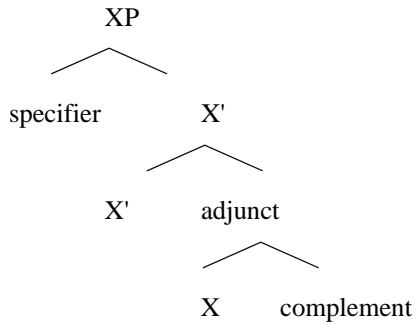


Complements vs. adjuncts

Complements are daughters of X' and sisters of X (a head)

Adjuncts are daughters of X' and sisters of X' (recursion)

Both are phrases (YPs)



Tests

1 Optionality

If a phrase is obligatory, it is a complement (but optionality does not mean that it's an adjunct)

(1)

Herb put the sandwich in the trash can

*Herb put the sandwich

[in the trash can] is obligatory; so it's a complement

2 Pro-forms

Some proforms used to test constituency stand for X'-projections (*one* for N', *do so* for V'). If these proforms can be substituted for the sister of the phrase in question, then the sister of that phrase is an X' projection. The phrase is then an adjunct, since its sister is an X', and not an X.

one (*pro-N'*)

(2)

Herb saw the smelly sock

Harv saw the sock with the hole, and Herb saw the smelly *one*

[smelly] is an adjunct

(3)

Herb saw a picture [of Hortense's fish]

*Harv saw the picture [of Hugo's pet squirrel], and Herb saw the *one* [of Hortense's fish]

[of Hortense's socks] is a complement, not an adjunct

do so (pro-V')

(4)

Herb chew the squid [for three minutes]

Harv chew the squid for five minutes, and Herb *did so* for three minutes

[for three minutes] is an adjunct

Herb chew [the squid]

*Harv chew the gum, and Herb *did so* the squid

[the squid] is a complement, not an adjunct

3 Closeness to the head

Complements are sisters of the head X, while adjuncts are sisters of X'. This means that if there are two phrases, one a complement and one an adjunct, then the complement must be closer to the head than the adjunct.

(5)

Harv saw the picture [of Hugo's pet squirrel] [on the wall]

*Harv saw the picture [on the wall] [of Hugo's pet squirrel]

[of Hugo's pet squirrel] is a complement

(6)

Harv saw a picture [on the wall] [in the bedroom]

Harv saw a picture [in the bedroom] [on the wall]

[on the wall] and [in the bedroom] are adjuncts

4 Recursivity

Usually adjuncts can be iterated, while arguments cannot be.

(7)

Herb chewed [the squid]

*Herb chewed [the squid] [the gum]

[the squid] is a complement

(8)

Harv saw the picture [of Hugo's pet squirrel]

*Harv saw the picture [of Hugo's pet squirrel] [of his sister]

[of Hugo's pet squirrel] is a complement

(9)

Herb was chewing the squid [in the kitchen]

Herb was chewing the squid [in the kitchen] [by the table]

[in the kitchen] is an adjunct

Note that [in the kitchen] can also follow [by the table]; that is, it does not have to be close to the head:

(10)

Herb was chewing the squid [by the table] [in the kitchen]

(11)

the professor [in tweed jacket] [in a raincoat]

[in tweed jacket] and [in a raincoat] are adjuncts

Again, the order of the two phrases can be switched:

(12)

the professor [in a raincoat] [in tweed jacket]

5 Coordination

Complements and adjunct cannot be coordinated. It still needs to be decided whether the coordinated phrases are complements or adjuncts. Also, coordination can fail not only because one tries to coordinate a complement and an adjunct, but also for other reasons.

(12)

Herb saw several pictures [of squirrels] and [of tropical fish]

[of squirrels] and [of tropical fish] are both complements or adjuncts (complements)

(13)

Herb saw several pictures [on the wall] and [in the drawer]

[on the wall] and [in the drawer] are both complements or adjuncts (adjuncts)

Examples

those [*smelly*] [*green*] socks

the student [*of linguistics*] [*with pointy ears*]

Hortense is [*very*] proud [*of her fish*]

Harv sprayed paint [*on the fishtank*]

Hortense should phrase the ransom note [*more carefully*]