

Lecture 05: Complements and Adjuncts.

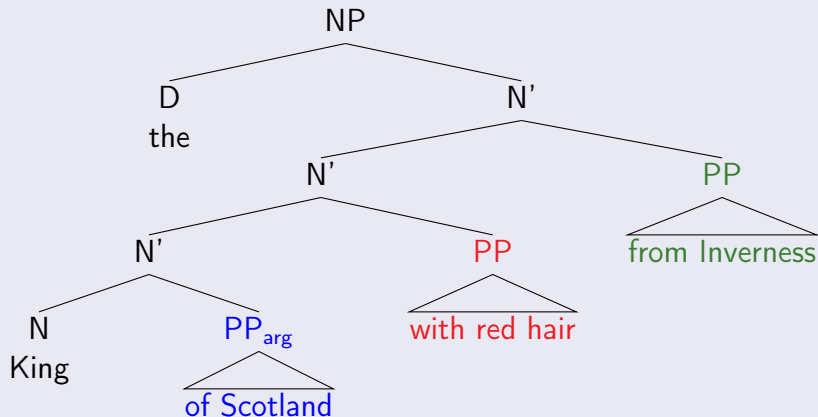
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LIN 311: Syntax

September 11, 2018

Examples

NP Examples



Complements vs. Adjuncts

Example

(3) The King of Scotland with red hair from Inverness

- of Scotland: complement (merged directly with N)
- with red hair and from Inverness: adjuncts (merged with N')

Position of complements and adjuncts

Complement must be the closest to the head; adjuncts can be separated from the head.

- (4)
- the King of Scotland with red hair from Inverness
 - *the King with red hair of Scotland from Inverness
 - *the King with red hair from Inverness of Scotland

Complements vs. Adjuncts

Example

(5) The King of Scotland with red hair from Inverness

- of Scotland: complement (merged directly with N)
- with red hair and from Inverness: adjuncts (merged with N')

Reordering

Adjuncts can be reordered, complements are fixed.

- (6)
- the King of Scotland with red hair from Inverness
 - the King of Scotland from Inverness with red hair

Complements vs. Adjuncts

Example

(7) The King of Scotland with red hair from Inverness

- of Scotland: complement (merged directly with N)
- with red hair and from Inverness: adjuncts (merged with N')

Number of complements and adjuncts

There can be only one complement. No restrictions on the number of adjuncts

- (8)
- *the King of Scotland of Wales
 - the King of Scotland with red hair with beautiful armor from Inverness

Complements vs. Adjuncts

Example

(9) The King of Scotland with red hair from Inverness

- of Scotland: complement (merged directly with N)
- with red hair and from Inverness: adjuncts (merged with N')

Conjunction

Complements can only be conjoined with complements; adjuncts can only be conjoined with adjuncts.

- (10)
- *the King of Scotland and with red hair
 - the King of Scotland and of Wales
 - the King with red hair and with a tattoo

Complements vs. Adjuncts

Example

(11) The King of Scotland with red hair from Inverness

- of Scotland: complement (merged directly with N)
- with red hair and from Inverness: adjuncts (merged with N')

Substitution

one can only substitute part before adjuncts, but not before the complement (dialectal variation possible).

- (12)
- the King from Inverness, not the one from Edinburgh
 - *the King of Scotland, not the one of Wales
 - the King of Scotland from Inverness, not the one from Edinburgh

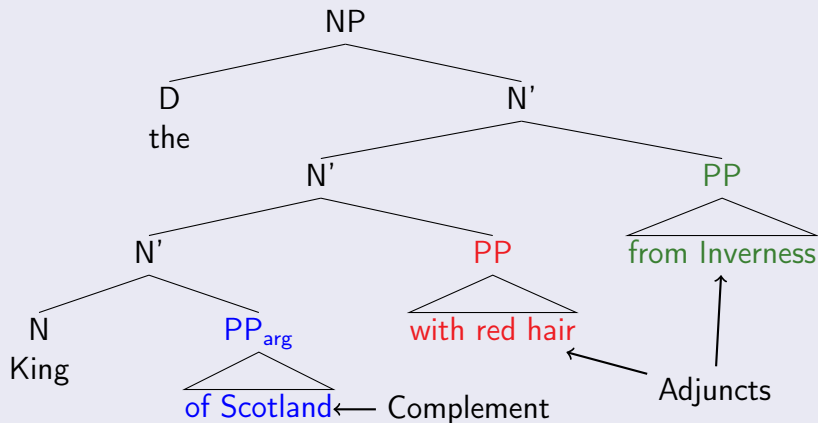
Complements vs. Adjuncts

Summary of distinctions

	Complements	Adjuncts
<i>Number</i>	only 1	multiple allowed
<i>Position</i>	closest to the head	may be separated from the head
<i>Order</i>	cannot be reordered	can be reordered
<i>Conjunction</i>	only with complements	only with adjuncts
<i>Substitution</i>	\times [one]+complement	✓[one]+adjunct
<i>Structure</i>	sister of X	sister of X'

Examples

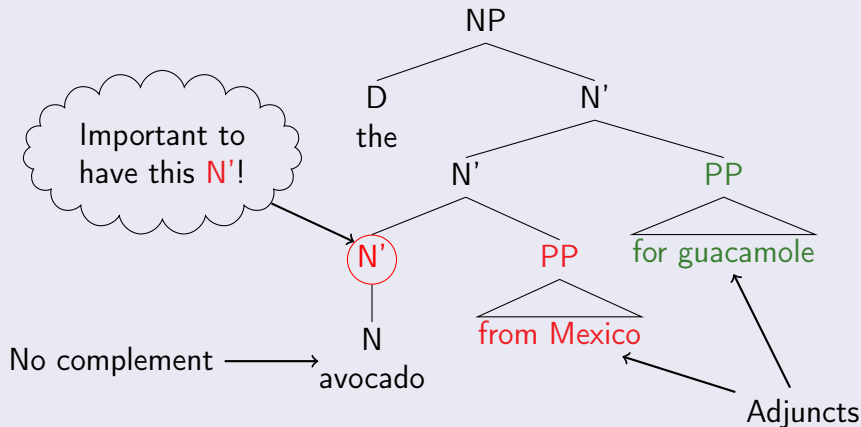
the King of Scotland with red hair from Inverness



Examples

the avocado from Mexico for guacamole

- What is the complement and what are the adjuncts?



Complements vs. Adjuncts

Example

(13) read the paper at the bar quickly

- the paper: complement (merged directly with V)
- at the bar and quickly: adjuncts (merged with V')

Number of complements and adjuncts

- (14) a. *read the paper the book
b. read the paper at the bar by the counter quickly

Complements vs. Adjuncts

Example

(15) read the paper at the bar quickly

- the paper: complement (merged directly with V)
- at the bar and quickly: adjuncts (merged with V')

Ordering

- (16)
- read the paper at the bar quickly
 - read the paper quickly at the bar
 - *read quickly the paper at the bar
 - *read at the bar the paper quickly
 - *read at the bar quickly the paper

Complements vs. Adjuncts

Example

(17) read the paper at the bar quickly

- the paper: complement (merged directly with V)
- at the bar and quickly: adjuncts (merged with V')

Conjunction

- (18)
- read the paper and the book
 - read the paper quickly and at the bar
 - *read the paper and at the bar

Complements vs. Adjuncts

Example

(19) read the paper at the bar quickly

- **the paper**: complement (merged directly with V)
- **at the bar** and **quickly**: adjuncts (merged with V')

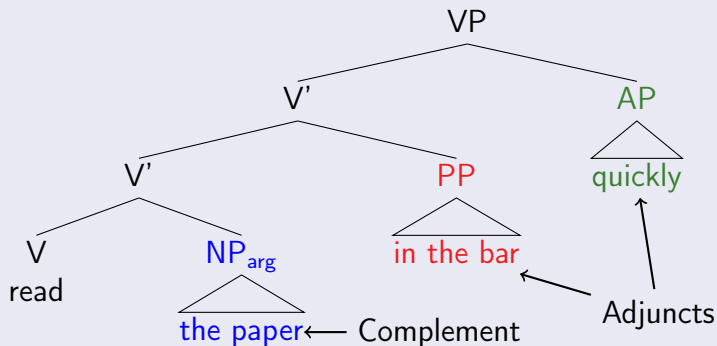
Substitution

(20) I read **the paper in the bar quickly** but ...

- Jane did so **in the library slowly**
(did so = read **the paper**)
- Jane did so **slowly**
(did so = read **the paper in the bar**)
- *Jane did so **the book in the library slowly**
(did so = read)

Examples

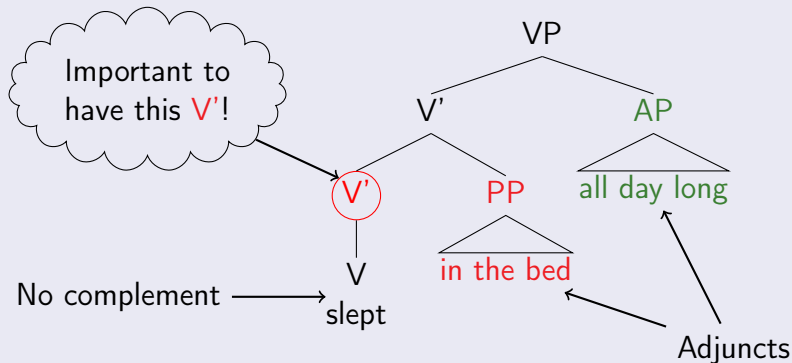
read the paper in the bar quickly



Examples

slept in the bed all day long

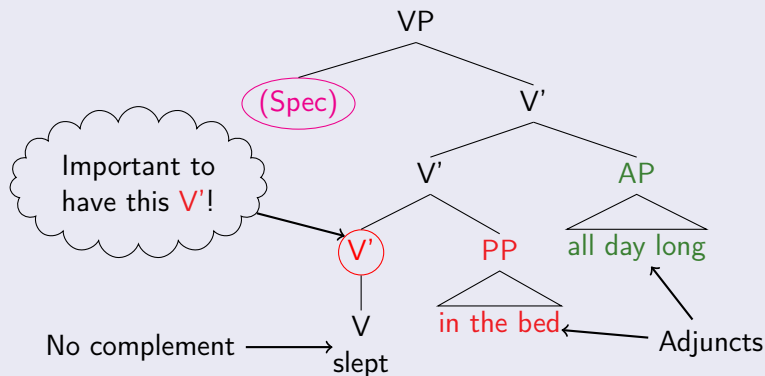
- What is the complement and what are the adjuncts?



Minor revision about specifiers: more later!

slept in the bed all day long

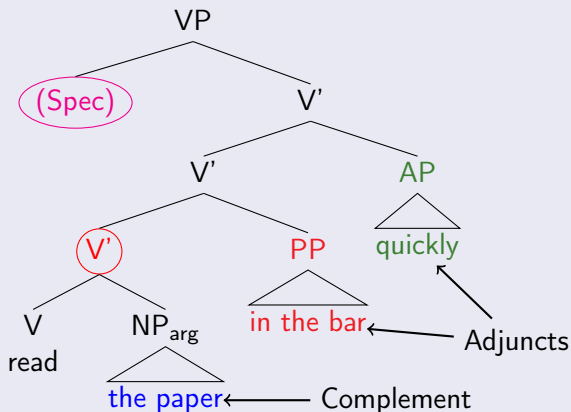
- AP **all day long** and PP **in bed** are both adjuncts
- They should be similar structurally
- Neither should be in the Specifier position (daughter of VP)



Minor revision about specifiers: more later!

read the paper in the bar quickly

- Same assumption for our previous tree:



Minor revision about specifiers: more later!

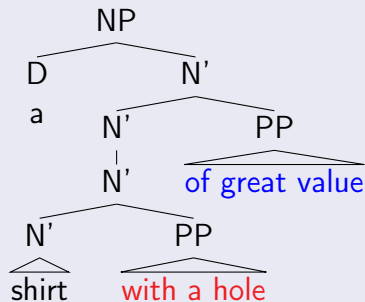
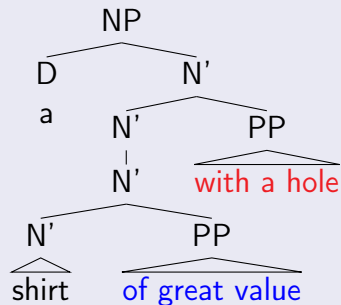
- Let us assume that VPs so far have nothing in the Specifier position
- For NPs we will still assume that D is the Specifier
 - all of it will be revised later. . .

Ordering of adjuncts

Two NP structures

- The adjuncts can be merged in any order.
- However, it often has an effect on meaning.

- (21) a. A shirt of great value with a hole is worthless.
 b. #A shirt with a hole of great value is worthless.



Ordering of adjuncts

Two NP structures

- The adjuncts can be **merged in any order**.
- However, it often has an **effect on meaning**.

- (22)
- a. the man with the unusual last name from China
(#Smith, ✓Ng)
 - b. the man from China with the unusual last name
(✓Smith, #Ng)

Scope

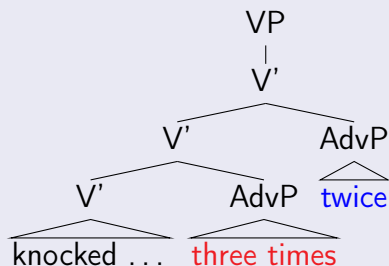
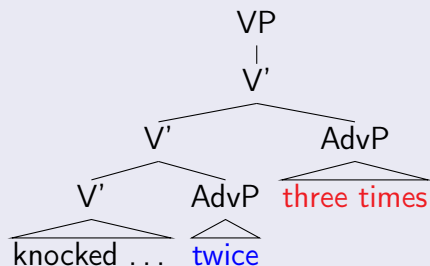
- Such difference is usually explained by **scope**:
 - In (22-a), the last name is unusual from the speaker's perspective for the man, and this man is from China.
 - In (22-b), the man is from China, and the last name is unusual for a Chinese person.

Ordering of adjuncts

Two VP structures

- Same is true for VPs and the order of adverbials.

- (23) a. John knocked on the door **twice** **three times**.
 (knock-knock... knock-knock... knock-knock)
- b. John knocked on the door **three times** **twice**.
 (knock-knock-knock... knock-knock-knock)



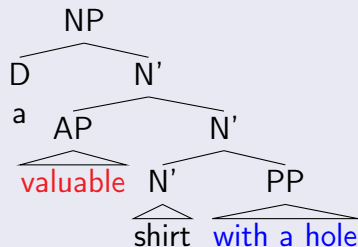
Ambiguity in rule application

Mixing prenominal and postnominal adjuncts

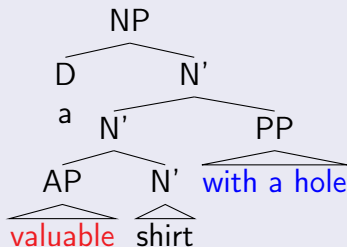
- When you mix **prenominal** and **postnominal** adjuncts, there can always be two structures:

(24) a valuable shirt with a hole

a shirt with a hole that is valuable
(i.e. belonging to Lincoln)



once valuable shirt that now has
a hole in it



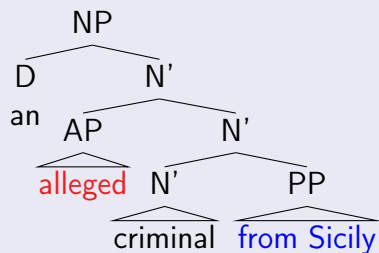
Ambiguity in rule application

Mixing prenominal and postnominal adjuncts

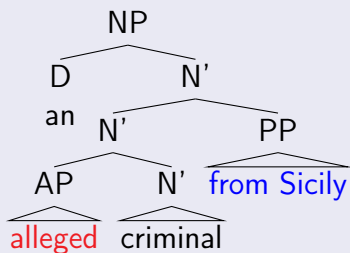
- When you mix **prenominal** and **postnominal** adjuncts, there can always be two structures:

(25) an alleged criminal from Sicily

a person alleged to be a Sicilian criminal (from NY in reality)



a Sicilian person, who is an alleged criminal



Examples of X-Bar Trees

(26) The man from France found a book of poems in the garbage

