# **Word-Formation by Phase in Inuit**

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This paper argues that wordhood in the polysynthetic Inuit languages <sup>1</sup> is completely predictable from syntactic structure and that words correspond to the domains of CP and DP. This entails that Inuit does not have a discrete morphological component and that individual morphemes are not idiosyncratically specified as affixes. As evidence for our approach, we contrast a variety of free and bound elements, showing that in every case, subparts of words are smaller than C/DP and full words correspond to C/DP. We also discuss "stem" ellipsis, which we argue is further evidence that the elements which are usually bound in Inuit languages are not truly affixes.

#### 1. Introduction

Inuit languages have been argued to require more morphological machinery than is commonly assumed for more isolating languages (e.g. the "internal syntax" postulated by Fortescue (1980) for West Greenlandic and de Reuse (1994) for Yupik as well as the morphological module of Sadock (1991)'s theory of Autolexical Syntax). Such a level of computation is meant to deal with polysynthetic phenomena such as noun incorporation, "affixal" verbs, "affixal" adjectives and adverbs, and the presence of various functional morphemes (e.g., negation, mood, modals, etc.) inside verbal complexes. For instance,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The term *Inuit languages* refers to the Eskimo branch of the Eskimo-Aleut family. Specifically, this includes dialects/languages spoken in Alaska, Canada (the Northwest Territories, Nunavut, Quebec, and Labrador), and Greenland.

the following single-word sentences contain examples of incorporated objects, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, tense, negation, and the copula:<sup>2</sup>

- (1) iglu-jjua-liu-lauq-tuq house-big-make-PAST-DEC.3SG 'He/she made a big house.'
- (2) uqa-limaar-vi-liu(ng)-inna-nngit-tunga speak-all.of-NOM-make-always-NEG-DEC.1SG 'I was not always making libraries.'
- (3) alaana-u-quuji-juq Alana-COP-seem-DEC.3SG 'She looks like Alana.'

However, the presence of an extra layer of computation in the grammar (i.e., a generative morphological component) raises questions about the role of the syntactic component in such languages. In particular, it is not clear that the operations of such a morphological component are in any way different from those of syntax. For instance, while word order is relatively free in Inuit, the order of morphemes within a word appears to be strictly compositional. Based on observations by Fortescue, Mithun (1999) gives the following examples of morpheme order corresponding to syntactic/semantic composition in the related language Yupik. In these examples, morphological position correlates with semantic scope:

(4) yug**pacuaq** yug**-pag-cuar** person**-big-little** 'little giant'

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Unless otherwise indicated, Inuit data is from the North Baffin dialect (Igloolik) and was collected by the authors. Abbreviations are as follows: ABS absolutive case, ALLAT allative case, CAUS causative, CONJ conjunction, COP copula, DEC declarative mood (referred to as participial or indicative in most work on Inuit), DIST.PAST distant past, ERG ergative case, FUT future, IMP imperative, INDIC indicative mood, INST instrumental case, INTERR interrogative mood, INTR intransitive, LOC locative case, NEG negation, NOM nominaliser, OBL oblique case, PERF perfective, PL plural, POSS possessive, REC.PAST recent past, SG singular, VRB verbaliser.

- (5) yucuarpak yug-cuar-pag person-little-big 'big midget'
- (6) ayagciq**sugnarq**nillruuq ayag-ciq-**yugnarqe**-ni-llru-u-q go-FUT-**probably**-claim-PAST-INDIC.INTR-3SG 'He said he would probably go.'
- (7) ayagciqnillru**yugnarq**uq ayag-ciq-ni-llru-**yugnarqe**-u-q go-FUT-claim-PAST-**probably**-INDIC.INTR-3SG 'He probably said he would go.'

(Mithun 1999, p. 43)

In (4) and (5), the different adjective orders correspond to different meanings; *cuar* 'little' modifies 'big person' in (4), while *pag* 'big' modifies 'little person' in (5). Similarly, the position of *yugnarqe* 'probably' in (6)-(7) determines whether it modifies the matrix or embedded verb. Conversely, alternations in word order yield little or no difference in meaning (Mithun 1999):

- (8) quinak-saa-lauq-tara Alana ticklish-CAUSE.TO.BE-PAST-DEC.1SG.3SG Alana(ABS) 'I tickled Alana.'
- (9) Alana quinak-saa-lauq-tara Alana(ABS) ticklish-CAUSE.TO.BE-PAST-DEC.1SG.3SG 'I tickled Alana.'

These examples clearly indicate that it is the position of morphemes within words in Inuit, not of words themselves, that corresponds to syntactic positioning in a language like English. While others (Fortescue, 1980; Grimshaw & Mester, 1985; de Reuse, 1994; Sadock, 1991) have taken this as evidence for a separate, yet similar, morphological system to account for morpheme order, we take this similarity to syntactic

compositionality as evidence that syntactic structure is responsible for morphological composition in Inuit as well as for the position of elements in more isolating languages.

Working within Chomsky's (1995) Minimalist Programme, and the Strong Minimalist Thesis elaborated in Chomsky (2006, in press), we show that the polysynthetic phenomena of Inuit languages can be accommodated without positing a generative morphological component. Phonological wordhood will be argued to be predictable from the syntax, dispensing with the need to mark individual morphemes as affixes. The goal of this paper is to provide a minimalist account of the morphology of wordhood in Inuit languages that explains why certain types of morphemes can or must appear word-internally, while other elements must appear as separate words. Our claim is that words in Inuit correspond to syntactic phases.

We assume the analysis of phases developed in Chomsky (1999, 2006, in press) and elaborated by Svenonius (2004) and Fox and Pesetsky (2004), whereby syntactic structure is sent to the PF and LF interfaces in chunks at various points during the derivation, thus deriving the cyclicity of movement. Chomsky argues these points to be CP and  $\nu$ P, based on their propositional completeness (suggesting that they should be interpretable at LF) and their phonological independence. Based on parallels with CP, Svenonius argues that DP should also constitute a phase.<sup>3</sup>

We argue that words in Inuit correspond only to syntactic phases. <sup>4</sup> Any constituent corresponding to a CP or a DP will thus form a word. <sup>5,6</sup> We assume that  $\nu$ P

 $^3$  In fact, Svenonius suggests that there may be two nominal phases, QP and nP (or possibly OpP and NumP), that parallel the clausal phases CP and  $\nu$ P.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> The nP, etc. phases discussed by Marantz (2001, to appear) and Marvin (2002) among others do not correspond to word boundaries in Inuit. It is likely that different types of phases are relevant to languages in different ways. The relevance of the nP type phases to the syntax of Inuit will not be discussed herein.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> See section 2.2 where we discuss the issue of spell-out involving the complement of the phase head.

need not be a phase cross-linguistically, based on arguments in Chomsky (2006) for the non-phase status of unaccusative/passive  $\nu$ Ps in English. In an ergative language like Inuit, it is possible that  $\nu$  does not ever have the uninterpretable  $\varphi$ -features responsible for accusative case assignment. Instead, we assume that structural case is only assigned by T in the language. The approach we assume is similar to that proposed by Bobaljik and Branigan (2006) for Chukchi. The details will not be discussed further herein, but see also Bok-Bennema and Groos (1988) and Johns (2001) for details about how the assignment of "accusative" case in Inuit differs from that in a nominative-accusative language.

We are not concerned with the inverse morpheme order found in Inuit languages. Instead, we are dealing strictly with the position of word boundaries. Our analysis is compatible with several approaches to inverse morpheme order (see, for instance, Compton, 2006; Julien, 2002; Johns, to appear; Svenonius, 2007).<sup>8</sup>

The following section outlines the basics of our Inuit word-formation hypothesis. In Section 3, it will be shown that this proposal accounts for the lack of free functional morphemes, noun incorporation (Sadock, 1980; Johns, to appear), the distribution of adjectives and adverbs, "affixal" verbs, and the presence of phonologically free conjunctions, pronouns, and wh-words in Inuit. We also discuss the stem-ellipsis found in

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Note that Wojdak (2005) also uses CP and DP as types of word boundaries in her analysis of affix linearization of the polysynthetic Wakashan language Nuu-chah-nulth.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Just as NOMINATIVE must be assigned to an argument in an intransitive clause in English, ABSOLUTIVE, the case assigned to the object of a transitive clause, must be assigned to a DP in an intransitive Inuit clause (although it may be assigned to a covert argument, given that Inuit is a pro-drop language). We take this as evidence for ABSOLUTIVE being assigned in Spec,TP, thus suggesting that νP does not assign (structural) case in Inuit.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Note that if a movement approach to inverse morpheme order is adopted, it would not be necessary to posit that the non-phasal status of  $\nu$ P in Inuktitut is due to ergativity. Instead, the complement of  $\nu$ P could be spelled out vacuously (e.g., according to Fox and Pesetsky (2004), such an empty phase would not add any new information to the linearization).

some dialects of Inuit (Dorais, 1988; Swift & Allen, 2002). In each case, it will be shown that words correspond to DPs and CPs, while smaller syntactic structures (e.g., APs, AdvPs, bare NPs, etc.) are unable to stand alone as words. Thus, the polysynthetic nature of words in Inuit can be reduced to syntactic structure. Section 4 contrasts the analysis presented in this paper with some previous approaches to Inuit morphological composition.

# 2. The Phasal Word-formation Hypothesis

The following analysis assumes Minimalist Syntax (Chomsky, 1995, 2000) and the late-insertion model of Distributed Morphology (Halle & Marantz, 1993, Marantz 1997), although nothing depends on the use of the latter framework. We also employ Fox and Pesetsky's (2004) treatment of phases in which spell-out of a phase results in the creation of an ordering statement for the elements contained therein.

#### 2.1. Inuit Words

We argue that word boundaries in Inuit correspond to phase edges. We consider words in Inuit to be the elements which appear between spaces in Inuit orthography, which speakers consistently identify as words. Sadock (1980) argues that these elements in West Greenlandic possess properties normally associated with words cross-linguistically. In particular, he notes that (i) "obligatory sandhi processes operate within words"; (ii) the order of morphemes within a word is "entirely fixed by semantics," while the arrangement of words with respect to each other is relatively free; (iii) parts of words cannot be conjoined; (iv) words cannot be interrupted with "pauses or parenthetical material"; and (v) if an error is made, a speaker will return to the beginning of the word.

Under our analysis, all of the elements that have been defined as words in the Inuit literature correspond to syntactic phases.

#### 2.2. Phases are Words

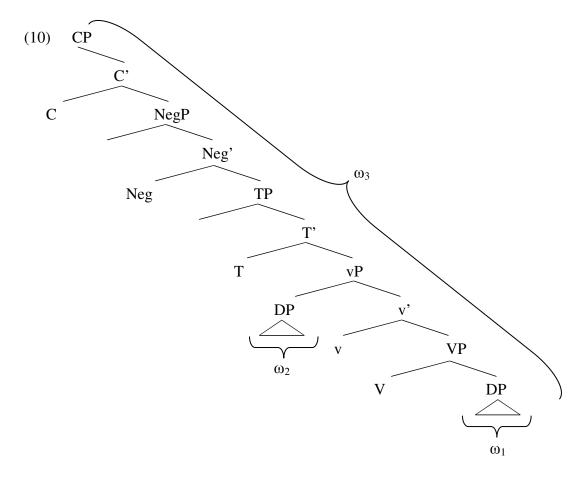
Our analysis implicitly rejects the notions of morphological or syntactic words, instead, we adopt the spirit of Distributed Morphology and "syntax all the way down," (Halle & Marantz 1993) contra previous treatments of Inuit that posit a complex set of separate morphological rules to deal with noun incorporation, bound adjectives, bound adverbs, etc...9 Wordhood will be treated here as a phonological phenomenon. Given our proposal that words correspond to syntactic phases, we predict that constituents smaller than CP or DP will not be able to form independent words.

Thus, we propose that as each DP and CP phase is spelled-out, the information sent to PF is immediately used to make a phonological word. Consequently, each (non-empty) phase in the syntax will result in one phonological word. Consider the following model:<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> We discuss the morphological-type approach in Section 4, specifically discussing Fortescue (1980), de Reuse (1994), and Sadock (1991).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> We ignore the ultimate position of the arguments and whether they move for case.



While the CP contains DP arguments, the information within each DP has already been spelled out and mapped to phonological words (i.e.,  $\omega_1$  and  $\omega_2$ ) by the time the CP is spelled out. Finally, the remaining structure in CP is mapped into a complex (polysynthetic) word (i.e.,  $\omega_3$  in (10)). Similarly, a structure with a subordinate CP would spell out the lower CP (minus its DPs) as a separate word, while the remaining non-DP elements in the higher CP phase would form a separate word (see (29) below, where an example is shown and discussed).

Although we refer to "CP phase" and "DP phase" throughout, note that under the most common treatment of phases it is the complements of phase heads (i.e., the complements of C and D for Inuit) which spell out. While we might expect to observe stranded phase heads, this is not problematic for Inuit since it lacks overt

complementisers and determiners. Furthermore, although case (KP) is often assumed to be the highest projection in the expanded DP, and we might predict that case morphemes should be realised in separate phases, the case morphology in Inuit does not necessarily correspond to the K head. If we consider a language such as German where exponents of case can appear simultaneously on determiners, modifying adjectives, and nouns, it seems equally plausible that the case morphology in Inuit is also an instance of case concord, albeit with a covert determiner or case head. In the case morphology in Inuit is also an instance of case concord, albeit with a covert determiner or case head.

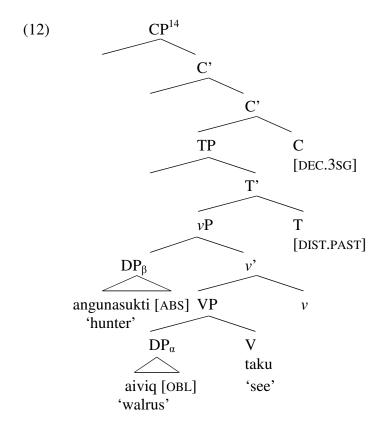
In sum, we argue that in Inuit (and possibly cross-linguistically), PF can begin creating prosodic constituents as soon as a phase is spelled out. Furthermore, while a more isolating language might label phases (or subparts thereof) as phonological phrases, in Inuit each incoming phase is labelled as a phonological word. (11)-(13) provides a sample derivation. Note that we assume a right-headed structure throughout this paper to capture the inverse morpheme order found in the language. Due to the portmanteau nature of mood and agreement in Inuit and to Chomsky's (2006) proposal that  $\varphi$ -features are inherited from C, we have placed mood and agreement in the C domain, <sup>13</sup> distant past tense has been placed under T, and the matrix verb under V. Arguments have been placed in the canonical AGENT and PATIENT merge positions (ignoring movement for case):

(11) angunasukti taku-lauq-tuq aiving-mi hunter(ABS) see-DIST.PAST-DEC.3SG walrus-OBL 'The hunter saw the walrus.'

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> Svenonius (2004) also warns against treating a case morpheme as an overt K head.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Similarly, the mood morphology in Inuit need not correspond to the C head. Assuming a more articulated CP layer (see Rizzi, 1997), mood could correspond to a lower projection, while the head which triggers spell-out of the 'CP' phase is higher.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Again, we assume that this is a low projection in the C domain and does not correspond to the phase head.



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First Phase (DP<sub>α</sub>):
{aiviq > [OBL]}
    → [aiving-mi]<sub>ω</sub>
Second Phase (DP<sub>β</sub>):
{angunasukti > [ABS]}
    → [angunasukti]<sub>ω</sub>
Third Phase (CP):
{angunasukti > [ABS] > aiviq > [OBL] > taku > [DIST.PAST] > [3SG] > [DEC]}
    → [taku-lauq-tuq]<sub>ω</sub>
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By the time the CP is spelled out, and the linear order of non-DP elements is added to the linearisation, the contents of both DPs have already been packaged into words. Thus, only the remaining roots and features in CP are packaged into the final phonological

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> Given the various possible analyses for ergative case-checking, we ignore the ultimate position of the arguments. We assume they are spelled out as soon as they are built. However, it is equally possible that they do not spell out until their case features are valued.

word: the verbal complex.<sup>15</sup> Assuming that the spell-out of ordering information to PF is additive only, only adding new information and never altering the ordering statement (as claimed in Fox & Pesetsky, 2004), and that PF must, in any case, keep track of word boundaries, the only differences between Inuit and more isolating languages is that PF in Inuit assigns phonological word boundaries to phases, while in English, for instance, it is the individual linearised elements (i.e. contentful, syntactic heads) that appear to be assigned word status, unless they are marked as affixes.

To summarise, this proposal argues for the correspondence between syntactic phases and phonological words in Inuit. Both CP phases and DP phases will surface as words. In Inuit each phase is labelled as a phonological word, while a strongly isolating language (e.g., Chinese) would label each linearised element (i.e., syntactic head) as a phonological word. There is no need to mark individual bound morphemes in Inuit as affixes since their bound status is determined from their position in the syntax.

In the next section we demonstrate that the phase-based analysis of wordhood proposed in this section explains the distribution of nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, and functional words in Inuit. We also show how our approach can easily account for "stem" ellipsis constructions.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> This is not necessarily evidence for any particular word order. Given that the position of arguments is relatively free in Inuit and that ergative and absolutive arguments (which are interpreted as specific/referential; see Wharram, 2003; Compton 2004; among others) appear before the verb, while oblique objects (which are interpreted as non-specific/non-referential) appear after the verb, we propose that their position is determined post-syntactically. Erteschik-Shir and Strahov (2004) argue for such an analysis of scrambling and object shift, observing that many languages mark topic/focus intonationally, which entails that information regarding topic/focus status must be available to PF. Accordingly, we propose that the position of DPs in Inuit is governed by information structure at PF, with specific arguments frequently being fronted and non-specific arguments frequently postposed (see also Sherkina-Lieber, 2004 on the focus-fronting of wh-words in Inuit).

# 3. Evidence for Words Corresponding to Phases

This section presents evidence for the correspondence between DP and CP phases and words in Inuit. In particular, we concentrate on the distribution of lexical categories and alternations exhibited between polysynthetic and more periphrastic constructions.

# 3.1. Lack of Free Functional Elements

An obvious consequence of words only corresponding to DPs and CPs is that we should not find any free functional morphemes (unless they are the sole members of a DP or a CP). In Inuit, this prediction is borne out by the lack of independent determiners, adpositions, auxiliaries, particles, modals, light verbs, etc. However, pronouns, demonstratives, and conjunctions are exceptions. While it might be argued that pronouns and demonstratives are nouns, and therefore can constitute full DPs, the same conclusion is not obvious for conjunctions. Although the word status of conjunctions appears to be an exception to the observation that words are either clauses or arguments, their status as words will also be shown to fall out from the phase-based analysis. We return to this topic in Section 3.7.

While sometimes referred to as merely verbs, *verbal complexes* in Inuit can consist of main verbs or incorporated bare object nouns, modals, several types of light verbs, various types of adverbs, negation, tense, aspect, agreement, and mood. Consider the following examples:

(14) iglu-liu-(ng)<sup>16</sup>-innaq-sima-junga house-make-always-PERF-DEC.1SG 'I have always been making houses.'

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> An epenthetic consonant interrupts the hiatus caused by three adjacent vowels.

(15) niri-gaju-lau-nngit-tunga eat-always-DIST.PAST-NEG-DEC.1SG 'I wasn't always eating.'

In fact, the functional elements mentioned above are only found within verbal complexes. As stated earlier, such functional items do not occur as separate phonological words. Since negation, tense, aspect, mood morphology, etc. are generally assumed to correspond to functional heads in other languages, and since the only evidence in Inuit for such projections is within verbal complexes, we propose that verbal complexes are CPs.

# 3.2. Nouns & Noun Incorporation

One phenomenon that contributes to polysynthesis in Inuit is noun incorporation (see Sadock, 1980; Johns, to appear). In the following examples, a bare noun appears adjacent to the verb:

(16) iglu-liu-lauq-tunga house-make-DIST.PAST-DEC.1SG 'I made a house/houses.'

> cf. iglu-mi<sup>17</sup> or iglu-ni house-OBL.SG house-OBL.PL 'house' 'houses'

(17) natsiq-Ø-tuq (Harvaqtuurmiutut) seal-get-DEC.3sG 'He/she caught a seal/seals.'

cf. natsi(ng)-mit or natsi(ng)-nit seal-OBL.SG seal-OBL.PL 'seal' 'seals'

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> In these examples, the nouns listed for comparison are marked with the case and number with which they would surface in a corresponding intransitive (i.e., antipassive) sentence.

(18) imiq-taaq-tunga (Harvaqtuurmiutut) water-get-DEC.1SG 'I'm fetching water.'

cf. iming-mit water-OBL.SG 'water'

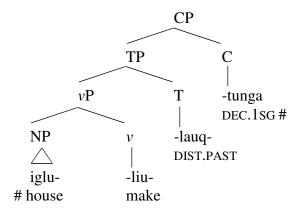
Noun incorporation cannot occur with the normal case and number morphology required on nouns, and is restricted to objects. Notice that complex nouns can also incorporate (repeated from (2) above):

- (19) [uqa-limaar-vi]-liu(ng)-inna-nngit-tunga [speak/tongue-all.of-LOCATION.NOM]-make-always-NEG-DEC.1SG 'I was not always making [libraries].'
  - cf. uqa-limaar-vi-(ng)nit speak/tongue-all.of-LOCATION.NOM-OBL.PL 'libraries'

Johns (to appear) demonstrates that noun incorporation in Inuit is restricted to occur with a closed class of light verbs which obligatorily select and incorporate a bare noun. She argues that the light verbs involved in the obligatory noun incorporation form a natural and predictable class, and furthermore that the incorporation complexes are not the result of grammaticalisation (contra Gerdts & Hukari, 2002; Mithun 1997, 1999).

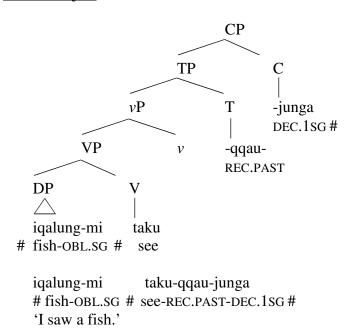
Interestingly, if we take case and number to be indicative of a full DP, the theory presented in Section 2 correctly predicts the phonological distribution of nouns; a bare noun, arguably an NP without a DP layer, will be part of the same word as the little  $\nu$  which selects it, while full DPs (those with case and number) will be separate words:

# (20) Noun Incorporation:



iglu-liu-lauq-tunga # house-make-DIST.PAST- DEC.1SG # 'I made a house.'

### (21) Full DP object:



Thus, it is the status of the object as an NP or a full DP (with case and agreement), as subcategorised for by the verb, that corresponds to whether or not the object will undergo incorporation. The phonological incorporation of the noun is not a property of the light

verbs; rather, the type of object they select (i.e., an NP) cannot stand alone as a separate word because it is not a phase.<sup>18</sup>

#### 3.3. "Affixal" Verbs

Similar to the class of noun-incorporating verbs described in the previous section, there is also a closed class of predicate incorporating verbs exemplified by *-guma* "want (to)," *-niraq* "say," and *-qu* "order/want/tell" (see Grimshaw and Mester, 1985; Johns, 1999; Pittman, 2006a; b; Smith, 1982; Woodbury and Sadock, 1986;). These verbs appear to take clausal complements and they are found alongside verbs in the following constructions:

- (22) ani-juma-junga leave-want-DEC.1SG 'I want to leave.'
- (23) Miali igla-qu-qau-jara
  Mary(ABS) laugh-order-REC.PAST-DEC.1SG/3SG
  'I ordered Mary to laugh.'
- (24) Janni-up niri-niraq-tanga tuktu Miali-mut Johnny-ERG eat-say-DEC.3SG/3SG caribou(ABS) Mary-ALLAT 'Johnny said that Mary ate the caribou.'

(a) illu-ga-ne-vunga (Johns, 2006, Labrador) house-POSS.1SG-LOC.be.in-INDIC.1SG 'I'm in my house.'

This is problematic for our analysis because the object bears number and case, suggesting it is a DP and it should therefore result in a separate word. However, Sadock (2002) observes that such verbs (those which allow case, possessive marking and number) appear to be clitic-like in West Greenlandic, noting that they can also occur separate from the object. Compare (b) and (c) (p.1-2):

(b) Nuummiippunga (c) Nuummi ippoq (also: Ippoq Nuummi)
nuuk-mi-it-vunga N.-LOC be.in-INDIC.3SG
N.-LOC-be.in-INDIC.1SG 'He/she is in Nuuk.'

While of a full analysis of these optionally attaching verbs is beyond the scope of this paper, we believe they contrast with the set of lights verbs whose objects always incorporate.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> One exception to this analysis is presented by Johns (2006). She notes that a small set of verbs describing location and motion appear to incorporate nouns bearing oblique cases such as locative and vialis, as well as possessive inflection and number (p.7):

Johns (1999) argues that *-guma* is a modal verb, in part because it cannot licence its own DP arguments. Rather, as in (22), the "subject" of *-guma* must be interpreted as identical to the subject of the root verb. Additionally, it can appear with weather verbs and nonagentive subjects in some dialects:

- (25) silalu-guma-juk rain-want-DEC-3SG. 'It looks like it's going to rain.' (Labrador, Johns 1999)
- (26) savik siKumi-guma-juk knife(ABS) break-want-DEC-3SG.

  'The knife is going to break.' (Labrador, Johns 1999)

If this verb is a modal verb, it occurs within the same CP domain as the verb that appears to its left. This type of affixal verb is arguably similar to a functional restructuring/raising verb (see Wurmbrand, 2001; Cinque, 2001). The constructions then involve a single CP and we correctly predict a single verbal word.

Similarly, Pittman (2006a, b) demonstrates that -niraq and -qu type verbs are matrix verbs that select complements that are smaller than CP (i.e. TP or vP). She observes that while -niraq-type verbs can take TP complements (as in (27)) that contain tense (i.e., recent past) and qu-type verbs can take vP complements (as in (28)), neither allows a complement to bear mood (i.e. declarative), which is generally assumed to be part of the CP domain.

- Jaani-up niri-qqau-nira-lauq-tanga tuktu Miali-mut Johnny-ERG eat-REC.PAST-say-DIST.PAST-DEC.3SG/3SG caribou(ABS) Mary-ALLAT 'Johnny said that Mary ate the caribou.'
- (28) Jaani-up niri-qu-lauq-tanga tuktu Miali-mut Johnny-ERG eat-want-DIST.PAST-DEC.3SG/3SG caribou(ABS) Mary-ALLAT 'Johnny wanted Mary to eat the caribou.'

Furthermore, as noted by Woodbury and Sadock (1986), these verbs demonstrate classic clause-union effects in that the embedded external argument (*Miali-mut* in (27) and (28))

surfaces with dative (sometimes called allative) case when the embedded verb is transitive. This pattern is similar to that found in the clause embedded below a causative in many languages, such as French. These constructions can be viewed as restructuring-type constructions (or reduced non-restructuring in Wurmbrand's (2001) terms), meaning that the complement is smaller than a CP (see for instance Landau, 2002; Folli and Harley, 2004 for *v*P complements of causative verbs). If this restructuring-type approach is applied to Inuit (see Pittman 2006a, b), we correctly predict the bound status of the "affixal" verbs; their complements are smaller than CP and the two verbs thus appear in the same verbal word.

Some phonologically independent verbs in Inuit can take full CP complements bearing mood/agreement morphology. This type of construction does not display clause-union effects. The complement is a CP and is expected to form a separate word.

(29) ani-juit<sup>19</sup> qaujima-junga leave-DEC.3PL know-DEC.1SG 'I know that they left.'

In parallel to our results with nouns, we see that only full CPs form separate phonological words. Smaller units such as TP,  $\nu$ P, and VP do not.

# 3.4. Adjectives

In addition to the alternations observed between free and incorporated nouns and free and "affixal" verbs, we also observe two distinct classes of adjectives in Inuit: (i) verb-like adjectives<sup>20</sup> and (ii) purely attributive adjectives.<sup>21</sup>

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> There is variation in the dialect of our consultant between -jutl-tut and -juitl-tuit (DEC.3PL).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> Dixon (2004a) argues for a distinction cross-linguistically between noun-like adjectives, verb-like adjectives, and adjectives which bear no relation to either nouns or verbs.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> Dixon (2004b) demonstrates the existence of a similar class of adjectives in Jarawara (Arawá family).

Verb-like adjectives can act as main clause predicates and can be a complete sentence/utterance, as shown in (30) - (32) below:

- (30) taki-juq tall-DEC.3SG 'He/she is tall.'
- (31) sanngi-junga strong-DEC.1SG 'I am strong.'
- (32) nanuq angi-juq polar.bear(ABS) big-DEC.3SG 'The polar bear is big.'

Furthermore, verb-like adjectives can appear in other moods, such as the interrogative, and take tense morphology, as in the following examples:

- (33) taqa-vii tired-INTERR.2SG 'Are you tired?'
- (34) aannia-lauq-tunga sick-DIST.PAST-DEC.1SG 'I was sick.'

Their ability to act as full clauses, as well as their interaction with mood and tense, suggest that these adjectival words are full CPs.

These adjectives can also modify arguments:

- (35) taki-juq angunasukti natti-∅-qqau-juq tall-DEC.3SG hunter(ABS) seal-get-REC.PAST-DEC.3SG 'The tall hunter caught a seal.'
- (36) angi-juq nanuq taku-lauq-tuq natting-mi big-DEC.3SG polar.bear(ABS) see-DIST.PAST-DEC.3SG seal-OBL.SG 'The big polar bear saw the seal.'

Given their ability to act as clauses, one might conclude that the adjectives in (35)-(36) are acting as relative clauses when they modify nouns. However, when modifying

arguments whose case morphology is overt (i.e., cases other than absolutive), a different picture emerges:

- (37) qimmi-mik qaqor-tu-mik dog-OBL.SG white-DEC-OBL.SG 'the white dog' (Sadock 2003, West Greenlandic)
- (38) illu-ttsinnut angi-suu-mut house-ALLAT.1PL.SG big-DEC-ALLAT.SG 'to our big house' (Sadock 2003, West Greenlandic)
- (39) angi-jur-mi iglu-liu-lauq-tunga big-DEC-OBL.SG house-make-DIST.PAST-DEC.1SG 'I made a big house.'

These examples show that adjectives agree in case with the modified argument, albeit covertly in the absolutive singular, which is phonological null. Since bearing case is not a property we expect of clauses, and since these adjectives can also stand as arguments (see (40) below), this data suggest that adjectives modifying nouns are DPs in apposition (as proposed in Johns (1987) for nouns and deverbal modifiers and relative clauses). Moreover, the fact that the adjectives can also act as arguments supports the conclusion that when they modify nouns they are in fact DPs:

(40) mikit-tuq taku-qqau-juq angi-jur-mi small-DEC.3SG(ABS) see-REC.PAST-DEC.3SG big-DEC-OBL.SG 'The small one saw the big one.'

In both their clausal and argument roles, the phase-based analysis correctly predicts that these adjectives will be words

A second class of adjectives exists in Inuit. Unlike the verb-like adjectives presented above, these purely attributive adjectives always appear attached to the NP they modify, as in (41)-(43) below:

- (41) umingma(g)-jjuaq (Mittimatalingmiutut) muskox-big 'the/a big muskox'
- (42) iglu-viniq (South Baffin) house-old/former 'an old house'
- (43) [iglu-jjuaq]-liu-lauq-tunga (Igloolik) [house-big]-make-DIST.PAST-DEC.1SG 'We made a big house.'

Notably, these adjectives can never act as predicates, nor can they stand alone as arguments (in contrast with the verb-like adjectives presented earlier):

- (44) umingma(g)-jjuaq muskox-big √ 'the/a big muskox' \* 'The/a muskox is big.'
  - cf. umingmak angi-juq muskox big-DEC.SG 'The muskox is big.'
- (45) iglu-viniq house-old/former √ 'the/an old house' \* 'The/an house is old.'
- (46) \*jjuaq big 'the/a big one/thing'
  - cf. angi-jur-mi iglu-liu-lauq-tunga big-DEC-OBL.SG house-make-DIST.PAST-DEC.1SG 'I made a big house.'
- (47) \*jjuaq-tuq big-DEC.3sG 'It is big.'
  - cf. angi-juq big-DEC.SG 'He/she/it is big.'

(48) \*jjuaq-liu-lauq-tuq big-make-DIST.PAST-DEC.3SG 'He/she made a big one/thing.'

This contrast suggests that while verb-like adjectives correspond to full CPs and (nominalised) DPs, attributive adjectives are merely APs. Remarkably, members of the former set (CPs and DPs) are always separate phonological words, while the latter set (APs) are always affixes on a noun. This dichotomy is predicted by the analysis of Inuit word boundaries corresponding to phases; as APs, the attributive adjectives will never constitute a separate phase. In Section 3.6 we return to the topic of adjectives, arguing against an analysis in which attributive adjectives are simply specified in the lexicon as affixal.

#### 3.5. Adverbs

A similar dichotomy exists among the two kinds of adverbs in the language: true adverbs and derived adverbs. While true adverbs (arguably Adv heads or phrases in the syntax) appear inside verbal complexes, derived adverbs appear as separate words.

True adverbs are a closed class of elements that appear in various positions to the right of the verbs they modify inside a verbal complex, as in examples (49)-(51) below:<sup>22</sup>

(49) ani-**saali**-juit leave-**early**-DEC.3PL 'They left early.'

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(a) tikinngik**kallar**puq (b) tikik**kalla**nngilaq tikit-nngit-gallar-vuq tikit-gallar-nngit-vuq come-NEG-still-INDIC.3SG come-still-NEG-INDIC.3SG 'He still has not come.' 'He still hasn't come yet.'

However, the same is true of the position of adverbs and negation in English. Consequently, we assume the same syntactic principles are responsible for position of adverbs and negation in Inuit.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> Fortescue (1980) presents examples illustrating that the position of these "affixal" adverbs is determined by scope, for instance:

- (50) ani-anik-qqau-juit leave-already-REC.PAST-DEC.3PL 'They already left.'
- (51) ani-qu-quu-lauq-tara (Mittimatalingmiutut) leave-tell-probably-DIST.PAST-1SG/3SG 'I probably told him/her to leave.'

These adverbs can never appear alone and never take case morphology. Derived adverbs, on the other hand, appear independently of the elements they modify and appear to require oblique case, as in the following examples:

- (52) qakkuti-kku iglu-liu-qattaq-tunga when-VIALIS house-make-HABITUAL-DEC.1SG 'Sometimes we make a house.'
- (53) nipikit-tu-mi pisuq-qqau-junga quiet-DEC-INST.SG walk-REC.PAST-DEC.1SG 'I walked quietly.'
- (54) uqalimaa-lauq-tara sukkait-tu-mi read-DIST.PAST-DEC.1SG/3SG slowly-DEC-INST.SG 'I read (it) slowly.'

In (52), the wh-word meaning *when* is converted into *sometimes* using vialis case, while in (53)-(54), adjectives are converted into adverbs via instrumental case.<sup>23</sup> Although these elements are being used adverbially, the use of case morphology suggests that they are in fact DPs. If this is correct, the phonological independence of derived adverbs is predicted under the analysis that CP and DP phases are mapped to phonological words. Similarly, the set of true adverbs are correctly predicted to appear inside the CP word (the verbal complex), since as AdvPs they do not correspond to either DPs or CPs.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> These adverbs are perhaps better translated as "with quietness" and "with slowness."

#### 3.6. On the Distribution of Lexical and Functional Elements

Importantly, the membership of the closed classes of (i) noun-incorporating verbs; (ii) predicate incorporating verbs; (iii) purely attributive adjectives; and (iv) true adverbs offer a strong argument against an analysis that posits that affixal status is marked on each lexical item. It is no coincidence that each of these sets contains a highly predictable class of semantically related elements and that they occur in specific syntactic environments..

To begin, Johns (2006, to appear) demonstrates that noun-incorporating verbs are in fact light verbs, based on their relative semantic underspecification and their full productivity<sup>24</sup> (see also Mithun 1999). This set consists of items with such meanings as *have*, *lack*, *be*, *become*, *get*, *lose*, *make*, *consume*, *seek*, etc. Notice also that many of these verbs have a wide array of polysemous uses in other languages such as English. An analysis that approached noun incorporation in terms of each of these verbs being marked in the vocabulary as affixal would essentially treat their semantic relatedness and affixal status as a coincidence.

Similarly, the set of predicate incorporating verbs examined by Johns (1999) and Pittman (2006a, b) appears to form a salient class that Dixon (2006) labels "secondary concepts," which includes, among other things, complement-clause-taking verbs and modals. He observes that, cross-linguistically, these verbs cannot be used alone and require another verb (either overtly or implicitly). Again, it would be advantageous to explain why this related class of verbs and modals are all affixal.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> For instance, the NI verb -tuq- 'consume' can mean eat, drink, or smoke depending on the object.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup> Dixon's use of the term *complement clause* does not appear to imply the syntactic level CP. For instance, he uses the term to refer to non-finite/ECM constructions where the CP layer may be absent in recent formulations of Minimalism, in which agreement features are inherited from C (Chomsky 2006, in press).

The set of purely attributive adjectives is equally predictable. They correspond quite closely to the set of pre-nominal adjectives in French, which Bouchard (2002) categorises as (i) intensional (e.g., *futur* 'future', *présent* 'present', *prochain* 'next', etc.); (ii) quantitative (e.g., *nouvelle* 'new', *seule* 'sole, single', *nombreux* 'with many elements', *autre* 'additional', *certain* 'certain', etc.); and (iii) evaluative (e.g., *bon* 'good', *petit* 'small', *grand* 'tall', *gros* 'big', etc.). In fact, among the forty-six West Greenlandic adjectives listed in Fortescue (1980) (which he refers to as "nominal modifiers") thirty-four can appear pre-nominally in French in at least one of their translations, as shown in the following table.

TABLE 1. CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN INUIT BOUND (ATTRIBUTIVE) ADJECTIVES AND FRENCH PRE-NOMINAL ADJECTIVES 26

Inuit	ENGLISH	FRENCH PRENOMINAL ADJECTIVE
-(pa)luit	'a few, group of'	'quelques'
-araq	'small'	'petit'
-kanniq	'almost, more or less'	1 1
-kkajaaq	'rather big'	'plutôt grand'
-kullak	'rather big, clumsy'	'plutôt grand'
-innaq	'only'	'seul'
-kuluuq	'big'	'grand'
-ngaaq	'considerable, large'	'considérable, grand'
-ngajak	'almost'	'presque'
-nnaq/nnaaq	'main, favourite'	'principal'
-nnguaq	'small, dear'	'petit, cher'
-nnguakkuluk	'poor old'	'pauvre vieux'
-nnguujuk	'little'	'petit'
-(r)paat/passuit	'many'	'plusieurs'
-pajuk/piluk	'bad'	'mauvais'
-palaaq	'bad'	'mauvais'
-palaarsuaq	'damn'	'maudit'
-(r)piaq	'real'	'vrai'
-rujuk(suaq)	'bad, damn'	'mauvais, maudit'
-ralak/rajak	'bad, miserable'	'mauvais, misérable'
-ralaannguaq	'tiny'	'minuscule'
-rujuk	'big, bad'	'grand, mauvais'

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup> Based on Fortescue's (1980) list of "nominal modifiers".

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'enormous' 'énorme' -rujussuaq -ssaq 'future' 'futur' -(r)suaq 'big, bad' 'grand, mauvais' -(r)suannguaq 'naughty' 'vilain' 'new' 'nouveau' -taaq 'good, nice' 'bon, gentil' -tsialak 'good little, usable' 'bon petit' -tsiannguaq 'only' 'seul' -tuaq 'old' 'vieux' -tuqaq -ugaluaq 'previous, deceased' 'ancien' -vik 'real' 'vrai' 'particularly good'

-vvaarik

None of the Inuit attributive adjectives involve colour, geometric shape, substance/material, place of origin, style, etc. Similarly, adjectives with these types of meanings (colour, etc.) show a unique behaviour in French (and other Romance languages) in that they appear post-nominally.

'particulièrement bon'

Note that the set of attributive adjectives also appears to form a natural class in English. For instance, in a string of adjectives in English, these same adjectives tend to come first in linear order (see Teyssier, 1968, inter alia):

- (55)a *big* blue American minivan
- the *old* three-storey Victorian mansion (56)
- (57)a *good* round wood table
- (58)the *only* famous emerald bracelet

In addition, the fact that attributive adjectives in Inuit cannot be used predicatively parallels English adjectives such as *live* (in the biological sense), as demonstrated by Larson & Marušič (2004, pp.272-3):

> (59)a. some live thing b. \*this thing is live

# (60) a. \*some alive thing b. this thing is alive

While *live* can be used attributively, it cannot be used as a predicate. Conversely, *alive* shows the opposite pattern, acting predicatively but not attributively. While a complete syntactic explanation for such patterns is beyond the scope of this paper, it appears that the lexical/selectional differences between *live* and *alive* also distinguish attributive and verb-like adjectives in Inuit. Yet again, an affixal analysis whereby these adjectives were labelled individually would treat membership in this highly predictable class as coincidental. Instead, we argue that the semantics of the attributive class of adjectives restricts them to modifying NPs (as is the case for English *live*). Verb-like adjectives, on the other hand, can only be use predicatively (like English *alive*), and will thus always appear as the main predicate in a clause (a CP) or in apposition (as a DP), resulting in a separate word.

The set of true adverbs is similar. Among the many "verbal modifiers" listed by Fortescue, thirty-four are grouped under "degree," twenty-two are labelled "frequency and duration," and twenty-five are called "manner" (although many of these involve time, speed, and movement). Once again, this set of elements appears to form a natural class, coinciding with the functional projections proposed in Cinque (1999). For instance, the following projections correspond to Fortescue's "degree" adverbs (Cinque, p.106; Fortescue, pp. 276-277):

(61) Asp<sub>prospective</sub> (e.g., almost)

-ngajaq

'almost'

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>27</sup> Fortescue also includes a class of "phase of completion" adverbs; however, many of these affixes subsume negation and aspect. We assume that these elements correspond to NEG and ASP heads in the syntax.

(62)  $Asp_{SgCompletive(I)}$ ,  $Asp_{PlCompletive}$  (e.g., tutto), and  $Asp_{SgCompletive(II)}$  (e.g., completely)

-(r)luinnar -qqig -vig, -vissur 'completely' 'completely' 'really/completely'

Similarly, the following projections seem to encompass all the "frequency and duration" adverbs in Fortescue's list.

(63) Asp<sub>habitual</sub> (e.g., *usually*) and Asp<sub>frequentative(I)</sub> (e.g., *often*)

-(s)ar(i) -gajug -kalua(ar)

'repitition/habit' 'often/habitually' 'often/habitually'

-saannar -sar

'often/all the time' 'repitition/habit'

(64) Asp<sub>repetitive(I)</sub> (e.g., again)

-(sur) -qattar -qqig

'repeated action' 'again and again' 'again/further'

(65) Asp<sub>continuative</sub> (e.g. *still*)

-gallar -juar

'still/for the time being' 'continuously/still'

(66) Asp<sub>perfect(?)</sub> (e.g., *always*)

-(tu)innar -juaannar

'always/continually' 'always/continually'

(67) Asp<sub>durative</sub> (e.g., *briefly*)

-llatsiar -mmirsur

'for a short while' 'for some time'

Notably absent from Fortescue's extensive list are adverbs describing emotion (e.g., happily, nervously, jealously, etc.), adverbs describing an opinion of the situation (e.g., interestingly, luckily), and adverbs referring to specific points in time (e.g., yesterday, now). Many such concepts appear instead to employ the derived (i.e., nominalised)

adverbs discussed earlier, while others appear to be inherently nominal (e.g., today, here, now, etc.). Once again, there is no principled reason that such a consistent class of adverbs should all be marked as affixes in the lexicon. Instead, we suggest that such adverbs correspond to the functional projections proposed by Cinque, while other, perhaps less functional adverbs must be derived from nouns and verbs. This analysis strongly predicts that no bound adjective or adverb will be highly contentful.

In sum, an analysis where lexical items are haphazardly marked affixal would fail to capture the generalisation that membership in the sets of light verbs, "affixal" verbs, attributive adjectives, and true adverbs is highly predictable and that they form strongly related semantic classes. Instead, it is the semantic properties of each set that determine its subcategorisation properties; noun-incorporating verbs select bare NPs, predicate incorporating verbs select for either  $\nu$ P or TP, purely attributive adjectives select for bare NPs, and true adverbs can select for an unknown number of projections inside CP.

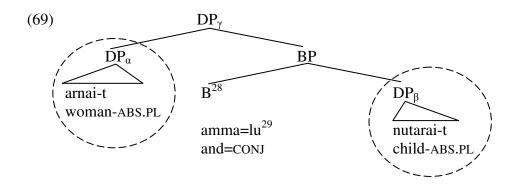
#### 3.7. Conjunctions, Pronouns, Demonstratives, and Wh-words

Further evidence that words in Inuit are mapped from CP and DP phases comes from the phonological behaviour of conjunctions, pronouns, demonstratives, and whwords.

Given the analysis that CPs and DPs form words, we might expect to find conjunctions affixed onto clauses and arguments, since they should not be able to form a phases alone. However conjunctions surface as separate words, as in (68):

(68) arnai-t amma=lu nutarai-t sanangua-liu-lauq-tuit woman-ABS.PL and=CONJ child-ABS.PL carving-make-DIST.PAST-DEC.3PL 'The women and the children made carvings.'

While each conjunct consists of a DP, the entire expression is also a DP (see Munn 1993). After each conjunct is spelled out, the conjoining element is the only element unique to the larger DP phase, and thus is realised alone as a separate word, as schematised in (69) below:



A similar analysis seems appropriate for conjoined CPs. It should be noted that VPs and APs do not appear able to be conjoined.

Finally, we must account for the phonological behaviour of demonstratives, whwords, and pronouns. We claim that these too are nominal, allowing the same case and number morphology as other nominals, as in (70)-(72) below. Furthermore, they can act as arguments, as in (73), and are able to appear with the bound (attributive) adjectives, as in (74):

<sup>28</sup> It might also be the case that the conjunction is internally complex, possibly even constituting a DP.

'Me too.'

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>29</sup> We ignore the enclitic lu which on its own also seems to possess the meaning of 'and'/'also'. This clitic can also occur on both conjuncts. The following examples are from Harper (1979).

a) uvanga=lu 1.SG(ABS)=lu

b) arnar=lu anguti=lu woman=lu man=lu 'a man and a woman'

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>30</sup> When acting as modifiers, demonstratives appear to be in apposition with the arguments they modify.

(71) uva-ptun pi-ung
1SG.PRONOUN-SIMILARIS do-IMPER.2SG/3SG
'Do it like me!' (Lowe 1985, Siglit)

(72) su-min qai-vit
who-ABLAT come-INTER.2SG
'Where did you come from?' (Lowe 1985, Siglit)

(73) sana-lauq-tara una make-DIST.PAST-DEC.1SG.3SG this.one(ABS) 'I made this one.'

(74) taimna-aluk that.one(ABS)-old/former 'that one from a long time ago' (Lowe 1984, Siglit)

These examples show that when demonstratives, pronouns, and wh-words bear case and number, they form separate phonological words.

However, when they do not have case and number morphology, wh-words can also undergo incorporation, as illustrated in Sadock (1980) (p.312):

(75) su-mik neri-vit (West Greenlandic) what-INST eat-INTERR.2SG 'What did you eat?'

(76) su-tor-pit (West Greenlandic) what-eat-INTERR.2SG 'What did you eat?'

Again, with case and number the wh-word in (75) is a separate phonological word, while without case and number morphology a wh-word must incorporate, as in (76).<sup>31</sup>

As illustrated earlier for nouns, the phonological behaviour of pronouns, demonstratives, and wh-words appears to correlate with morphological exponents of the

<sup>31</sup> This suggests that wh-words (in this dialect, at least) are nouns. It may be that there is dialectal variation as to whether wh-words, pronouns, and demonstratives can incorporate. Our analysis might attribute this to their category as either nouns or determiners. In dialects where they can undergo incorporation, they are nouns (see Panagiotidis 2002 for an analysis of Japanese and Thai pronouns as nouns), while in other

dialects where they do not incorporate, they correspond to entire DPs or intransitive determiners.

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DP layer. Furthermore, the phonological independence of conjunctions is predicted under the present analysis.

#### 3.8. "Stem" Ellipsis

We have been arguing that simply specifying that morphemes are affixes misses the generalization that affixhood is predictable in the language. One might surmise that in Inuit languages morphemes are in fact specified as to whether or not they are affixes but that only certain classes of morphemes are able to be specified as such. Alternatively, it could be that whole classes are specified as affixal, thus capturing the pattern that we have been discussing. However, evidence against labelling morphemes as affixes in any way comes from ellipsis in Artic Quebec Inuit.

Dorais (1988) notes that in Arctic Quebec Inuit, speakers can optionally omit contextually salient bases (p.10):

- (77) -juujar-tuq -seem-DEC.3SG 'looks like'
- (78) -jja-ngit-tuq -really-NEG-DEC.3SG 'does not really'

Similarly, he observes that endings (e.g. mood/agreement) can also be dropped (p.11):

(79) qanui-nngihave.something.wrong-NEG-'doesn't matter'

This phenomenon is discussed at length by Swift and Allen (2002). They provide evidence that this phenomenon is robust and is heard frequently among children (the source of the majority of their data) and adults. They also give many examples that show how the context allows for the ellipsis. The following dialogue contains two examples of

ellipsis. The context sentence is in (80) and we see ellipsis in (81) and (82). Both examples of ellipsis show a usually bound modal verb (discussed in section 3.3 above) without its base/stem.

- (80) Anaanaa, qamutinnguarani aitsigumalirtunga anaana qamutik-nnguaq-ganik ai-tsi-guma-liq-junga mother sled-imitation-MOD.1SG get-ATP-want-ING-PAR.2SG 'Mother, I want to get my toy sled now.'
- (81) Gunnailutit!
  Ø-gunnaiq-lutit
  ELLIP-no.longer-ICM.2SG
  'Don't you [get it]!'
- (82) Gumavunga!
  Ø-guma-vunga
  ELLIP-want-IND.1SG
  'I want to [get it]!'
  (Arctic Quebec Inuit, Swift and Allen 2002, p. 146)

Such data are problematic for an affixation account since the usually bound morphemes are in their expected position, despite not having a stem to which to attach. However, they can be simply analysed as cases of ellipsis in a syntactic phase-based account of Inuit wordhood; in fact, we believe that an ellipsis account would only be possible in an approach where the non-ellided elements are not marked as affixes in the lexicon. This is because ellipsis is not usually able to target a stem, leaving behind affixal material.

(83) \*Kenji is happy but Marco is un-. (intended meaning: Kenji is happy but Marco isn't happy / is unhappy.)

Under the present account, the utterance initial elements in the Inuit ellipsis sentences are not affixes and thus are not required to be bound. They are usually surface-attached to a stem due to their status within a larger phase. Note that these ellipsis utterances are still phases; it is simply that the lower parts of the structure have been

elided. We contend that only approaches where the morphemes are not specified as affixes can easily account for the above ellipsis constructions.<sup>32</sup>

#### 3.9. Review of Evidence for Phase-Based Wordhood

In sum, constituents smaller than DPs and CPs (such as incorporated nouns, incorporated predicates, purely attributive adjectives, and what we have called true adverbs) appear inside the DPs and CPs that contain them, while constituents which correspond to DPs and CPs (such as free nouns, main verbs, verb-like adjectives, and derived adverbs) appear as separate words. Furthermore, no phonological word appears to correspond to a constituent larger than a DP or a CP: (i) noun-incorporating verbs take complements smaller than DP; (ii) predicate incorporating verbs take complements smaller than CP; (iii) attributive adjectives take complements smaller than DP; and (iv) true adverbs take complements smaller than CP.

The phonological behaviour, corresponding syntactic structure, and evidence for the structure of each of the lexical categories discussed in this section is summarised in the table below. The shaded rows indicate phonologically free elements (again, corresponding to DPs or CPs) while the unshaded rows indicate smaller constituents which must appear inside larger CP/DP words:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>32</sup> Note that not all dialects allow forms with ellipsis. We attribute this to dialectal differences whereby dialects that allow such forms permit syntactic ellipsis, while other dialects do not.

Fig. 1 Summary of Word-hood evidence

Element	Phonological Word Status	Evidence for Constituency	Syntax
nouns (open class)	free from verbal complexes	case; number	VP <sup>33</sup>
incorporated (object) nouns (selected by a closed class of $v^0$ )	part of a verbal complex	no case; no number	νΡ  [ <b>NP</b> ν <sub>ω</sub>
verbs (open class)	can be the sole verbal element in a verbal complex	mood; use as sole predicate	<b>CP</b>
'predicate incorporating' verbs (closed class)	cannot be the sole verbal element in a verbal complex	no mood on lower predicate (TP/ <i>v</i> P)	VP  [TP/νΡ <b>V</b> <sup>0</sup> <sub>ω</sub>
verb-like adjectives (open class)	free from nouns/verbs	can be used as an argument; can bear case	$\begin{array}{c} \textbf{DP}_{\textbf{MODIFIER}} \\ \hline [\textbf{AP}]_{\omega} \end{array}$
		can be used as the main verb; can bear tense, mood	<b>CP</b>
attributive adjectives (closed class)	part of the modified NP	no case, no number; no use as arg./pred.; no tense, mood	NP/ <b>AP</b> <sup>34</sup> [N(P) <b>A(P)</b> ω
"derived" adverbs (open class)	free from nouns/verbs	case morphology	DP <sub>ADVERBIAL</sub> [XP <sup>35</sup> ] <sub>ω</sub>
"true" adverbs (closed class)	part of the verbal complex	no case	XP/ <b>AdvP</b> [X(P) <b>Adv(P)</b> ω

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>33</sup> To ease comparison with the data, we use right-headed structures.
<sup>34</sup> Whether adjectives and adverbs are specifiers of the elements they modify or whether they instead head projections that dominate the elements they modify is beyond the scope of this paper.
<sup>35</sup> These adverbs can be derived from various categories (see examples (52)-(53) above).

As illustrated in Fig. 1, there is no evidence of phonological words containing more than a single CP or DP, as schematised in (84) below.

(84) 
$$*[[...]_{CP/DP}...]_{XP=0}$$

Instead, we have observed a consistent correlation between DP and CP constituents and words in the language.

We have argued that the semantic unity of the closed classes of noun-incorporating verbs, predicate incorporating verbs, attributive adjectives, and true adverbs conflicts with an account which posits that affixal properties are diacritic (i.e., properties of individual lexical items). Instead, their apparent affixal status is predicted by their selectional properties and the theory presented in section 2.

Similarly, the wordhood of conjunctions, pronouns, demonstratives, and wh-words, all of which are functional elements, is evidence against an account which proposes a PF constraint in the language requiring that phonological words contain lexical roots (see Johns (to appear) for wh-words as roots). Once again, the phonological independence of these functional items is predicted under our analysis.

Finally, we argued that the ellipsis constructions found in some dialects of Inuit offer further evidence that morphemes are not specified as affixal in the language. Instead, the usual bound status is a result of the syntactic structures in which the morphemes are usually found.

# 4. Alternative Accounts of Inuit Morphology

In this section, we examine previous analyses of Inuit morphology. We argue that previous accounts require a separate generative morphological component and the idiosyncratic marking of affixes. We will see that in requiring a separate generative

component, which is not required in all languages, and the affixal diacritics, this type of approach is more complicated than the analysis we have proposed above.

## 4.1. Fortescue (1980)

In order to derive the morphology of West Greenlandic, Fortescue (1980) presents a set of recursive derivation rules. The seven word-structure rules are as follows <sup>36</sup> (p.261):

(85)  
a. 
$$V \rightarrow V_b (+ V_s) + Infl$$
  
b.  $V_b \rightarrow \begin{cases} V_b \\ N_b + V_r \end{cases} (+ V_e) (+ V_{neg}) (+ V_{mod})$   
c.  $V_s \rightarrow (V_{ten}) (+ V_{ep}) \begin{cases} (+ V_{neg}) (+ V_{sub}) \\ (+ V_{conj}) \end{cases}$ 

d. 
$$V_{mod} \rightarrow V_{mod} (+ V_{mod})$$

e. 
$$V_{sub} \rightarrow V_{sub} (+ V_{sub})$$

f. 
$$N_b \rightarrow \begin{cases} N_b \\ V_b + N_r \end{cases} (+ N_e) (+ N_{mod})$$

g. 
$$N_{\text{mod}} \rightarrow N_{\text{mod}} (+ N_{\text{mod}})$$

In addition to these rules, Fortescue posits a "global scope rule" whereby "each successive affix simply modifies what is immediately to its left, that is, is superordinate in scope to everything to its left within the word" (p.260). Thus, a 'verb' such as (86) below (p.261-262) can be derived by first applying rule (85a) to obtain a verbal base, a

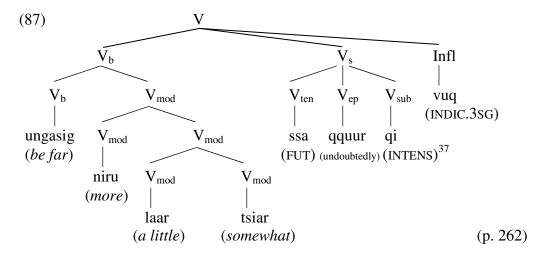
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 $<sup>^{36}</sup>$  Fortescue's abbreviations include:  $V_b$  verbal base,  $N_b$  nominal base,  $V_s$  sentential verbal affix,  $V_r$  verbalizing affix,  $N_r$  nominalizing affix,  $V_e$  verbal base-expanding affix,  $N_e$  nominal base-expanding affix,  $V_{neg}$  negation,  $V_{mod}$  verbal modifier,  $N_{mod}$  nominal modifier,  $V_{ten}$  tense,  $V_{ep}$  affix of epistemic modality,  $V_{conj}$  conjunctional affix, and  $V_{sub}$  affix of subjective/narrative coloration.

domain of sentential affixes, and inflection, followed by (85b) to add modifiers, rule (85d) to obtain recursive modification, and finally (85c) in order to add tense, an epistemic affix, and a subjective/narrative affix to the sentential domain.

(86) ungasinnirulaatsiassaqquuqaaq ungasig-niru-laar-tsiar-ssa-qquur-qi-vuq be.far-more-a.little-somewhat-FUT-undoubtedly-INTENS-INDIC.3SG 'It will undoubtedly be somewhat further off.'

The rules employed to create the above "verb" also allow Fortescue to generate the hierarchical structure in (87) below:



Notice that the specific order of verbal modifiers in this example is determined by the global scope rule; *tsiar* 'somewhat' modifies *laar* 'a little,' which in turn modifies *niru* 'more.'

Fortescue admits that his rules overgenerate, permitting combinations of affixes that do not occur, such as an epistemic affix (e.g., *qquur* 'undoubtedly') with interrogative mood. In addition to the rules outlined above, he concludes that "semantic filtering" is required to rule out these combinations. While we do not consider this filtering mechanism in detail, we assume it would resemble LF in minimalist theory.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>37</sup> While Fortescue glosses this morpheme with an exclamation mark, in the text he refers to it as an intensifier.

While Fortescue maintains that the system of "internal syntax" (i.e., morphology) that he is analysing must be treated separately from "external syntax" (i.e., the syntax of isolating languages), the rules in (85), the global scope rule, and the semantic filtering he suggests bear a striking resemblance to the syntax (and semantics) of more isolating languages. For instance, the global scope rule parallels the c-command and dominance relations, semantic filtering resembles selection and semantic composition at LF, and the rules in (85d), (85e), and (85g) simply allow recursive modification, a basic property of any language. Moreover, the remaining rules mirror the commonly assumed order of functional projections (cf. Cinque 1999). For example, consider rules (85a)-(85c). Together, they delineate the following maximal order (ignoring iteration and noun incorporation):

(88) verbal base > verbal extender > negation > verbal modifier > tense > epistemic modality > negation > subjective/narrative > inflection

If we note that the set of "verbal extenders" listed in Fortescue are in fact the types of "affixal" verbs discussed in section 3.3 (e.g., ar/ur 'say', tit 'think that', etc.), and that both "verbal modifiers" (e.g., jaar 'early,' juaannar 'always/continually,' etc.) and the set of "subjective/narrative" affixes (e.g., (s)innar 'just') appear to correspond to different types of adverbs, the following picture begins to immerge:

(89) 
$$V > V/v > Neg > Adv > T > Modal > Neg > Adv > Infl38$$

This is clearly an inverted string of the contents of a CP. Similarly, rule (85f) echoes the order of elements inside an NP, with "nominal extender" corresponding to derivational

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>38</sup> *Infl* here refers to the mood/agreement morphemes.

morphemes<sup>39</sup> (e.g., miu(q) 'inhabitant of,' which similarly has derivational equivalents in English: '(Vancouver)-ite,' '(Boston)-ian,' (New York)-er,' etc.) and "nominal modifier" being the class of attributive adjectives discussed in section 3.4.

In sum, the data presented in Fortescue (1980) and the descriptive generalisations contained within his rules can be accounted for with minimalist syntax. Furthermore, as we have argued in sections 2 and 3, a theory in which phonological words correspond to phases can account for which constituents can and must appear inside a given word, something which is lacking in Fortescue's system. For example, in his system it is simply stipulated that tense (or negation, or modals, etc.) must appear within the verbal complex, while our system predicts that this is due to the fact that such items are not full CPs or DPs. In addition, the conclusion that such functional items do indeed correspond to the functional projections observed in other languages (e.g., CP, TP,  $\nu$ P, etc.) is favourable since it suggests that Inuit and more familiar languages employ the same generative mechanisms. It is not the case that Inuit employs a morphological component while more isolating languages employ a distinct syntactic component; instead, a single syntactic component derives both Inuit and isolating languages. Under Fortescue's model it is not clear what role, if any, syntax would have.

### 4.2. Sadock (1991)

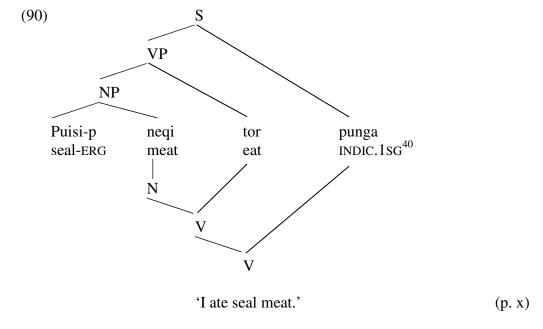
In *Autolexical Syntax*, Sadock presents an alternative model of grammar in which syntax, morphology, and semantics are housed in separate modules that work simultaneously to generate utterances. While a full critique of this theory and Sadock's

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>39</sup> Fabb (1988) argues that even derivational morphology can be accounted for in terms of selection, contra a level-ordering analysis. He notes that "level-ordering does no extra work in ruling out suffix pairs beyond that done by independently needed selectional restrictions" (p.538).

application of the theory to a number of grammatical phenomena in various languages is beyond the scope of this paper, we will summarise the central claims of the theory and briefly discuss the theory's treatment of noun incorporation in West Greenlandic.

The theory of Autolexical Syntax aims to explain mismatches between syntax, morphology, and semantics, in particular, the dual syntactic and morphological properties of cliticisation, noun incorporation, and affixation. Sadock proposes that strings possess not only syntactic structure, but also distinct hierarchical structures in separate modules of morphology and semantics. Accordingly, syntactic constituents need not necessarily correspond to morphological or semantic constituents, and vice versa. To illustrate this redundancy and modularity, Sadock uses dual structures such as (90) below:



Thus, while in the higher syntactic tree, the possessor *puisip* 'seal's' modifies *neqi* 'meat' and the latter is also the object of the verb *tor* 'eat,' in the lower morphological structure, *neqi*, *tor*, and the inflectional ending form a "verb" and *puisip* is a separate word. Sadock

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 $<sup>^{\</sup>rm 40}$  Morphemic gloss and translation added.

argues that a theory employing separate modules can account for such discrepancies between syntax and morphology.

In his examination of noun incorporation, Sadock demonstrates that West Greenlandic differs from a language like Mohawk in which incorporation appears to be purely morphological. Instead, he argues that noun incorporation in West Greenlandic (and other languages) also displays syntactic properties, such as productivity<sup>41</sup> (contra the argument that noun incorporation is lexicalised), referentiality (introducing discourse referents and even proper names), the complementary distribution of objects and incorporated objects, and the stranding of object modifiers. Sadock concludes that West Greenlandic noun incorporation necessitates a dual analysis to reconcile these syntactic properties with the surface morphology.

However, it is not clear that noun incorporation provides evidence for a separate morphological component. <sup>42</sup> As we have argued, the surface phonological position of incorporates, as well as a number of other constituents, is predictable from their syntax. Positing a distinct morphological module with its own set of rules is unnecessary. Furthermore, our analysis simultaneously accounts for the position of incorporated nouns, purely attributive adjectives, predicate incorporating verbs, true adverbs, and a number of functional projections. Under Sadock's account, each of these phenomena would require a separate treatment, or, at the very least, affixal properties marked on all of the relevant

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>41</sup> Sadock numbers the possible grammatical combinations of nouns, incorporating verbs, nominal and verbal modifiers in West Greenlandic at approximately two and half billion (p.84).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>42</sup> Equally, it is not clear that discrepancies between the syntactic position and the surface phonological position of clitics or affixes constitute evidence for a morphological module. Clitics might well be repositioned for purely phonological reasons. Also, many other morphology/syntax mismatches can be captured with a late-insertion model, such as Distributed Morphology. For example, a single vocabulary item might correspond to two or more heads in the syntax or several vocabulary items might correspond to the features of a single head.

lexical<sup>43</sup> and functional items, which would obscure the observation that they each involve a predictable set of elements and a predictable structure (i.e., structures smaller than DP or CP).

In sum, the perceived mismatches between syntax and morphology in noun incorporation are better analysed as differences between the syntax and phonology of West Greenlandic as compared with more analytic languages. First, West Greenlandic like all other Inuit dialects, possesses a set of light verbs that select bare noun phrases (although these may contain modifiers). Second, these languages apply a different level of the prosodic hierarchy to syntactic structure (i.e., phases are mapped to phonological words, as opposed to phonological phrases, as may be the case in other languages). Essentially, Sadock's theory does not offer a wider answer as to why certain constituents must form words, while others cannot. The mismatches are simply stipulated.

# 4.3. De Reuse (1994)

De Reuse (1994) examines the other branch of Eskimo-Aleut, analysing Central Siberian Yupik (CSY). Like Fortescue, he posits a distinction between "external syntax" and "internal syntax," and formulates a word structure grammar to account for the latter. Furthermore, he adopts Sadock's theory of Autolexical Syntax, thereby situating the morphological analysis below in a separate module. The following rules are intended to explain the order of morphemes in polysynthetic verbs (p.95): <sup>44</sup>

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 $<sup>^{43}</sup>$  We leave open the question of whether light noun-incorporating verbs are technically lexical or functional. Johns (to appear, 2006) provides evidence for the latter option. The important points for the present analysis are that these verbs form a salient class and, unlike other verbs, select bare NPs.  $^{44}$  The various Vbase levels (i.e. -4, -3, -2, -1) are needed by in order to allow subparts of these "verbs" to

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>44</sup> The various Vbase levels (i.e. -4, -3, -2, -1) are needed by in order to allow subparts of these "verbs" to be negated, be modified by an adverb, or contain additional verbal material. As such, these levels appear to mirror X-bar theory as well as syntactic projections such as  $\nu P$ .

Notably, in order to improve upon the system proposed by Fortescue, de Reuse distinguishes between more types of postbases (the traditional term for such affixes in the literature of Inuit languages) than Fortescue, despite the fact that CSY has a much smaller inventory of verbal postbases (only 197, according to de Reuse, p.77).

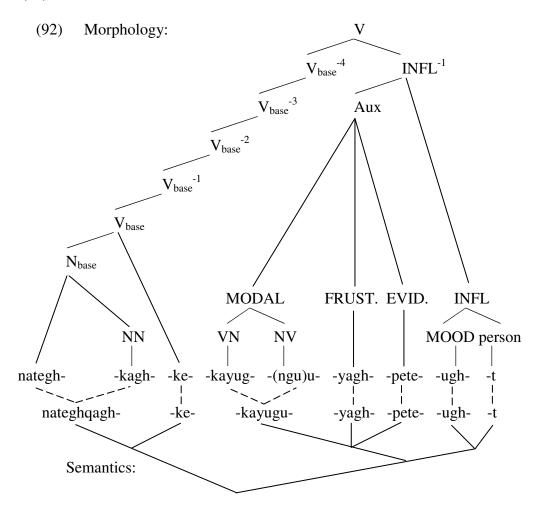
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**MOOD Person markers** 

While many of the categories above are self-explanatory, PreAux and Class-Free need further explanation. The PreAux postbase type includes elements dealing with transitivity (e.g., causativisation), copular verbs (e.g., *be, become*, etc.), "affixal" verbs such as those in earlier sections on noun and predicate incorporation (e.g., *want*, *try*, etc.), adverbs (of degree, speed, difficulty, etc.), and aspect. According to de Reuse, the

set of CLASS-FREE postbases "all refer to a qualitative or quantitative judgement of the speaker."

De Reuse employs the following tree to illustrate the application of some of the rules in (91) above to create a word:



nateghqaqegkayuguyaghpetut nateghqagh-ke-kayugu-yagh-pete-ut<sup>45</sup> sole.of.skin.boot-have.as.one's-be.able.to-in.vain-evidently-INDIC.3PL<sup>46</sup> 'They were used for the soles of skin boots.'

<sup>45</sup> De Reuse omits the derivational morphology from his gloss.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>46</sup> Verbal and nominal category markers removed from glosses. These categories are predictable from the meaning of the morphemes (i.e., *pete* 'evidently' modifies a verb, *ke* 'have as one's' takes a noun, *kayugu* 'be able to' takes a verb, and *yagh* 'in vain' modifies a verb). Also, the inflectional abbreviations have been modified to be consistent with the rest of the paper.

The upper structure in (92) corresponds to the word formation rules, while the lower structure represents de Reuse's interpretation of the combination of elements in the semantic module.

As was observed with respect to Fortescue's analysis, the hierarchy of elements described by these rules strongly mirrors that of clauses in more analytic languages. While rules (c), (h), (g), and to some extent (d)-(f), deal with the position of different types of adverbs, Cinque (1999) also demonstrates the need for a number of positions for different classes of adverbs cross-linguistically throughout the clause. Furthermore, as illustrated in (92), the position of modals, evidentials, mood, and adverbs at the right edge of the structure is not a coincidence. The rules in (91) essentially capture an articulated CP domain (i.e., rules (a), (i)-(l)), recursive modification by adverbs (i.e., rules (c), (g), (h)), predicate negation (i.e., rule (b)), and predicate-incorporating verbs (i.e., rules (d)-(f)), all of which are amenable to a purely syntactic analysis. Moreover, like Fortescue's account, de Reuse's analysis fails to explain why such a set of rules should exist. De Reuse provides no reason why certain sets of elements form words while other combinations are impossible (e.g., non-compositional or template-like combinations). Once again, the analysis proposed in section 2 and 3 has the advantage of explaining why word classes with predictable membership consistently appear word-internally.

### 5. Conclusion

In this paper, we have proposed a phase-based analysis of wordhood in Inuit, arguing that CP and DP phases are mapped to phonological words at PF. This treatment of words explains the behaviour of nouns, adjectives, verbs, and functional items; constituents bearing the morphology of CPs and DPs surface as independent

phonological words, while smaller structures cannot do so. The predictable nature of noun- and predicate-incorporating verbs, attributive adjectives, and true adverbs was used as evidence against marking affixal properties in the lexicon. A syntactic approach also allows for a simple account of the "stem" ellipsis constructions.

We have formulated an analysis that explains why only certain types of morphemes can appear word-internally (a result of PF assigning phonological word boundaries to syntactically determined<sup>47</sup> phases). It appears that Inuit does not require its morphological component to be any more powerful than that of a more analytic language. If derivational morphology in other languages is shown to require a separate concatenating morphological component, such a component is probably necessary for Inuit. However, if derivational morphology in such languages can be accommodated within the syntax (as suggested by proponents of Distributed Morphology), the same should be possible in Inuit. We have shown that it is more than possible, and is in fact likely, that affixhood is not idiosyncratically specified on morphemes in Inuit, but that wordhood is predictably determined from the syntactic structure.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>47</sup> Phases are syntactically determined since it is the properties of the phase heads in the syntax which trigger spell out (e.g., v versus  $v^*$  in Chomsky 2006).

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