

Section 3

Sentence patterns & sentence structure trees

1. I saw the white house.
- *2. I saw the house white.
3. I painted the house white.

1. \rightarrow I saw it.
3. \rightarrow I painted it white.

- The order of words is dependent on the phrase structure.
- The grammaticality of a sentence depends not on the sequence of words but how the words are combined into phrases.

The types of verb

- **To be & linking verbs:**

smell taste look feel seem become appear grow

- **Action verbs** as the main verbs in the sentence, the action verb may be either transitive (take a direct object) or intransitive (not take a direct object).

Terms used to identify various parts of each sentence pattern include the following:

- S = subject
- V = verb
- A = adjunct (modifier)
- O = object
- dO = direct object
- iO = indirect object
- P = preposition
- C = complement

Pattern 1 – SV

- The action verb takes no direct object.

My cousin will **arrive**.

- Even if the action verb is followed by a prepositional phrase, the verb is still intransitive as long as it does not take a direct object.

My cousin will **arrive** with my uncle.

Pattern 2 – SVA

- An **adjunct** is a phrase which is not necessary to the structure of the clause, but which adds some extra meaning to it.

It started to rain **suddenly**.

Pattern 3 – SVC

- The verb of being is followed by an adverb indicating *where* or *when* or *a prepositional phrase*.
My friends are **here/at the museum**.

There is **a fly** in the soup.

- Subject is renamed or described after a *verb of being* or a *linking verb*.
Joe is **a student**.

The cake looks **good**.

- The verb of being is followed by *an adjective/a noun/ a prepositional phrase* that functions as *the subjective complement*

Her voice was **quite lovely**.

Mr. James has been **a teacher** for 40 years.

Jenny looks like **her mother**.

Subjective Complement (SC) - a noun, pronoun, or adjective that renames or describes (equals) the subject after a verb of being or a linking verb.

Pattern 4 – SVO

- The action verb is followed by a direct object.

John ate **some apples**.

My mother baked **a delicious cake**.

Direct Object (DO) - a noun or pronoun answering "whom" or "what" after an action verb. A direct object "receives" or is the "object" of the action.

Pattern 5 – SVOA

- The action verb is followed by **a direct object** and **an adverbial adjunct**.

She realized **her mistake** **quickly**.

I met **him** **at the park**.

Pattern 6 – SVOOC

- The action verb is followed by *a direct object*. The direct object is followed by an adjective functioning as *an objective complement*.

They consider **James** **a CEO**.

We find **the meatballs** **delicious**.

Objective Complement (OC) - a noun, pronoun, or adjective that renames or describes (equals) the direct object.

Subjective Complement (SC) - a noun, pronoun, or adjective that renames or describes (equals) the subject after a verb of being or a linking verb.

Pattern 7 – SV_iO_dO

- The action verb is followed by *an indirect object* and then *a direct object*.

She gave **her daughter** a new dress.

I bought **him** a drink.

- **Direct Object (DO)** - a noun or pronoun answering "whom" or "what" after an action verb. A direct object "receives" or is the "object" of the action.
- **Indirect Object (IO)** - a noun or pronoun answering "to whom/what" or "for whom/what" after an action verb.
- An indirect object
 - always precedes a direct object
 - never has the word "to" or "for" stated

Pattern 8 – SV_dOP_iO

- The action verb is followed by *a direct object* and *a prepositional phrase* follows the direct object.
- The PPs that correspond in this way with indirect objects are always introduced by to or for (which is also called “a prepositional object”):

I will buy **some toys** **for** you.

They gave a **prize** **to** Steve.

Susan works **two jobs** **for** her family.

I turn off **the TV** **for** him.

Recipient & Beneficiary

- The Prepositional Object (prepO, for short) contains **to** when the participant is Recipient and **for** when it is Beneficiary and this difference is determined by the verb.
- Verbs which take Recipient Indirect Objects and alternative **to** prepOs are typically verbs of transferring goods, services or information from one person to another. They include:

give *grant* *hand* *leave* *offer* *owe* *pass* *promise* *read*
send *show* *teach* *throw* *write*

Example:

We are offering our clients a unique opportunity. (... **to** our clients)

He owes several people money. (...**to** several people)

I handed Jennifer the pile of letters. (...**to** Jennifer)

Recipient & Beneficiary

- Verbs which take Beneficiary Indirect Objects, with alternative for constructions, are verbs which carry out an action on someone's behalf. They include:

*book bring build buy cash cut fetch find get
keep leave make pour reserve save spare write*

- **Example:**

Book me a seat on the night train. (... **for** me)

Would you cash me these traveler checks? (...**for** me)

She cut the boy some slices of ham. (...**for** the boy)

Sentence patterns

1. SV
2. SVA
3. SVC
4. SVO
5. SVOA
6. SVOC
7. SV_IO_DO
- 8. SV_dOP_iO**

Exercise

1. Mary worked carefully.
2. My son looks very handsome in his new suit.
3. My older sister lost her purse in the bus.
4. The children are swimming.
5. My girlfriend has just dyed her hair blonde.
6. My father was moving the car.
7. John and his brother seemed too hungry.
8. Peter booked a double room for himself.
9. She showed us many beautiful pictures.
10. They laughed uncontrollably.

Exercise

1. Mary worked carefully. - SVA
2. My son looks very handsome in his new suit. - SVC
3. My older sister lost her purse in the bus. - SVOA
4. The children are swimming. – SV
5. My girlfriend has just dyed her hair blonde. - SVOC
6. My father was moving the car. - SVO
7. John and his brother seemed too hungry. - SVC
8. Peter booked a double room for himself. - SVdOPiO
9. She showed us many beautiful pictures. - SViOdO
10. They laughed uncontrollably. - SVA

Section 3 (Cont.)

SENTENCES

& SENTENCE STRUCTURE TREE

Types of clauses

- **Finite clauses vs. non-finite clauses**

- The distinction between finite and non-finite clauses depends on the form of the verb chosen: “If the speaker wishes to express tense, person or number, a ‘finite’ form of the verb is chosen, such as eats, locked, went and the clause is then called a finite clause.” [Downing and Locke, 1992: 11]
- Example:
 - She BROKE the dish.
 - He HAS GONE.
 - It IS unnecessary.

Types of clauses

- If the verb form does not express this type of information about the verbal ‘process’, the verbs and the clauses are classed as ‘nonfinite’.
- Example:

For Sandra TO DELAY her graduation is unnecessary. (to-infinitive)

I let him DO it by himself. (bare infinitive)

Anna CHATTING with the construction workers. (active present participle)

He left me STUNNED. (passive past participle)

The light HAVING GONE out, we lighted candles. (active perfect participle)

- Briefly, “a non-finite clause is a clause with a non-finite (tense-less) verb group. MAIN clauses are always finite. So non-finite clauses can only be SUBORDINATE.

Types of clauses

- **Embedded clauses**
- “If embedded clauses are omitted from a sentence containing them, the sentence is usually ungrammatical. This is because embedded clauses are arguments of a higher predicate, very often the subjects or objects of their container clauses. Any finite sentence that loses its subject or object argument becomes ungrammatical. So the embedded clauses are indispensable for grammaticality.” [Jacobs, 1995: 68]
- Example:

The police REPORTED that Sharon’s car had broken down.

Tom THOUGHT that Karen believed the story.

Sentence types

Declarative sentences

Interrogative sentences

Imperative sentences

Exclamative sentences

Sentence types

Declarative sentences

My aunt likes books.

You haven't closed the door.

Interrogative sentences

Can you see this?

Do you agree?

What did you eat?

How long have you learnt English?

Sentence types

Imperative sentences

Go home.

Shut up.

Don't touch this switch.

Exclamative sentences

What a load of nonsense he talks!

How fast he runs!

What a beautiful house!

Syntax

Declaratives

Interrogatives

Imperatives

Exclamatives

are *typically* used to make

are *typically* used to ask

are *typically* used to issue

are *typically* used to utter

Pragmatics

statements

questions

directives

exclamations

Realization of the Subject

- We can identify the Subject of a sentence by asking ‘Who or what carried out the action denoted by the verb?’ and ‘Who or what is this sentence about?’

- *NPs functioning as Subject*

A rat bit my toe.

This shoe hurts me.

- However, Subjects can also be realized by **other phrase types**.

- *PPs functioning as Subject*

Under the stairs was a safe area to be during the war.

Outside the fridge is not a good place to keep milk.

- *AP functioning as Subject*

Restless is what I would call him.

- *AdvP functioning as Subject*

Cautiously is how I would suggest you do it.

Realization of the Subject

- *Finite clauses functioning as Subject*

That he will go to New York soon is obvious.

Because he is generous doesn't mean that he is rich.

What the terrorists said puzzled the police.

Why she consented remains a mystery.

Realization of the Subject

Nonfinite clauses functioning as Subject

- *To-infinitive clauses functioning as Subject*

with a Subject of their own:

For Judith to buy that house would spell disaster.

For us to understand the issues requires a major mental effort.

For Janet to go to College would be a good idea.

without a Subject of their own:

To be a good teacher is more difficult than people think.

To see her is to love her.

without a Subject of their own, introduced by Wh-word:

What to read during the holidays is the question all students are asking.

Who to ask for permission seems quite clear.

Where to sleep in this town will not be an easy problem to solve.

Realization of the Subject

- *Bare infinitive clauses functioning as Subject*

Party the night away is a nice thing to do.

- *-ing participle clauses functioning as Subject*

with a Subject of their own:

Pete breaking the rules is unacceptable.

George buying all those books will cost his father a fortune.

without a Subject of their own:

Going on holiday always creates tensions.

Running a business is hard work.

Swimming in this lake will make you ill.

Realization of the Predicate and Predicator

- The Predicate in a sentence consists of everything but the Subject. Inside the Predicate we distinguish the Predicator, the Direct Object and an Adjunct.
- Example: *Eric lost his keys yesterday.*
- Predicates are Verb Phrases and Predicators are always main verbs.
- Direct Objects are usually constituents which refer to an entity that can be said to undergo the action denoted by the verb. A simple way of determining what is the Direct Object in a particular sentence is to ask ‘Who or what is affected by the action denoted by the verb?’

Realization of the Predicate and Predicator

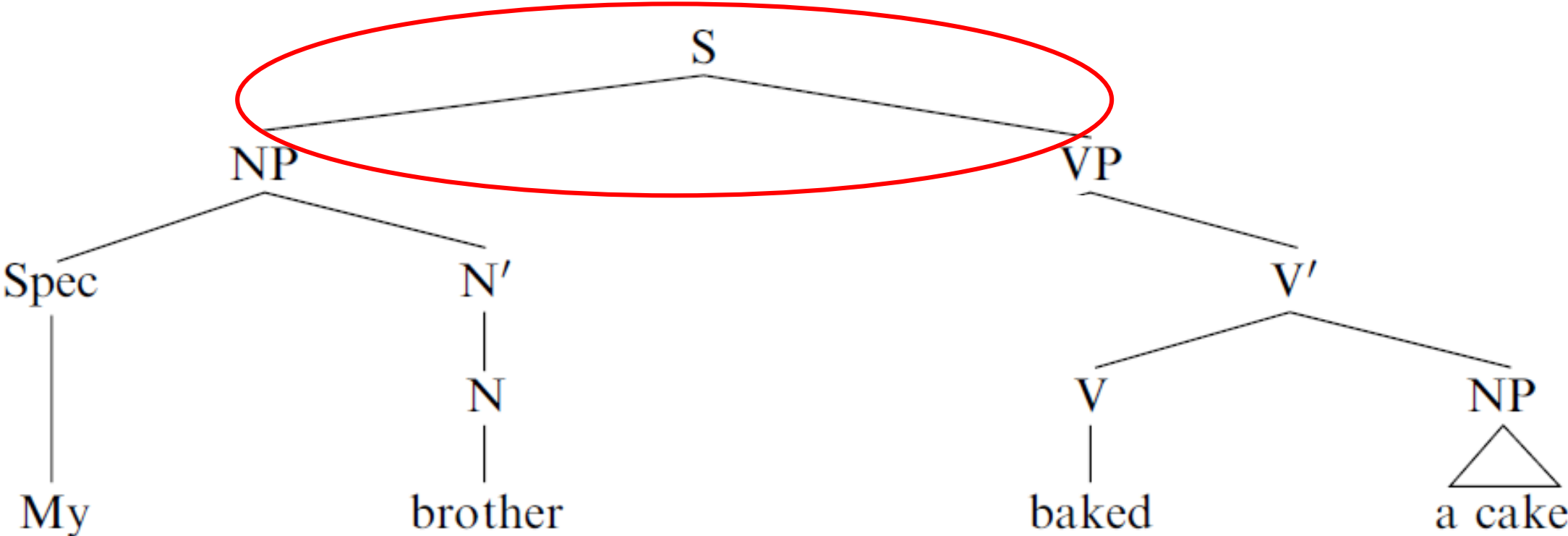
- The function of Indirect Object was as the Goal/Receiver or Beneficiary of the activity denoted by the verb. Indirect Objects are very restricted in their realization. More often than not they are Noun Phrases. Occasionally they are Wh-clauses.
- Adjuncts are constituents that tell you more about the how, when, where or why of the activity or situation expressed by the sentences they occur in. There are no fewer than six ways. Adjuncts can be Adverb Phrases, Prepositional Phrases, Noun Phrases, finite clauses, nonfinite clauses and Small Clauses.

Realization of the Predicate and Predicator

Table 5.1 Form–Function Relationships

<i>Form</i>	<i>Function</i>			
	<i>Subject</i>	<i>Direct Object</i>	<i>Indirect Object</i>	<i>Adjunct</i>
Noun Phrase	✓	✓	✓	✓
Adjective Phrase	✓	–	–	–*
Prepositional Phrase	✓	✓	–	✓
Adverb Phrase	✓	–	–	✓
Finite Clauses				
<i>That</i> -clause	✓	✓	–	–
<i>Wh</i> -clause	✓	✓	✓	✓
Clauses introduced by <i>because, when, etc.</i>	✓	–	–	✓
Nonfinite Clauses				
<i>to</i> -infinitive clause	✓	✓	–	✓
bare infinitive clause	✓	✓	–	✓
<i>-ing</i> participle clause	✓	✓	–	✓
<i>-ed</i> participle clause	–	✓	–	✓
Small Clause	✓	✓	–	✓

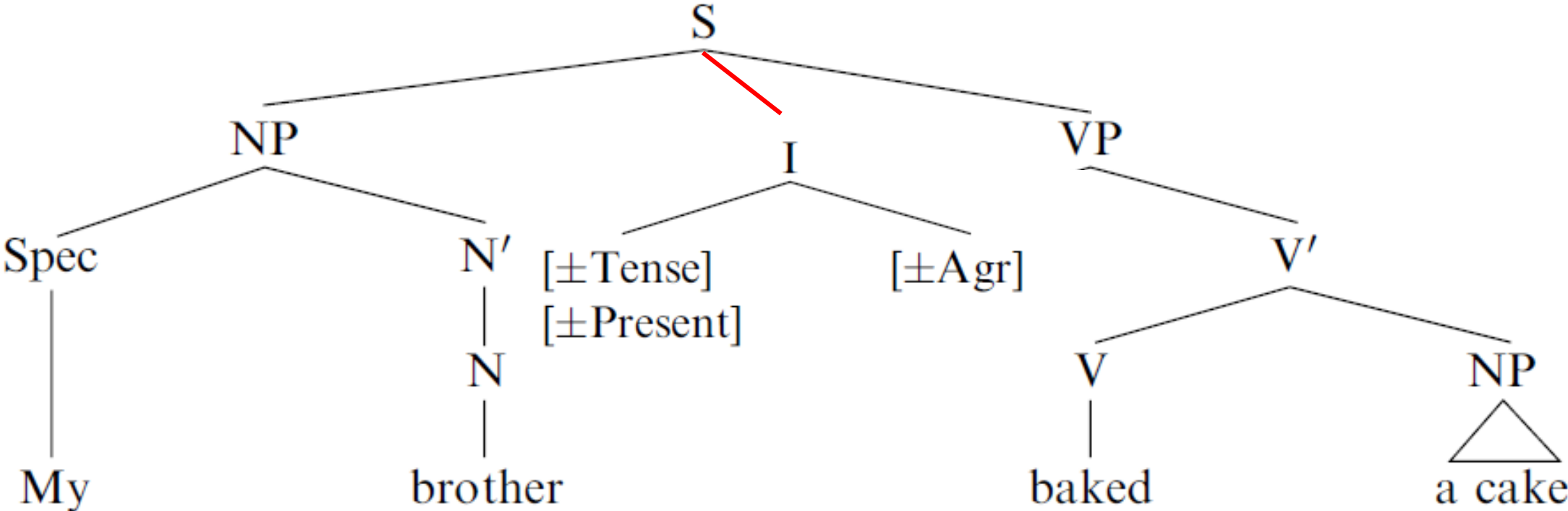
My brother baked a cake.

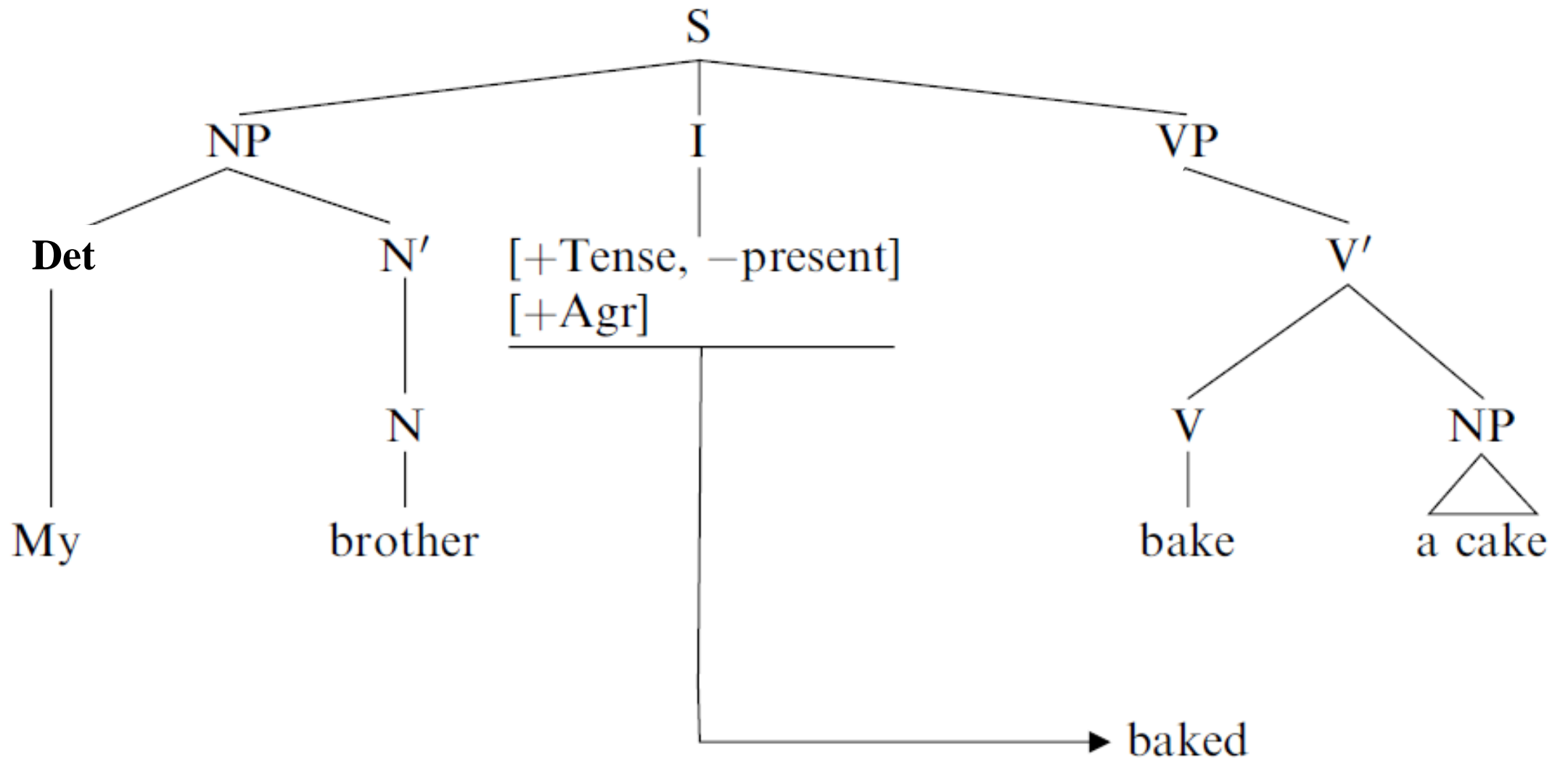


I-node

- What sort of mechanism could we make use of for these purposes?
- In line with recent work in linguistics we will assume that sentences contain a node labelled 'I' (short for 'inflection'), which is immediately dominated by S.
- This node is responsible for two things.
 - making sure that verbs acquire tense,
 - taking care of the agreement that obtains between Subjects and verbs (e.g. the *-s* ending on bakes in he bakes a cake).

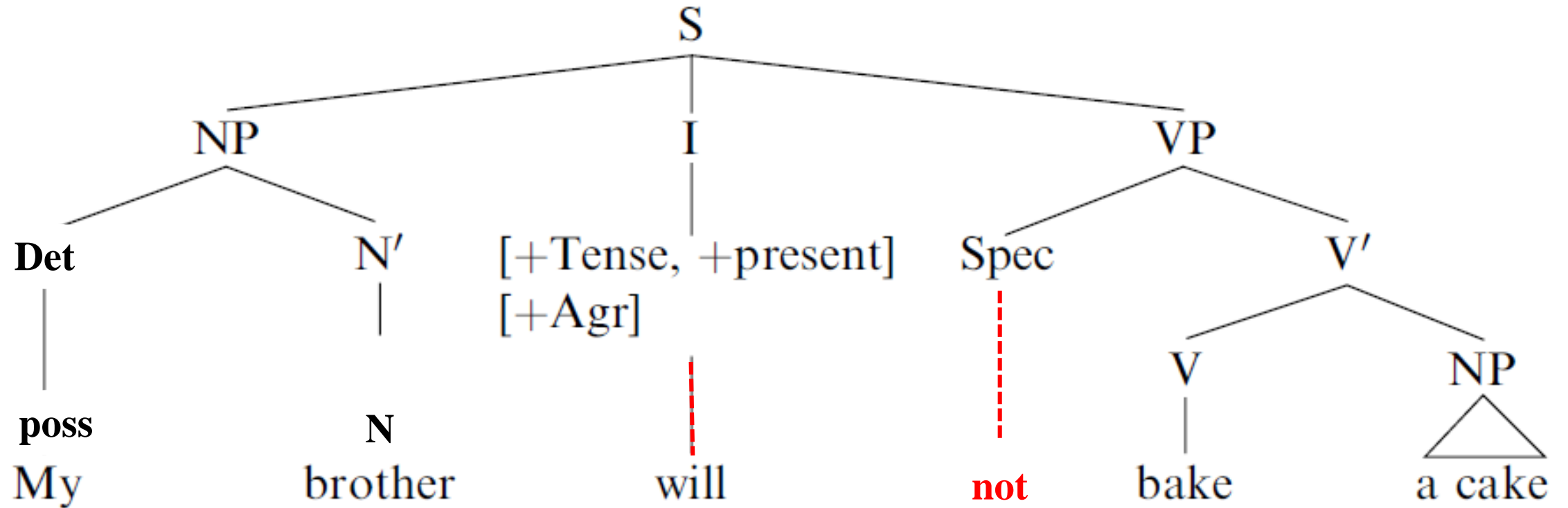
My brother baked a cake.





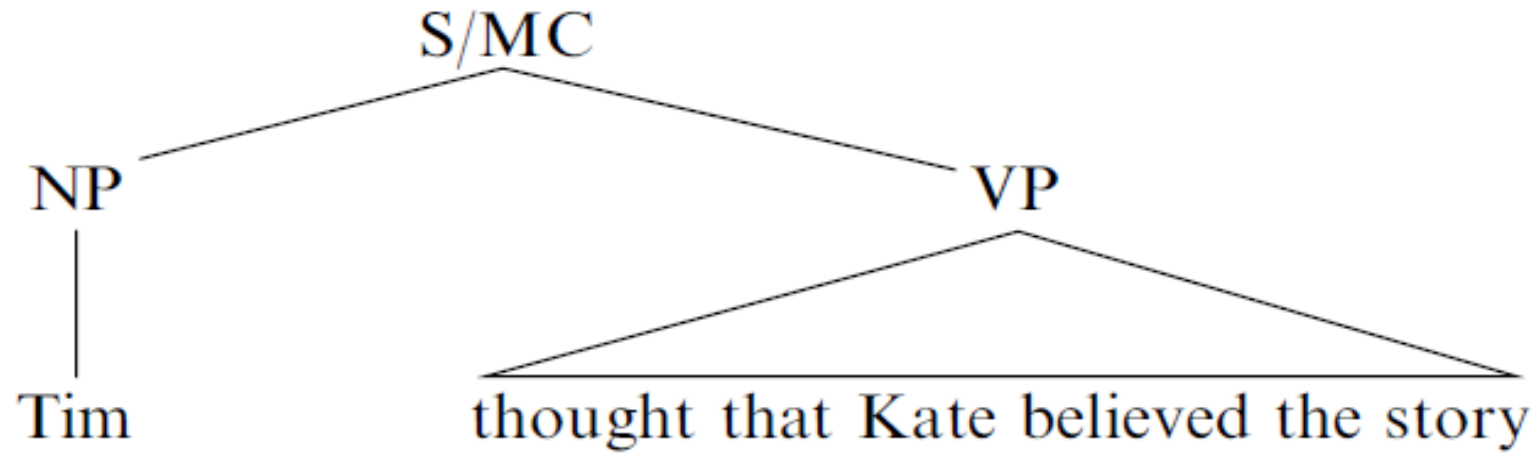
My brother will not bake a cake.

(A sentence with an auxiliary verb and a negative word)



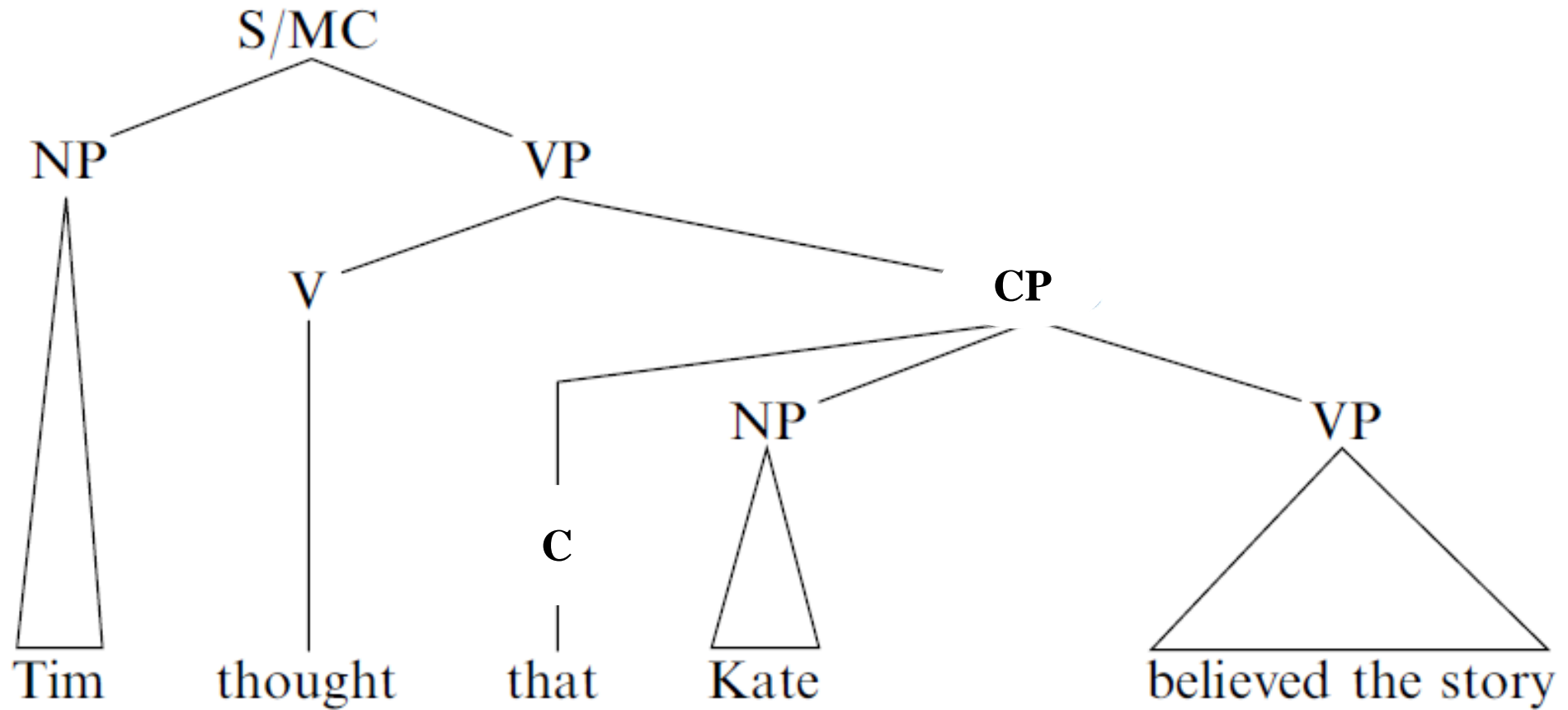
Tim thought that Kate believed the story.

(A sentence with an embedded clause)



Tim thought that Kate believed the story.

(A sentence with an embedded clause)



Tim thought that Kate believed the story.
 (A sentence with an embedded clause)

