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 $\begin{array}{c}\gamma\\ \alpha \quad \beta\end{array}$ if α is a head and $\begin{array}{c}\gamma\\ \beta \quad \alpha\end{array}$ 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 $\begin{array}{c}\gamma\\ \alpha \quad \beta\end{array}$ or $\begin{array}{c}\gamma\\ \beta \quad \alpha\end{array}$, 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?