

Split VPs



*Resolving some problems with X-bar theory
using movement*

The Problem of Ditransitive verbs

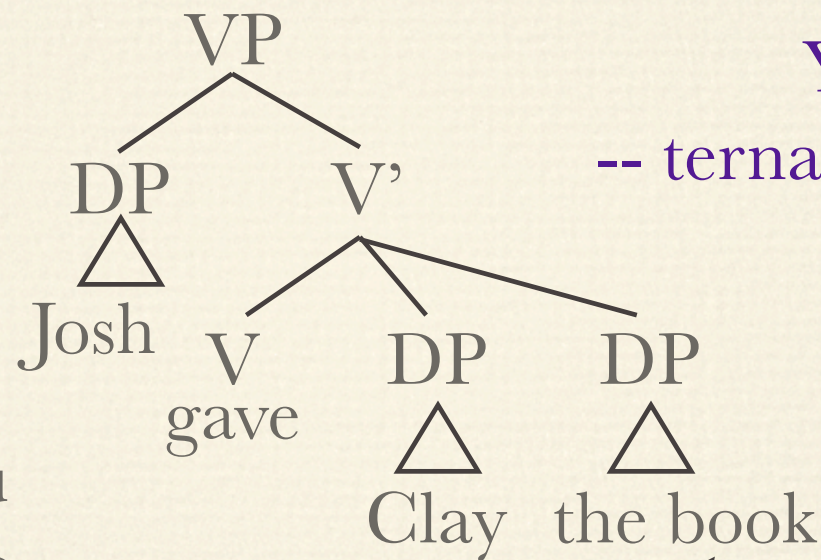
- ❖ *Josh gave Clay carefully a book
 - ❖ Josh gave Clay a book carefully
-
- ❖ The 2nd DP behaves as if it is a complement.
 - ❖ Two complements???

Puzzle # 1



Ditransitives

Two complements



YUCK

-- ternary branching!

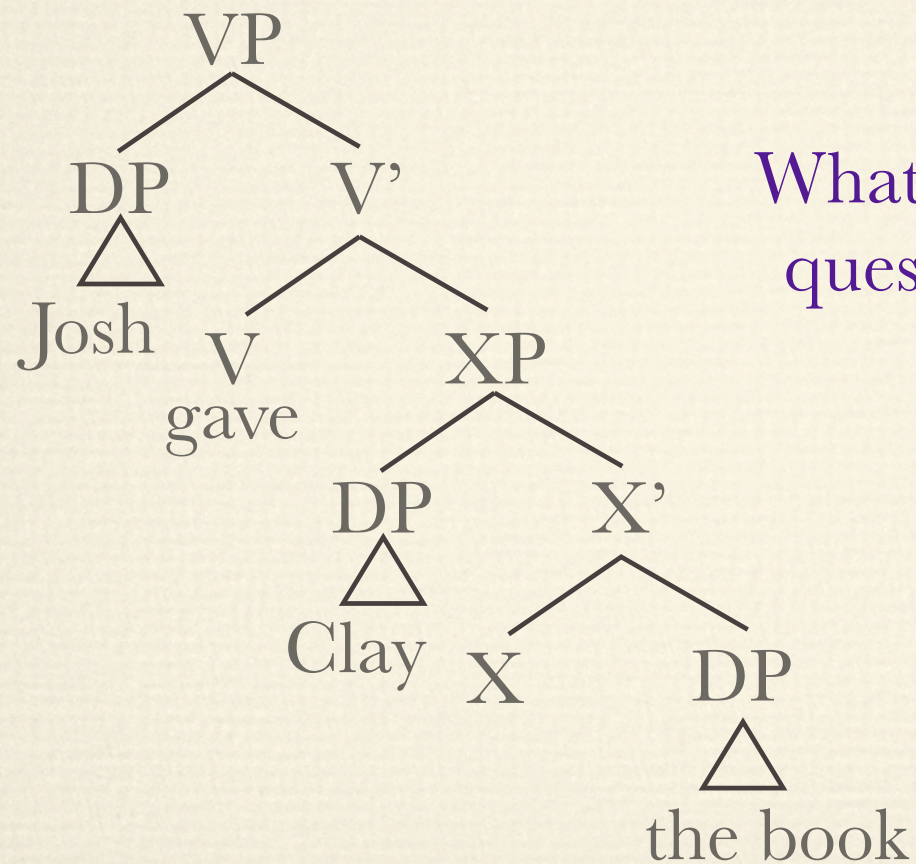
predicts that you
should be able to
have an anaphor
in either spot
bound by the
other

Symmetric c-command

Barss & Lasnik (1986)

- ❖ Briana showed Justin_i himself_i in the mirror.
 - ❖ *Briana showed himself_i Justin_i in the mirror
-
- ❖ This shows that the first DP c-commands the second.

Back to Binarity!



What is X? That's the question of the day!

A Tangent on Light Verbs



Are most verbal roots really monomorphemic?

Complex Verbs

Japanese

- a) Keiko-wa pizza-o ag-**e**-ta
Keiko-top pizza-acc rise-v-past
“Keiko raised the pizza”

Hiaki

- b) Huan u'usit-ta ee-**tua**-k.
Juan child-acc feel-v-past
“Juan teased the child.”

Malagasy

- c) M-**an**-sasa ny lambaamin ny savony Rasoa.
past-v-wash the clothes with the soap Rasoa
“Rasoa washes the clothes with the soap.”

Proposal

- ❖ Most verbs in English are made up of a light verb (usually CAUSE but others exist) and a verb root ($\sqrt{\text{ }}$):
 - ❖ CAUSE + $\sqrt{\text{CLEAN}}$ \Rightarrow clean
- ❖ The function of CAUSE is to introduce the external (agent) argument

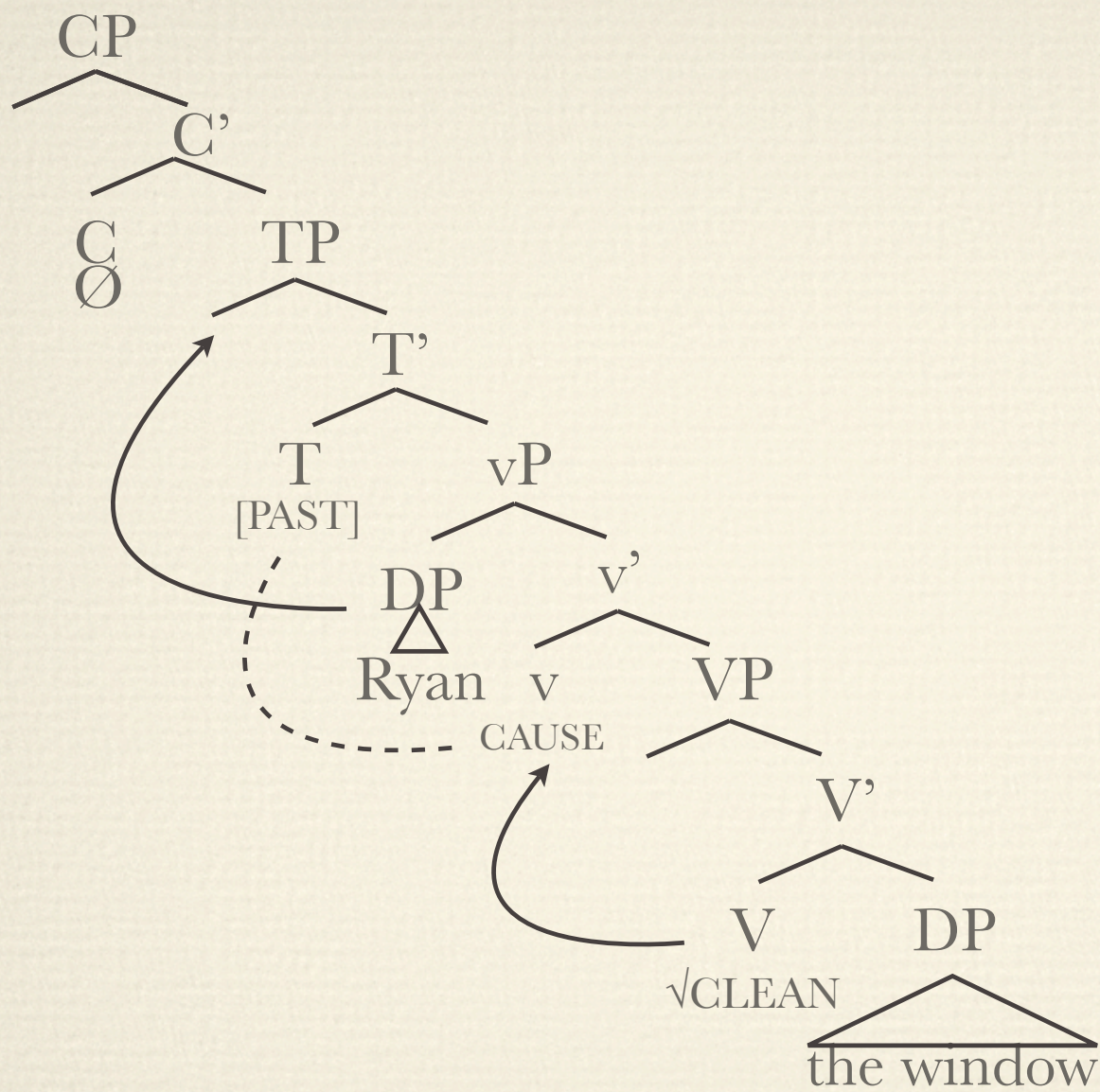
Proposal

CAUSE

Agent DP	Predicate VP
i	j

√CLEAN

Theme DP
k



Evidence for light verbs

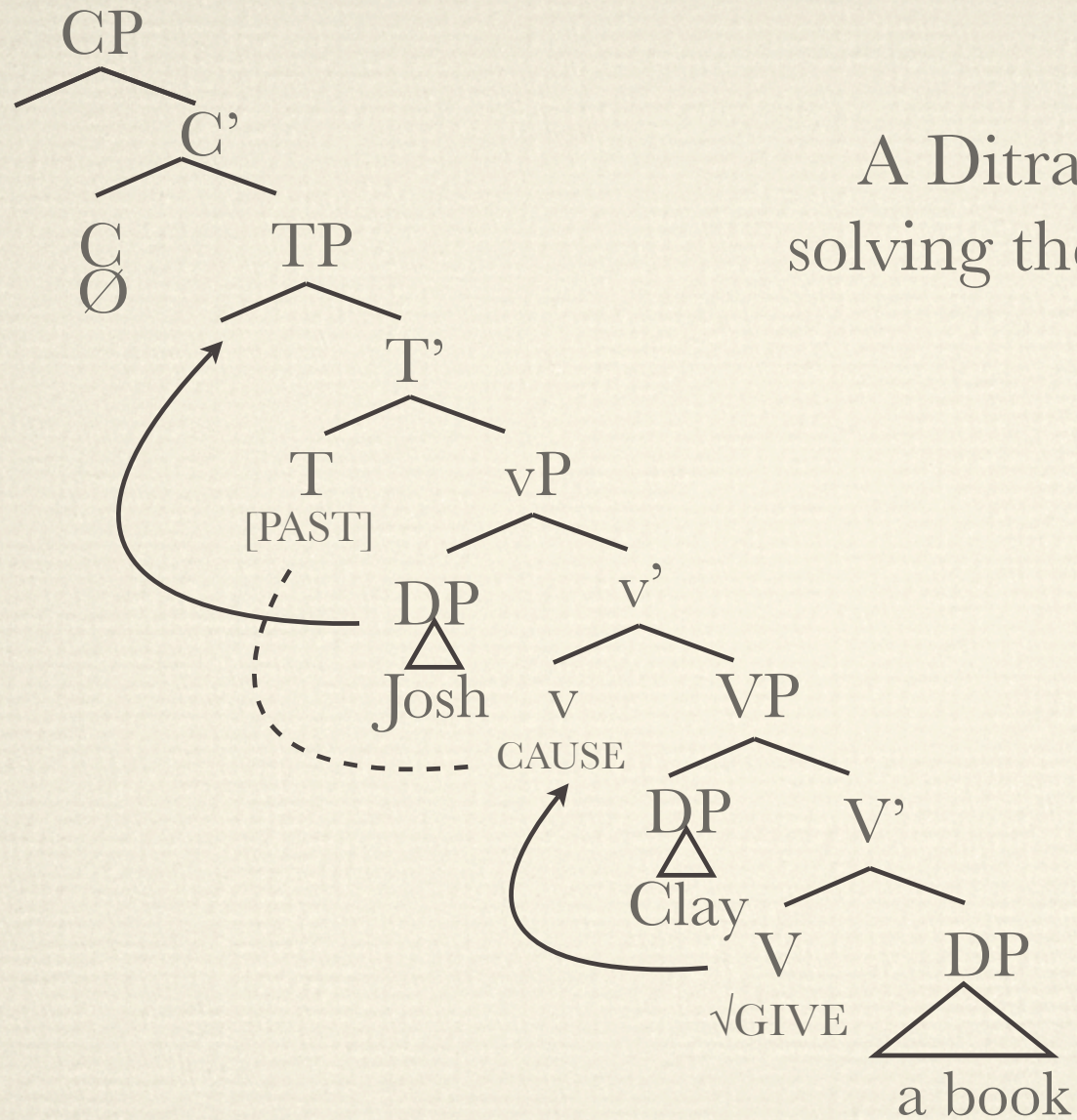
❖ *Plenty of V + O idioms*

- ❖ kill a bug
- ❖ kill a conversation
- ❖ kill an evening
- ❖ kill a bottle
- ❖ kill an audience

❖ *No [S + V] (excluding object) idioms*

- ❖ John laughed
- ❖ The audience laughed
- ❖ The bug laughed.

A Ditransitive (Partly solving the mystery of the XP)



Object Shift



Another Problem

Irish

- a) Ba mhaith liom [CP Seán *an abairt* a^L scríobh.]
C good with.1.s John the sentence.acc tran write
'I want John to write the sentence'
- b) Ba mhaith liom [CP Seán a^L scríobh *na habairte.*]
C good with.1.s John tran write the sentence.gen
'I want John to write the sentence'
- c) Tá Seán tar eis *an abairt* a^L scríobh.
be.pres John perf the sentence tran write
"John has just written the sentence."
- d) Tá Seán ag scríobh *na habairte.*
be.pres John prog write the sentence
"John is writing the sentence."

German & English

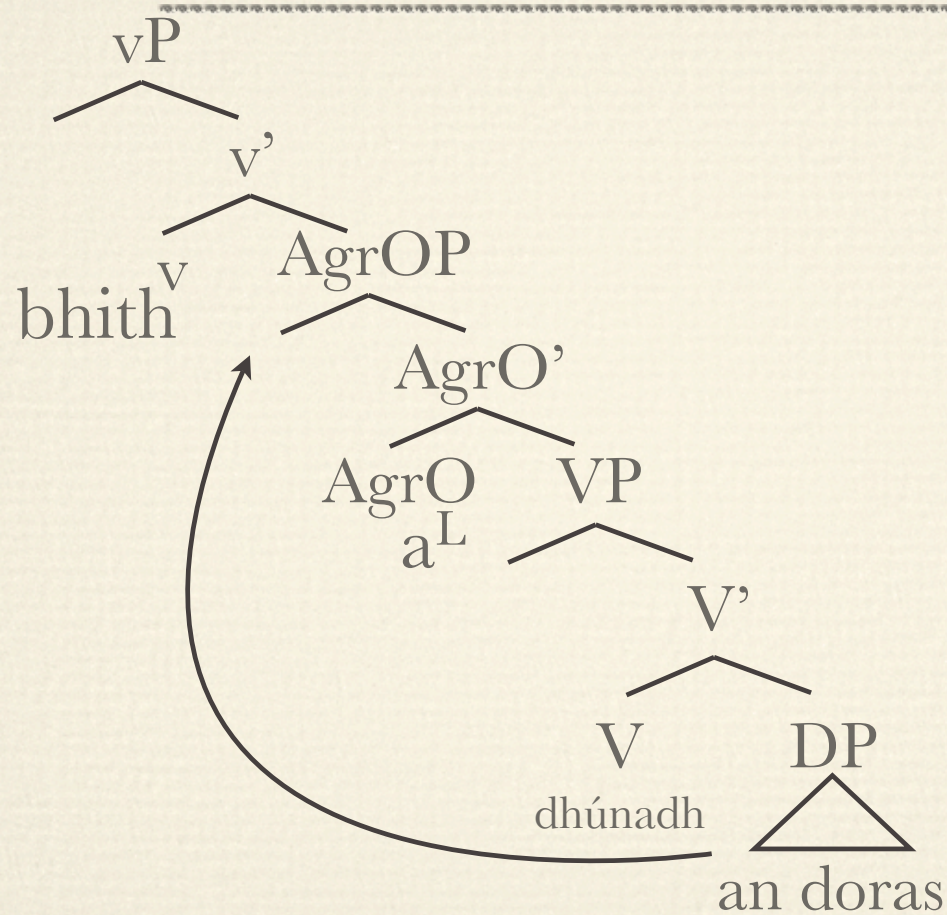
- a) ... weil ich *nicht* [DP eine einzige Katze] gestreichelt habe
since I not a single cat petted have
“...since I have not petted a single cat”
- b) ... weil ich [DP die Katze] *nicht* streichle
since I the cat not pet
“... since I did not pet the cat.”
- c) I blew up the building
- d) I blew the building up

Where is the object moving to?

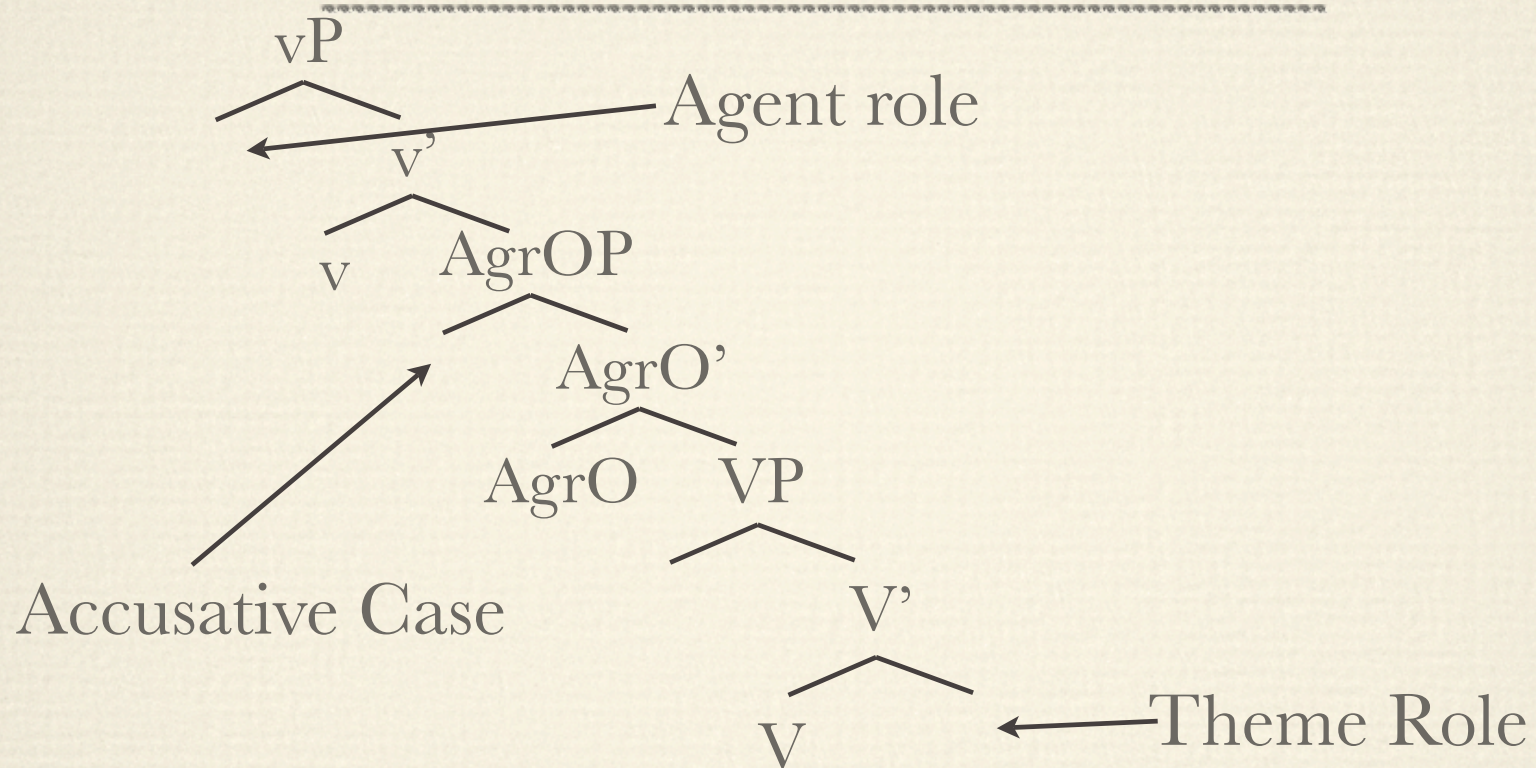
❖ Scots Gaelic:

	v	Asp		AgrO		√V
Bu toigh leam	[_{CP}	sibh a ^L	bhith air	<i>an doras</i> a ^L		dhúnadh.]
be like with me	you agr	v	perf	the door	AgrO	close
“I’d like you to have shut the door.”						

Where is the shifted object moving to?



Where is the shifted object moving to?

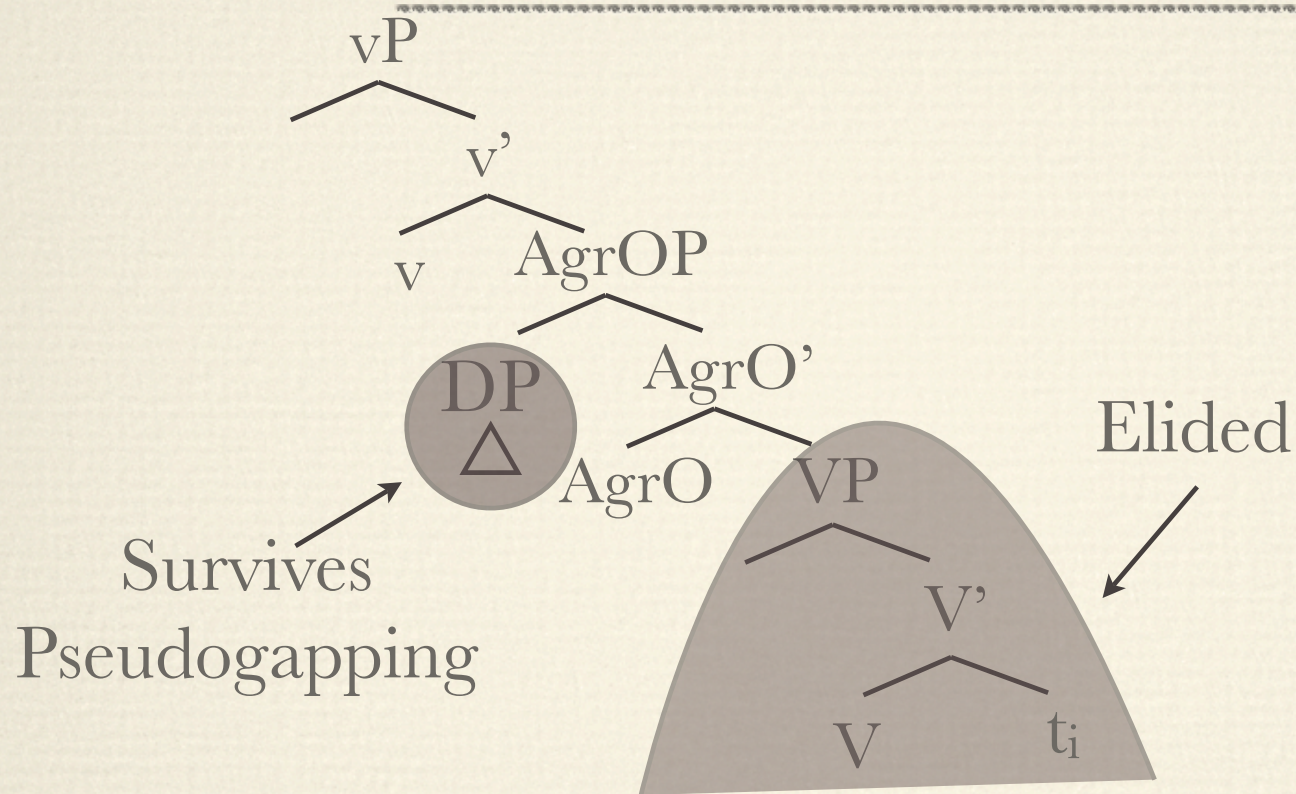


More evidence: Ellipsis and Pseudogapping

Darin will eat a squid sandwich but Raiza won't ~~eat a squid sandwich~~
Darin will eat a squid sandwich, and Raiza will *eat a peanut butter one*.
The DA proved Jones guilty and the assistant DA will ~~prove Smith guilty~~.

- ❖ In Pseudogapping you delete everything BUT the accusative object under identity with the conjoined VP

Object moves outside of ellipsed material



Antecedent Contained Deletion

Brandon [_{VP} read every book that Megan did [_{VP} ...]].

[_{VP} ... [_{DP} ... [_{CP} ... [_{VP} ...]_i ...]]]_i

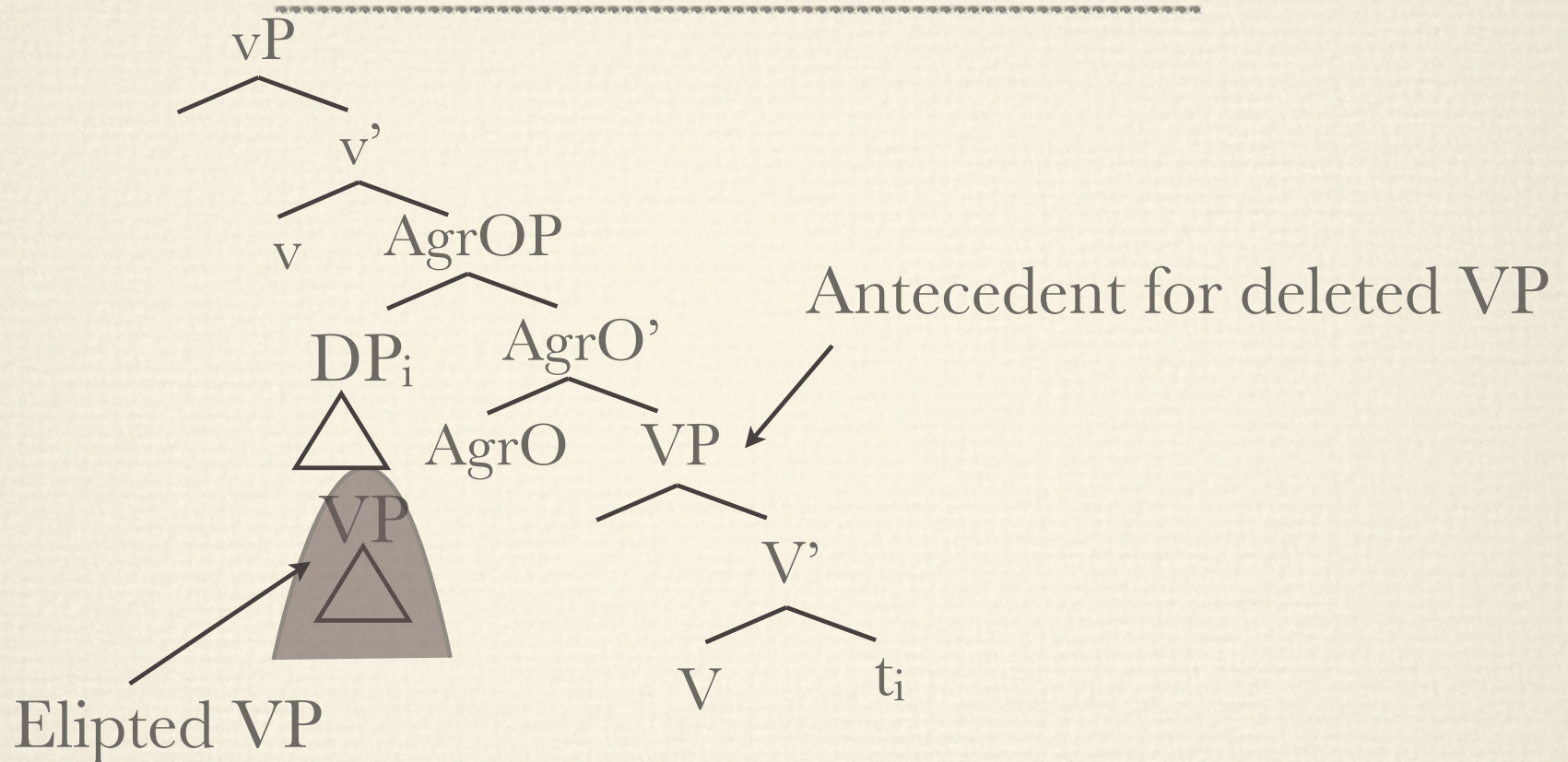
What's the antecedent for the elided VP?

It's the VP dominating the DP that
dominates the elided VP

That means the antecedent contains
the element it antecedes

Circularity? Where does the gap ever get resolved?

Object moves outside of ellipted material



Can only find a non-circular antecedent until the DP has moved out of the VP that serves as the antecedent.

Ditransitives again

- ❖ The last section of chapter 13 contains trees with Ditransitives and AgrPs. Read through this section and if you don't understand it; let me know.