

Television news . of course . has always been part show-biz .

Broadcasters have a healthy appreciation of the role entertainment values play in captivating an audience .

But , as CBS Broadcast Group president Howard Stringer puts it , the network now needs to “ broaden the horizons of nonfiction television , and that includes some experimentation . ”

On Oct. 21 , it did a rendition of the kidnapping and imprisonment of Associated Press correspondent Terry Anderson , who was abducted in March 1985 and is believed to be held in Lebanon .

The production had actors playing Mr. Anderson and former hostages David Jacobsen , the Rev. Benjamin Weir and Father Lawrence Jenco .

ABC News has similarly branched out into entertainment gimmickry .

(ABC stops short of using an “ applause ” sign and a comic to warm up the audience .

The stars do that themselves .)

Call it a fad .

Or call it the wave of the future .

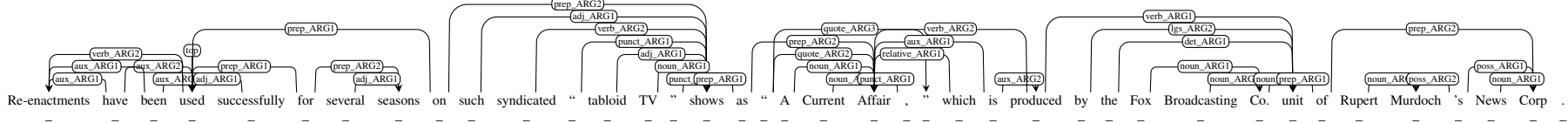
NBC ’ s re-creations are produced by Cosgrove-Meurer Productions , which also makes the successful prime-time NBC Entertainment series “ Unsolved Mysteries . ”

The marriage of news and theater , if not exactly inevitable , has been consummated nonetheless .

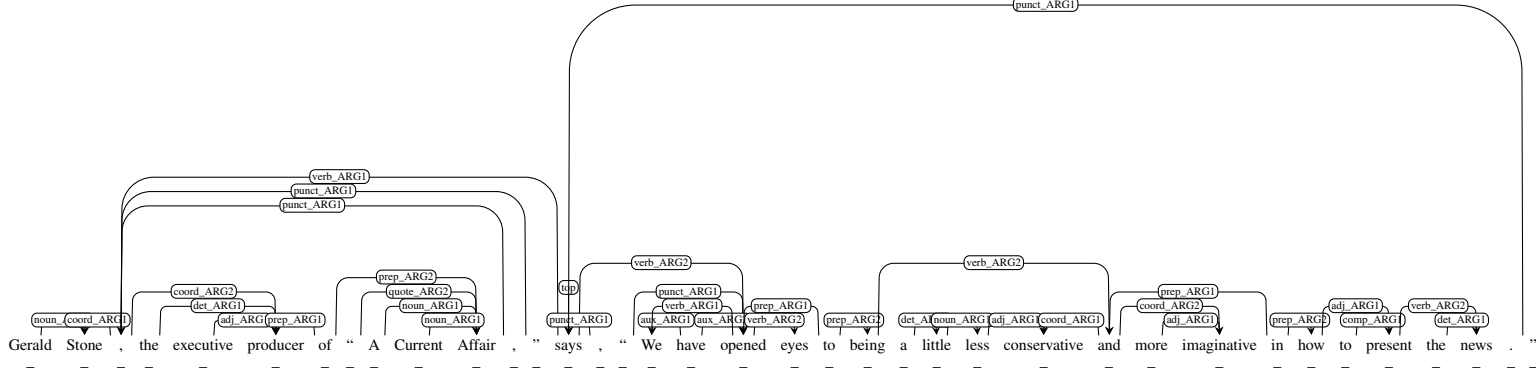
News programs , particularly if they score well in the ratings , appeal to the networks ’ cost-conscious corporate parents because they are so much less expensive to produce than an entertainment show is - somewhere between \$ 400,000 and \$ 500,000 for a one-hour program .

Entertainment shows tend to cost twice that .

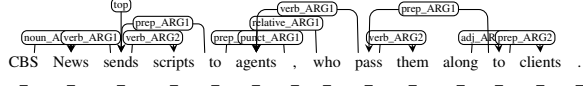
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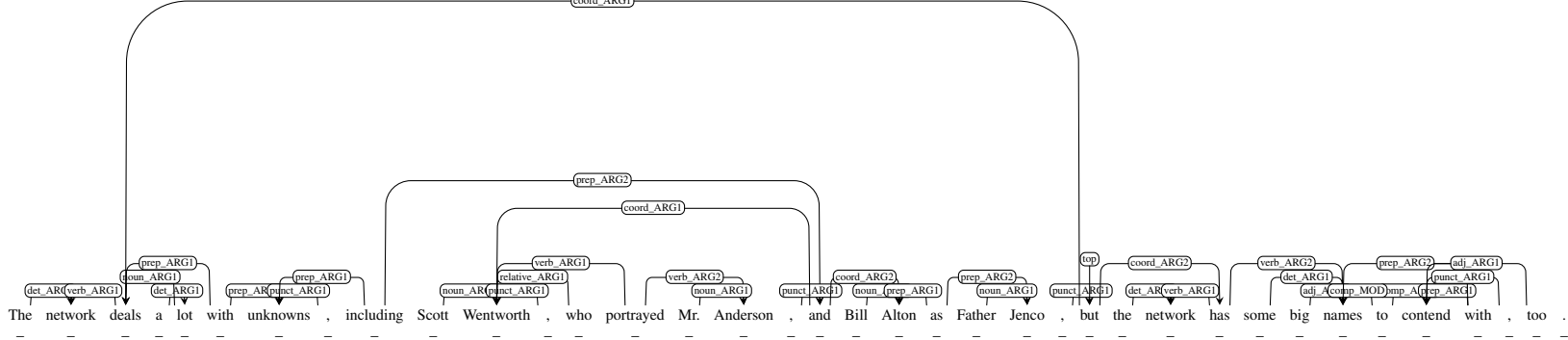
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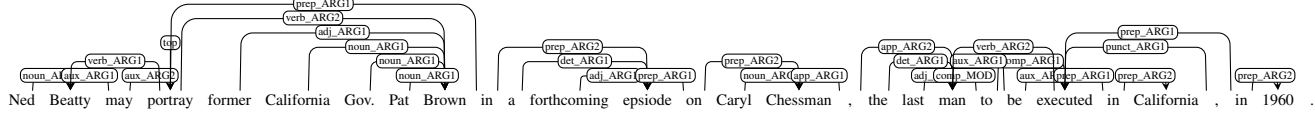
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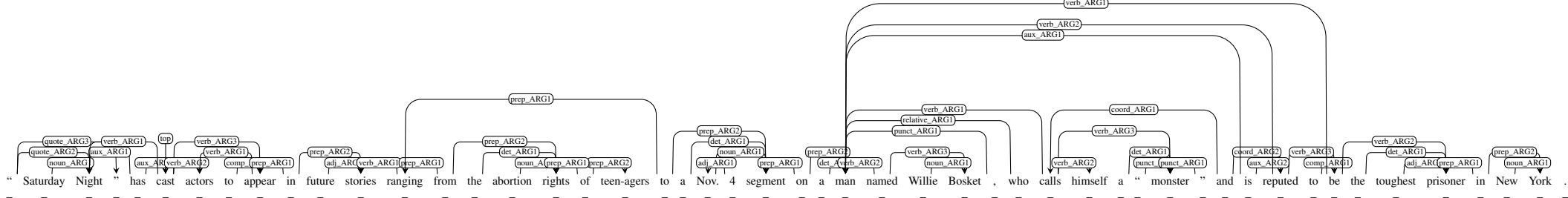
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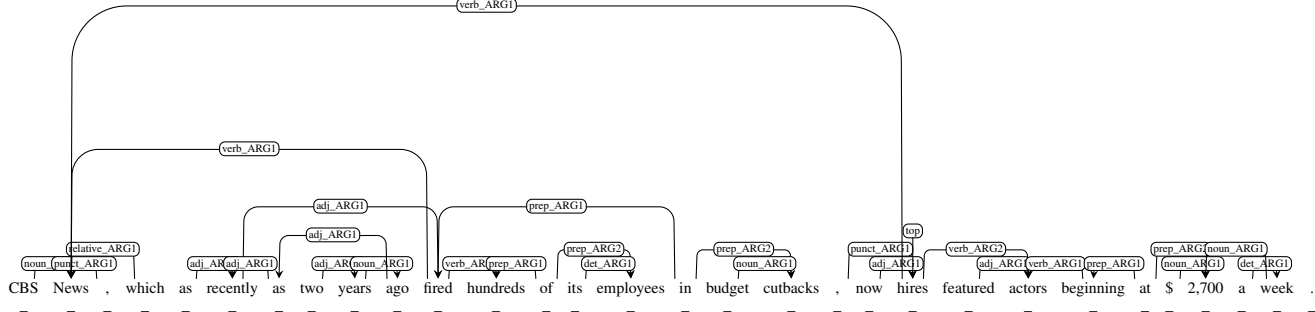
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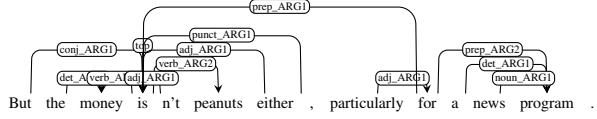
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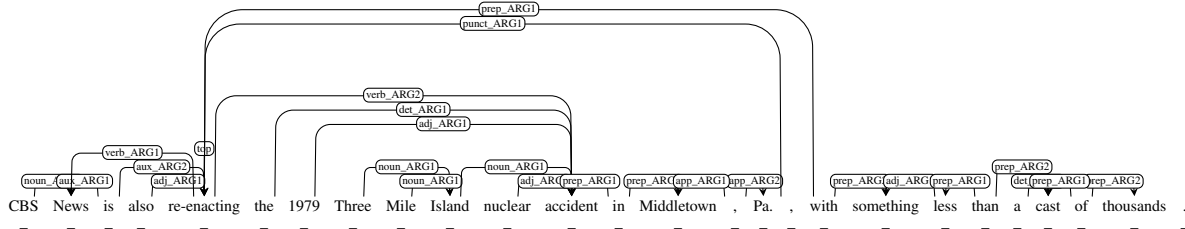
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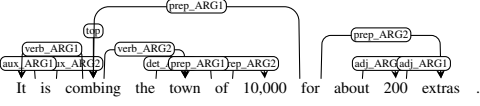
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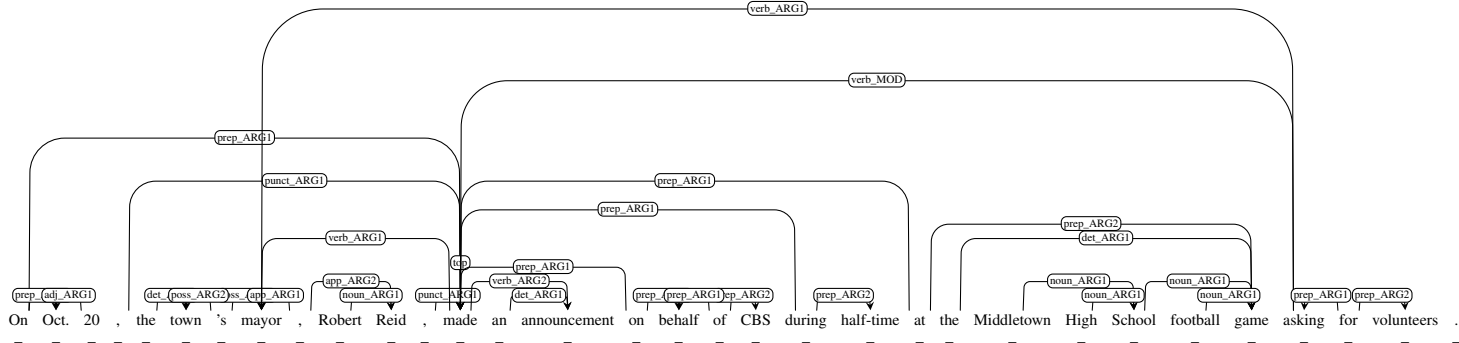
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[20633055]



[20633056]



(20633057)

" There was a roll of laughter through the stands , says Joe Stule , the editor of the weekly Press and Journal in Middletown .

[0633058]

“ They’re filming right now at the bank down the street , and they want shots of people getting out of cars and kids on skateboards .

[20633059]

They are approaching everyone on the street and asking if they want to be in a docudrama .

[20633060]

Mr. Sukle says he would n't dream of participating himself :

[20633061]

“ No way .

[20633062]

I think re-enactments stink . "

[20633064]

Some producers seem tentative about the technique, squeamish even .

[20633066]

And some people do think that acting out scripts is n't worthy of CBS News , which once lent prestige to the network and set standards for the industry .

[20633070]

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graph TD
    top((top)) --> adj_ARG1((adj_ARG1))
    top --> verb_ARG1((verb_ARG1))
    verb_ARG1 --> aux_ARG1((aux_ARG1))
    verb_ARG1 --> aux_ARG2((aux_ARG2))
    aux_ARG2 --> adj_ARG2((adj_ARG2))
    aux_ARG2 --> verb_ARG2((verb_ARG2))
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They should never be on .

[20633071]

top
predict_ARG1
Never . "

[206:33072]

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graph TD; adj_ARC["adj_ARC[]"] --> verb_ARC["verb_ARC[]"]; adj_ARC --> adv_ARC["adv_ARC[]"]; verb_ARC --> prep_ARC["prep_ARC[]"]; verb_ARC --> noun_ARC["noun_ARC[]"]; prep_ARC --> criticism_of["criticism_of"]; prep_ARC --> the1["the"]; noun_ARC --> Abbe_Hoffman["Abbe_Hoffman"]; noun_ARC --> segment["segment"]; adv_ARC --> is["is"]; adv_ARC --> particularly_scathing["particularly_scathing"]; particularly_scathing --> among["among"]; particularly_scathing --> people_who_knew_and_loved_the_man["people_who_knew_and_loved_the_man"]; among --> people_who["people_who"]; among --> knew_and_loved_the_man["knew_and_loved_the_man"]; people_who --> people["people"]; people_who --> who["who"]; knew_and_loved_the_man --> knew["knew"]; knew_and_loved_the_man --> loved_the_man["loved_the_man"]; loved_the_man --> loved["loved"]; loved_the_man --> the_man["the_man"];
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Criticism of the Abbe Hoffman segment is particularly scathing among people who knew and loved the man

[20633073]

That includes his companion of 15 years, Johanna Lawrenson, as well as his former wife, Anita.

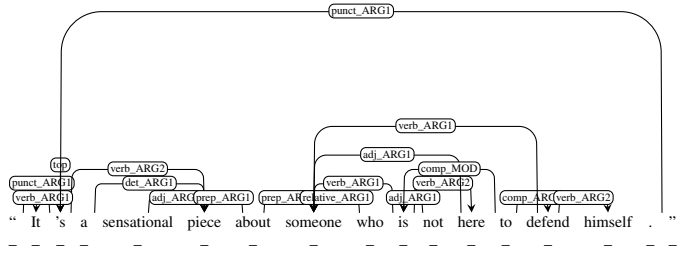
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Both women say they also find it distasteful that CBS News is apparently concentrating on Mr. Hoffman's problems as a manic-depressive.

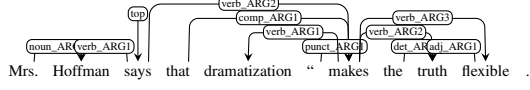
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" This is dangerous and misrepresents Abbie 's life , " says Ms. Lawrenson , who has had an advance look at the 36-page script .

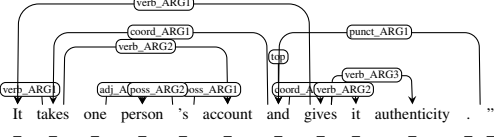
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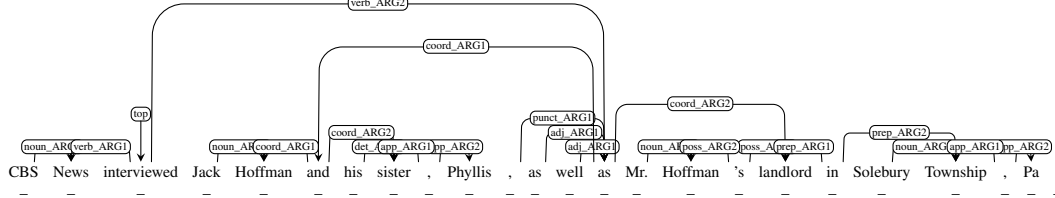
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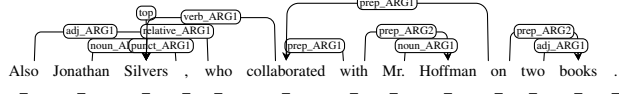
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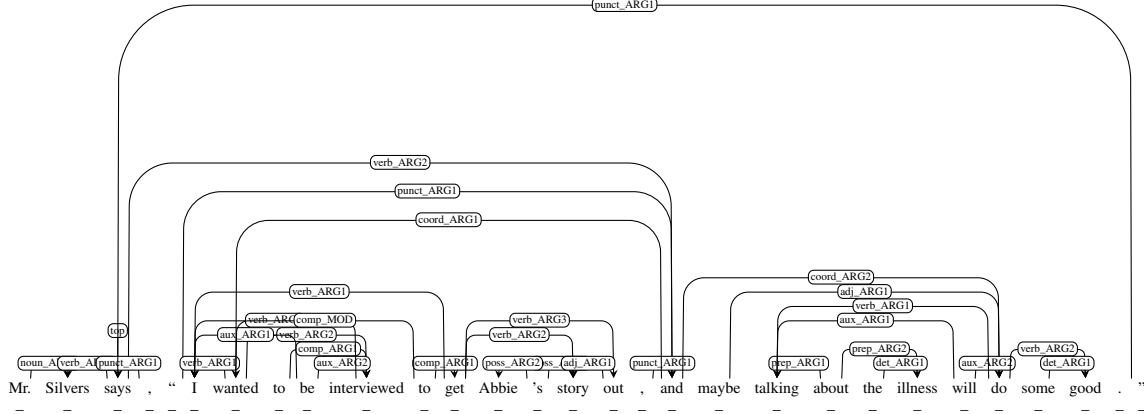
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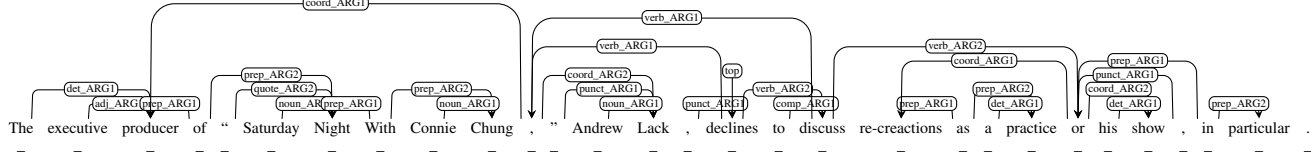
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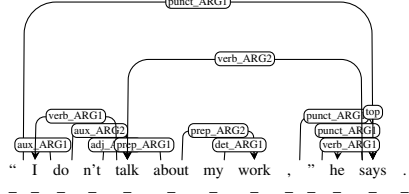
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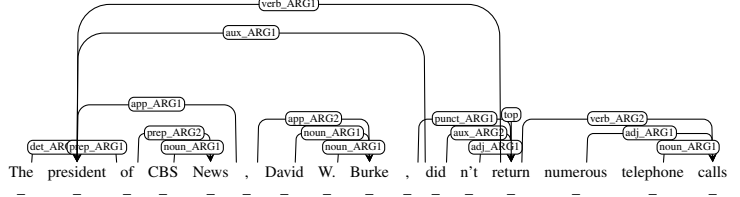
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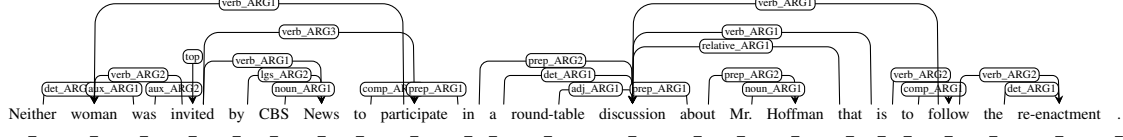
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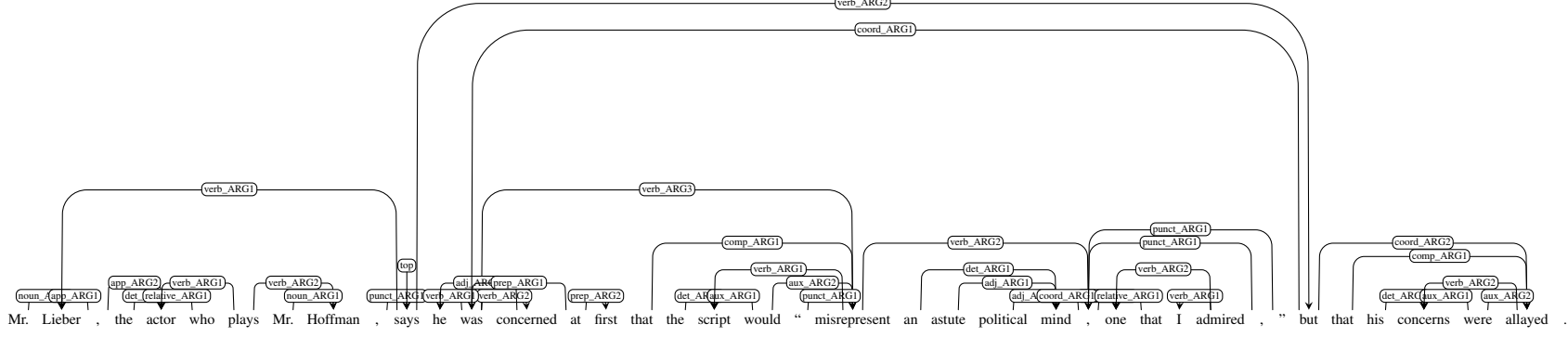
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