

DP's in Polish

SLS Meeting

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The Questions I

- How does syntax know what is a phase, the proposals
 - Fixed heads C, v, D... (Chomsky 2004)
 - Topmost of projection (Bošković 2014)
 - a phase can have any functional projection as its phase head, as long as it is the topmost of a given lexical projection
 - Abstract floating head above lexical projection (Pesetsky 2015)
 - ω is a PF empty phase head on top of any extended lexical domain that is a phase - ω can obtain PF material via head movement and can serve as an escape hatch for cyclic movement via its Spec.
- What is the optimal algorithm for establishing phase heads in the syntax

The Questions II

- Lg Specific
 - Assuming Polish Nominals are phases (see Kučerová & Szczegielniak 2020 for discussion and notable exceptions) - are they always DP's?
 - Polish exhibits contradictory behavior sometimes behaves like DP phase, sometimes like a non DP phase
 - Are Polish nominals phases with different phase heads?

The proposal

- Dynamic phase heads combines Bošković's (2014) topmost projection proposal with Pesetsky's (2015) proposal that a phase is headed by an abstract head ω located above visible lexical/functional projections.
- A phase can be 'frozen' via head movement before the whole extended domain is constructed (Szczegielniak 2017).
- Phase freezing is an aborted phase extension process proposed in Den Dikken (2007).

The Data

- DP phase behavior
 - Polish patterns with DP phase languages such as English and not Serbo-Croatian as far as complement extraction and Binding
 - Polish patterns with non DP phase languages such as Serbo-Croatian as far as alleviation of Left Branch Extraction violations
 - Combination of LBE alleviation and complement extraction yields ungrammatical structures - Polish cannot be both S-C and English in a single construction

Complement extraction S-C (Bošković 2014)

(1) a. * [NP Ovog studenta]i sam prona'la [NP sliku ti].

this student am found picture

‘Of this student I found the picture.’

b. Prona'la sam [NP sliku [NP ovog studenta]].

found am picture this student

c. [NP Ovog studenta]i sam pronala [NumP mnogo / deset [NP slika t1]].

this student am found many/ ten pictures

‘Of this student I found many / ten pictures.’

Complement extraction English

- (2) a. [Of this student] I found [a picture t1].
b. *[Picture of this student]₁ I found [a t1].

Anti locality and phases

- Bošković (2014) attributes the extraction asymmetries between (1a) and (2a) to Anti-Locality (Abels 2003) that prevents movement of a phase complement of a phase head into the specifier of that phase head.
- The conclusion is that NPs are phases in Serbo-Croatian, but not in English, where the closest phase is a DP. Extraction of an NP-phase complement is not possible in S-C (2a), and extraction of a DP-phase complement is not possible in English (2b).
- What is possible is extraction of an NP complement that is itself a complement of a DP-phase, as in (2a), and extraction of an NP complement if there are additional projections such as quantifiers or numerals (1c).

Polish allows complement extraction with no visible additional structure

- In Polish (3a), we see an NP complement construction, where we can wh-extract the NP complement (3b).

(3)a. On kupił [[NP tomik [poezji angielskiej]] [w skórzanej okładce]].

He purchased volume poetry English in leather jacket

‘He purchased a volume of English poetry with a leather jacket.’

b. [Jakiej poezji]₁ on kupił [[NP tomik t₁] [w skórzanej okładce]]?

What poetry he purchased volume in leather cover

‘What poetry did he purchase a volume of with a leather jacket?’

Polish allows complement extraction with no visible additional structure

- Example (3c) provides a standard constituency test that the extracted phrase is actually a complement of the NP since the head noun cannot be separated from the complement by an adjunct.

c. *On kupił [[NP tomik] [w skórzanej okładce] [poezji angielskiej]].

He purchased volume in leather jacket poetry English

*‘He purchased a volume in a leather jacket of English poetry.’

Polish is not wysiwyg

- There needs to be more functional architecture that allows overriding Anti-locality restrictions on extraction.
- Otherwise we would not have contrast between S-C and Polish

1 a. * [nP Ovog studenta]i sam prona'la [nP sliku ti].

this student am found picture

Of this student I found the picture.'

3 b.[Jakiej poezji]1 on kupił [[XP... [nP tomik t1]][w skórzanej okładce]]?

What poetry he purchased volume in leather cover

'What poetry did he purchase a volume of with a leather jacket?'

Binding

- Languages lacking a DP layer are predicted to differ in behavior as far as binding within the nominal. The assumption is that in Serbo-Croatian the possessive is in a PossP adjoined to the NP lexical domain and can c-command out of it (Despić 2015).

Binding S-C

4a.[NP Kusturicini_i [NP najnoviji film]]₁ ga^{*i/j} je zaista razočarao.

Kusturica's_i latest movie him^{*i/j} is really disappointed

‘Kusturica's_i latest movie really disappointed him^{*i}.’

- In (4a) above, the possessive is not part of the NP phase complement. Assuming phases delineate Binding Domains (Safir 2014), the possessive c-commands the pronoun and is in the same minimal Binding Domain (vP) which prevents co-indexation via Condition B.

Binding S-C

4b. [NP Njegov^{*i/j} [NP najnoviji film]] je zaista razočarao Kusturicu_i.

his latest movie is really disappointed Kusturica

‘His^{*i/j} latest movie really disappointed Kusturica_i.’

- In (4b), the possessive pronoun is again outside the NP Phase, it c-commands the proper name and is in the same minimal Binding Domain (vP), thus co-indexing leads to violation of Condition-C.

Binding - English

- English possessives do not exhibit such behavior as can be seen in (5a,b). Crucially, a PossP in English is topped off by a DP that is a Phase (den Dikken 2007). This means that the Possessive is not in the same Binding Domain as the pronoun.

(5) a. [His_i father] considers John_i highly intelligent.

b. [John_i's father] considers him_i highly intelligent

Binding - Polish vs English

- Polish patterns with English. Consider the parallel structures to (5) in (6)

(6) a. [Jego_i ojciec] uważa Jana_i za inteligentnego chłopaka.

His_i father considers John_i for intelligent boy

‘His father considers John to be an intelligent boy.’

b. [Jana_i ojciec] uważa go_i za inteligentnego chłopaka.

John_i’s father considers him_i for intelligent boy

‘John’s father considers him to be an intelligent boy.’

Binding - Polish vs S-C

- the parallel structures to (4) in (7) show that Polish does not pattern with S-C

7a. Ja chciałem by [[Fibaka]_i najnowszy wynik]₁ go_{i/j} zupełnie rozczarował t₁

I wanted that Fibak's_i newest result him_{i/j} totally disappoint

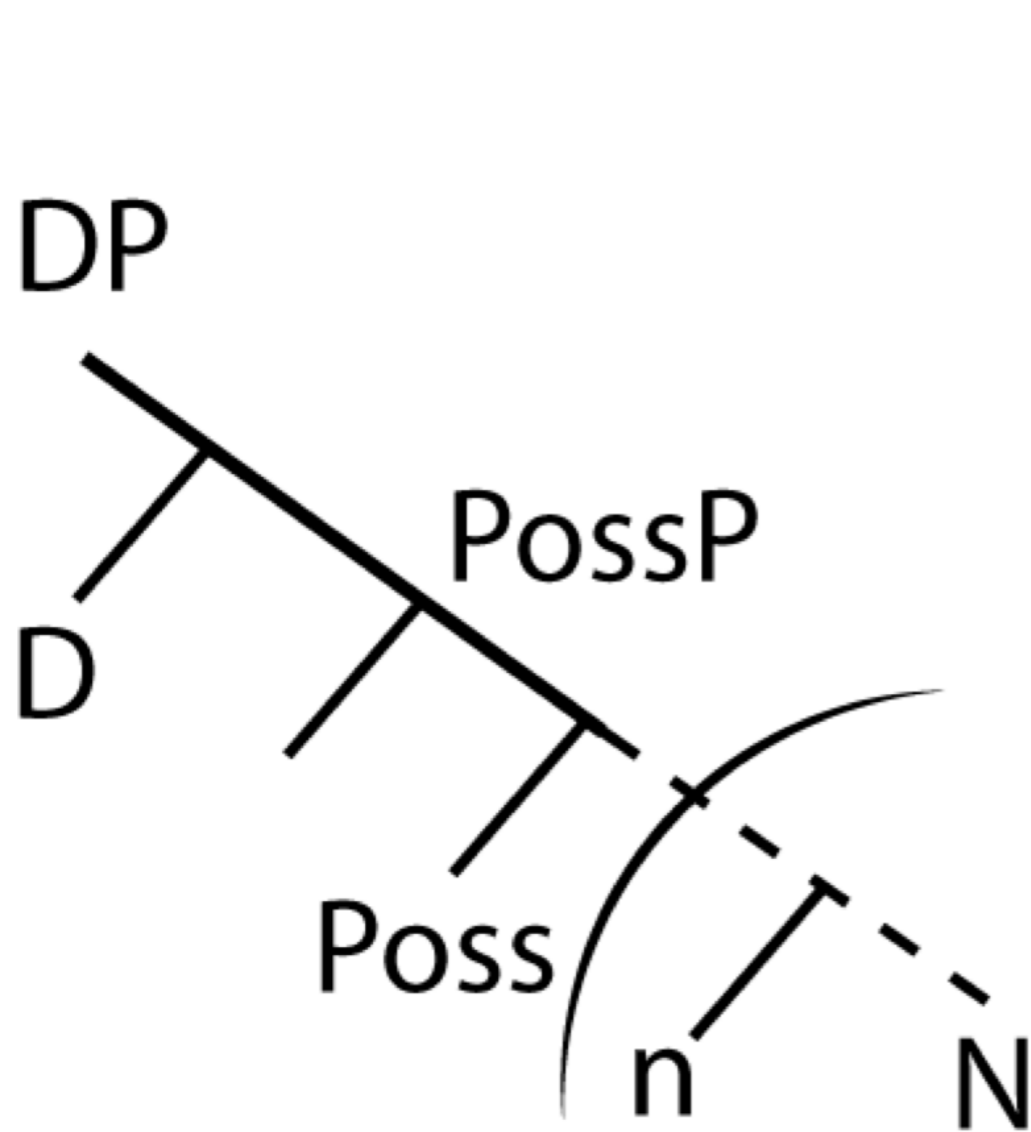
'I wanted Fibak's_i newest result to totally disappoint him_{i/j}.'

b. Jego_i najnowszy wynik rozczarował Fibaka_i

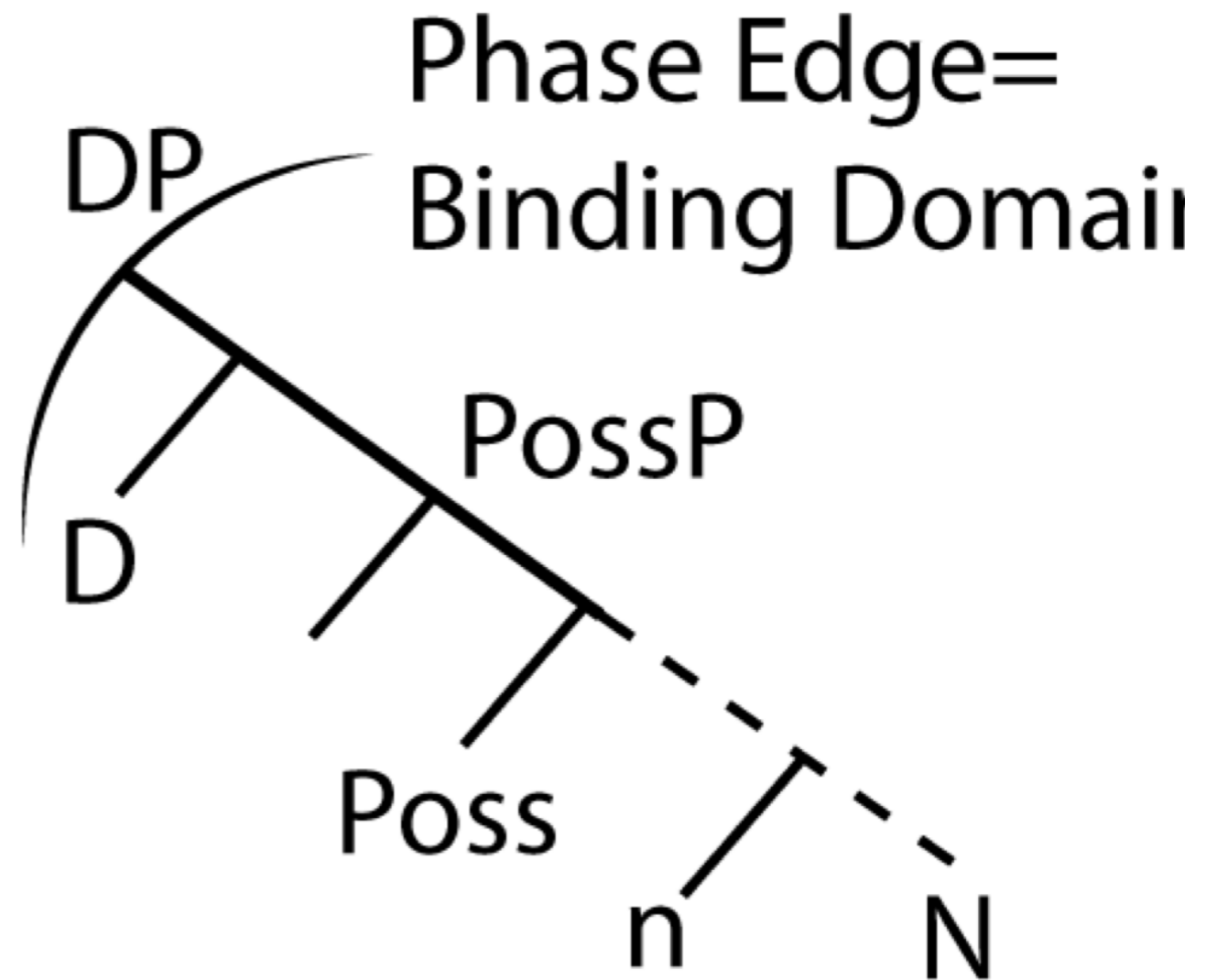
His_i latest result disappointed Fibak

'His_i latest result disappointed Fibak_i.'

Differences Polish/English vs S-C



Serbo-Croatian



Polish/English

n=any functional head below D

Left Branch Extraction

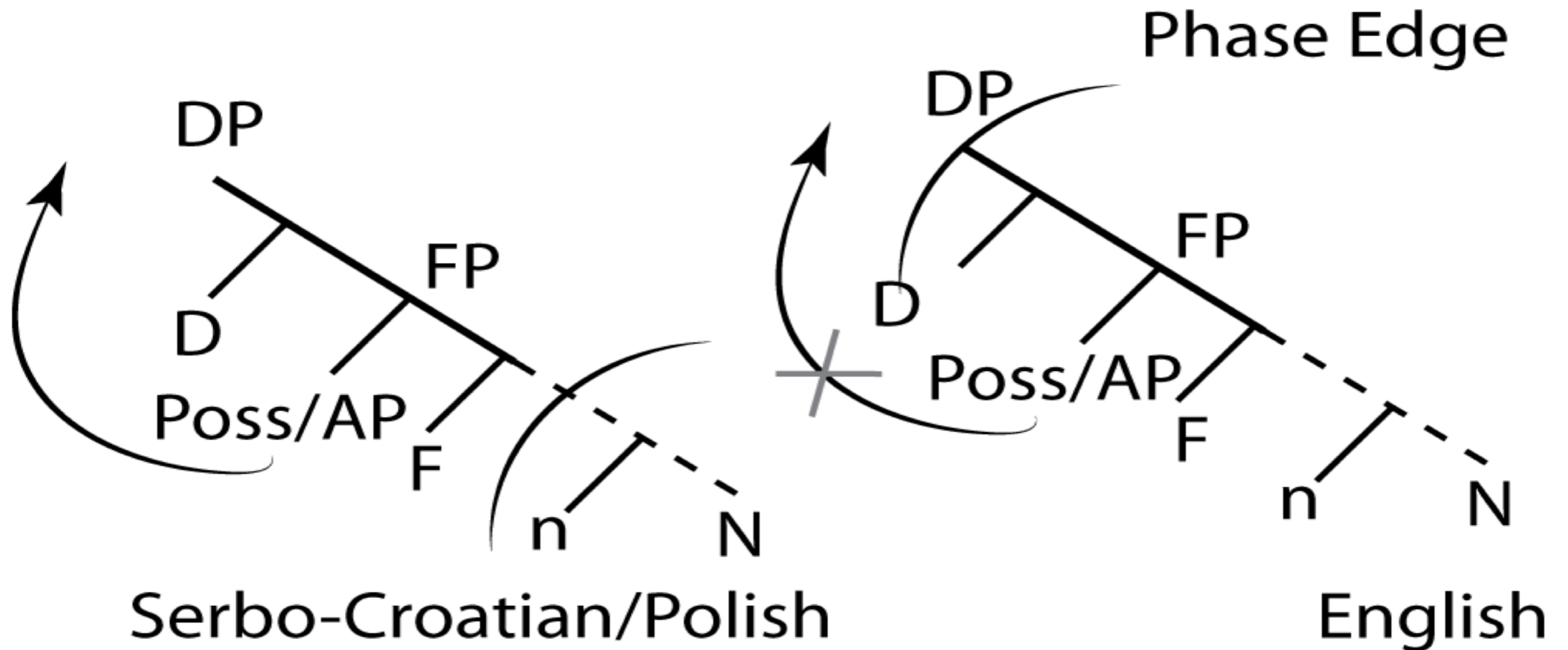
- English does not allow Left Branch Extraction as seen in (10) (Ross' 1967 Left Branch Constraint):

- (10) a. *Whose₁ did you see [t₁ movie]?
- b. *Beautiful₁ I saw [t₁ houses].

LBE and Anti-locality

- LBE has been argued to reduce to Anti-Locality (Despić 2015).
- Serbo-Croatian and Polish allow LBE, since the nominal projection taking an AP or PossP modifier is a phase.
- However, in English, only the DP is a phase, and movement of pre-nominal modifiers is too local.

Polish patterns with S-C Wrt LBE



n=any functional head in the nominal domain

The contradiction

- Bošković (2014) suggests that LBE implies lack of DP since for nP to be a phase it has to be the topmost element in the nominal projection.
- However, Polish, with respect to LBE, patterns with Serbo-Croatian and not English.
- The data leads to a contradiction.
 - Binding and complement extraction suggest that Polish has a DP Phase like English,
 - LBE suggests that Polish does not have a DP like Phase

Contradictory requirements

- LBE requires Polish to behave like S-C
- Argument extraction requires Polish to behave like English
- Combining both leads to ungrammaticality

(20) a. Czyje₁ zobaczyłem [t₁ tomiki poezji angielskiej] w bibliotece?

whose saw volumes poetry English in library

‘Whose volumes of English poetry did I see in the library?’

b. ??Czyje₁ [poezji angielskiej]₂ zobaczyłem [t₁ tomiki t₂] w bibliotece?

whose poetry English saw volumes in library

‘Whose volumes of English poetry did I see in the library?’

- Example (20a) is grammatical since LBE alone is possible.
- However, when we add to the mix NP complement extraction, which is acceptable on its own as shown in (3b), the structure is ungrammatical.₂₄

Dynamic phases

- I assume that English and Polish, as well as Serbo-Croatian, have a DP layer.
 - In English the DP (or QP, if present) is a phase complement
 - In S-C some functional projection below DP is a phase complement (PC),
 - In Polish it can be either the DP or a lower head.
- A Phase Head ω is not associated with any lexical category, but only with semantic type.
- Phase complements are built via tucking in (Richards 1999) below ω
- Variation in the size of PC is a reflex of functional head movement to ω , which automatically assigns a category label.
- This extends the set of possible objects in the syntax from the set of categories in Baker (2003).
- The lack of any category label on ω will mean that at Spell-Out the topmost visible category will be the topmost Lexical/Functional Head

Tucking in Phase heads

How to build a nominal:

a. $[\omega \text{ [PC n N]}]$

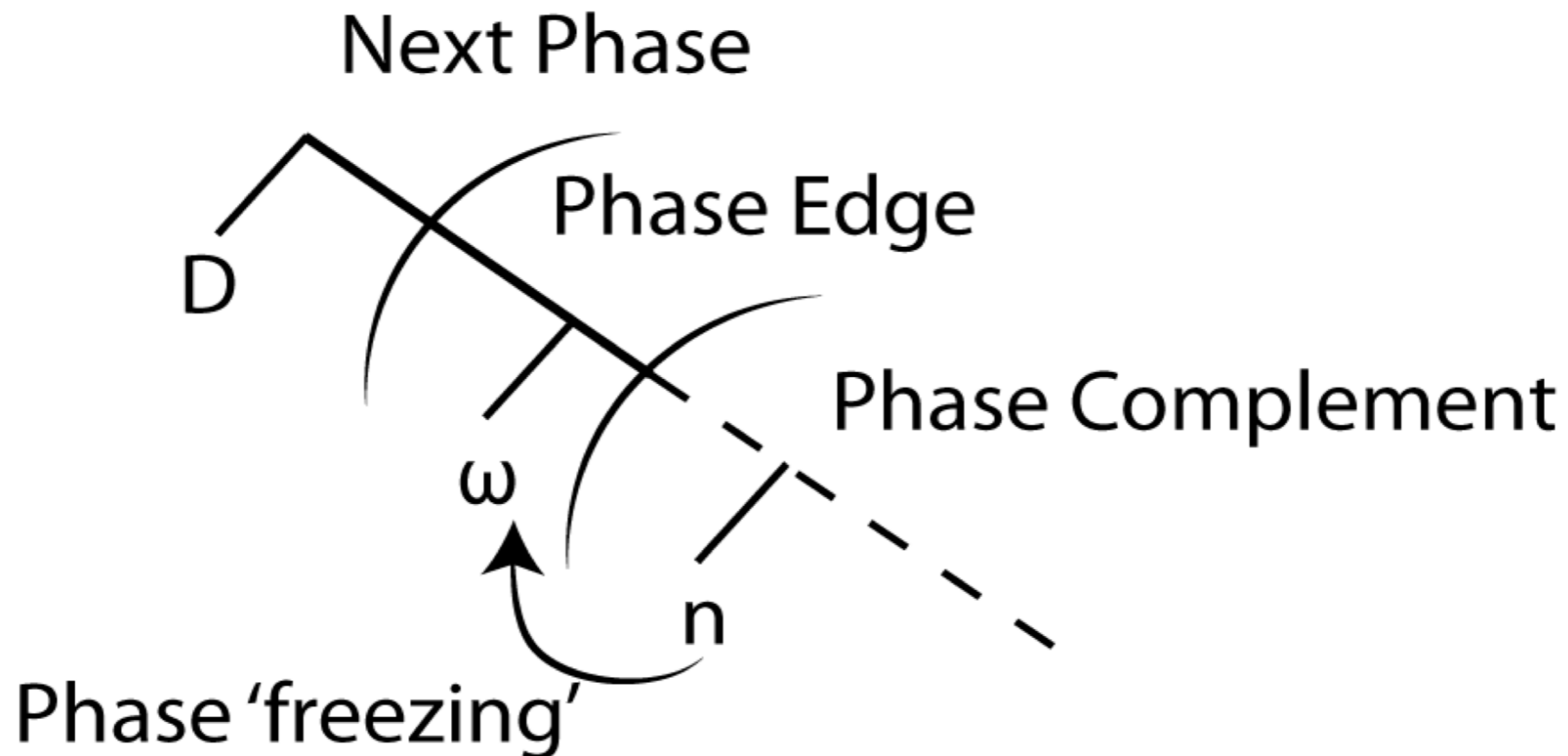
b. $[\omega \text{ [PC ...Poss.....n...N]}]$

c. $[\omega \text{ [PC ...D...Poss...n...N]}]$

- Once a Phase Head emerges, subsequent merger or movement within a given extended domain will proceed through tucking in until Full Projection is achieved:
- (21) Full Projection. PC can expand until it utilizes all the functional heads of a given Lexical Projection.
- The above constraints derive the DP structure in English. A nominal starts projecting functional structure in its extended domain (Grimshaw 2000), ω emerges and a DP is built via tucking in.
- Phase Freezing allows a phase to be triggered prior to the exhaustion of all functional heads in a given Lexical Projection

Phase freezing

- English never freezes - whole lexical domain built, D moves to ω
- S-C always freezes - a head below D always moves to ω
- Polish can but does not have to freeze



S-C freezing; n=any eligible functional head in the nominal domain

Advantages

- In this system Polish is not two languages: one having a DP layer which is a phase and one which does not have a DP
- Spell Out is triggered syntactically either via head movement (Phase Freezing) or via Internal Merge that exhausts a given Lexical Domain.
- Phase freezing is compatible with proposals that phase heads are interface heads that serve as interface information ‘portals’ (Kučerová 2018) -
- type of interface info that accessible is a function of what functional projection moves to ω , when D moves this is a regular DP, when x moves it is xP

Thank You