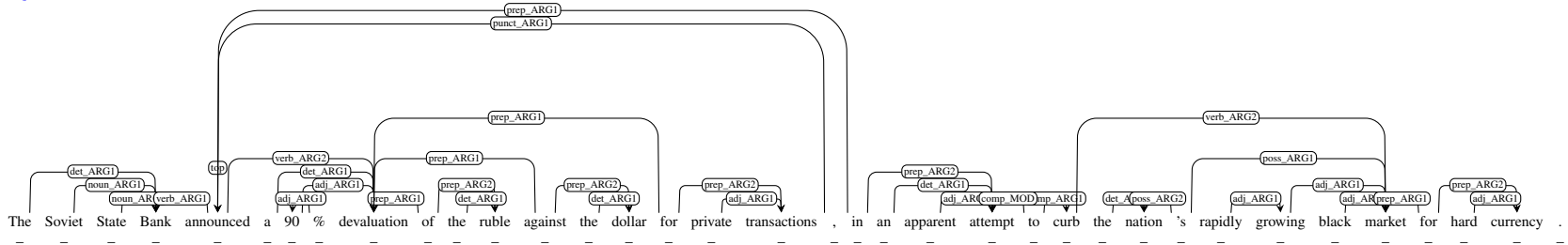
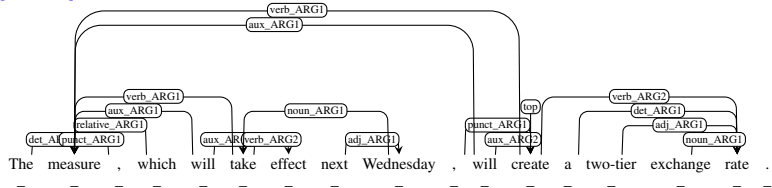


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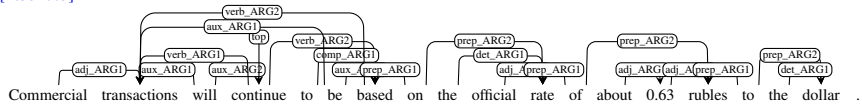
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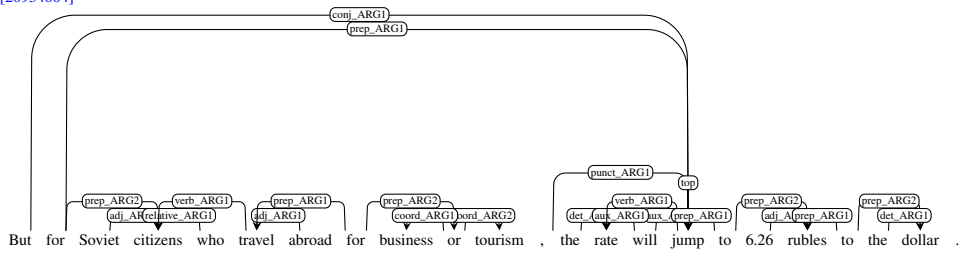
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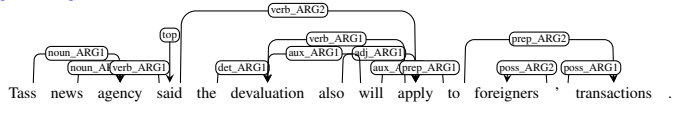
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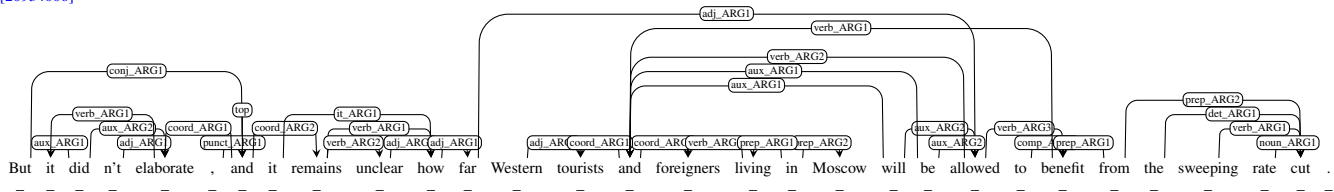
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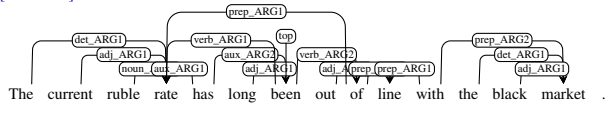
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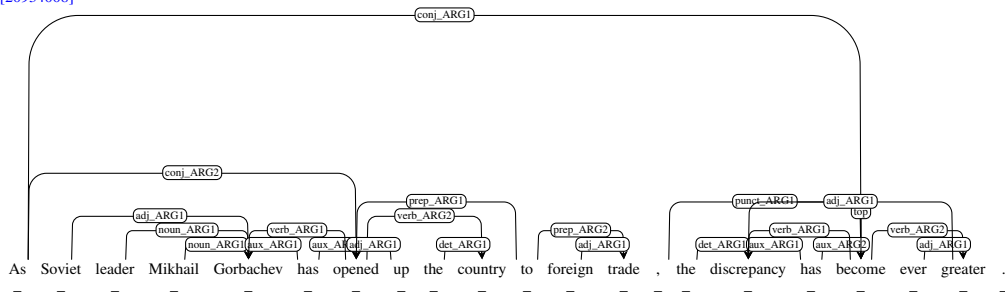
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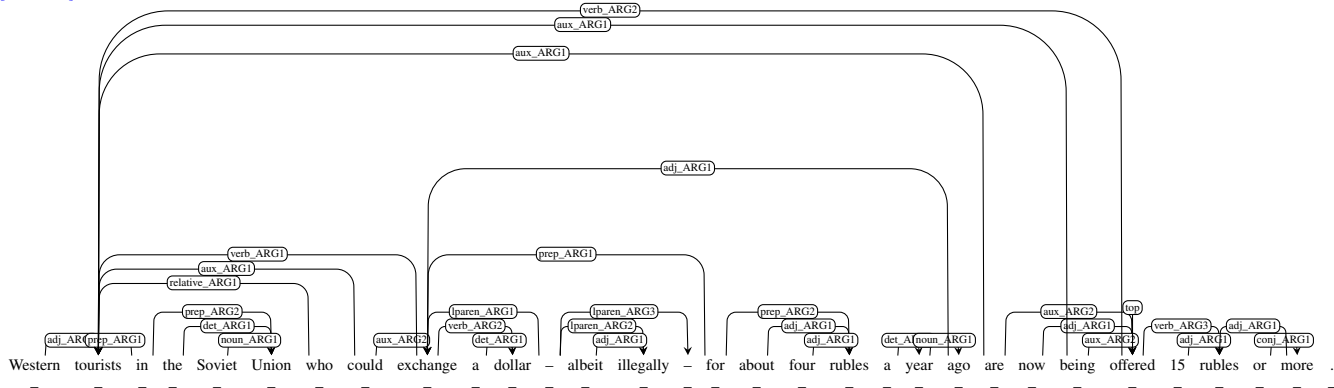
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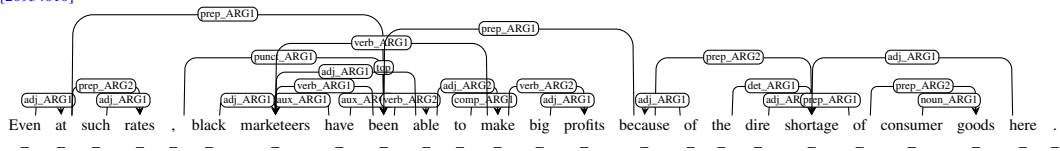
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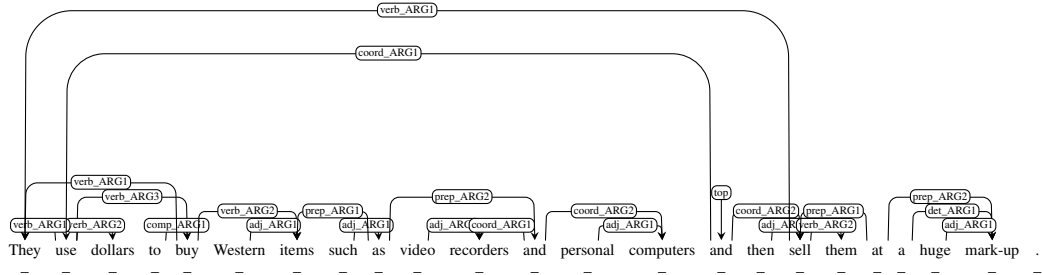
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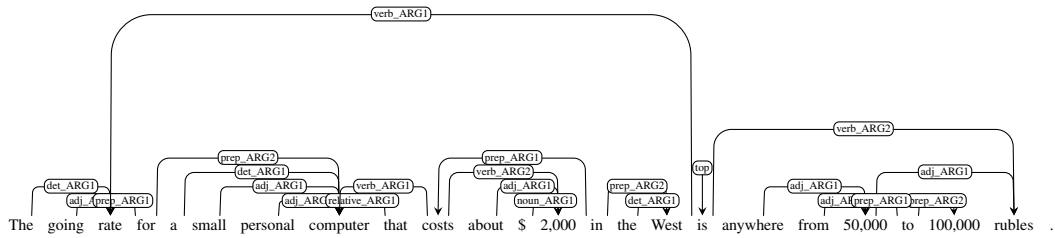
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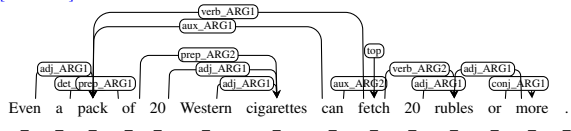
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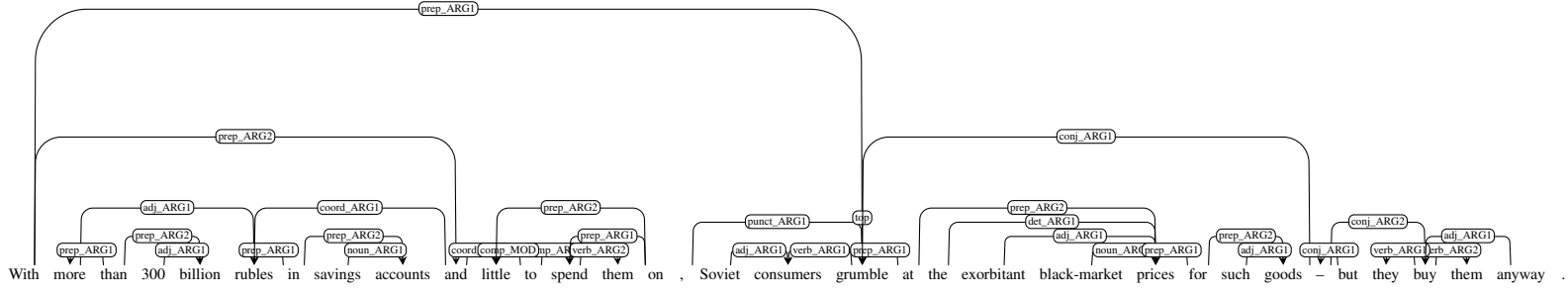
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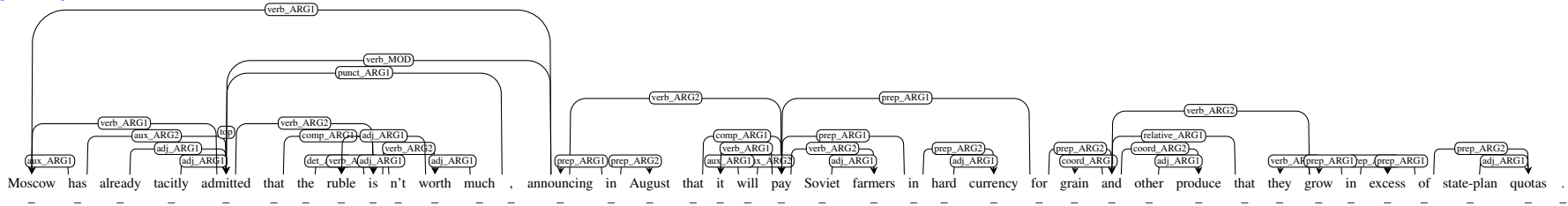
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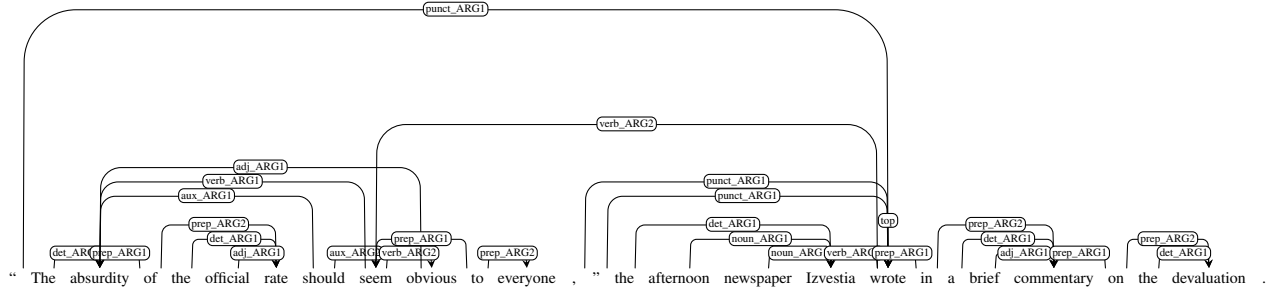
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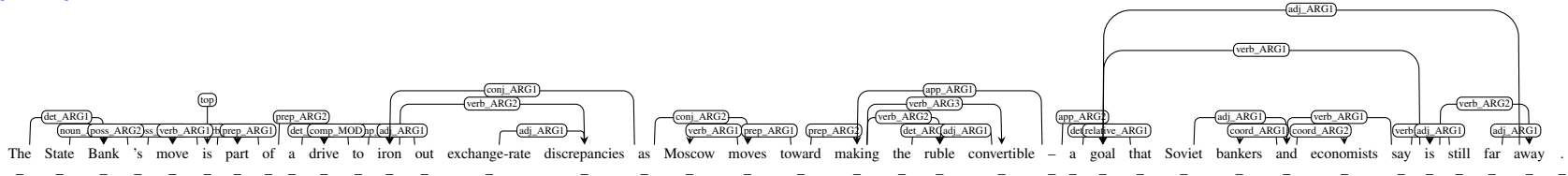
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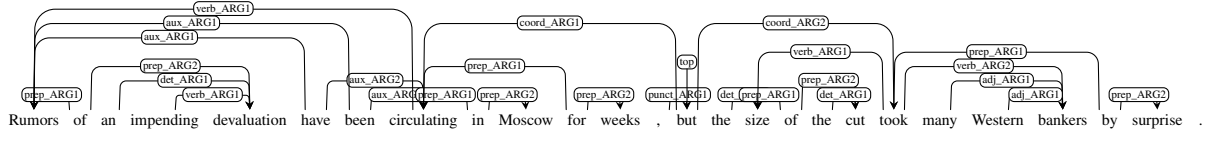
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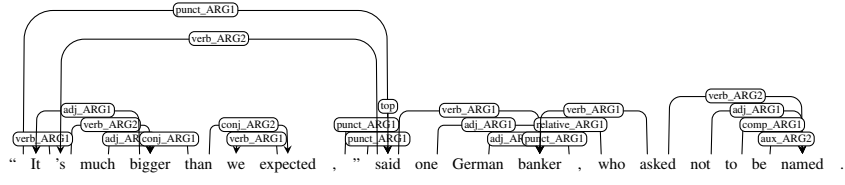
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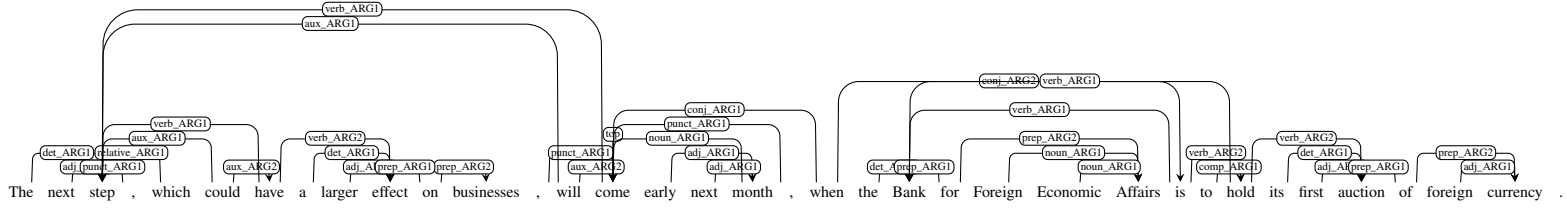
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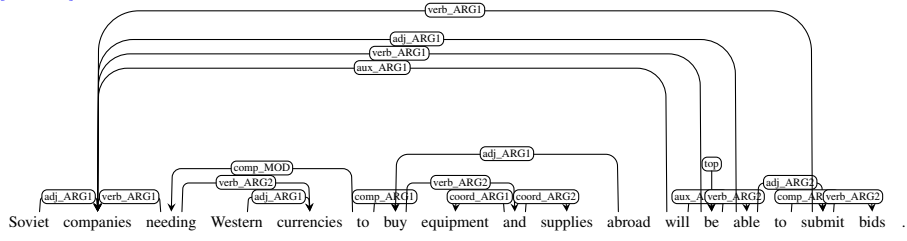
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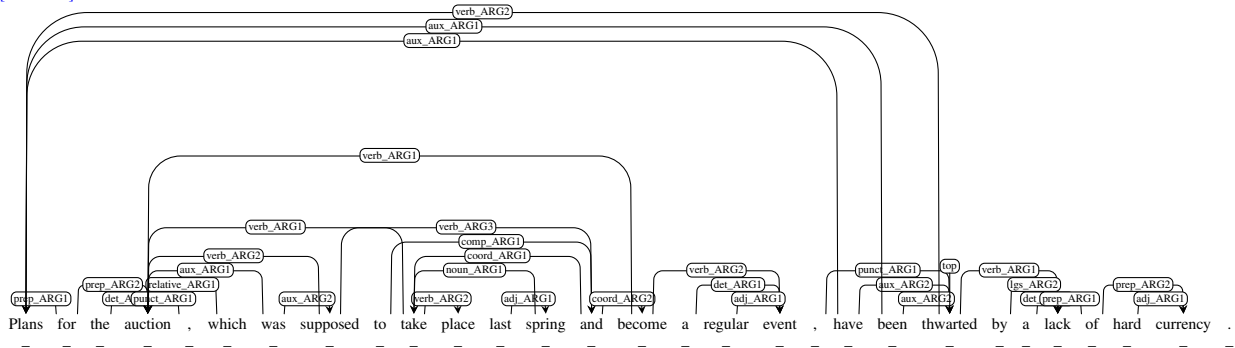
[20934020]



[20934021]



[20934022]



[20934023]

Soviet firms that hold some are unwilling to part with it , and joint ventures are n't yet allowed to participate .

[20934024]

The Kremlin also has been unwilling to provide hard currency for the auction , using a lot of it instead to finance emergency imports of consumer goods .

[20934025]

If foreign tourists and businesses could sell their currencies freely at the new , better exchange rate , that would enable the State Bank to increase its dollar reserves and would mop up some of the excess rubles in the economy at the same time .

[20934026]

But the amounts they exchange may be limited : most Soviet hotels , for example , demand payment in hard currency from Western visitors .

[20934027]

Unless other rules are changed , the devaluation could cause difficulties for the people it is primarily meant to help : Soviets who travel abroad .

[20934028]

Over the past three years , thousands of people here have made use of looser travel restrictions to get their first taste of life abroad .

[20934029]

But under current rules , they are allowed to change just 200 rubles into dollars and other currencies for each trip .

[20934030]

At the new rate , that would give them about \$ 30 to travel on .

[20934031]

It is n't yet clear whether the 200-ruble limit will be lifted .

[20934032]

If it is n't , the black market for dollars probably will continue to thrive .