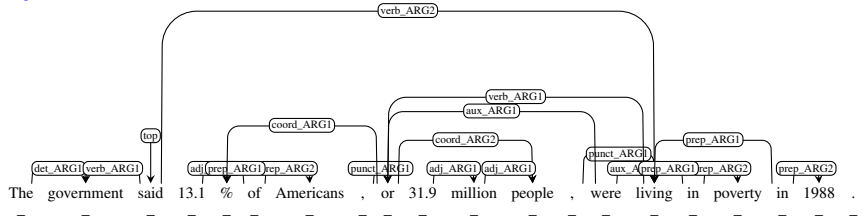
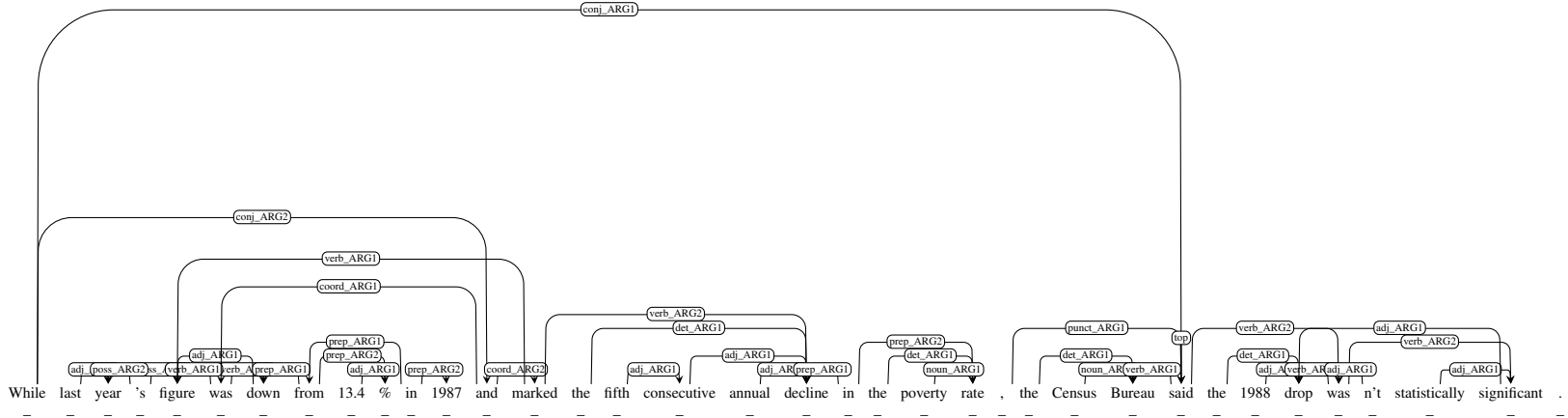


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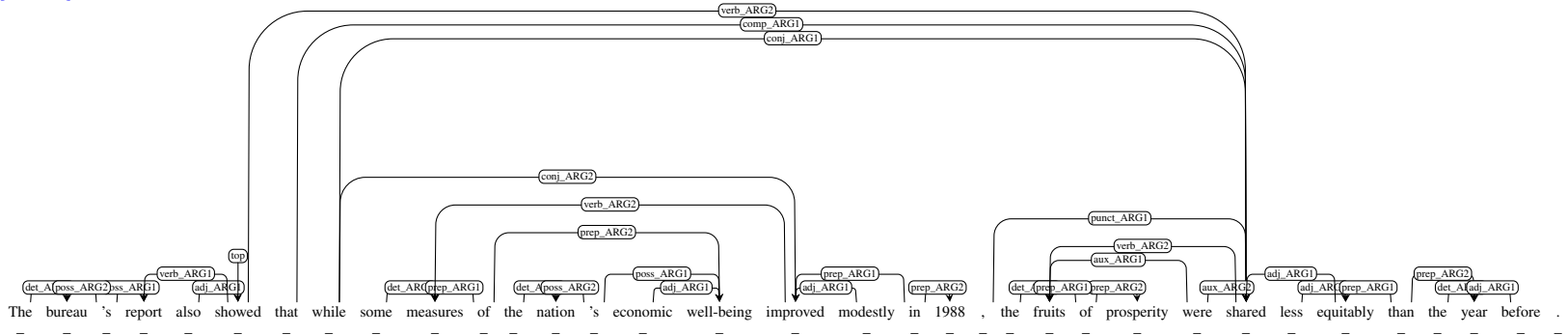
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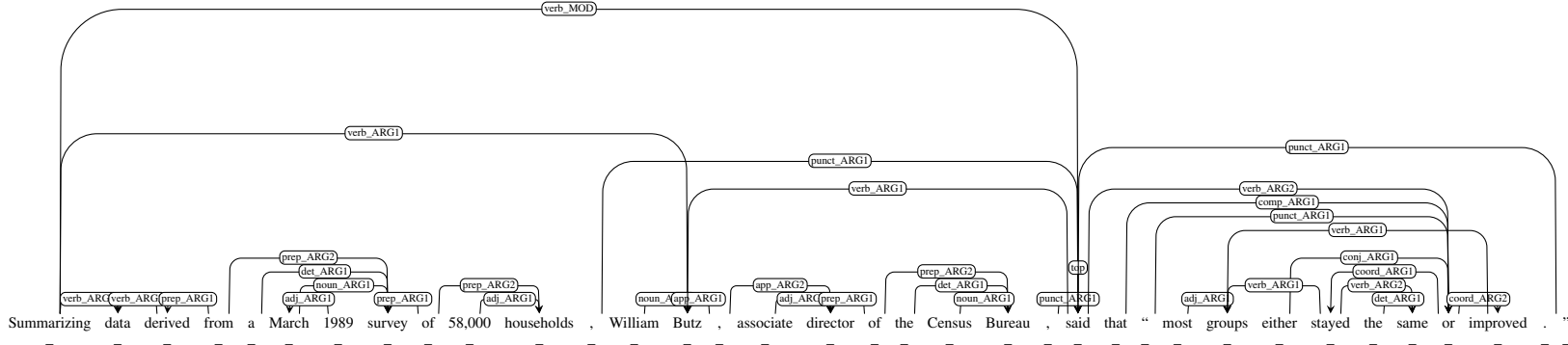
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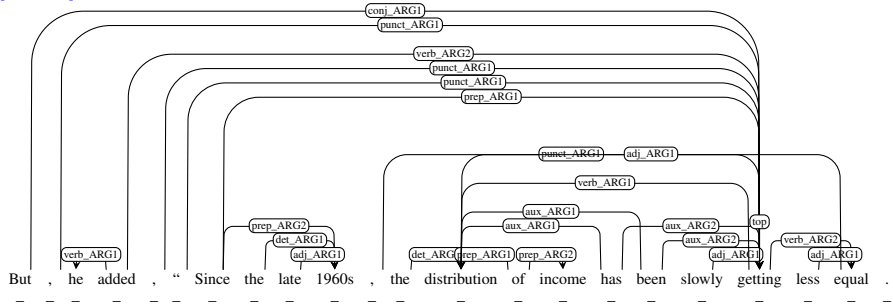
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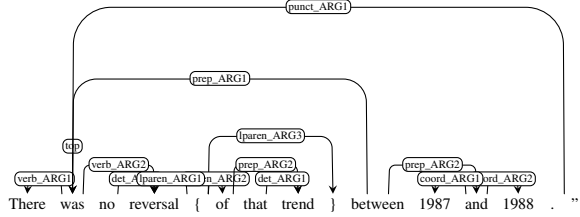
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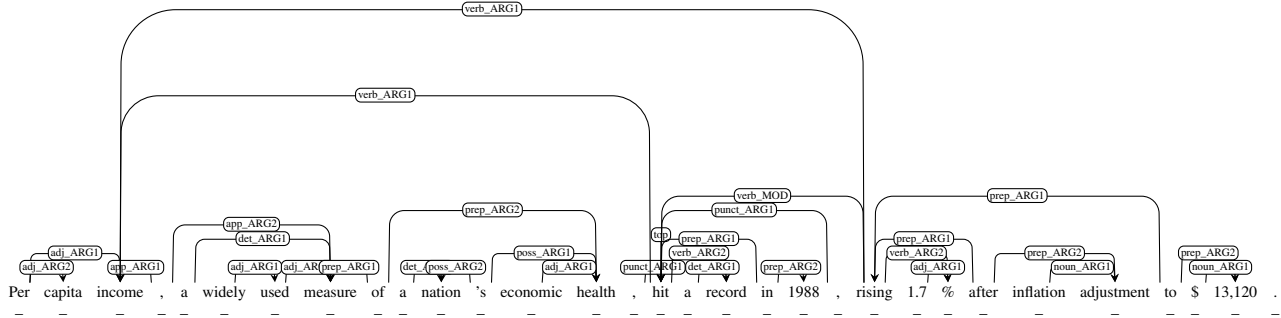
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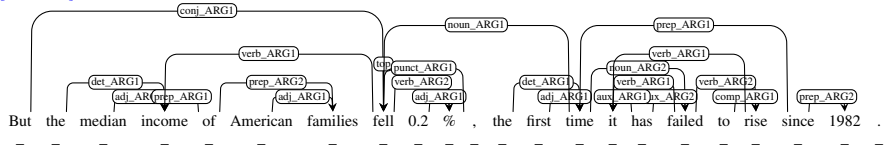
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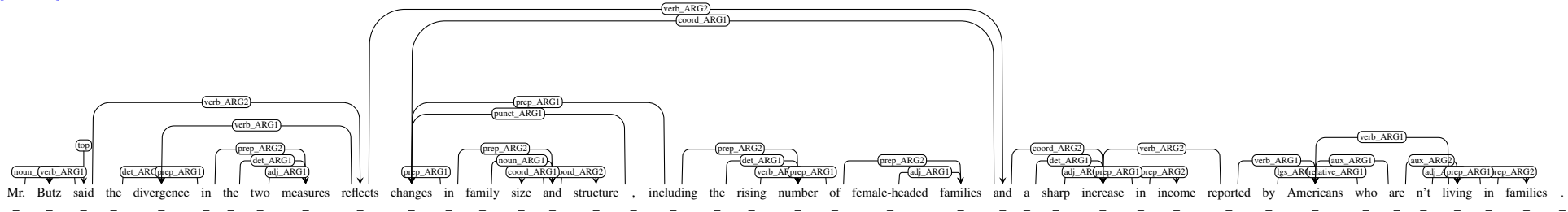
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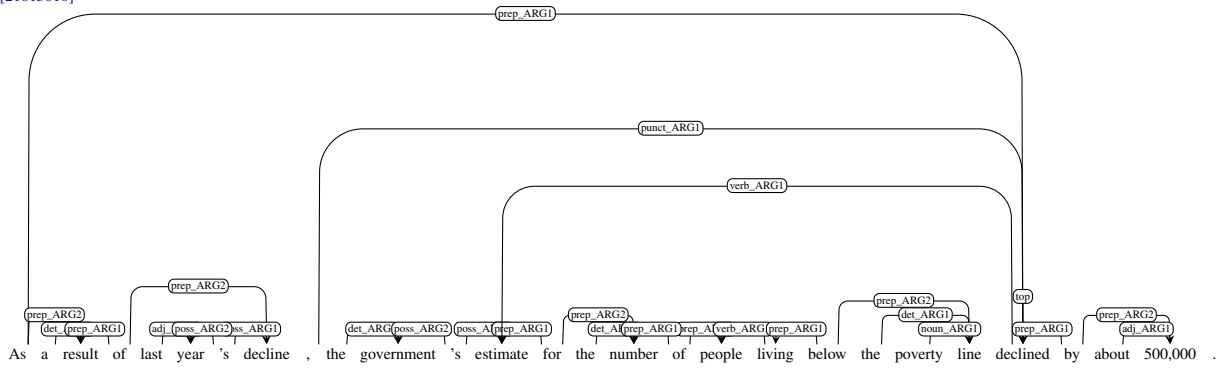
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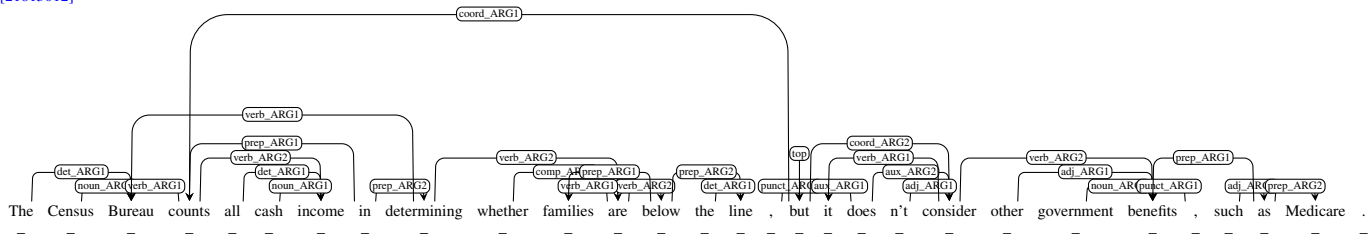
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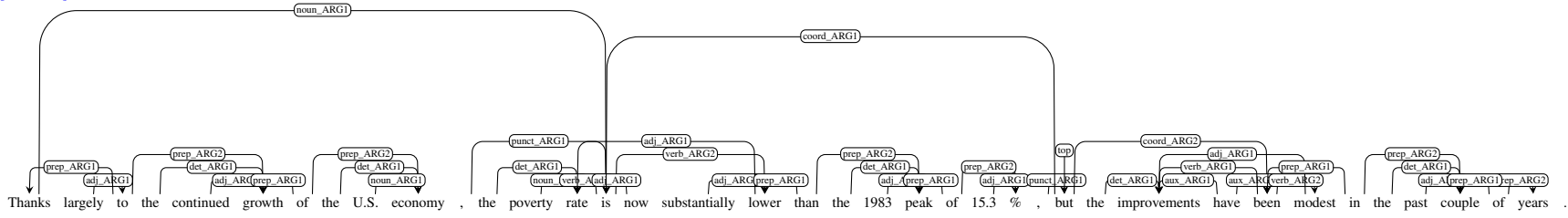
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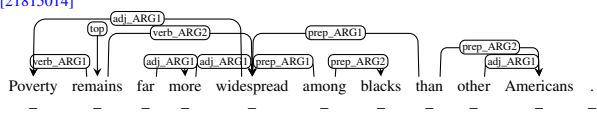
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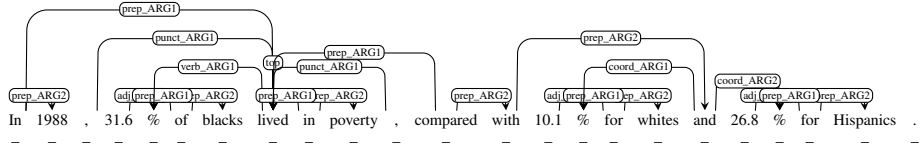
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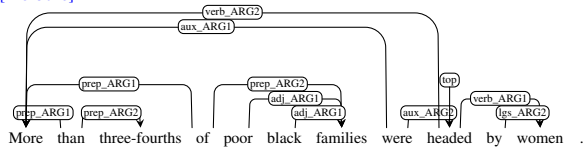
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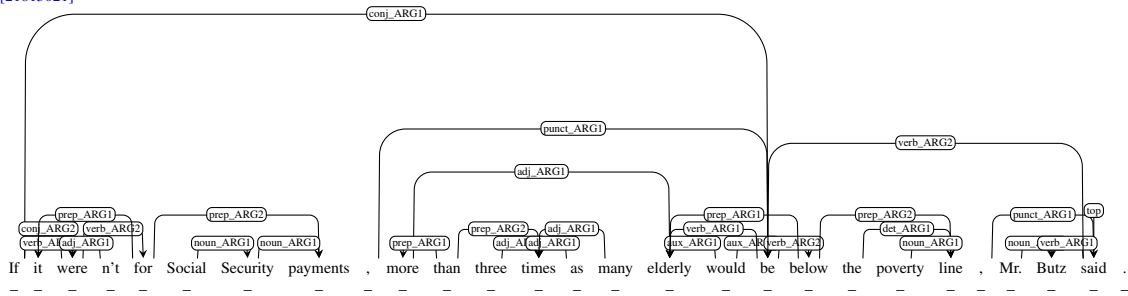
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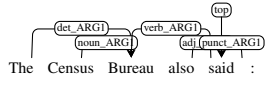
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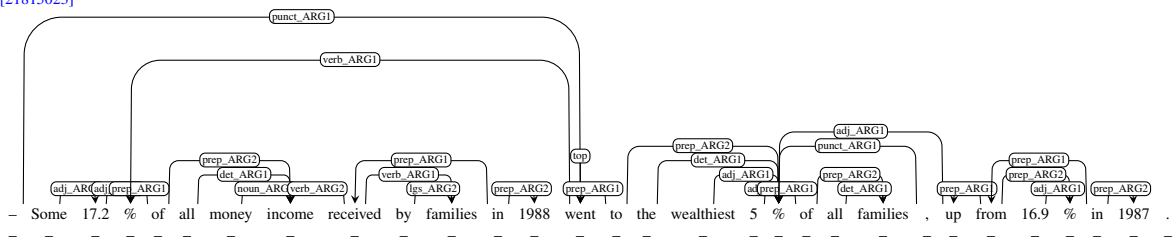
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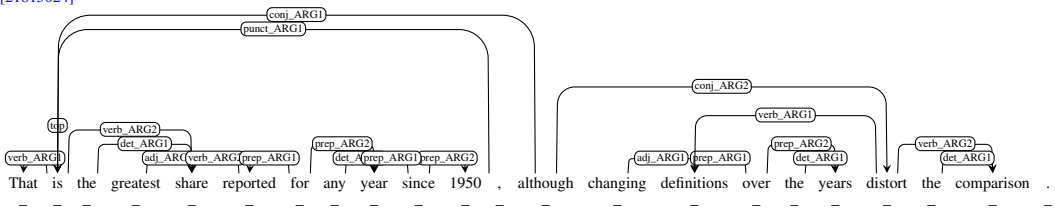
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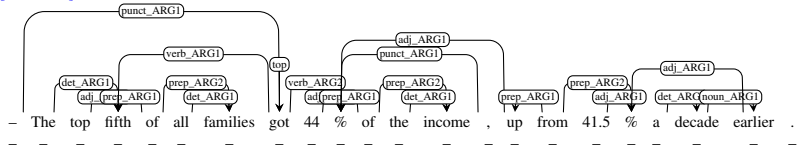
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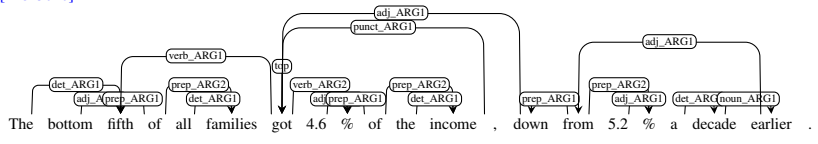
[21815024]



[21815025]



[21815026]



[21815027]

Confirming other government data showing that wages are n't keeping pace with inflation , earnings of year-round , full-time male workers fell 1.3 % in 1988 after adjusting for higher prices , the first such drop since 1982 .

Earnings of female workers were unchanged .

Women working full-time earned 66 cents for every dollar earned by men , a penny more than in 1987 and seven cents more than in 1978 .

Median household income -- which includes both those living in families and those who are n't -- rose 0.3 % last year to \$ 27,225 after inflation .

It rose sharply in the Northeast and Midwest and fell slightly in the South and West .

Median family income was \$ 32,191 , down 0.2 % .

Among married couples , the gap between blacks and whites narrowed sharply , as income of black families shot up 6.8 % while income of whites did n't budge .

Fueling a controversy that has been simmering for years , the Census Bureau also said its figures would look far roster if it recalculated the poverty threshold using an improved consumer-price measure adopted in 1983 .

Critics on the left and right have been calling for all sorts of revisions to the measure for years .

A report by the staff of the Joint Economic Committee of Congress released yesterday concluded , " It is misleading to make this change without adjusting for other changes . "

The official poverty threshold is set by the Office of Management and Budget .