

LING2005 Syntax I

Tutorial: Phrases III

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October 26, 2023





- Today's contents aren't gonna be easy. Make sure you follow and ask questions immediately if you have any!

Question 1: Structure of Verbal Adjuncts

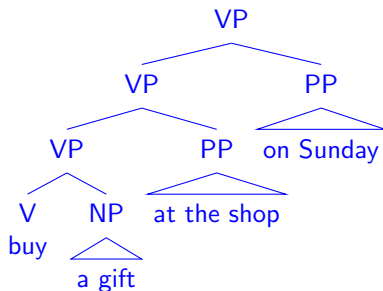


- Peter should buy a gift at the shop on Sunday.
 - ① And John should do so at the shop on Monday (too).
 - ② And John should do so on Monday (too).
 - ③ And John should do so (too).
- Peter should buy a gift at the shop on Sunday.
 - ① What Peter should do at the shop on Sunday is buy a gift.
 - ② What Peter should do on Monday is buy a gift at the shop.
 - ③ What Peter should do is buy a gift at the shop on Sunday.
- What does “do so” substitute in (1)—(6)? As (1)—(6) are grammatical, what do the constituency test results in (1)—(6) imply? Draw the structure of the VP.

Question 1: Structure of Verbal Adjuncts



- (1) and (4) show that “buy a gift” is a VP.
- (2) and (5) show that “buy a gift at the shop” is a VP.
- (3) and (6) show that “buy a gift at the shop on Sunday” is a VP.



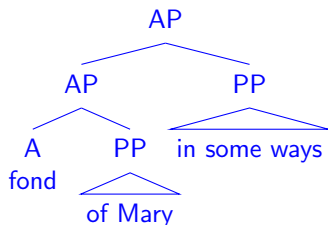
- The complement “a gift” is a sister to the V head “buy”.
- The adjuncts “at the shop” and “on Sunday” are sisters to VP.



- Draw the structure of “fond of Mary in some ways” using the test results below. Assume that “of Mary” and “in some ways” are constituents.
- ⑤ John is fond of Mary and afraid of her sister in some ways.
- ⑥ Fond of Mary in some ways though he is, he doesn't really love her.
- ⑦ John is very fond of Mary in some ways, but is less so in other ways.
- ⑧ John is very fond of Mary in some ways but is less so than he used to be.

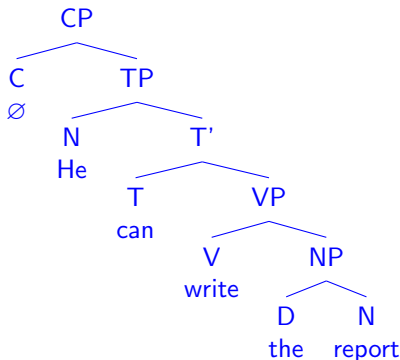


- (5) and (7) support the constituency of “fond of Mary”.
- (6) and (8) support the constituency of “fond of Mary in some ways”.



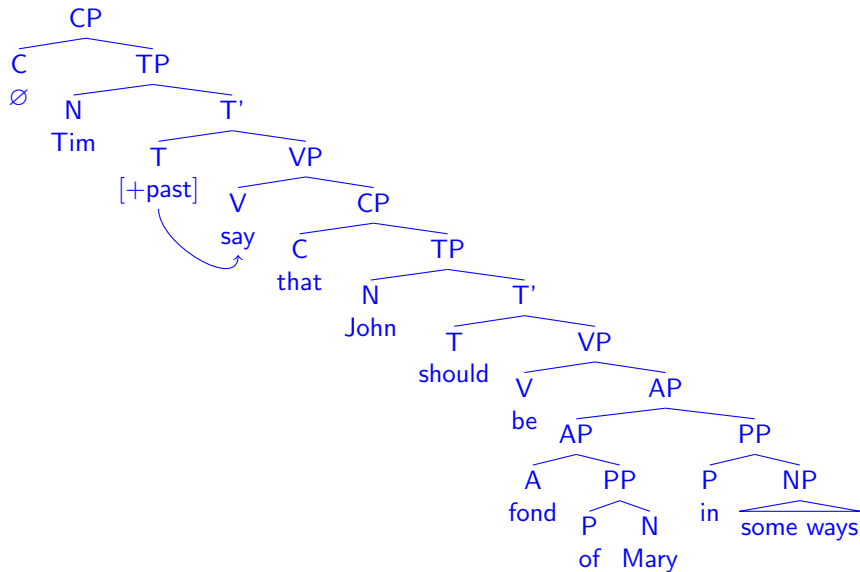


- Draw the structure of the following sentences.
- ① He can write the report.
- ② Tim said that John should be fond of Mary in some ways.
- ③ For John to win is impossible.
 - Hint: What is the subject of (3)? After identifying the subject, put the phrase in the position where the subject is located.



- The trees given in this suggested answer do not conform to X-bar syntax, which we will learn in the coming few weeks. If you are asked to follow X-bar on your exam, the trees will have to be modified.
- As mentioned in class, one may posit that the root clause has a null complementizer \emptyset . This will make all clauses (root and embedded) have the same structure. Let's adopt this hypothesis.

Question 3



Question 3

