Introduction to Syntax
Wh-movement

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The picture

- Head movement
  - Consolidate V with vP and TP
  - Question formation
- DP movement
  - Case
  - EPP
  - Combines with head movement to consolidate vP
  - What about XP movement combined with question formation?

Wh-move plus T-C

1. Who will John kiss

- What are wh-words
- Lexical meaning
  - Marker of Alternatives
  - Who= Susan, Mary, Roger, My mother, the Girl, etc.
  - Who in (1) has the denotation of the set of expressions that can be used in answering (1)

Wh- question

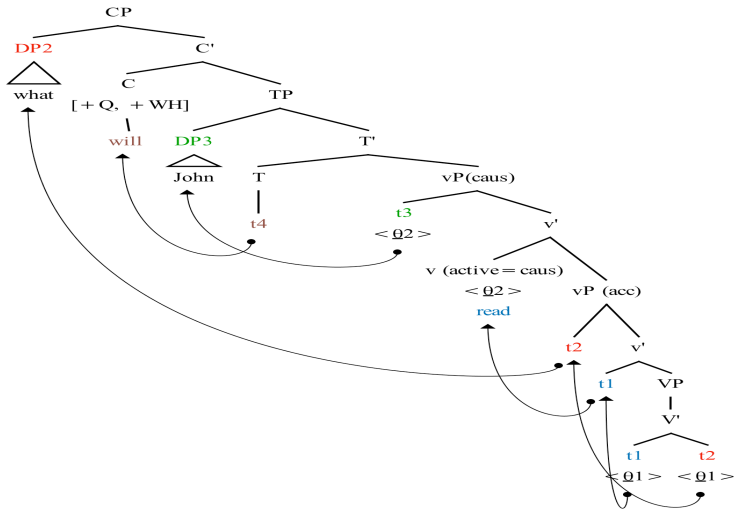
- Who will John kiss
- The meaning fo the expression is the set of possible answers:
  - John will kiss Mary
  - John will kiss the girl from Holland
  - John will kiss his mother
  - …

Different wh-words

- Who ->DP
- Which+NP ->DP
- Where-> PP
- Why -> CP
- How -> AP
- When -> DP, PP
- What -> DP, CP
- Hard to establish category
- Semantics driven
- Can only be computed as part of the answer proposition

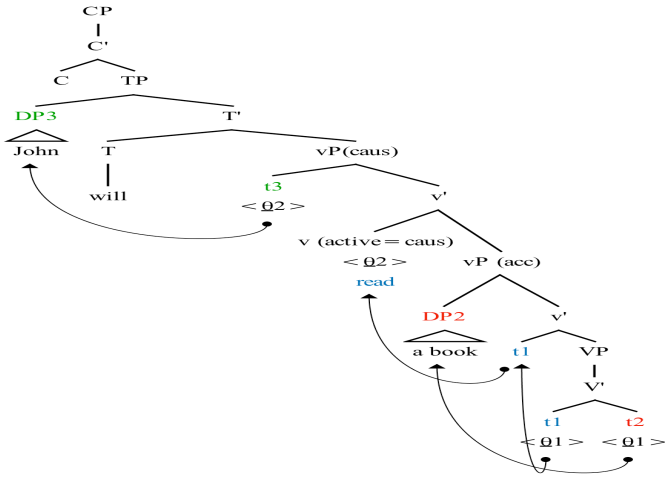
Simple wh

- What will John read



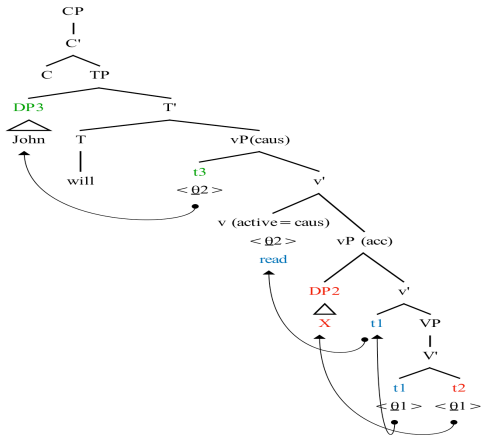
Simple answer

- John will read a book



Abstract set of Alternatives

- John will read X



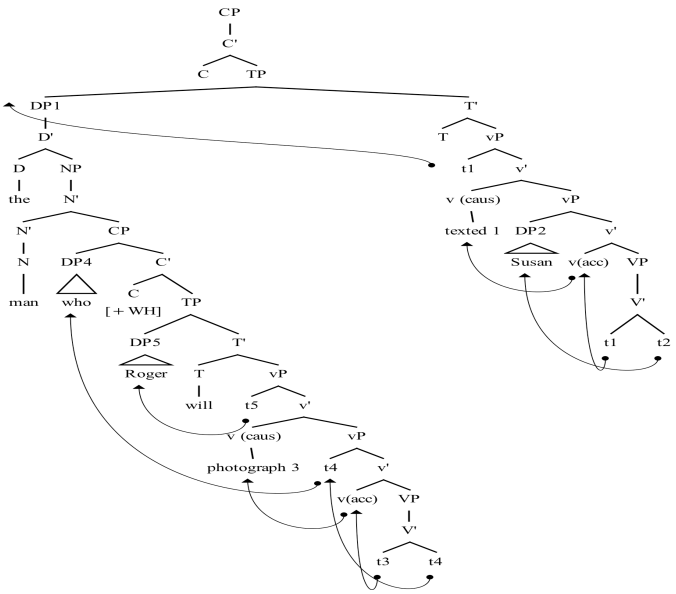
CP domain of questions

- C has two features that play a role in question formation
  - +Q
    - Signals a question.
    - If no wh- present the set of alternatives is binary: yes/no
    - +Q has to be satisfied by T->C
  - +Wh
    - Signals more than binary alternatives
    - Type of wh-determines the variable that is used in the question

Not every wh move is a question

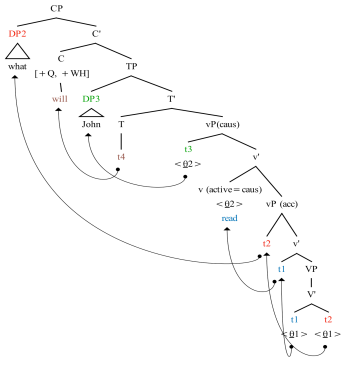
- The man who Roger will photograph texted Susan
- The red part is a relative clause
  - A CP modifying a NP
  - Note the wh-element
  - Here it is a relative pronoun
  - Does not mark a set of alternatives, just one who=The man

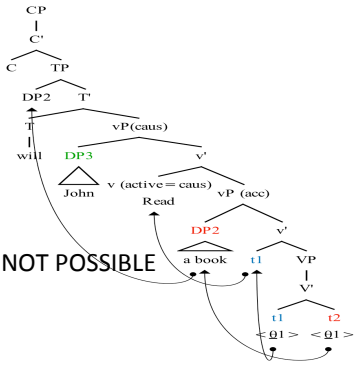
Relative clause



Attract

- Note that DP John does not block wh- move
- But DP John would block DP move
  - *A book will John read





- NOT POSSIBLE

New version of Relativized Minimality

- Movement triggered by uninterpretable features on a head
- Head movement
- Satisfied by V
  - v(+acc)
  - v(+caus)
  - v(prog)
  - v(perf)
- Satisfied by v
  - T(+tense)
- Satisfied by T
  - C (+Q)
- These features are interpretable if part of a PF word.
  - v(+acc) Never in English
  - v(+caus) Newver in English
  - v(prog) is/been, etc.
  - v(perf) have/had, etc
- Satisfied by v
  - T(+tense) will, could should, can, might
- Satisfied by T
  - C (+Q) whether, if

Features triggering XP move

- XP movement can be triggered by uninterpretable features on a head:
- note case feature trigger both head and XP move
  - v(+case)
  - T(+case)
  - T (EPP)
  - C (+Wh)
- Case/EPP driven movement precedes wh-move.
- XP movement to Spec-X of X that has uninterpretable features

Attract

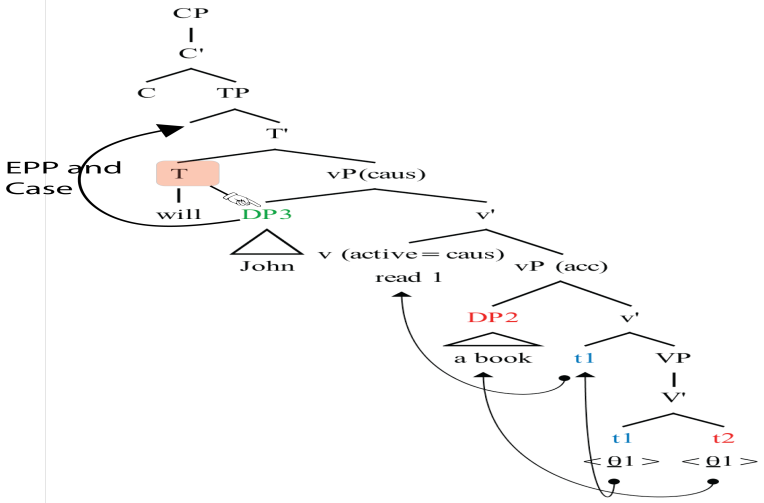
- A head X attracts movement by searching down the root of the tree for a potential 'goal' of movement
- First identified goal will block lower down ones
- Head move features do not look for XP's
- XP move features look for heads but force movement of whole XP since a composite of more than one phrase is needed

Potential Goals

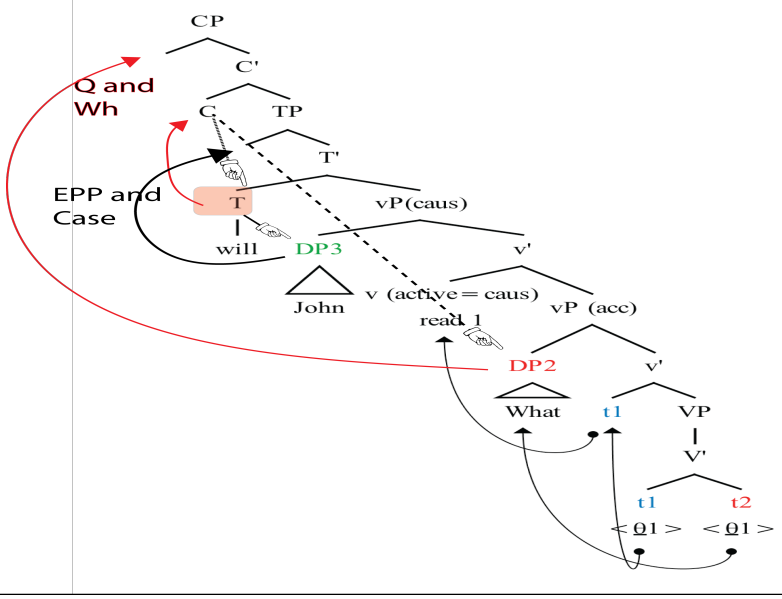
- X move
- Satisfied by V+
  - v(+acc) -> V
  - v(+caus) -> V+
  - v(prog) -> no move in English
  - v(perf) -> No move in English
- Satisfied by v
  - T(+tense)-> v
- Satisfied by T
  - C (+Q) -> T

- XP move
- Satisfied by DP
  - v(+case) -> DP
  - T(+case) -> DP
  - T (EPP) -> DP
- Satisfied by WH
  - C (+WH) -> WH

Attract DP



Attract WH



Islands

- Cannot moved an XP over another YP that potentially can satisfy features on target head

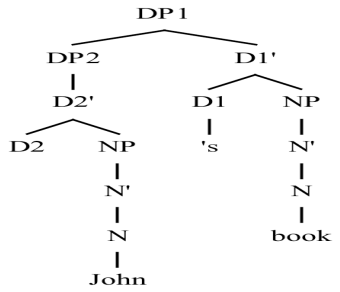
- Wh-island
- Cannot raise one wh- over another wh
  - *Who did who kiss?
  - Who kissed who
- DP- superraising
- Cannot raise DP over It
  - * John seems that it appears to swim
  - It seems that John appears to swim

Attract Closest (Minimal Link Condition)

- A given Head X, called a Probe, can target a YP, called a Goal, provided there is no potential appropriate Goal ZP, where ZP c-commands YP and X c-commands ZP

DP islands

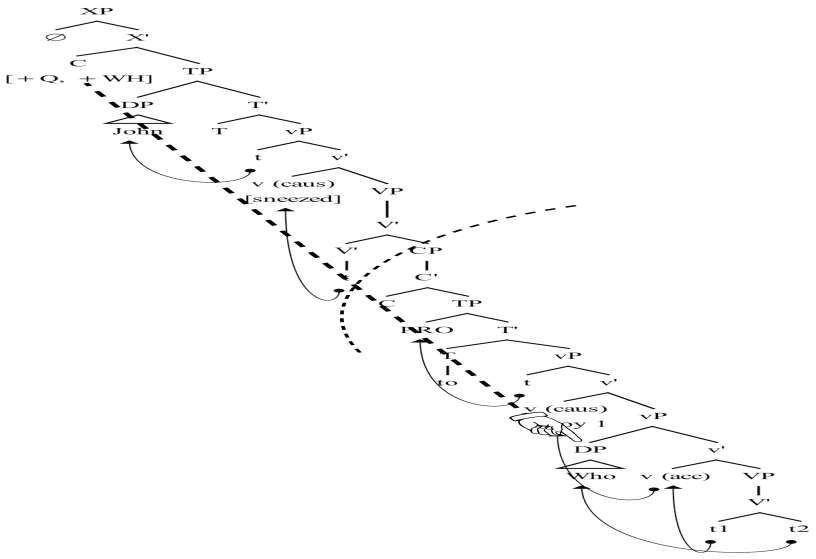
- *Book read John's t
- *John I read t 's book
- T cannot probe embedded NP



Adjunct Islands

- Cannot move out of adjuncts
- A. John sneezed to annoy Mark ?
- *B who did John sneeze to annoy
- C cannot look inside the CP adjunct

Adjunct islands



Derivational

- It is as if adjunct internal structure is not accessible to movement.
- Pure derivational system this makes sense – adjuncts are added last, after complements and specifiers.
- Tree is built on the fly, with movement and X-bar being both phrase structure building operations

Relativized Minimality vs Attract Closest

- DP islands not clearly predicted by Relativized Minimality
- Attract closest OK
- Adjunct Islands can be predicted if we have attract closest plus pure derivational system