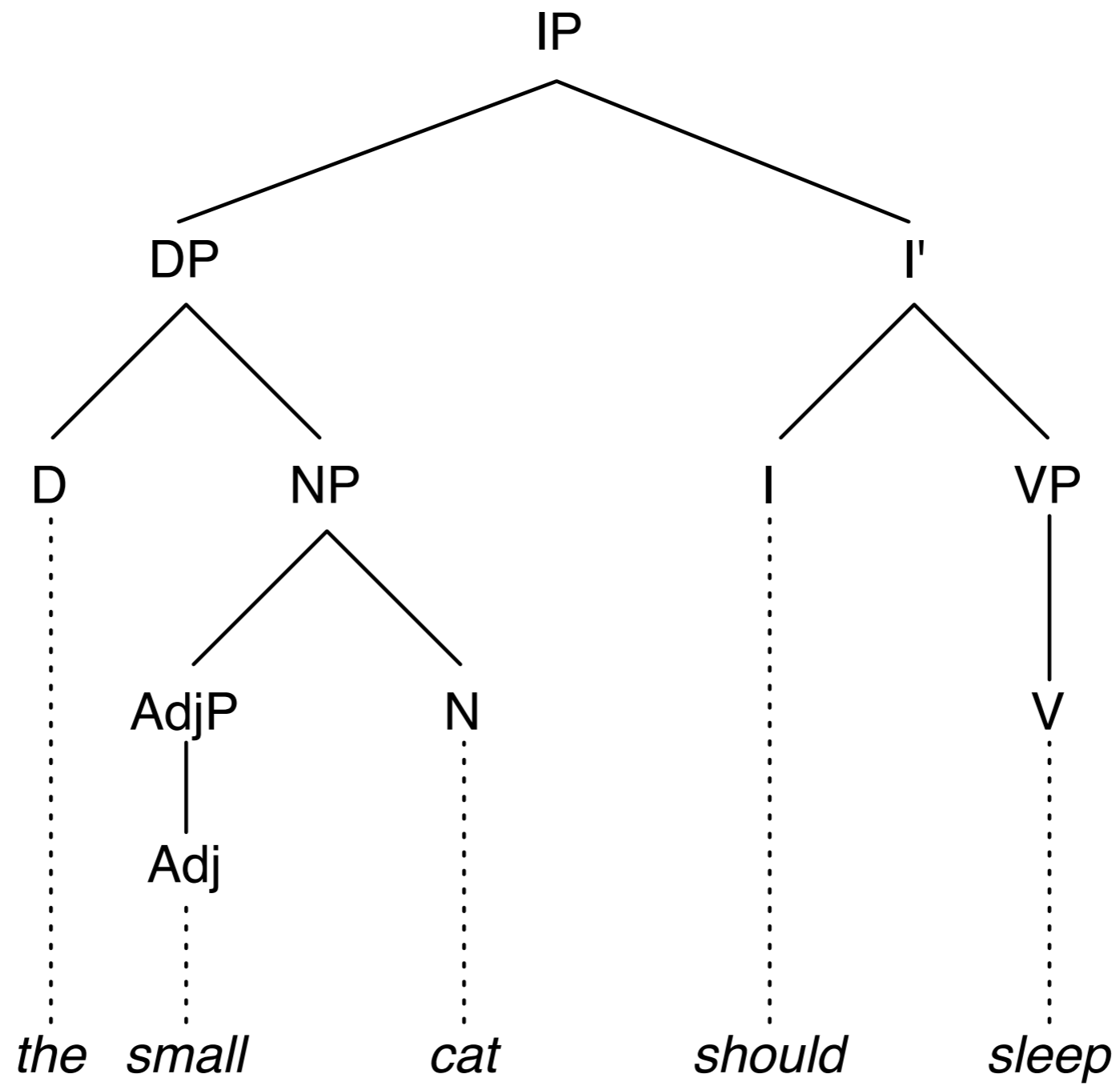


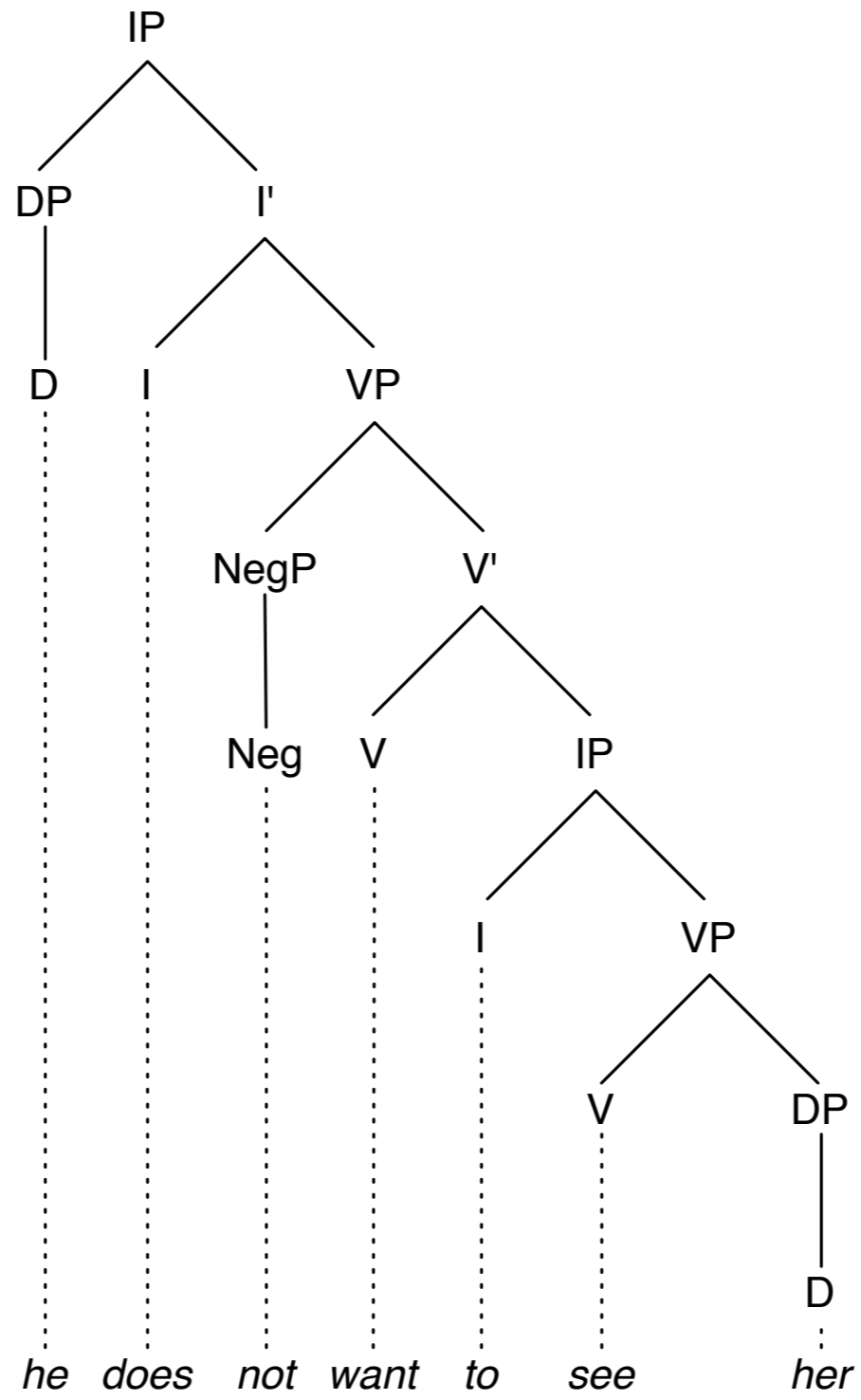
LING 201: Introduction to Linguistics

EMU
Fall 2011
D. Cavar

Agenda

- Assignments for today
- Syntax
 - Complementizers
- New assignments





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

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

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?

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?

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?***

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?

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.

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

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]

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]

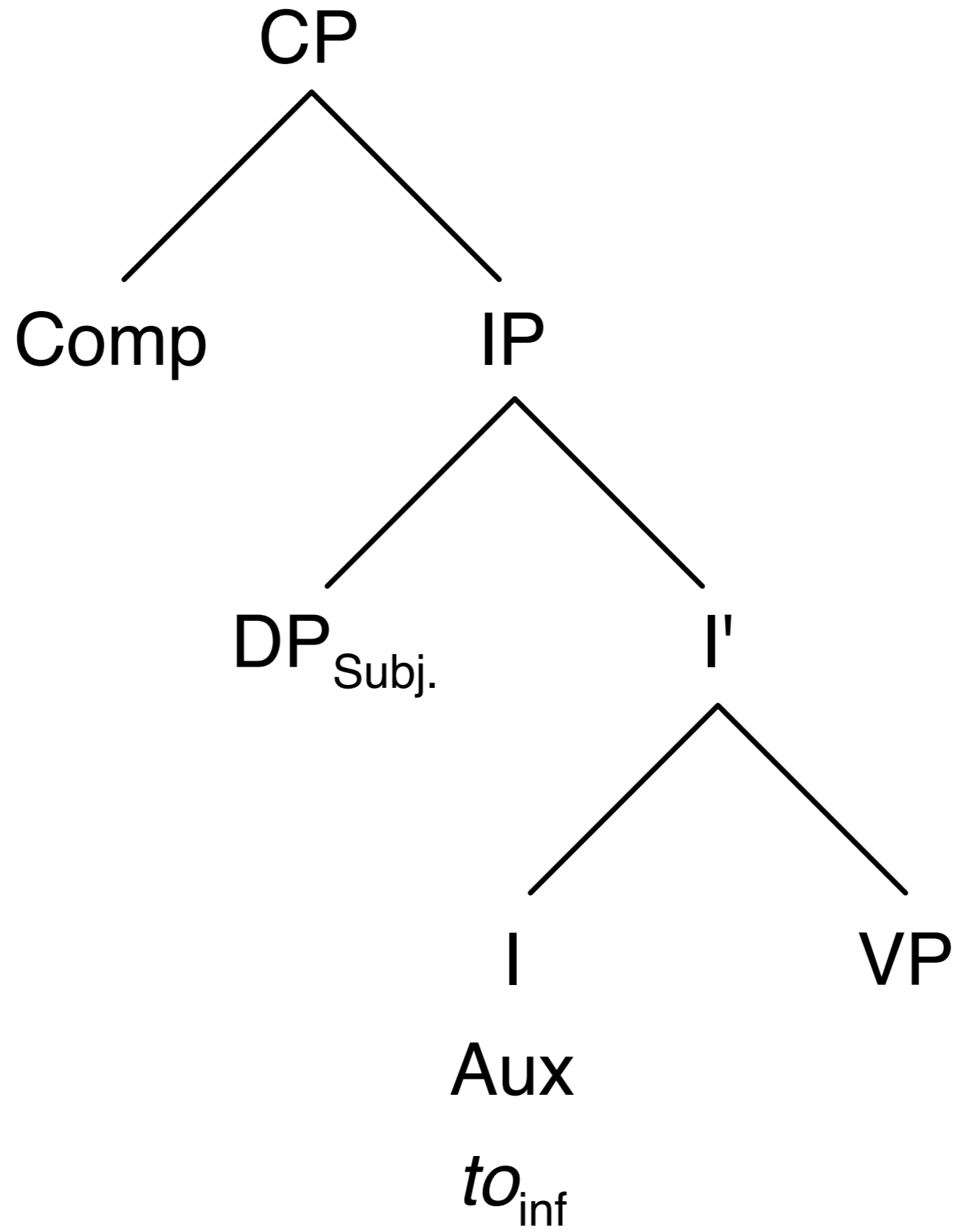
* I don't know [*if* or ***not*** he'll turn up]

Complementizers

- Conclusion:
 - *if* is an interrogative complementizer
 - *where, when, whether* are interrogative adverbs

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.



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?

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?

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.