L322 Syntax

Chapter 2: Fundamentals

Linguistics 322

1   Parts of speech

Refer to L220, L222, and my notes to L222.

2   Structure

p. 32 first error:

> syntax assignment

> "syntax" is a noun, not an adjective.

> many people fail to make the distinction between form and function.

> form here refers to categories and morphemes that occur with thee categories

> function refers to what it does

> "syntax" is a noun; it cannot take "er" or "est" or occur with "more and "most":

> *syntaxer, *more syntax, *syntaxest, *most syntax.

> its function is an argument of *assignment*

> the concept of an "argument" will be discussed soon.

p. 33, "↠"

> the arrow means "consists of" or "contains".

> If we really want to be modern, I would use "⇇↠"

> the left arrow "↞" means 'form a constituent' or

A ⟷ B C = A contains B and C; B and C form a constituent labelled A.

I won't push this double arrow now. The left arrow will be discussed later in this chapter.

p. 34, 24) and 25)

NP ⇾ (D) N

This the way we wrote it 20 years ago and more.

I would write it as NP ⇾ (D) NP.

Better: NP ⇾ D NP (optional) [maybe].

Lesson 1: N is a head.

The phrase NP is built around its head N.

D, the symbol for a determiner, is an operator

An operator is a grammatical modifier.

p. 34. 27)

NP ⇾ (D) (A) N

This the way we wrote it 20 years ago and more.

I would write it as NP ⇾ D NP (optional)

NP.⇾ A NP (optional)

Lesson 2: Modifiers are adjoined to the phrases they modify.

We now need evidence/

(1)   The bright yellow shirt.

What does*bright* modify?

The resultant ambiguity requires adjunction to short out.

Lesson 3: C-command.

X c-commands Y if the node that immediately dominates X also dominates Y

Definition 1: Dominate

   X dominates Y if X contains Y.

Definition 2: Immediately dominate

   X immediately dominates Y if X contains Y and no other node that X contains contains Y.

Definition 3: Adjoin/adjunction

   We are not ready for the real definition of adjunction. There are at least two types.

   We will use the less motivated type XP is adjoined to YP, if YP immediately dominates XP and YP.

   (Bad concept, but very much in use.)

p. 35: 32)

   PP as adjuncts (not complements)

   (PP+) is Carnie's invention

   NP $\Rightarrow$ NP PP (optional, iterative)

   This the rule for adjuncts, it repeats.

p. 35: 33)

   degree words

   Here I agree with Carnie.

p. 36: 34), 39)

   Degree words, like all modifiers, are adjoined to the nodes they modify.

   AP is adjoined to AP

(2)   John is very fond of this friends.

   [$_{AP}$ fond [$_{np}$ his friends]].

   [$_{AP}$ very [$_{AP}$ fond [$_{np}$ his friends]]].

3

p. 37: 40)

Here he is right. *[$_{AP}$ A A].

p. 38

P⇢ P (NP)

Here he is right.

I believe along with many others that particles are intransitive prepositions.
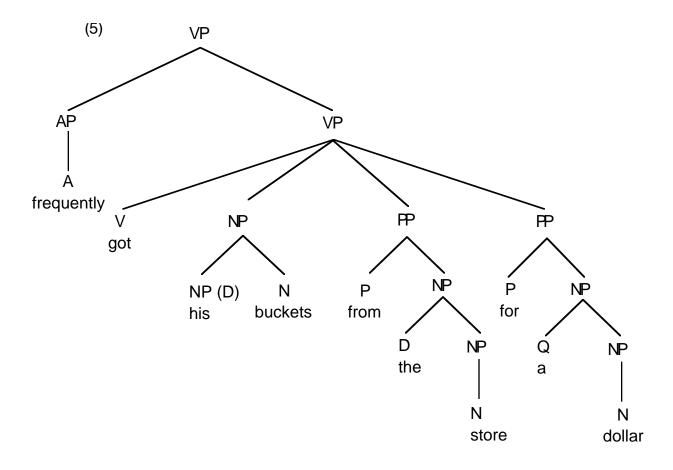
(3)   a.   John took the book down from the top shelf.

       b.   *John took down from the top shelf the book.

       c.   John took down the book from the top shelf.

(4)   a.   John took the tent down.

       b.   John took down the tent.

[$_{VP}$ [V take down] the tent].

p38: 48)

adverbs are modifiers

p. 39: 56)

(5)

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                              VP
                 ┌────────────┴──────────────────────┐
                AP                                   VP
                 │              ┌──────────┬──────────┴──────────┐
                 A              V          NP         PP          PP
            frequently        got      ┌───┴───┐   ┌──┴──┐      ┌──┴──┐
                                    NP (D)   N    P     NP      P    NP
                                     his   buckets from  ┌──┴──┐ for ┌──┴──┐
                                                         D    NP     Q    NP
                                                        the    │     a     │
                                                               N           N
                                                             store       dollar
```

Note: the above nonbinary branching will be reduced to binary later.

Note to above.

Carnie has not introduced pronouns.

All pronouns are NPs.

They are definite.

Definiteness is a functional property pronouns and determiners except for the pronoun *one*: One should do one's own homework.

p. 41 65)

The currently theory is all branching is binary.

T (Tense) is adjoined to VP.

This form a new VP (or in some views TP).

S ↠ T VP

> This kind of rule is illegal.

> The phrase must be a projection of the head

VP ↠ T VP (or) TP ↠ T VP.

> The jury is out on this one.

p. 41 65)

In 220 you probably learned that CP = S̄ also written as S'. You might as well say with CP = Complementizer phrase. More accurately would be to consider C as M for mood. But may as well stay with C, which is rather standard today.

p. 43 4.1.2

"The platypus modifies kissed." [The very small boy kissed the platypus].

The platypus is an argument of *kissed*.

In absolutely no way does *is* modify the verb.

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