

CAS LX 522

Syntax I

θ -roles in DP,
and an introduction to little *n*
(7.3-7.6)

14

Deverbal nouns

- The structure inside the DP can be as complicated as inside a clause, as it turns out.
 - 1) Pat broke the vase.
 - 2) Pat's breaking of the vase startled me.
 - 3) The bees startled me.
- It seems to be possible to convert the whole clause *Pat broke the vase* into a "noun" (a DP).

Deverbal nouns

- What's more, the relationship between *break*, *Pat*, and *the vase* seems to be the same inside the DP as it is in the clause.
 - 1) Pat broke the vase.
 - 2) Pat's breaking of the vase made me angry.
 - *Pat* is an Agent, *the vase* is a Theme.
 - 3) Pat danced.
 - 4) Pat's dancing startled me.
- Just as the verb *break* assigns θ -roles, it seems as if the nominalized *breaking* assigns the same θ -roles. The DP is in a way like a little clause.

TPs and DPs

- One difference between clausal DPs and TPs is in the case realized by the arguments.
 - 1) I called him.
 - Agent is nom (from T), Theme is acc (from *v*)
 - 2) My calling of him was unplanned.
 - Agent is gen, Theme looks like a PP introduced by *of*.
- So, the case assigners within a DP are different from the case assigners within a clause.

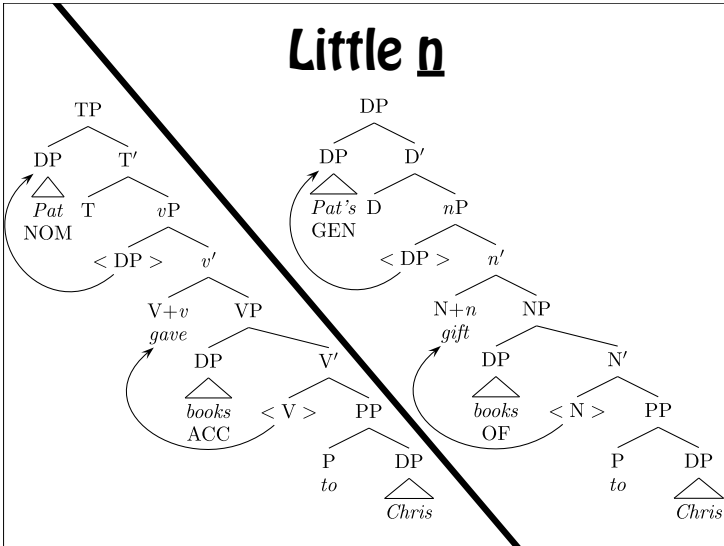
Two kinds of N

- Not all N's assign θ -roles. Some do, some don't. Generally, the nouns related to a verb that assigns θ -roles will assign θ -roles. But something like *lunch* doesn't.
 - 1) Pat's lunch was enormous.
 - 2) Pat's eating of lunch was shockingly rapid.
- So, we can either find a DP with a θ -role with genitive case, or we can find a possessor with genitive case, in SpecDP.

Ditransitive N

- Consider the ditransitive verb *give* and the related noun *gift*. Just as *give* is responsible for three θ -roles (Agent, Theme, Goal), so can *gift* be:
 - 1) Pat gave an apple to Chris.
 - 2) Pat's gift of an apple to Chris was unexpected.
- The exact same problem arises with ditransitive nouns as arose with ditransitive verbs.
- Binary branching allows for just two arguments in NP. We need an additional projection for the third. Let's try doing this just like we did for verbs...

Little n



DP is like TP

- If we suppose that DP works like TP, we can extend our theoretical machinery in an exactly analogous way.
- **Hierarchy of Projections**
D > n > N
- **UTAH**
DP daughter of nP: Agent
DP daughter of NP: Theme
PP daughter of N': Goal

Case in the DP

- In the DP, the “subject” appears with genitive case.
 - Cf. The subject in TP, which has nominative case, due to a [nom] feature on T.
- So, we say D can have a [gen*] feature.
 - This checks the genitive case on the subject of the DP, and forces it to move into SpecDP.
- In the DP, the “object” appears with the preposition of.
 - Cf. The object in TP, which has accusative case, due to an [acc] feature on v.
- So, we say that n has an [of] feature.

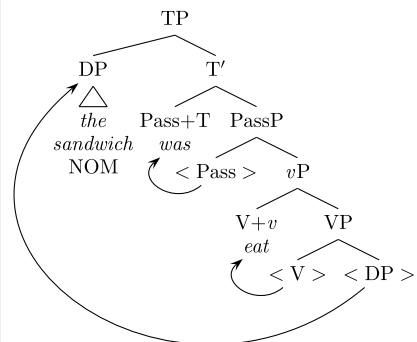
The of case

- What's the deal with this “of case” that objects in DPs get? Isn't of a preposition? Shouldn't of cheese in *The gift of cheese to the senator was appreciated* be a PP?
- This of is completely meaningless, it acts like a case marker. So, we're going to analyze it as such. *Of cheese* is a DP with the of case marking. Just like *Pat's* is a DP with the genitive ('s) case marking.
- Treating of as case allows a complete parallel between TP and DP; v has an [acc] feature, n has an [of] feature.

Passive nouns

- Last week, we looked at the passive construction:
 - 1) The sandwich was eaten
- Here, the Theme *the sandwich* becomes the subject because the strong feature of T forces it to move to SpecTP. The v does not project an Agent.

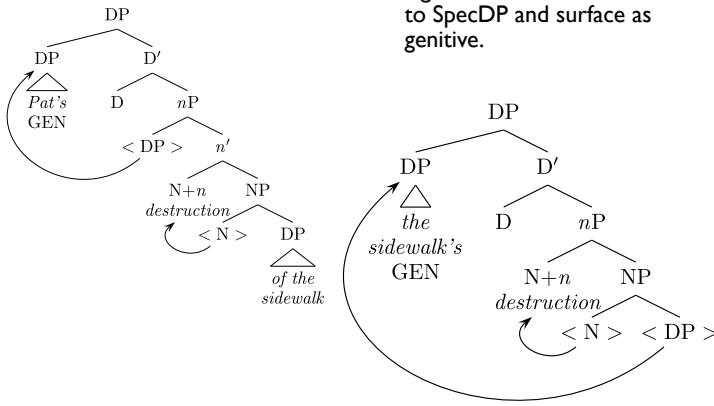
Passive



- In the passive, v does not introduce an Agent, and does not have an [acc] feature.
- T still has a [nom] feature, so it checks the [case] feature on the *sandwich*.
- T has a [uD*] feature, so the sandwich moves to SpecTP to check it.

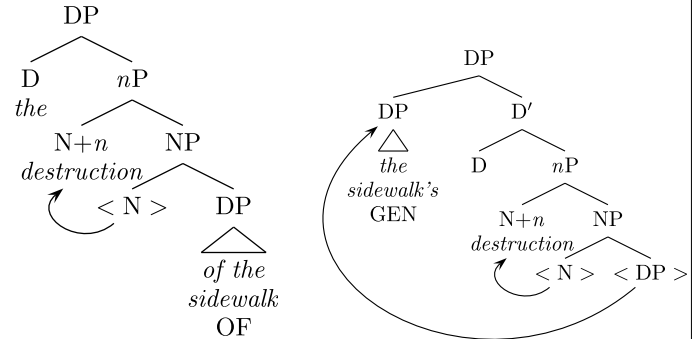
Passive nouns

Very similar to the passive, if an *n* doesn't introduce an Agent, the Theme can move to SpecDP and surface as genitive.



Passive nouns

- If the DP has a head D like *the* that does not check genitive case, then there can be no Agent (nothing could check its case), and the Theme stays unmoved (its *of*-case checked by *n*).



Case and θ -roles

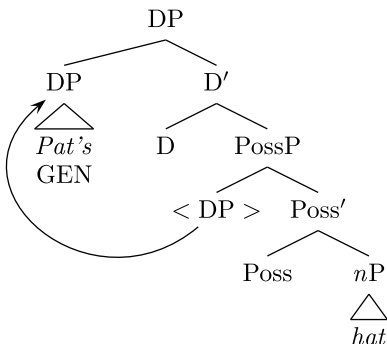
- We now predict the observation Adger makes: Either an Agent or a Theme can show up in the genitive, but only a Theme can show up with *of*-case.
 - Adger's analysis of the DP is simple.
 - The DP's analysis is simple.
 - *The analysis of Adger is simple.
- This is essentially the same as the generalization that, in a clause, either an Agent or a Theme can show up with nominative case, but only a Theme can show up with accusative case.

1) I called her.	3) *Her tripped.
2) She tripped.	4) *Tripped her.

Back to possession

- Prior to today, the genitive case was associated with the possessor. So far today we've been looking at deverbal nouns, where genitive case goes to the subject.
- Our new improved UTAH says, among other things:
 - DP daughter of NP: Theme
 - DP daughter of *nP*: Agent
- Possessors are neither of these, so possessors need to be initially Merged into a distinct place in the structure.

Possessors



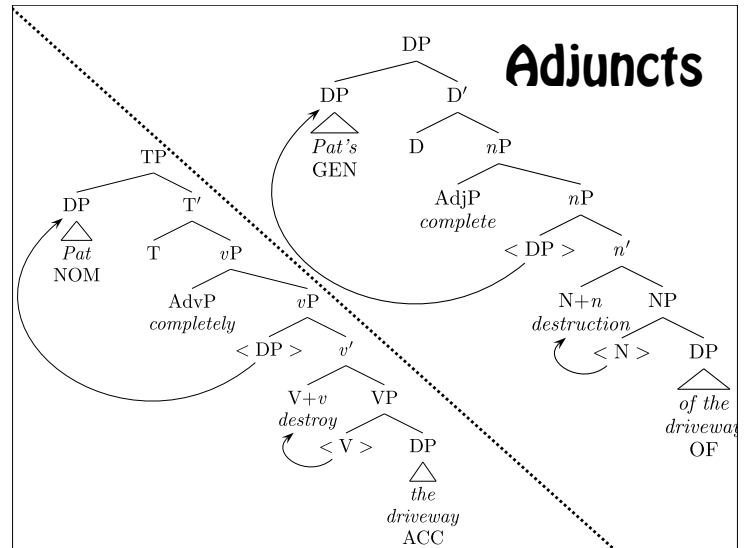
- Adger proposes that Possessors are introduced by a new head, Poss.
- HoP: D > (Poss) > n > N

Hungarian possessors

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1) Az en kalapom
the I hat
'my hat' | 3) A te kalapod
the you hat
'your hat' |
| 2) A Mari kalapja
the Mary hat
'Mary's hat' | 4) Marinak a kalapja
Mary the hat
'Mary's hat' |
- Assuming that the DP in Hungarian has the basic structure we've been discussing, what is the structure of this kind of possessive construction?
 - How about that (person?) agreement on 'hat'?

Adjectives

- Adjectives are to nouns as adverbs are to verbs. So what would the structure be for *Pat's complete destruction of the sidewalk*? Or *the silly idea*? Or *the pencil on the desk*?
- In *Pat completely destroyed the sidewalk*, we adjoin *completely* to *vP*. The subject moves to SpecTP.
- In the same way, we adjoin *complete* to *nP*, and *Pat* moves to SpecDP.



The Italian DP

- In Italian, in many cases, there is simply an option (stylistically governed) as to whether you say *The Gianni* or just *Gianni*:
 - 1) Gianni mi ha telefonato.
Gianni me has telephoned
'Gianni called me up.'
 - 2) Il Gianni mi ha telefonato.
the Gianni me has telephoned
'Gianni called me up.'

The Italian DP

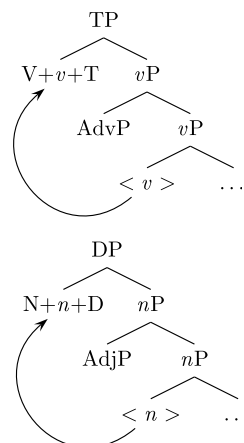
However, there is a difference with respect to the order of adjectives and the noun depending on which one you use.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) L' antica Roma
the ancient Rome
'Ancient Rome' | 4) E'venuto il vecchio Cameresei.
came the older Cameresei |
| 2)*Antica Roma
ancient Rome | 5)*E'venuto vecchio Cameresei
came older Cameresei |
| 3) Roma antica
Rome ancient | 6) E'venuto Cameresei vecchio.
came Cameresei older |

Generalization: If there's a determiner, the noun follows the adjective. If there isn't the noun precedes the adjective.

The Italian DP

- We can apply the same analysis to the order nouns and adjectives as we did to the order of adverbs and verbs.
- Recall that in French, verbs precede adverbs, but in English, verbs follow adverbs. We conclude that in French, *v* moves to T.
- In Italian, when the noun precedes the adjective it has moved over it, to D. The generalization is that this happens except if D is already filled.
 - L' antica Roma
the ancient Rome
 - Roma antica *Antica Roma
Rome ancient ancient Rome



Parameters

- Languages differ on whether *n* moves to D, yielding some languages where nouns precede adjectives, and some languages where nouns follow adjectives.
 - Likewise, languages differ on whether *v* moves to T, yielding some languages (e.g., French) where verbs precede adverbs, and some languages (e.g., English) where verbs follow adverbs.
- What governs whether *n* moves to D is the strength of an uninterpretable feature checked on D or *n* by the other. One such feature is [*unum*:].
 - Italian: [*unum*:*] is strong on null determiners.
 - English: [*unum*:] is weak, even on null determiners.
 - [\emptyset_{indef} Happy students] poured forth from the classroom.