Chapter 11, Problem 8: Idiomatic *kept*

A.

$$
\left\langle \text{kept} ,
\begin{bmatrix}
\textit{part-lxm} \\[2pt]
\text{SYN} \quad
\begin{bmatrix}
\text{HEAD} &
\begin{bmatrix}
\textit{verb} \\
\text{FORM} & \text{pass} \\
\text{AGR} & \boxed{1}
\end{bmatrix} \\[6pt]
\text{VAL} & \begin{bmatrix} \text{SPR} & \langle\, [\text{AGR } \boxed{1}\,] \,\rangle \end{bmatrix}
\end{bmatrix} \\[20pt]
\text{ARG-ST} \quad
\left\langle
\begin{bmatrix} \text{NP} \\ [\text{FORM} \quad \text{tabs}] \end{bmatrix} ,\ \text{PP[FORM on]}_j ,\ (\text{PP[FORM by]}_i)
\right\rangle \\[20pt]
\text{SEM} \quad
\begin{bmatrix}
\text{INDEX} & \text{s} \\
\text{MODE} & \text{prop} \\
\text{RESTR} & \left\langle
\begin{bmatrix}
\text{RELN} & \text{observe} \\
\text{SIT} & \text{s} \\
\text{OBSERVER} & \text{i} \\
\text{OBSERVED} & \text{j}
\end{bmatrix}
\right\rangle
\end{bmatrix}
\end{bmatrix}
\right\rangle
$$

B. In these sentences, the SPR value of *kept* is unified with the SPR value of *were* (in (i)) and *was* (in (ii)). This is because the lexical entry for *be* states that the first element of its ARG-ST is unified with the SPR value of the second element of its ARG-ST. By the ARP, this means that forms of *be* will have SPR values identical to the SPR values of their complements. The lexical entry for *kept* given in part A states that its first argument is [FORM tabs] – that is, that its SPR value must be headed by the word *tabs*. Since that SPR value must also be the SPR value of the form of *be* preceding *kept*, (i) is licensed, but (ii) is not. In other words, *tabs* in (i) satisfies the SPR requirements of *were* (inherited from *kept*), but *advantage* in (ii) does not satisfy the SPR requirement of *was* (likewise inherited from *kept*).