

Ellipsis and Reduced Registers

Day 1

Syntax crash-course #3:

Inverted-Y model of grammar

First part of today's seminar:

Constituency

- Syntactic phrases
- Syntactic heads
- Projection

Structural dependencies

- Negative polarity items
- Referential binding
- Syntactic case

Syntactic trees

- X'-theory
- C-command
- Dominance
- Complements
- Specifiers

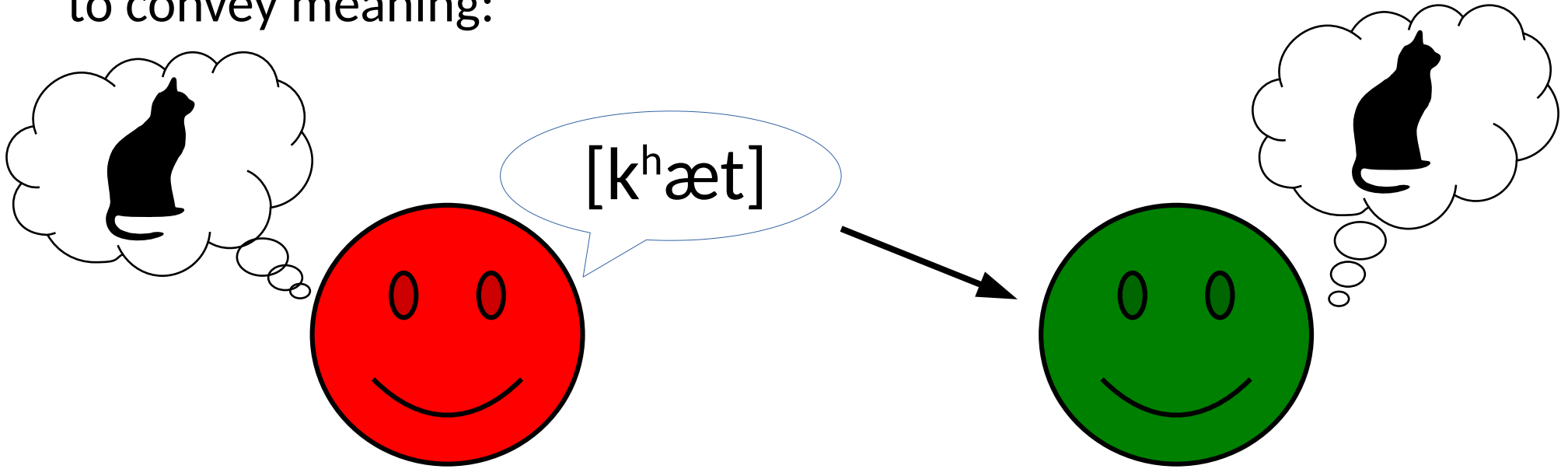
Syntactic movement

- Islands

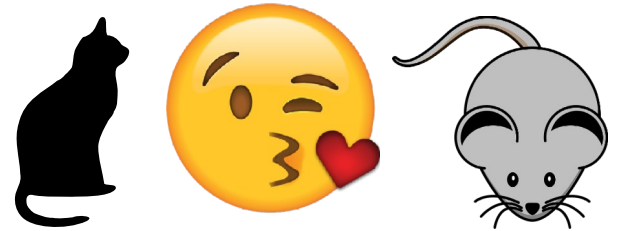
The Y-model of grammar

Language as a Form-Meaning correspondence

- In essence, language is using symbolic forms (sound or writing) to convey meaning:



- How **conventionalized** meaning is conveyed is simple...
- What about **compositional** meaning? e.g.



- **Syntax** links forms to compositional meaning

Three types of Form-Meaning correspondence

[1] One-to-one correspondence

- A change in form (i.e. word-order) reflects a change in compositional meaning:

(1) Who₁ __₁ kissed John?

who = kisser

(2) Who₁ did John kiss __₁?

who = kissee

Three types of Form-Meaning correspondence

[2] Mismatch #1: Form change without meaning change

- A change in form can often be meaningless:

e.g. *auxiliary contraction*

(3) John **will not** kiss Mary.

(4) John **won't** kiss Mary.

Three types of Sound-Meaning correspondence

[3] Mismatch #2: Meaning change without a form change

- If it contains more than one *quantified expression*, a sentence often has multiple possible meanings:

(5) Every teacher will kiss a student.

Narrow scope: *Each teacher will kiss a different student*

Wide scope: *Every teacher will kiss the same student*

Q: *How does the sentence get two different meanings?*

Three types of Sound-Meaning correspondence

[3] Mismatch #2: Meaning change without a form change

A clue: movement restricts the possible interpretations =

(6) The teachers will be very happy. Every teacher will kiss a postdoc, and [a student]₁ every teacher will also kiss ____₁.

Only one meaning available: *Every teacher will kiss the same student*

Robert May (1977): there are two interpretations of (5) because one of them is generated by “covert” movement:

(5) Every teacher will kiss [a student].

Optional “covert” movement.

Known as Quantifier Raising

Interim Summary:

- Three types of **form-to-compositional-meaning** correspondence:
 - [1] One-to-one correspondence
 - [2] Form change with meaning change (e.g. *auxiliary contraction*)
 - [3] Meaning change without form change (e.g. *Quantifier Raising*)
- We need a linguistic model that can reflect this flexibility

Inverted Y-model of Grammar (Noam Chomsky 1995)

Inverted Y-model of Grammar

Lexicon

[memorized store of lexemes]



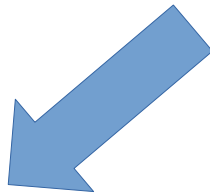
Numeration

[unordered set of lexemes for sentence-building]



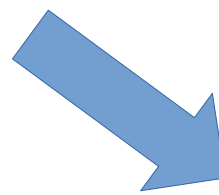
Syntax

[sentence-building]



Logical Form (LF)

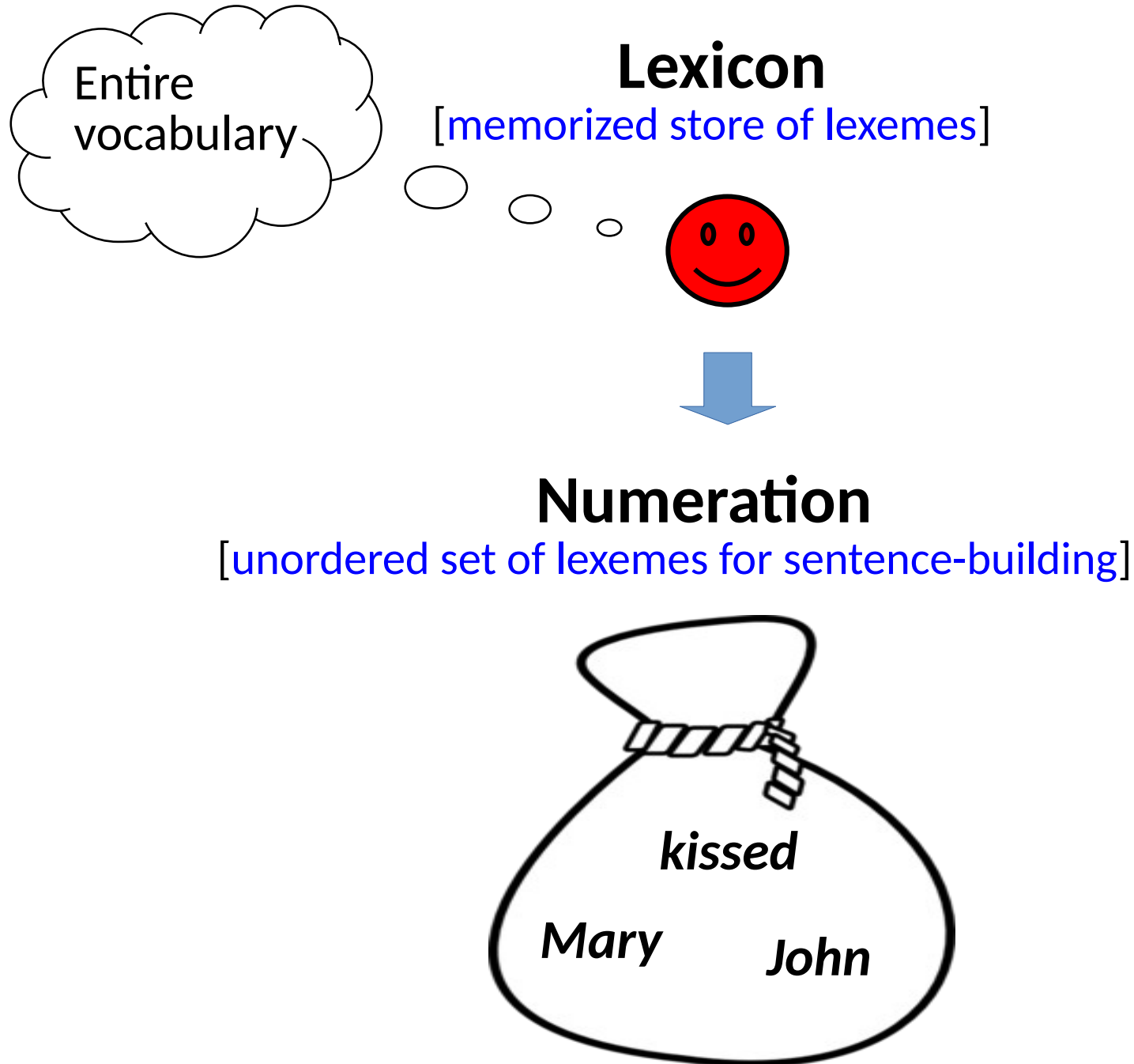
[additional sentence-modification]
[quality-control for meaning]



Phonological Form (PF)

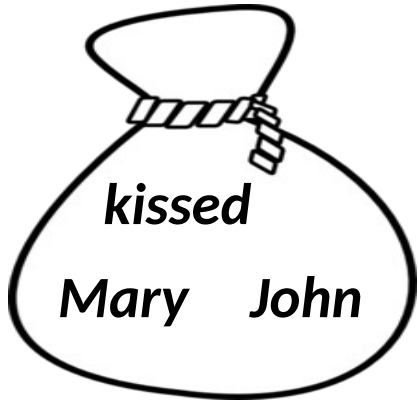
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[quality-control for form]

Inverted Y-model of Grammar



Inverted Y-model of Grammar

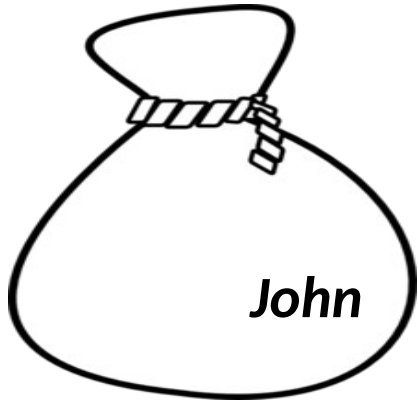
Syntax [sentence-building]



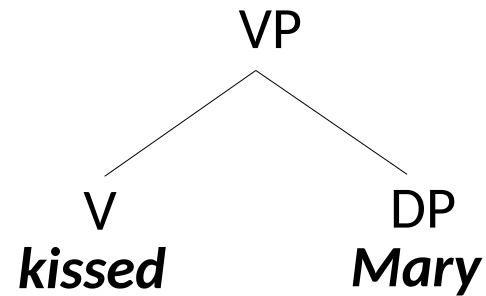
- [1] Take items from Numeration
- [2] MERGE them together
- [3] Repeat until Numeration is empty

Inverted Y-model of Grammar

Syntax [sentence-building]



- [1] Take items from Numeration
- [2] MERGE them together
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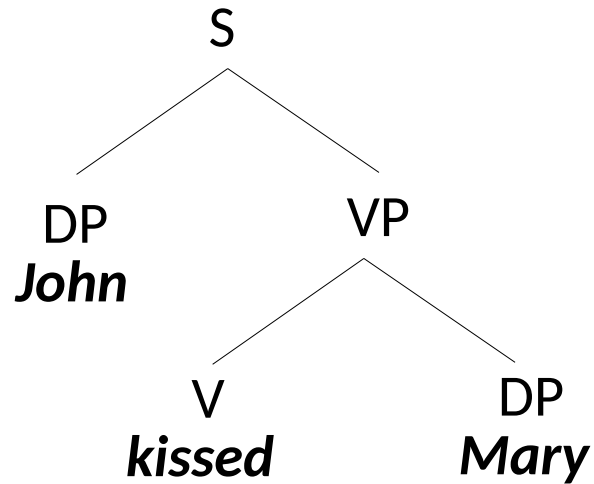


Inverted Y-model of Grammar

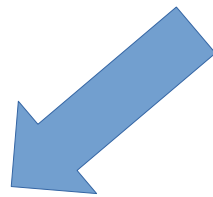
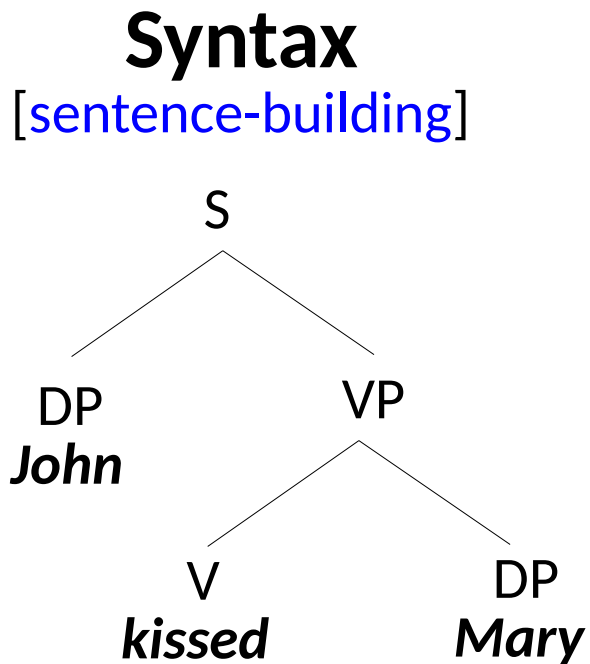
Syntax [sentence-building]



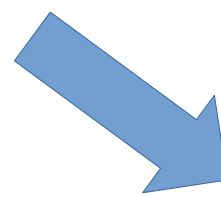
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Inverted Y-model of Grammar

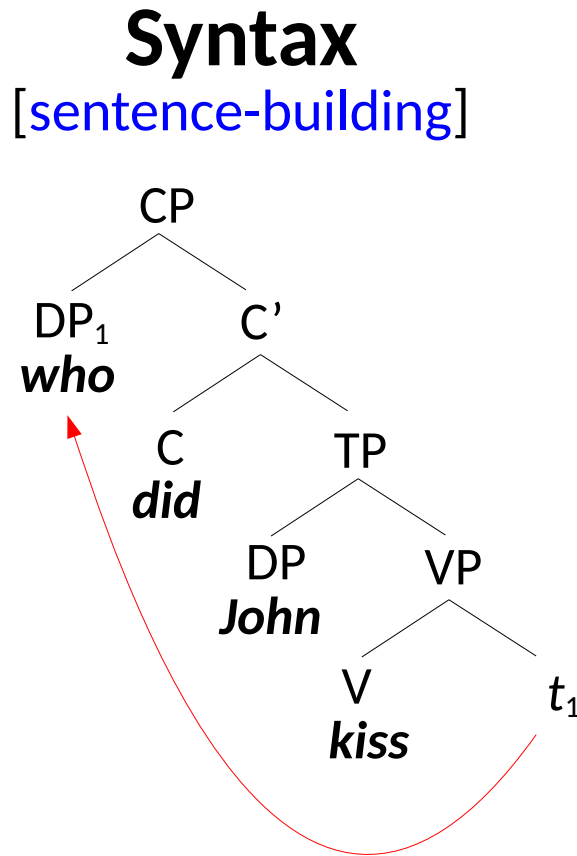


Logical Form (LF)
[additional sentence-modification]
[quality-control for meaning]



Phonological Form (PF)
[additional sentence-modification]
[quality-control for form]

One-to-one correspondence

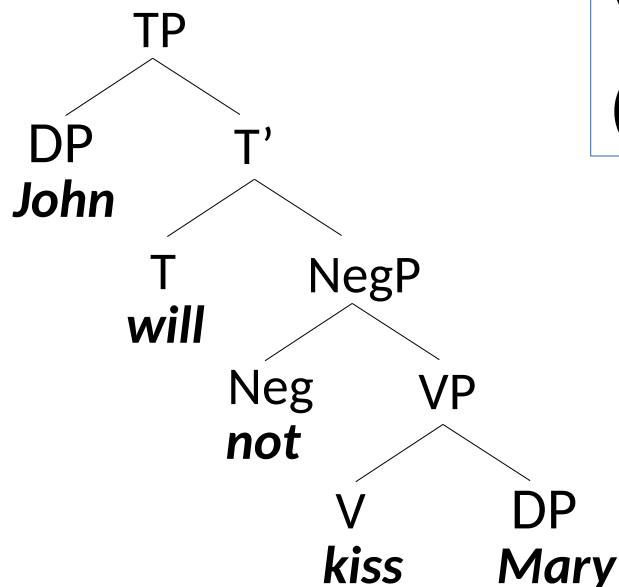


Logical Form (LF)
[additional sentence-modification]
[quality-control for meaning]

Phonological Form (PF)
[additional sentence-modification]
[quality-control for form]

Mismatch #1: Only form change

Syntax



(3) John **will not** kiss Mary.

(4) John **won't** kiss Mary.

Logical Form (LF)

[additional sentence-modification]
[quality-control for meaning]

Phonological Form (PF)

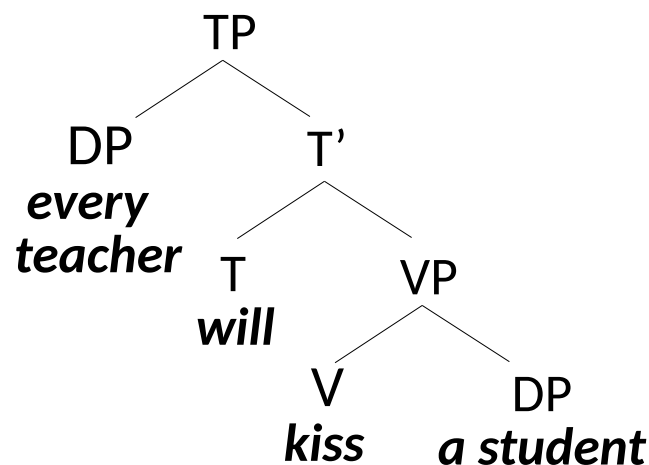
[additional sentence-modification]
[quality-control for form]

John will not kiss Mary

John won't kiss Mary

Mismatch #2: Only meaning change

Syntax



(5) Every teacher will kiss a student.

Logical Form (LF)

[additional sentence-modification]
[quality-control for meaning]

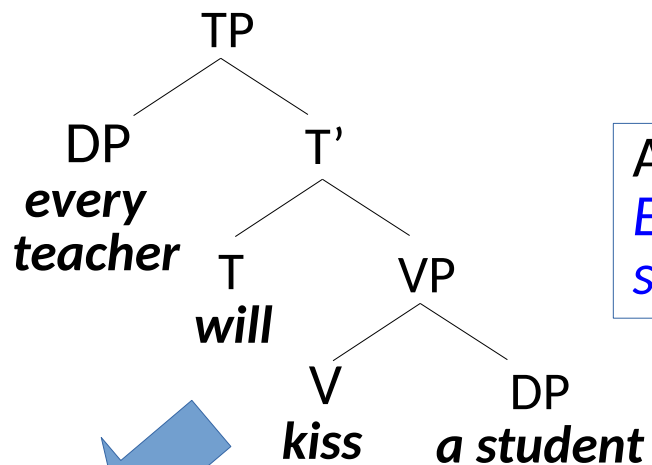
Phonological Form (PF)

[additional sentence-modification]
[quality-control for form]

No additional modification = *Each teacher will kiss a different student*
(narrow scope reading)

Mismatch #2: Only meaning change

Syntax

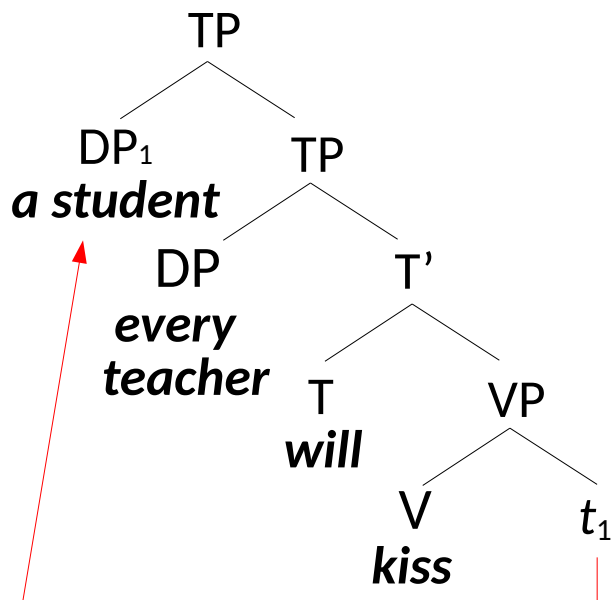


(5) Every teacher will kiss a student.

Additional modification =
Every teacher kissed the same student (wide scope reading)

Logical Form (LF)

[additional sentence-modification]
[quality-control for meaning]



Phonological Form (PF)

[additional sentence-modification]
[quality-control for form]

Summary: Inverted Y-model of Grammar

- The Inverted Y-model is a theoretical architecture for Grammar
- It's primary function is to account for different types of form-meaning correspondences

[1] **One-to-correspondence** = no additional operations after syntax

[2] **Only form change** = additional operations at PF

[3] **Only meaning change** = additional operations at LF

Crash course in Syntax: Finished!

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- Syntactic phrases
- Syntactic heads
- Projection

Structural dependencies

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Syntactic trees

- X'-theory
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Syntactic movement

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The Y-model of grammar

