-1 67/68 Frábært!

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.

1 *10 points*

Please answer the following comprehension questions.

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

(1) Karen voted to table the discussion.

It is a Verb.
substitution test: Karen voted to [vjoin] the discussion.
'can' test: Karen can table the discussion.

(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'

English has the head-initial structure as shown in a.
German, according to b., has the head-final structure.

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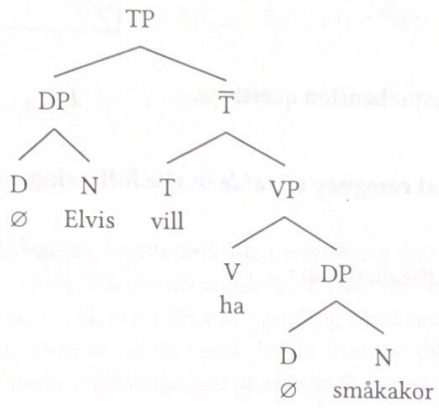
(c) **What is the distributional difference between PRO and *pro*? (*Hint: Pro-drop languages also have PRO, so the difference is not between pro-drop and non-pro-drop languages.*) Your answer does not need to be longer than one sentence.**

pro is used as the null subject or object in a finite clause.
PRO, on the other hand, appears in a non-finite clause (it is also more restricted).

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

(3)



① DP "ϕ småkakor" ⑤ DP "ϕ Elvis"
② VP "ha ϕ småkakor"
③ TP "ϕ Elvis vill ha ϕ småkakor"
④ T̄ "vill ha ϕ småkakor".

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

'ϕ' (right side) c-commands 'småkakor' and vice versa.
'ha' c-commands its sister DP, 'ϕ' and 'småkakor'.
The DP 'småkakor' c-commands 'ha'.
The VP "ha småkakor" c-commands 'vill'.
'vill' c-commands its sister VP, 'ha', 'ϕ' and 'småkakor'.
The T̄ "vill ha småkakor" c-commands its sisters DP, 'ϕ' and 'Elvis'.
The DP "Elvis" c-commands its sister T-bar, 'vill', 'ha', 'ϕ' and 'småkakor'.
'ϕ' c-commands 'Elvis' and vice versa.
(left side)

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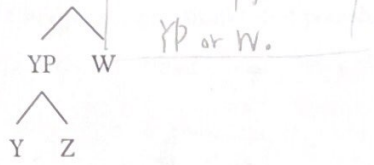
2 *10 points*

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

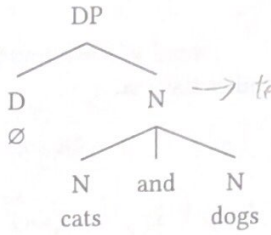
(4) *



should be a projection of YP or W.

It violates the headedness principle.

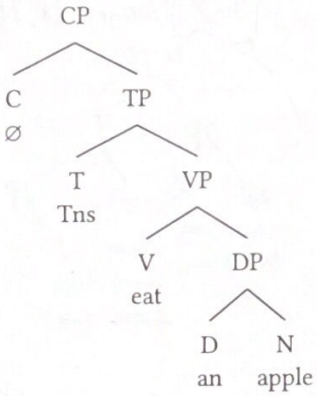
(5) *



→ ternary

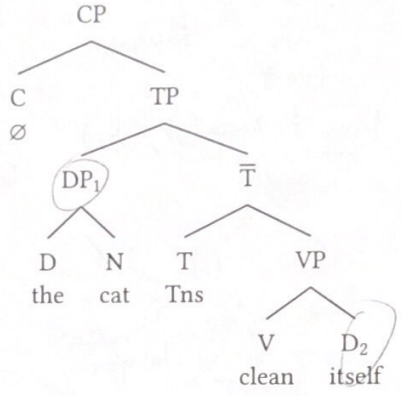
It violates the binarity principle.

(6) *



It violates EPP where T must be extended to a TP projection containing a subject.

(7) *



It violates condition A of binding theory: 'itself' must be c-commanded by a co-indexed expression in the same clause.

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Tests: ① The cat likes [lasagna] and [DP the dog] ✓

② The cat [likes lasagna] and [VP loves the fish] ✓

③ [The cat] and [DP that kid] like lasagna. ✓

④ [The cat likes lasagna] and [TP the kid loves burgers] ✓

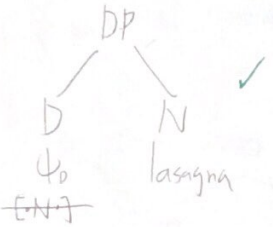
3 *20 points*

Please show the **step-by-step** derivation for the following sentence in (8), including all of the **null constituents** and 'bullet' **selection features**. Justify each constituent that you posit with a **constituency test** (e.g. coordination, substitution).

(8) The cat likes lasagna.

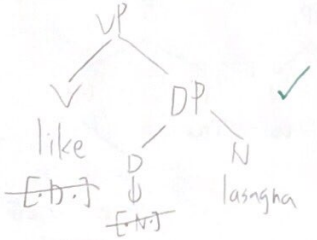
The cat Tns like ϕ lasagna

Step 1: Merge (ϕ_D, lasagna),



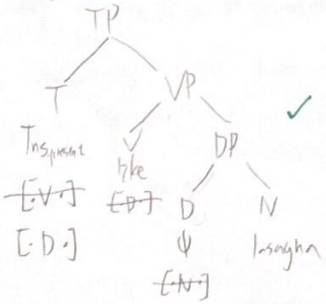
✓

Step 2: Merge (DP, like)



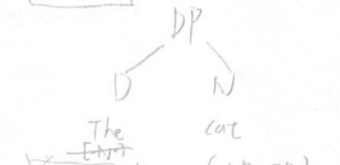
✓

Step 3: Merge (VP, Tns.present)



✓

Step 4: Merge (The, cat)



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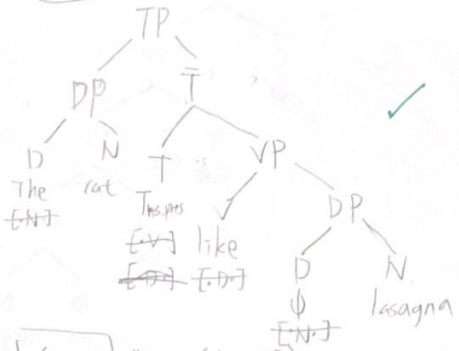
Step 5: Merge (DP, TP), TP becomes $\bar{T}$



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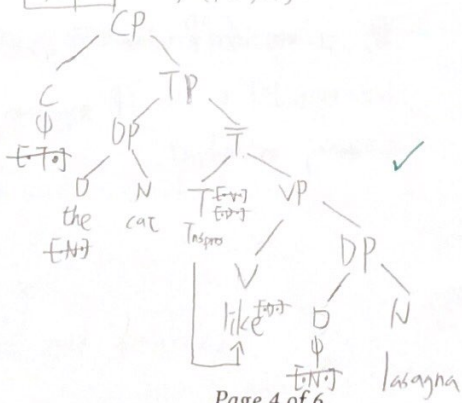
Step 6: Merge (ϕ_C, TP).



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Step 7: Tns lowers onto 'like' via Affix Hopping at PF (included in step 6)

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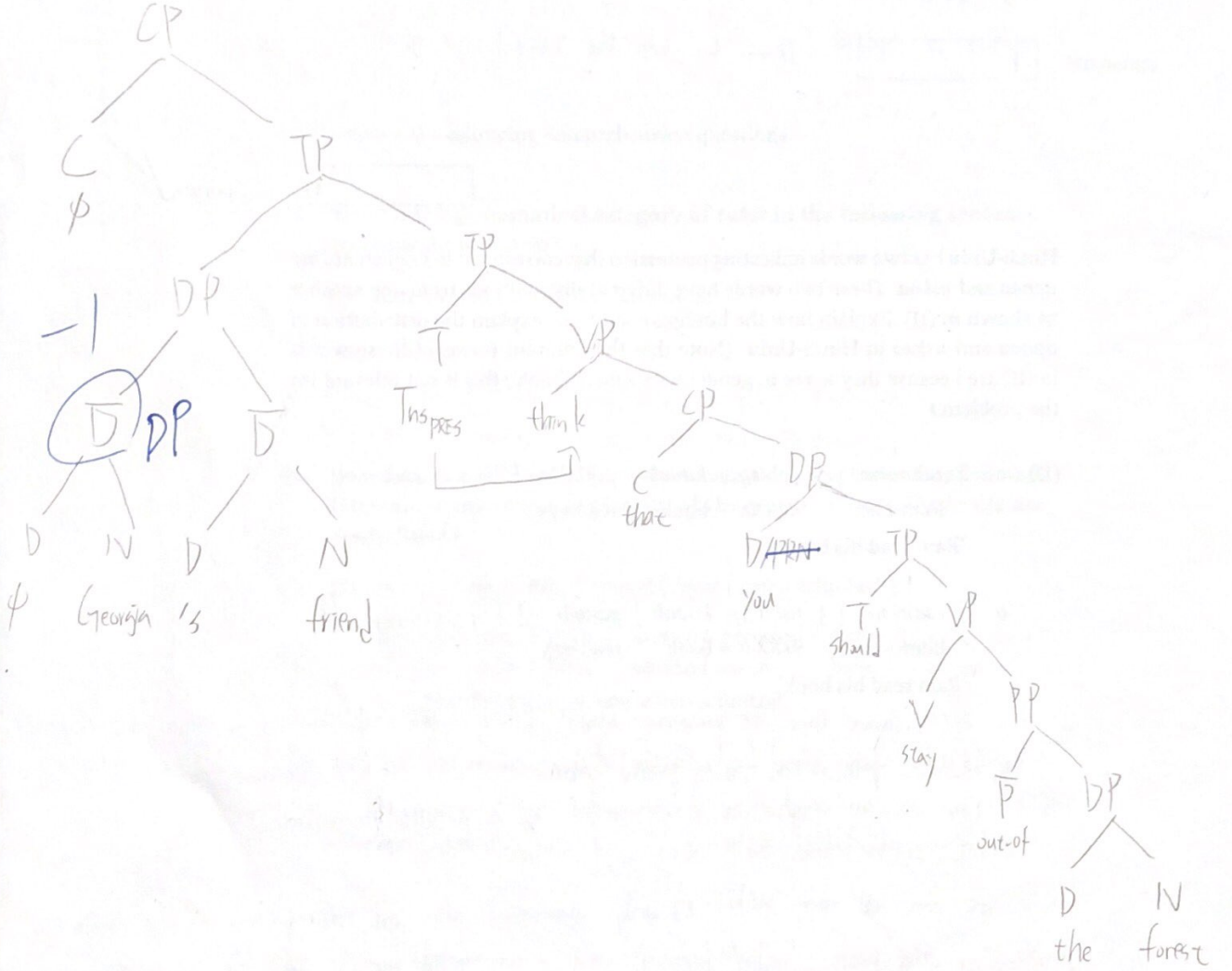
4	*16 points*

Please show the final structure for the following sentence in (9). You do *not* need to represent the selection features, provide constituency tests, or show each derivational step. You may treat *out of* as a single complex P head.

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



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5 *6 points* ✓

Recall that nonfinite clauses may be TPs or CPs, depending on the context in which they occur. Consider the nonfinite clausal complement of *expect*, as in (10). How can we determine the status of the bracketed infinitival clause? Give a sentence(s) that would test for whether it is a TP or a CP.

(10) Maria expects [Alex to win the race].

Passivization as a TP:

Alex is expected [$_{TP}$ ___ to win the race] → grammatical, thus a TP.

6 *6 points* ✓

Hindi-Urdu has two words indicating possession that correspond to English *his/her*: *apnaa* and *uskaa*. These two words have different distributions from one another, as shown in (11). Explain how the binding conditions explain the distribution of *apnaa* and *uskaa* in Hindi-Urdu. (Note that the different forms of these words in (11) are because they agree in gender with *kitaab* 'book'; this is not relevant for the problem.)

(11) a. [*raam-ne*$_1$ [[*apnii*$_{1/*2}$ *kitaab*] *paṛh-ii*]] → Condition A
Ram-ERG APNAA book read-PFV
'Ram read his book'

b. [*raam-ne*$_1$ [[*uskii*$_{*1/2}$ *kitaab*] *paṛh-ii*]] → Condition B
Ram-ERG USKAA book read-PFV
'Ram read his book'

The data in (a) shows that the possessive 'apnii' is an anaphor and thus is a subject to Condition A. This explains why 'apnii' must be co-indexed with 'raam-ne' in (a). Because condition A requires 'apnii' as an anaphor, be c-commanded by a coindexed expression.

In b, we can see that 'uskii' is only grammatical when not referring back to the subject 'raam-ne'. In other words, 'uskii' here is not c-commanded nor co-indexed by 'raam-ne', which satisfy condition B.

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