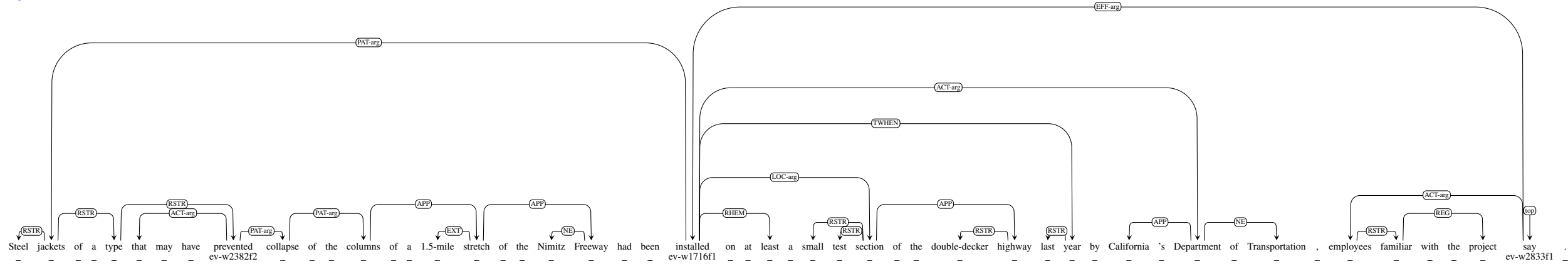
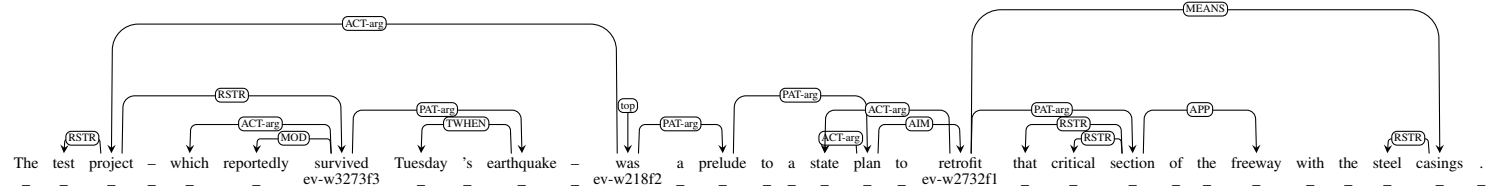


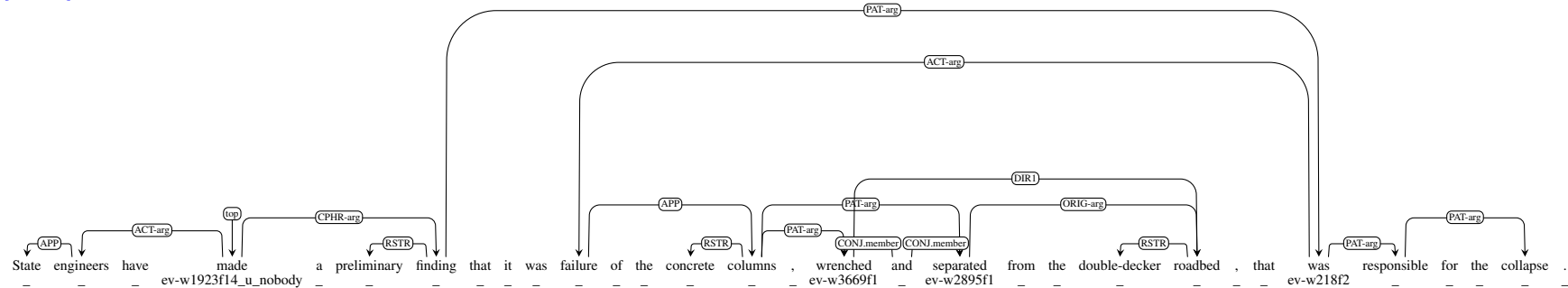
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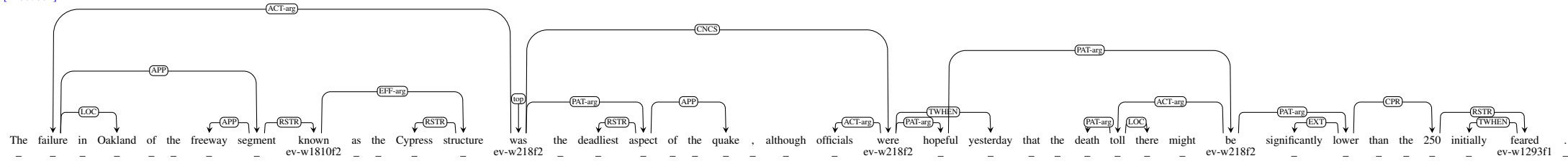
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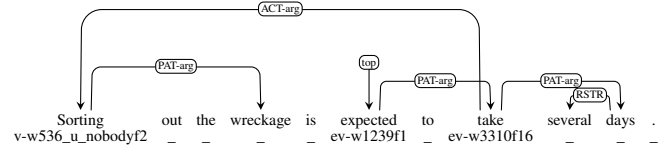
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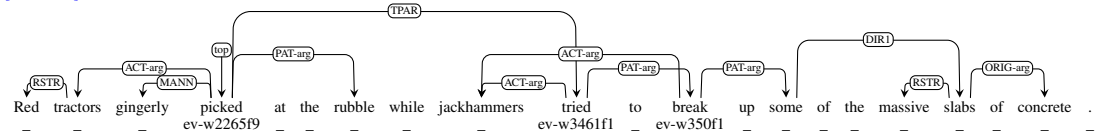
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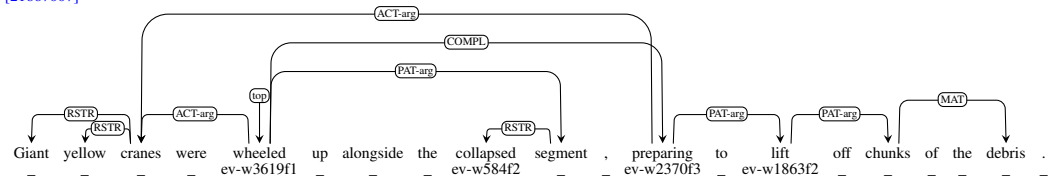
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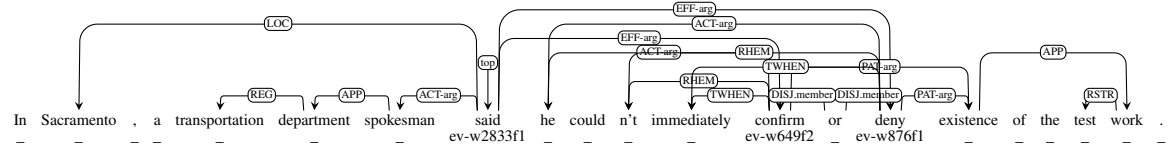
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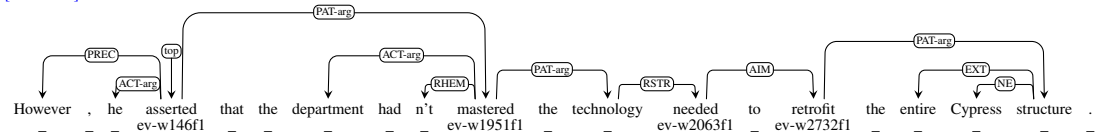
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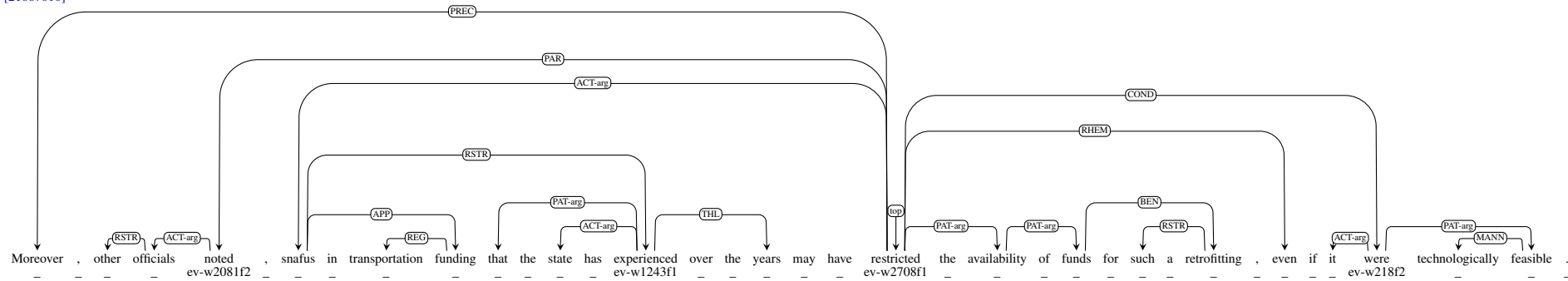
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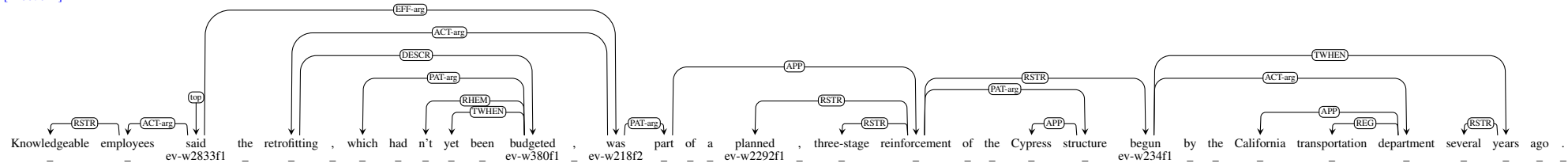
[21667009]



[21667010]



[21667011]



[21667012]

The Cypress reinforcement project itself was part of an annual effort to shore up structures believed vulnerable to earthquakes .

[21667013]

The state began such work after a 1971 tremor in Southern California , when numerous bridges collapsed .

[21667015]

After completing installation of the jackets on " one frame " of the freeway last year , the state DOT had sent the project over to its Sacramento engineers to draw up a final design .

[21667016]

Knowledgeable employees said the project had been stymied somewhat by " the difficulty of designing " the jackets .

[21667017]

The procedure involves encasing the concrete columns with steel , then connecting them more securely to the double-decker roadbed .

[21667018]

The employees also said the project may have been snugged by budgetary concerns .

[21667019]

One preliminary estimate put the retrofiting cost at as much as \$ 50 million .

[21667020]

The collapse of the span has provoked surprise and anger among state officials .

[21667021]

Gov. George Deukmejian , who said he had been assured by state transportation officials that the structure could withstand an even larger quake , called for an immediate investigation .

[21667022]

" I want to know who made the decision that it was safe for 186,000 people to use every day , " said Richard Katz , a state legislator who is chairman of the California Assembly 's transportation committee .

[21667023]

He said he would convene hearings within two weeks .

[21667025]

The northern piers of the span lie in estuarine deposits that were of a type to have liquefied easily during the 1906 quake .

[21667026]

Transportation department officials , however , said they were as surprised as anyone by the Cypress destruction .

[21667027]

