Final

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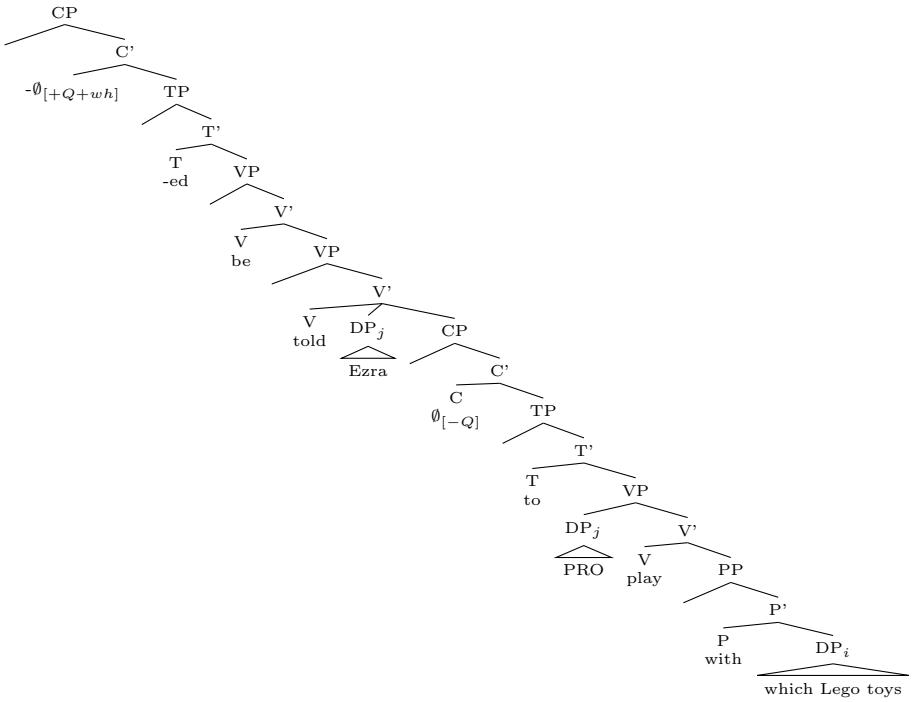
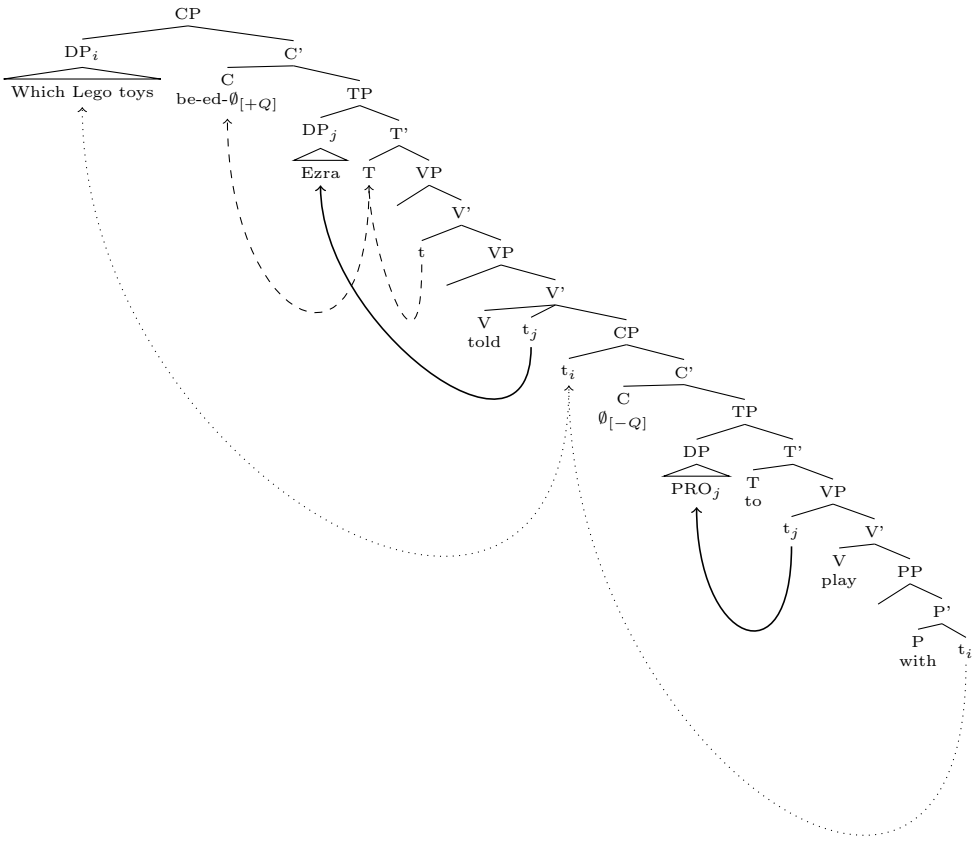
1. Technical

(a) i. Deep Structure



ii. Surface Structure



iii. Theta Bois

tell-en (→ told)

agent DP	patient DP	proposition CP
-en	i	j

play

agent DP	theme PP
k	l

Which Lego toys was [Ezra]$_i$ told [PRO$_k$ to play [with t]$_l$]$_j$?

iv. Case Filter

- *Ezra* This DP is assigned [+uNOM] by the verb *told*. Since the passive verb told cannot check [+uNOM], it moves to spec of TP position to check this case.
- *which Lego toys* the DP is assigned [+uACC] by the preposition *with*. When Case Filter is applied, this DP is still in the PP, so the preposition *with* checks

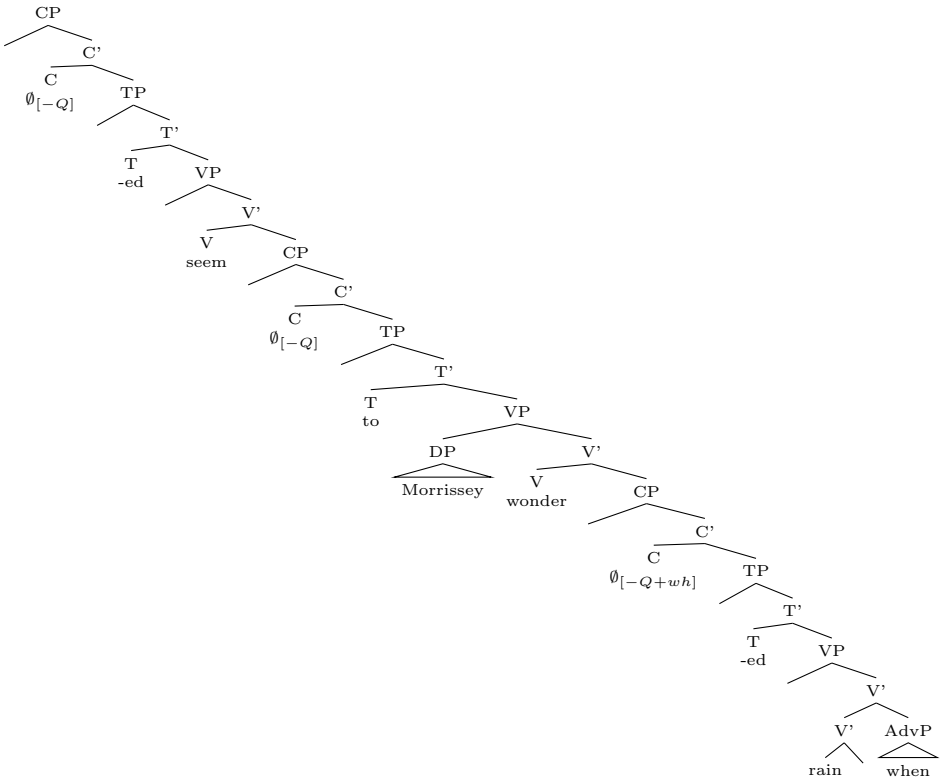
its case feature before undergoing *wh*-movement.

v. Stranded Affix Filter
   - *-ed* This affix attaches to the verb *be* when *be* raises to T position.
   - $\emptyset_{[+Q]}$ This affix attaches to the verb *be* when *be* raises to C position (after picking up *-ed* at T).

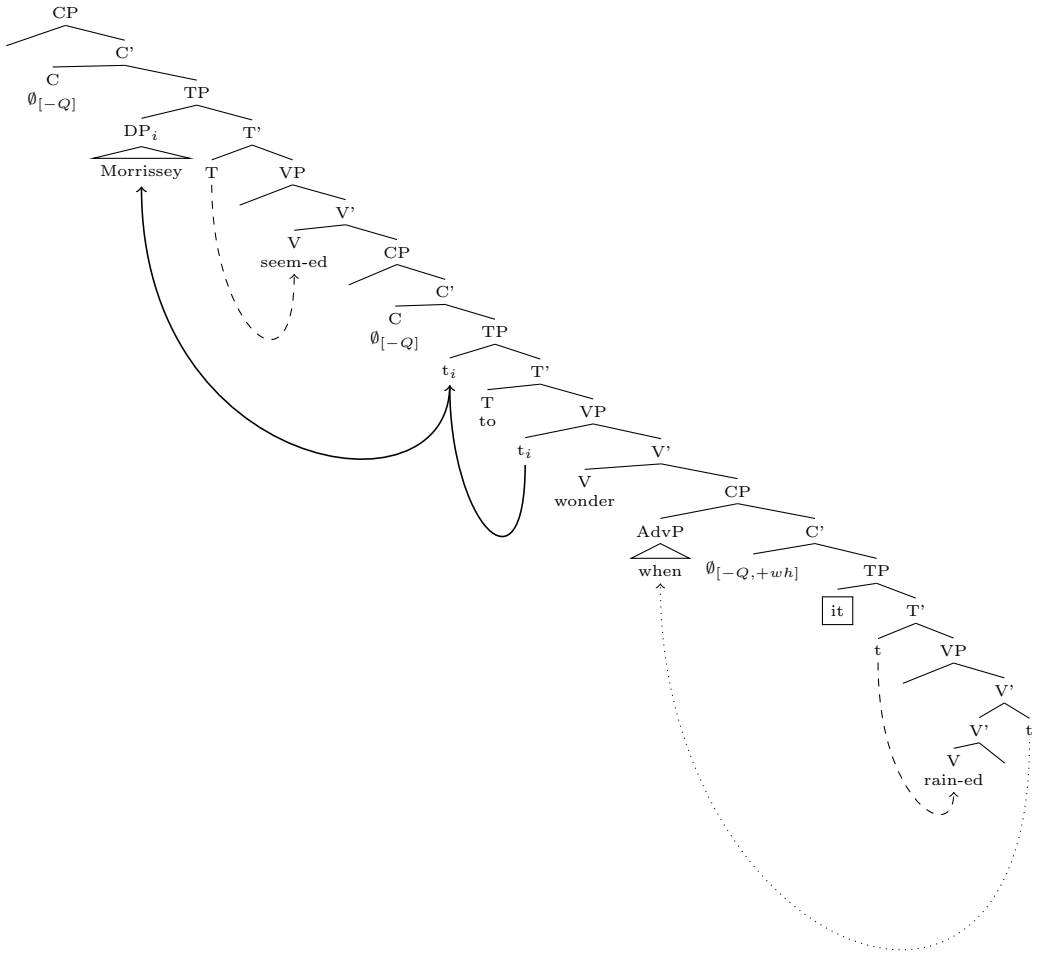
vi. EPP
   - In the matrix clause (*Which Lego toys was Ezra told*), the object of the verb *told*, *Ezra*, raises to spec-TP position to satisfy the EPP.
   - In the embedded clause (*PRO to play with t*), the subject of the verb play, PRO, raises to spec-TP position to satisfy the EPP.

vii. MLC
   The wh-phrase *which Lego toys* raises to the nearest landing spot, which is spec-CP of its original clause (with lexical verb *play*) in order to satisfy the MLC, then it raises again to the spec-CP position of the clause above it (with lexical verb *told*), where it appears in SS.

(b) Deep Structure



Surface Structure



(c) Theta Bois

wonder

agent DP	proposition CP
i	j

[Morrissey]$_i$ seemed to t$_i$ wonder [when it would rain.]$_j$

(d) Case Filter

- *Morrissey* This DP is assigned [+*u*NOM] by the verb *wonder*. Since the infinitive verb *to wonder* cannot check for Nominative case, the DP moves to spec of TP in the above clause, which, being a tensed clause, can check for Nominative.

(e) Stranded Affix Filter

- *-ed* This affix lowers to the verb *seem*.

(f) EPP

- In the matrix clause (*Morrissey seemed*), the EPP is satisfied by the DP *Morrissey*, which
- In the embedded clause (*to wonder*), the EPP is satisfied by the trace *Morrissey* left in spec-TP before raising to the matrix clause.
- In the lowermost embedded clause (*when it rained*), the EPP is satisfied by the expletive pronoun *it* which is inserted into spec-TP position at SS.

(g) MLC

The wh-phrase *when* moves to the nearest landing spot, which is spec-CP position of its local clause, and remains there at SS, satisfying the MLC.

2. Argumentation

In English, *wh*-pronouns are used to create both content questions and relative clauses. The pronoun in content questions undergoes *wh*-movement, which raises it to spec-CP position for whatever CP is marked with the [+wh].

(1) a. Joe saw him.
b. Who did Joe see?
c. The man who Joe saw is over there.

In (1b), the accusative pronoun corresponding to *him* in (1a) has been moved to spec-CP, and for this reason it appears before the subject *Joe*. In (1c) the same pronoun appears again in spec-CP position, but this time within an embedded relative clause. I propose that relative pronouns in English undergo *wh*-movement of the same sort seen in content questions, triggered by the [+wh, -Q] features marked on the relative clause. To argue this, I will show that relative clauses are subject to the same "Island Constraints" as content questions.

As observed above, a relative pronoun can raise to spec-CP from a lower place within the clause. It can also raise from an embedded clause to spec-CP of the clause above, as it does in (2b).

(2) a. I bought [$_{DP}$ the book [$_{CP}$ which$_i$ Suzuka hates t_i]].
b. I bought [$_{DP}$ the book [$_{CP}$ which$_i$ Moa said [$_{CP}$ Suzuka hates t_i]]].

It can also raise recursively.

(3) I bought [$_{DP}$ the book [$_{CP}$ which$_i$ Jimmy wonders [$_{CP}$ if Mao said [$_{CP}$ Suzuka hates t_i]]]].

However, the relative pronoun cannot raise from a clause that has a *wh*-element in spec-CP, such as the embedded indirect question in (4).

(4) *I bought [$_{DP}$ the book [$_{CP}$ which$_i$ Bonzo wonders who$_j$ [$_{CP}$ t_j thought [$_{CP}$ Robert hates t_i]]]].

We can correctly predict (4) to be ungrammatical if we assume that the relative pronoun undergoes *wh*-movement, in which case (4) would violate the *Wh*-Island constraint.

Likewise, relative pronouns cannot raise from within the subject of the relative clause.

(5) *I saw [$_{DP}$ the guy [$_{CP}$ who$_i$ [$_{CP}$ that Stevie is dating t_i] annoys Lindsey]].

In (5), the CP *that Stevie is dating* is the subject of the relative clause. Raising the relative pronoun from within this CP produces an ungrammatical sentence, suggesting that it violates the Subject-Island constraint.

Relative clauses that raise a pronoun from a clause introduced by *that* have dubious acceptability.

(6) a. ??I bought [$_{DP}$ the book [$_{CP}$ which$_i$ The Edge denied my claim [$_{CP}$ that Bono read t_i today]]].
b. ??I bought [$_{DP}$ the book [$_{CP}$ which$_i$ Brian said [$_{CP}$ that t_i offended Freddie]]].

These sentences match the conditions for a *That-trace* Island in *wh*-movement.

Finally, raising a relative pronoun from the adjunct position is not consistently acceptable for English speakers.

(7) ??I bought [$_{DP}$ the book [$_{CP}$ which$_i$ Stanton stole a newspaper near t_i]].

It is possible that the sentence is less than acceptable because it violates the Adjunct Island constraint.

Thus, relative pronouns appear to obey the same Island Constraints that *wh*-phrases in content questions observe. This indicates that relative pronouns raise by *wh*-movement, otherwise we would expect different constraints to affect relative pronoun raising than those observed in the data.

3. Reflection

I learned a lot about how language structure can be described using a generative, tree-based model. Obviously, that was the point of the class. But I think it's important to note that I came into this class with a little familiarity with generative models of syntax, and a whole lot of skepticism as to their explanatory power. This class repeatedly surprised me with not only how much our model was able to explain English data, but how readily it could be applied to other languages. I enjoyed the second half a lot, because it answered many questions I had as far as how verbs select arguments and how embedded clauses are formed.

4. BONUS

Those legos he was playing with in class the other day, I think they were called "Nexo Knights"?

5. BONUS

6. Entailed

7. Entailed. Even if "untied" has a nonliteral sense in (7a), the same sense could be applied to (7b).
8. Entailed
9. Not implied. Typically when someone says "alleged" outside of a legalistic context, I understand they do not themselves believe the alleged claim, so I would not expect meeting an "alleged communist" presupposes meeting an actual communist.
10. Entailed
11. Not implied. At least, Gawker is not presupposed any more than Z Magazine is.
12. Presupposed. If I reported that David agreed to eat breakfast, it could have the implication that David agrees to whatever circumstances I/anyone else decide, which is not entailed by agreeing to breakfast only at 8:00.
13. Not implied
14. The maxim of quantity.
15. The maxim of relevance.
16. The maxim of quality.
17. The maxim of quantity.