

Syntax Seminar (BBN-ANG-252): Key to HO4

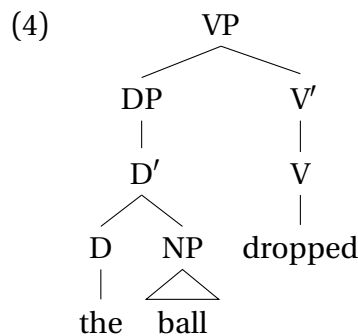
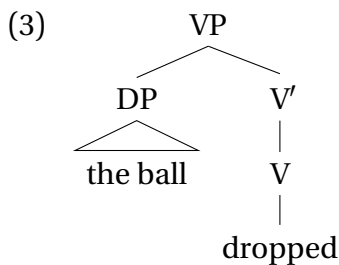
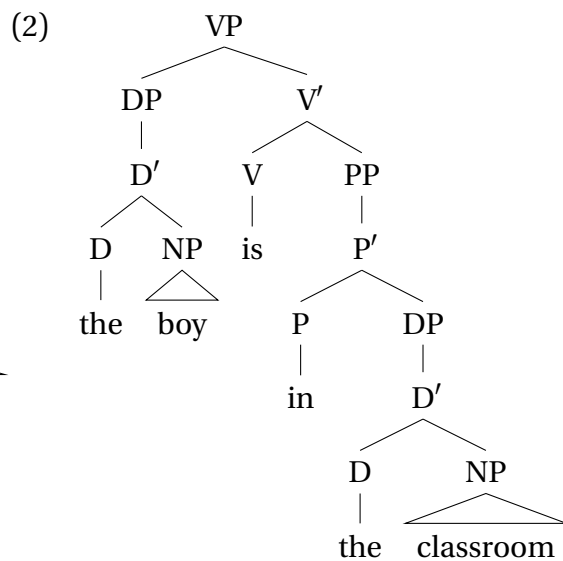
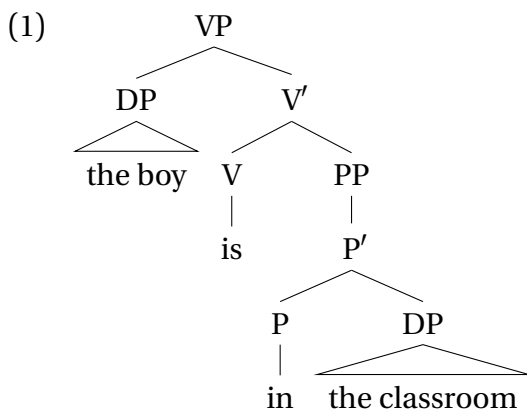
ELTE, Spring 2024

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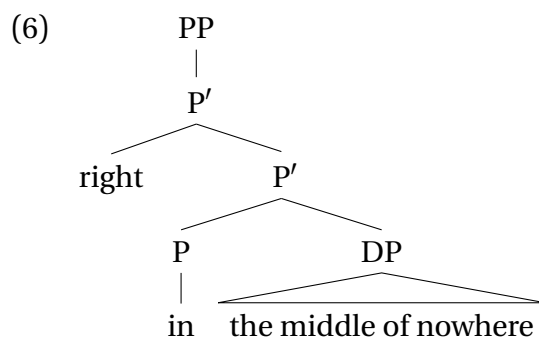
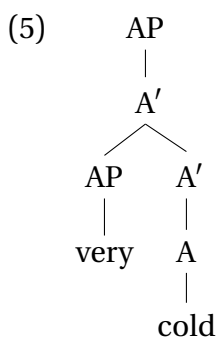
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1 In-class exercises

- If we want to focus on the structure of the VP, we can represent the sentences as (1) and (3). The complete trees are given in (2) and (4).



- Draw the trees for *very cold* and *right in the middle of nowhere*. We have an AP and a PP, respectively; the words *very* and *right* are left-adjoined to the X'-level. NB: in the textbook, adverbs like *very* are treated as adjectival phrases



2 Homework

- Determine the argument/adjunct status of the PPs in (7) by applying the diagnostics discussed in HO3.

- (7) a. Mary stayed [in the bed].
 b. Mary slept [in the bed].

We can apply the VP fronting test. (8) shows that *in the bed* must move together with V, thus, they must form a constituent (VP) and the PP is an argument. In (9), however, it is possible to only front the VP *sleep*, leaving *in the bed* behind. This is because in this case the PP is an adjunct. (Since the VP and the adjunct together form a VP node as well, (9b) is also grammatical.)

- (8) a. *Mary wanted to stay in the bed and [stay] she did __ in the bed.
 b. Mary wanted to stay in the bed and [stay in the bed] she did __.
- (9) a. Mary wanted to sleep in the bed and [sleep] she did __ in the bed.
 b. Mary wanted to sleep in the bed and [sleep in the bed] she did __.

We can also apply the coordination test:

Mary stayed in the bed with a big blanket (OK, but only if *with a big blanket* is interpreted as an adjunct)

Mary wanted to sleep in the bed with a big blanket → adjunct

see BESE: p. 334–336 for further discussion on how to distinguish between arguments and adjuncts

Turning to (10), we can test the argument/adjunct status of the PPs in the following way.

- (10) a. the book [of poems]
 b. the book [with a red cover]

The PP in (10a) is an argument because:

(i) it cannot be repeated without coordination **the book of poems, of tales*

(ii) it occupies a fixed position, right next to the noun, cf. *the book of poems with a red cover* vs. **the book with a red cover of poems*.

The PP in (10b) is an adjunct, as it shows the opposite behaviour.