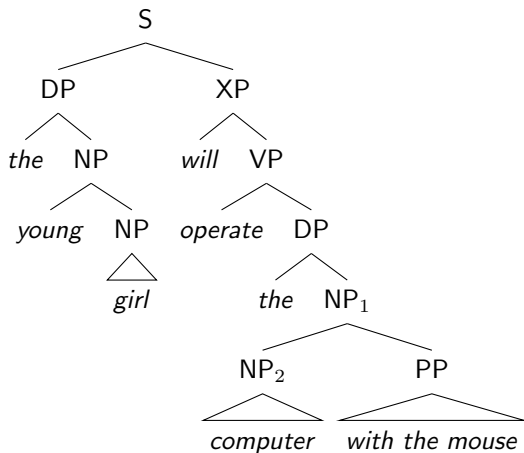


Reading A can be paraphrased as “The young girl will use the mouse to operate the computer”. Hence [PP with the mouse] is modifying [VP₂ operate the computer], and these two constituents should be sisters to each other, which corresponds to the right tree. Using *do so* replacement test, “The young girl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





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 NP₁ is the node that exhaustively dominates “computer with the mouse”; whereas there is no such node in the right tree.

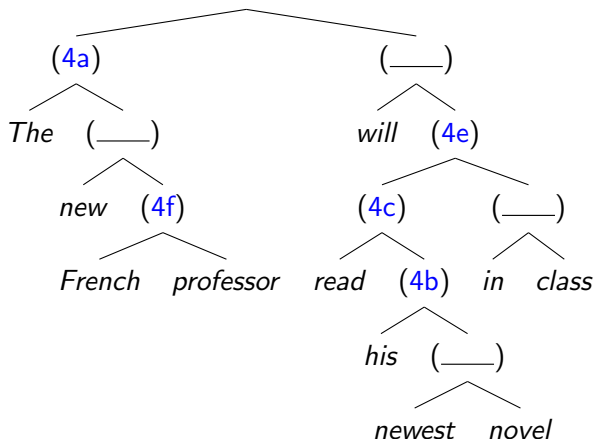




- Passing the test (grammatical) indicates that the segment tested is a constituent
- Failure to pass the test (ungrammatical and usually with an asterisk) **derives no conclusion**
 - We don't know whether the segment is a constituent or not
 - i.e., you cannot say that it is not a constituent - we simply don't know
 - Analogy: statistical insignificance
 - If needed, we can apply more tests to further investigate
- As a result, we do not put (d) and (g) into the blank because they tell nothing

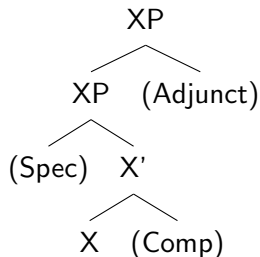


- d. *New French professor, the will read his newest novel in class.
g. *It is newest novel that the new French professor will read his in class.

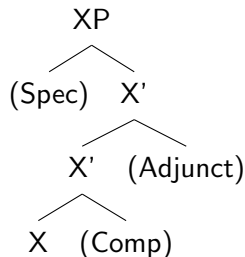




(a) In this course



(b) Something you may encounter

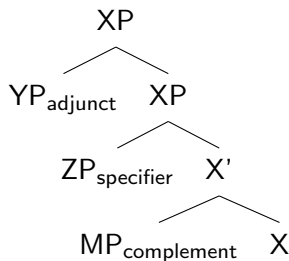


- Please keep in mind that **(a) is the correct option for the purpose of this course.**
- Or maybe later in Syntax II as well?
- Even later: at your own discretion - the field is broad and we have all sorts of proposed ideas



Based on the following sentence, please provide the general X-bar schema for an XP in Tibetan. It should include the position of (i) specifier, (ii) head, (iii) adjuncts, and (iv) complement.

- a. gyag-gi rca zapared
yak grass ate
“The yak ate the grass”
- b. dkar rta
white horse
“white horse”
- c. bkra.shis-kyis mgo-la skra dzugs
Tashi head-on hair plant.prs
“Tashi plants hair on the head.”

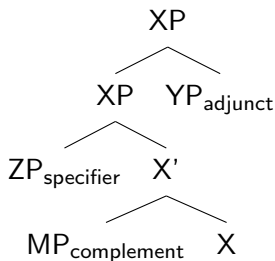
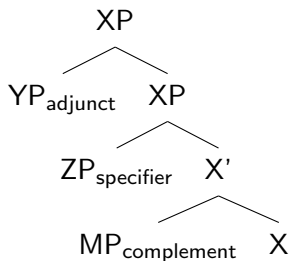


- Complement rule: The head follows its complement (e.g., *rca zapared*)
- Specifier rule: The specifier precedes X' (e.g., the subject within a TP: *gyag-gi rca zapared*)
- Adjunct rule: The adjunct precedes an XP it modifies (e.g., *dkar rta, mgo-la skra dzugs*)



How about this?

- a. gyag-gi rca zapared
yak grass ate
“The yak ate the grass”
- b. rta dkar
horse white
“white horse”
- c. bkra.shis-kyis mgo-la skra dzugs
Tashi head-on hair plant.prs
“Tashi plants hair on the head.”



- Complement rule: The head follows its complement (e.g., *rca zapared*)
- Specifier rule: The specifier precedes X' (e.g., the subject within a TP: *gyag-gi rca zapared*)
- Adjunct rule: The adjunct may precede or succeed an XP it modifies (e.g., *rta dkar, mgo-la skra dzugs*)



Consider the following sentences and answer the following questions:

- ① why [student] in (2a) can be replaced with “one” (3a), whereas [student] in (2b) cannot be replaced with “one” (3b)?
- ② when the two PPs [PP with purple hair] and [PP of linguistics] co-occur, the linear order must be such that [PP of linguistics] precedes [PP with purple hair] (4a), but not the other way around (4b)?
- ③ draw a tree for [DP that student of linguistics with purple hair] (you may use triangles for PPs).

- ② a. Lady Gaga will meet that **student** [PP with purple hair].
b. Lady Gaga will meet that **student** [PP of linguistics].
- ③ a. Lady Gaga will meet that **one** [PP with purple hair].
b.* Lady Gaga will meet that **one** [PP of linguistics].
- ④ a. Lady Gaga will meet that student [PP of linguistics] [PP with purple hair].
b.* Lady Gaga will meet that student [PP with purple hair] [PP of linguistics].



❶ why [student] in (2a) can be replaced with “one” (3a), whereas [student] in (2b) cannot be replaced with “one” (3b)?

- ❷ a. Lady Gaga will meet that **student** [_{PP} with purple hair].
b. Lady Gaga will meet that **student** [_{PP} of linguistics].
- ❸ a. Lady Gaga will meet that **one** [_{PP} with purple hair].
b.* Lady Gaga will meet that **one** [_{PP} of linguistics].

As “one” replaces an NP but not an N, the contrast in (3) naturally follows if [_{PP} with purple hair] is an adjunct modifying [_{NP} student], which can be replaced with “one” (3a); whereas [_{PP} of linguistics] is a complement of [_N student], which cannot be replaced with “one” (3b).



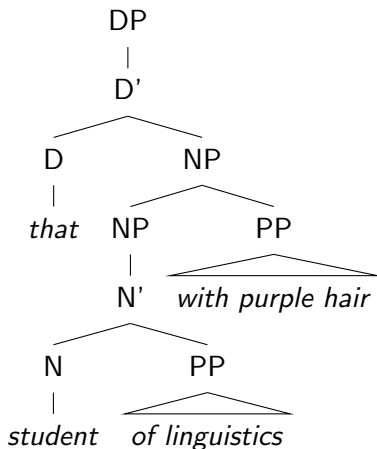
- ② when the two PPs [PP with purple hair] and [PP of linguistics] co-occur, the linear order must be such that [PP of linguistics] precedes [PP with purple hair] (4a), but not the other way around (4b)?

- ④ a. Lady Gaga will meet that student [PP of linguistics] [PP with purple hair].
b.* Lady Gaga will meet that student [PP with purple hair] [PP of linguistics].

Since [PP with purple hair] is an adjunct whereas [PP of linguistics] is a complement, given that under the X-bar scheme, an adjunct can never intervene between a head and its complement, the order restriction is understandable: the N head student should be immediately followed by its complement [PP of linguistics], which in turn precedes an adjunct [PP with purple hair].



- ③ draw a tree for [DP that student of linguistics with purple hair] (you may use triangles for PPs).



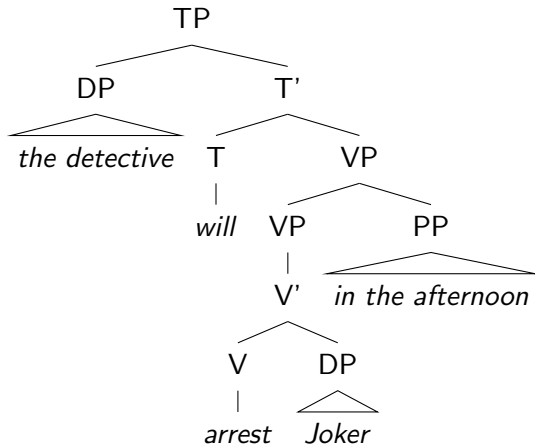


Draw an X-bar compliant tree for the following sentence (you may use triangles for DPs and PPs):

The detective will arrest Joker in the afternoon.



The detective will arrest Joker in the afternoon.





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