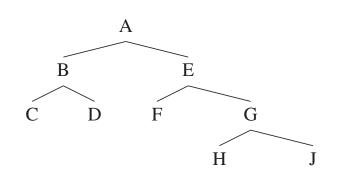
CAS LX 522 Syntax I Fall 2015 Homework #3 DUE THU SEP 24

## **1** Tree relations

**Task.** For each of the following, list the nodes described with reference to the abstract tree below.

- (1) Nodes B dominates?
- (2) Nodes E dominates?
- (3) Daughter(s) of E?
- (4) Sister(s) of E?
- (5) Terminal nodes?
- (6) Mothers of terminal nodes?



## 2 Sinhala

In Sinhala (spoken in Sri Lanka), verbs can appear in two different forms, which we will call form A and form B. Some sentences in Sinhala are provided below.<sup>1</sup>

- (7) a. Mamə kawi kiənəwa. I poetry tell-A 'I recite poetry.'
  b. Matə kawi kiənəwa. I poetry tell-B 'I started reciting poetry (despite myself).'
  (8) a. Lamea kataawə ahanəwa. child story hear-A 'The child listens to the story.'
  b. Lameatə kataawə æhanəwa.
  - child story hear-B 'The child hears the story.'

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Based on problem 7.1 from Carnie 2002.

(9) a. Mamə natənəwa.

I dance-A 'I dance.'

b. Matə nætənəwa.

I dance-B 'I dance (I can't help but do so).'

(10) a. Mamə untə baninəwa. I them scold-A

'I deliberately scold them.'

- b. Matə untə bænenəwa.
  I them scold-B
  'I experienced scolding them.'
- (11) a. Hæmə irida mə mamə koləmbə yanəwa.
   every Sunday EMPH I Columbo go-A.
   'Every Sunday I deliberately go to Columbo.'
  - b. Hæmə irida mə matə koləmbə yæennəwa.
    every Sunday EMPH I Columbo go-B.
    'Every Sunday I experience going to Columbo.'
- (12) a. Malli nitərəmə aŋdənəwa.
   brother always cries-A
   'Brother always cries.'
  - b. Mallițə nitərəmə æŋdənəwaa.
    brother always cries-B
    'Brother always bursts out crying without control.'
- (13) Apitə pansələ peenəwa.we temple see-B'We saw the temple.'

**Part 1.** For each sentence, list the  $\theta$ -roles the verb assigns (both the type of  $\theta$ -role and the argument the  $\theta$ -role is assigned to). I have done the first one for you below as a model. **Notice:** these are paired examples. Read the sentences first, and compare the (a) examples to the corresponding (b) examples. The (a) examples contain a verb in form A, the (b) examples contain the same verb in form B. The  $\theta$ -roles you use should be drawn from the following list: Agent, Theme, Experiencer, Goal.

(7a) Agent: mamə Theme: kawi **Part 2.** Look at the places where the suffix  $-t\partial$  appears. What is the generalization about where it is found? That is, what kind of noun does the suffix  $-t\partial$  appear on? As you answer this, don't forget that this problem is about  $\theta$ -roles, and that you just did Part 1. (Answer this in two sentences at most, one should suffice.)

**Part 3.** Compare sentences with form A verbs to the sentences with form B verbs. Succinctly, what is the difference between the forms in terms of the  $\theta$ -roles they assign?

**Part 4.** Sentence (13) is not paired with anything; you are only given the one with form B of the verb. Given what you now know about Sinhala, what does the corresponding sentence with form A of the verb (and without the  $-t\partial$  suffix on the subject) mean?

## **3** Trees and Merge

Suppose that you pulled the following items from your lexicon. I've given you the pronunciation for the verb and the preposition.

[N, acc, 3, masc, sg] [N, acc, 2, pl] *called* [V, *u*N, *u*N, past] [N, nom, 1, pl] *for* [P, *u*N]

**Part 1.** Using Merge and/or Adjoin, assemble these into an interpretable structure. Show the structure *after each application of Merge or Adjoin*, crossing out uninterpretable features as they are checked. You will draw four trees, the last being the biggest one. **Note:** There are a few different ways you could do this, but the way you provide must satisfy this condition: **The word with the [nom] feature must be a specifier.** I've done one for you, so you can see what it looks like (but note that this wasn't the only first step you could have taken.)

Step 1. PP Merge P and N  

$$[P, uN] [N, acc, 2, pl] for$$

**Part 2.** What is the sentence you just drew a tree for?

**Part 3.** What other sentence could you have made with these same lexical items (again, with the condition that the word with [nom] be in a specifier position)?

## 4 Trees again

**Parts 1–2.** Repeat parts 1–2 from the previous problem, but for the following lexical items instead. *Hint:* It's harder to think of an appropriate verb for this one. If you do not want to rely on your intuitions, glance at the handout for ideas. For this tree, just as before: **The word with the [nom] feature must be a specifier.** 

[N, acc, 1, sg] [V, *u*N, *u*P] [N, nom, 3, pl] [P, *u*N]