

Week 3

- Constituents and trees, endocentricity
- Selection and Merge, Adjoin

Next week:

- Relationships between NPs (c-command)
- Ditransitives

(1) **Merge(α, β):** (read: 'merge β to α ')

For any syntactic objects α, β , where α bears an unchecked selectional feature F and β bears a matching categorial feature:

- a. check the feature F on α , if any: F ;
- b. let the label γ be the unchecked non-inflectional features of α ; and
- c. return $\begin{array}{c} \gamma \\ \wedge \\ \alpha \quad \beta \end{array}$ if α is a head and $\begin{array}{c} \gamma \\ \wedge \\ \beta \quad \alpha \end{array}$ otherwise.

(2) **Adjoin(α, β):** (read: 'adjoin β to α ')

For any syntactic objects α, β , where neither α nor β has any unchecked selectional feature,

call α the *host* and return $\begin{array}{c} \gamma \\ \wedge \\ \alpha \quad \beta \end{array}$ or $\begin{array}{c} \gamma \\ \wedge \\ \beta \quad \alpha \end{array}$, where the label $\gamma = \alpha$.

The following are lexical items in an alien language:

$ha = [A]$ $muu = [A; uA]$ $slu = [B; uA]$ $pin = [B; uA, uC]$ $ekwi = [C]$

Aliens don't have nouns and verbs; their sentences are organized into A's, B's, C's etc... But they do have Merge and Adjoin like we do. The alien language is head-initial.

1. Try building some two-word phrases with Merge and Adjoin.
2. Are the following phrases possible in the alien language?

(3) $slu\ muu\ ha$

(4) $ekwi\ ekwi\ ekwi$

(5) $muu\ ha\ muu\ ha$

(6) $ha\ muu\ ha\ muu$

(7) $muu\ muu\ ha\ pin\ ekwi$

(8) $ha\ slu\ ekwi$

(9) $pin\ pin\ ha$

(10) $slu\ ekwi\ muu\ ha$

(11) $slu\ muu\ ha\ ha$

(12) $ekwi\ pin\ ha$

3. What if the alien language is head-final?