

Basic Syntax Revision

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Basic terminology. Exercise

Define the following terms:

- constituent, phrase,
- thematic role, argument, adjunct,
- grammatical function, subject, direct object,
- NP, VP,
- TP/IP, CP.

Simple tree structures. Exercise

Build up tree structures for the following sentences.¹ Denote NPs as triangles.

- (1) a. John introduced Mary to Bob.
b. John knows that Mary jumped in the garden.

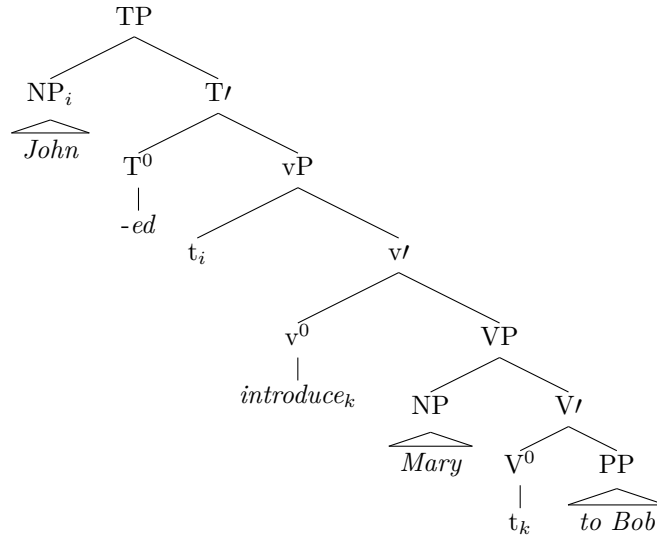
Syntactic notions. Exercise

Answer the following questions.

1. Can constituents in a clause overlap? Can constituents in a clause be included one into another?
2. How do we know that a sentence structure is hierarchical? (hint: structural asymmetries)
3. What is the Theta Criterion? How can it help us explain the ungrammaticality of *Mary Susan danced.* and *Mary gave to Peter.?*
4. What is UTAH?
5. What thematic role is often assigned to Spec,VP?
6. What thematic role is often assigned to Spec,vP?
7. Can the little v head be overt in English?
8. What is the difference between unaccusative and unergative verbs?
9. Why do we need the TP/IP level? What is in the T/I head?
10. What modifiers are usually adjoined at the VP, vP, and TP/IP levels?

¹The answers are on the next page.

- (2) a. John introduced Mary to Bob.
 b.



- (3) a. John knows that Mary jumped in the garden.
 b.

