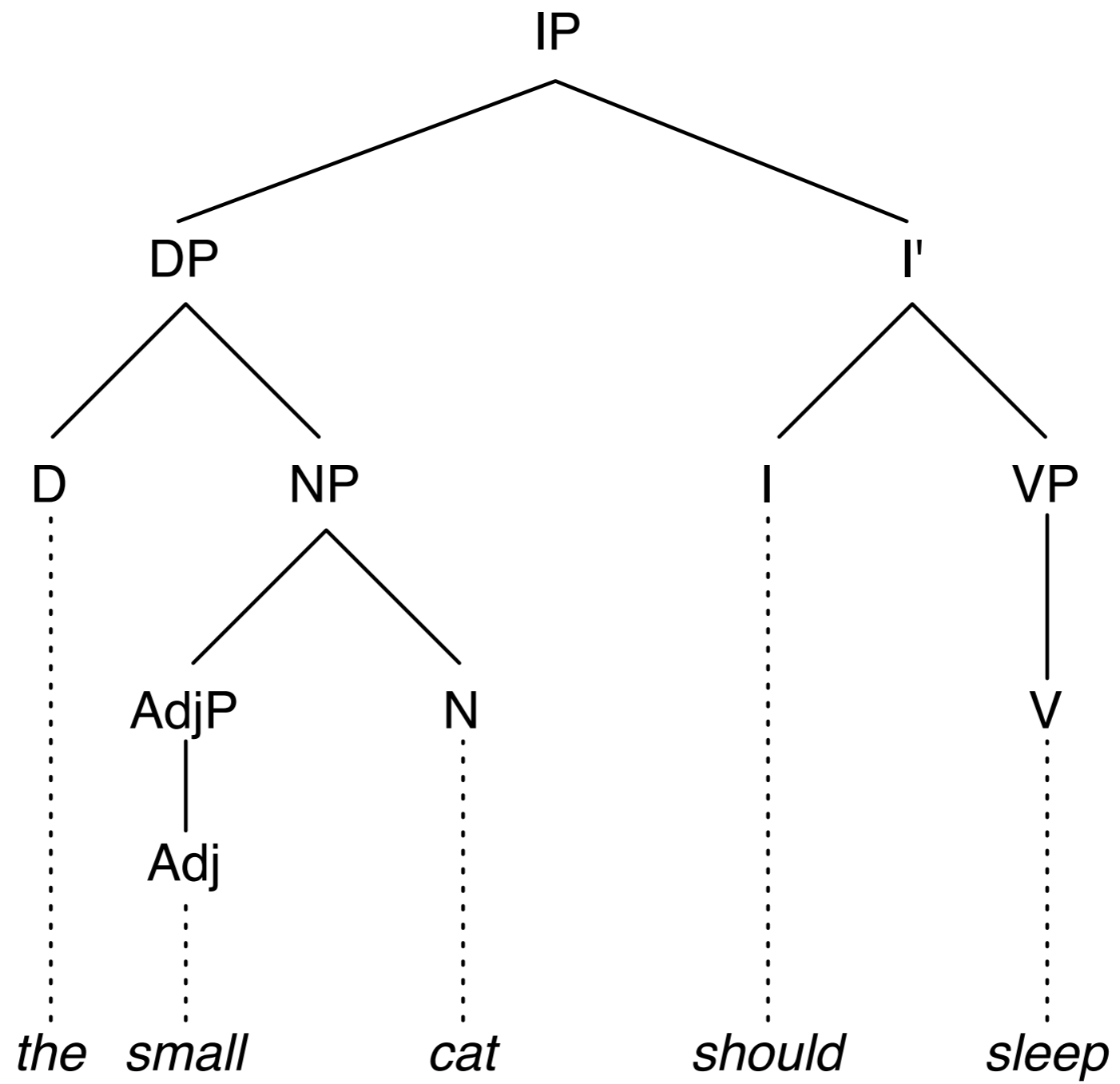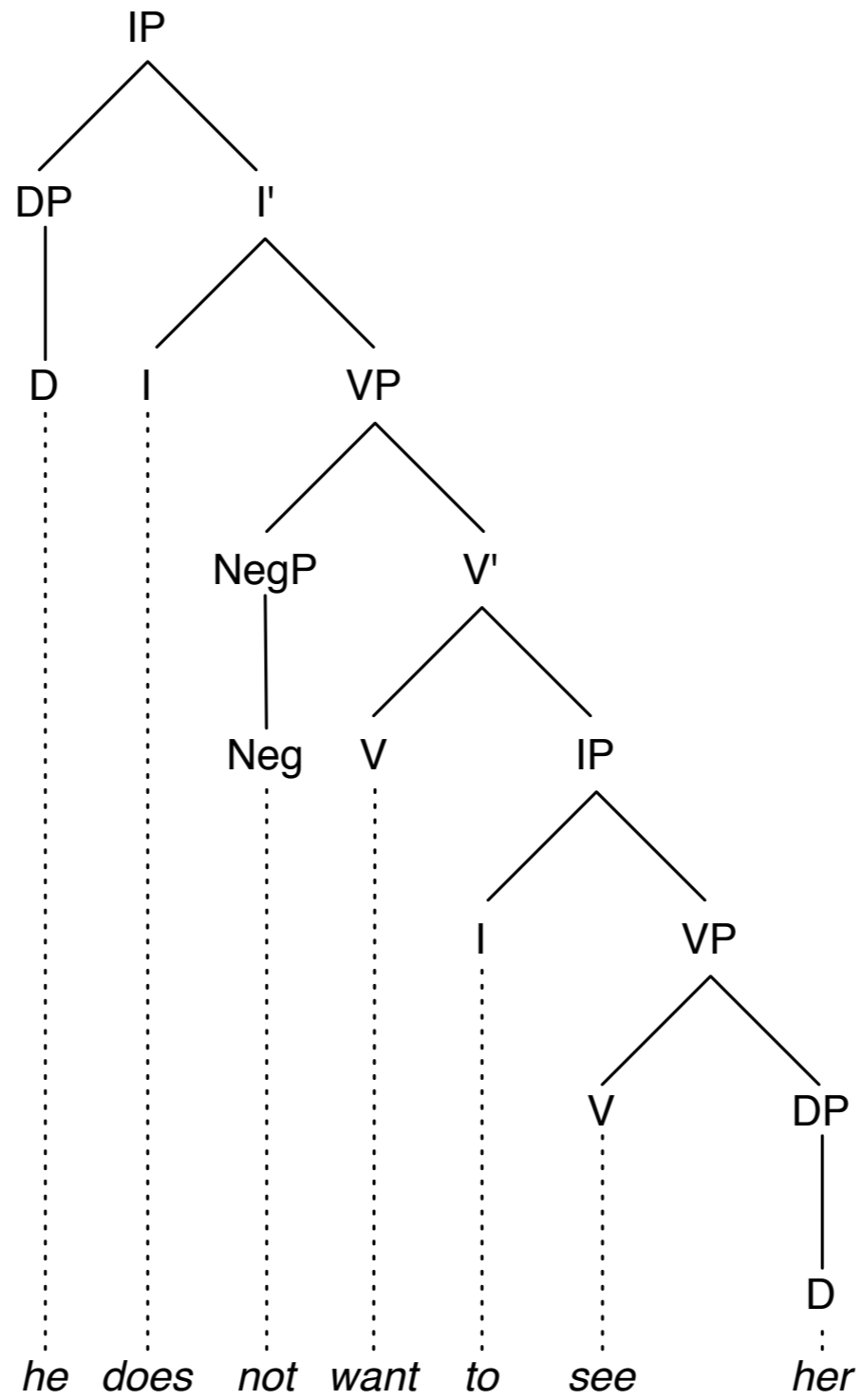# LING 201: Introduction to Linguistics

EMU
Fall 2011
D. Cavar

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Agenda

- Assignments for today

- Syntax
  - Complementizers

- New assignments

IP
├── DP
│   ├── D
│   │   └── *the*
│   └── NP
│   ├── AdjP
│   │   └── Adj
│   │   └── *small*
│   └── N
│   └── *cat*
└── I'
    ├── I
    │   └── *should*
    └── VP
        └── V
            └── *sleep*

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                                    IP
                          ┌─────────┴─────────┐
                         DP   I'
                          │   ┌───────┴───────┐
                          D   I   VP
                          ⋮   ⋮   ┌───────┴───────┐
                                             NegP   V'
                                              │   ┌───────┴───────┐
                                             Neg   V   IP
                                              ⋮   ⋮   ┌──────┴──────┐
                                                                  I   VP
                                                                  ⋮   ┌───────┴───────┐
                                                                         V   DP
                                                                         ⋮   │
                                                                                         D
                                                                                         ⋮
                          he   does   not   want   to   see   her

Function Words

- What kind of categories are the lexical items in italics?

  I think [*that* you may be right]

  I doubt [*if* you can help me]

  I'm anxious [*for* you to receive the best treatment]

Function Words

- In the previous examples:

  - Each of the bracketed clauses is a *complement clause.*

    - complement to: *think*, *doubt*, *anxious*

  - The italic function words are referred to as *complementizers* (traditionally: *subordinating conjunction*).

Complementizers

- Are *functors*:

  - Encode particular sets of grammatical properties.

    - e.g. finite or non-finite (introduce finite or non-finite clauses)

    - finite: *that*, *if*

    - non-finite: *for*

Complementizers

- Examples:

    * I think [*that* you to be right]

    * I doubt [*if* you to help me]

    * I'm anxious [*for* you should receive the best treatment]

Complementizers

- Function:

  - Mark the beginning of a verbal clausal complement.

  - Indicate whether the introduced clause is finite or infinitival.

  - Mark the *illocutionary force* of the introduced clause.

Complementizers

- Illocutionary force (semantic or pragmatic function), e.g.:

  - interrogative clause: *if*

  - declarative (statement-making) clause: *that*

Complementizers

- Are complementizers a specific category on their own, or can we assume:

  - *for*: preposition

  - *that*: determiner

  - *if*: adverb

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Complementizers

- Examples:

  He headed *straight/right* **for** the pub.

  The dog went *straight/right* **for** her throat.

  * He was anxious *straight/right* **for** nobody to leave.

  * It is vital *straight/right* **for** there to be peace.

Complementizers

- Observations:
  - preposition *for*:
    - Has intrinsic semantic content, thus can be intensified by *straight* or *right*:
  - complementizer *for*:
    - Has no intrinsic semantic content, thus can not be intensified

Complementizers

- *For*-introduced clauses can be subjects of *would be unthinkable* expressions, prepositional phrases with *for* cannot:

    For *you to go there on your own* would be unthinkable.

    * ***For*** *you* would be unthinkable.

Complementizers

- Other prepositions do not license infinitive complements:

  * She was surprised *at* [there to be nobody to meet her]

  * I'm not sure *about* [you to be there]

  * I have decided *against* [us to go there]

- Why should the preposition *for* do?

Prepositions

- Allow for gerundive (*-ing*) complements:

  - which could be argued to be verbal,

  - or nominal

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Complementizers

- Preposition stranding in interrogative sentences with preposition *for*:

  I will vote *for* **Senator Megabucks**.

  Which senator will you vote *for*?

  For **which senator** will you vote?

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Complementizers

- Impossible stranding of the complementizer *for*:

  The were anxious *for* **Senator Megabucks** to keep his cool.

  *   **Which senator** were they anxious *for* to keep his cool?

  *   *For* **which senator** were they anxious to keep his cool?

  *   *For* **which senator** to keep his cool were they anxious?

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Complementizers

- Substitutability of **_for_+infinitive** by **_that_ +finite**:

  Is it really necessary *for* **there to be a showdown**?

  Is it really necessary *that* **there should be a showdown**?

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Complementizers

- No substitutability of preposition *for* + nominal complement:

  We are heading ***for a general strike***.

  * We are heading ***that there should/will be a general strike***.

Complementizers

- There is a crucial distinction between the preposition *for* and the complementizer *for*!

- Can the complementizer *that* be analyzed as a determiner?

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Complementizers

- Parallelism between determiner and complementizer *that:*

  - I refuse to believe **that** (rumor)

  - I refuse to believe **that** (Randy Rabbit runs Benny's Bunny Bar)

- The complements can be dropped, i.e. it seems that the complementizer *that* can be used pronominally.

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Complementizers

- Determiner *that*:

  - Can be used pre-nominally and pronominally.

- Complementizer *that*:

  - Could be a clausal determiner.

Complementizers

- Phonological argument against complementizer that being a determiner:

  - Det: *that* - /ðæt/

    - unreduced vowel

  - Comp: *that* - /ðət/

    - reduced vowel

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Complementizers

- Substitutability of determiner *that*, but not of complementizer *that*:

    - Nobody else knows about **that**/**this**/**the** *accident.*

    - I'm sure **that**/***this**/***the** *you are right.*

Complementizers

- Pronominal use of determiner *that* in general, while not possible with complementizer *that:*

  Nobody can blame you for **that** *mistake*.

  Nobody can blame you for **that**.

  I'm sure **that** *you are right*.

  * I'm sure **that**.

Complementizers

- The complementizer *that* and the determiner *that* are different categories.

- What is the status of the complementizer *if*?

Complementizers

- The complementizer if might be an interrogative adverb:

    I don't know [*whether/where/when/**if*** he will go]

Complementizers

- Form differences between interrogative adverbs and *if*:

  - interrogative adverbs: *wh+*

- Distributional differences:

  - Complementizer if is restricted to finite clauses, typical interrogative adverbs can occur in finite and infinitive clauses.

Complementizers

I wonder [*when/where/whether/**if*** I should go]

I wonder [*when/where/whether/***if*** to go]

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Complementizers

- Prepositions (like *about, over, at, on*) can take clausal complements with interrogative adverbs, but not with complementizers like *if*:

  I'm not certain **about** [*whether/when/where* he'll go]

  * I'm concerned **over** [*if* taxes are going to be increased]

  * I'm puzzled **at** [*that* he should have resigned]

  * I'm not very keen **on** [*for* you to go there]

Complementizers

- Interrogative adverbs can be coordinated, the complementizer *if* cannot:

    I don't know [*where* and ***when*** to meet him]

    I don't know [*whether* or ***not*** he'll turn up]
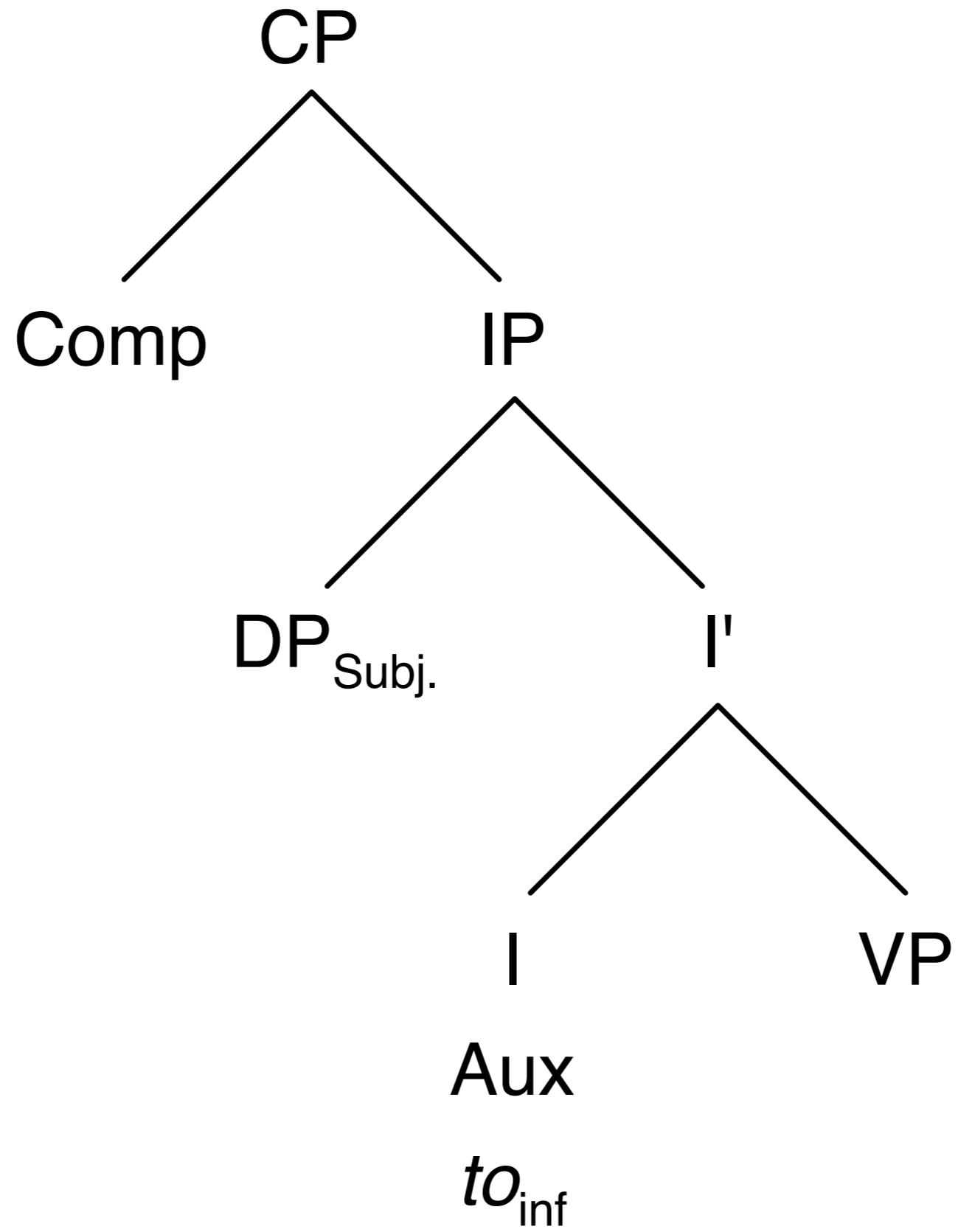
  *   I don't know [*if* or ***not*** he'll turn up]

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Complementizers

- Conclusion:

  - *if* is an interrogative complementizer

  - *where*, *when*, *whether* are interrogative adverbs

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Complementizers

- Complementizers are heads of their own projection.

- They select clauses, that are projections of Infl (I).

- They precede the subject.

- There can be only one.

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Complementizers

- How does the functional system on the syntactic level compare to German?

  - infinitival vs. finite complement clause

  - interrogative vs. declarative clause

- Are complementizers in complementary distribution with other elements?

Sentence Structure

- What does the structure of simple *yes*/*no*-questions look like?

  Is the cat chasing the mouse?

  Does the cat chase the mouse?

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Sentence Structure

- What is the problem with the structural hypotheses so far, given the following sentences:

  What does the cat chase?

  What is the cat chasing?

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Assignment

- Draw the tree diagram for the following noun phrases:

  - Mary said that Peter works at EMU.

  - John called Mary.

  - Some car parked at the house.

  - John saw the man with the binoculars.

  - John often reads the newspaper in the train.