Minimal Search

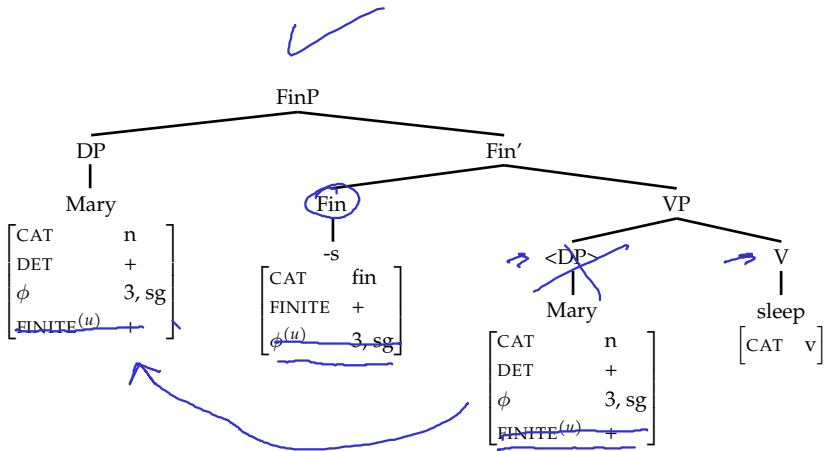*Based on Koeneman & Zeiljstra (2017)*

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Subject movement to FinP
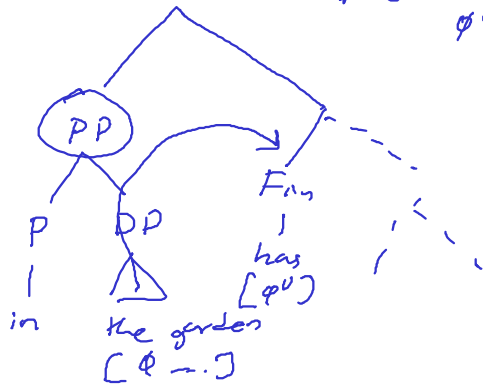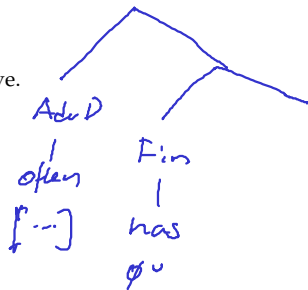
(1) Mary sleeps.

FinP
- DP
  - Mary
    $$\begin{bmatrix} \text{CAT} & \text{n} \\ \text{DET} & + \\ \phi & \text{3, sg} \\ \text{FINITE}^{(u)} & + \end{bmatrix}$$
- Fin′
  - Fin
    - -s
      $$\begin{bmatrix} \text{CAT} & \text{fin} \\ \text{FINITE} & + \\ \phi^{(u)} & \text{3, sg} \end{bmatrix}$$
  - VP
    - <DP>
      - Mary
        $$\begin{bmatrix} \text{CAT} & \text{n} \\ \text{DET} & + \\ \phi & \text{3, sg} \\ \text{FINITE}^{(u)} & + \end{bmatrix}$$
    - V
      - sleep
        $$\begin{bmatrix} \text{CAT} & \text{v} \end{bmatrix}$$

Why move the subject?

(2) a. *Often has Mary kissed Eve.
    b. *In the garden kisses Mary Eve.

$$[\emptyset \ \ldots]$$

AdvP

often

Fin

$[\ldots]$

has

$\emptyset \cup$

PP

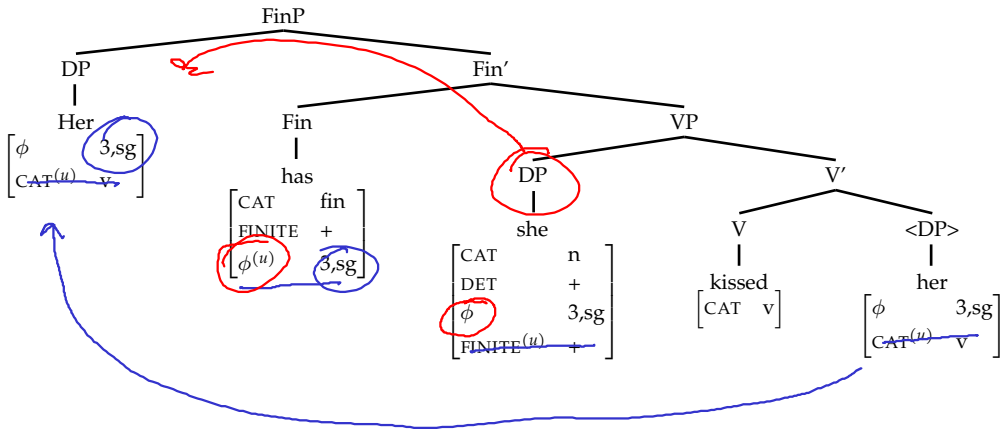P   DP

in   the garden

$[\emptyset - .]$

Fin

has

$[\emptyset \cup]$

Why move the subject?

"She has kissed her"

(3) *Her has she kissed <her>.

Minimal Search

(4) When you need to remerge a constituent with some interpretable feature $[\text{F}]$ to check off some uninterpretable feature $[\text{F}^{(u)}]$ on some other constituent, search for the closest constituent with F that is c-commanded by the element with $[\text{F}^{(u)}]$.
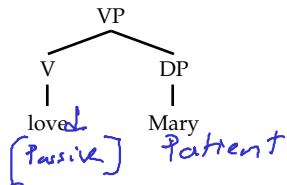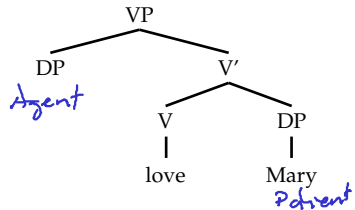
$[\text{F}^u]$

An intricacy of Minimal Search

(5) *Them have Mary loved <them>.
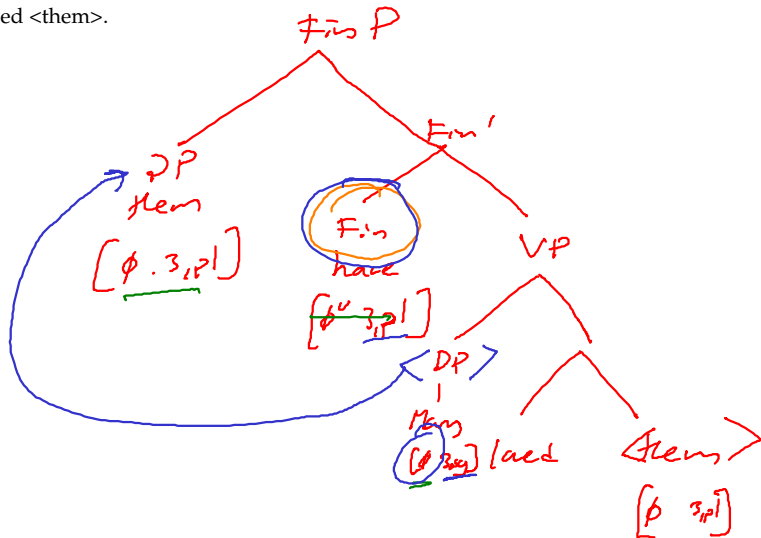
The passive

love   Agent   Pattient

~~logical subject~~

logical object

VP
- DP — Agent
- V′
  - V — love
  - DP — Mary — Pattient

VP
- V — love [Passive]
- DP — Mary — Pattient

Mary is loved.

*Him is loved

Fin P
- DP — Mary [3 sg]
- Fin′
  - Fin — is [Pres]
  - VP — loved <Mary>