

Head Movement

Introduction to Syntax
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Head Movement

- Movement of X to a position Y where there is no PF material
 - Movement is not word formation
 - Head movement adjoins head to a head
 - Head movement is triggered by the features of the destination position
 - Features include for example: +Q on C, Tense on T
- Note we would not talk about head movement without phonetically null LI's

Case 1 semantics

- Two structures have the same
 - theta roles
 - Arguments
 - Lexical items
 - One structures asks about the truth value of the other

Q. Will John go home?

A. John will go home

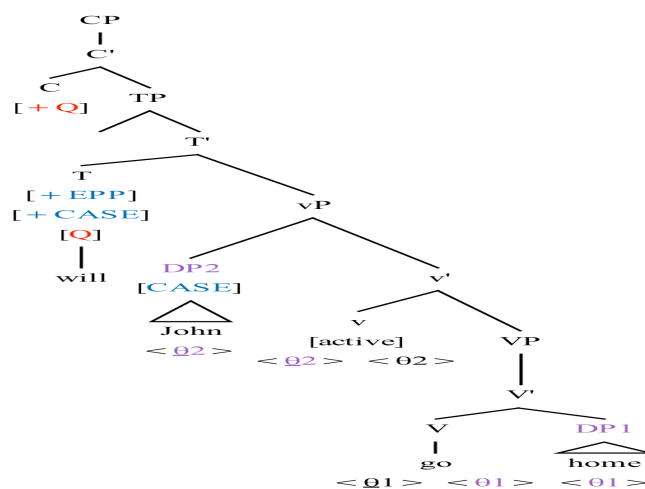
Deep structure

- If one expression is the answer to the question of another expression, we assume they share a common deep structure
- Deep Structure:
 - Same theta roles
 - Same case, tense features
 - Same lexical items,
 - modulo functional markers
 - One expression might have a subset of lexical items
 - Same truth conditions (a question's truth conditions is their answers)

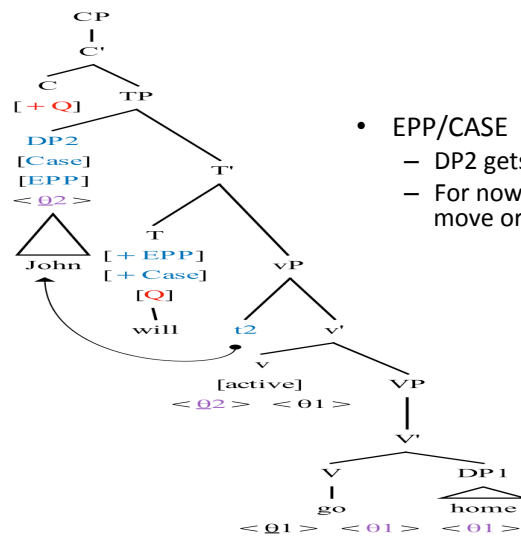
Movement transformation

- Movement is an operation on Deep Structure
- Layers of grammar representation
 - Deep Structure (theta roles)
 - Transformations (feature driven movement)
 - Surface structure (Q features, EPP, case and wh, and other features satisfied)
- Different surface Structures can be related at Deep Structure
- This is the case with Yes/No questions

Deep Structure

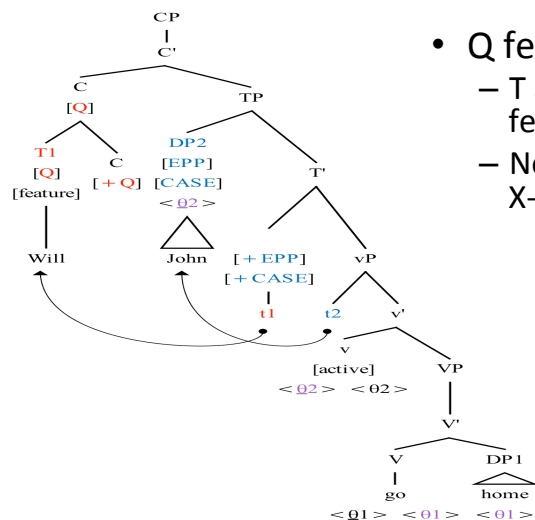


DP movement

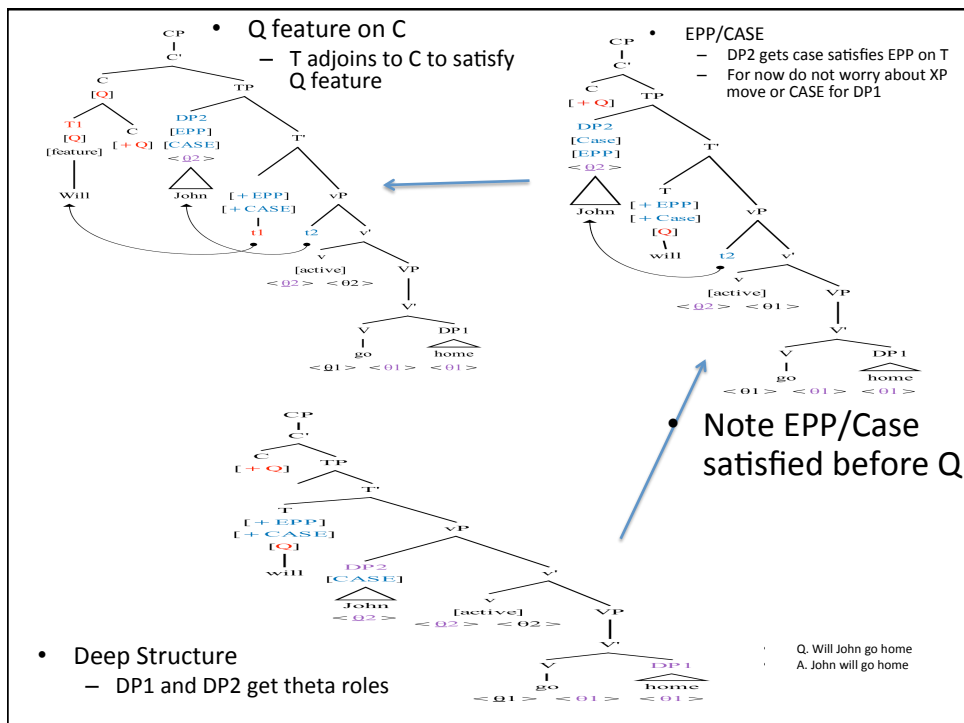


- EPP/CASE
 - DP2 gets case satisfies EPP on T
 - For now do not worry about XP move or CASE for DP1

T->C



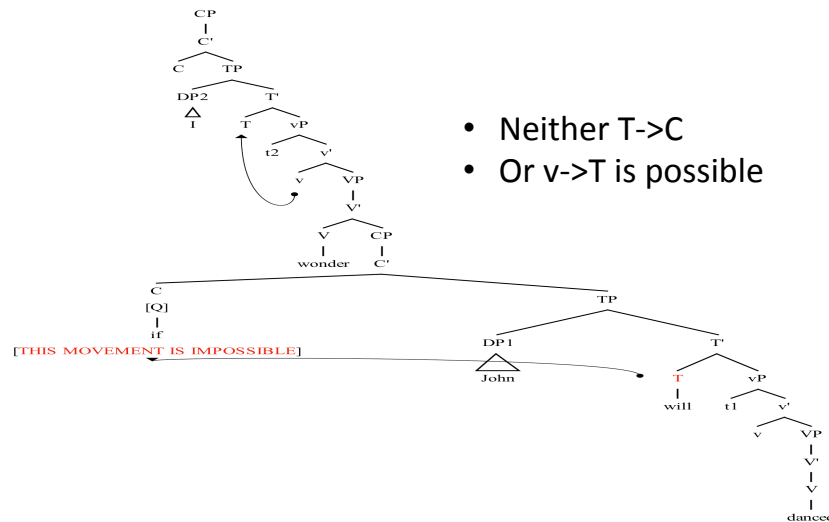
- Q feature on C
 - T adjoins to C to satisfy Q feature
 - Note this is a problem for X-bar – two heads



Is yes/no T movement to C?

- Embedded questions
 - had John go home
 - I wonder will John go home
 - I wonder if John will go home
 - *I wonder if will John go home
- Complementizer blocks inversion in subordinate clauses.

No head movement if PF material



- Neither T→C
- Or v→T is possible

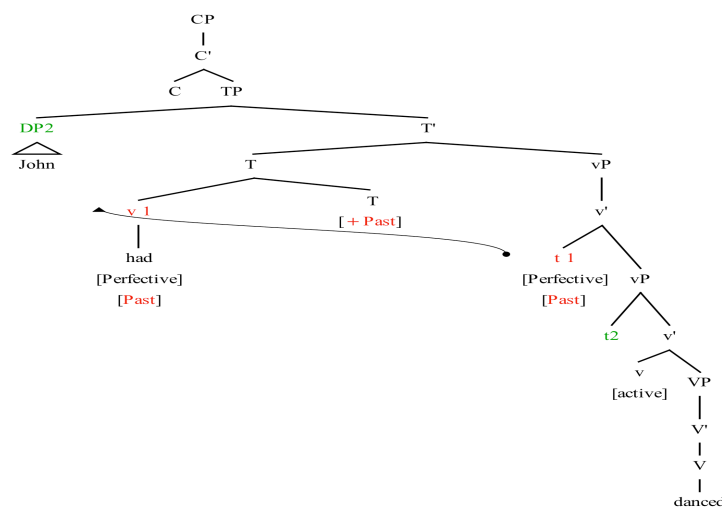
Morphological triggers

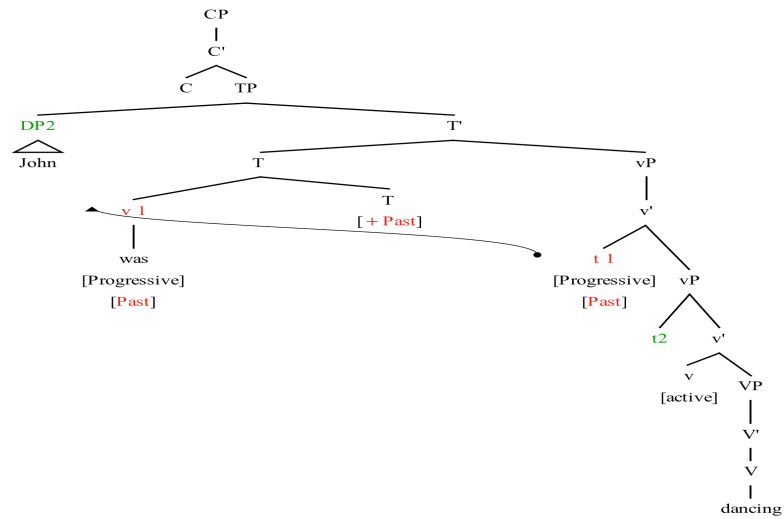
- DP movement is for case so we already see that there a morphological trigger for movement
- An example of head movement that is morphologically driven is movement of v to Tense.

Tense on Prog and Perf and passive

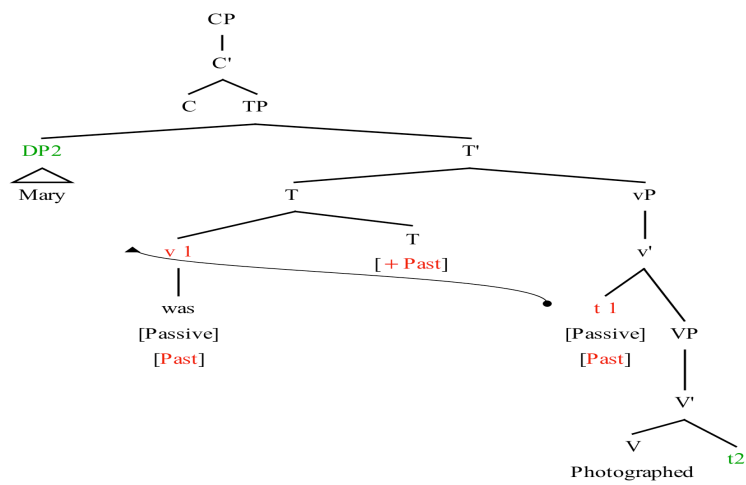
- We see tense of v
 - John had/has danced (perf)
 - John is/was/ dancing (prog)
 - Mary is/was photographed (passive)
- When tense occupied the following v infinitival
 - John will have danced (perf)
 - John will be dancing (prog)
 - Mary will be photographed (passive)

v(perf)->T



$$v(\text{prog}) \rightarrow T$$


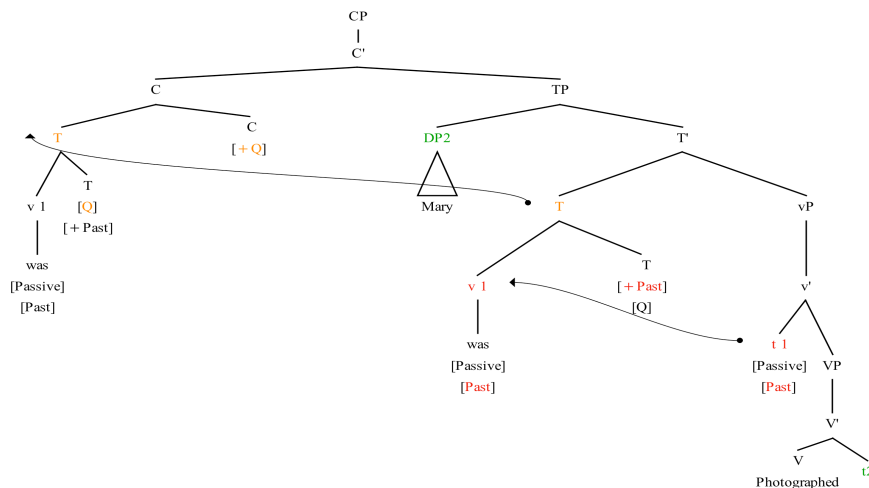
v(pass)->T



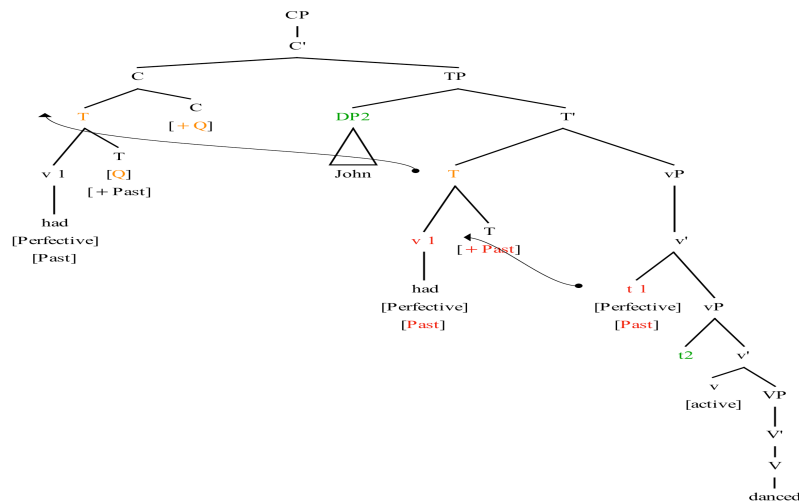
v->T feeds T->C

- Had John danced
 - John had danced (perf)
- Was John dancing
 - John was dancing (prog)
- Was Mary photographed
 - Mary was photographed (passive)
- We see that the v that raises to T can then be moved with T to C.

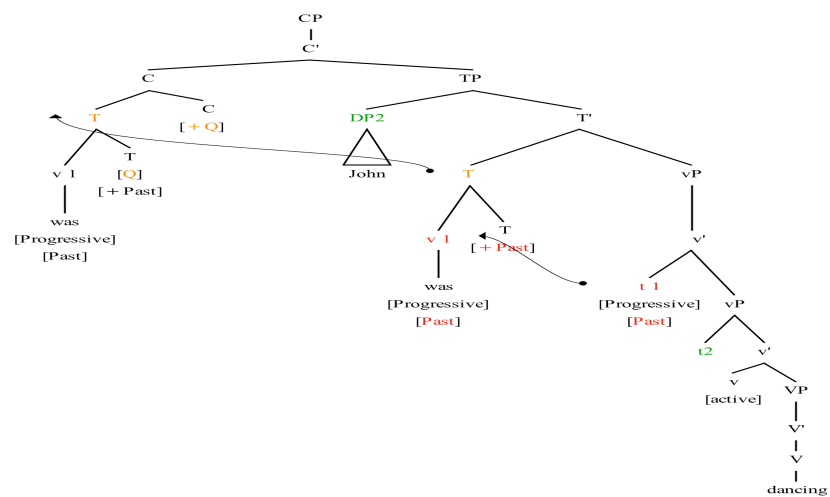
v(pass)->T->C



v(perf)->T->C



v(prog)->T->C

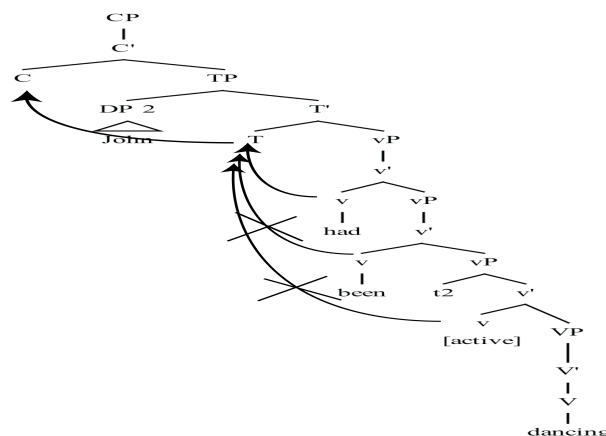


What if there is more than one v

- Had John been dancing
- *Been John had dancing
- Only the topmost v moves to T and then to C
- Head movement is blocked if there is a head filled position on the way
- Head movement has to proceed through every possible landing site
- That is why when
 - Passive is present this is the top head, unless
 - Progressive is present, then this is the top head, unless
 - Perfective is present, then this is the top head

Relativized Minimality

- head movement must pass through every potential landing site
 - The above combined with the inability of head movement to a position where there is PF material rules out anything but the topmost head moving



What about the main verb?

- Can the main verb move to T and then to C
- Not in English
 - *Danced John?
- But in French
 - *Dancez vous ?*
 - Dance you
 - Do you dance

English verbs

- English main verbs (V) do not undergo head movement
- French Main verbs do
- Movement is parameterized
- However the variation is not free
- In French when there is an Auxiliary it block movement of the main verb
 - Avez vous dansé
 - Have you danced
 - *Dansé vous avez
 - Danced you have
- Relativized Minimality is universal

This is verb movement not VP movement - Adverbs

- John lit souvent des livres
John reads frequently the books
'John frequently reads books'
- French adverbs can separate 'read' from its complement 'books'. English cannot
- Verb moves leaving the VP behind
- When aux this is no longer possible
 - John avait souvent lu des livres
John has frequently read the books
"John has frequently read books"

DO-support

- So what happens when we want to ask a yes/no question in English when there is no overt v?
- We insert Do in T and move T to C
- John did dance
- Did John dance?
- Do- here has no meaning or function other than mark past tense and satisfy Q in C