

A Noun Incorporation Library for the LinGO Grammar Matrix

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Noun Incorporation

Noun Incorporation (NI) is the phenomenon in which a nominal that would otherwise bear a grammatical relation to the verb (such as direct object) is expressed not as an independent noun phrase, but rather as a morphological root that is integrated into the inflected verb to form a kind of composite form. (Baker 2005)

3 Types of Noun Incorporation

Reduction NI (compounding NI)

- (1) *Ñi chao kintu-le-y ta.chi pu waka.*
my father seek-PROG-IND.3sS the COLL **cow**

‘My father is looking for the cows.’

[arn] (Mapudungun, Salas 1992:195)

- (2) *Ñi chao kintu-waka-le-y.*
my father seek-**cow**-PROG-IND.3sS

‘My father is looking for the cows.’ (My father is cow-seeking)

(Salas 1992:195)

Promotion NI (valence changing NI)

- (3) *Subih tɔb ðih ta-ma.*
Subih **house** 1SG THEME-make
'I am making Subih's house'

[mbj] (Nadëb, Weir 1990:323)

- (4) *Subih ðih tɔb-ta-ma.*
Subih 1SG **house**-THEME-make
'I am making Subih's house' (I am house-making Subih)

(Weir 1990:323)

Classificatory NI

General/Specific

- (5) *ne-hra-taskw-ahkw-ha?* *ha?* *tsi:r.*
du-M-**animal**-pick.up-SERIAL EMPH **dog**
'He picks up domestic animals.' (He is a dog catcher)

[tus] (Tuscarora, Williams 1976:60)

Doubling

- (6) *kaṭa?-∅* *par-kaṭa?-ta-ŋiŋ.*
paperbark-NOM
3SG.OBJ.3PL.TRANS.S-**paperbark**-stand-(CAUS)-PAST.CONT
'They would spread paperbark on the ground.'

[rmb] (Rembarnga, McKay 1975:296)

Classificatory NI

Stranding

- Modifiers

(7) *Kanekwarúnyu wa'-k-akya'tawi'tsher-ú:ni*
it.**dotted**.DIST PAST-I-**dress**-make
'I dress-made a polka-dotted one.'

[moh] (Mohawk, Annette Jacobs pc to Mithun 1984:870)

- Demonstratives

(8) *ná: kan-núh-'a'*
that water-run.out-will
'That will run out.'

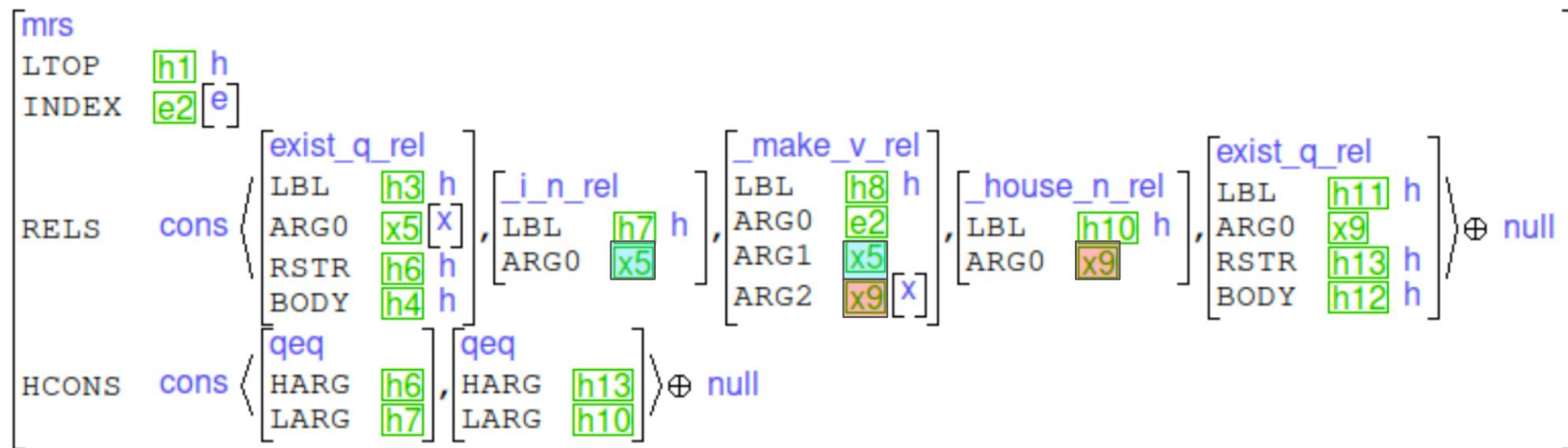
[cad] (Caddo, Chafe 1977)

Target semantics and the rules
that get me there

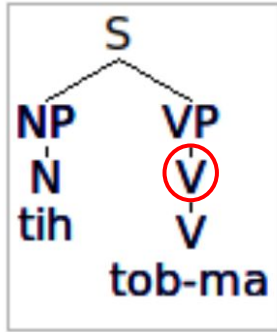
Target MRS (Reduction NI)

Tih tob-ma.
 1SG **house**-make
 'I am house-making.'

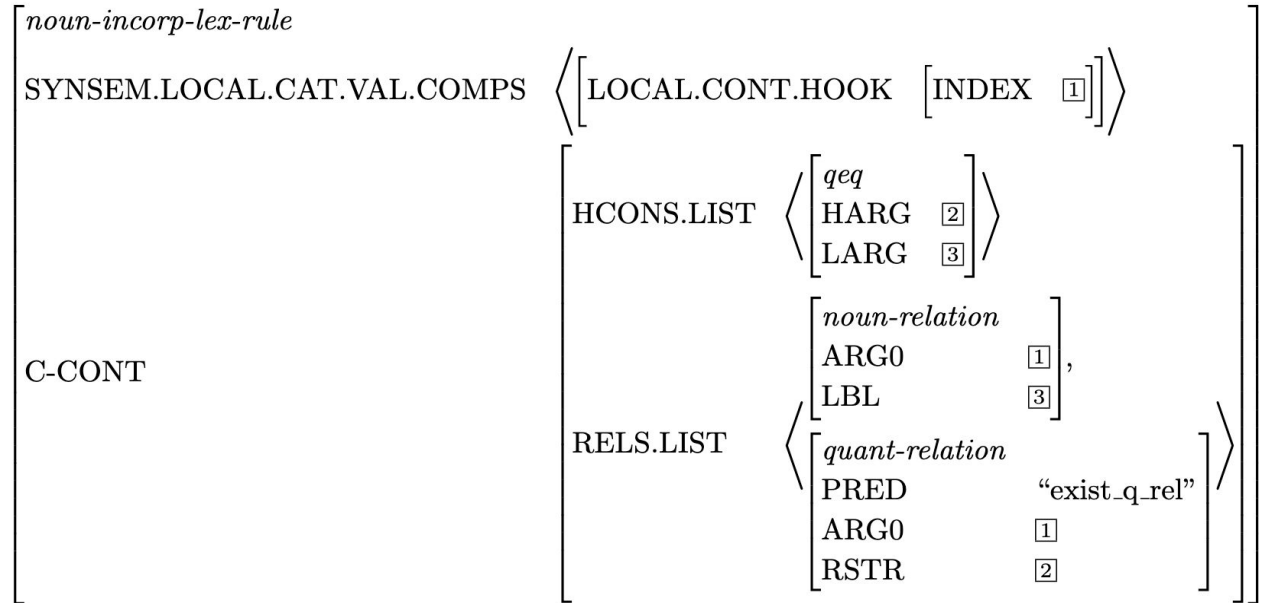
(Based on Nadëb)



Rules that get me there (all types)

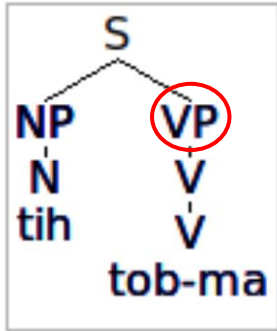


- First lexical rule that all verbs which encounter NI will go through
- Adds the Incorporated Noun (IN) to the semantics
- For now, keeps the IN on the verb's COMPS list



Rules that get me there (Reduction NI)

- Now the COMPS list is empty



$\left[\begin{array}{l} decrease-arg-incorp-lex-rule \\ SYNSEM.LOCAL.CAT.VAL \\ DTR.SYNSEM.LOCAL.CAT.VAL.SUBJ \end{array} \right]$	$\left[\begin{array}{ll} COMPS & \langle \rangle \\ SUBJ & \boxed{1} \end{array} \right]$
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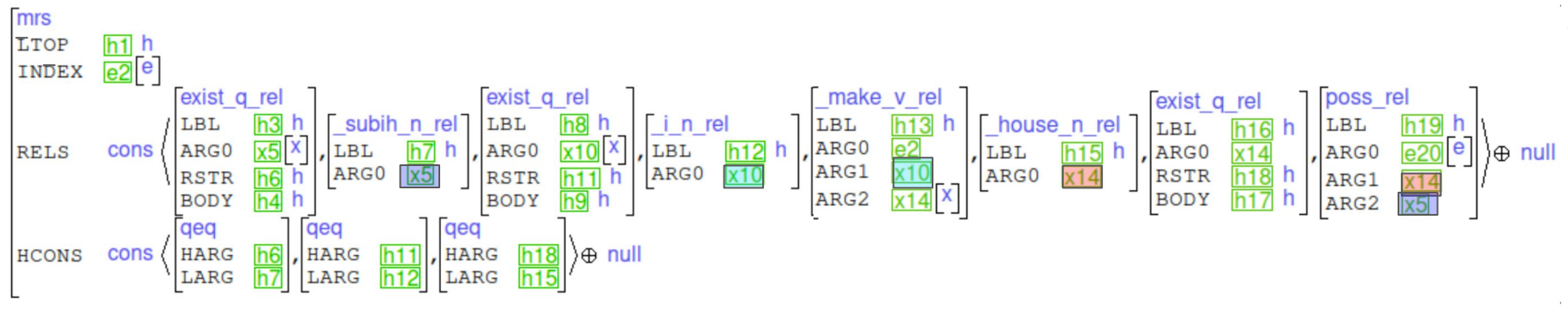
Target MRS (Promotion NI)

Subih tih tob-ma

Subih 1SG **house**-make

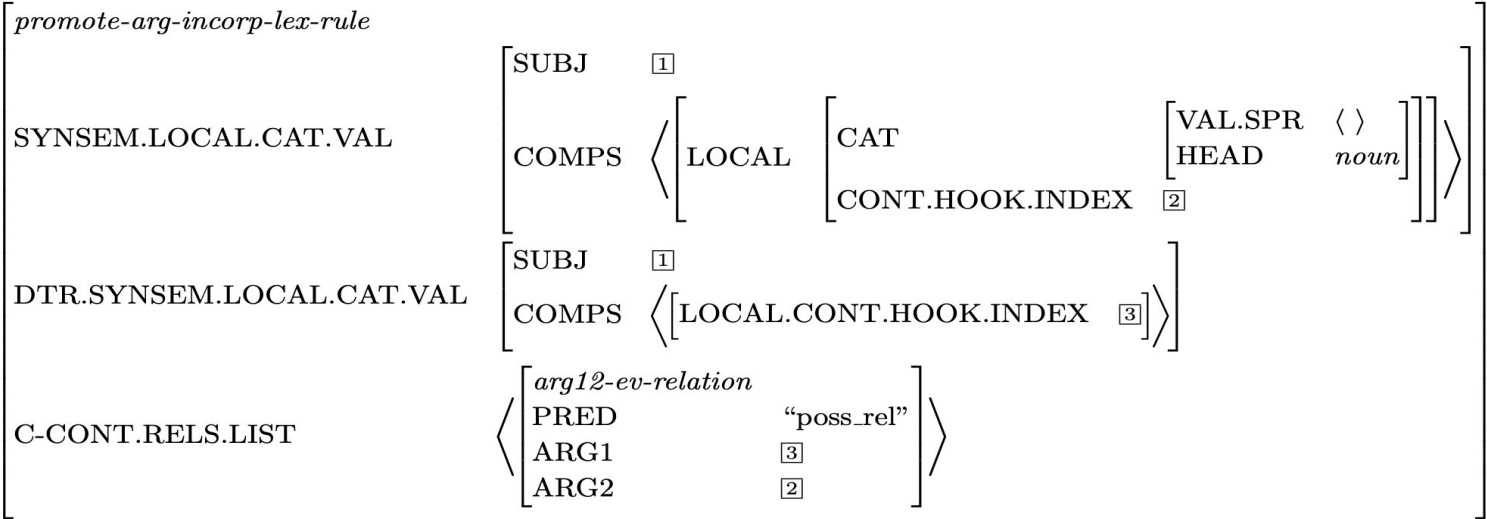
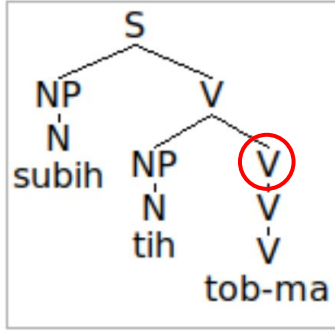
'I am making a house for Subih' (I am house-making Subih)

(Nadëb)



Rules that get me there (Promotion NI)

- Puts `poss_rel` into the semantics relating the IN and the new noun on the COMPS list



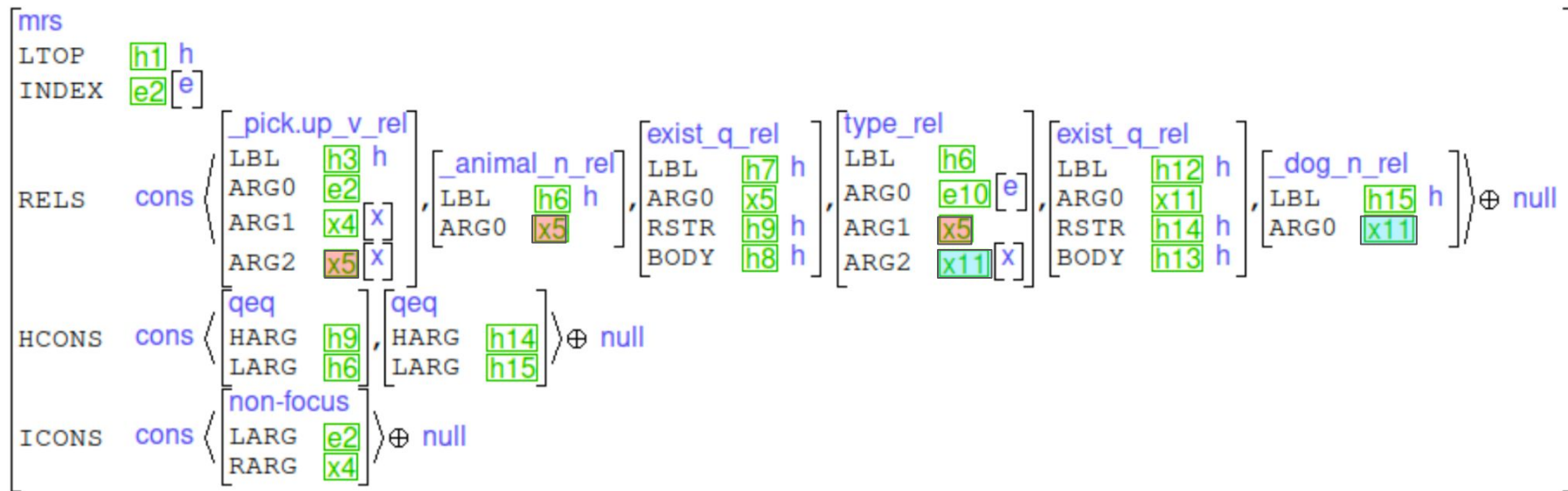
Target MRS (Classificatory NI - General/Specific)

hra-taskw-ahkw tsiir

(Based on Tuscarora)

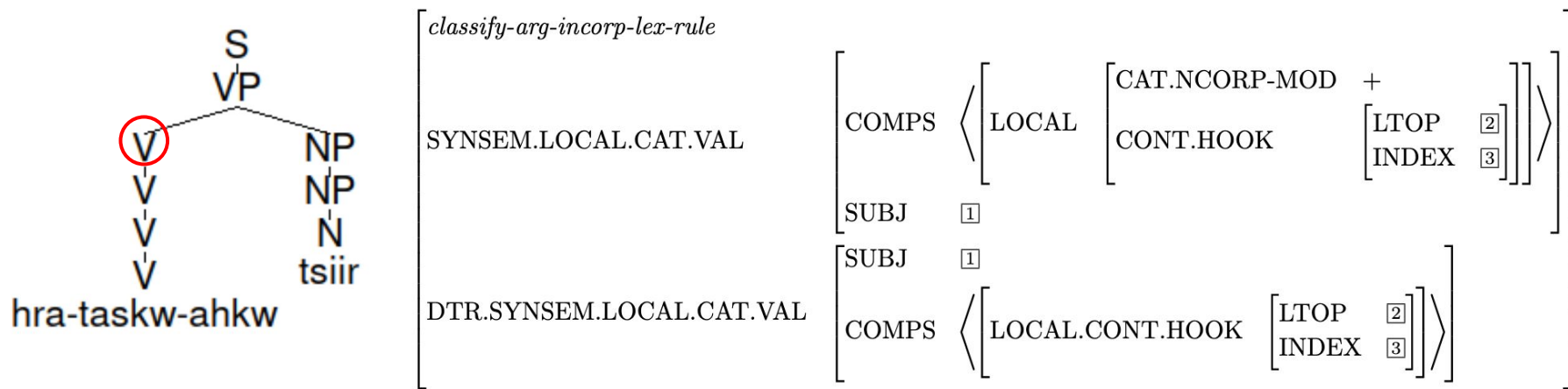
M-**animal**-pick.up **dog**

'He animal-picks up dogs.'

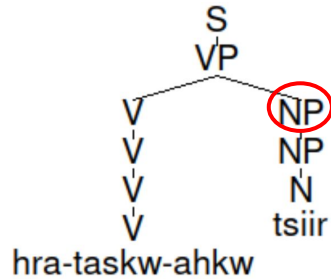


Rules that get me there (Classificatory NI - all types)

- The element on the verb's COMPS list must be NCORP-MOD +
- NCORP-MOD is a new boolean feature that positive for the unincorporated element (here the specific noun, *tsiir* “dog”)



Rules that get me there (Classificatory NI - Gen/Spec)



- Phrase structure rule that the specific (unincorporated) noun goes through
- Introduces the `type_rel` which relates the general and specific nouns
- Index of IN comes from `C-CONT.HOOK` in case head features such as case need to be passed up

<i>type-ni-mod-phrase</i>	
SYNSEM.LOCAL.CAT	<div> <div>VAL</div> <div>NCORP-MOD</div> <div>1</div> <div>+</div> </div>
HEAD-DTR.SYNSEM.LOCAL	<div> <div> <div>CAT</div> <div> <div>HEAD</div> <div>noun</div> </div> <div> <div>VAL</div> <div>1</div> <div>SPR</div> <div>< ></div> </div> <div> <div>NCORP-MOD</div> <div>-</div> </div> </div> </div>
C-CONT	<div> <div>CONT.HOOK.INDEX</div> <div>2</div> </div> <div> <div> <div> <div>RELS.LIST</div> <div> <div> <div>arg12-ev-relation</div> <div> <div>PRED</div> <div>LBL</div> <div>ARG1</div> <div>ARG2</div> </div> <div> <div>"type_rel"</div> <div>3</div> <div>4</div> <div>2</div> </div> </div> </div> </div> </div> <div> <div>ICONS.LIST</div> <div>< ></div> </div> <div> <div>HCONS.LIST</div> <div>< ></div> </div> <div> <div>HOOK</div> <div> <div>LTOP</div> <div>3</div> </div> <div> <div>INDEX</div> <div>4</div> </div> </div> </div>

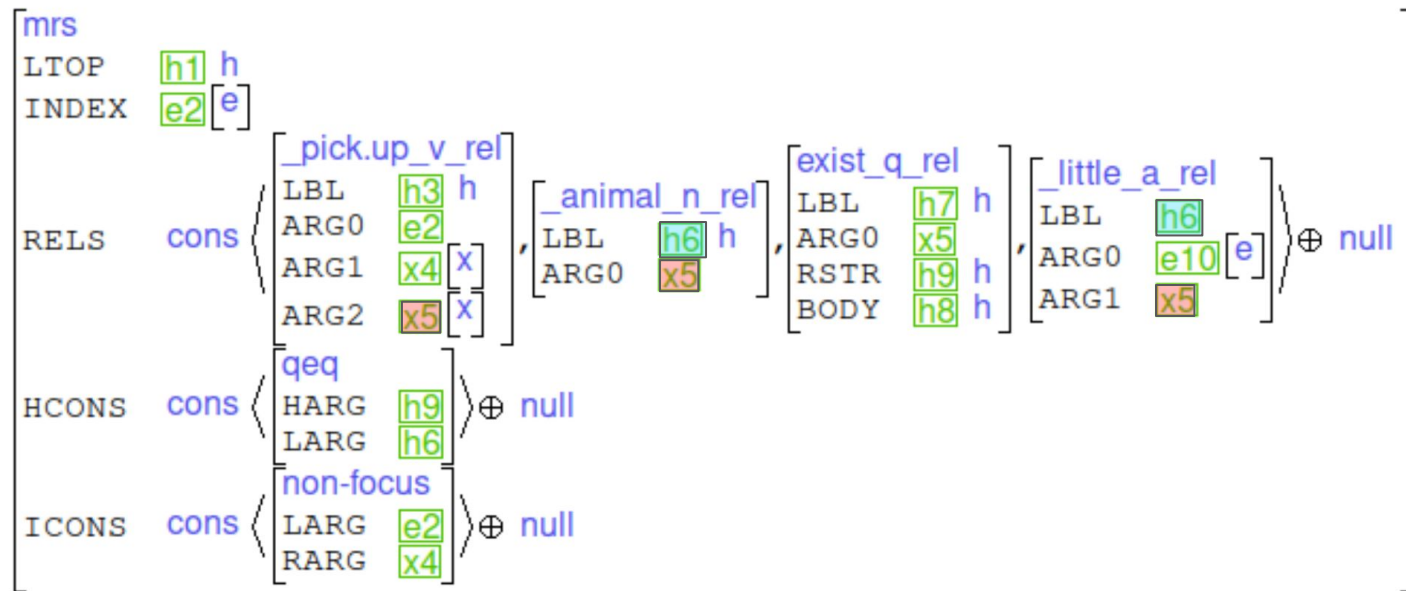
Target MRS (Classificatory NI - Modifier stranding)

hra-taskw-ahkw ahcheeah

(Based on Tuscarora)

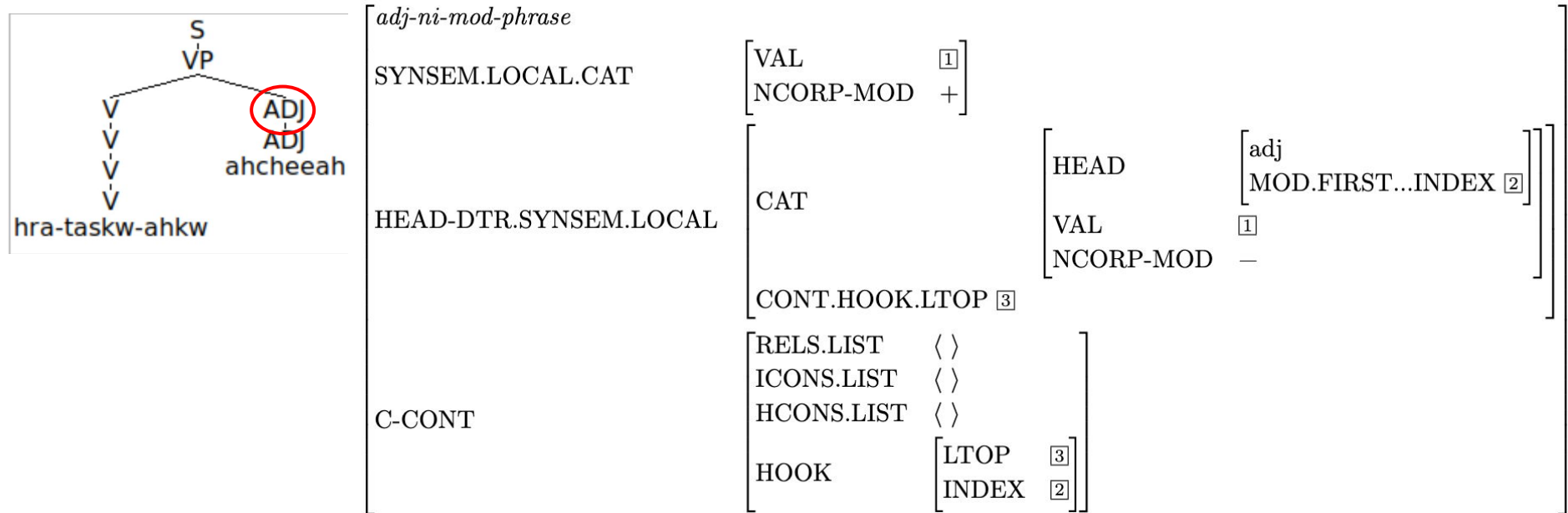
M-**animal**-pick.up **little**

'He animal-picks up little.' (He picks up little animals)



Rules that get me there (Classificatory NI - Mod Stranding)

- Puts the IN on the stranded adjective's MOD list via C-CONT.HOOK



Conclusion

- The IN is attached to the verb via a lexical rule that contributes the noun to the MRS
- Then, the `COMPS` list can be set to empty, filled with a different noun which bears a relation to the IN, or look for something that is `NCORP-MOD` +
- `NCORP-MOD` is a new feature that is true for words that have gone through a phrase structure rule to allow them to modify the IN in some way
- General/specific instances generate a `type_rel` which relates the two nouns
- Stranded modifiers go through a phrase structure rule which links the IN with the adjective's `MOD` value

Discussion

References

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