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Midterm exam

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LING 120B: Syntax I

Note: You may use the textbook (Radford 2004) and your class notes on this midterm exam. This test is not to be stored in a test bank.

1

10 points

Please answer the following comprehension questions.

(a) What is the grammatical category of *chair* in the following sentence and how do we know?

(1) Karen was elected to chair the panel.
It is a verb. By substituting chair with another verb such as run, it can be seen that chair is a verb.
Karen was elected to run the panel.
It is also a verb due to the infinitival 'to' being in front of the word

(b) Based on the following data alone, what differentiates English and German, other than the identity of the words? (Hint: The heads are underlined.)

(2) a. ... [that [Fritz [should [have [eaten schnitzel]]]]
b. ... [dass [Fritz [Schnitzel gegessen] haben] soll]
that Fritz schnitzel eaten have should
'that Fritz should have eaten schnitzel'

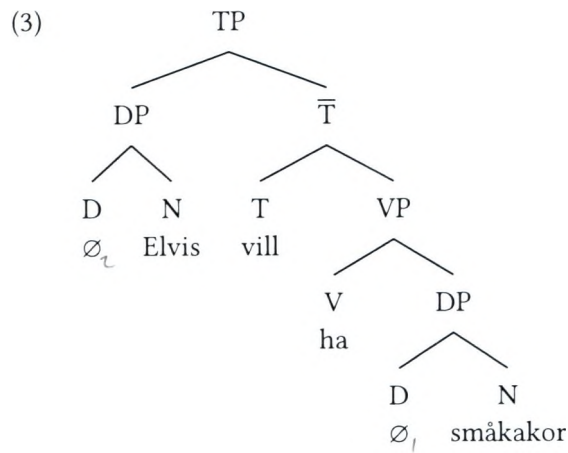
The main difference shown from this data is that English is head-initial and German is head-final. Additionally, this applies to all categories of words shown.



- \ (c) What is the distributional difference between PRO and *pro*? (Hint: Pro-drop languages also have PRO, so the difference is not between pro-drop and non-pro-drop languages.) Your answer does not need to be longer than one sentence.

PRO is the subject of the next clause above it, while pro is the subject and sometimes the object of finite clauses.

- ✓ (d) Please list all of the constituents in the following structure:



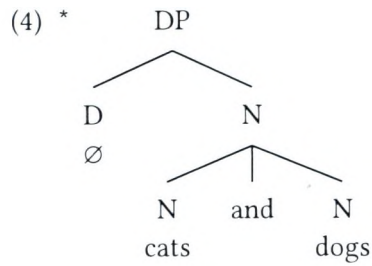
*småkakor, ∅_{D1}, ∅_{D1} småkakor, ha, ha ∅_{D1} småkakor,
vill, vill ha ∅_{D1} småkakor, ∅_{Dz}, Elvis, ∅_{Dz} Elvis*

- \ (e) Please also list all of the c-command relations in the above structure in (3).

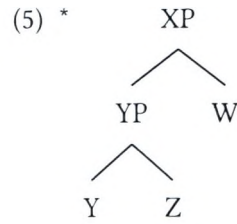
*∅_{Dz}: Elvis
Elvis: ∅_{Dz}
vill: ha, ∅_{D1}, småkakor
ha: ∅_{D1}, småkakor
∅_{D1}: småkakor
småkakor: ∅_{D1}*

branching nodes ?

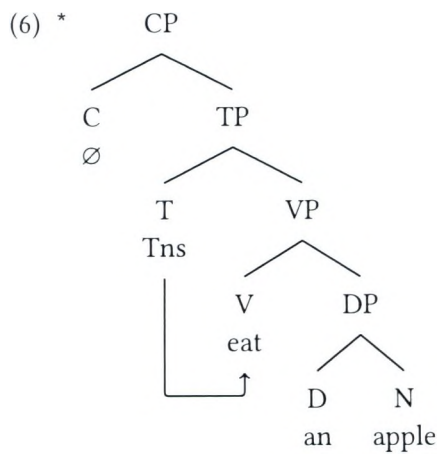
Please indicate what principle or condition is violated by each of the following structures:



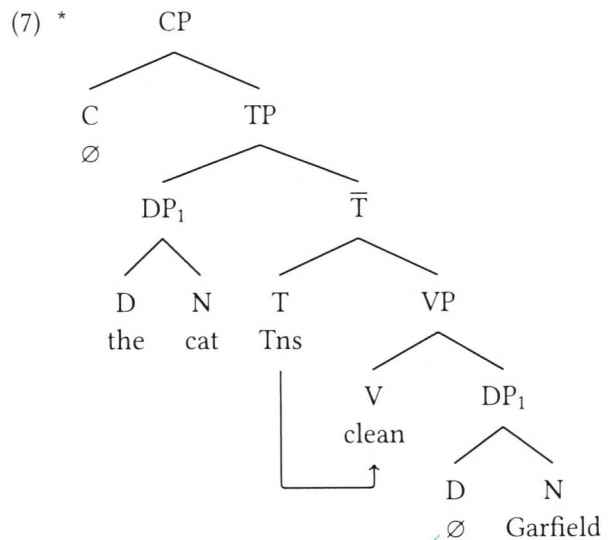
Binarity principle ✓



headiness principle ✓

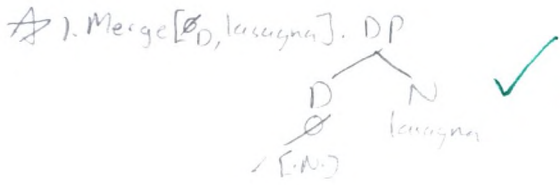


EPP ✓



Condition C ✓

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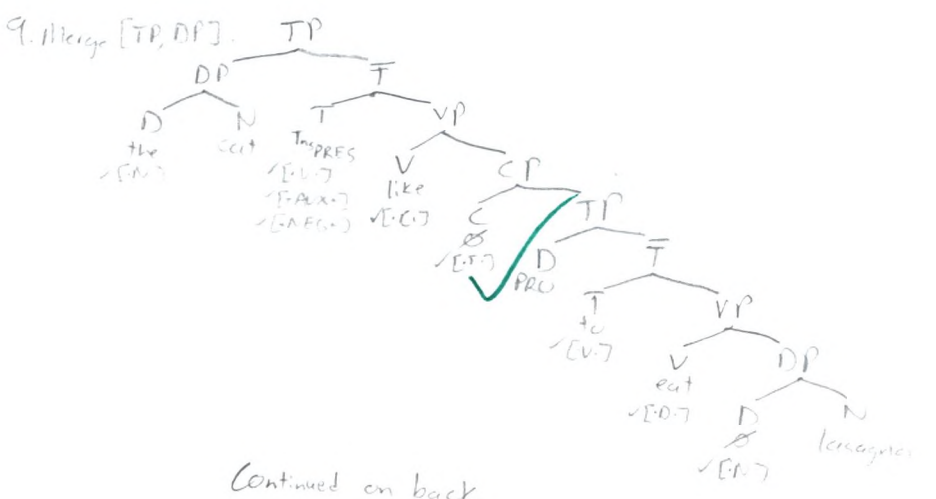
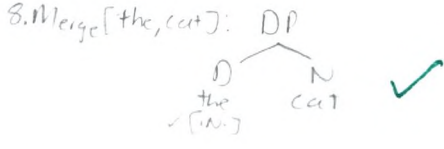
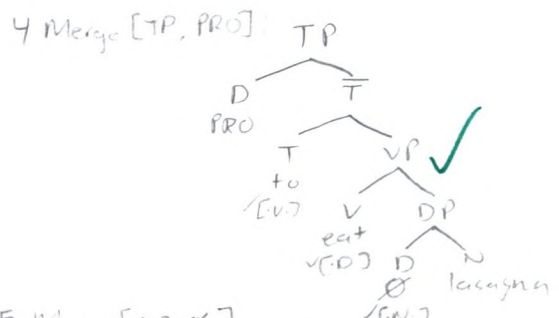
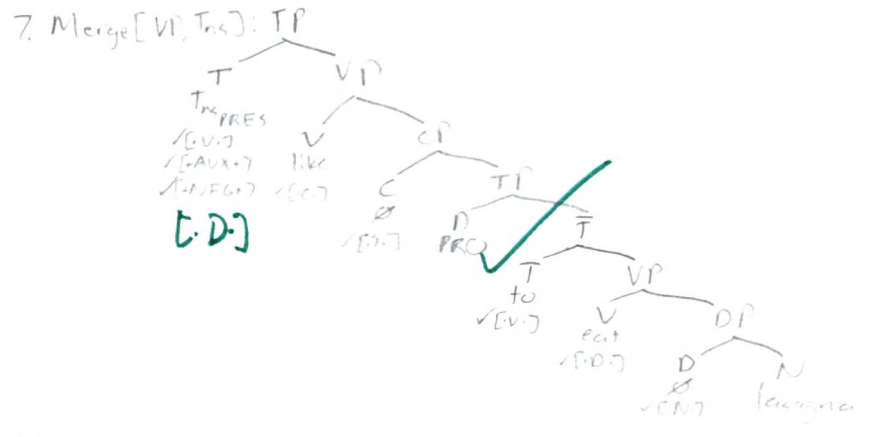
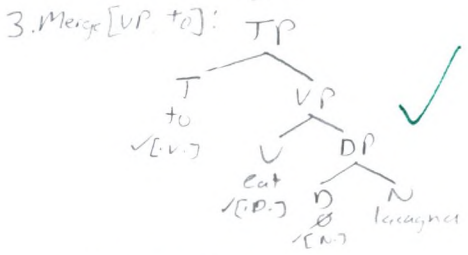
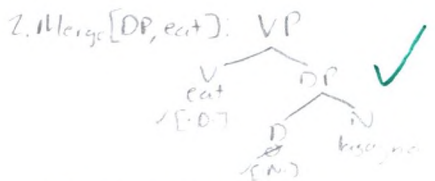


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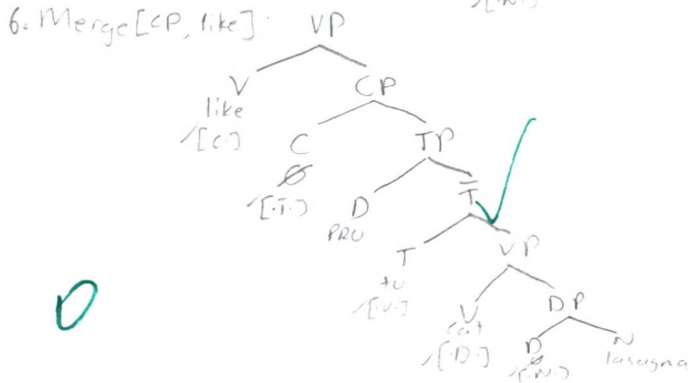
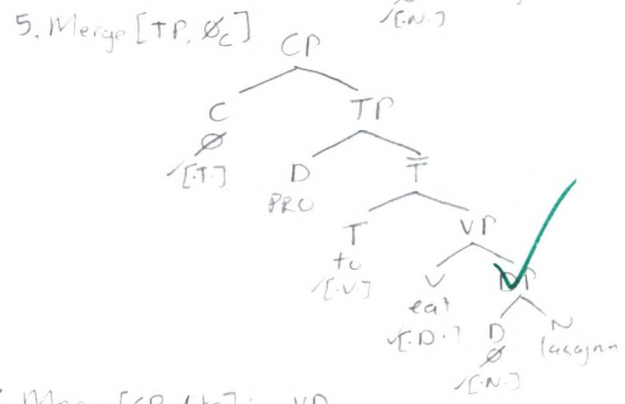
20 points

Please complete the following two tasks: (i) Show the **step-by-step derivation** for the sentence in (8), **including all of the features** (both 'bullet' and 'plus' features). (ii) Justify each constituent that you posit with a **constituency test** (e.g. coordination, substitution).

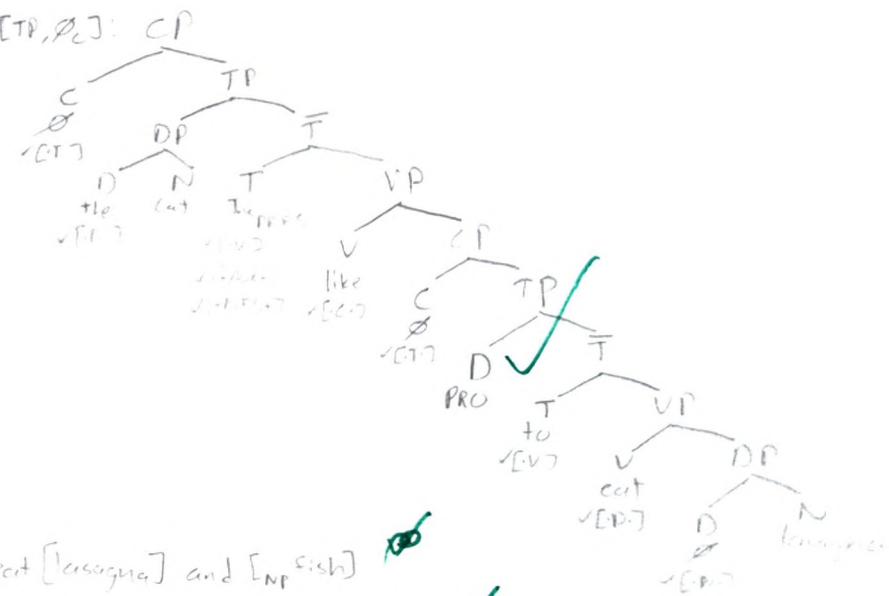
(8) The cat likes to eat lasagna.



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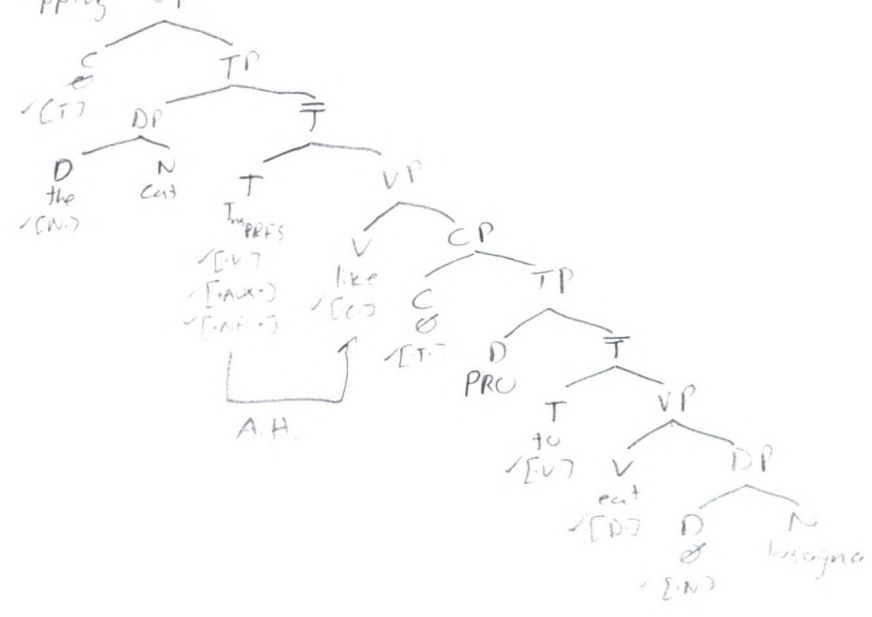


3 (cont): 10. Merge [TP, \emptyset_C]: CP



- The cat likes to eat [lasagna] and [NP fish] ✓
- The cat likes to eat [lasagna] and [DP this fish]. ✓
- The cat likes to [eat lasagna] and [VP sleep]. ✓
- The cat likes [to eat lasagna] and [CP for John to eat pasta]. ✓
- The cat [likes to eat lasagna] and [VP sleep]. ✓
- The [cat] and [NP dog] like to eat lasagna. ✓
- [The cat] and [DP John] like to eat lasagna. ✓
- [The cat likes to eat lasagna] and [TP CP John likes to eat]. ✓

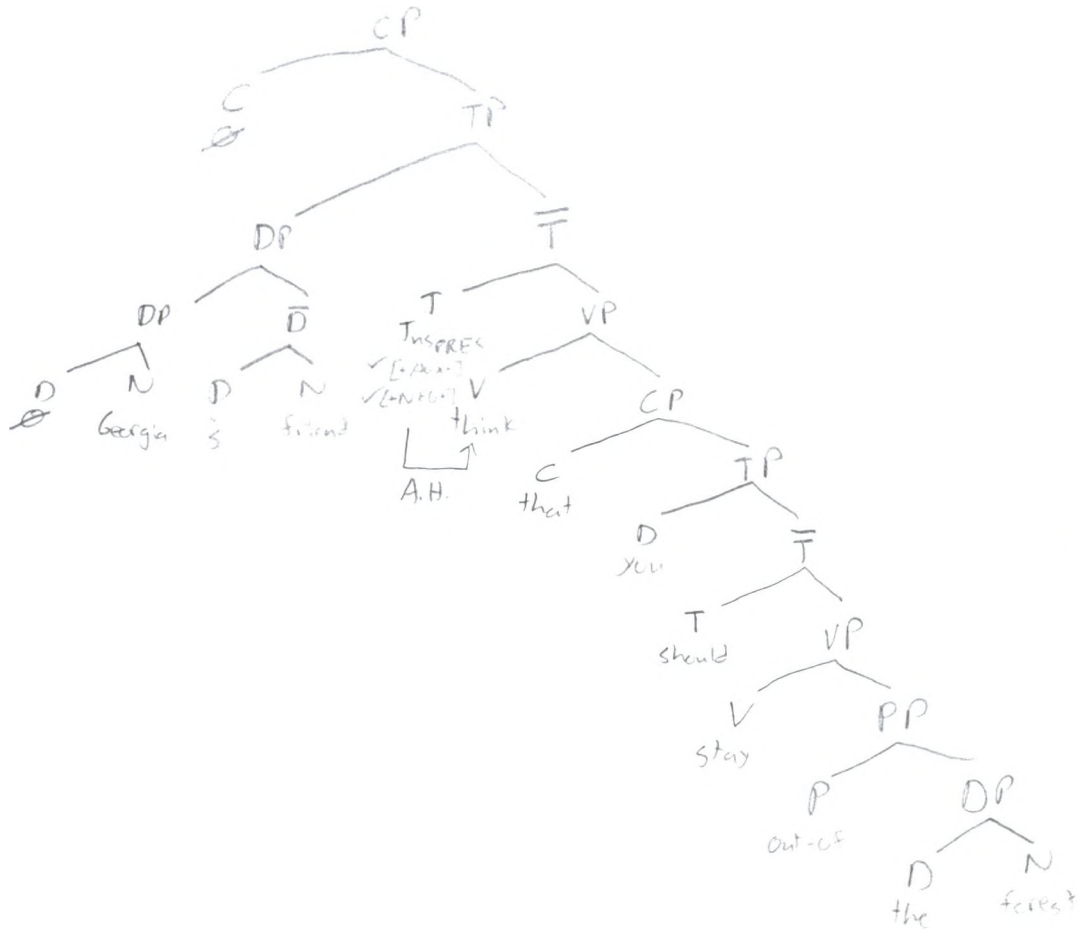
11. Affix hopping: CP



The cat [likes to eat lasagna] and [\bar{T} should lose weight].

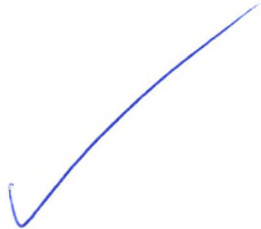
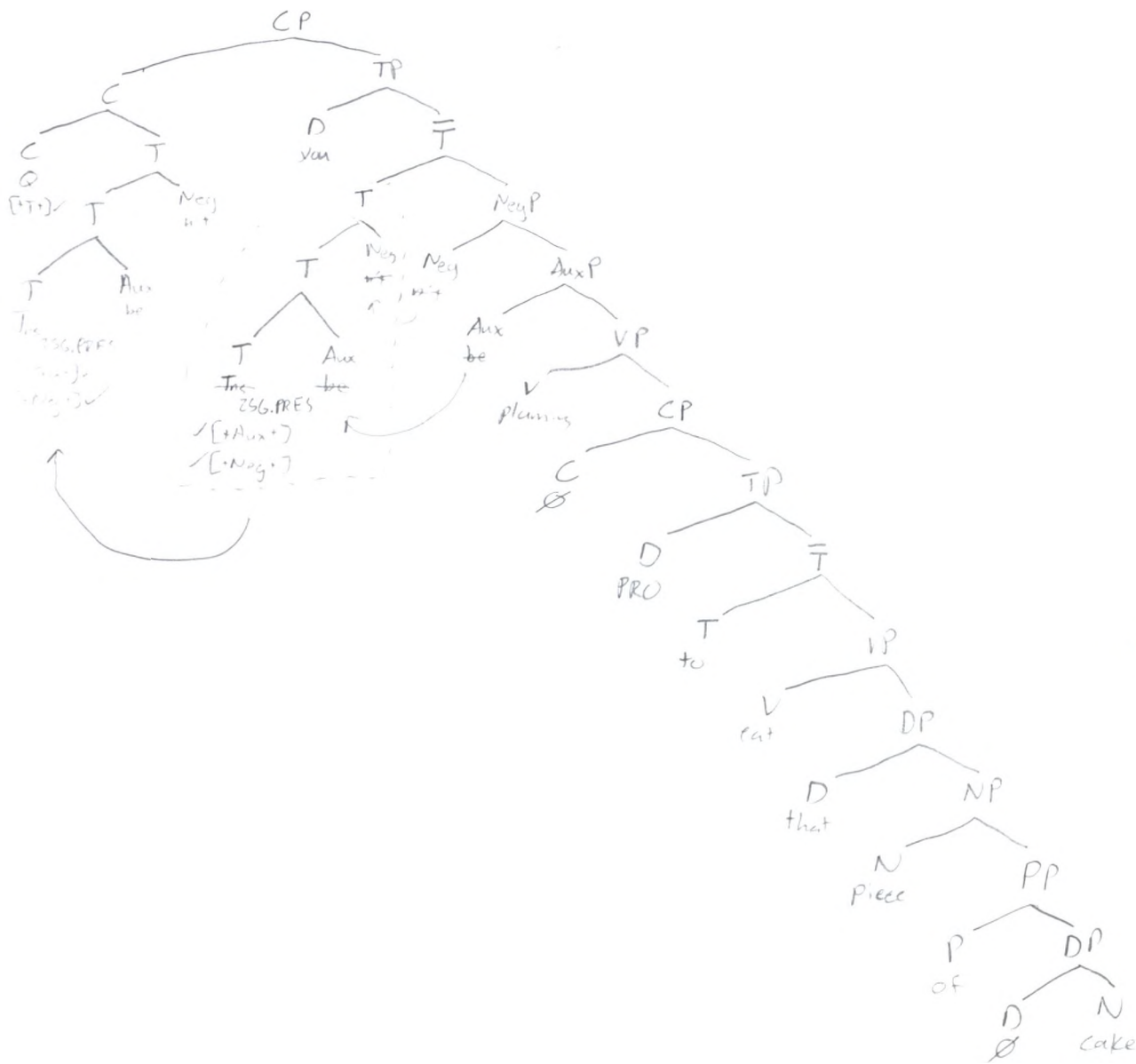
Please show the **final structure** for the sentence in (9); you only need to represent the **head-movement ('plus') features**. You do *not* need to represent the selection ('bullet') features, provide constituency tests, or show each derivational step. You may treat *out of* as a single undecomposable P head.

(9) Georgia's friend thinks that you should stay out-of the forest.



Please show the **final structure** for the sentence in (10); you only need to represent the **head-movement ('plus') features**. You do *not* need to represent the selection ('bullet') features, provide constituency tests, or show each derivational step.

(10) Aren't you planning to eat that piece of cake?



Hindi-Urdu has two words indicating possession that correspond to English ^{cond B} *his/her*: *apnaa* and *uskaa*. These two words have different distributions from one another, as shown in (11). Explain how the binding conditions account for the distribution of *apnaa* and *uskaa* in Hindi-Urdu. (Note that the different forms of these words in (11) are not relevant for the problem.)

(11) a. [raam-ne₁ [[apnii_{1/*2} kitaab_{CP}] parh-ii_{VP}]]
Ram-ERG APNAA book read-PFV
'Ram read his book'

b. [raam-ne₁ [[uskii_{*1/2} kitaab_{CP}] parh-ii_{VP}]]
Ram-ERG USKAA book read-PFV
'Ram read his book'

Based off of the bracket notation, it is clear to see that raam-ne₁ must c-command every other word in the sentence. Within sentence (11)a, it seems that apnii must have similar distribution to anaphors and thus is subject to Condition A because of the only possible coindexed expression being raam-ne₁, which is also within the same clause. Sentence (11)b shows that uskii is most likely subject to Condition B due to its inability to be c-commanded by a coindexed expression within the same clause. It could not be subject to condition C as it is not an R-expression.

