Midterm exam

Ethan Poole

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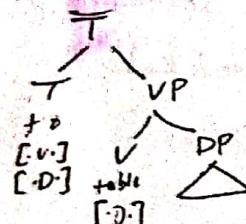
(✓) **What is the grammatical category of *table* in the following sentence and how do we know?**

(1) To table the discussion seemed like a good idea.

[handwritten:] In this case, table is a Verb. One way this can be inferred is by how it is preceded by an infinitival tense 'to', which requires a [·V·] as part of it's projection

[handwritten tree diagram in left margin:]
Ex:
T
T — VP
to [·V·]   V — DP
[·D·] table   [·D·]

(✓) **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 [<u>should</u> [<u>have</u> [<u>eaten</u> schnitzel]]]]]

    b. ... [dass [Fritz [[[Schnitzel <u>gegessen</u>] <u>haben</u>] <u>soll</u>   ]]]
           that   Fritz   schnitzel eaten   have   should
    'that Fritz should have eaten schnitzel'

[handwritten:] ~~German is a head-final language~~

Based on the data, Some the types of heads in German are head-final (in this case, it looks like VP, AuxP, and TP are head-final). ~~Based on~~ In English, these are all head-initial.

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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 (brs 'PRO') ~~has~~ has a fixed distribution ~~to roughly the su~~ roughly to the subject of the next highest clause.

(d) Please list all of the constituents in the following structure (the superscripts are only there to distinguish nodes with the same category label):

(3)
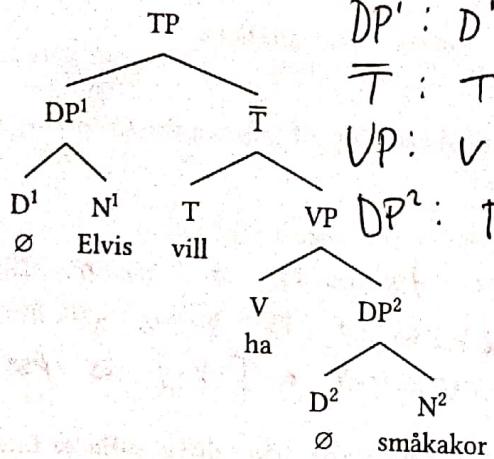
TP: DP¹ (∅, Elvis) and $\overline{T}$ (will, had smä

DP¹: D¹ (∅) and N¹ (Elvis)

$\overline{T}$: T ~~en~~ (vill) and VP (ha, ∅ smäkakor

VP: V (ha) and DP² (∅, smäkakor)

DP²: D² (∅) and N² (smäkakor)

Tree structure:
- TP
  - DP¹
    - D¹ : ∅
    - N¹ : Elvis
  - $\overline{T}$
    - T : vill
    - VP
      - V : ha
      - DP²
        - D² : ∅
        - N² : småkakor

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

D¹ c-commands N¹, ~~N¹ c-commands D¹~~   N¹ c-commands D¹

DP¹ c-commands $\overline{T}$, T, VP, V, DP², D², N²   D² c-commands N²

$\overline{T}$ c-commands DP¹, D¹, N¹   N² c-commands D²

T c-commands VP, V, DP², D², N²

VP c-commands T

V c-commands DP², D², N²

DP² c-commands V

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

(4) *

Breaks
Binarity
Principle,

cannot merge 3 constituents together

DP tree:
- D ø
- N
  - N coffee
  - or
  - N tea

(5) *

XP tree:
- YP
  - Y
  - Z
- W
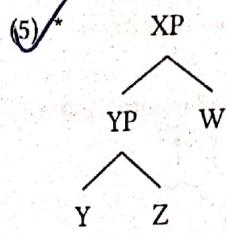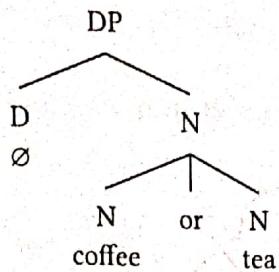
There is no X to head the XP projection

~~Otherwise~~ (Headedness Principle)

(6) *

Breaks
EPP,

T and VP don't merge into TP. They merge into intermediate projection T̄

CP tree:
- C ø
- TP
  - T / Tns
  - VP
    - V eat
    - DP
      - D an
   - N apple

(arrow from T to eat)

(7) *

CP tree:
- C ø
- TP
  - DP₁
    - D the
    - N cat
    - T Tns
  - T̄
    - VP
      - V watch
      - DP₁
        - D ø
        - N Garfield

(arrow from T to watch)
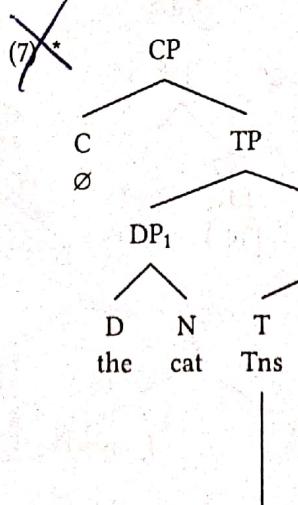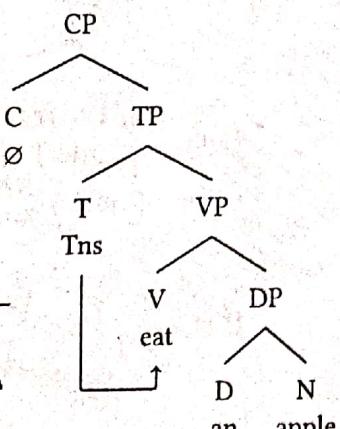
Violates binding Condition A

C

—2

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 cats like to eat lasagna.
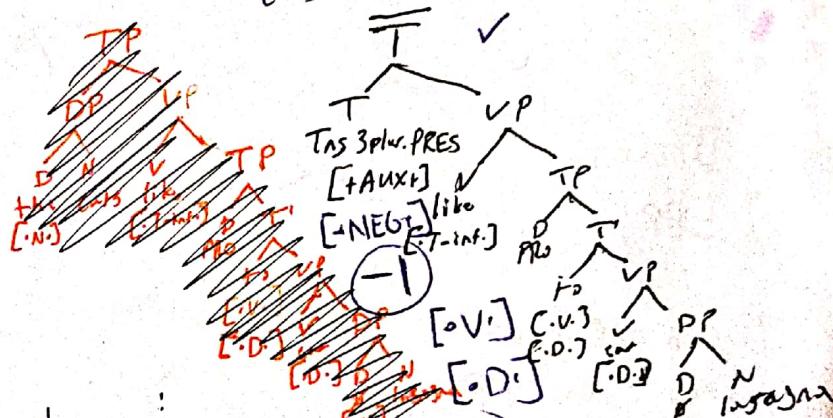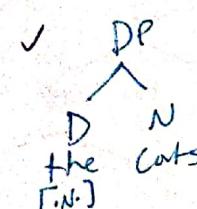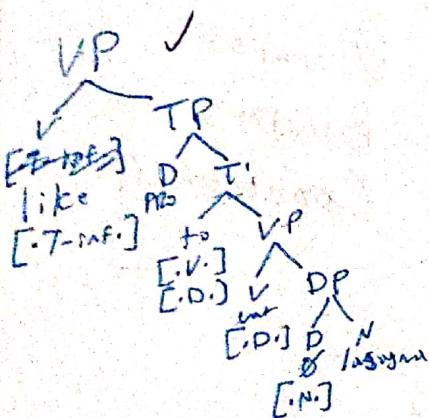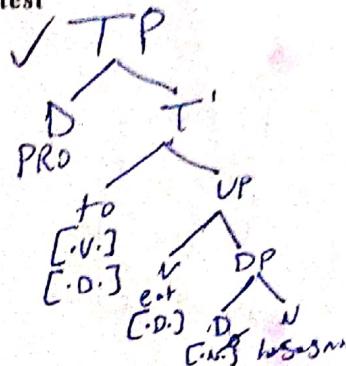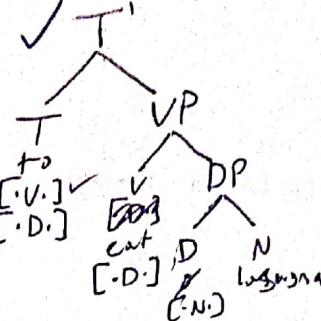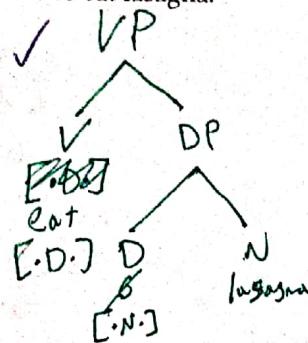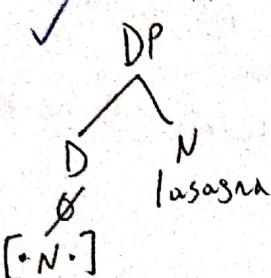
Last tree:

See last page for ~~the~~ constituency tests

(−1)

(−1)

(−2)
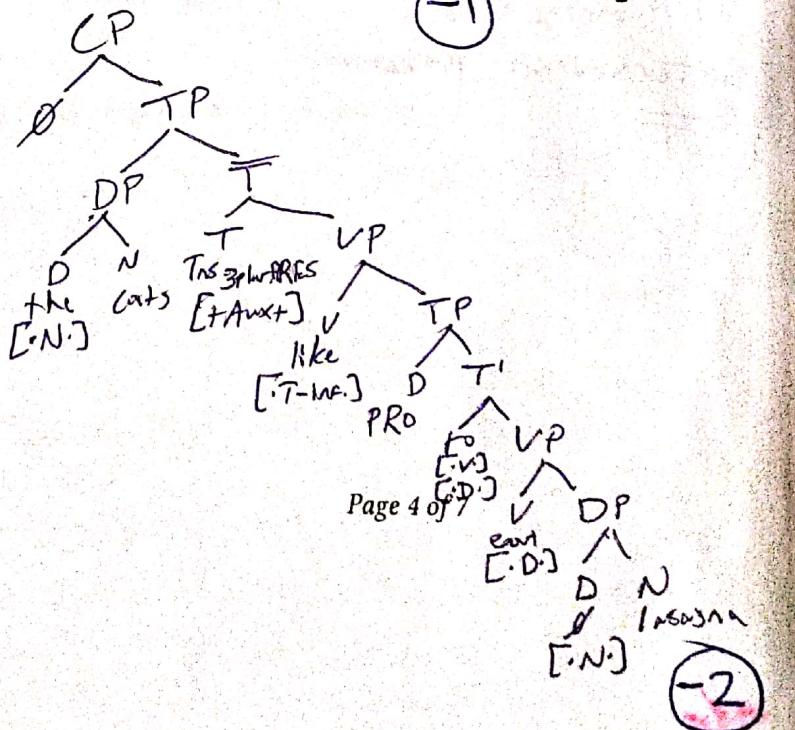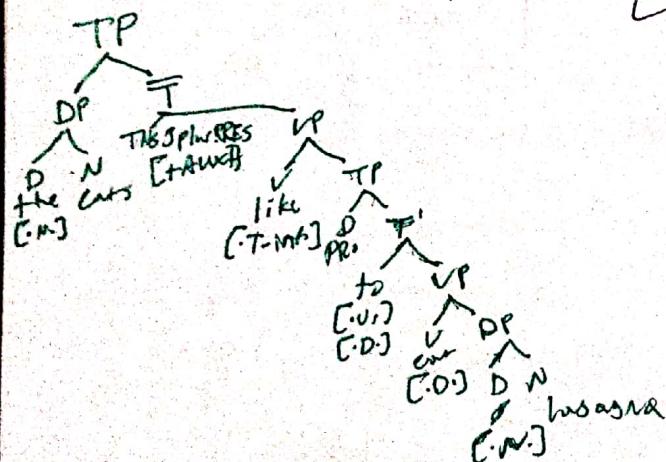
Please show the **final structure** for the sentence in (9); you only need to represent the **head-movement ('plus') features**. You do *not* need to represent the selection ('bullet') features, provide constituency tests, or show each derivational step. You may treat *out of* as a single undecomposable P head.

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

CP
Ø
TP
DP
D'
D
Georgia
D
's
N
friend
T'
T
Tns$_{3sg.PRES}$
[+Aux+]
[+Neg+]
adds s
to make
thinks
VP
V
think
CP
C
that
TP
DP
Ø
D
you
T'
T
T
Tns$_{2-sg.PRES}$
[+Aux+]
[+Neg+]
Aux
should
AuxP
Aux
should
VP
V
stay
PP
P
out-of
DP
D
the
N
forest

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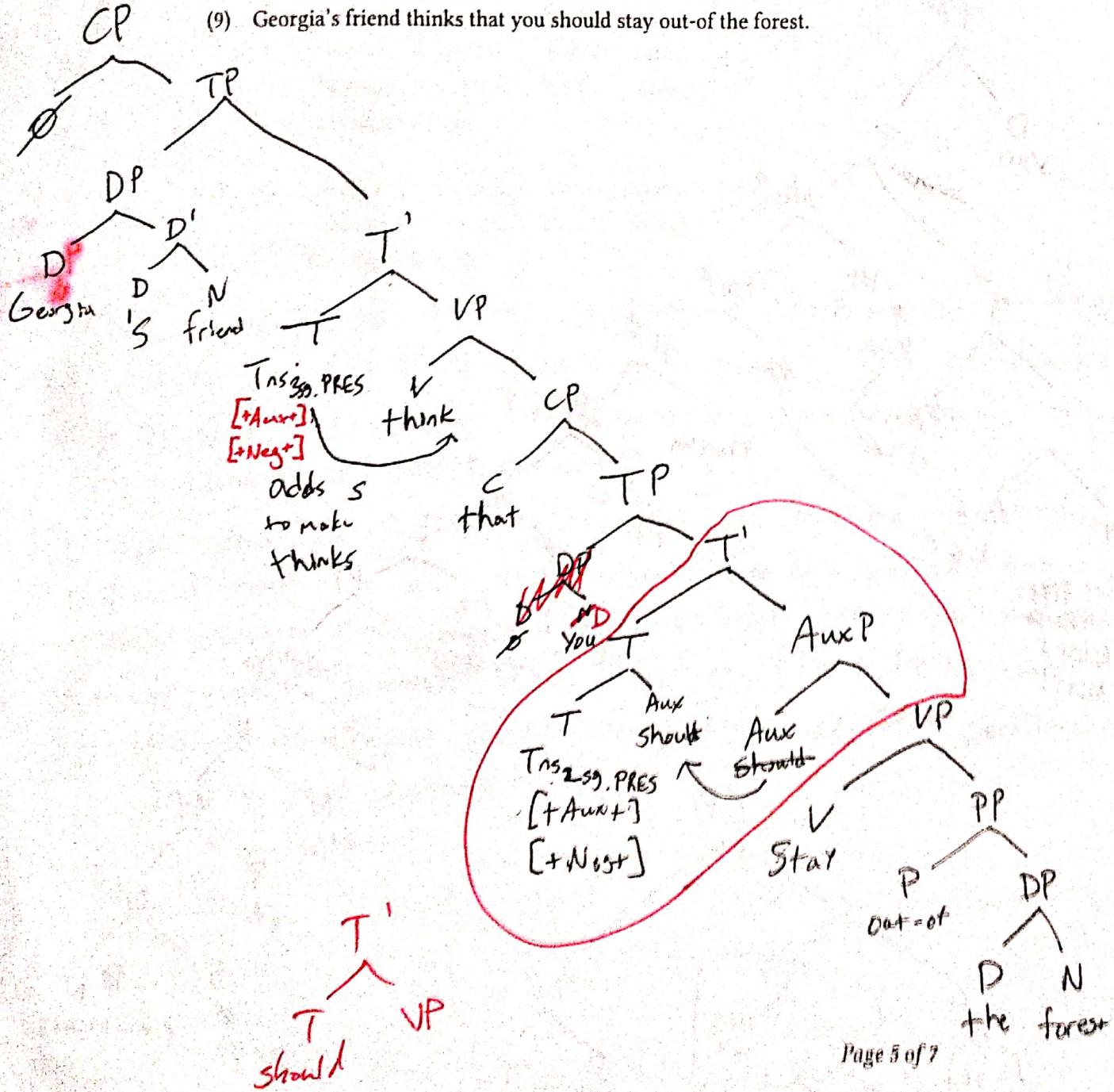
Please show the **final structure** for the sentence in (10); you only need to represent the **head-movement ('plus') features**. You do *not* need to represent the selection ('bullet') features, provide constituency tests, or show each derivational step.

(10)   Aren't you planning for her to eat that slice of cheesecake?

— continuation done below

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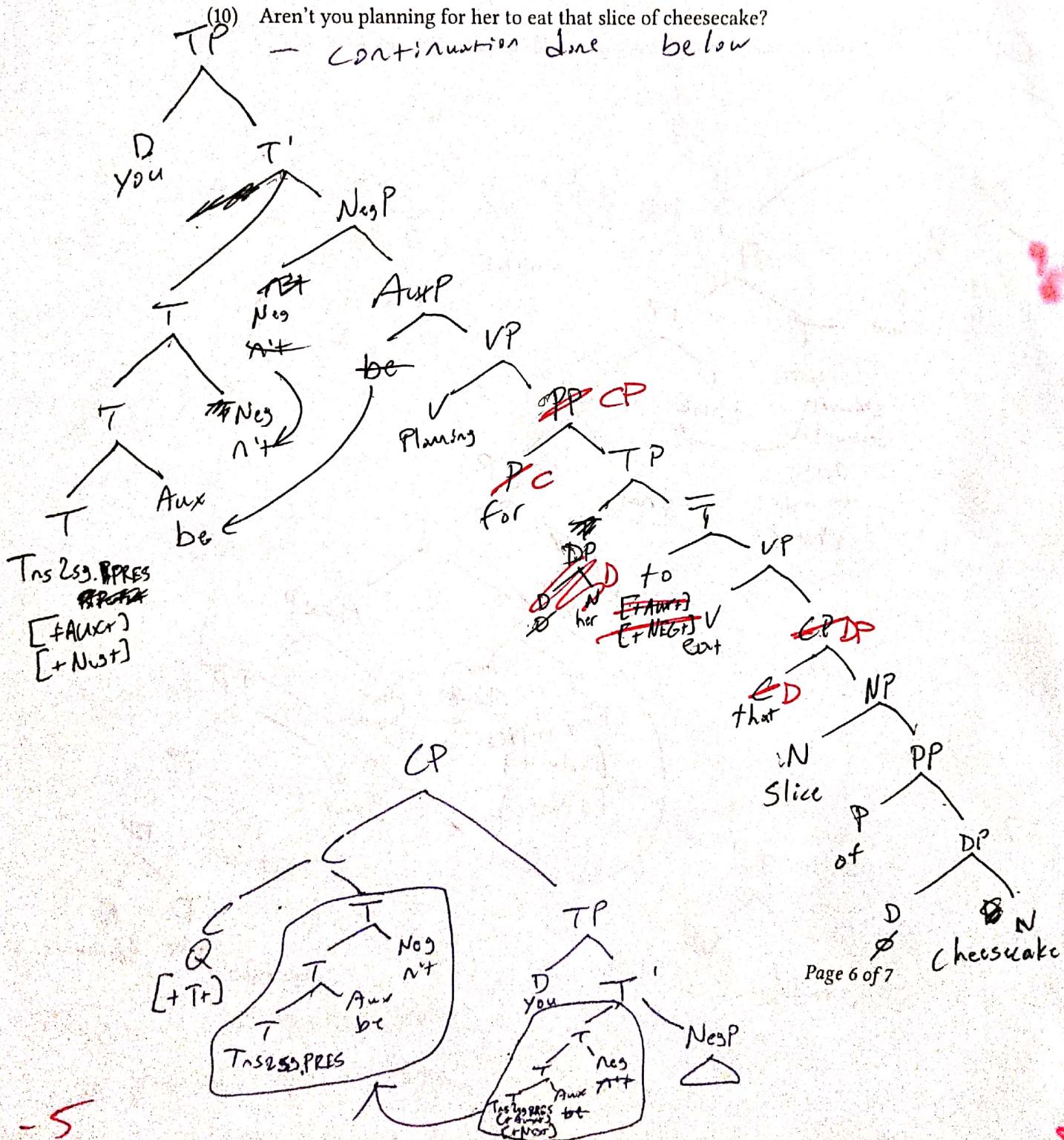
Hindi-Urdu has two words indicating possession that correspond to English *his/her*: *apnaa* and *uskaa*. These two words have different distributions from one another, as shown in (11). Explain how the binding conditions account for the distribution of *apnaa* and *uskaa* in Hindi-Urdu. (Note that the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

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

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

Apnaa appears to follow condition A of binding in that it refers to R̶a̶d̶ Ram's book, and cannot refer to anyone else's book. Based on the usage in sentence 11a, apnaa would violate condition B.

Uskaa appears to follow condition B of binding in that uskaa refers to any other person's (or or male, not sure about gender based on data) book, but cannot refer to a book Ram possesses himself. B̶a̶ Based on the indexing found in sentence 11b, uskaa would ~~aso'~~ violate ~~condto~~ condition A if used in that context.

Constituency Tests   #3

a. The cats like to eat [lasagna] and [$_N$ pizza].

b. The cats like to [eat lasagna] and [$_{VP}$ kill mice]

c. The cats like [to eat lasagna] and [$_{\emptyset}$ to kill mice]

d. ~~The cats like~~

d. The cats like [$\emptyset$ to eat lasagna] and [$\emptyset$ to kill mice]
   $_{TP}$

e. The cats [like to eat lasagna] and [prefer to kill mice]
                                        $_T$

f. [The cats like to eat lasagna] and [$_{TP}$ the cats prefer to kill mice].

g. [The cats] and ~~[   ]~~ [$_{DP}$ the dogs] like to eat lasagna.

h. The [cats] and [$_N$ dogs] like to eat lasagna.

i. I see [the cats like to eat lasagna] and [the
                                             $_{CP}$
   dogs prefer $\emptyset$ to kill mice]