Homework 6

LIN 311: Syntax, Fall 2018

Problem 1

English has a process called **VP-Ellipsis**, where a part of the sentence, usually a VP, is deleted:

(1) a. John likes pizza, and Mary does ~~like pizza~~ too.
b. I went to the zoo yesterday, and Bill did ~~go to the zoo yesterday~~ too.

The strike-through part in the sentences above is a VP and it is deleted **under identity**: it is obligatory interpreted the same as the VP in the first clause.

However, the name of this phenomenon is confusing. It is not always VP that is deleted under ellipsis. Consider the following set of data from English:

(2) a. *John has left, and Mary, too.
b. John has left, and Mary has, too

(3) a. John has been reading Chomsky, and Mary has, too.
b. John might be drinking beer, and Mary might be, too.

(4) a. *John must have visited Iceland, and Mary must, too.
b. John must have visited Poland, and Mary must have, too.

(5) a. *Sue might be sleeping, and Bill, too.
b. Sue might be sleeping, and Bill might, too.

(6) a. *John must have been playing cards, and Mary must, too.
b. John must have been playing cards, and Mary must have, too.
c. John must have been playing cards, and Mary must have been, too.

There is some variation is what native speakers find acceptable, so just assume the grammaticality judgements given above.

From the data above we can see that it's not just the VP that can be elided in English. Assume the projection hierarchy, as we talked about in class:

$$\text{TP} > \text{PerfP} > \text{ProgP} > \text{VP}.$$

What exactly can be elided in English? You might want to draw some trees to argue for your theory.

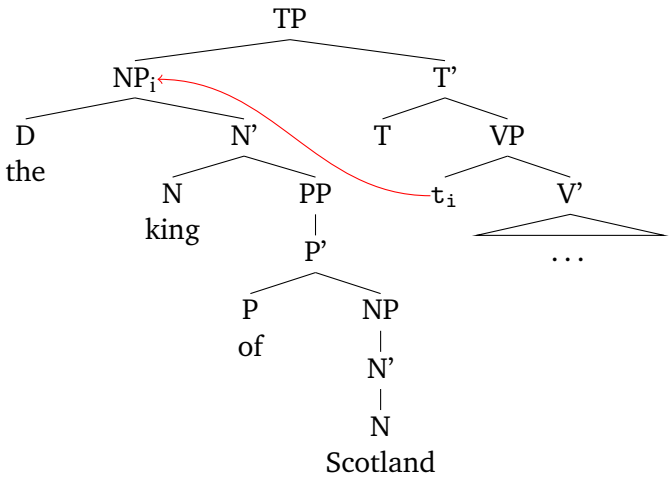
Problem 2

Korean is similar in its structure to Japanese, which we discussed in one of our lectures. It is a head-final language, with both specifiers and adjuncts appearing on the left:

XP → (ZP) X'	Specifier rule
X' → (ZP) X'	Adjunct rule
X' → (ZP) X	Complement rule

Assume that the subjects start in Spec,VP position and move to Spec,TP in Korean. Also, assume that the verb does not raise to T, and stays inside the VP (we don't know if it's true, but let's assume it for the purposes of this homework). Also assume that *kuuy* 'his' is a Determiner even though we didn't talk about it yet.

When you draw movements of the subject from the Spec,VP to Spec,TP position, you don't have to draw the structure for the subject in the original Spec,VP position — it is enough to have to fully articulated in Spec,TP. Just indicate that subject moved from there: you can just put `t`, which stands for *trace*, in the original position of the moved constituent, and show an arrow going from `t` to the final position. You can also put the same subscript on `t` and the NP which originated at the position indicated by `t`:



Draw the trees for the following Korean sentences:

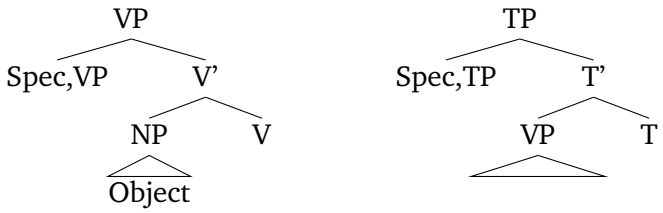
(7) a. Minaka yengkwuk uy wangi mosukhupa ey kassta ko sayngkakhanta.
Mina England of king Moscow to went that thinks
'Mina thinks that the King of England went to Moscow.'

b. Cacwusayk meli uy kwukhoy uyweni kuuy emmaka ssailul silehanta ko sayngkakhanta.
purple hair with parliament member his mother Psy hates that thinks
'The member of parliament with purple hair thinks that his mother hates Psy.'

Problem 3

Part 1:

Draw a tree for the embedded clause of (9) from German, marking all movements (Standard German punctuation conventions here have been altered to avoid confusion). Do not forget that German is a **head-final** language; both V and T occur on the right of their complements:



You may also assume that the German *ist* 'is' starts moves to T from PerfP, i.e. it's analogous to English auxiliary *have*. You do not need to draw a tree for (8)— it is here as an example and a reminder of what we discussed in class!

(8) Er glaubt [dass er Maria liebt].
he thinks [that he Maria loves]
'He thinks that he loves Maria.'

(9) Er sagte [dass er gestern schon angekommen ist].
he said [that he yesterday already arrived is]
'He said that he had arrived already yesterday.'

Part 2:

Now look at the following example, where the complementizer *dass* is missing. This is a case of embedded V2. Provide an analysis for it and draw a tree structure of the embedded clause embodying your analysis:

(10) Er sagte [gestern ist er schon angekommen].
he said [yesterday is he already arrived]
'He said that he had arrived already yesterday.'

Problem 4*

You are an archaeologist living in the 31st century C.E., and your work involves deciphering and analyzing linguistic relics from an ancient North American empire. The oldest sentence types that you have, from the very beginning of the 21st century, are illustrated in (11) and (12).

(11) a. He is never late.
b. He isn't late.

(12) a. She never regretted her extravagances.
b. She didn't regret her extravagances.

Based on data for the verb *be*, given in (13)-(15), there is evidence of three later stages of the language (not necessarily presented in chronological order).

(13) a. He never bees late.
b. He doesn't be late.

(14) a. He bees never late.
b. He bees not late.

(15) a. He never bees late.
b. He not bees late.

There are only two sentence types attested in connection with ordinary verbs, the type in (12), repeated below in (16-a), and that in (16-b).

(16) a. She never regretted her extravagances.
b. She not regretted her extravagances.

Part 1:

What are the properties of the grammars that generate the sentence types in (13)-(15)? Is it possible to arrange the grammars in chronological order? Explain briefly. (The radiocarbon dating machine or whatever archaeologists are using in the 31st century to date the media bearing the sentences is broken, and so you are forced to arrange the data based on internal linguistic evidence alone.)

Part 2:

Which of the variants in (16) goes with which of the variants in (13)-(15)? Explain briefly.