

Syntax Seminar (BBN-ANG-252): Key to HO2

ELTE, Spring 2024

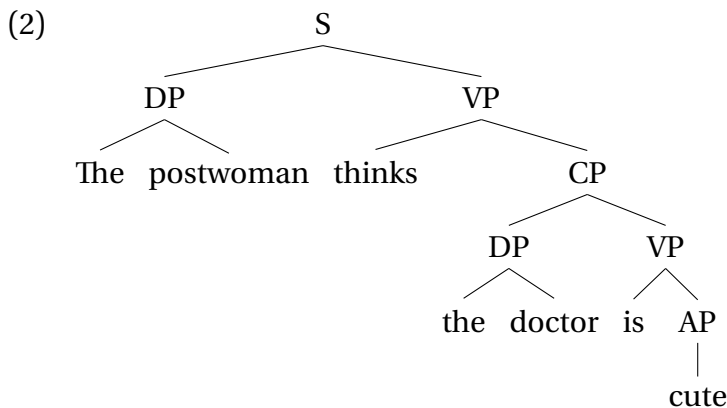
Ekaterina Georgieva

ekaterina.georgieva@nytud.hun-ren.hu

1 In-class exercises

- Draw a tree for (1).

(1) [S [DP The postwoman] [VP thinks [CP [DP the doctor] [VP is [AP cute]]]]]]]



- Apply the constituency tests to the italicized elements in (3) and (4):

(3) I messaged *the professor of linguistics*.

- a. Movement/displacement: The professor of linguistics, I messaged.
- b. Substitution/replacement with a personal pronoun: I messaged her.
- c. Cleft: It is the professor of linguistics who I messaged.

(4) I bought *the book* of poems.

- a. Movement/displacement: *The book, I bought of poems.
- b. Substitution/replacement with a personal pronoun: *I bought it of poems.
- c. Cleft: *It is the book that I bought of poems.

Q: Based on the tests, what can we conclude about the italicized elements in (3) and (4)?

Since the tests give grammatical results when applied to (3), we can conclude that *the professor of linguistics* forms a constituent. For (4), we can conclude that *the book* is not a complete constituent (the complete DP includes *of poems* as well), this is why the tests fail.

- Which constituent test has been applied in (5)? And what does the result tell us about the italicized element?

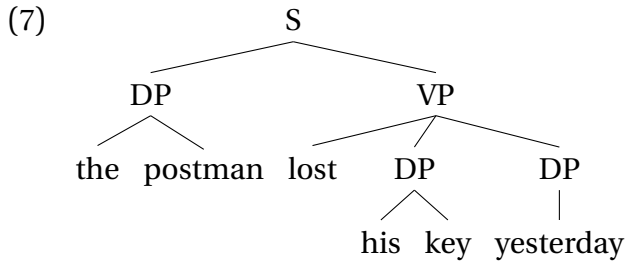
(5) Karen wanted to stay home today and *stay home* she did.

Movement/displacement (specifically, topicalization). Since moving *stay* and *home* together gives a grammatical sentence, we can conclude that they form a constituent (a VP).

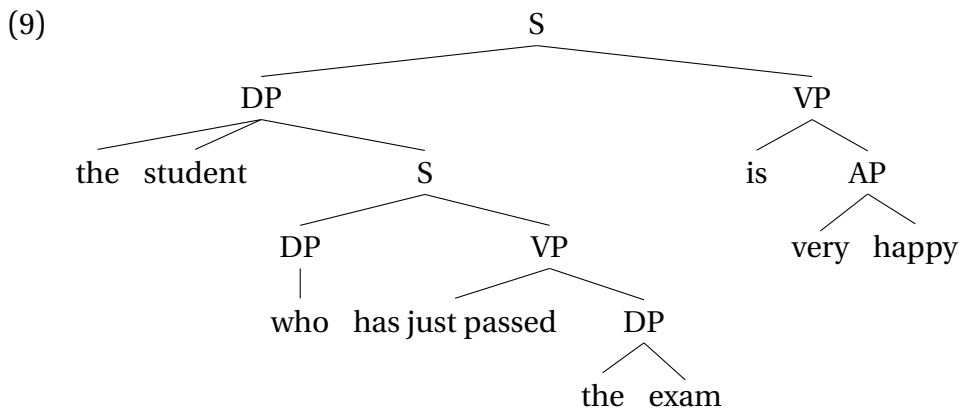
2 Homework

- Draw the trees for the bracketed structures.

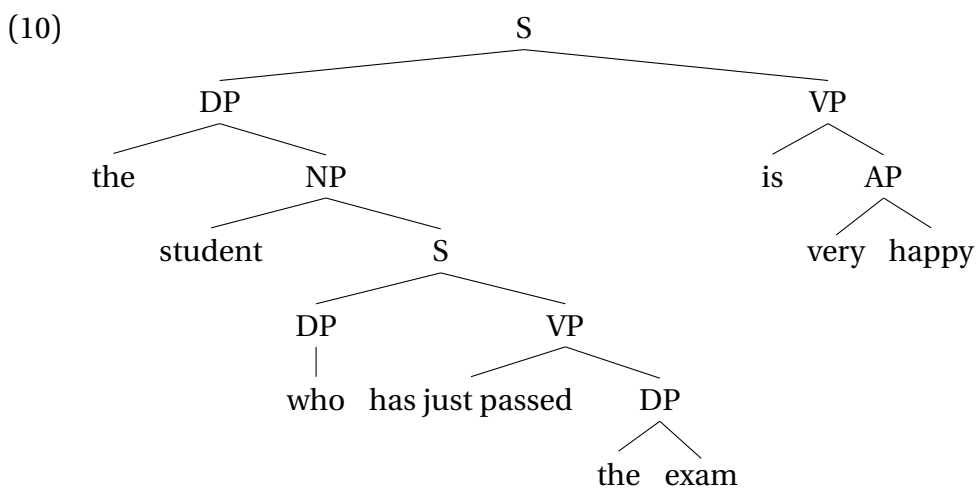
(6) [S [DP The postman] [VP lost [DP his key] [DP yesterday]]]



(8) [S [DP The student [S [DP who] [VP has just passed [DP the exam]]]]] [VP is [AP very happy]]]



Note: on p. 78 of the textbook we find a more elaborate representation of DPs containing a relative clause. Based on this, the structure of (8) is better represented as (10):



- What pro-forms can replace the DPs and PPs in (11)?

(11) The bishop that just left was hiding a gun under his mitre.

The subject DP can be replaced by the personal pronoun *he* (12a). Importantly, the complete DP also contains the relative clause, as shown by the ungrammaticality of (12b). The other DPs, *a gun* and *his mitre*, can be substituted by *it*. The locative PP can be replaced by *there* (13).

- (12) a. *He* was hiding a gun under his mitre.
b. **He* that just left was hiding a gun under his mitre.

(13) The bishop that just left was hiding a gun under his mitre. → The bishop that just left was hiding a gun *there*.

- Explain why the sentences in (14) are ungrammatical:

- (14) a. *The student, I haven't seen of physics lately.
We're trying to topicalize (topic-front) a part of a DP, but we can only topicalize the whole DP, i.e., *the student of physics*.
- b. *Mike invited the woman with long hair, Jamie invited the her with short hair.
We're trying to substitute *woman* with a personal pronoun *her*, but pronouns can only substitute complete DPs. A complete DP here is *the woman with short hair*.
- c. *Yesterday I met Paul and with Peter.
We're trying to coordinate a DP with a PP, however coordination is possible only between constituents of the same type.
- d. *Whose did you see favourite film?
We're trying to move only a part of the constituent, i.e., *whose*, but since it forms a constituent with *film*, they should move together.
- e. *She can paint with her mouth and with pleasure.
We're trying to coordinate two PPs, but importantly these two PPs have different functions: the first PP is an instrument, the second expresses manner. Constituents of the same types can be coordinated, but only if they have the same function.
- f. A: Where have you been? B: *The park.
We're trying to use a part of a PP as a short answer (fragment answer) but we can only use a complete PP, i.e., *in the park*.
- g. *It is park that I saw Mary in the.
We're trying to focus a part of the PP in an *it*-cleft, but we can only focus the complete PP: *It is in the park that I saw Mary*.