

Problem Set 7

Due March 21 before class. Submit on IVLE > Files > Student Submission > PS7.

1. *Only* and pronouns:

Do the exercise on H&K p. 257. For this problem, use the definition for $\llbracket \text{only} \rrbracket$ there rather than what we did in class.

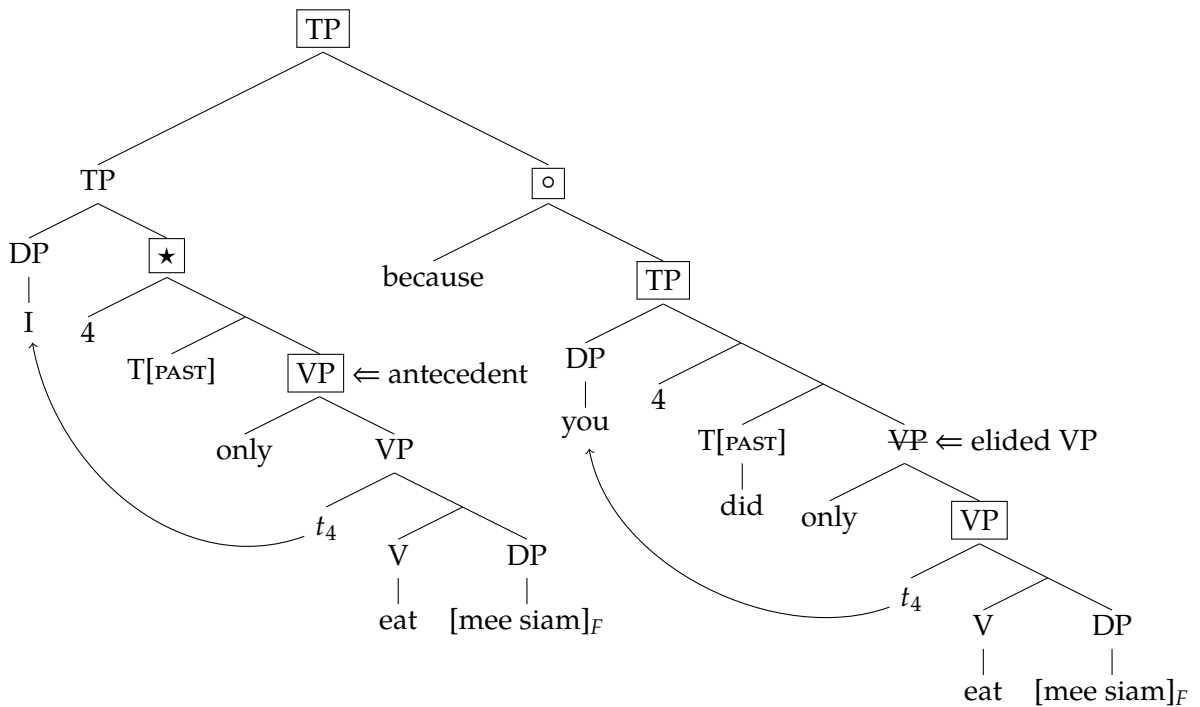
2. *Only* and ellipsis:

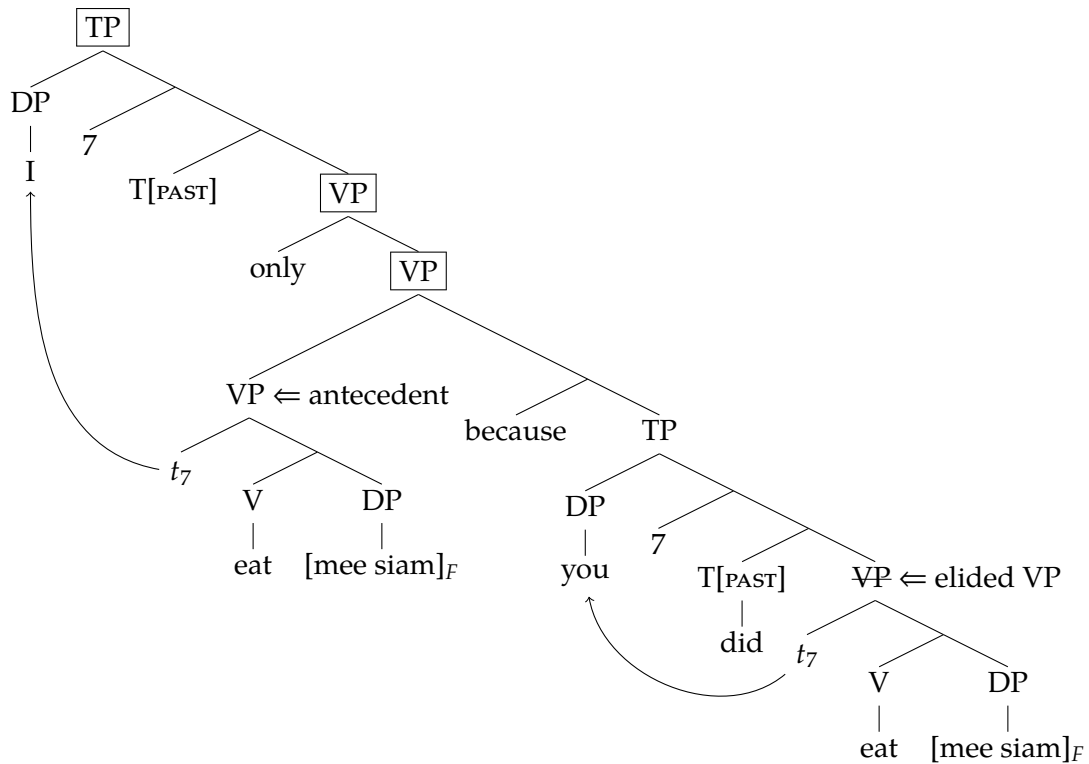
Imagine one day I'm eating mee siam and then later I see you're eating mee siam. Then another day, I'm in line for yong tao foo and then suddenly you appear and join the queue. Then yet another day, I finish my ice cream and then see you buying a ice cream. I think you're being creepy and copying my food choices, so I confront you. You say:

(1) I only ate MEE SIAM because you did Δ .

Paraphrase: I did eat mee siam because you were eating mee siam, but for those other foods, it wasn't because you were eating those other foods that I chose to eat them. That was a coincidence.

Here are two possible syntactic analyses for (1) at LF:





For each LF tree structure above, compute the denotation. These trees have lots of nodes, though, so just give types, $\llbracket \cdot \rrbracket^o$ and $\llbracket \cdot \rrbracket^f$ denotations, and rules for boxed nodes. What are the truth conditions of these structures? Do either of them give us the correct meaning for (1)?

Assume the following:

- $\llbracket \text{mee siam} \rrbracket^o = \text{mee siam}$ (type e)
- $\llbracket \text{mee siam} \rrbracket^f = \{\text{mee siam, yong tao foo, ice cream}\}$ (set of type e individuals)
- $\llbracket \text{because} \rrbracket = \lambda u_t . \lambda v_t . v = 1 \text{ because } u = 1^1$
- $\llbracket \text{T} \rrbracket^o = \text{Id}$

¹This meaning for “because” doesn’t actually make sense... but it will work for current purposes.