

Homework 9

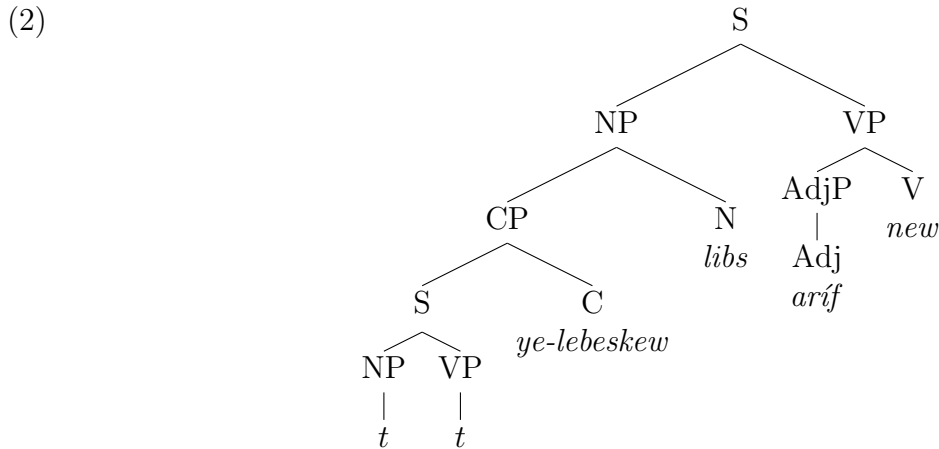
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1 Relative clauses

Relative clauses in Amharic use the relativizer *ye-* and work like other CPs in the language. In subject relative clauses, the verb agrees with the subject that the clause modifies and the object within the clause. 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, there is a gap at the object of the relative clause. 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).

(4)

