

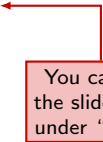
# It's a (Sub-)Regular Conspiracy

## Locality and Computation in Phonology Morphology, Syntax, and Semantics

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CLS  
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You can get  
the slides here  
under "News"

# The Big Linguistic Questions

- ▶ What are the laws that govern each structural level?
- ▶ How **complex** are these laws? How hard are they to compute?
- ▶ How are they learned?
- ▶ Do we find **typological gaps**, i.e. patterns that should exist but don't appear in any language?
- ▶ What can we infer about human cognition?

## The Opportunistic Program for Lazy Researchers Like Me

- ▶ Stand on the shoulders of giants.
- ▶ Computer scientists have figured out a lot about complexity, so let's apply their ideas to language.

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# A Mathematical Distinctness Theorem

- From a computational perspective, there is a split between “P-side” and “S-side”.

regular < context-free < mildly context-sensitive < ...

Phonology

Morphology

Syntax

- Matches linguistic practice  
(despite attempts at unification, e.g. DM)
- A unified Theory of Everything is not on the linguistic horizon.

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↑ Kaplan and Kay (1994)

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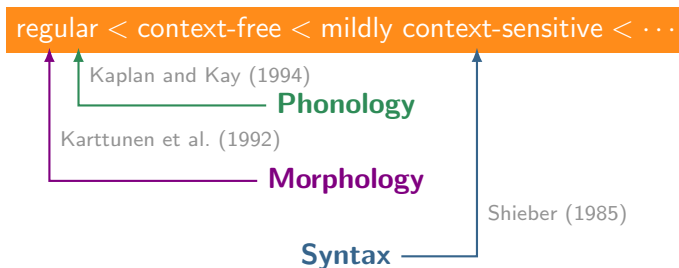
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# The Subregular Conspiracy...

- ▶ The postulated split is misleading.
- ▶ If we probe deeper, we find that
  - ▶ different modules are remarkably similar,
  - ▶ their dependencies are weaker than regular  
⇒ **subregular**
  - ▶ relativized locality plays a major role,
  - ▶ and is approximated by the formal class **TSL**.

## Subregular Conspiracy

- ▶ TSL crops up everywhere.
- ▶ TSL is shockingly useful.



# Outline

**1** Locality and Tiers in Phonology

**2** TSL Morphotactics

**3** TSL Morpho-Semantics

**4** Syntax

- Minimalist Grammars
- Merge is TSL
- Move is TSL

# TSL: Tier-Based Strictly Local

- ▶ There are a variety of subregular classes to choose from.
- ▶ TSL is among the weaker ones.
- ▶ TSL works well empirically.

## Tier-Based Strictly Local Dependencies

- ▶ All patterns described by markedness constraints that are
  - ▶ inviolable,
  - ▶ locally bounded,
  - ▶ formalized as  $n$ -grams.
- ▶ Non-local dependencies are **local over tiers**.  
(Goldsmith 1976)
- ▶ **Linguistic core idea:**  
Dependencies are local over the right structure.

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## Example: Word-Final Devoicing

- ▶ Captured by forbidding voiced segments at the end of a word
- ▶ **German:** Don't have **z**\$ or **v**\$ or **d**\$ (where \$ = word edge).

### Example: German

\* \$ r a d \$

\*z\$

\*v\$

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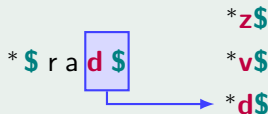
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- ▶ Captured by forbidding voiceless segments between vowels
- ▶ **Suppose:**
  - ▶  $[-\text{voice}] = \{s, f\}$
  - ▶  $V = \{a, i, u\}$
- ▶ **Then:** don't have **asa**, **afa**, **asi**, **afi**, ...

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## A Problem: Samala Sibilant Harmony

- ▶ If multiple sibilants occur in the same word, they must all be +anterior (**s**,**z**) or –anterior (**ʃ**,**ʒ**).
- ▶ In other words: Don't mix **purple** and **teal**.

\***s**ʃ   \***s**ʒ   \***z**ʃ   \***z**ʒ  
 \*ʃ**s**   \*ʒ**s**   \*ʃ**z**   \*ʒ**z**

- ▶ **But:** Sibilants can be arbitrarily far away from each other!

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\*\$ha**s**xintilawaʃ\$

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# Making Long-Distance Dependencies Local

- ▶ Let's take a clue from phonology:  
create locality with **tiers**.
- ▶ Tier projection is determined  
by the segments, not their  
environment.

(Heinz et al. 2011)



Jeff Heinz

## Example: Samala Revisited

1 Project sibilant tier

2 \*sʃ, \*sʒ, \*zʃ, \*zʒ, \*ʃs, \*ʒs, \*ʃz, \*ʒz

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\$	<b>s</b>		ʃ	\$
*\$	h	a	<b>s</b>	x
			i	n
			t	i
			l	a
			w	a
			ʃ	\$

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A portrait of Dr. David J. Schwab, a man with dark, curly hair and glasses, smiling. He is wearing a patterned jacket. The background is a blurred green lawn and trees.

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2  $^*s\bar{f}$ ,  $^*s3$ ,  $^*z\bar{f}$ ,  $^*z3$ ,  $^*f\bar{s}$ ,  $^*3\bar{s}$ ,  $^*f\bar{z}$ ,  $^*3\bar{z}$

\$ s \$  
| |  
\* \$ h a s x i n t i l a w a \$

\$                  \$  
|                  |  
\$ ha xintilawa \$

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\$      s      ʃ      \$  
|      |      |      |  
\*\$ h a s x i n t i l a w a ʃ \$

\$      ʃ           ʃ      \$  
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# Why is TSL Interesting?

- ▶ Linguistically natural
- ▶ Correct and very efficient learning algorithm (Jardine and McMullin 2017)
- ▶ Low resource demands  $\Rightarrow$  cognitively plausible
- ▶ Captures wide range of phonotactic dependencies
- ▶ Cannot generate unattested patterns

## Example: First-Last Harmony

- ▶ Harmony only holds between initial and final segments
- ▶ Linguistically plausible, yet unattested

\$ h a **s** x i n t i l a w a **j** \$

\*\$ **s** t a j a n o w o n w a **j** \$

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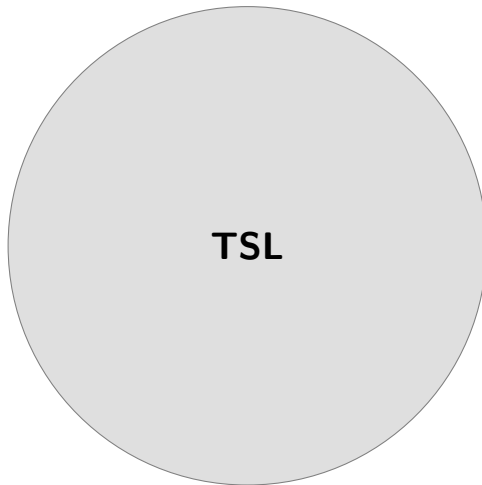
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\$	h	a	s	x	i	n	t	i	l	a	w	a	∫	\$

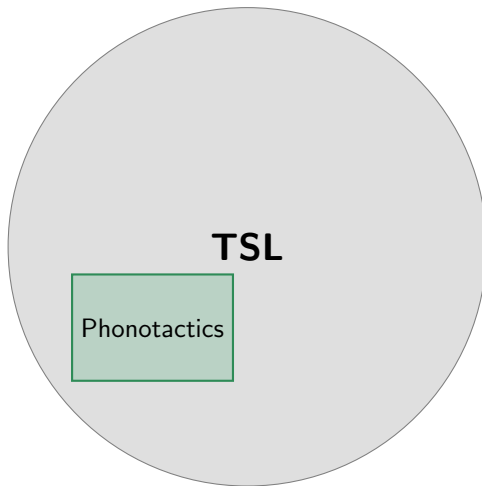
	\$	s							∫	\$					
*	\$	s	t	a	j	a	n	o	w	o	n	w	a	∫	\$



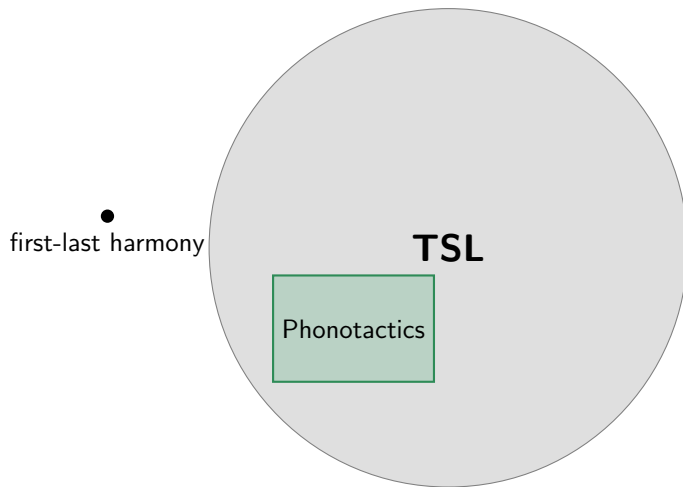
# Place of Phonotactics



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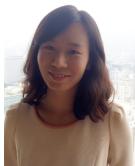


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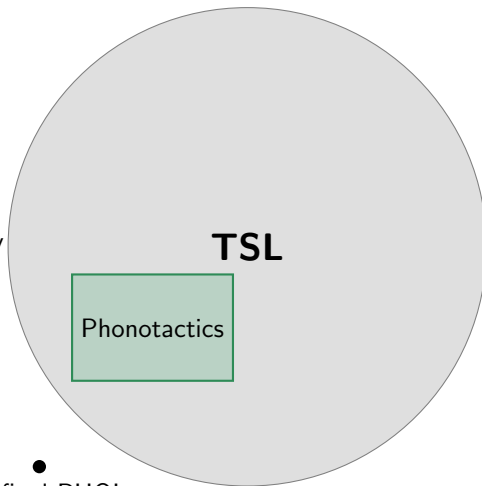


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•  
first-last harmony

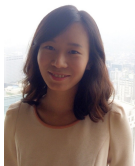


•  
non-final RHOL

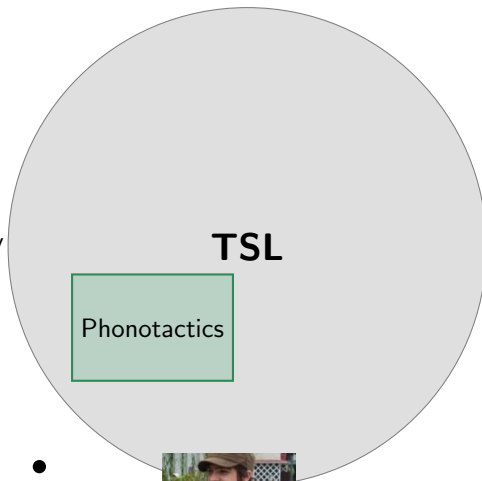


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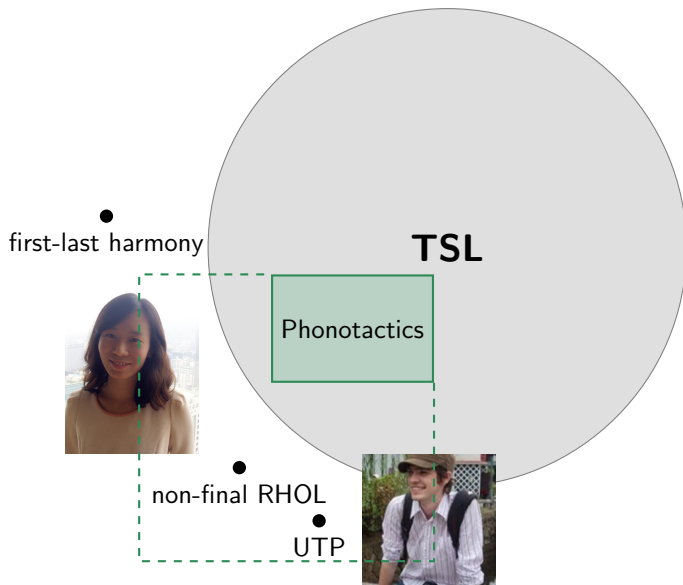
•  
first-last harmony



•  
non-final RHOL  
•  
UTP



# Place of Phonotactics



# Going Beyond Phonology

TSL provides a good fit for phonological dependencies.

## The \$10<sup>6</sup> Question

Is TSL also a good fit for other linguistic structures?

- ▶ Morphology?
- ▶ (Morpho-)Semantics?
- ▶ Syntax?

# TSL Morphology



**Alëna Aksënova**



**Sophie Moradi**

- ▶ Joint work with Alëna Aksënova and Sophie Moradi.
- ▶ It seems that **morphotactics is also TSL**.  
(Aksënova et al. 2016)



## Example: Unbounded *the day after*-Prefixation in German

- ▶ German has a prefix **über**.
- ▶ This prefix can be freely combined with *morgen* 'tomorrow'.

### Example

<i>morgen</i>	tomorrow
<b>über</b> + <i>morgen</i>	the day after tomorrow
( <b>über</b> +) <sup>n</sup> <i>morgen</i>	(the day after) <sup>n</sup> tomorrow

### TSL Description

**Tier:** **über**, stem boundary +

#### Constraint

*über* must be prefix

#### Bigrams

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\$	<b>über</b>	<b>über</b>	+			+	<b>über</b>	\$
\$	<b>über</b>	<b>über</b>	+	<i>morgen</i>	+	<b>über</b>	\$	

# Example: Bounded *the day after*-Circumfixation in Ilocano

- Ilocano has a circumfix **ka-** **-an**.
- This prefix can be combined once with *bigát* 'tomorrow'.

## Example

	<i>bigát</i>	tomorrow
	<b>ka</b> + <i>bigát</i> + <b>an</b>	the day after tomorrow
*	( <b>ka</b> ) <sup>n</sup> + <i>bigát</i> +( <b>an</b> ) <sup>n</sup>	(the day after) <sup>n</sup> tomorrow

## TSL Description

**Tier:** *ka*, *an*, stem boundary +

### Constraint

**ka** must be prefix

**an** must be suffix

**ka** before **an**

no iteration

no lonely affix

### Bigrams

\*+ **ka**

\***an** +

\***an ka**

\***ka ka**, \***an an**

\***ka** ++ \$, \*\$++ **an**

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\$	<b>an</b>	<b>ka</b>	<b>ka</b>	+			+	\$
\$	<b>an</b>	<b>ka</b>	<b>ka</b>	+	<i>bigát</i>	+		\$

# Typological Gap: No Unbounded Circumfixation

- ▶ There seems to be no language with an affix that is
  - ▶ freely iterable like German **über**, and
  - ▶ a circumfix like **ka-** **-an** in Ilocano.
- ▶ Why this gap? Because the **result would not be TSL!**

## Explanation

- ▶ The pattern would be **ka<sup>n</sup>** + *bigát* + **an<sup>n</sup>**.
- ▶ TSL cannot memorize exact numbers.
- ▶ All affixes would have to be visible in the same search window.
- ▶ But the window's size is bounded, while the pattern is not.

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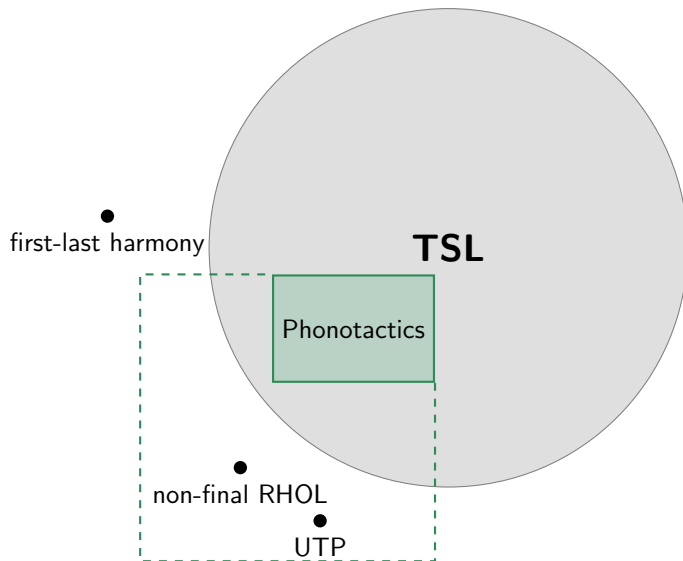
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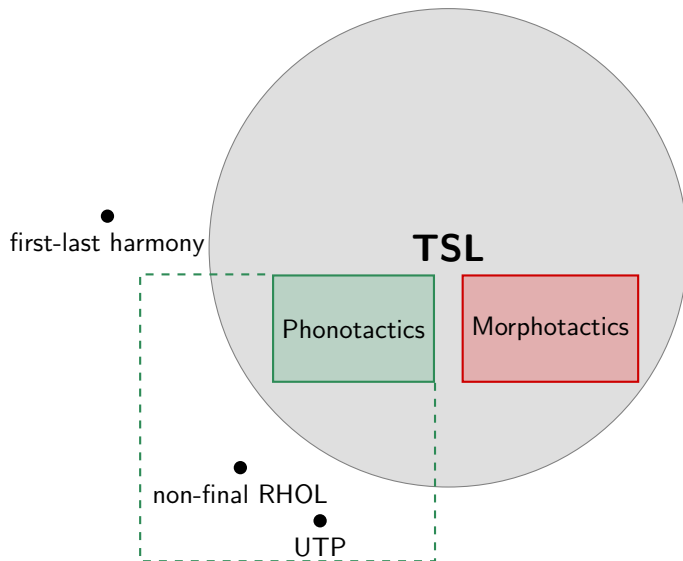
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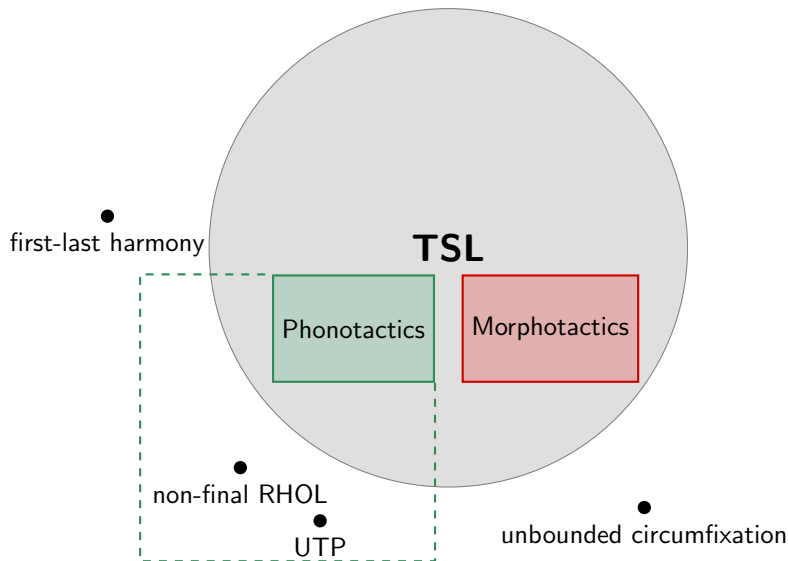
# Place of Morphotactics



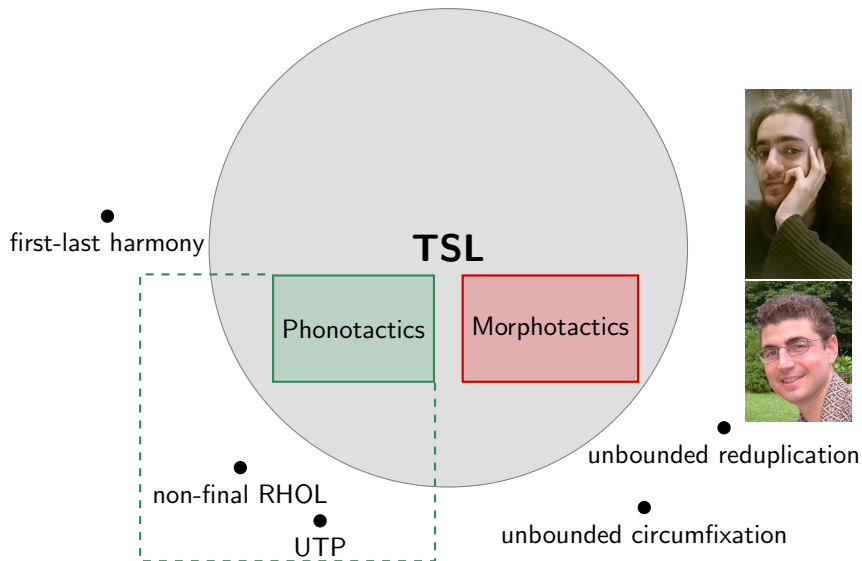
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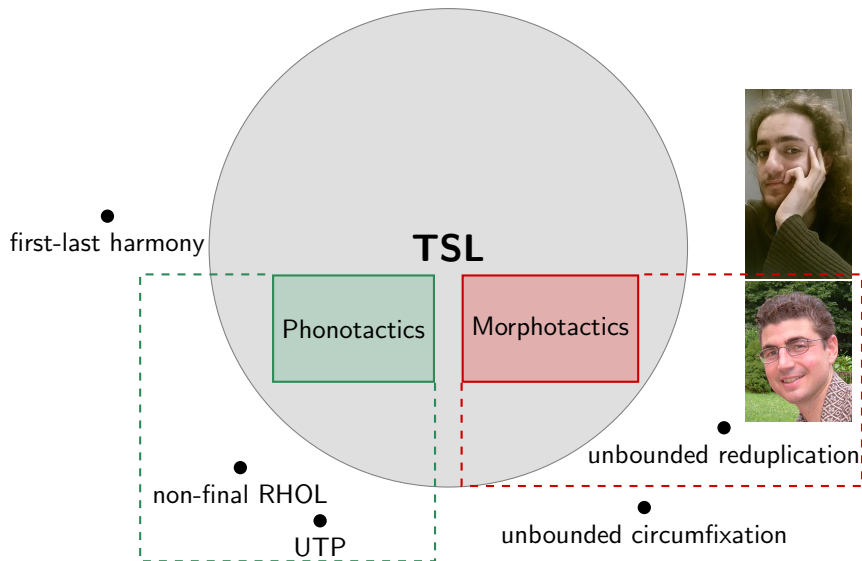
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# TSL Morpho-Semantics?

The importance of TSL for word structure seems to extend even into semantics.

## Case Study: Generalized Quantifiers (Graf 2017d)

A generalized quantifier may have a monomorphemic realization only if its quantifier language is TSL.

## Quantifier Languages (van Benthem 1986)

- (1) a. Every student cheated.  
b. No student cheated.  
c. Some student cheated.  
d. Three students cheated.

<b>students</b>	John	Mary	Sue
<b>cheated</b>	yes	no	yes
<b>string</b>	Y	N	Y

- ▶ (1a): **False**, because the string contains a N
- ▶ (1b): **False**, because the string contains a Y
- ▶ (1c): **True**, because the string contains a Y
- ▶ (1d): **False**, because the string does not contain three Ys

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# TSL Descriptions for Quantifier Languages

Quantifier	Constraint	$n$ -grams	Tier
every	$ N  = 0$	$*N$	none
no	$ Y  = 0$	$*Y$	none
some	$ Y  \geq 1$	$*\$ \$$	Y
at least $n$	$ Y  \geq n$	$*\$ 1^m \$$ ( $m < n$ )	Y
at most $n$	$ Y  \leq n$	$*Y^{n+1}$	Y

## Example

\$	Y		Y	\$	some	$*\$ \$$	True
					at least 2	$*\$ \$, *\$ Y \$$	True
					at least 3	$*\$ \$, *\$ Y \$, *\$ Y Y \$$	False
\$	Y	N	Y	\$	at most 2	$*Y Y Y$	True

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# Overview of Quantifier Languages

If a quantifier language is **not TSL**,  
then its quantifier **cannot be monomorphemic** in any language.

Quantifier	TSL?	Tier	Mono. (Paperno 2011)
every	yes	none	yes
no	yes	none	yes
some	yes	Y	yes
(at least) two	yes	Y	yes
(at most) two	yes	Y	yes
not all	yes	N	no
all but one	yes	N	no
even number	no		no
prime number	no		no
infinitely many	no		no
most	no		???

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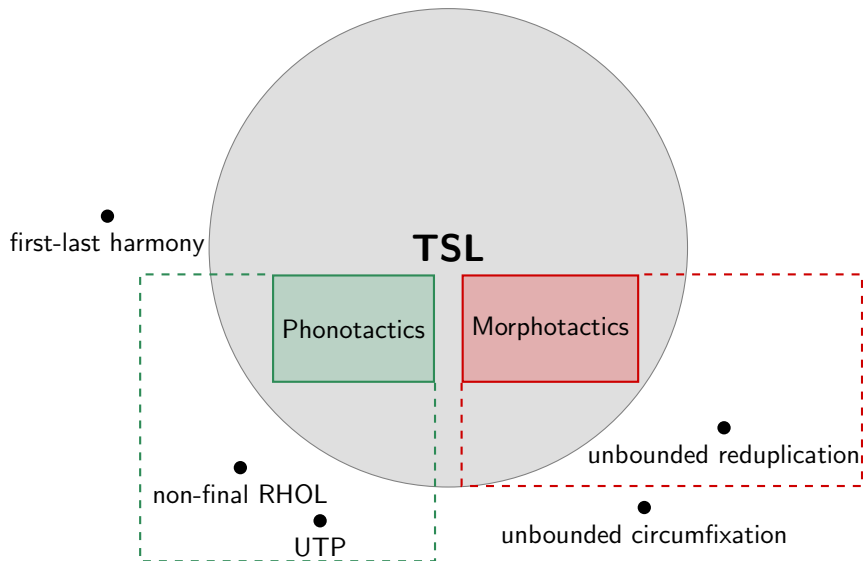
## The Case of *most*

There is good semantic evidence that “most” is internally complex and hence **not monomorphemic**. (Hackl 2009)

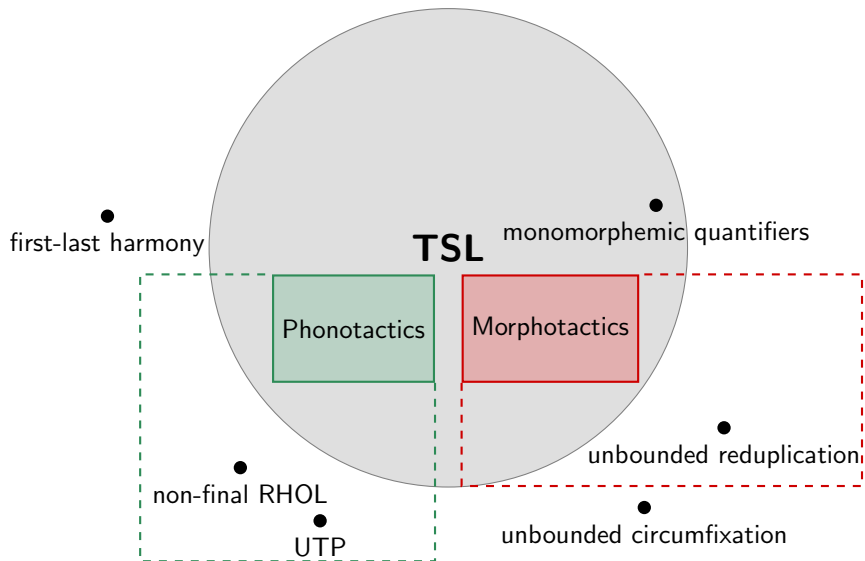
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infinitely many	no		no
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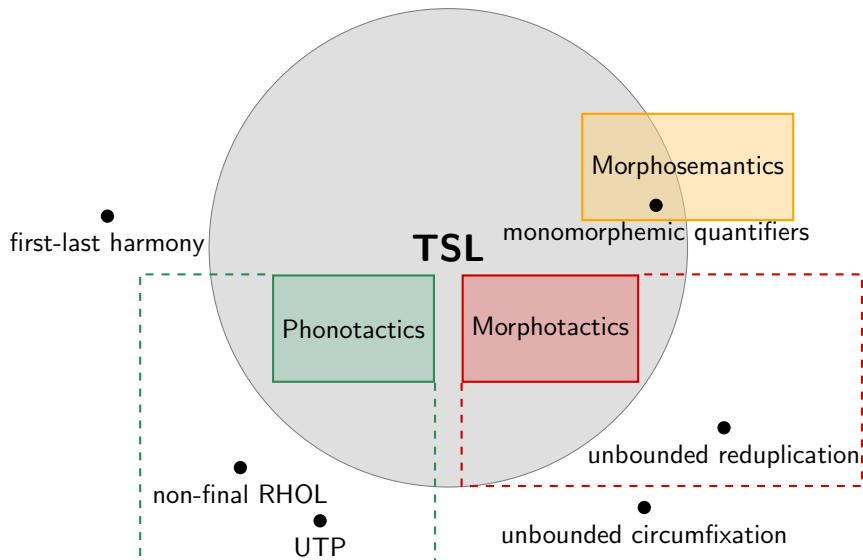
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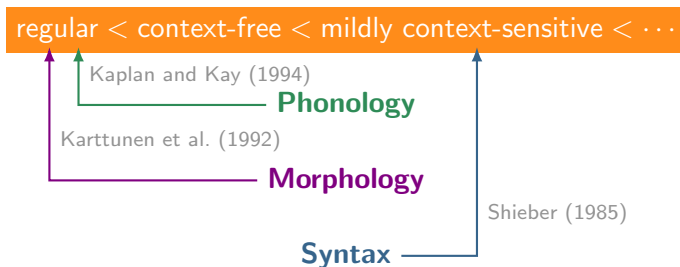
# Place of Morphosemantics



# Place of Morphosemantics



# Against the Received View



- ▶ This is about strings.
- ▶ Syntax is about **trees**!

# Minimalist Grammars



Ed Stabler

- ▶ Minimalist grammars (MGs) are a formalization of Minimalist syntax. (Stabler 1997, 2011)
- ▶ Operations: **Merge** and **Move**
- ▶ Adopt Chomsky-Borer hypothesis: Grammar is just a finite list of feature-annotated lexical items

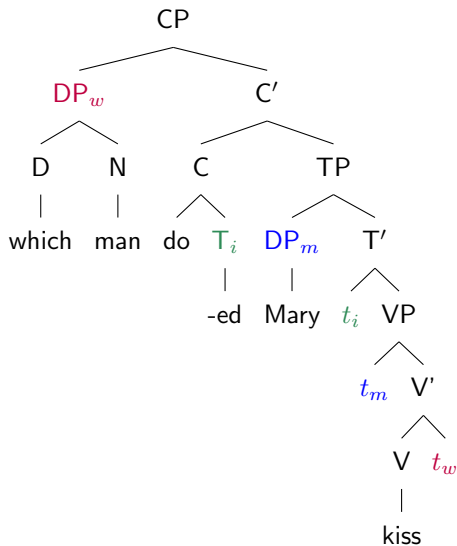
## Chemistry

atoms  
electrons  
molecules

## Syntax

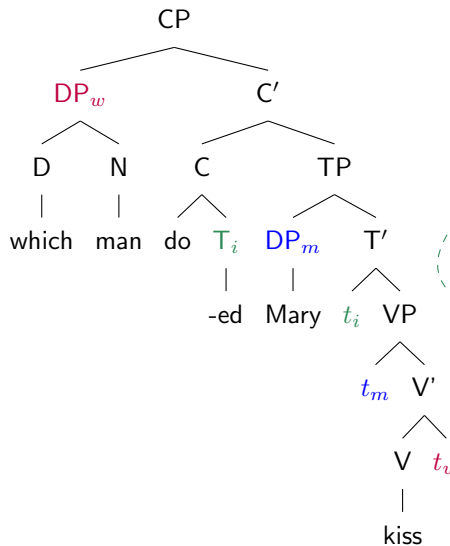
words  
features  
sentences

# MG Syntax in Action

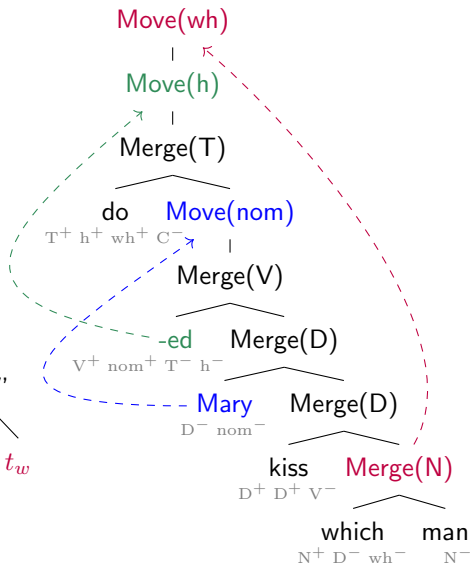


Phrase Structure Tree

# MG Syntax in Action



Phrase Structure Tree



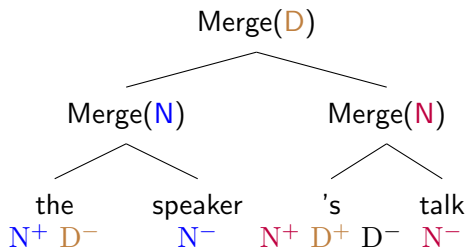
Derivation Tree

# The Central Role of Derivation Trees

- ▶ Derivation trees are rarely considered in generative syntax.  
(but see Epstein et al. 1998)
- ▶ Satisfy Chomsky's structural desiderata:
  - ▶ no linear order
  - ▶ label-free
  - ▶ extension condition
  - ▶ inclusiveness condition
- ▶ Contain all information to produce phrase structure trees  
⇒ **central data structure** of Minimalist syntax



# Merge is TSL

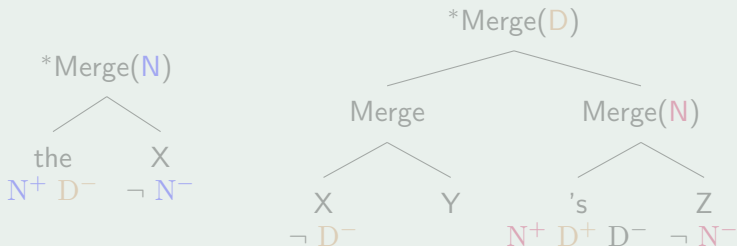


- ▶ The selector features of the head have to match the category features of the arguments.
- ▶ Since every head has a bounded number of arguments, the **distance between those features is bounded**.
- ▶ So Merge establishes only local dependencies.

# Tier-Less Description for Merge

- ▶ We need to lift string  $n$ -grams to **tree  $n$ -grams**.
- ▶ Instead of strings of length  $n$ , use subtrees of depth  $n$ .
- ▶ Each subtree encodes a constraint on the derivation.

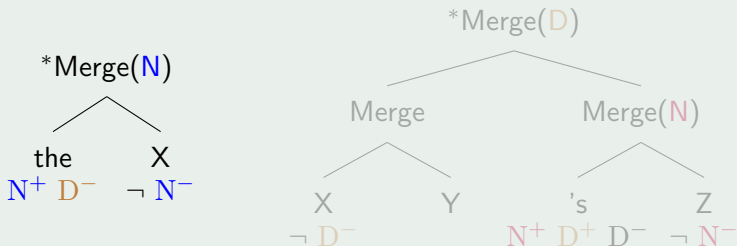
## Example



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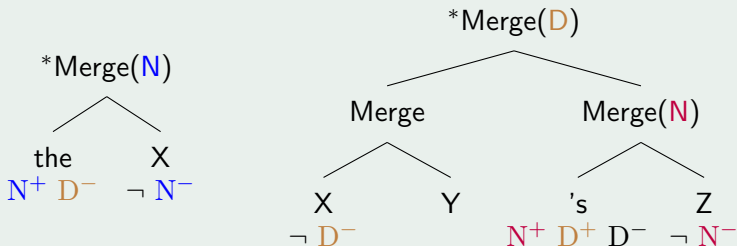
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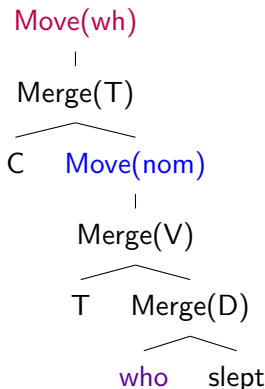
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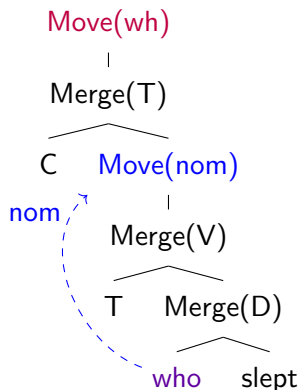
## Move: Single Movement Normal Form

- ▶ **Assumption:** every phrase at most one movement feature
- ▶ Intermediate landing sites not feature-triggered  
(Graf et al. 2016)



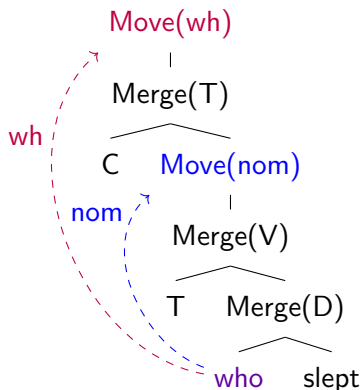
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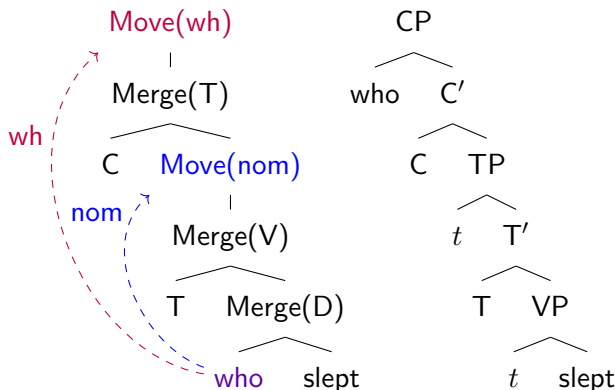
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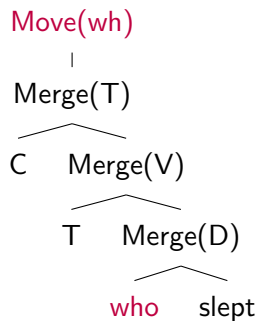
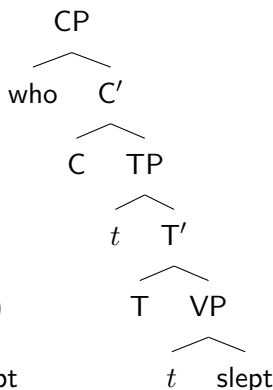
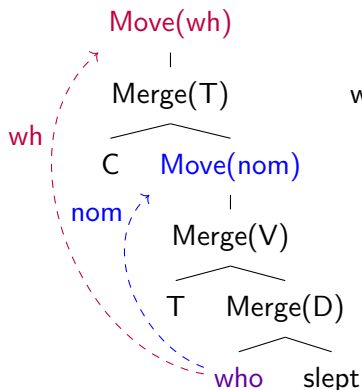
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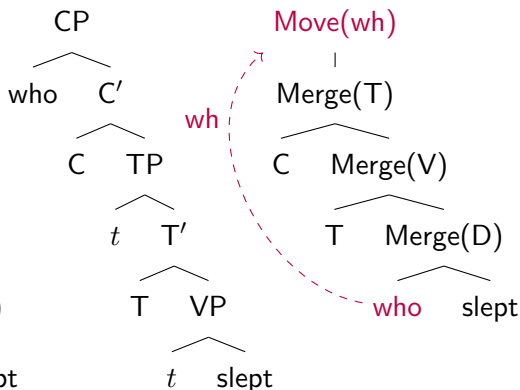
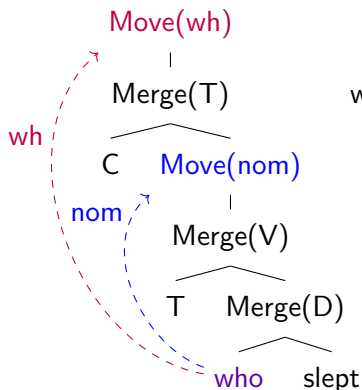
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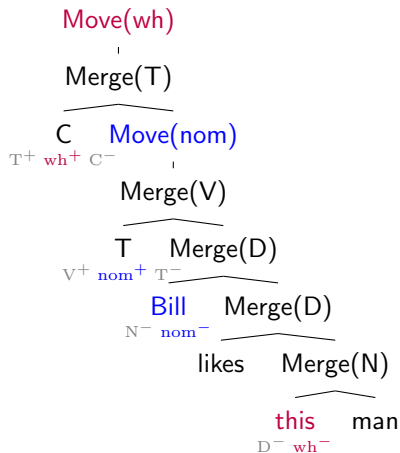
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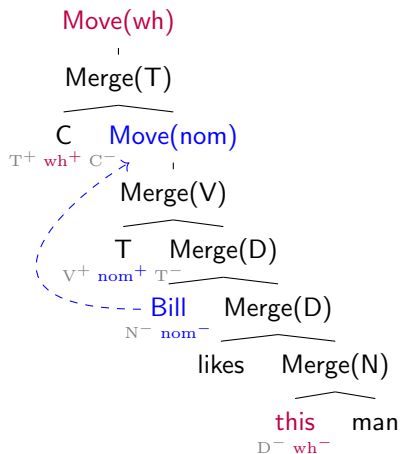
# Move Tiers

- Movement is not unbounded.
- But maybe it is still TSL?



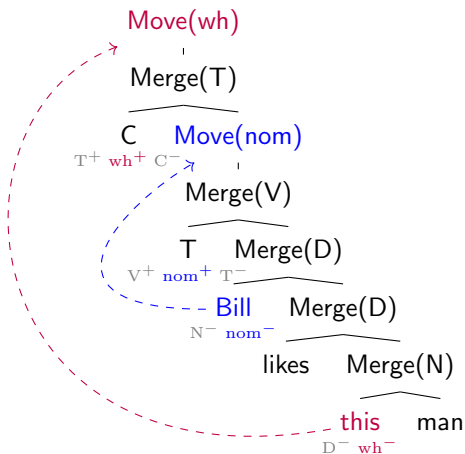
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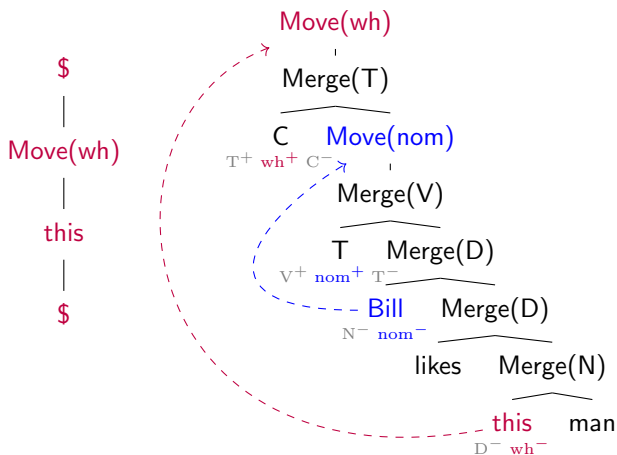
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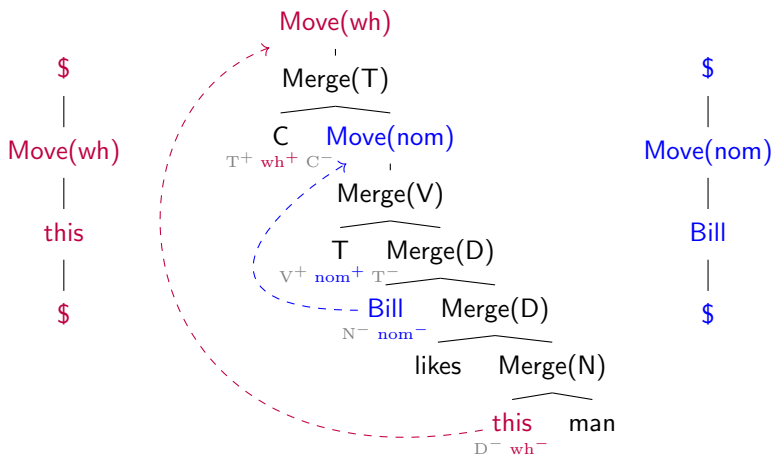
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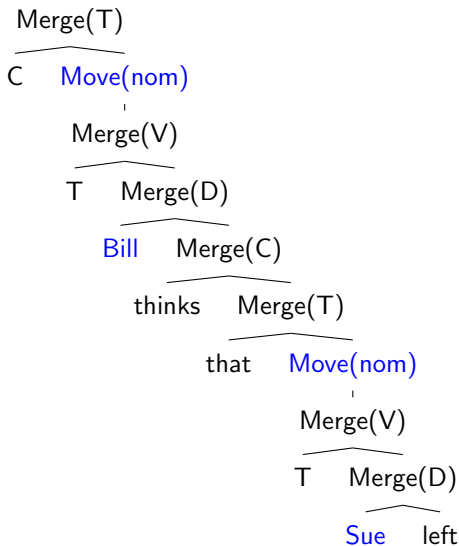


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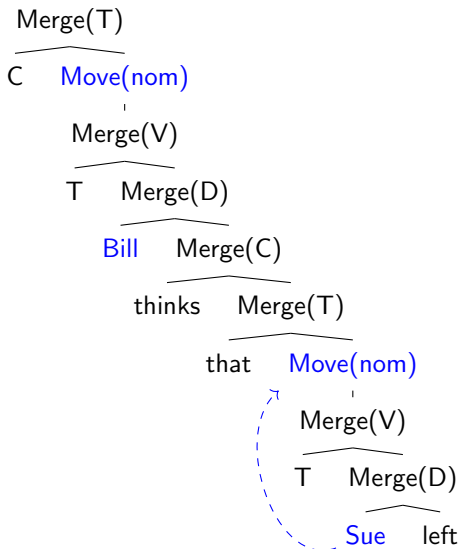


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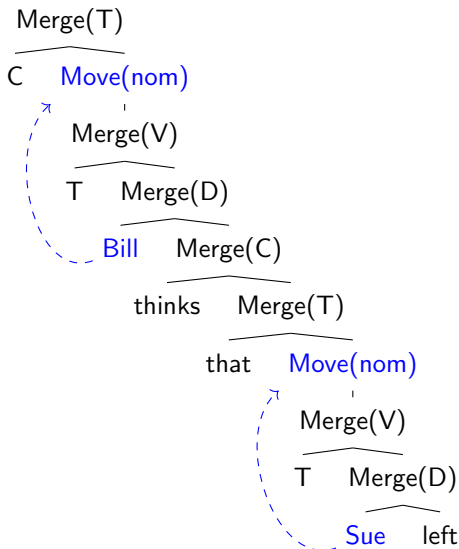




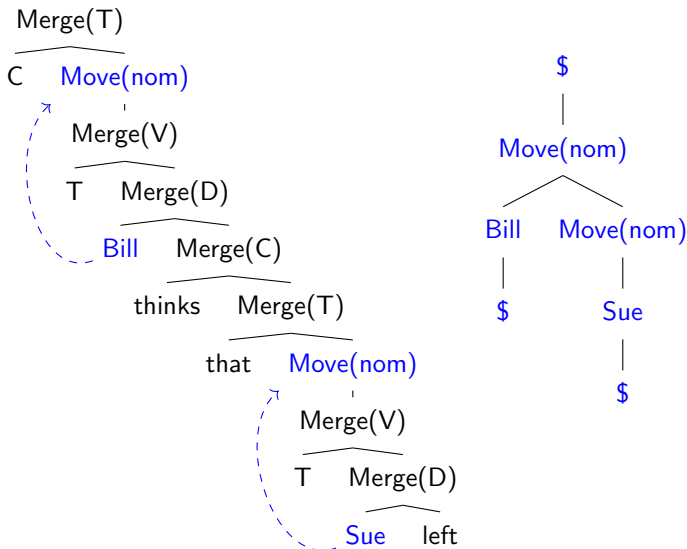
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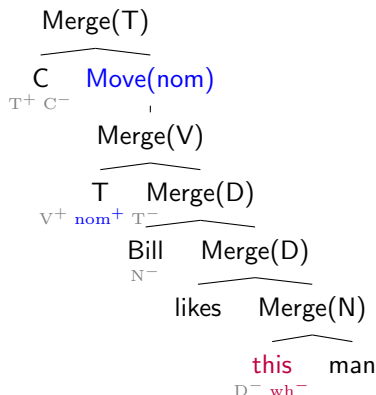
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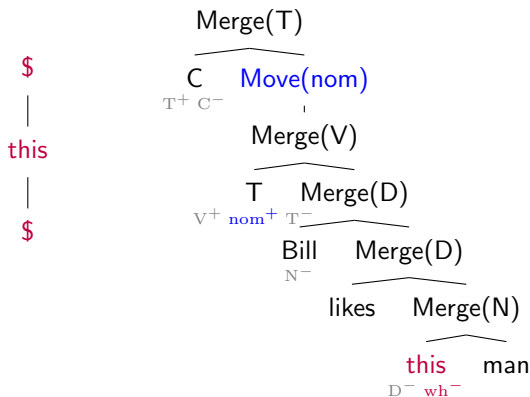


# Blocking Simple Cases of Illicit Movement



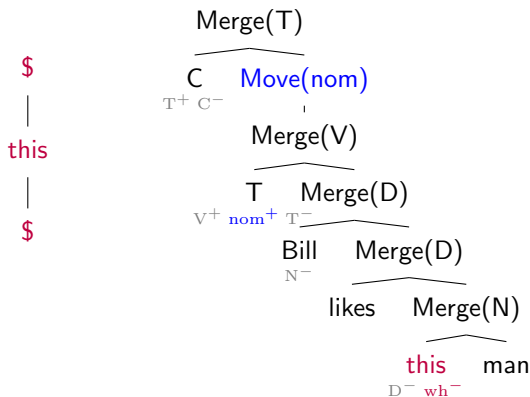
TSL Grammar for Move

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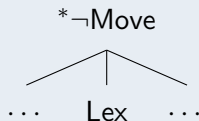


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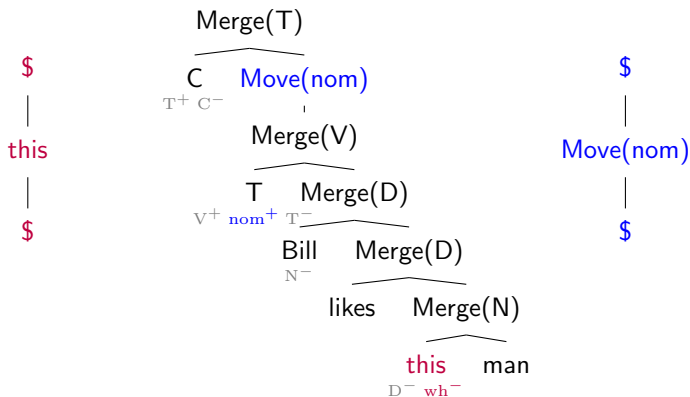
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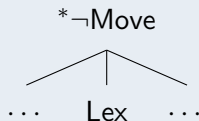
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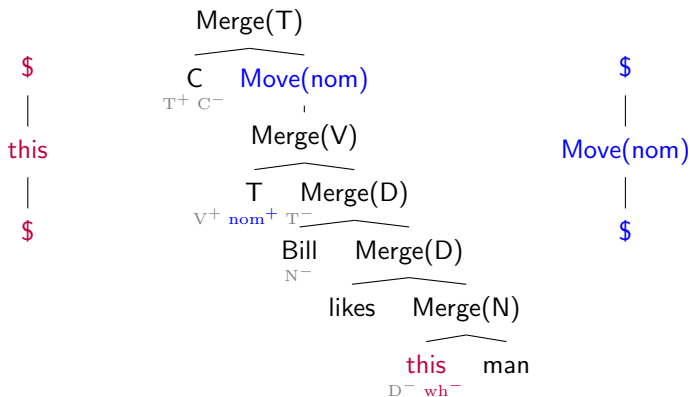
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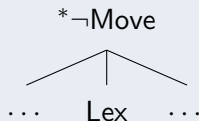
## TSL Grammar for Move



# Blocking Simple Cases of Illicit Movement



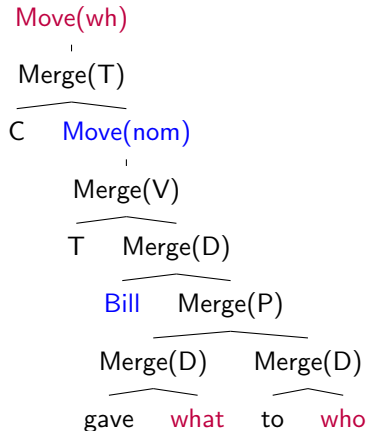
## TSL Grammar for Move





# Shortest Move Constraint

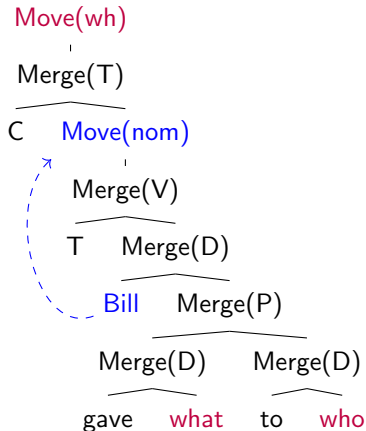
- (2) \* **What**<sub>*i*</sub> did John wonder **who**<sub>*j*</sub> Bill gave **t**<sub>*i*</sub> to **t**<sub>*j*</sub>?



SMC Movers must not target the same position.

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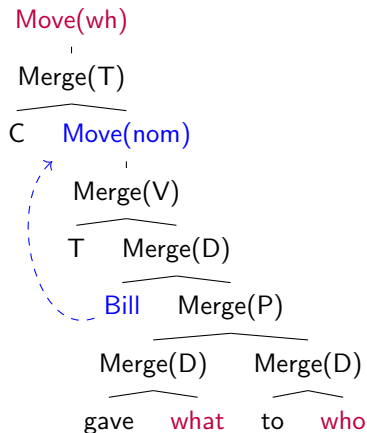
- (2) \* **What<sub>i</sub>** did John wonder **who<sub>j</sub>** Bill gave **t<sub>i</sub>** to **t<sub>j</sub>**?



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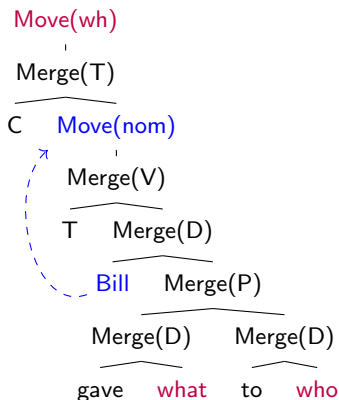
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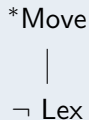
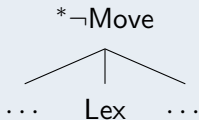


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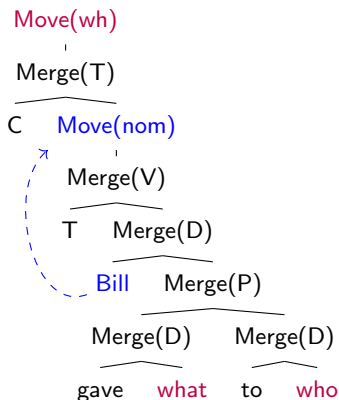
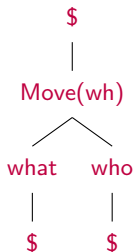
# The Full TSL Description



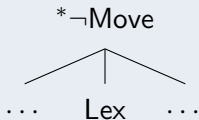
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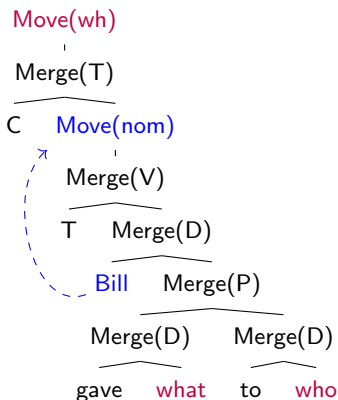
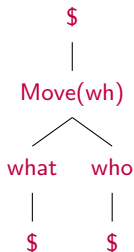
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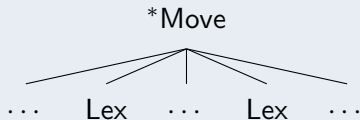
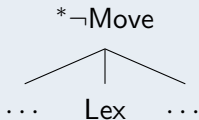
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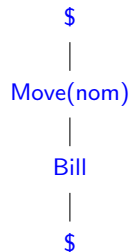
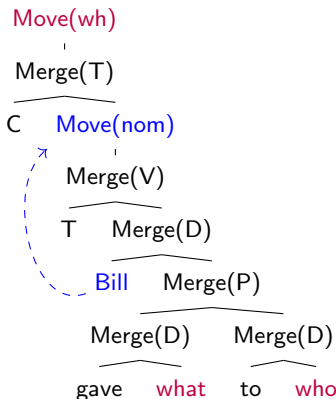
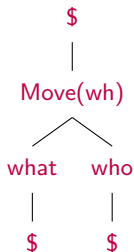
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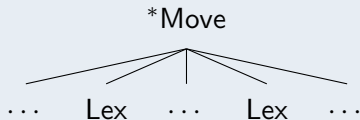
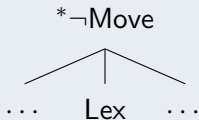
## TSL Grammar for Move



# The Full TSL Description



## TSL Grammar for Move



# Upward versus Downward Movement

- ▶ Without intermediate movement, **upward movement is TSL**.
- ▶ Nice and dandy, but what does it tell us about syntax?

## Why is There No Downward Movement?

Downward = movement to c-commanded position

Usually ruled out by Extension Condition, but...

- ▶ Head movement
- ▶ Affix hopping
- ▶ Late adjunction
- ▶ Tucking in



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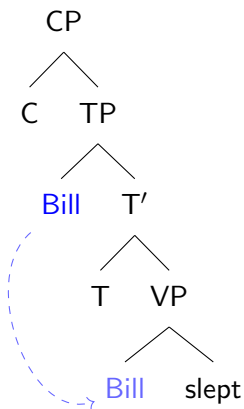
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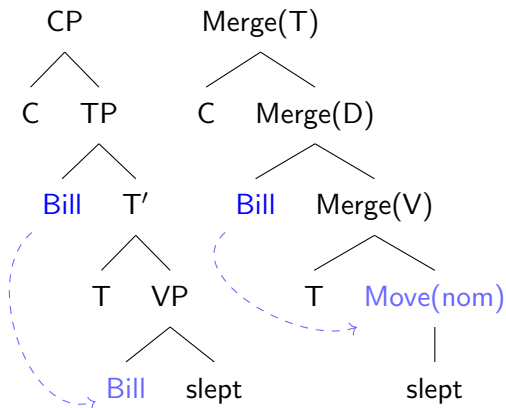
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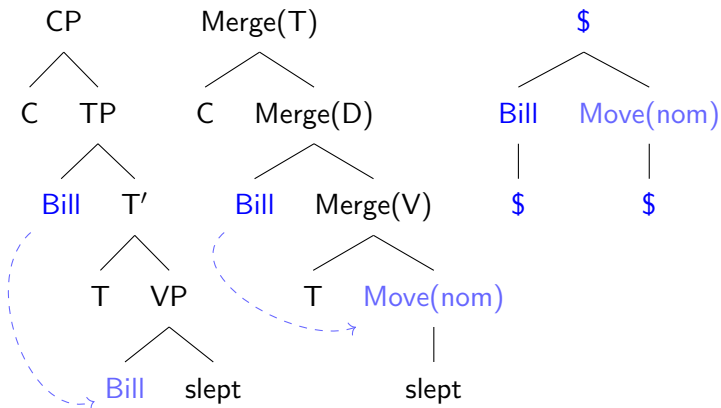
## Downward Movement in MGs (Graf 2012b, 2014a)



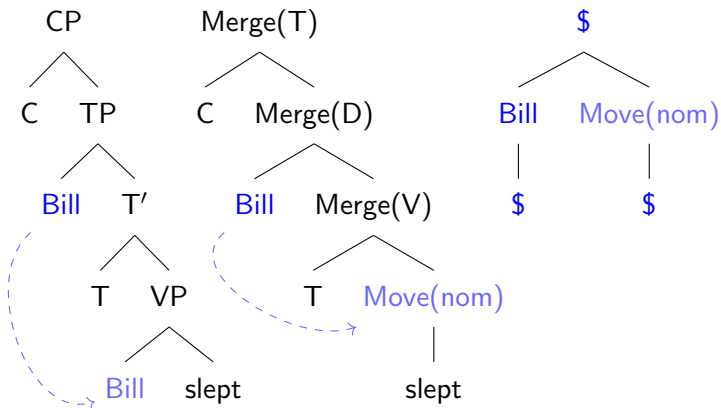
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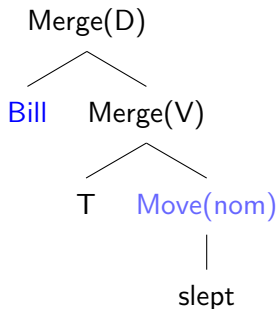


# Downward Movement in MGs (Graf 2012b, 2014a)



Downward movement is **not TSL**, because ...

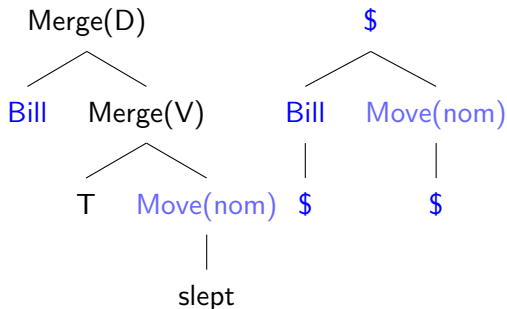
# C-Command is not TSL



## Important Questions

- ▶ Should c-command always be reanalyzed as movement?
- ▶ movement : constraints = segmental : suprasegmental?
- ▶ Phonological/Morphological c-command?

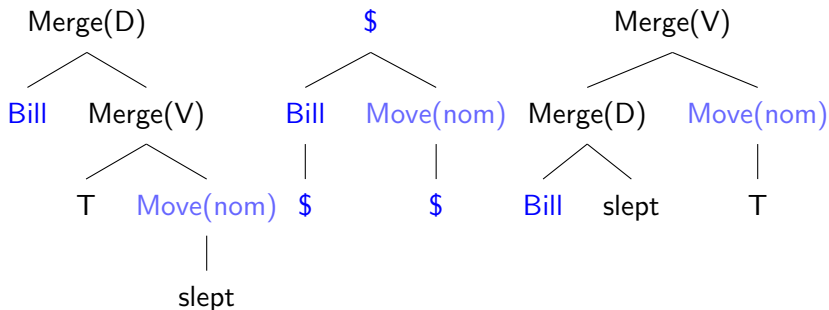
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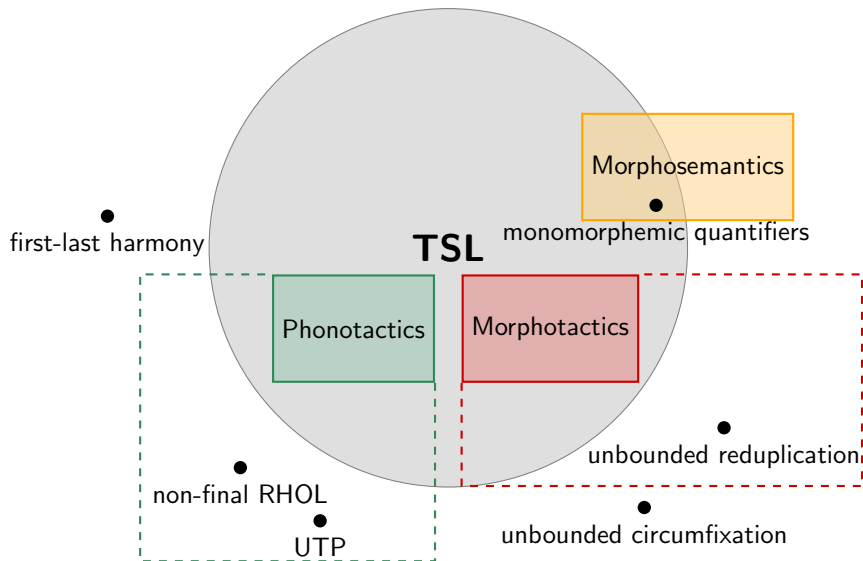


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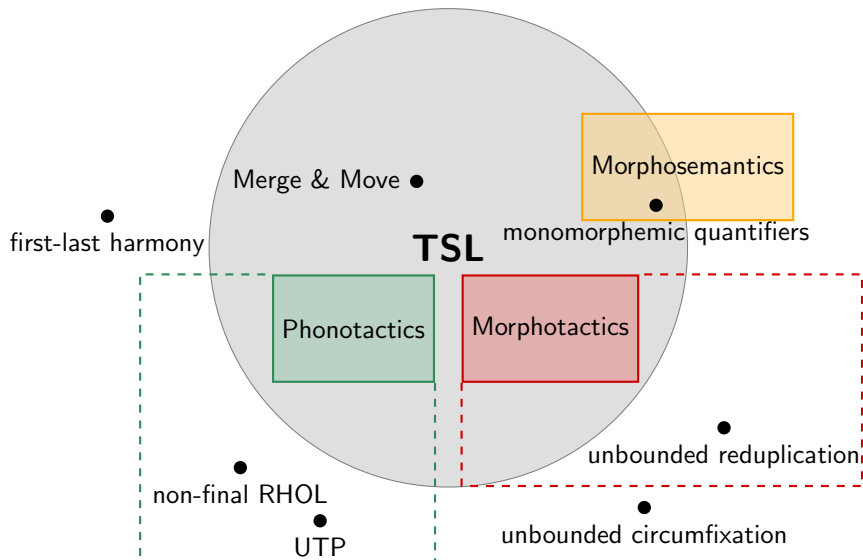
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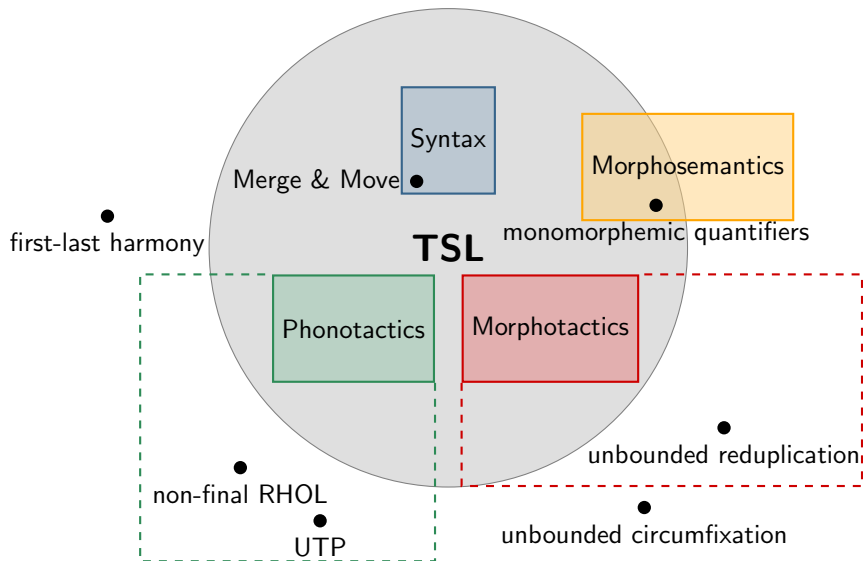
# The Full TSL Picture



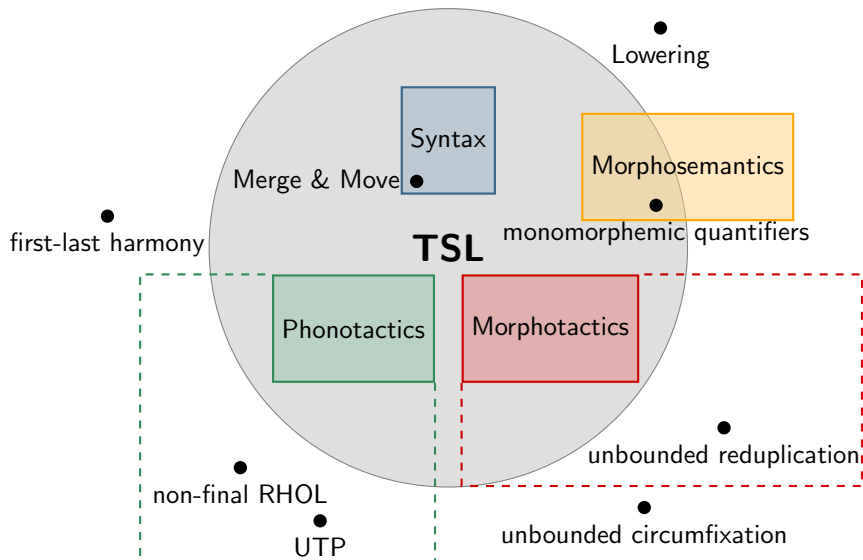
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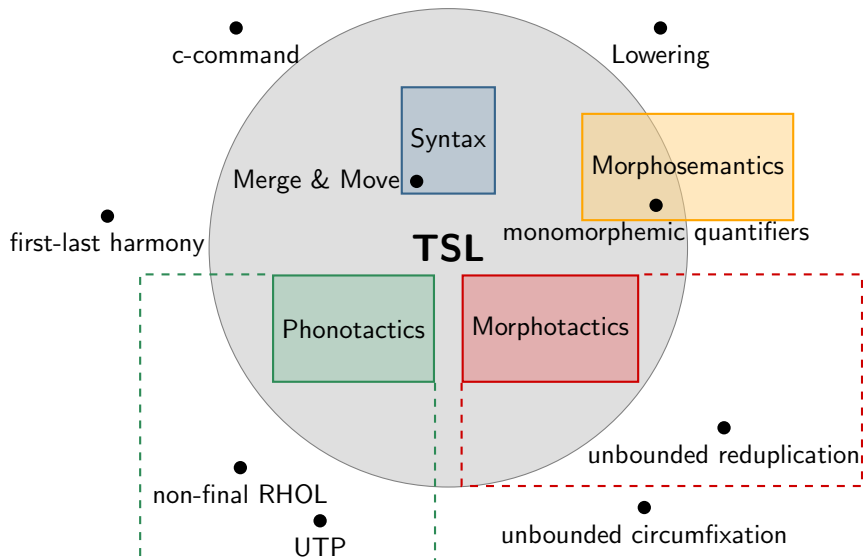
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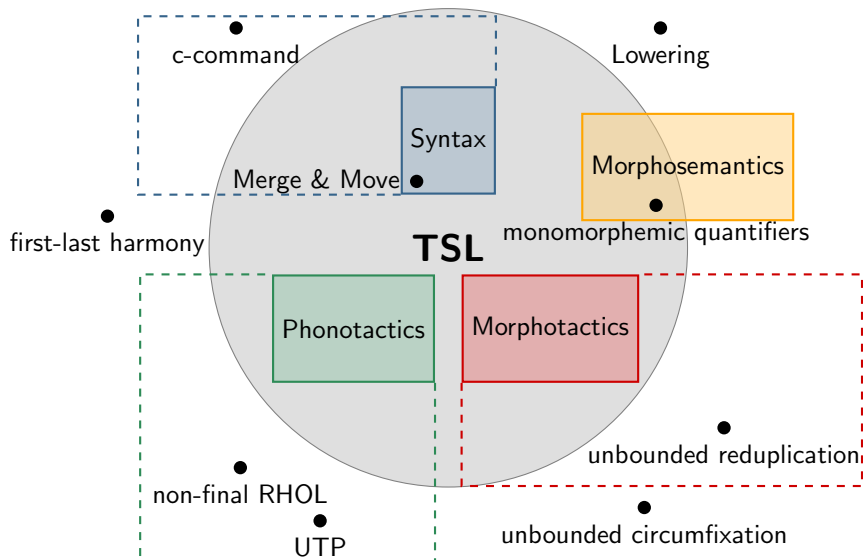
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# The Full TSL Picture



# The Full TSL Picture



# This is Just the Tip of the Iceberg

## Mappings



**Jane Chandlee**

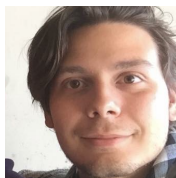
## Representations



**Adam Jardine**

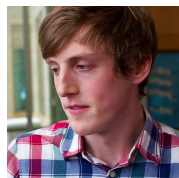
@3:15

## Beyond TSL



**Aniello De Santo**

## Sign language



**Jon Rawski**

@3:45

... and many open questions

# What CompLing Can Do For You

- ▶ Computational linguistics is not a field, it is a **perspective**:
  - ▶ What patterns are truly complex?
  - ▶ How complex can dependencies be?
  - ▶ Are some analyses simpler than others?
- ▶ As in any formalism, interplay of theory and data:
  - ▶ new typological claims
  - ▶ deeper understanding of formalism through data
  - ▶ new empirical questions
  - ▶ unification of diverse data points
  - ▶ learnability
  - ▶ direct ties to cognition
- ▶ It's just another tool. The more tools, the better!



# What You Can Do For CompLing

**Everybody can contribute!**

- ▶ Do you have data that contradicts our predictions?
- ▶ probe the status of c-command in syntax
- ▶ grammar fragments
- ▶ artificial language learning experiments
- ▶ processing experiments

## Resources and Readings

- 1 Survey papers:** Pullum and Rogers (2006); Heinz (2011a,b, 2015); Rogers and Pullum (2011); Chandlee and Heinz (2016)
- 2 TSL and its extensions:** Heinz et al. (2011); McMullin (2016); Baek (2017); De Santo (2017); De Santo and Graf (2017); Graf (2017c)
- 3 TSL morphology:** Aksënova et al. (2016); Graf (2017b)
- 4 TSL morpho-semantics:** Graf (2017d)
- 5 TSL syntax:** Graf (2012a); Graf and Heinz (2016)
- 6 Mappings:** Courcelle and Engelfriet (2012); Chandlee (2014, 2016); Jardine (2016)
- 7 Learnability:** Heinz (2010); Kasprzik and Kötzing (2010); Heinz et al. (2012); Jardine et al. (2014); Lai (2015); Jardine and Heinz (2016); Jardine and McMullin (2017)

# Appendix

# Psychological Reality of Derivation Trees

Central role of derivation trees backed up by **processing data**:

- ▶ Derivation trees can be parsed top-down (Stabler 2013)
- ▶ Parsing models update Derivational Theory of Complexity, make correct processing predictions for
  - ▶ right < center embedding (Kobele et al. 2012)
  - ▶ crossing < nested dependencies (Kobele et al. 2012)
  - ▶ SC-RC < RC-SC (Graf et al. 2017)
  - ▶ SRC < ORC in English (Graf et al. 2017)
  - ▶ SRC < ORC in East-Asian (Graf et al. 2017)
  - ▶ quantifier scope preferences (Pasternak 2016)
  - ▶ stacked relative clauses (Zhang 2017)
  - ▶ Korean attachment ambiguities

# Technical Fertility of Derivation Trees

Derivation trees made it easy for MGs to accommodate the full syntactic toolbox:

- ▶ sideways movement (Stabler 2006; Graf 2013)
- ▶ affix hopping (Graf 2012b, 2013)
- ▶ clustering movement (Gärtner and Michaelis 2010)
- ▶ tucking in (Graf 2013)
- ▶ ATB movement (Kobele 2008)
- ▶ copy movement (Kobele 2006)
- ▶ extraposition (Hunter and Frank 2014)
- ▶ Late Merge (Kobele 2010; Graf 2014a)
- ▶ Agree (Kobele 2011; Graf 2012a)
- ▶ adjunction (Fowlie 2013; Graf 2014b; Hunter 2015)
- ▶ TAG-style adjunction (Graf 2012c)

# Even More MG Extensions

- ▶ local and global constraints (Kobele 2011; Graf 2012a, 2017a)
- ▶ transderivational constraints (Graf 2010, 2013)
- ▶ Principle A and B (Graf and Abner 2012)
- ▶ GPSG-style feature percolation (Kobele 2008)
- ▶ idioms (Kobele 2012)
- ▶ grafts (multi-rooted multi-dominance trees) (Graf in progress)

## Long Story Short

Derivation trees are a more useful and fertile data structure than phrase structure trees.

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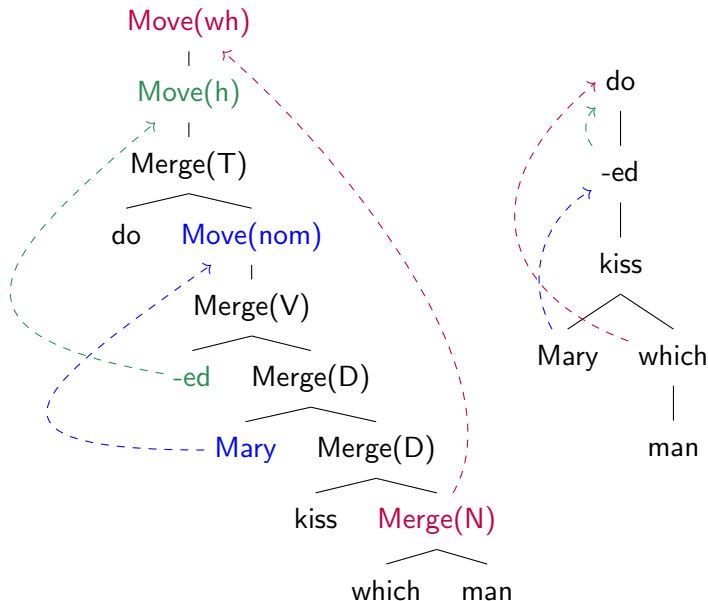
Derivation trees are a more useful and fertile data structure than phrase structure trees.

## More on C-Command

- ▶ C-command-like relations can be added
- ▶ Useful for some phonological phenomena:
  - ▶ non-final RHOL
  - ▶ bounded harmony due to long-distance blocking in Copperbelt Bemba
  - ▶ long-distance blocking of local dissimilation in Samala



# “Dependency” Derivation Trees



# Sideward Movement

- Move anywhere except m-commanded positions

Relation	TSL?
move upward	yes
move anywhere	yes
m-command	no
sideward	no

- **But:** m-command is TSL over dependency graphs, because it reduces to dominance  
⇒ sideward movement can be TSL

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