

Ling 120B: Syntax I

Nico(letta) Loccioni

May 09, 2022

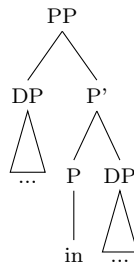
Locality of Selection I

At this point, we have a system where structure is mostly dictated by the selectional properties of individual lexical items.

→ **Lexical entries can be used to represent this information.** The information in these lexical entries tells us how to build structure.

- It tells us whether, and which, complements are required. And it tells whether a specifier is required.
- For example the lexical entry below tells us that two structures are possible for the phrase headed by 'in':

in P free (selects DP) c-selects DP



Locality of Selection II

- Locality of selection means that these requirements are local: the argument required by 'in' is a complement to this P head, whereas the subject must be in the specifier position.

Locality of Selection (preliminary)

If an atom selects an element, it acts as a head. This head must have the selected element as its complement or its subject. Selection is local in the sense that there is a maximal distance between a selector and what it selects.

If α selects β as complement, β is a complement of α ;

If α selects β as subject, β is the subject of α ;

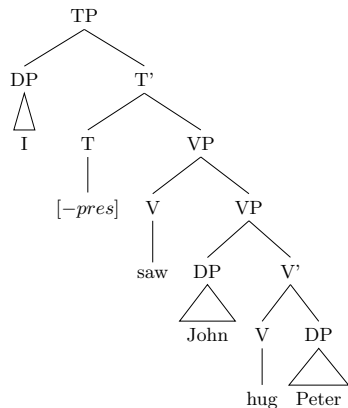
If α selects β as an adjunct, β is the adjunct of α ;

In other words, complements and subjects are realized within the maximal projection headed by the lexical item. Nice and tidy.

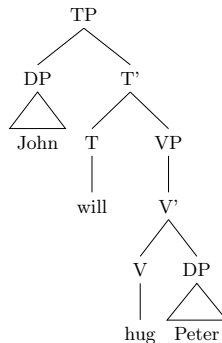
VP-internal Subject Hypothesis I

But there is a blatant violation of this principle in what we've been doing so far.

a. I saw John hug Peter.



b. John will hug Peter.



VP-internal Subject Hypothesis II

Something's wrong. Three possibilities:

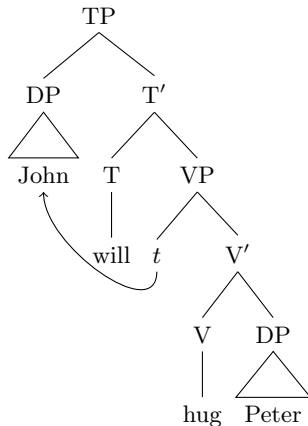
- a. Locality of selection is not a desirable goal.
- b. 'John' is not in fact selected for by 'hug'.
- c. 'John' is indeed selected for locally by 'hug'; other factors force it to be realized in the specifier of TP.

We go with option (c).

VP-internal Subject Hypothesis III

Proposal:

- Subjects enter the derivation in the VP.
- They end up in Spec, TP as a result of movement.

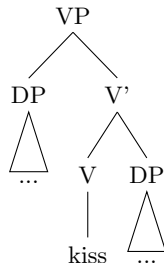


- This is called the **VP-internal Subject Hypothesis**.

VP-internal Subject Hypothesis IV

→ It applies to the selected subject of all predicates.

kiss V free DP DP



In §6.8.2. the authors of your textbook adopt the convention that the phrases selected as specifiers are underlined.

→ if subjects are VP internal, why do they move?

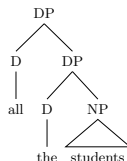
The Extended Projection Principle (EPP)

The specifier of TP always has to be filled.

VP-internal Subject Hypothesis V

→ What evidence do we have? Floating quantifiers!

(1) [All the students]

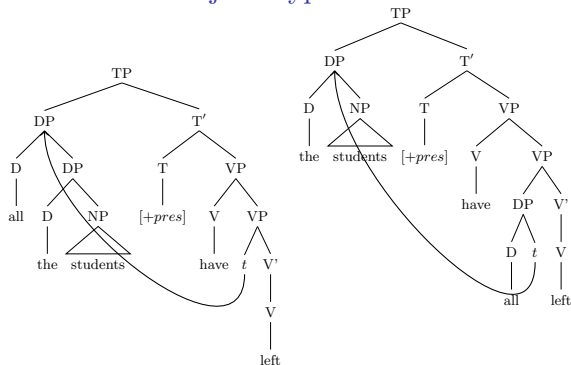


(2) [**All the students**] have left

(3) [**The students**] have **all** left

(4) * [**The students**] have left **all**

VP-internal Subject Hypothesis VI



Proposal: Subjects enter the derivation in VP

- [All the students] starts as a constituent in VP
- Subject moves to specifier of TP
- The movement can leave behind *all*
- *all* cannot appear to the right of V, because subjects originate in a specifier, not a complement

Practice

Draw the tree structure for the following sentence:

(5) My brothers have both studied Greek for years.

Head Movement

Problem In our tree structures, present and past tense morphemes are separated from the V.

Our tree structures correctly represent the relations between head and phrases but they do not capture the way in which the heads are actually pronounced.
hug^{ed}, danced^{ed}, runs^s, finished^{ed}...

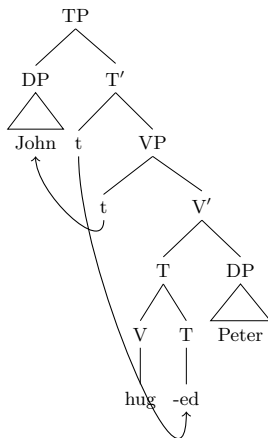
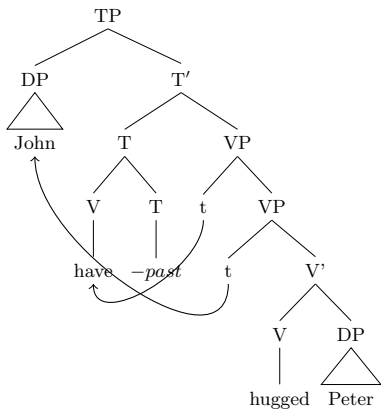
(6) John hugged Peter

What MOVE operation could put together the verb ‘hug’ and the bound morpheme ‘-ed’ in (6)?

- (i) the V moves up to T;
- (ii) T moves down to V.

Both operations turn out to exist, but for different subclasses of verbs, the former for auxiliary verbs (like *have* and *be*), the second for all other English verbs.

Here are the two derivations:



The evidence for this account comes from the distribution of (i) adverbs and (ii) negation.

→ Adverbs and negation are adjuncts to VP.

→ We use them as a diagnostic for where the verb is.

Q: Is the verb before or after negation?

(7) Modal verbs

a. John will/can **not** come.

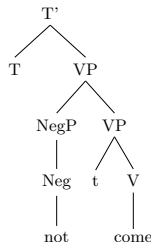
b.*John **not** will/can come.

(8) Aux verbs

a. John has **not** come.

b.*John **not** has come.

c. John will not have come.



(9) Lexical verbs

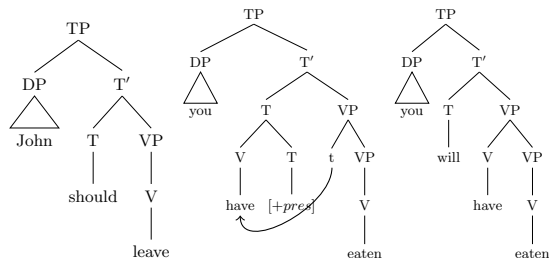
a. John did **not** come

b.*John came **not**

Fill up this table!	Modal V	Aux V	Lexical V
Can the verb ever come before negation?			
Can it ever come after?			

V-to-T movement I

- Modals are generated in T;
- Auxiliaries are verbs (heads of VPs). They can move to T when the position is not otherwise occupied.



How do we know they are different?

- There is only one modal verb per TP, whereas we can have more than one aux verb (*John has been reading for hours*)
- As we saw, we have no evidence for modal verbs ever being in a position lower than T.

V-to-T movement II

→ Lexical verbs do not move to T in English. In other languages lexical verbs do move to T (i.e. French)

English: **Subj >> Adv/Neg >> Lex Verb >> Dir Obj**

French: **Subj >> Lex Verb >> Adv/Neg >> Dir Obj**

(10) Je mange souvent des pommes

I eat often apples

'I often eat apples'

(11) Je (ne) mange pas de pommes

I eat NEG apples

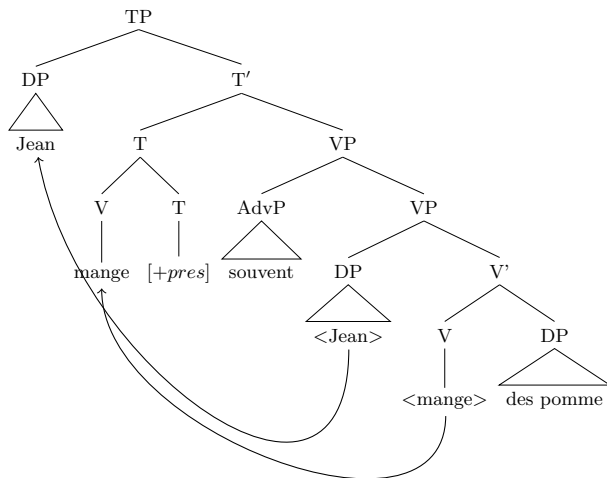
'I do not eat apples'

(12) Je (n') ai pas mangé de pommes

I AUX NEG eaten apples

'I have not eaten apple'

V-to-T movement III



→ Auxiliary verbs can move to T in both English and French!

Aux > *Neg*

- (13) Je (n') ai pas mangé de pommes
I AUX NEG eaten apples
'I have not eaten apple'

This is the reason why we find the same order in ?? and its English counterpart. Try to draw their derivations!

Practice

Draw the tree structure for the following French sentence:

(14) Je (ne) savais pas que Patrice oublie souvent ses chaussures.

I knew NEG that Patrice forgets often his shoes

‘I didn’t know that Patrice often forgets his shoes’

Practice Consider the following data from Italian. Assume *non* is like French *ne* and is irrelevant to the discussion. Concentrate instead on the position of the word *più*, ‘anymore’:

(15) Gianni non ha più parlato francese.
Gianni *non* has anymore spoken French
‘Gianni hasn’t spoken French anymore’

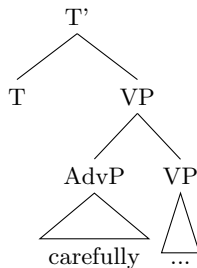
(16) Gianni non parla più francese
Gianni *non* speaks anymore French
‘Gianni does not speak French anymore’

(i) On the basis of this very limited data, is Italian a verb-raising language or not? Explain.

(ii) Draw a tree structure for (2). Ignore *non*.

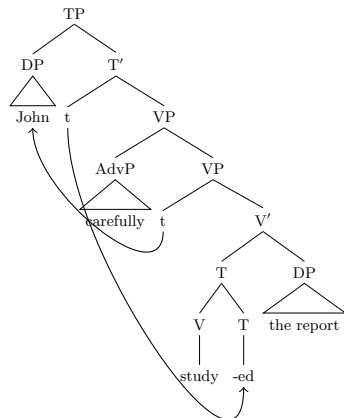
→ Lexical verbs do not move to T in English.

- (17) a. *John studied carefully the
report
b. John carefully studied the
report.



Tense Lowering II

→ T moves onto the verb



→ Tense lowering does not apply in some cases.

A dummy verb *do* can be inserted to support the stranded affix.

(18) **Negation**

a.*John studied not the report

b.*John not studied the report.

c. John did not study the report.

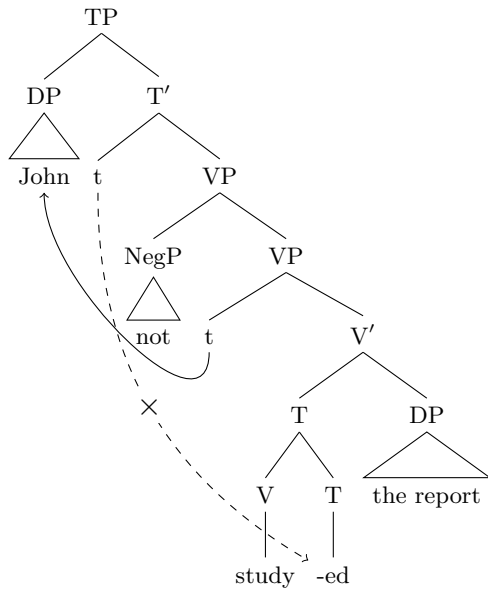
d.*John did/do not studied the report.

V to T is not possible

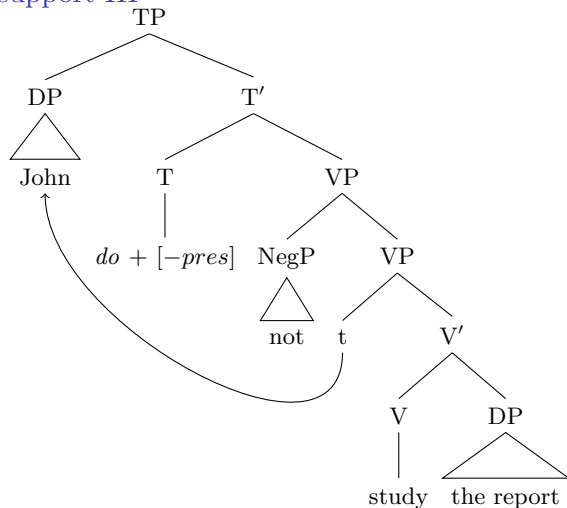
T to V is also not possible

do-support

do-support II



do-support III



Do-support: when there is no other option for supporting inflectional affixes, insert the dummy verb *do* into T.

Practice Draw surface trees for the following sentences:

- (19) a. Dylan did not say that Ken called him.
b. That Mark did not help his neighbor disappointed me.
c. Megan has been reading for hours.