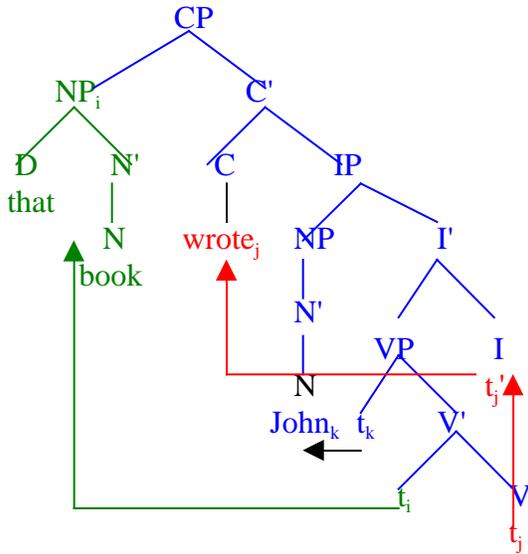


9.57 PROBLEM SET 2 ANSWER KEY

Problem (1) Show the derivation in GERMAN of the sentence: "That book wrote John." (Meaning the sensible meaning, of course, i.e., John wrote that book.). Please draw the tree for the sentence and show the movements that take place.



In this sentence, the verb "wrote" moves from V to I (note that I in German is to the right of the VP, unlike in English). It then moves to C. The object, "that book" moves to [Spec, CP]. The subject moves from [Spec, VP] to [Spec, IP]. It was not necessary to show subject movement from spec, VP to spec, IP - it's ok if you had the subject start out in Spec, IP. However, I did take a point off if you had the subject staying inside the VP - it's important to always have the subject in [Spec, IP] in surface structure.

I didn't take off any points if you had the verb moving directly from V to C, or if you made INFL preverbal instead of postverbal. I did take off points if you had the verb precede the object inside the VP - even though this wouldn't affect the final structure of the sentence, you need to remember that German is verb-final.

Problem (2):

(a) Norwegian is an SVO/V2 language. For each of the following sentences say whether the sentence is good in adult Norwegian. In each case, why? (Remember that in a V2 language an adverb like “soon” can be the constituent which moves into first position (Spec,C)). *+fin* means “finite”

(1) John leaves [+fin] soon

ok: the subject is in [Spec, CP], the verb is in C, the adverb stays inside the VP.

(2) Soon leaves [+fin] John

ok: the adverb is in [Spec, CP], the verb is in C, and the subject has stayed in [Spec, IP].

(3) John leave [-fin] soon

bad: root clauses in adult language can never be non-finite

(4) Soon leave [-fin] John

bad: root clauses in adult language can never be non-finite

(5) Soon John leaves [+fin]

bad: the verb has not moved to C in this case, as is evident by its not being the second element in the sentence.

(6) Soon John leave [-fin]

bad: root clauses in adult language can never be non-finite

A number of people thought that (3) was ok, since the non-finite verb is in the right place for non-finites. This would be true for *child* language. In adult language, the root verb of the sentence *must* be finite.