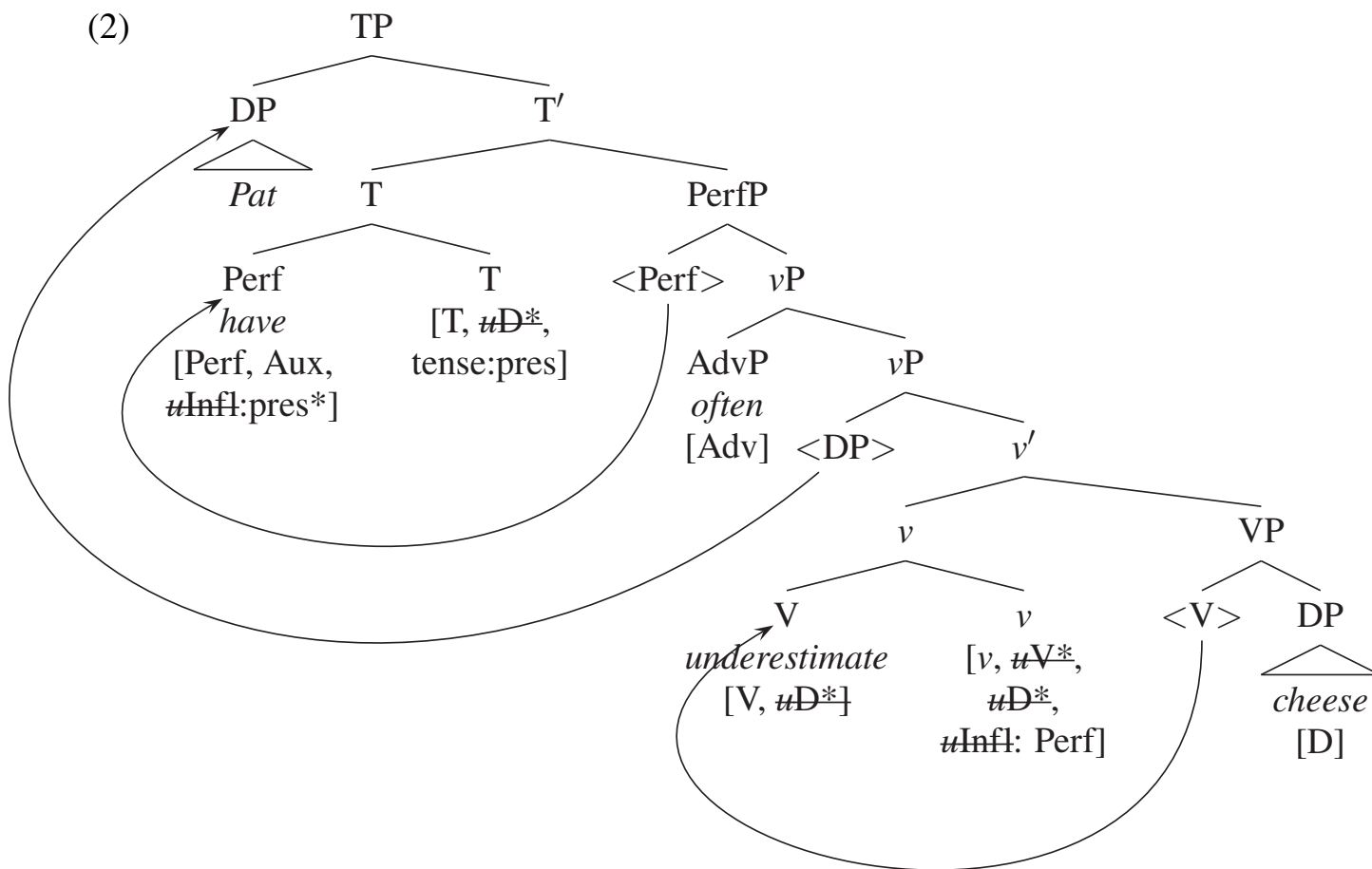


1 Practice using Agree

(1) Pat has often underestimated cheese.

(2)



And here are some questions about the the tree in (2). These are not supposed to be difficult. They are supposed to start us off together.

Agree

- If:
 - X has feature [F1], Y has feature [F2]
 - X c-commands Y or Y c-commands X
 - [F1] and/or [F2] are/is uninterpretable
 - [F1] matches [F2]
 - X and Y are close enough, meaning:
 - * There is no closer matching feature between X and Y.
 - * If [F1] or [F2] is strong, X and Y share the same mother node.
- Then:
 - Any unvalued feature ([F1] or [F2]) is valued.
 - The uninterpretable feature(s) is/are checked.

First step. In the first step, the V and the DP *cheese* are combined by Merge. This is allowed because an uninterpretable feature is checked. V has a [uD^*] feature, DP has an [D] feature. This Merge checks the (strong) uninterpretable [uD^*] feature because it satisfies the conditions on Agree:

- V has feature [uD^*], DP has feature [D].
- V c-commands DP *and* DP c-commands V (after the Merge).
- [uD^*] is uninterpretable.
- [uD^*] matches [D].
- [uD^*] and [D] are close enough: There is no closer matching feature between V and DP, and, although [uD^*] is strong, V and DP share the same mother node (after the Merge).

The result is that:

- Any unvalued feature would be valued (though there aren't any).
- The uninterpretable feature ([uD^*]) is checked.

1. Agreement with Perf. Now, consider the derivation a few steps later, when Perf has been Merged with vP in order to satisfy the Hierarchy of Projections. Although by this point the strong features of v have been checked, v still has an uninterpretable feature, [$uInfl:$]. Run through the definition of Agree, just as I did above for the first step, except now using Perf as X and v as Y, in order to demonstrate that Agree will result in checking this feature. And by “just as I did above for the first step,” I mean provide a bullet point for each condition in the *if* clause of the slide, and for each result in the *then* clause. It’s tedious, but you have exactly two to do, this one being the first, the next task below being the second. Your survival is pretty much guaranteed.

2. Matching after Merging T. The next step is to Merge T. Perf still has a [$uInfl:$] feature to check. Run through the first four points of the definition of Agree, again following the model I gave in the first step, to demonstrate that at this point, [$tense:pres$] on T matches the [$uInfl:$] feature of Perf. Use T as X and Perf as Y.

3. Valuing after Merging T. Because [$tense:pres$] on T matches the [$uInfl:$] feature of Perf, the unvalued feature is valued. Write the newly valued [$uInfl:$] feature (by filling in the value). Take special note of the point made on handout 9 in the last “Auxiliaries moving to T” slide on page 6. This is a [$uInfl:$] that is valued by T.

4. Not checking the feature. Now that the feature has been valued, look at the fifth part in the definition of the conditions under which Agree happens (“If... X and Y are close enough...”). The [$tense:pres$] feature is unable to check the uninterpretable feature you just wrote. Why? (It is the fact that checking cannot be accomplished here that will force Perf to head-adjoin to T.)

5. Checking the feature. The next step is to head-adjoin Perf to T. Now that Perf is adjoined to T, re-evaluate the fifth step. Why do [$tense:pres$] and the uninterpretable feature now count as “close enough”? (This is really basically trivial given what you answered just above—this fixes the problem that you identified in the previous task.)

2 Drawing some trees on your own

Your turn. Now, draw trees for (3) and (5), using the model from (2). **Ground rules for drawing the trees:**

- We now know how to use Agree, so you need to show the uninterpretable agreement features ([*uInfl*:]) and how they're valued.
- You *do not* need to show each step. Show the tree in its *final* form. That means: show everything that moves in the location it has moved to.
- Draw arrows indicating the movements.
- Draw angled brackets (< >) around the traces.
- If you move a head, draw the complex head that results.
- We now differentiate between strong and weak uninterpretable features.
- C-selection features are strong.
- *Do all of this stuff*—points will be taken off for not following the directions.

- (3) Pat might have misunderstood Chris.
- (4) Chris was not reciting morbid poetry.
- (5) Tracy is composing amusing parodies.

3 Binding Theory

First, consider the sentence in (6). The scenario is this: There was a fire, Sue told the insurance agent that Mary started the fire.

- (6) Sue_s told the insurance agent that Mary_m started the fire at Bill_b's restaurant.

There are two clauses here, which means there are two TPs. One is inside the other; the main verb of the inner one is *start* and the main verb of the outer one is *tell*. There are two possible meanings, corresponding to which clause the PP *at Bill's restaurant* is attached to:

1. Sue's allegation was made somewhere, the fire was at Bill's restaurant.
2. Sue's allegation was made at Bill's restaurant, the fire was somewhere.

Now, consider (7), which is different in that the allegation is now that Bill (not Mary) started the fire.

(7) Sue_s told the insurance agent that he_b started the fire at Bill_b's restaurant.

The sentence in (7) does not have the same two types of meanings that (6) did. In particular, the first meaning has disappeared:

- i ~~Sue's allegation was made somewhere, the fire was at Bill's restaurant.~~
- ii Sue's allegation was made at Bill's restaurant, the fire was somewhere.

Questions for you:

1. [1] For reading (i), which clause is the PP attached to? (outer/higher or inner/lower)

2. [1] Which noun phrase(s) (if any) bind(s) *Bill* in (7) on reading (i)?

3. [1] Which noun phrase(s) (if any) bind(s) *Bill* in (7) on reading (ii)?

4. [1] What Principle(s) of Binding Theory rule(s) out reading (i) of (7)?
