

Homework 9

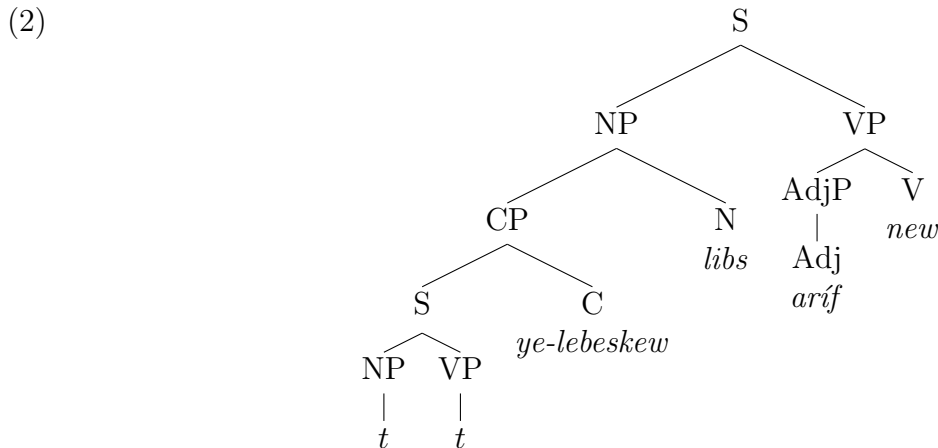
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1 Relative clauses

Relative clauses in Amharic use the relativizer *ye-* and function like other CPs in the language. Since Amharic is a head-final language, relative clauses occur before the nouns they modify. In subject relative clauses, the verb in the relative clause agrees with the noun that the clause modifies as the subject and the object within the clause as the object. This can be seen in (1).

- (1) *ye-lebes-ke-w libs arif new*
 REL-wear-2SM.S-3S.O clothes nice be\3S
 ‘What you are wearing is nice’

The structure of this sentence can be seen in (2). There is a gap at the subject of the embedded CP, and the verb moves up to the complementizer.



In object relative clauses, the relativized noun is the direct object. The verb in the relative clause agrees with the noun it modifies as the object and the subject of the relative clause as the subject. This can be seen in (3).

- (3) *ye-sera-w-t buna yet new*
 REL-make-1S.S-3S.O coffee where be\3S
 ‘Where is the coffee I made’

The structure of this sentence can be seen in (4). There is a gap at the object of the relative clause, and the verb moves up to the complementizer.

(4)

