LIN 311 Syntax Recitation

Feb. 15, 2019

Review

CONSTITUENT

CONSTITUENCY TESTS

Constituency tests

- Replacement
- Stand-alone test/ sentence fragment test
- Movement
  - Clefting
  - Preposing
  - Passive
- Coordination
- Interpolation
- Ellipsis

What kind of conclusion can you make based on the given info?

Substring to be tested	I read a book about Napoleon on my birthday.
Question	What did you read?
Answer	a book about Napoleon

Substring to be tested	I read a book about Napoleon on my birthday.
Cleft sentence	It was a book about Napoleon that I read on my birthday.

What kind of conclusion can you make based on the given data?

Substring to be tested	I read <u>a book about Napoleon on my birthday</u>
Question	What did you read?
Answer	* a book about Napoleon on my birthday.

Structure

In the following sentences a sequence of words is marked as a constituent with brackets. State whether or not it is a real constituent and with which constituency test you applied to determine that results.

1. Susan gave [the book to Jeff].
2. Cindy got [a letter from Lily].

What can this piece of data tell you?

Substring to be tested	I read <u>a book about Napoleon on my birthday.</u>
Cleft sentence	It was <u>a book on my birthday</u> that I read about Napoleon.

- Can you conclude that *a book on my birthday* is a constituent?

Phrase structure format

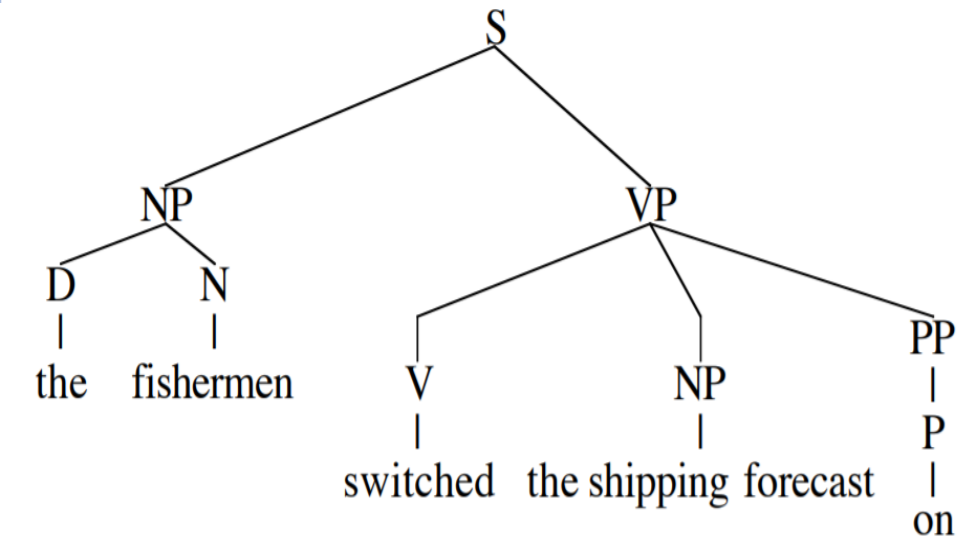|			
CP	TP	VP	NP
PP	adjP	advP	XP

What does a syntactic tree look like?

- Branches
- Node
    - Phrasal nodes
    - Lexical nodes
    - Words
- **Mother**
- **Daughters**
- **Sisters**
- **Dominates**
- A set of elements forms a constituent in a tree diagram if and only if there is a single node that **dominates** just these elements, and no other items.

What's the structure for these sentences?

a) The dog barked at the ducks and ate corn.
b) The dog will bark at the ducks and the geese.

First, use brackets to group words into constituents;
Second, identify the category of each word and each constituents;
Third, try to sketch a tree for each sentence.

(More practices can be found on pp.109, GPS6. English)

Tree drawing software

- There are several standalone programs, both webapps and desktop apps, that you can use to enter tree structures, and they will render the structures as pictures for you.

- **phpSyntaxTree**: Given the input [S [NP [N Trees]] [VP [V grow] [PP in apps]]], this produces a PDF with the following image.

http://www.ironcreek.net/phpsyntaxtree/?PHPSESSID=edmnu94kgoftd19lee1vub9c31

- More ways of drawing trees

https://www.gouskova.com/2017/01/02/drawing-linguistic-structure-trees/