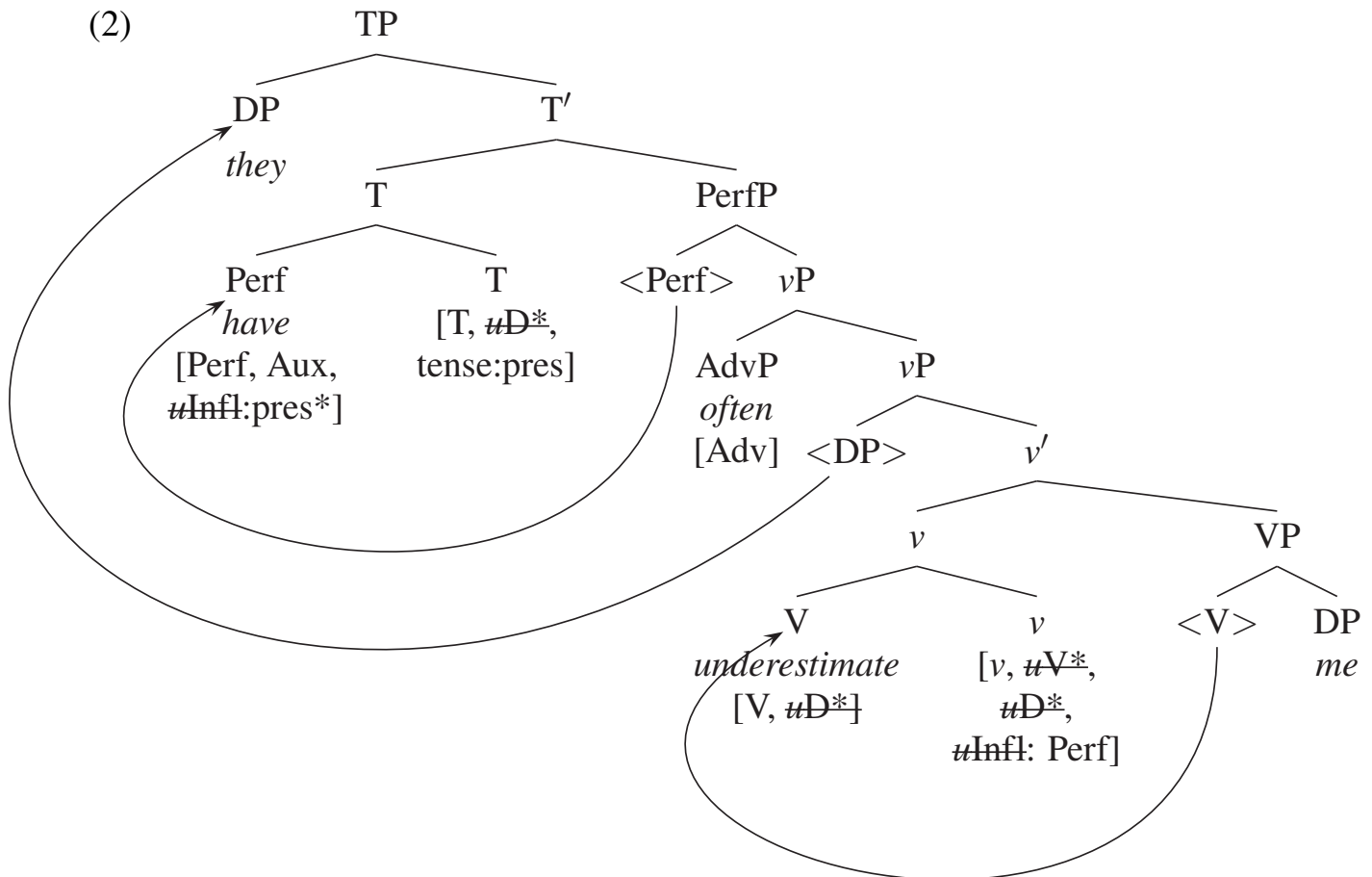# 1 Practice using Agree

(1) They have often underestimated me.

(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
>
> - So long as:
>
>   - 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:
>
>   - First: Any unvalued feature ([F1] or [F2]) is valued.
>   - Second: The uninterpretable feature(s) is/are checked.
>
> **Special case**: If a head has the feature [Aux], and if that head's [uInfl:] feature is valued by T, then the feature is **valued as strong**. Thus: it cannot be checked unless T and that head are still close enough. If they are not, Agree fails to check the feature, and Move is motivated in order to *make* them be close enough.

First step. In the first step, the V *underestimate* and the DP *me* are combined by **Merge**. This is allowed because as a result of doing so, an uninterpretable feature is checked. One Merge has combined the V (corresponding to X in the definition) and the DP (corresponding to Y in the definition): V has a [uD*] feature (corresponding to [F1] in the definition), DP has a [D] feature (corresponding to [F2]). The pre-conditions on Agree are met:

- V has feature [uD*], DP has feature [D].

- V c-commands DP *and* DP c-commands V.

- [uD*] (on V) 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.

The result is that:

- First: Any unvalued feature would be valued (though there aren't any).

- Second: The uninterpretable feature ([uD*]) is checked.

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1. Agreement with Perf. Now, consider the derivation a few steps later, just at the point 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 conditions on Agree**, just as I did above for the first step, except now using Perf as X and v as Y. The point is to demonstrate that, once Perf and vP are Merged, Agree will result in checking this uninterpretable feature. And by "just as I did above for the first step," I mean provide a bullet point for each condition in the *So long as* clause, and for each resulting step in the *Then* clause. Just as above. It's tedious, but it's worth going through at least a couple of times at this very fine level of detail. It'll be fine.

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2. Matching after Merging T. The next step is to Merge T with the just-completed PerfP. Perf still has a [uInfl:] feature to check. Something funny is going to happen here, so we're going to do it in even smaller micro-steps. For this part, just run through the *So long as* points in the definition of Agree, to show that the conditions are met for Agree to happen. Assume that [tense:pres] on T matches the [uInfl:] feature of Perf. Use T as X and Perf as Y.

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3. Valuing after Merging T. In the next microstep, having satisfied the *So long as* conditions, we first value the unvalued feature. Write the newly valued [uInfl:] feature (by filling in the value). Take special note of the special case.

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4. Not checking the feature. Now that the feature has been valued, return to the *So long as* requirements. They are no longer met, so we cannot proceed to check the feature. Just briefly point out in what way the conditions are no longer met.

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5. Checking the feature. The next step is to head-adjoin Perf to T. Now that Perf is adjoined to T, revisit the answer you just gave above, to say how it solves the problem and now meets the conditions in the *So long as* clause for Agree.

2   Drawing some trees on your own

Your turn.   Now, draw trees for (3) through (6), 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 ([*u*Infl:]) 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. The example tree at the top of this homework is a model.

- 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.

- For DPs with nouns inside, assume a DP, NP structure.

- Adjectives will be adjoined to NP for now, adverbs to *v*P.

(3)   We might have misunderstood you.
(4)   You were not watching the performance carefully.
(5)   I must not have been eating the correct sandwich.
(6)   I shall quickly choose a different sandwich.