March 1, 2024

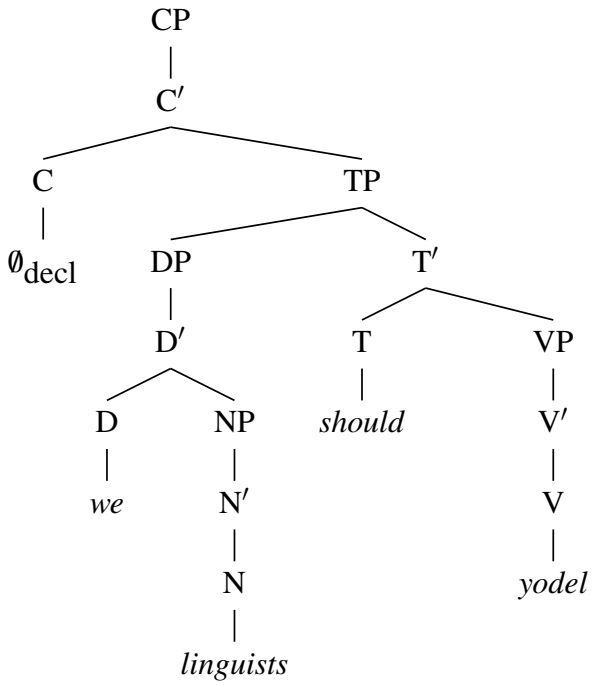
1 DP and pronouns

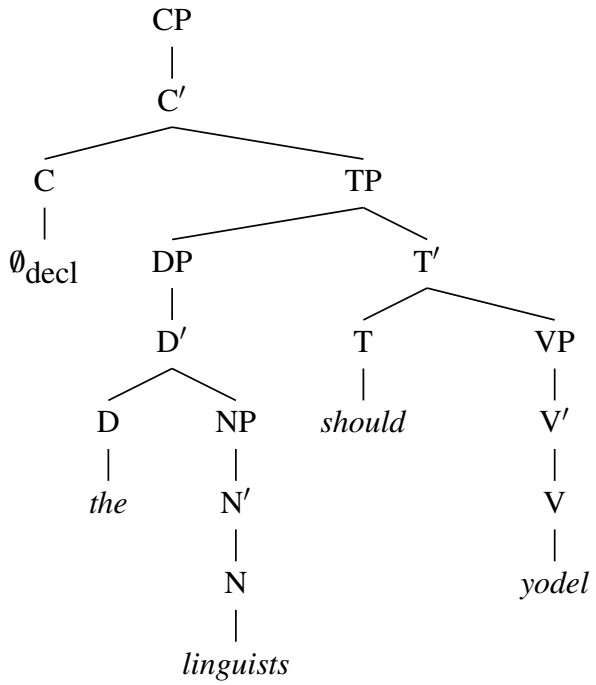
(1) The linguists should yodel.

(2) We linguists should yodel.

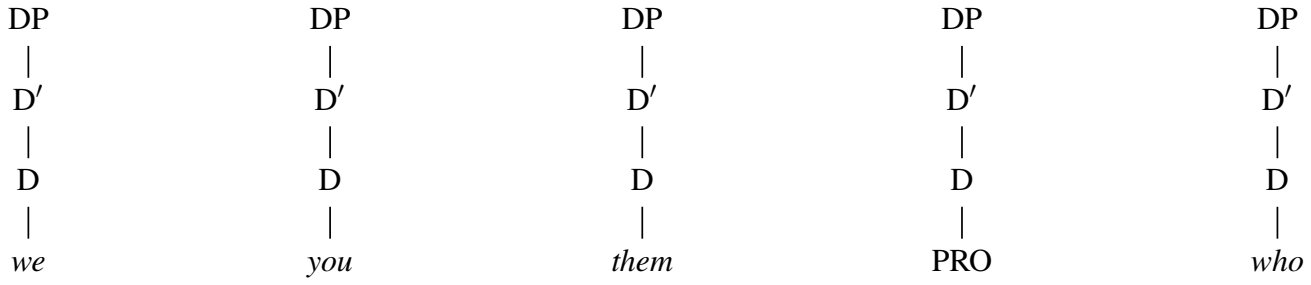
(3) They looked at us linguists.

(4) They looked at the linguists.



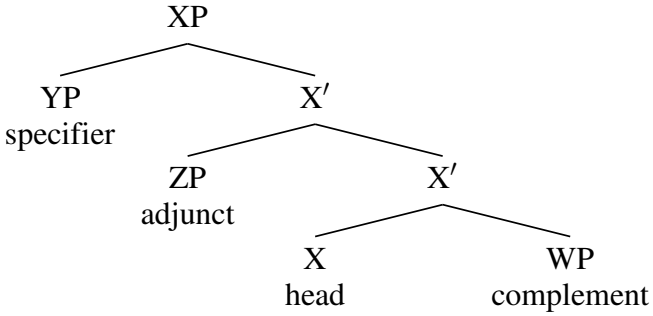


These constructions are kind of rare; normally, pronouns are just DP containing no NPs.

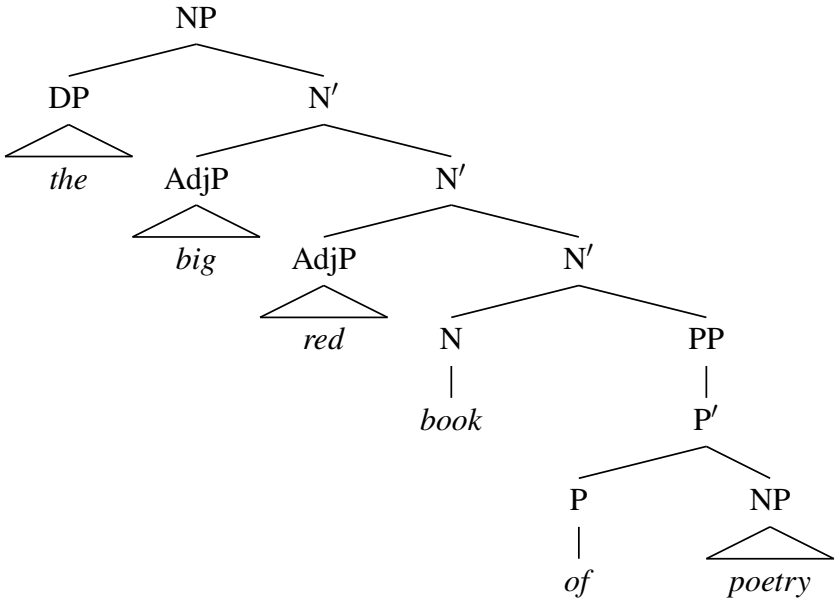


2 A not-quite-argument for X-bar structure in noun phrases

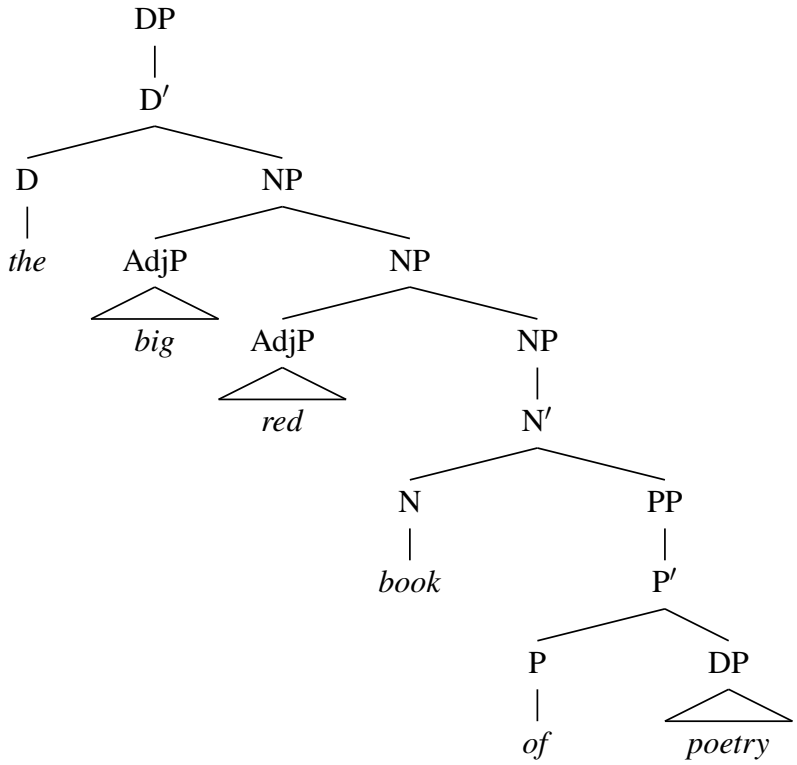
The canonical X-bar structure of the early 1980s looked like this:



We almost had an argument for an NP, N′, N structure. If we say determiners go in the specifier of NP, then *one* must replace N′, and N′ is recursive based on the ability to attach arbitrarily many adjectives between the determiner and head noun. That is: there must be a projection (node) between N and NP that is recursive. So, N′.



We lost that argument, though, when we decided that determiners head a higher DP.



The difference is where adjuncts (modifiers, like adjectives and adverbs) attach. Do they attach (recursively) to X′ or to XP? We don't really have any evidence yet for a X′ level from this, nor really any evidence for adjoining adjuncts anywhere but to the XP level.

Where I think we're going to end up: There *are* X′ nodes (and therefore specifiers), but adjunction is to the XP and not to the X′.

3 Possessors and subjects and X′

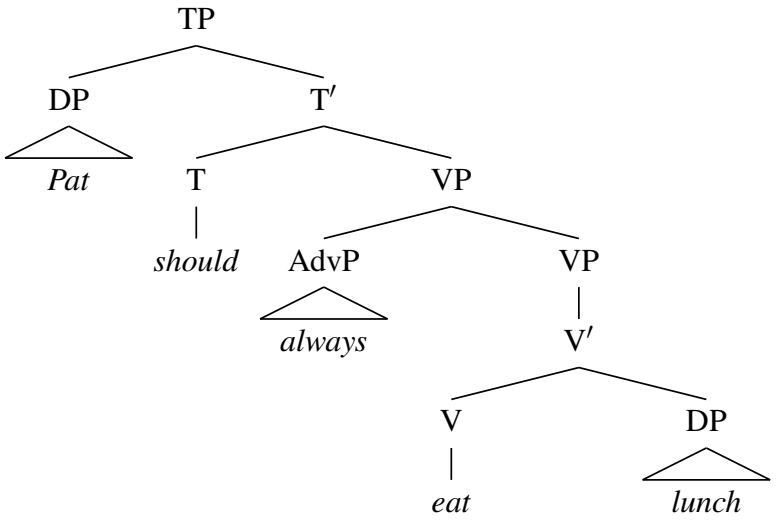
There's at least an argument from simplicity to suppose that there is a specifier, and an X′ level, of DP. And from there, it's a short leap to suppose that there's a T′ in TP, and we'll see one for CP as well.

This was mostly in previous discussion. But the basic point is that: D "seems" like a head, and there's an XP to its left that can be either a possessor or the subject of nominalized clause. And if that's where the subject is in DP, seems reasonable that it's in the same place in TP.

Also, to a certain extent we can reveal a constituent within TP that excludes the subject but includes the head and complement.

(5) Pat should always eat lunch and might never eat dinner.

(6) Each boy should eat his lunch and might eat his dinner.

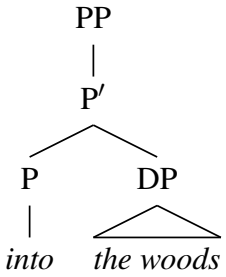


Maybe slightly more convincing is the fact that there seems to be a parameterization of the order of specifiers and complements. This makes more sense if "initial" really refers to a constituent containing the head.

- Head-initial (English, French) vs. Head-final (Japanese)
- Spec-initial (*everything* except maybe ASL CP)

4 PP and measure phrases

Most of the PPs that we have seen so far are just a head and a complement. No real evidence of a P′ node.

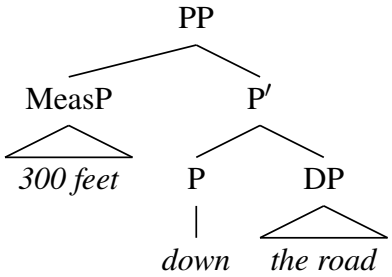


Measure phrases might arguably go into the specifier position of a PP, though.

(7) Pat drove two miles into the woods and through a puddle.

(8) The car rolled 300 feet down the road and up the hill.

(9) The illness began three days after the festival and before the cruise.



(10) The drone flew 10 feet above the fence.

(11) The drone flew right above the fence.

(12) * The drone flew 10 feet right above the fence.

(13) * The drone flew right 10 feet above the fence.