

CAS LX 522 Syntax I

Little *n*
and the Chamber of Secrets
(7.3-7.6)

15

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 *n*P: 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.

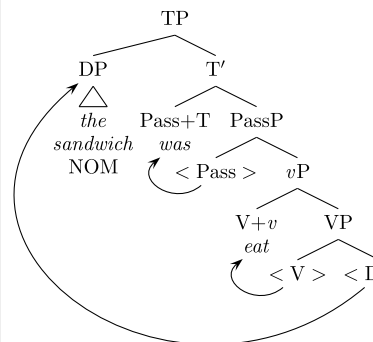
The of case

- 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.

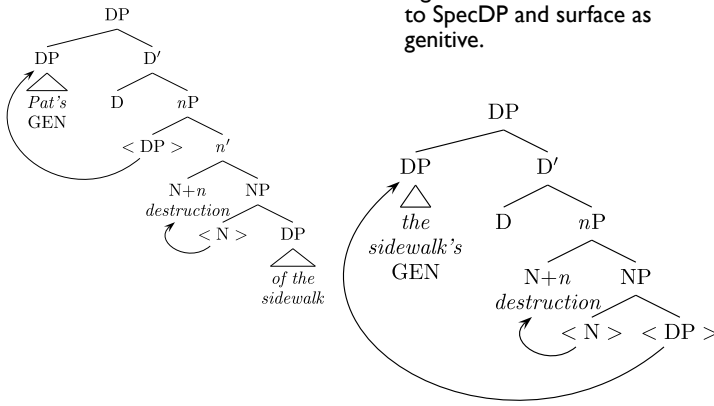
Passive



- 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.

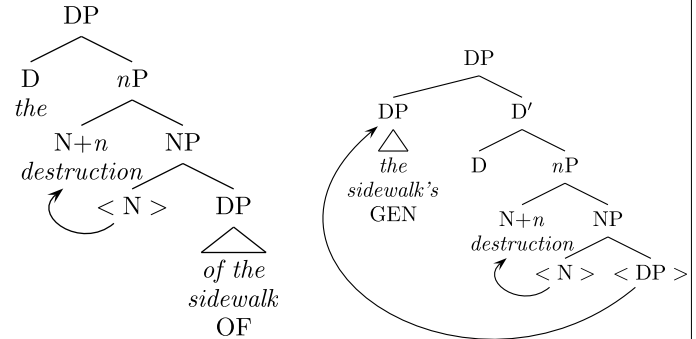
Passive nouns

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

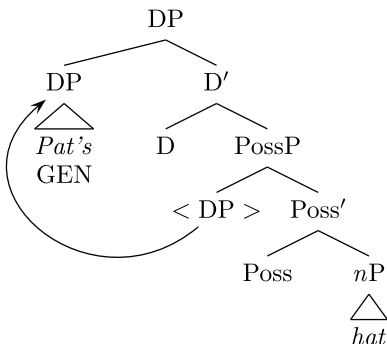
- We now predict the observation Adger makes: Either an Agent or a Theme can show up in the genitive, but only a Theme can show up with *of*-case.
 - Adger's analysis of the DP is simple.
 - The DP's analysis is simple.
 - *The analysis of Adger is simple.
- This is essentially the same as the generalization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



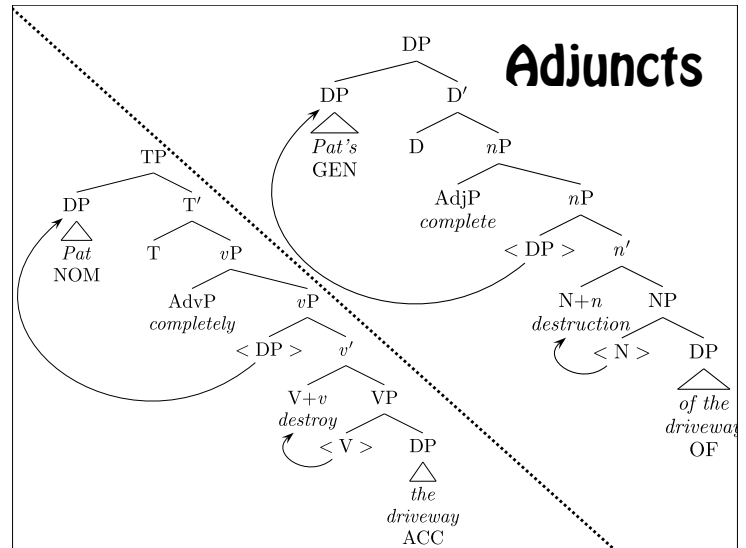
- Adger proposes that Possessors are introduced by a new head, Poss.
- HoP: $D > (Poss) > n > N$

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

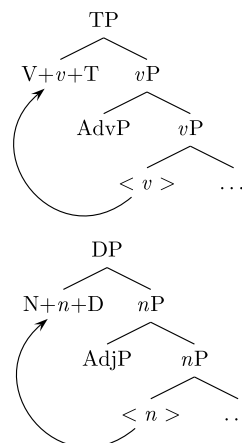
However, there is a difference with respect to the order of adjectives and the noun depending on which one you use.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 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.

More Italian, same point

- [_{DP} Il mio Gianni] ha finalmente telefonato.
the my G. has finally called
'My Gianni has finally called.'
- *_{[DP} Mio Gianni] ha finalmente telefonato.
- [_{DP} Gianni mio] ha finalmente telefonato.

Some Hebrew

- harisat ha-oyev 'et ha-'ir
destruction the-enemy OM the-city
'The enemy's destruction of the city'
- tipul ha-Siltonot ba-ba'aya
treatment the-authorities in-the-problem
'The authorities' treatment of the problem'
- Construct state. What seems to be happening here? Again, parametric variation.
- [gen] feature of D is weak in Hebrew, strong (when there) in English. But [unum:] feature is strong in Hebrew.
- Rather like VSO languages, where *v* moves to T (like in French, unlike in English), but the subject doesn't move to SpecTP (the [_uD] feature of T is weak).