

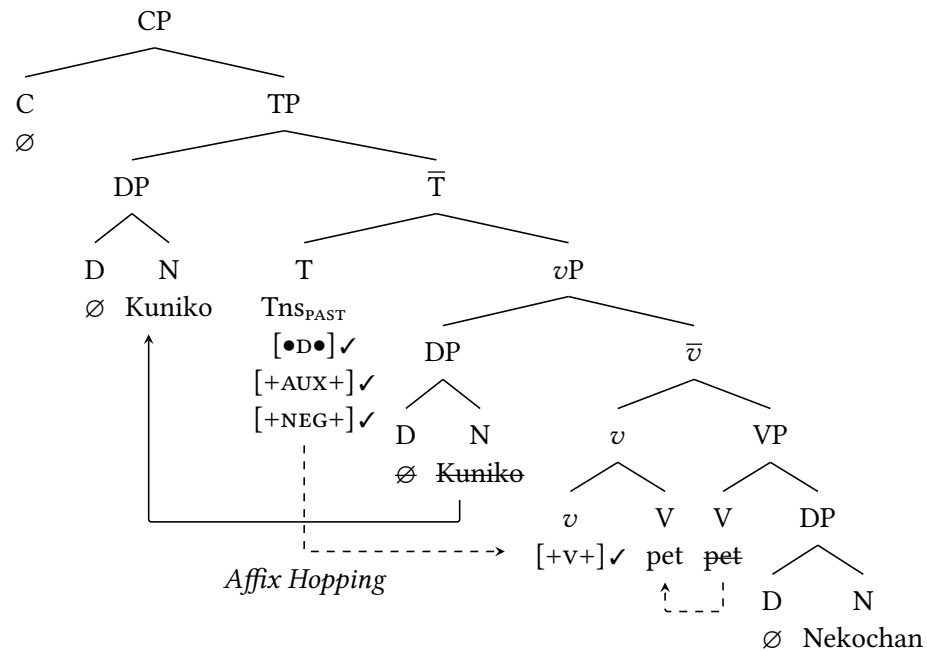
# Final exam practice questions [key]

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LING 120B: Syntax I

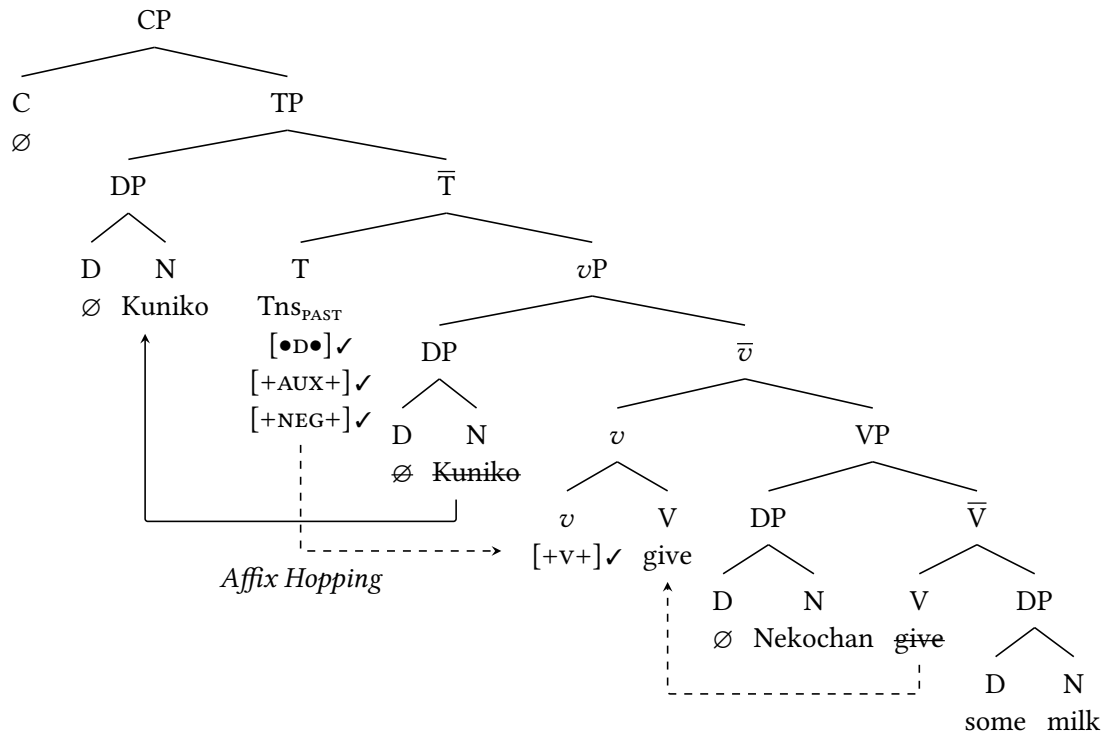
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Please show the **final structures** for the following sentences. You do *not* need to show each derivational step, but you do need to include **the features that are relevant for the derivation**. This will minimally include any features that drive (or may drive) movement.

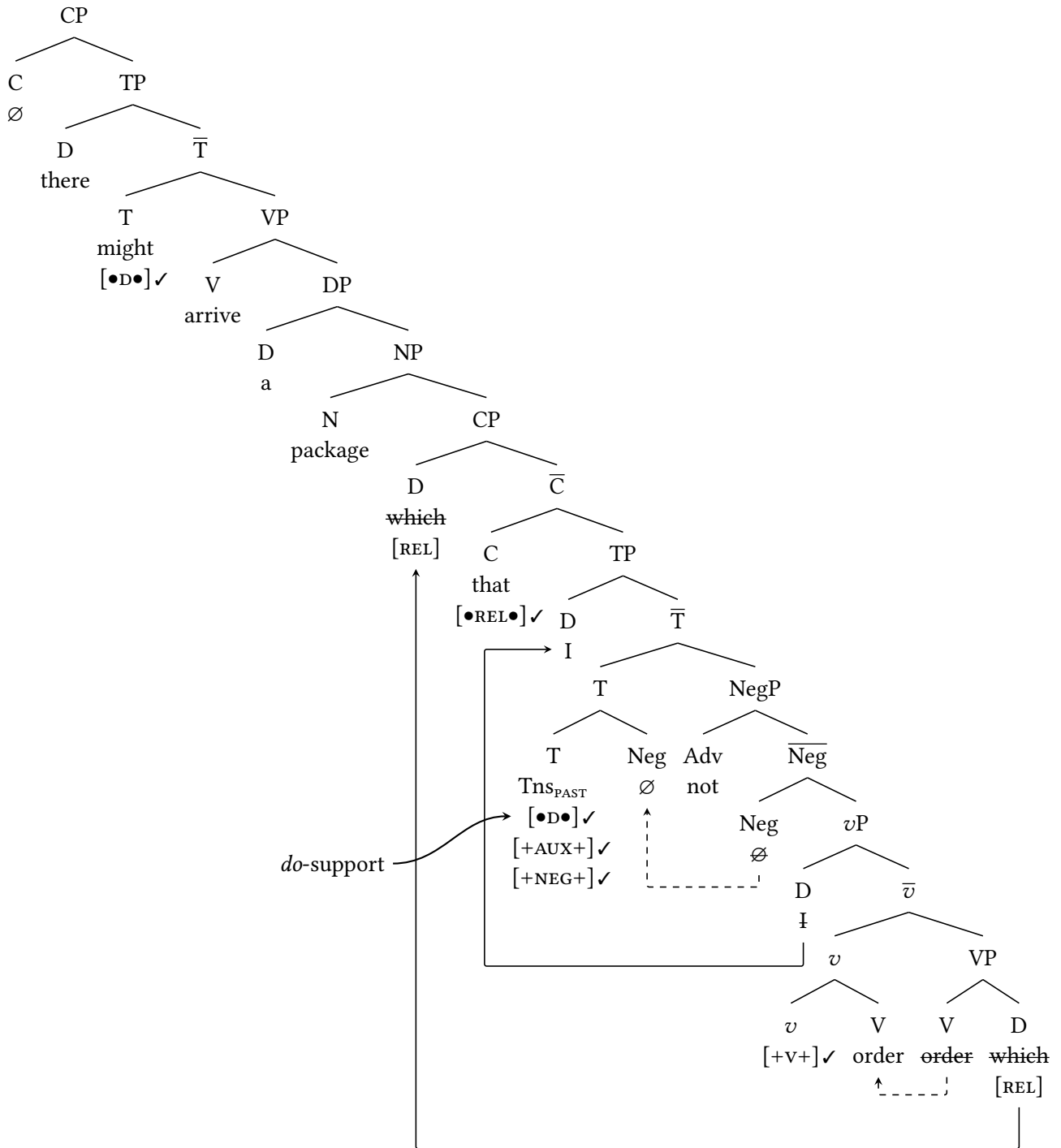
- (1) Kuniko pet NekoChan.



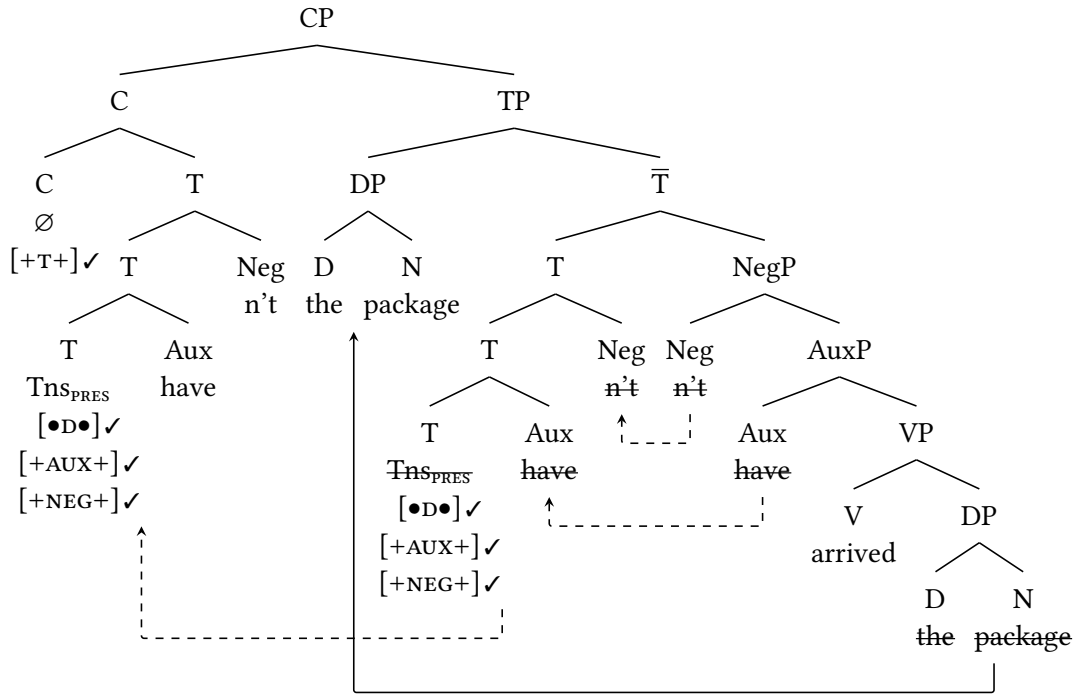
(2) Kuniko gave Neko-chan some milk.



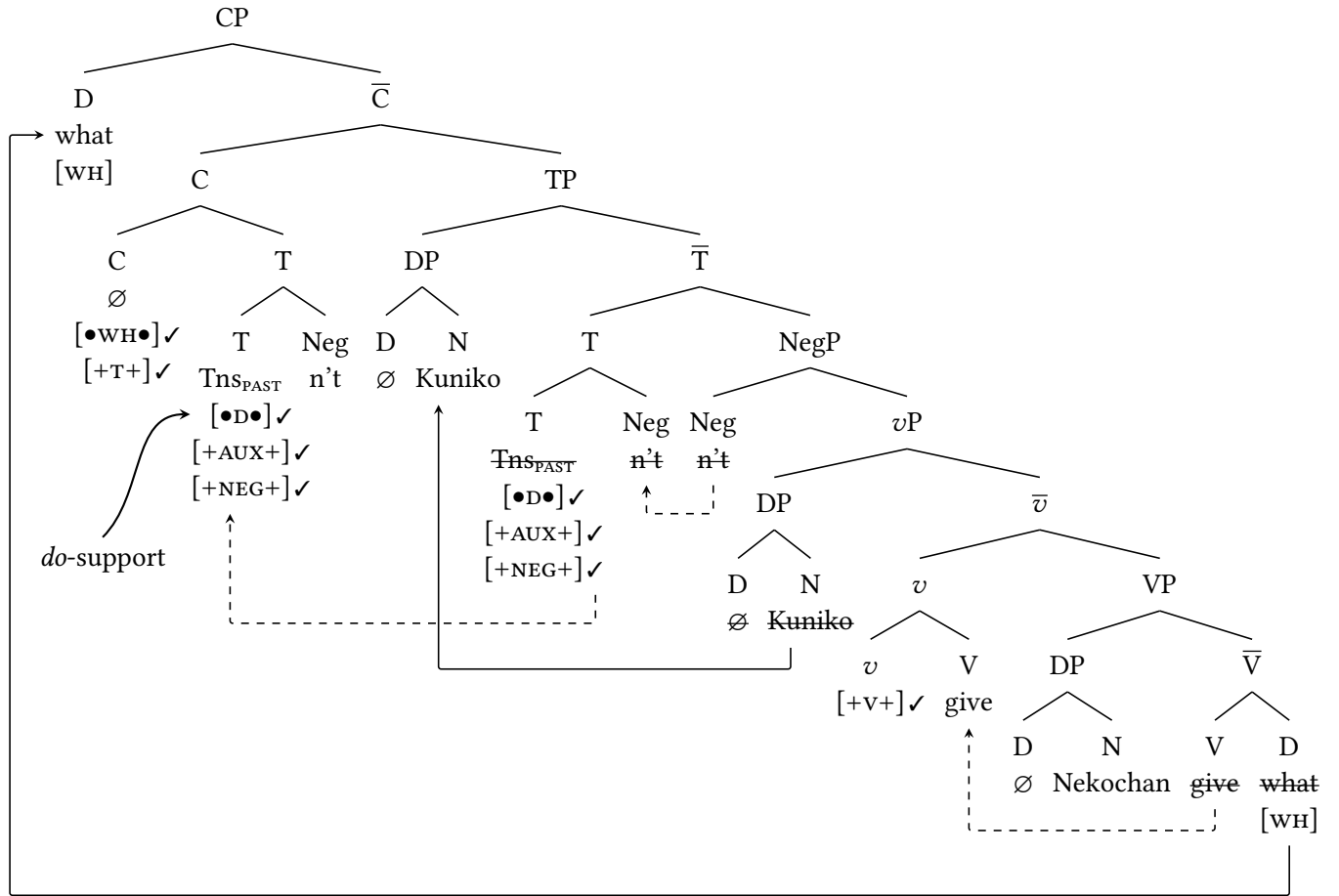
(3) There might arrive a package that I did not order.



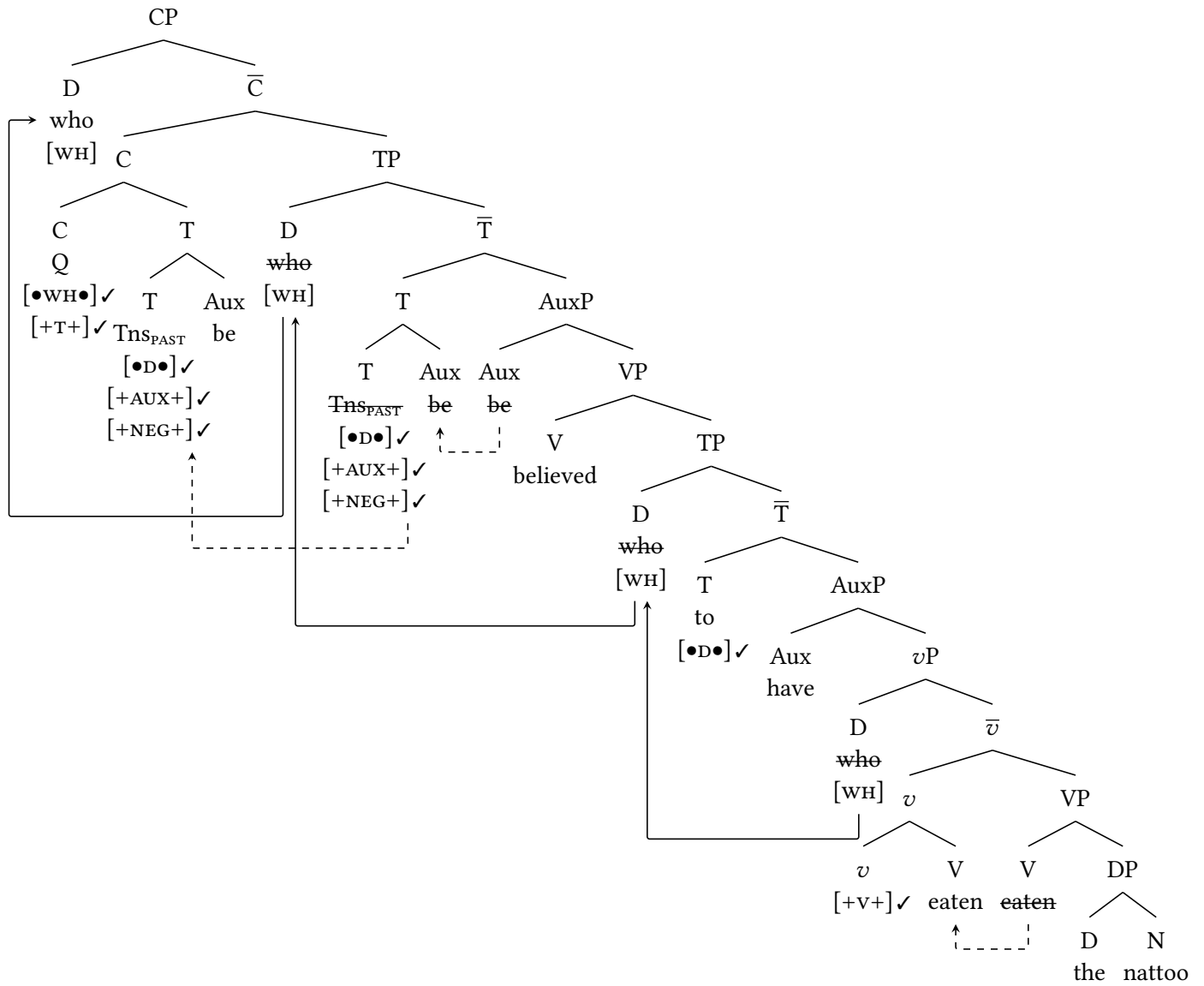
(4) Hasn't the package arrived?



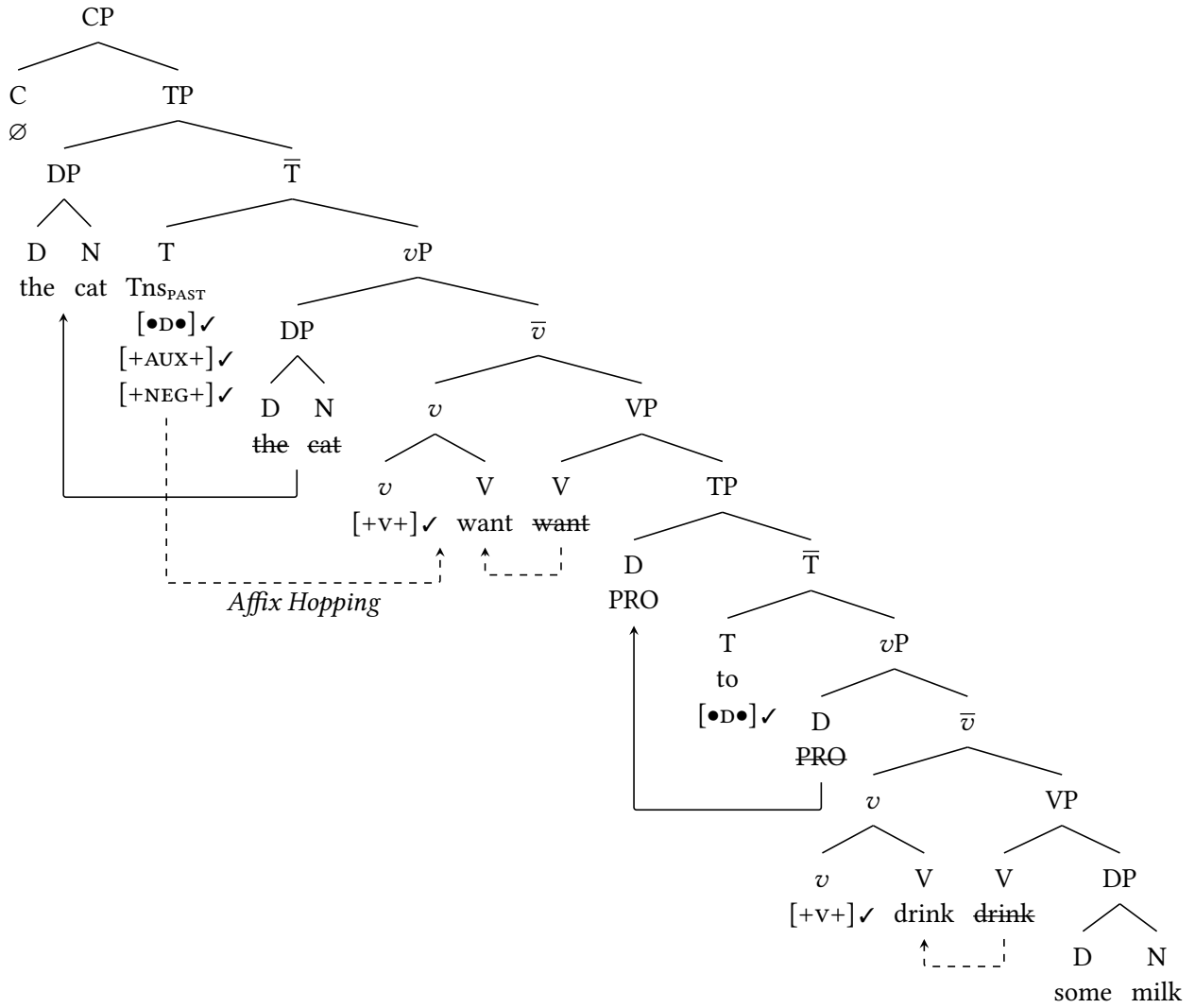
(5) What didn't Kuniko give Neko-chan?



(6) Who was believed to have eaten the nattoo?



(7) The cat wanted to drink some milk.



**Background for the second and third questions:**

For the next two questions, you need to know that German is a head-final language, but that in root (i.e. main/matrix) clauses, the highest verb raises to C. (Some constituent must also raise to [Spec, CP]—by default, the subject—, but this is irrelevant for the purposes here).

- (8) a. ... dass sie das Buch kauft  
... that she the book buys  
'... that she buys the book'
- b. Sie kauft das Buch  
she buys the book  
'She buys the book'
- c. ... dass sie das Buch gekauft hat  
... that she the book bought has  
'... that she has bought the book'
- d. Sie hat das Buch gekauft  
she has the book bought  
'She has bought the book'

2
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There is a class of verbs in German that are made of two parts: *ankommen* 'arrive', *umstellen* 'shift', *ausstellen* 'write out', and *einladen* 'invite'. These are often called "separable prefix verbs" in traditional grammars because in certain contexts, they may come apart:

- (9) a. Sie kommt heute an  
she arrives today PRCL  
'She arrives today'
- b. Sie stellte den Brief aus  
she wrote the letter out  
'She wrote out the letter'



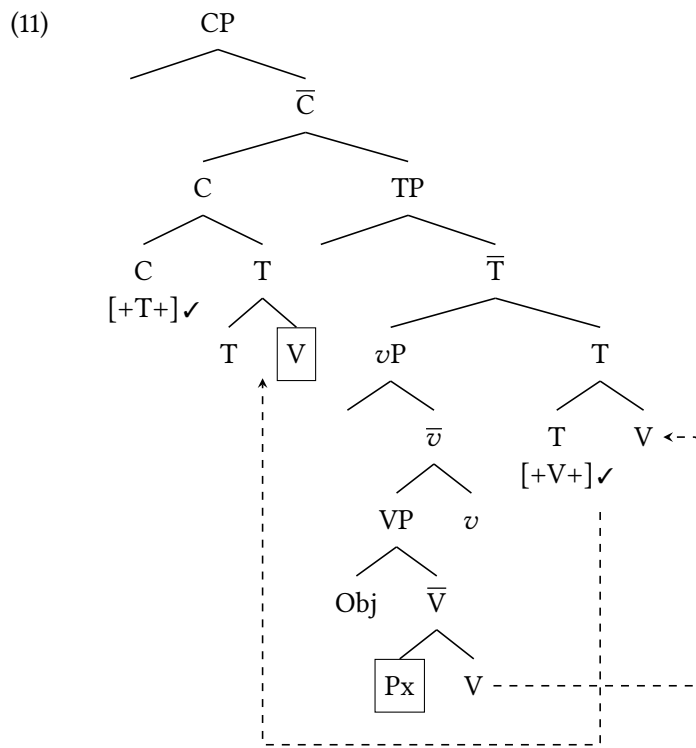
However, the verb and the particle remain together in embedded clauses:

- (10) a. Wir glauben [ dass sie heute ankommt ]  
we believe that she today PRTCL.arrives  
'We believe that she arrives today'
- b. Wir glauben [ dass sie den Brief ausstellte ]  
we believe that she the letter out.wrote  
'We believe that she wrote out the letter'

Give an account of this class of verbs that explains why they can be broken up in root clauses, but not embedded clauses. Give derivations that illustrate your analysis. This will require, among other things, making up a hypothesis about what the underlying form of these "separable prefix verbs" is, and the mechanism that drives them apart.

**Answer:**

German separable-prefix verbs are made up of two components: a verbal root (V) and a separable prefix (Px). V first merges with Px and then merges with the object. In root clauses, because V raises to C, Px gets left behind, thereby deriving the word order in (9). In embedded clauses, V remains in situ so that V and Px are linearized adjacent to one another, thereby deriving the word order in (10). This analysis is schematized in (11) for a root clause, where the pronounced copies of the relevant elements are boxed. For reasons to be made clear in the next answer, I assume that V moves to C *via* T, i.e. V moves to T and then the resulting complex T head moves to C.



*Note:* Other answers/analyses are possible. This analysis is a simple one that maintains the most of our prior assumptions.

Consider next embedded infinitival clauses in German. As in English, German infinitives involve a “marker” corresponding to *to*, namely *zu*:

- (12) a. Er bat mich [ PRO ihm zu helfen ]  
 he asked me PRO him to help  
 ‘He asked me to help him’
- b. Es ist zu spät [ PRO ins Kino zu gehen ]  
 it is too late PRO in.the theater to go  
 ‘It’s too late to go to the movies’

Note that the verb must following *zu*:

- (13) a. \*PRO ihm helfen zu
- b. \*PRO ins Kino gehen zu

Give an account of this fact which combines with your account of separable prefix verbs in order to capture the ordering of the particle, *zu*, and the verb:

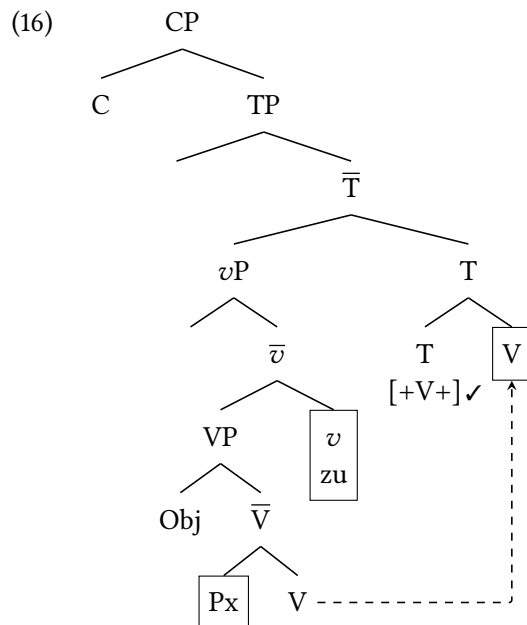
- (14) a. Er bat mich [ PRO den Brief auszustellen ]  
 he asked me PRO the letter out.to.write  
 ‘He asked me to write out the letter’
- b. Es ist zu spät [ PRO heute anzukommen ]  
 it is too late PRO today PRTCL.to.arrive  
 ‘It’s too late to arrive today’
- (15) a. \*Er bat mich [ PRO den Brief zuausstellen ].
- b. \*Es ist zu spät [ PRO heute zuankommen ].

- c. \*Er bat mich [ PRO den Brief ausstellenzu ].
- d. \*Es ist zu spät [ PRO heute ankommenzu ].

What you should aim to capture is the fact that *zu* always sticks itself between the part of the separable prefix verb that shows up in second position in root clauses and the part that does not show up in second position in root clauses. That is, your account of the facts in (14) should relate the position *zu* occupies relative to the separable prefix and the verbal stem with the fact that the verbal stem can be separated from the prefix part in embedded infinitival clauses in (13).

**Answer:**

In embedded infinitival clauses, the infinitival *zu* is a *v* head, unlike English *to*. V still raises to T, but T does *not* raise to C. The result is that *zu* is linearized between Px and V. This is schematized in (16), where the pronounced copies of the relevant elements are boxed.



*Note:* Other answers/analyses are possible. This analysis is a simple one that maintains the most of our prior assumptions.