

Chapter 5

Other Phrases



Transformational Grammar

Engl 424

Hayfa Alhomaïd

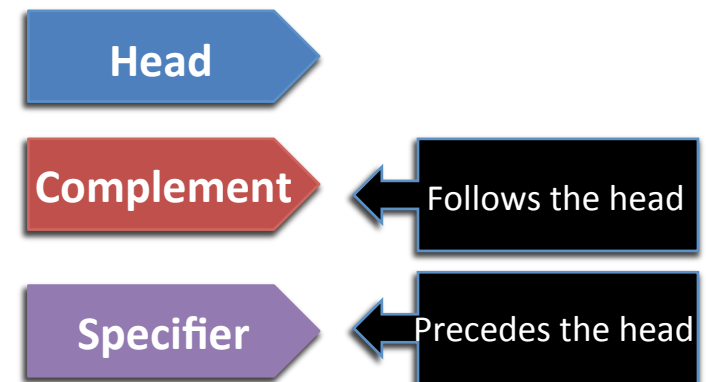
X-bar Theory

John is a student of Physics

- a student of Physics → N-double bar
- student of Physics → N-bar
- student → N

➔ Can we apply the X-bar Theory on other phrases like; VP, AP, ADVP, and PP?

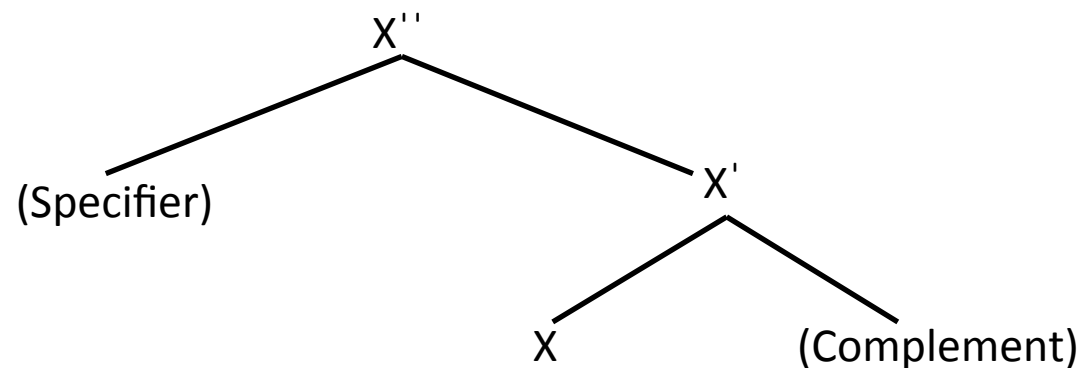
- She is [**very proud of her son**] → AP
- She discovered it [**quite independently of me**] → ADVP
- The thief fell [**right out of the window**] → PP
- You must [**be thinking of her**] → VP



X-bar Theory

Specifier + Head + Complement

- [N'' a [N' [Nstudent] of Physics]]
- [A'' very [A' [A proud] of her son]]
- [ADV'' quite [ADV' [ADV independently] of me]]
- [P'' right [P' [P out] of the window]]
- [V'' be [V' [V thinking] of her]]

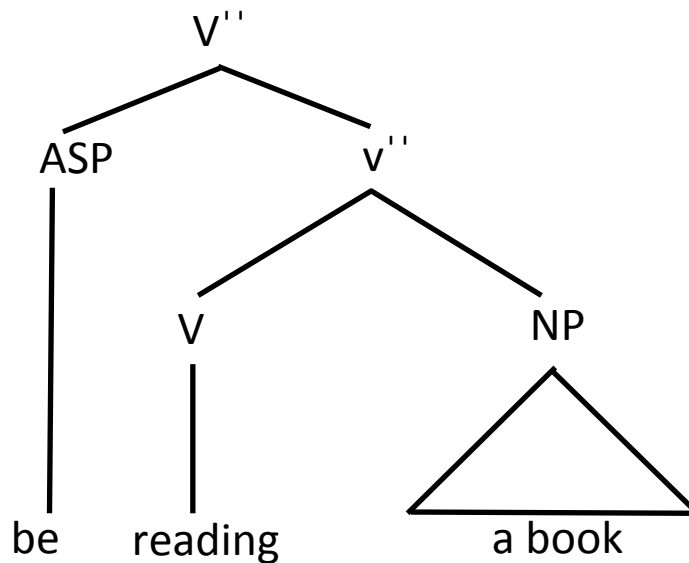


Verb Phrases

Jackendoff (1977a) argues that V and its Complements together form a V-bar constituent, and that V-bar can be expanded by the addition of appropriate Specifiers (which he takes to be the Aspectual Auxiliaries have/be) into a V-double-bar constituent.

E.g.

John may [be reading a book].



Verb Phrases

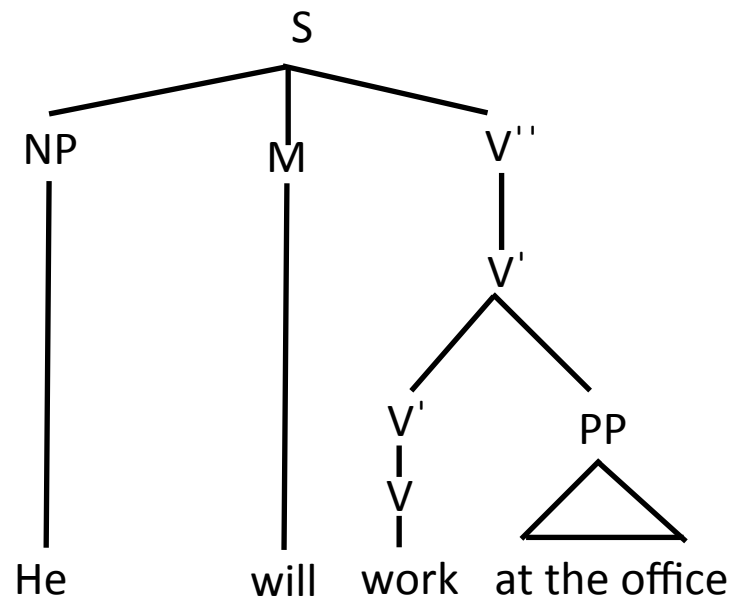
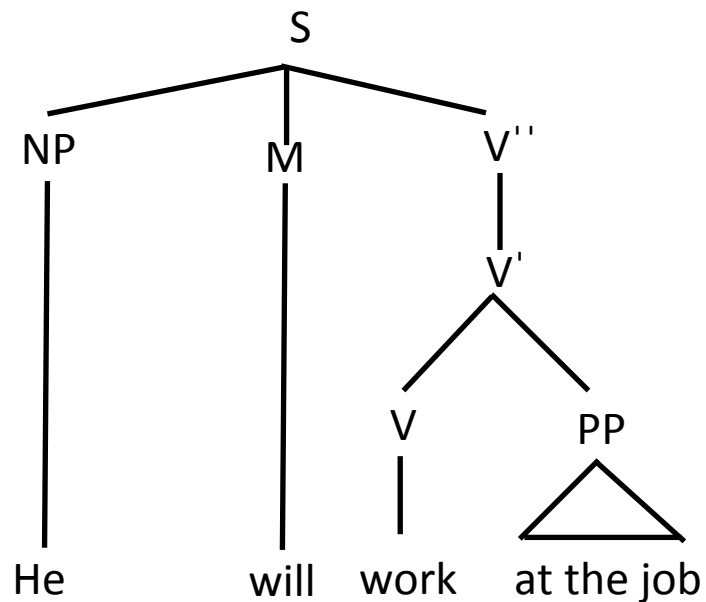
Verbal Postmodifiers:

There are two Verbal postmodifiers; Complements and Adjuncts.

E.g.

He will work at the job → Complement

He will work at the office → Adjunct



Verb Phrases

Verbal Postmodifiers:

➤ How can we differentiate between Complements and Adjuncts?

1- The NP in the Complement PP can be changed into passive, whereas an NP in the Adjunct PP cannot.

E.g.

This job needs to be worked at by an expert.

*This office is worked at by a lot of people.

2- Ordering restrictions: If the Complement phrase and the Adjunct phrase co-occur within the same VP, the Complement will precede the Adjunct

E.g.

He worked [at the job] [at the office].

*He worked [at the office] [at the job].

Verb Phrases

Verbal Premodifiers:

The Attributive adjectival phrases that are used to premodify nominals have adverbial counterparts that are used to premodify corresponding verbal expressions.

E.g.

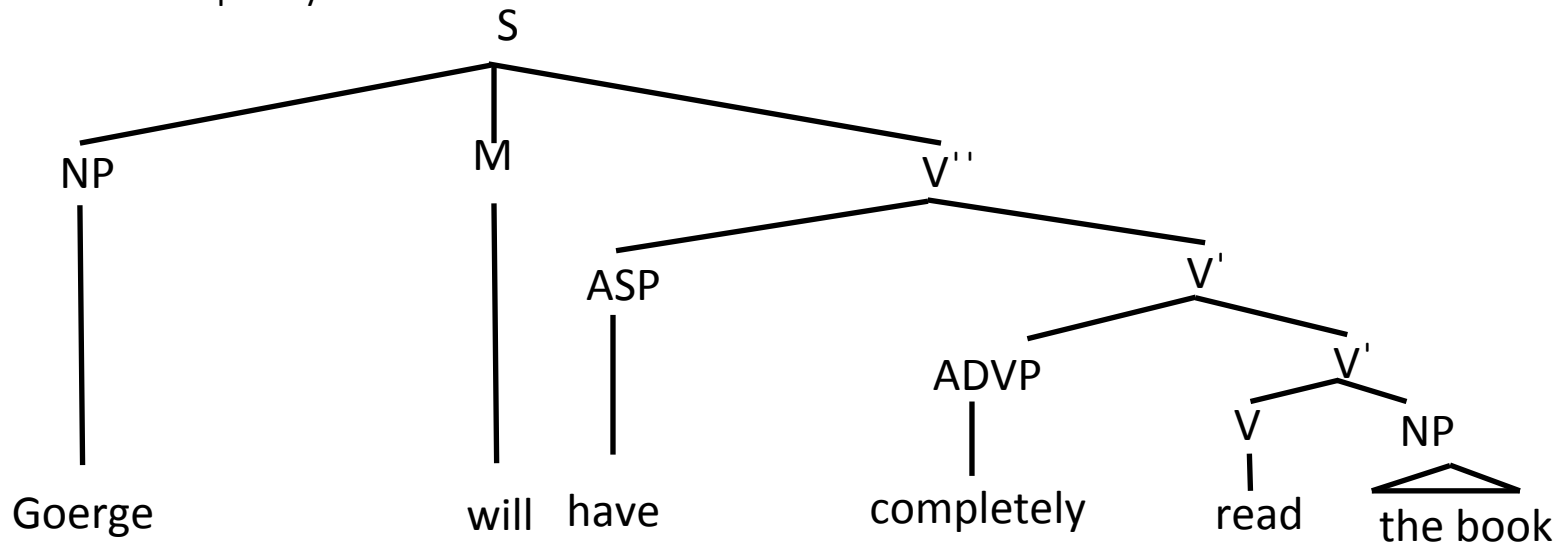
His [desperate] search for her → AP premodifying the N

He [desperately] searched for her → ADVP premodifying V

Adverbials like completely in the following example are V-bar Attributes which expand V-bar into V-bar. The aspectual auxiliaries are the verbal Specifiers.

E.g.

Goerge will have completely read the book



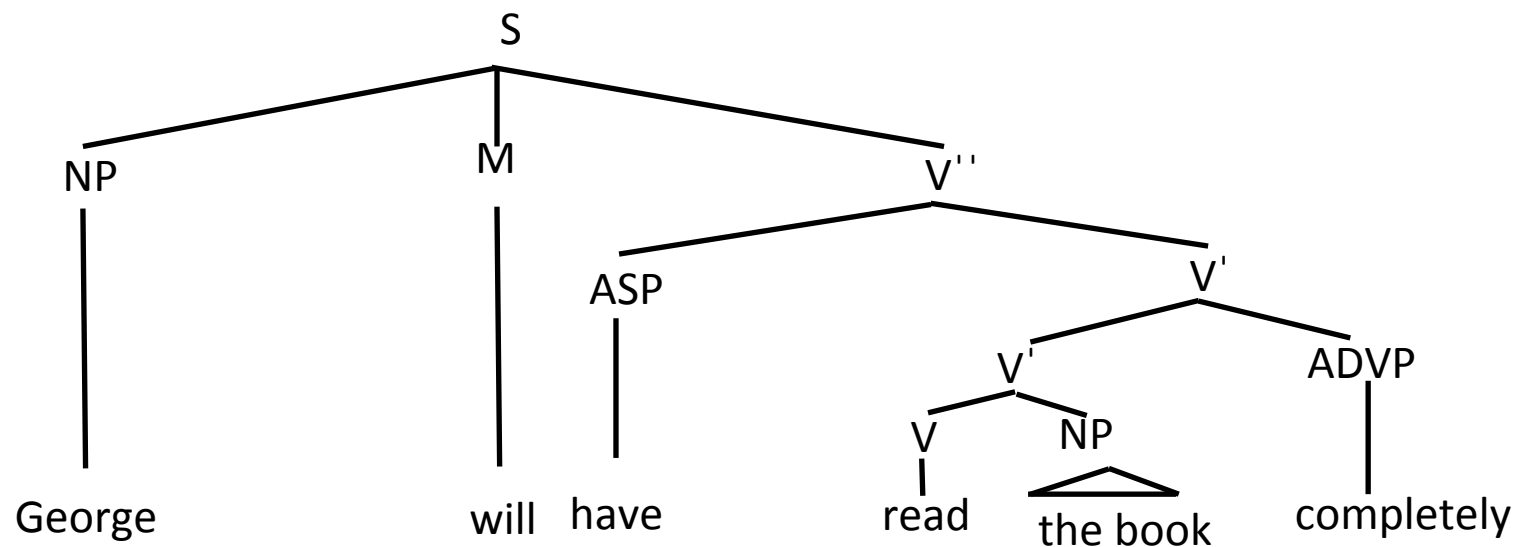
Verb Phrases

Verbal Premodifiers:

Adverbials like completely can be adjoined not only to the left of V-bar (and hence function as Attributes), but also to the right of V-bar (and hence function as Adjuncts).

E.g.

George will have read the book completely.

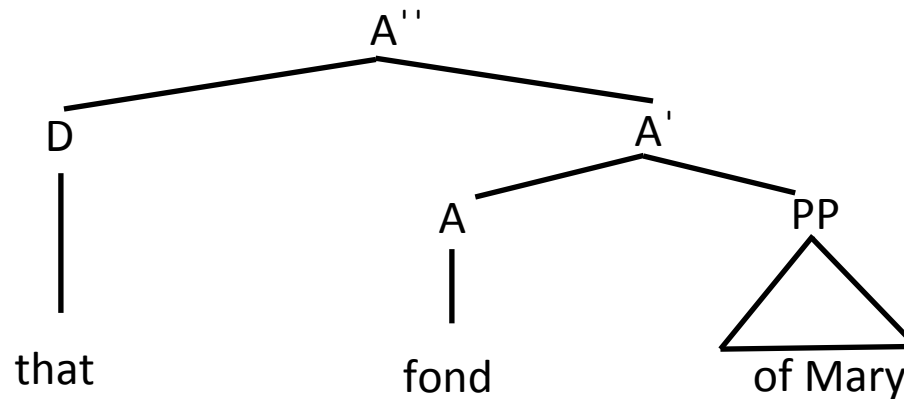


Adjectival Phrase

A can be expanded into A-bar by the addition of a set of Complements. A-bar can be also recursively expanded into A-bar by following Adjuncts or preceding Attributes. In addition, A-bar can be expanded into A-double-bar by the addition of appropriate Specifiers.

E.g.

John isn't [that fond of Mary]



- Very, as, so, how, quite, too are Adjectival Specifiers in English

Adjectival Phrases

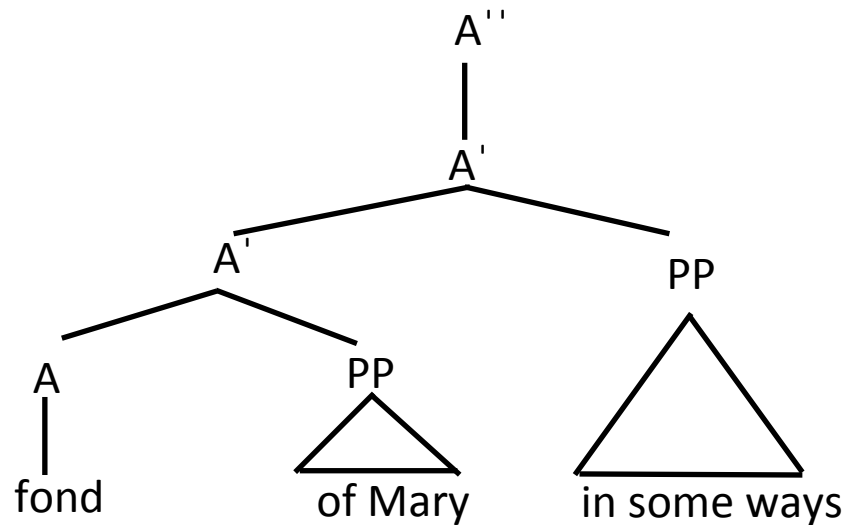
Adjectival Postmodifiers:

There are two Adjectival postmodifiers; Complements and Adjuncts.

E.g.

fond [of Mary] [in some ways]

[of Mary] → Complement, [in some ways] → Adjunct



Adjectival Phrases

Adjectival Postmodifiers:

- What evidence is there to suppose that the of-phrase is a Complement, and the in-phrase an Adjunct?

1- The of-phrase has the typical Complement property of being obligatory, whereas the in-phrase has the typical Adjunct property of being optional

E.g.

*fond [in some ways].

fond [of Mary].

2- Complements must occur closer to their heads than Adjuncts

E.g.

Fond [of Mary] [in some ways].

*fond [in some ways] [of Mary].

Adjectival Phrases

Adjectival Premodifiers:

There are two Adjectival premodifiers in English; Attributes and Specifiers. In English there is NO Adjectival premodifying Complements.

E.g.

completely foolish

Just as APs can be used as Attributes expanding N-bar into N-bar, so too the corresponding ADVPs can be used as attributes expanding A-bar into A-bar.

A' → ADVP A' [Adjectival Attribute Rule: optional].

Attributes will always occur closer to their head Adjective than Determiners

E.g.

[D so][ADV completely] foolish

*[ADV completely][D so] foolish

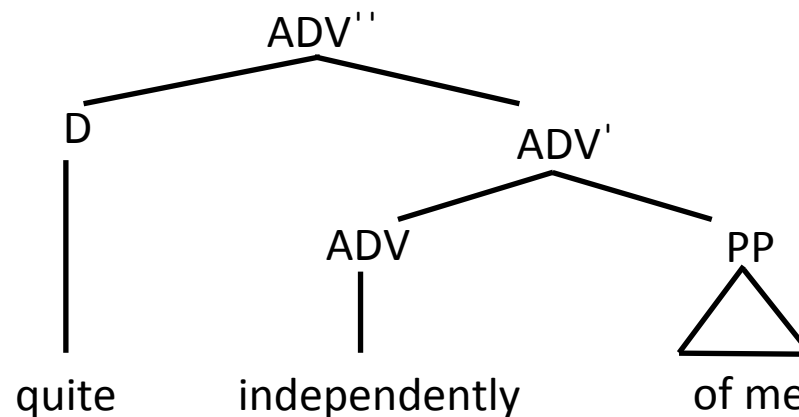
Adverbial Phrases

ADVPs have similar internal structure to the APs.

E.g.

He made up his mind [quite independently of me]

independently → Head , of me → Complement , quite → Determiner



ADVPs have similar Specifiers in English to those for APs; very, as, so, how, quite, and too.

This is all for today

SEE YOU NEXT WEEK 😊