# Case as agreement

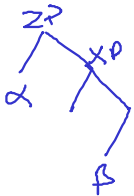
*Partly based on Koeneman & Zeiljstra (2017)*

Umut Özge

COGS 532: Theoretical Linguistics
METU, Informatics

# Agreement (to be revised)

In a tree $\Gamma$, if there is a node $\alpha$ with $\left[\mathrm{F}^{(u)}\right]$, then there needs to be another node $\beta$ with $\left[\mathrm{F}\right]$, such that there are no maximal projection nodes that include $\alpha$ without including $\beta$ or vice versa.



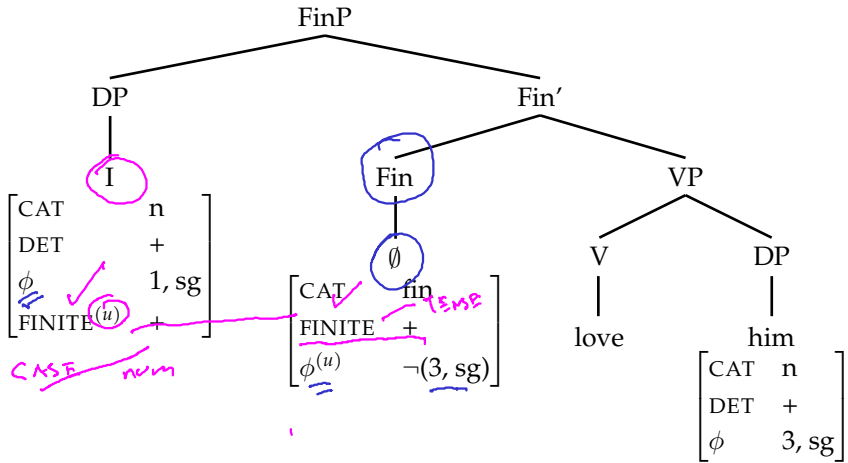
# Case is an uninterpretable feature

Nominative and accusative cases (aka structural cases) are semantically empty.

# Case assignment as agreement

Nominative

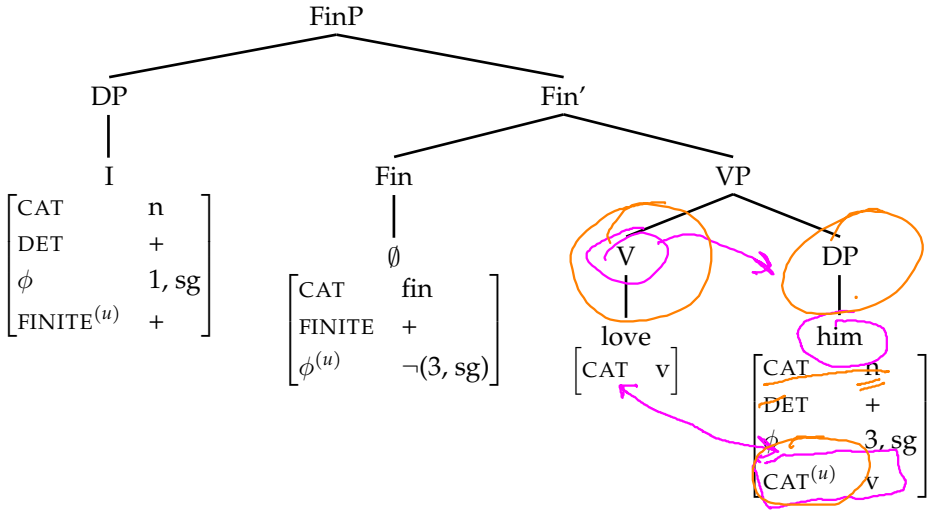
(1) I love him.



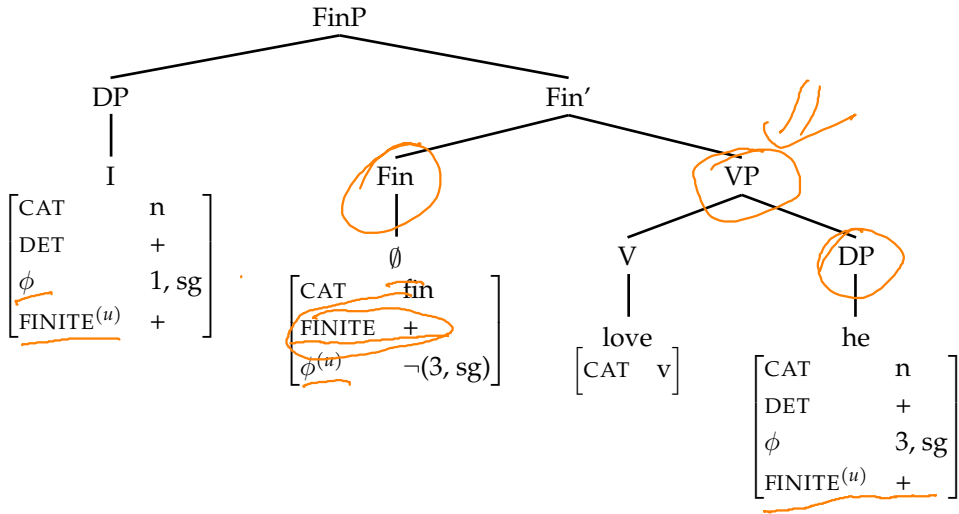
# Case assignment as agreement

## Accusative

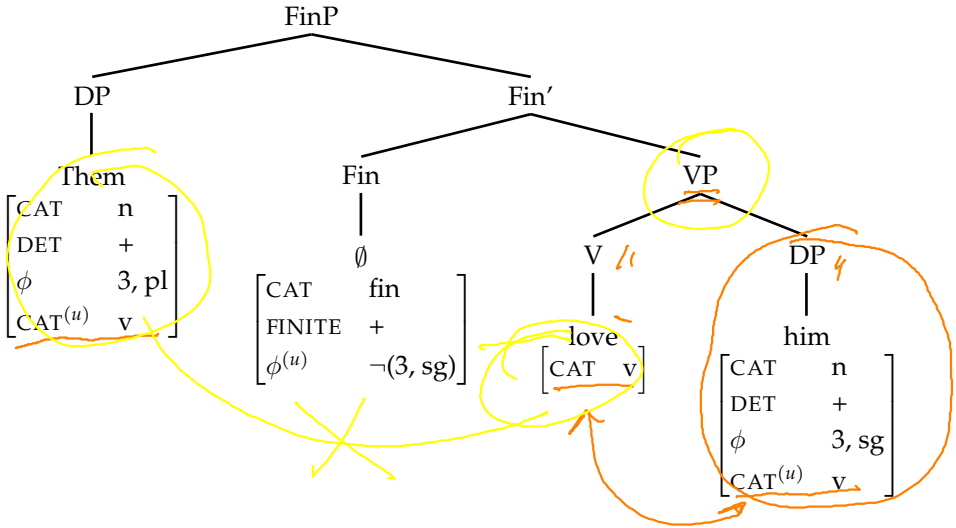
(2) I love him.



(3) *I love he.


FinP
DP
Fin′
I
Fin
VP
∅
V
DP
love
he
CAT n
DET +
ϕ 1, sg
FINITE(u) +
CAT fin
FINITE +
ϕ(u) ¬(3, sg)
CAT v
CAT n
DET +
ϕ 3, sg
FINITE(u) +

(4) *Them love him.



John := $\begin{bmatrix} \text{CAT} & \text{n} \\ \text{DET} & + \\ \phi & 3, \text{sg} \\ \text{FINITE}^{(u)} & + \end{bmatrix}$ ✓ (Nominative)

John := $\begin{bmatrix} \text{CAT} & \text{n} \\ \text{DET} & + \\ \phi & 3, \text{sg} \\ \text{CAT}^{(u)} & \text{v} \end{bmatrix}$ ✓ (Accusative)

walk → [CAT n]
→ [CAT v]

he := $\begin{bmatrix} \text{CAT} & \text{n} \\ \text{DET} & + \\ \phi & 3, \text{sg} \\ \text{FINITE}^{(u)} & + \end{bmatrix}$ Nominative

him := $\begin{bmatrix} \text{CAT} & \text{n} \\ \text{DET} & + \\ \phi & 3, \text{sg} \\ \text{CAT}^{(u)} & \text{v} \end{bmatrix}$ Accusative