

1 Parameters and predictions

Think back to the syntax portion of LX250, or to LX422/722. Think about English specifically. You can assume sentences are constructed with a CP, IP, and VP. The modernness and accuracy of the tree isn't critical, the main thing is the general shape, and the extent to which we can make predictions about acquisition using it.

Adults. Draw a basic tree for the sentences in (1). For those who were in LX422/722, don't worry about vP if you don't want to, don't draw in features or anything. Just basic trees.

- (1) a. They might see me.
- b. Who might they see?

Missing phrases? Now, imagine that a child might lack I or C or both. Consider the sentences in (2). How would you predict these sentences would come out if I were missing? If C were missing? If both were missing?

- (2) a. He will see me.
- b. He saw me.
- c. He sees me.
- d. Who will he see?
- e. Who did he see?

Triggers and parameters. Imagine that you have a child acquiring a language. It might be French or it might be Dutch. We'll use the French words in (3). Work out which sentences are compatible with which settings of the two parameters V2 and head-order.

	D	F	V2	Head	word order
1.	ok	*			Jean a les fraises mangé
2.	*	ok			Jean a mangé les fraises
3.	ok	*			Hier mangeait Jean les fraises
4.	ok	*			Hier a Jean les fraises mangé
5.	*	*			Hier a Jean mangé les fraises
6.	*	ok			Hier Jean mangeait les fraises
7.	*	ok			Hier Jean a mangé les fraises

- (3) Hier Jean a mangé les fraises.
 yesterday Jean has eaten the strawberries
 'Yesterday Jean has eaten the strawberries.'