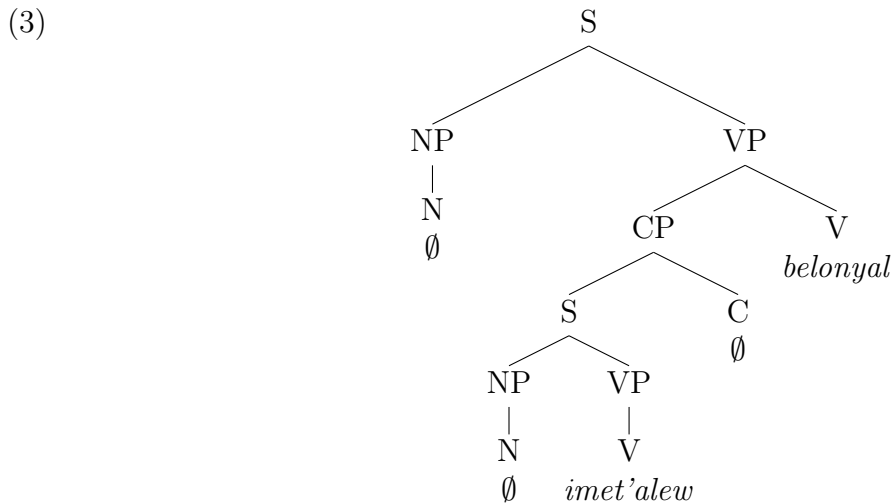# Homework 8
Will Theuer

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) and (2).

(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]

(2) *k'onjo nat*   *t'eye-kuwin*
    pretty be\3SF asked-1S
    '"Is she pretty?" I asked'

In these sentences, the CP is the object of the main verb. These sentences have the following structure:

(3)

1.2 Complementizer prefixes

There are several examples of verbal prefixes that function as complementizers. In many of these examples, *inde-* is used; this is shown in (4) and (5).

(4) *inde-mí-met'a*   *belo-∅-ny-al*
    COMP-3SM.COMP-come\3SM.PAST said-3SM.SUBJ-1S.OBJ-al

    'He said that he's coming'

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[1]The meaning of this -al suffix is unknown.

(5) *temarí inde-hon-ku   tenager-ku*
     student COMP-be-1S.SUBJ said-1S.SUBJ

     'I said that I am a student'

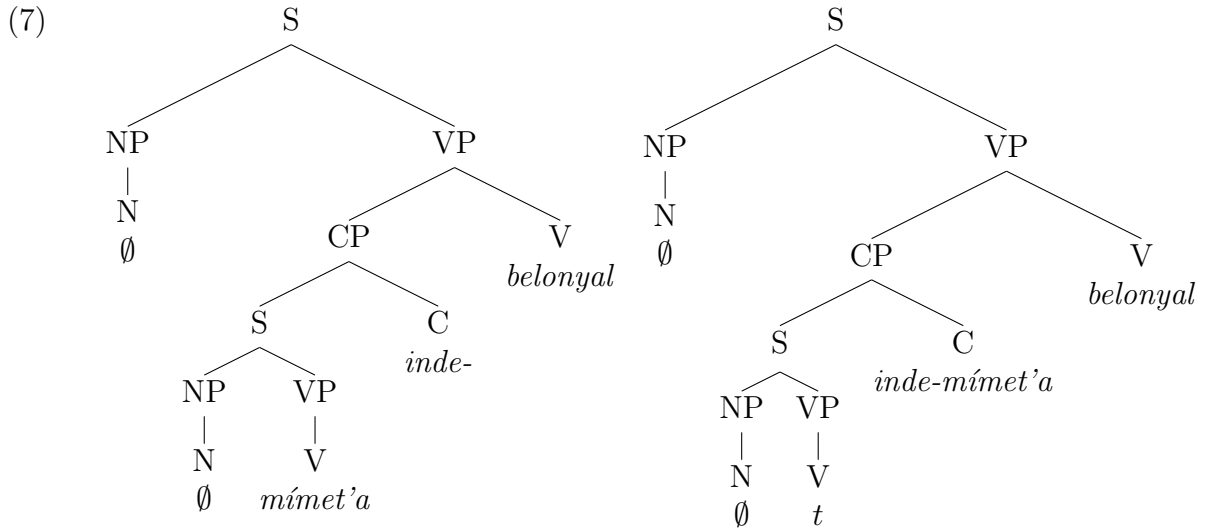Another such prefix is *ke-*, which functions similarly in (6).

(6) *k'onjo ke-hon-ech   t'eye-kuwin*
     pretty COMP-be-3SF asked-1S

     'I asked if she was pretty'

In some examples, these prefixes are accompanied by a variation of *-mi-* and even a verbal suffix in the 1SF, 2P, and 3P forms. It is unclear when these are used, as they occur in forms like (4) but not in forms like (5). This paradigm is shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Complementizer forms

1S	*meblat inde-mi-felig*	'that I want to eat'
2SM	*meblat inde-mit-felig*	'that you (m) want to eat'
2SF	*meblat inde-mit-felig-í*	'that you (f) want to eat'
3SM	*meblat inde-mí-felig*	'that he wants to eat'
3SF	*meblat inde-mit-felig*	'that she wants to eat'
1P	*meblat inde-mini-felig*	'that we want to eat'
2P	*meblat inde-miti-felig-u*	'that you (pl) want to eat'
3P	*meblat inde-felig-u*	'that they want to eat'

(7) shows the structure of these sentences; the second tree shows how the verb moves up to the complementizer *inde-*. As in the previous examples, the CP is the object of the verb *belonyal*.

(7)

1.3 Infinitives

Infinitives are formed with the verbal prefix *me-* and function like other prefix complementizers. This is shown in (8), (9), and (10).

(8) *me-blat i-felig-ale-w*
INF-eat G1.PRES-want-PRES-1S

'I want to eat'

(9) *me-blat inde-mífelig negro-∅-nya*
INF-eat COMP-want told-3SM.SUBJ-1S.OBJ

'He told me that he wants to eat'

(10) *ruz me-blat ti-felig-achu   wey?*
rice INF-eat G2.PRES-want-2P right?
'You all want to eat rice, right?'

The structure of these sentences is shown in (11). The verb *blat* 'eat' moves up from the V to the C (*me-*).

(11)