LIN 311 Syntax Recitation

Apr. 5, 2019

Any generalization on the position of adverbs/ negation?

(1) a. Sally often speaks French.

b. Sally speaks French often.

c. *Sally speaks often French.

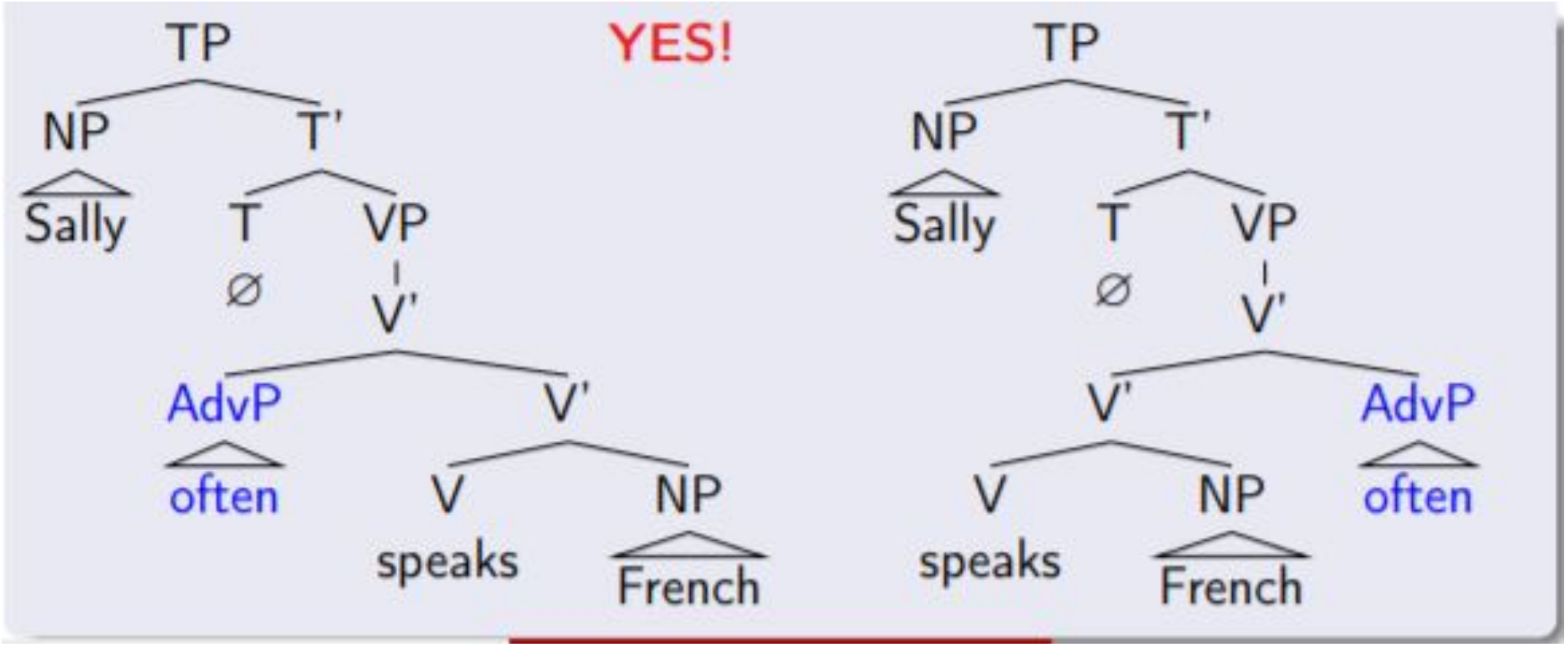
Draw the trees for 1a, 1b

(2) a. Sally can speak French.

b. Sally can not speak French.

c. * Sally not can speak French.

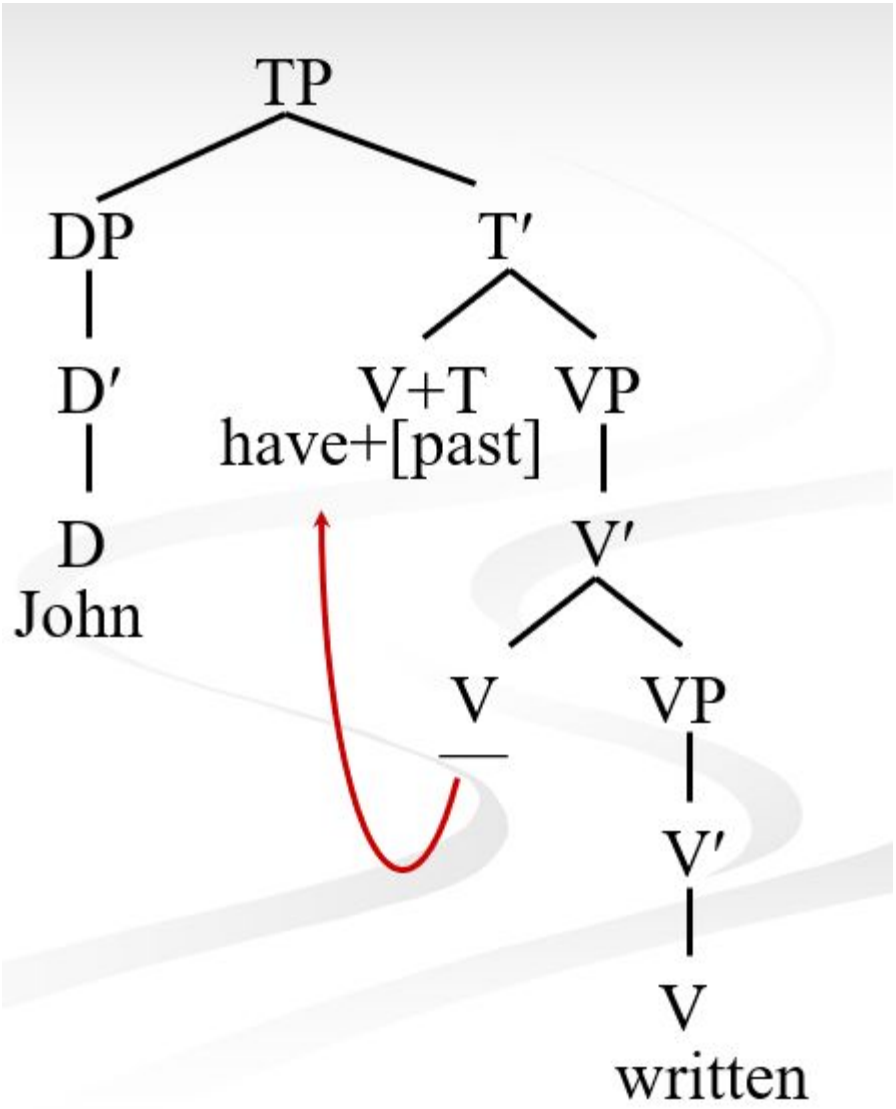
d. * Sally can speak French not.


YES!
TP
NP
T'
Sally
T
VP
∅
V'
AdvP
V'
often
V
NP
speaks
French
TP
NP
T'
Sally
T
VP
∅
V'
V'
AdvP
V
NP
often
speaks
French

V to T movement

Draw the trees for (2) and (3).

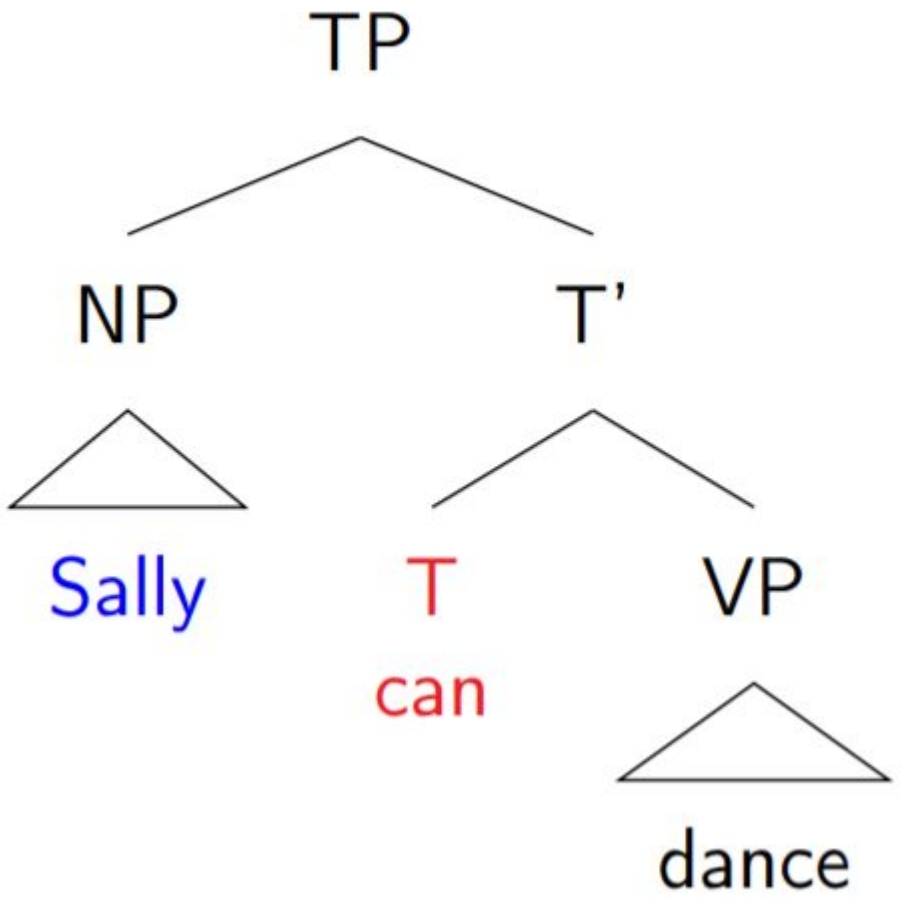
(1) John had written.
(2) John had not written.
(3) John had cautiously written.

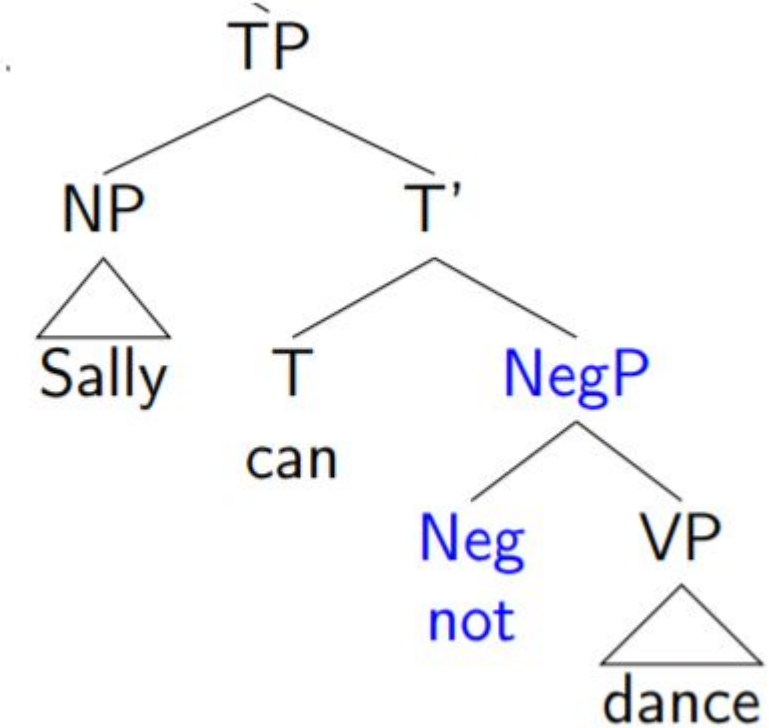


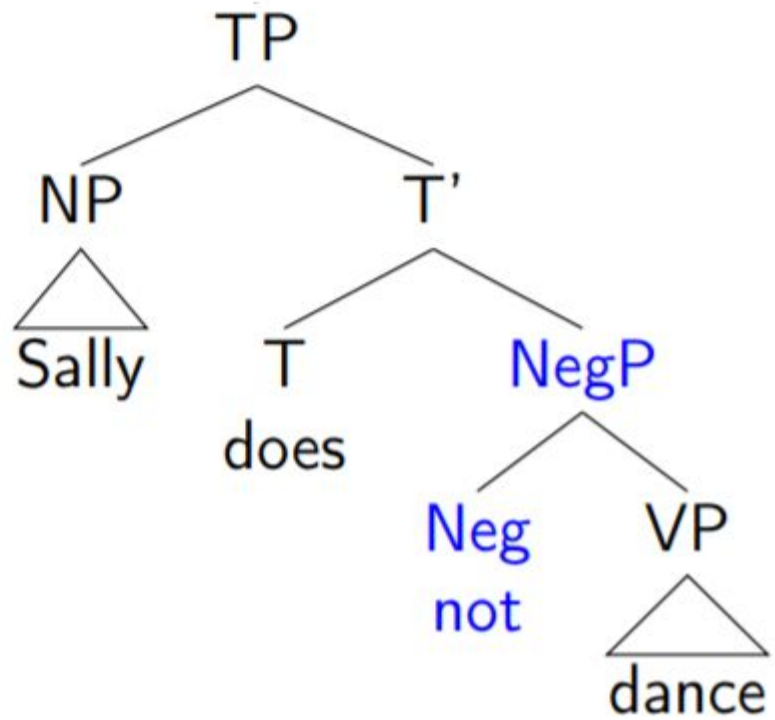
modals on T

Draw trees for these sentences.

(1) Sally can not dance.
(2) Sally can hardly dance.
(3) Sally does not dance.

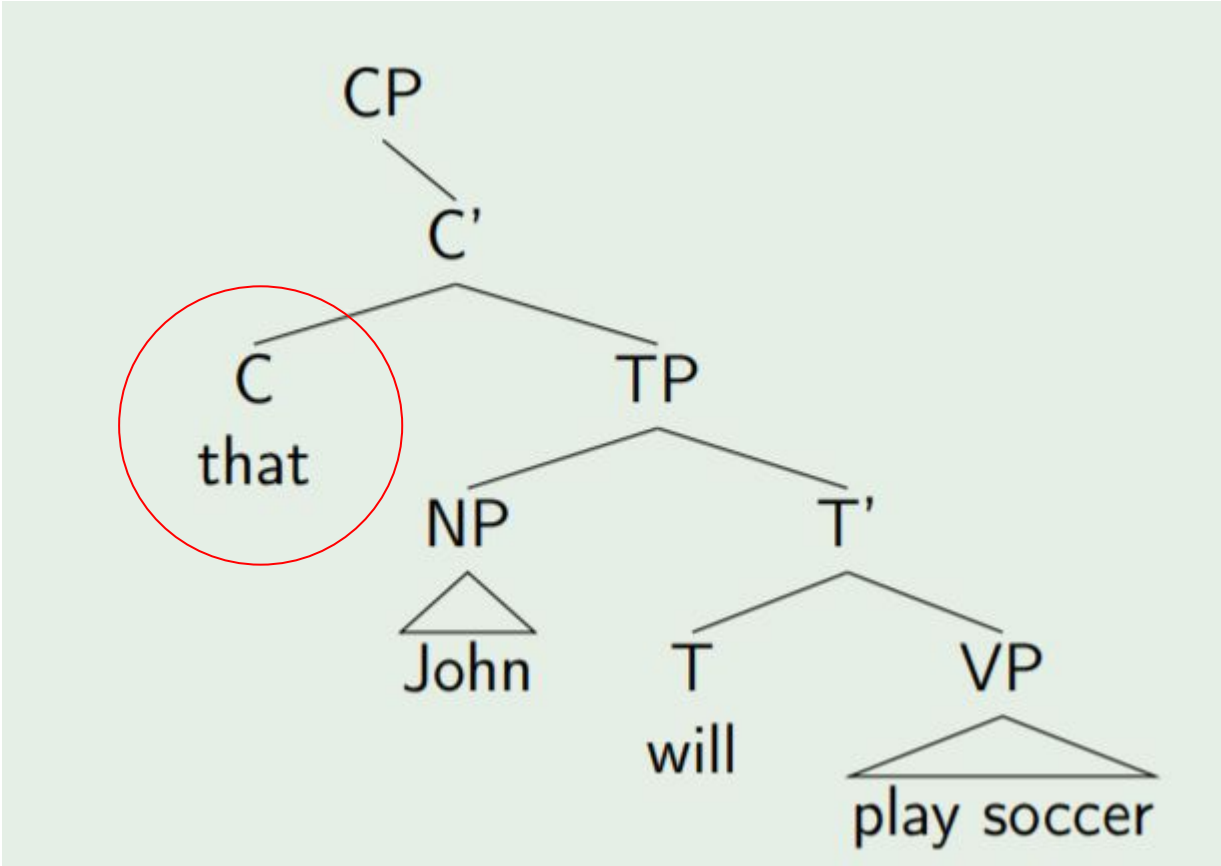



TP
NP
T'
Sally
T
can
NegP
Neg
not
VP
dance


TP
NP
T'
Sally
T
does
NegP
Neg
not
VP
dance

CP

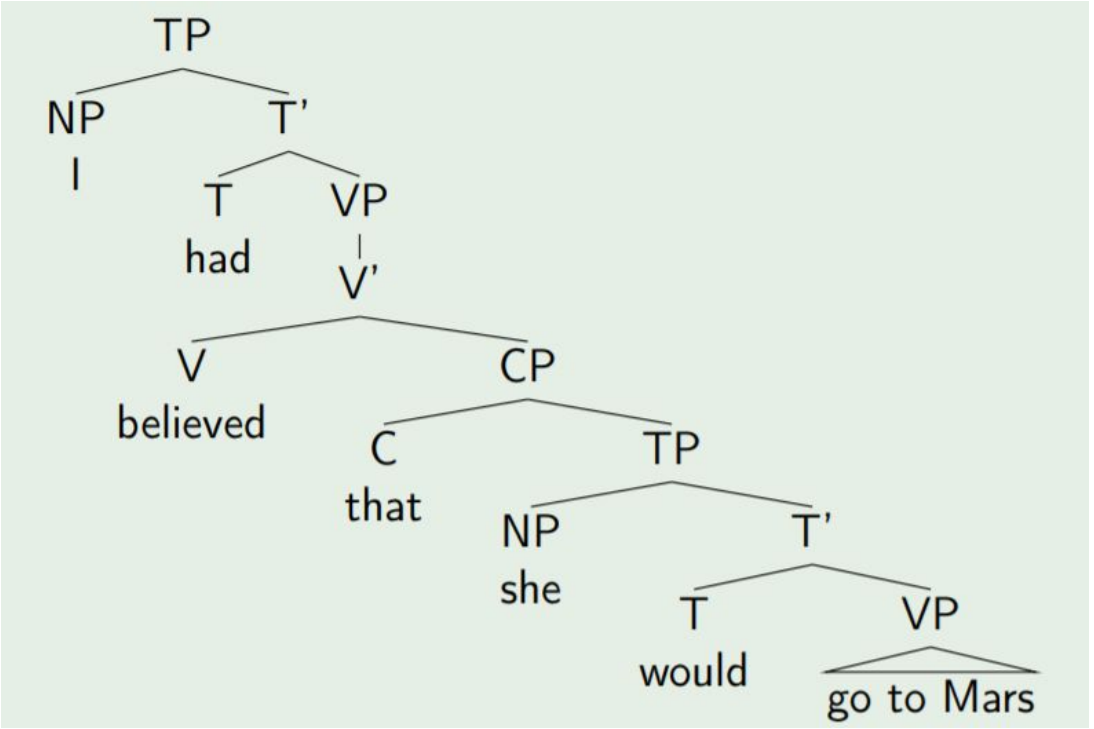
C: *that, whether, if….*



CP as a complement of a verb

(1) I had believed **that she would go to Mars**

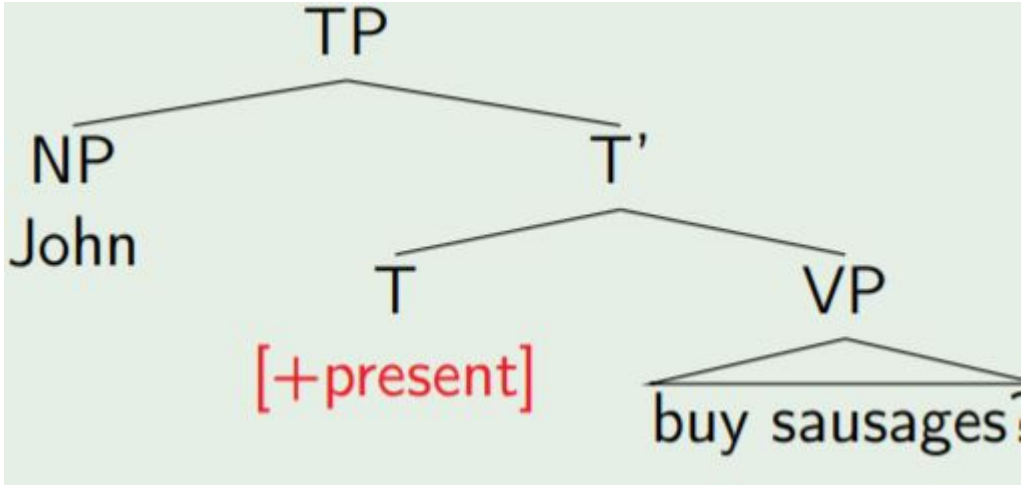
(2) I had wondered **if she would go to Mars**.

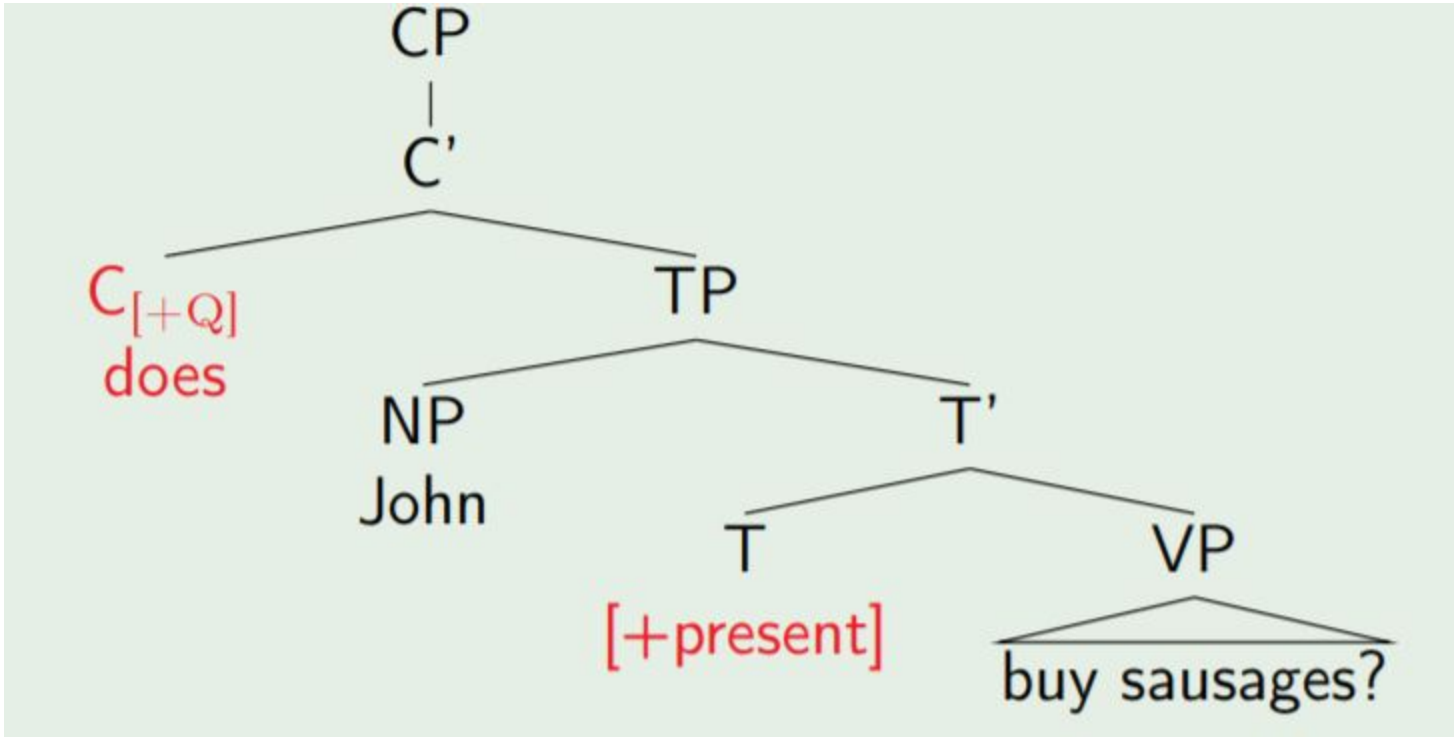


Yes/No-questions

- In Yes/No-questions, the element in main clause T moves to C.

(1) Will John buy sausages?
(2) Does John buy sausages?




CP
C'
C[+Q]
does
TP
NP
John
T'
T
[+present]
VP
buy sausages?

C [+Q]

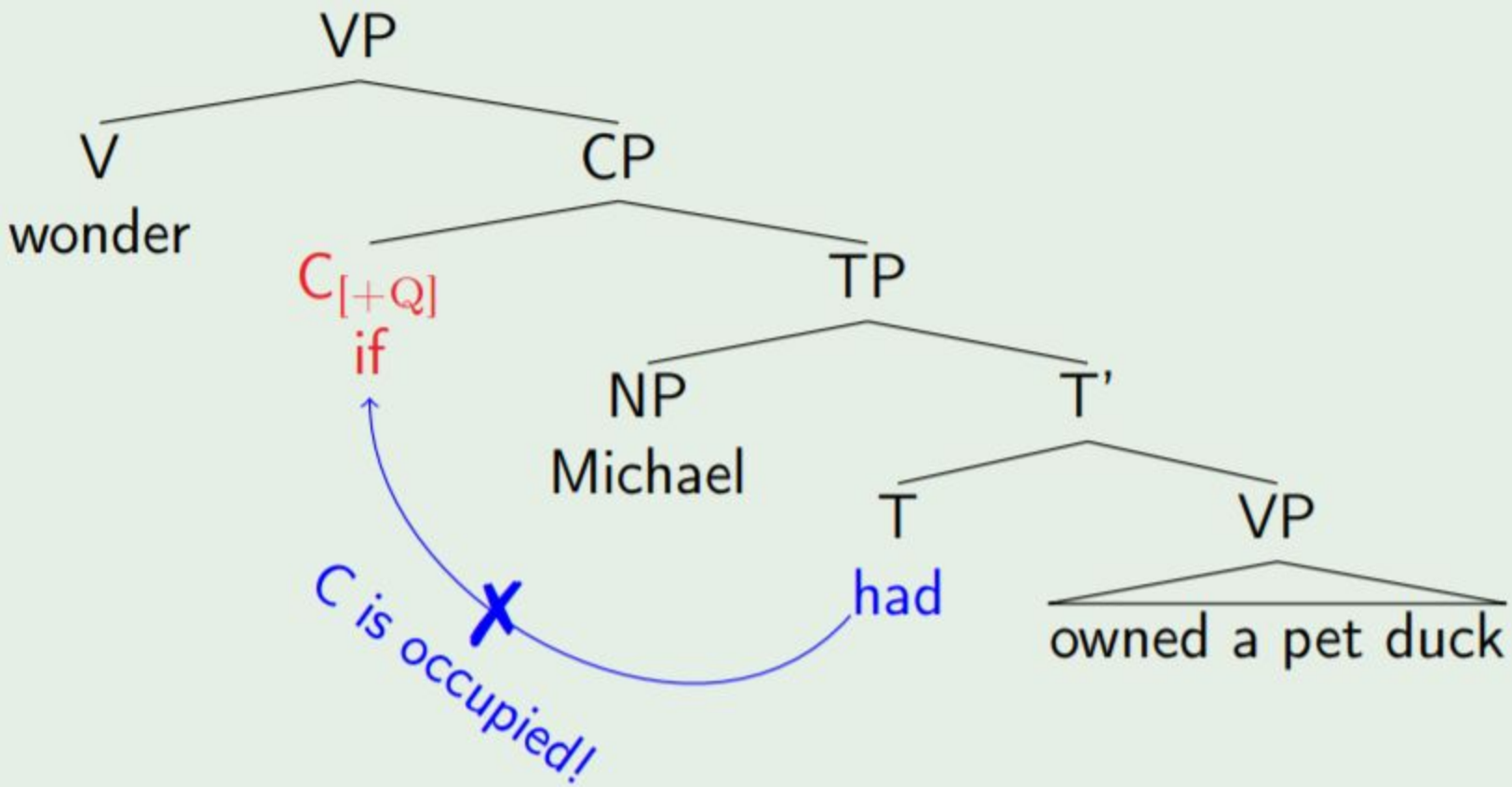
Question: why b is ungrammatical?

a. I wonder **if** $C_{[+Q]}$ **Michael had owned a pet duck.**

b. *I wonder **if had Michael owned a pet duck.**

c. Had Michael owned a pet duck?

I wonder if$_{C[+Q]}$ Michael had owned a pet duck.



Case

a. She loves her.

b. *She loves she.

c. *Her loves her.

d. *Her loves she.

Why are sentences above ungrammatical?

(note: the ungrammaticality cannot be accounted by θ-theory: number of arguments is right.)

A few important cases

Case	Usage
Nominative	Subjects of *finite* clauses
Accusative	Direct objects
Dative	Indirect objects
Genitive	Possessor (like *'s* in English)

Is Case and θ-roles in a one-to-one corresponding relation?

a. She loves Bill.

b. She is loved by Bill.

c. I believe her to be happy.

d. I believe that she is happy