

L2 Syntax Lecture 6: Functional Structure of Complex Clauses and Nominals

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Today

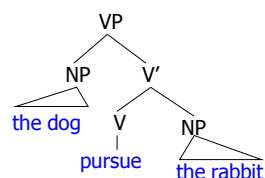
- Recap on IPs
- Complex sentences: introducing CP
- Functional vs. lexical categories
- Introducing DP
- The sentence/noun phrase parallel

Today's reading

- Santorini & Kroch, ch.5
- <http://www.ling.upenn.edu/~beatrice/syntax-textbook/ch5.html>
- Links from WebCT and from the course website.

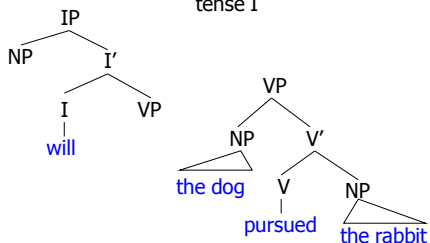
Recap on IP and subject movement

Elementary tree for verb,
plus arguments

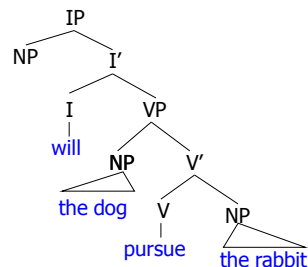


Recap on IP and subject movement

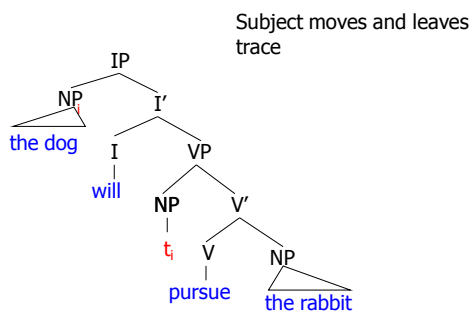
Elementary tree for past
tense I



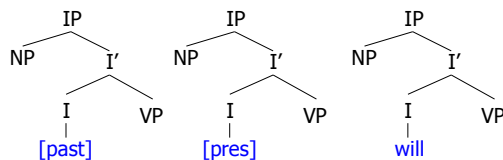
Recap on IP and subject movement



Recap on IP and subject movement



Different types of I

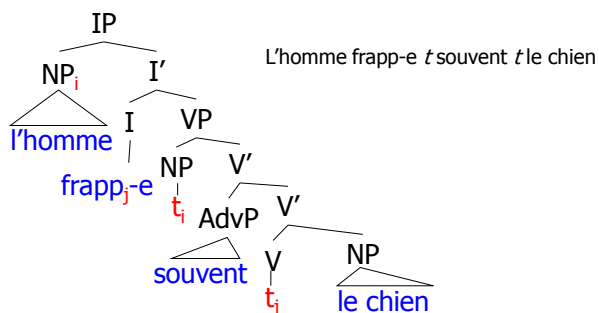


Accounts for complementary distribution of Aux and tense inflection

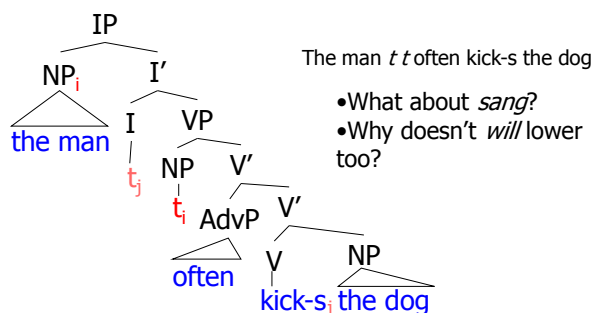
Adverb position in English and French

- The man **often** **kicks** the dog
- L'homme **frappe** **souvent** le chien

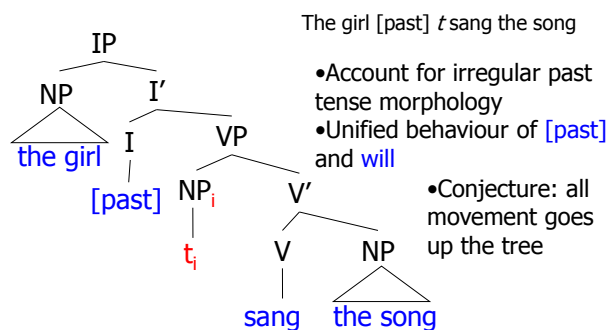
French verb raising



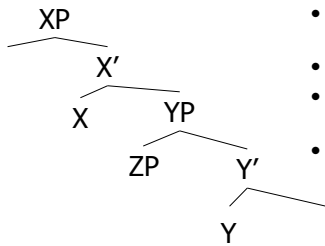
English: NOT tense-lowering



English V-I agreement

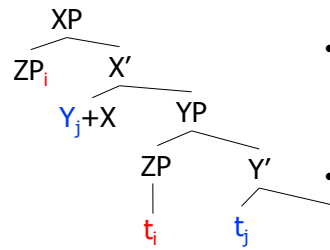


The basics of movement



- Movement goes to higher positions
- Leaves a trace
- Phrases move to phrasal positions
- Heads move to head positions

The basics of movement



- A precise definition of "higher position":
- The trace of movement is always contained in the sister of the moved phrase
- This is **c-command**, and it's all over some syntactic theories

Complex Sentences

What about these?

- We believe **that** the dog will pursue the rabbit
- They wonder **if** he left

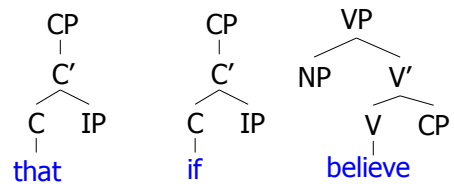
Contain simpler sentences (IPs).

that and **if** are **complementizers** – they introduce a complement clause.

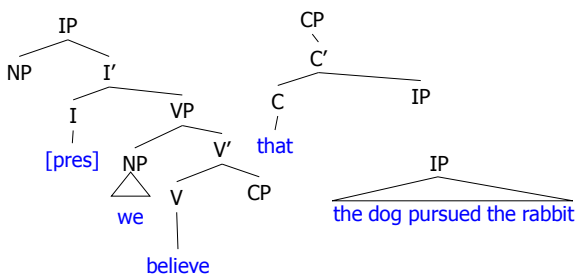
Complementizers

that and **if** are **complementizers**:

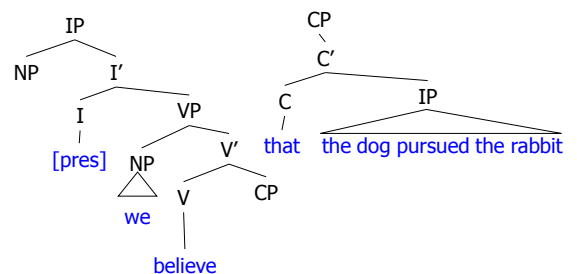
- heads of category C
- take an IP complement



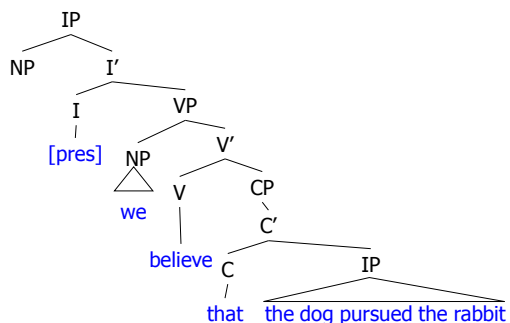
Building a complex sentence



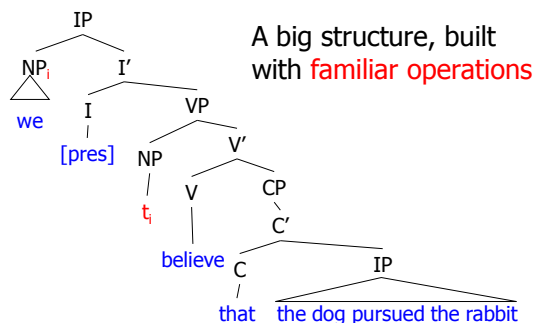
Building a complex sentence



Building a complex sentence



Building a complex sentence



Some more elementary trees

- They think that the cat died
- They think the cat died

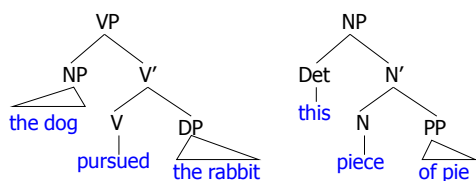
What is the elementary tree for *think*? What other elementary trees do we need to add?

Functional categories

- I and C are **functional categories**
they don't have much phonetic or semantic content, but they do a lot of work
- V, N, Adj, Adv are **lexical categories**
they carry most of the phonetic and semantic load
- P is somewhere in between

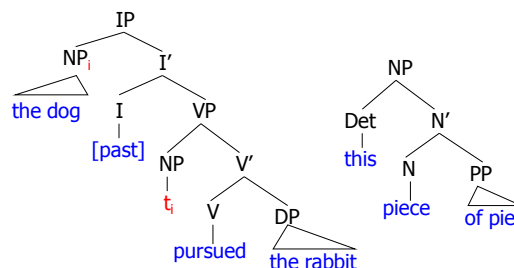
Back to the sentence/noun phrase parallel

We used to have a nice parallel...



Back to the sentence/noun phrase parallel

... but then sentences got more complex



Determiners

the, a, he, him, we, you, they, this, them,
...

- (1) I saw the man
- (2) I saw him
- (3) I saw this
- (4) I saw this man
- (5) I saw men

Determiners

the, a, he, him, we, you, they, this, them,
...

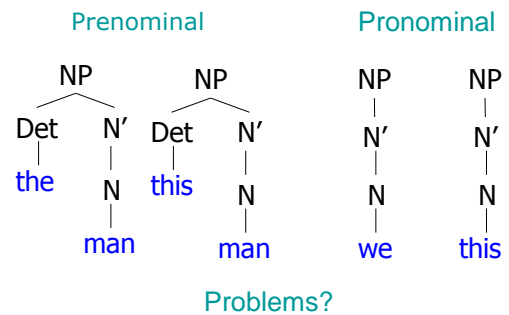
- (1) I saw **the** man
- (2) I saw **him**
- (3) I saw **this**
- (4) I saw **this** man
- (5) I saw men

A closer look at determiners

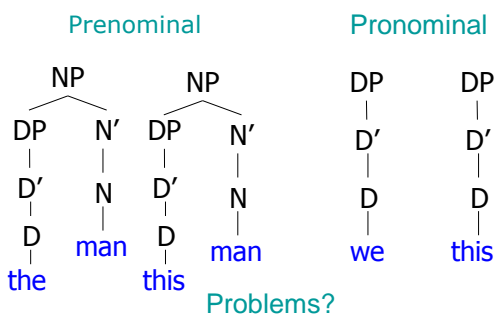
Determiners can appear

- **pre-nominally**
– the man, a dog
 - **pro-nominally**
– we, you, they, this, that, them
 - some do **both**
– we Brits, this man, them bones
- We want a unified treatment of these

One possible solution



Another possible solution

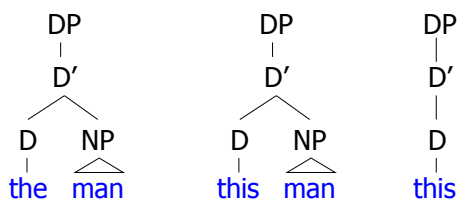


A better solution

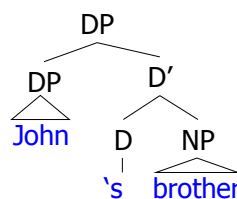
- Determiners are a third **functional head**
- Some take an NP complement
– this gets you the **pre-nominals**
- Some don't take a complement
– this gets you the **pro-nominals**

We will treat the things we call "noun phrases" as **Determiner Phrases (DPs)**, which may contain an NP

Different Ds

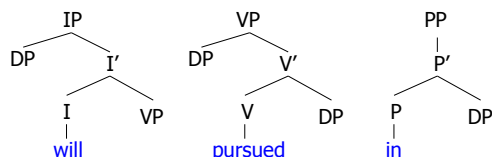


A specifier of DP



All substitute into DP substitution nodes

Accommodating DPs



Silent determiners

What about

- They ate *rice*
- *Dogs* pursue *cats*

These are DPs with a **silent D**

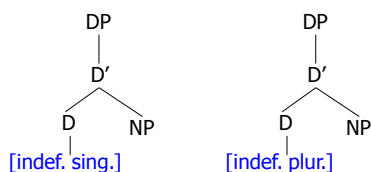
- I saw the men
- I saw \emptyset men

Silent determiners

What about

- They ate *rice*
- *Dogs* pursue *cats*

These are DPs with a **silent D**



DPs: a summary

- Some pronouns do dual duty as determiners
- We want a uniform treatment of "noun phrases," whether pronouns or full NPs
- Do this by introducing a new functional head: D
- D projects a DP
- Some varieties of D take a complement NP

The sentence/noun phrase parallel (a taster)

[_{IP} The man visited]

[_{DP} The man's visit]

(1) [_{DP} He] upset me

(2) [_{DP} The man] upset me

(3) [_{DP} The man's visit] upset me

The sentence/noun phrase parallel

[_{IP} The man visited]

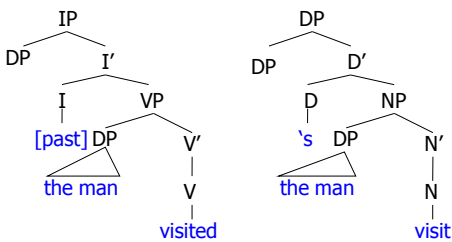
[_{DP} The man's visit]

Both describe similar situations

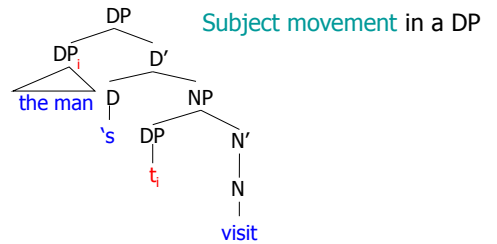
- An **event** of "visiting"
- The **Agent** of this event is *the man*

These should have the same type of structure

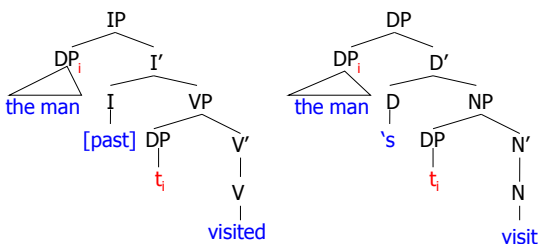
The sentence/noun phrase parallel



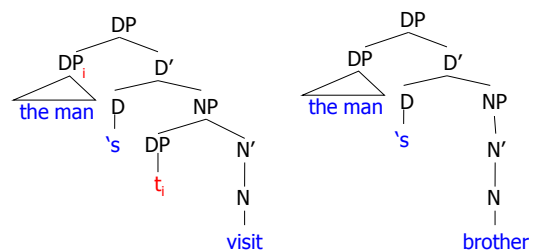
The sentence/noun phrase parallel



The sentence/noun phrase parallel



Event nominals and object nominals



Summary of today

- Two new functional categories
 - C and D
- C takes an IP complement
- Various kinds of Ds
- 's as a Determiner
- The sentence/noun phrase parallel

Next

- Case in English and beyond
- Beginnings of a theory of why constituents move