

A Mereological Theory of Successive Cyclicity

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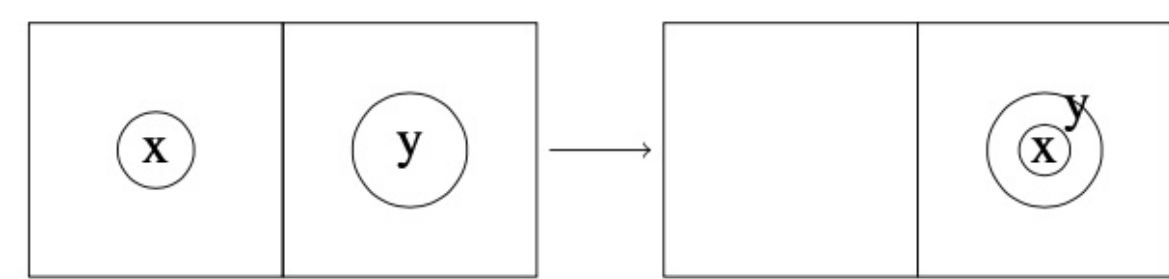
Introduction

Set-theoretic Merge:

- The Label Problem: in {a,b} what is the label? Need a theory for this.
- The Copy Problem: in {a, {a, b}} are the two a's copies or repetitions? Need a theory for this.
- The Locality Problem: need a separate theory (phase theory) to capture successive cyclicity

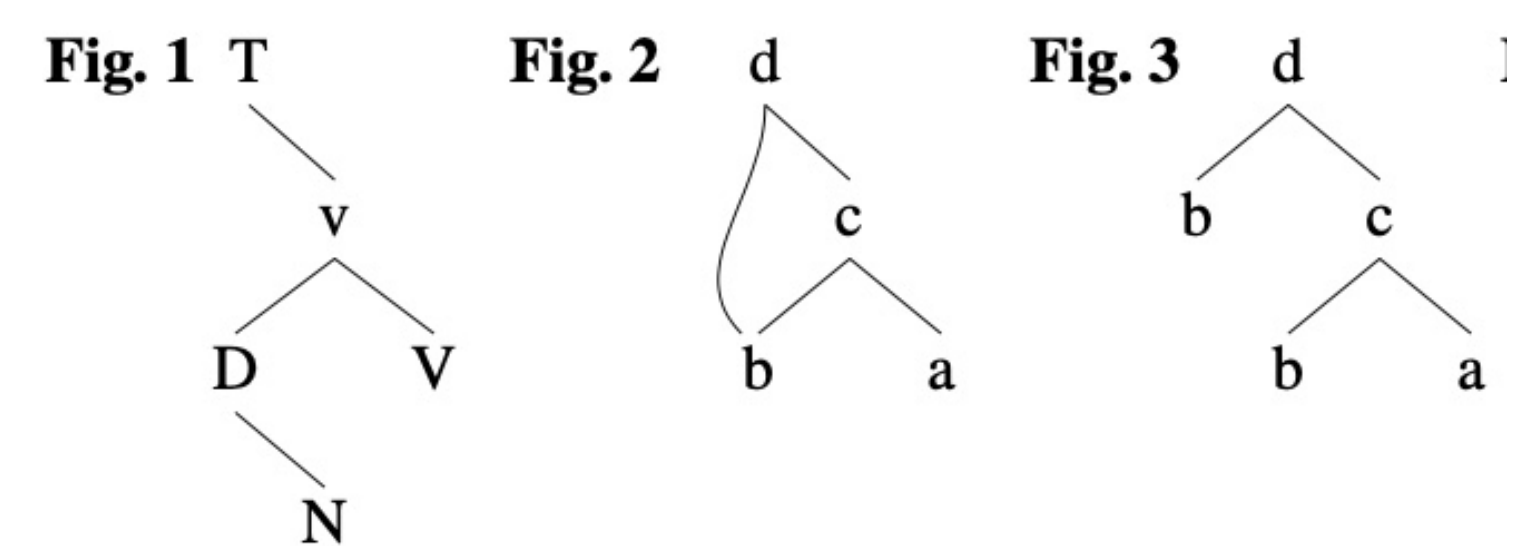
Subjunction

- (1) $\text{Subjoin}(x, y) \rightarrow y : x < y$
- (2) a. irreflexive ($\forall x. \neg x < x$),
b. transitive ($x < y \wedge y < z \rightarrow x < z$)
c. asymmetric ($x < y \rightarrow \neg y < x$)



(3) Dimensionality:

- nth subjunction is in dimension n;
- There are 2 dimensions in syntax.



- The Label Problem: subjunction preserves labelling
- The Copy Problem: multiparthood means no issue.



Parthood, not set-membership,
underlies syntactic objects.
Subjoin, not Merge, makes one
object part of another.
Angular Locality, not Phases,
derives successive cyclicity



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Angular Locality

(4) γ can subjoin to β only if there is an α s.t. γ is a 2-part of α and α is a 1-part of β

- Imposes a single angle in 'internal' subjunction

Fig. 5

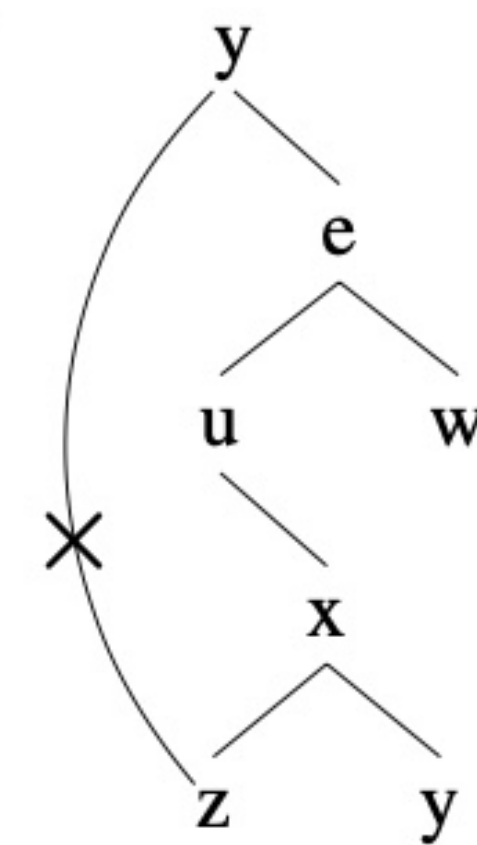
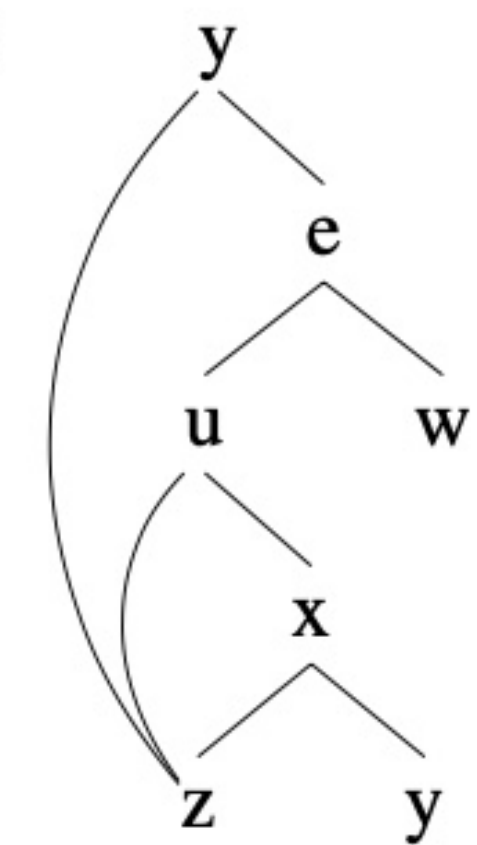


Fig. 6

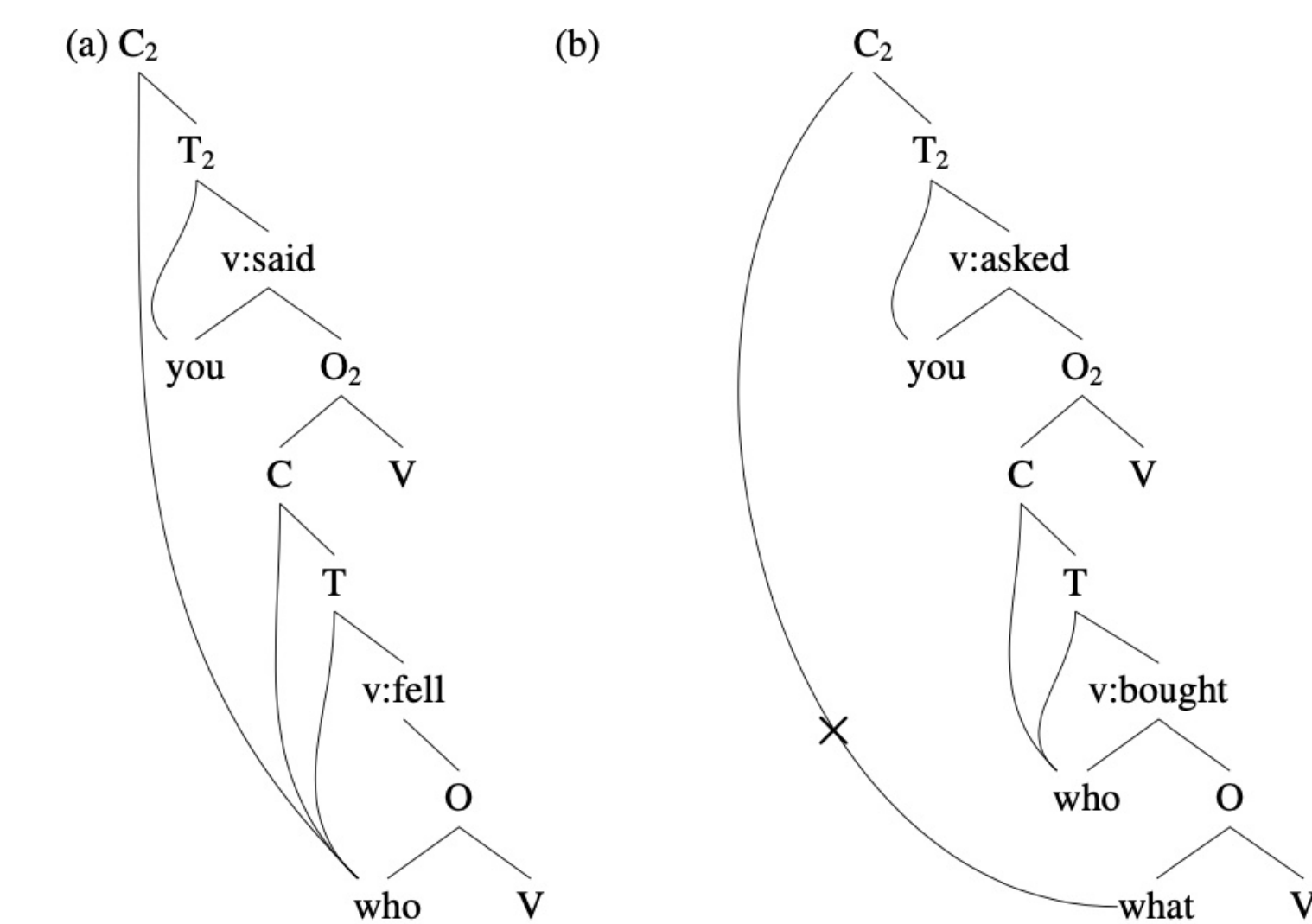


Angular Locality Rules out:

- 'Downward' subjunction
- 'Superlocal' subjunction (interaction of Irreflexivity and AL).
- 'Sideways' (to a specifier)
- 'Parallel' (to an unattached object)
- 'Long-distance' (across extended projections)

- a. ... who you said fell
b. ... *what you asked who bought?

Fig. 7



Empirical Consequences

(see the book!)

- typology of successive cyclicity morphology
- Wh-island violations and exceptions
- Multiple wh-movement
- Specificity Islands and exceptions
- Reanalysis of CED effects as topicality/specificity effects