

**SYNTAX**  
*lecture*  
**Handout 4**

**Possessive DPs**

Spec,DP: phrasal element preceding the head: possessor?

\**John's the book* - possessor and determiner compete for the same position?

's: Case marker?

→ no case marking on lexical DPs in English apart from this

→ attached to the last element of DP: *the man that you invited's friend*

(Case markers appear on the head of the DP, e.g. Hungarian:

*egy történetet a sárkányok-ról*, a story-ACC dragons-about vs.

\**egy történet a sárkányok-ról-t*, a story dragons-about-ACC)

's: a head constituent attached to a phrase, only contracted form (as opposed to *will*)

**DP-adjunction**

Modification by an adverb in the presence of a quantificational determiner:

*Almost John's whole life (was spent avoiding work)*: modification before the possessive: DP-adjunct

*Nearly every home (was destroyed by hurricane Irma)*.