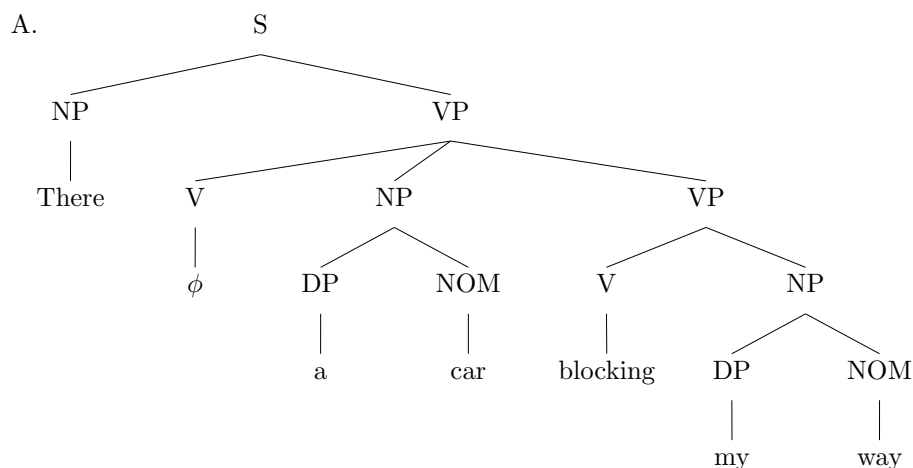


## Chapter 15, Problem 2: Silent Copula Existentials in AAVE



- B. In order for the initial symbol analysis to be able license examples like (i)–(iv), there would have to be some way of combining two NPs and a predicative phrase into a constituent. In order to do that with our existing rules, there has to be some selectional dependency connecting the constituents. While *blocking my way* selects *a car* as its specifier, neither *blocking my way* nor *a car* selects for *there*.
- C. The phrase structure rule analysis allows us to combine an NP and a predicative phrase to make a finite sentence, so it could license *a car blocking my way* as a finite sentence. It doesn't provide any way to combine that string with the expletive *there*, however. Once again, *there* isn't selected by either *a car* or *blocking my way*.
- D. The initial symbol analysis probably couldn't be extended to deal with these cases. It only begins to work because the grammar already licenses copulaless clauses (like *Chris at home*), just not as stand alone sentences. Nothing in our grammar for SAE would license a string like (i)–(iv).

The phrase structure rule analysis could be extended by positing another phrase structure rule - one with three daughters: *there*, an NP, and a predicative phrase. Just as the Zero Copula Rule mimics the valence pattern of one use of *be*, this additional rule would mimic another.