1. Some little *n***Ps** For each of the DPs below, draw the full structure, including DP, *n*P, NP, and including any movement. Indicate what happens with at least the features $[u\phi:]$, [uN*], [ucase:], [ucase:nom], [ucase:acc], [ucase:gen], [ucase:of], as appropriate.

Here are a couple of example trees to help out with homework 6. And also a note about ϕ -feature agreement.

- (1) a. my dog
 - b. my dog barked
 - c. their rejection
 - d. their rejection of me



About ϕ -features. If you consider the tree above being built from the bottom, the 3sg ϕ -features originate on the N. These features need ultimately to be carried by the D that heads the whole projection, since they affect verb agreement in a larger sentence: *My dog barks* vs. *My dogs bark*. The issue both here and with the deverbal cases like *their rejection of me* is that there is another DP with its own ϕ -features (the agent or the possessor) whose ϕ -features need to be overlooked. The head D needs to have a $[u\phi:]$ feature so that it can pick up the ϕ -features from the N inside, but it needs to avoid picking up the possessor's or agent's ϕ -features.

We can manage this for possession constructions if we assume that Poss *also* has a $[u\phi:]$ feature that gets valued as the tree is constructed. The idea is that the Poss head comes to have a $[u\phi:3sg]$ once the feature is valued, and the features of Poss get projected up to be the features of the PossP as a whole (or: there is no distinction between the features of the head and of the maximal projection of that head). Once PossP has the 3sg feature, it is going to be closer to the D \emptyset_{gen} when the D is looking for ϕ features.

It's still a close race, a somewhat delicate/nuanced argument. Recall that we assume that a Merge which is motivated by the Hierarchy of Projections precludes agreement between the Merged objects at least in the circumstance where an uninterpretable feature is strong. So, V needs to move up to v despite VP and v being sisters because the $[uV^*]$ feature can't be checked by the VP (because these were Merged, motivated by the HoP), and can be checked by the V but only if the V moves closer. And D \emptyset_{gen} is Merged with the PossP due to the HoP. So, we need to say that D \emptyset_{gen} can't take the value from the PossP but rather from the head of the PossP. Even in principle, the Poss and PossP can't have different features, so this doesn't have much of an effect here, though we can still say that v and V are not close enough to check a *strong* feature unless V moves up to v.

Bottom line: I think we solve this problem for possessives if we assume that Poss has a $[u\phi:]$ feature. This should "shield" the DP in the specifier of PossP.

The same kind of problem doesn't really arise with deverbal constructions, so long as we assume that a deverbal N has an explicit $[\phi:3sg]$ feature, and that *n* has a $[u\phi:]$ feature. That is, the deverbal N doesn't just lack ϕ -features but rather is 3sg. Then *n* will pick those up, and when D is looking, *n*P will be closer to D than anything in *n*'s specifier (or deeper within *n*P).

In sum: our problems with ϕ -features appear to be at least technically solved if we assume both Poss and *n* have a $[u\phi:]$ feature, and that deverbal nouns have a $[\phi:3sg]$ feature.

I'm indicating these features in these example trees here, but I don't intend to count off on the homework if you didn't note these features of Poss or *n*.

Also, just as a side note about the tree immediately below: a DP headed by D \emptyset_{gen} ends up with both [*u*case:nom] and [*u*case:gen] features when it is put in subject position. It needed a case (and got one, nom) and needed to assign a case (and did, gen). Somehow the morphology needs to be able to tell those apart so that the DP gets pronounced in the nominative case and not in the genitive case. We will assume it can distinguish them somehow, perhaps just something as simple as the most recent feature to be checked is the one that determines the case form. And we also of course need to assume that the [*u*case:gen] feature can't value and check the [*u*case:] feature on the same head.



