Ellipsis and Negation

1. **Ellipsis**

Ellipsis is the process by which sentential material is omitted from a sentence.

1. Jane will bake a pie, but Carol will not.

In (1) it is clear that the VP *bake a pie* has been omitted from the sentence. The question becomes how one can account for this phenomenon. There are two possible methods two obtaining this derivation: **PF deletion** or **LF copying**.

In LF copying, the content of the elided material is simply copied at LF, as if it were a kind of anaphor or pronoun. Instead of an anaphor or a pronoun, however, a null operator is used for the entirety of the VP:

1. John will [bake a cake] and Carol will [ø] too.

This is then copied at LF to produce

1. John will [bake a cake] and Carol will [bake a cake] too.

In PF deletion, the opposite process occurs, and we have:

1. John will [bake a cake] and Carol will [bake a cake] too.

The content that is to be elided is then simply omitted phonologically:

1. John will [bake a cake] and Carol will ~~[bake a cake]~~ too.
2. **Negation**

Negation is quite simply changing the truth value of a sentence to 0. In English, the position of the negative word is fixed, which therefore means that it is a head in English. This head projects NegP. An example of standard sentential negation in English is:

1. John will **not** bake a cake.

Negation is generated in a phrase that occurs above the split TP, in between AgrP and TP:

1. [CP [C’ [AgrP [Agr’ [NegP …]]]]]