

Finiteness and Case

Partly based on Koenenman & Zeilstra (2017)

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COGS 532: Theoretical Linguistics
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Case assignment: Nominative

- ▶ Do verbs also assign the nominative case?

(1) She loves her.

Case assignment: Nominative

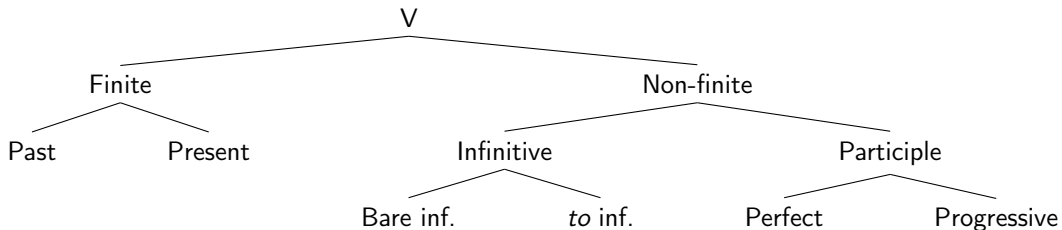
- ▶ Do verbs also assign the nominative case?

(1) She loves her.

- (2) a. She caused him to quit his job.
b. I saw her dancing.

Finiteness

- ▶ Verbal items that carry tense and/or agreement features are **finite**.
- ▶ Nominative case assignment is closely associated with finiteness.

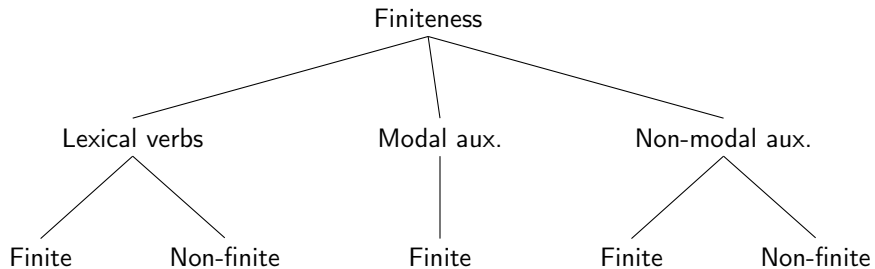


Auxiliaries

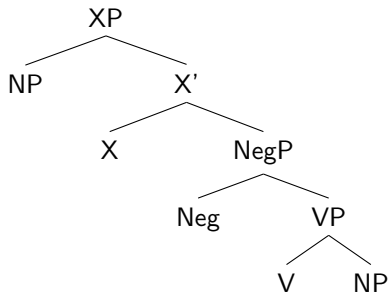
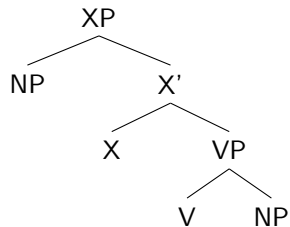
- (3)
- a. He may leave soon.
 - b. She can face the consequences.
 - c. She must accept the consequences.

► Modal auxiliaries are finite.

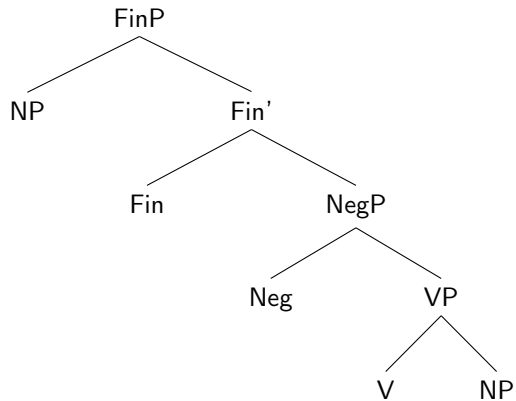
Finiteness specification



Which head assigns the Nominative?

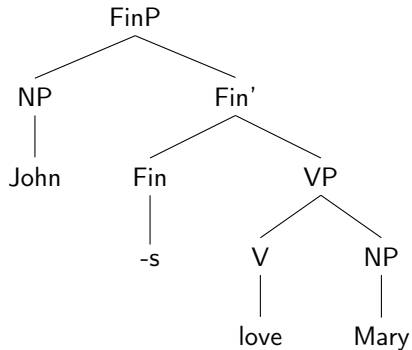


FinP

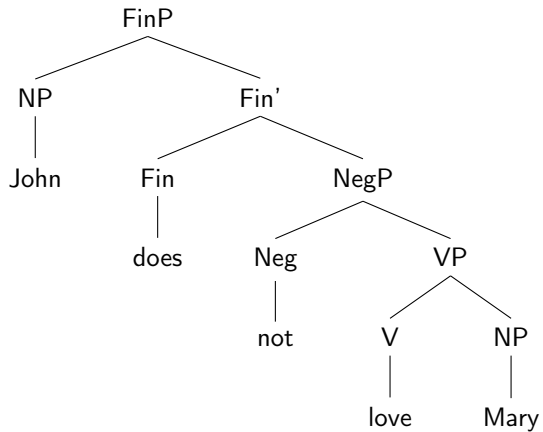


FinP and lexical verbs

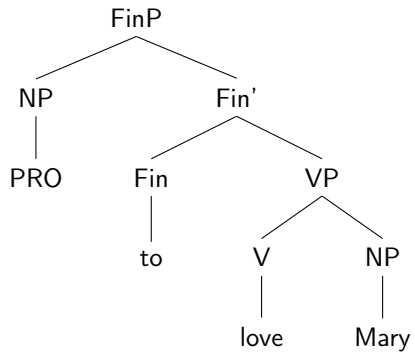
(4) John loves Mary.



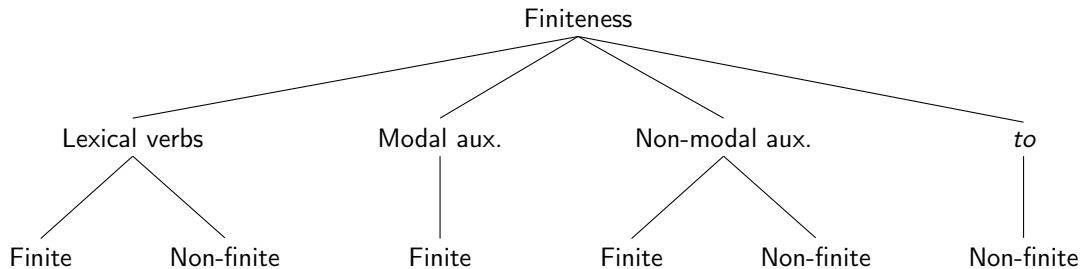
FinP and lexical verbs



to as non-finite Fin



Finiteness specification



The Case Filter

Every nominal argument must be assigned either nominative or accusative case.

