

Homework 8

Will Theuer

1 Complement clauses

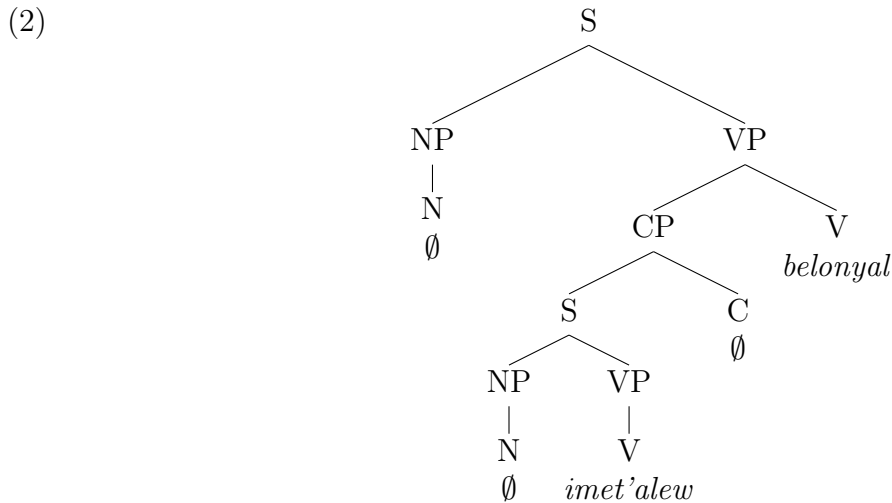
There are several types of complement clauses in Amharic.

1.1 Null complementizer

In some cases, complement clauses are formed without an explicit complementizer. This can be seen in (1).

- (1) *i-met'-ale-w* *belo-∅-ny-al*
G1.PRES-come-PRES-1S said-3SM.SUBJ-1S.OBJ-al
'He said, "I am coming"'¹

In this sentence, *imet'alew* 'I am coming' is the object of the verb *belonyal*. This sentence has the following structure:



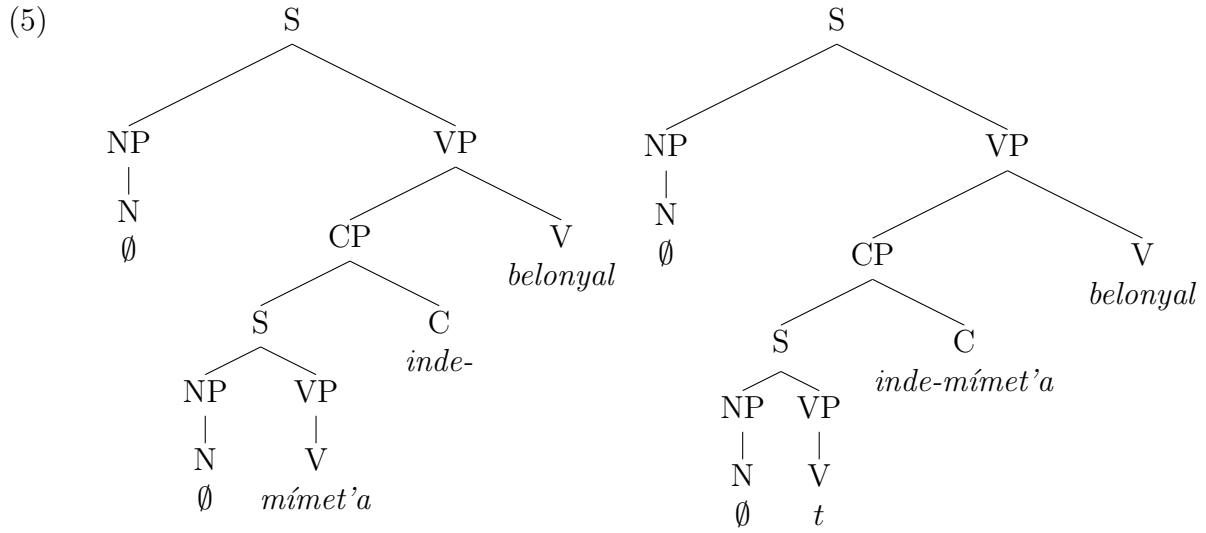
1.2 inde- complementizer

In several other examples, the verbal prefix *inde-* is used as a complementizer. This is shown in (3) and (4).

- (3) *inde-mímet'a* *belo-∅-ny-al*
COMP-come\3SM.PAST said-3SM.SUBJ-1S.OBJ-al
'He said that he's coming'
- (4) *inde-mímet'a* *negro-∅-ny-al*
COMP-come\3SM.PAST told-3SM.SUBJ-1S.OBJ-al
'He told me he's coming'

¹The meaning of the -al suffix is unknown.

In these examples, the verb must move up to the complementizer, as shown in (5)



- (6) *k'onjo kehonech t'eyekuwin*
 pretty something asked
 'I asked if she was pretty'

Here is another paragraph. I sure hope that it works!

- (7) *meblat ifeligalew*
 eat something
 'I want to eat'