Midterm Review

01:615:201
Introduction to Linguistic Theory

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What is language

- Competence vs. Performance
  - Competence what we know
  - Performance how we use

- Innateness
  - Universal Grammar is an innate endowment that allows us to acquire language
  - Its footprint can be seem in similarities between human languages

What grammar is *not*

- Written text
- Prescriptive rules
- Style
- Size of vocabulary
- On line-Processing by humans
- Animal communication
- Machine communication

What grammar is

- Grammar is an algorithm that allows us to:
  - Produce an infinite set of sentences
  - Combine morphemes into larger units
  - Combine sounds into larger units
  - Compute meaning
- Grammar is what we know when we know a language
- Grammar has to be acquired

Morphology

Consider the following verbs from Lakhota, a Siouan language spoken in South Dakota:

Pajája.   'He washed him.'
Wapájaja.   'I washed him.'
Yapájaja.   'You washed him.'
Mapájaja.   'He washed me.'
Nipájaja.   'He washed you.'

(a) Find one lexical and four grammatical morphemes in the Lakhota sentences above. What are they, and what do they mean?

(b) How are third-person singular subjects and objects marked in Lakhota? Consider these additional Lakhota sentences:

Mayápajaja.   'You washed me.'
Chipájaja.   'I washed you.'

(c) The first sentence contains three morphemes, as expected according to the analysis you developed in (a) above (discuss the analysis of this sentence). The other, however, contains a portmanteau morpheme. Identify the portmanteau morpheme, explain its meaning, and tell what sentence you would have expected instead of the one containing the portmenteau.

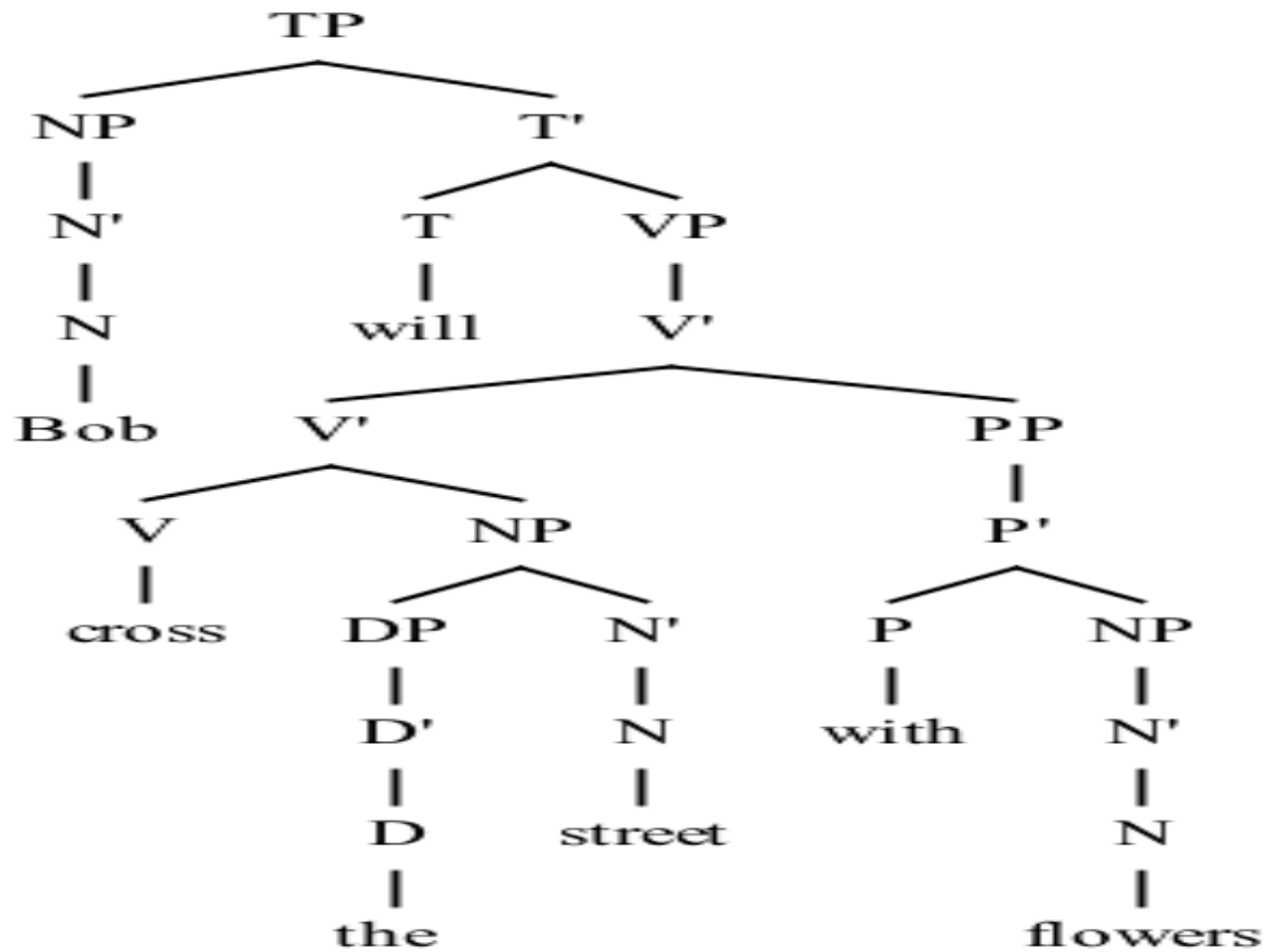(d) Can you tell what the rule is for where the accent mark is placed in Lakhota, according to these examples?

Answer

(a) The lexical morpheme is *pajája* / *pájaja*, 'washed'.
The grammatical morphemes are *wa-*, 'I', *ya-*, 'you', *ma-*, 'me', *ni-*, 'you (object)'.

(b) According to the data, there is no morpheme to mark third-person singular subjects and objects.

(c) *Ma-yá-pajaja*, 'You washed me', has a morpheme for subject and a morpheme for object, following the list in (a).

  Chi-pájaja, 'I washed you', however, does not. *Chi-* is a portmanteau morpheme meaning 'I' subject + 'you' object.

  According to what is given in (a), and following the order of morphemes suggested by *Mayápajaja*, we would expect 'I washed you' to be *Wa-ní-pajaja*.

(d) The examples suggest that the second vowel in a Lakhota word will be accented.
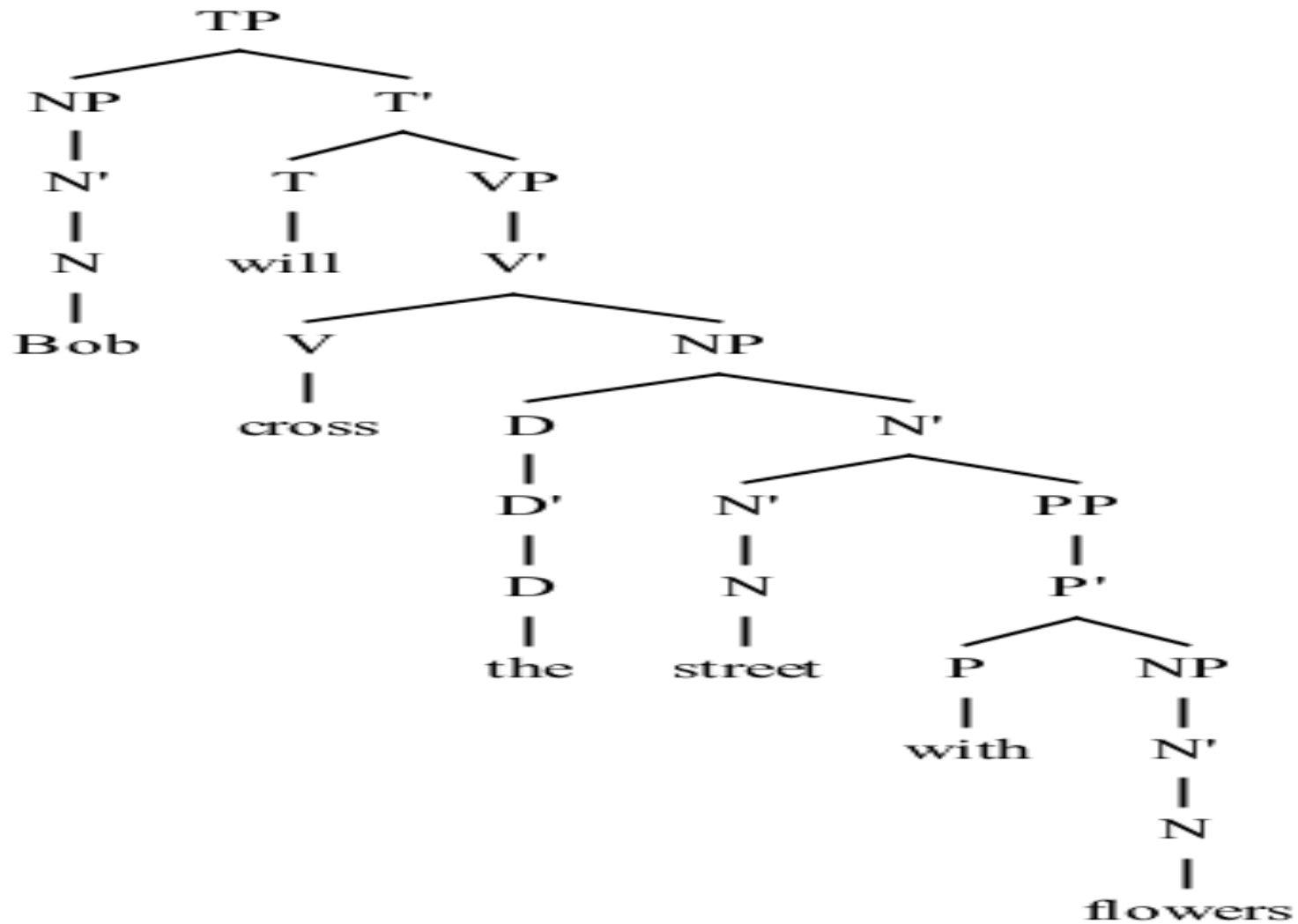
Syntax

- Bob will cross the street with flowers
  - Street has flowers
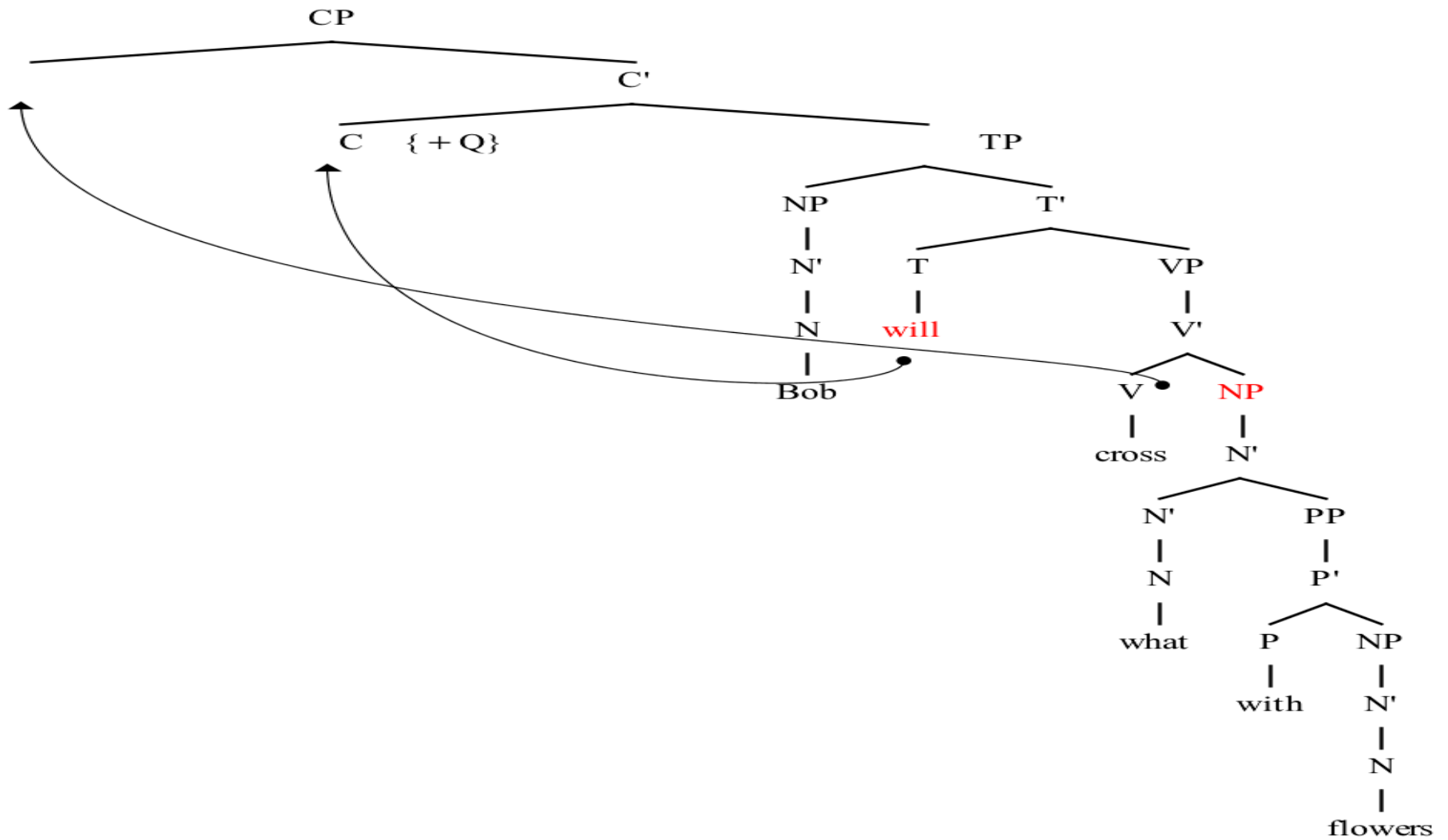 - Man has flowers

Bob has flowers

Street has flowers

Wh questions

- What with flowers will Bob cross
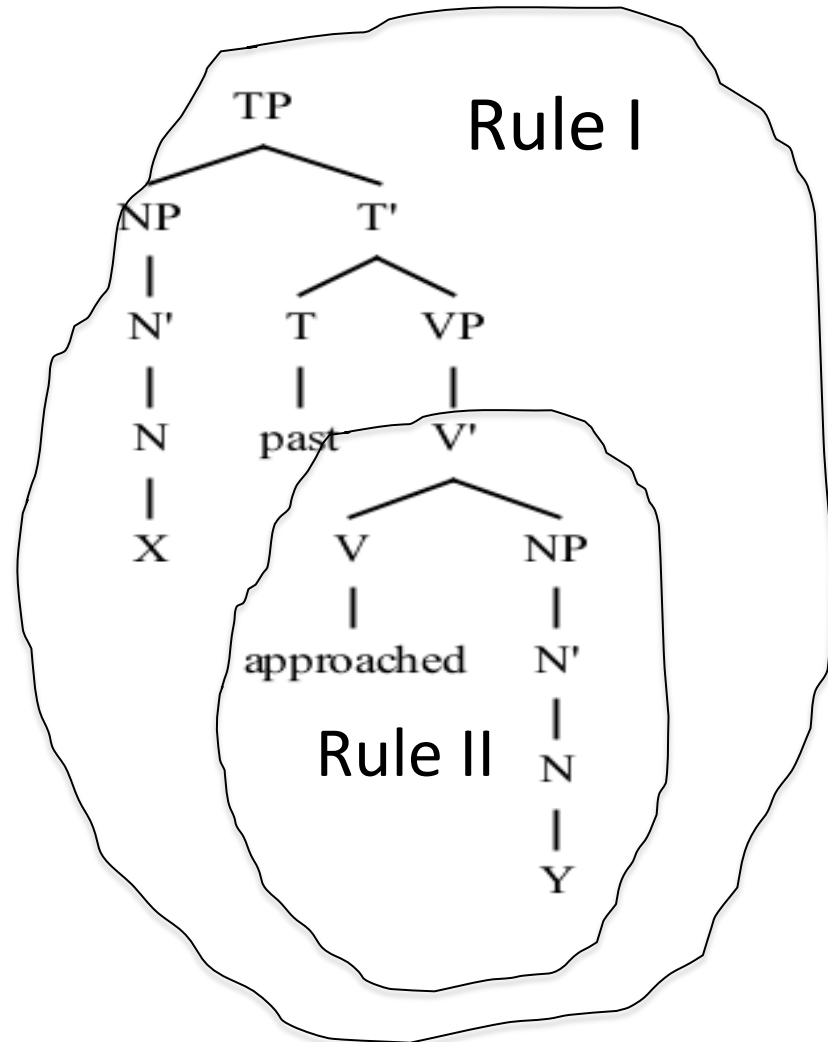
Wh + Yes/no move

Meaning

- Entailment or implicature?
  - John wears yellow socks
  - John wears socks

  - John is in a coffin
  - John is dead

Semantic composition

- Verb meaning set of elements when composed with verb make the resulting expression in a given world true

- Verb approach
  - X approached Y
    - Pair X,Y, where X= Experiencer/Agent, Y = Goal

Semantic composition

- X, Y for approach
  - Bill, Chloe
  - Mary, Sven
  - Gandalf, Adam

- Gandalf approached Roger
- Chloe approached Bill
- Mary approached Sven

Rule I

Rule II

TP
NP   T'
N'   T   VP
N   past   V'
X   V   NP
      approached N'
                  N
                  Y

Thematic Roles (Luca I.©)

- Agent: NP that carries out the action
  - <u>Marco</u> killed Lester
- Theme: NP uderoing the action
  - Marco killed <u>Lester</u>
- Experiencer: NP that receive sensory or emotional input
  - He impressed <u>Mary</u>
- Instrument: NP instrument used to do the action (usually preceded by "with")
  - The bunny killed my friend with <u>a saw</u>
- Source: NP that describe the origin of the action (usually preceded by "from")
  - He knows it from <u>the newspaper</u>
- Goal: NP that defines the goal of an action (usually preceded by "in, into, towards, to")
  - He put the ball in <u>the net</u>
- Location: NP that defines the location of an action
  - He slept in <u>New York</u>

Identify theta roles

- <u>Roger</u> typed on a <u>laptop</u> that <u>Mary</u> was informed in the <u>bathroom</u> by <u>Jack</u> that <u>Kenny</u> likes to run from <u>Kyle</u> on a <u>scooter</u>

Theta Roles

- <u>Roger</u> typed on a <u>laptop</u> that <u>Mary</u> was informed in the <u>bathroom</u> by <u>Jack</u> that <u>Kenny</u> likes to run from <u>Kyle</u> on a <u>scooter</u>

- Roger   Agent
- Laptop   Instrument
- Mary   Theme
- Bathroom   location
- Jack   Agent
- Kenny   Experiencer
- Kyle   Source
- Scooter   Instrument