

VP features

<http://www-rohan.sdsu.edu/~gawron/syntax>

Jean Mark Gawron

San Diego State University, Department of Linguistics

2012-09-18

Auxiliaries

Parts of speech T, V

T Modals (*may, can, must, should, might, would, could, shall*)

V *have, be, do*

Verbs inflect for tense (*had, was, did*)

Diagnostic properties

Invert May I see John?

Did he see John?

Has he seen John?

Is he seeing John?

Precede *not* I may not see John.

I did not see John

I have not see John

I am not seeing John

* See I John

* Did see I John?

* Has seen he John?

* Is seeing he John?

* I see not John.

* I did see not John.

* I have seen not John.

* I am seeing not John.

Multiple Auxiliaries

Auxiliaries with more than one lex entry

be _{PROG}	John is writing a book.
be _{PASS}	John was writing a book.
have _{PERF}	John has written a book.
do _{AUX}	John did write a book

Main verbs

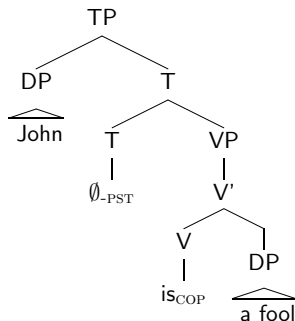
do _{MAIN}	John did his homework
have _{POSS}	John has a Volvo.

Further evidence for distinctions

- (1) a. John did his homework.
b. ? Did John his homework?
c. * John did his homework.
d. John did write a book.
e. Did John write a book?
- (2) a. John has a Volvo.
b. * Has John a Volvo?
c. * John has not a Volvo.
d. John has written a book.
e. Has John written a book?
f. John has not written a book.

One more *be*

(3) John is a fool.



Is this a main verb or an auxiliary?

Verb forms

	bare	preterite	participle	gerund	present
Main					
steal	steal	stole	stolen	stealing	steal(s)
give	give	gave	given	giving	give(s)
walk	walk	walked	walked	walking	walk(s)
Aux					
be	be	was/were	been	being	is/are
do	do	did	done	doing	do/does
have	have	had	had	having	has/have

Introduction

VP features always tell you something about the HEAD verb of a VP.

Feature values

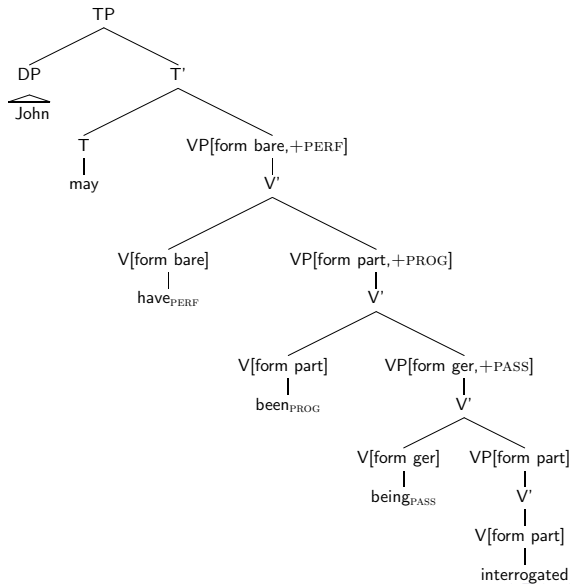
Feature	Values
FORM	gerund, participle, base, preterite, present
PASS	+ -
PROG	+ -
PERFECT	+ -

Feature meaning

Feature	Values
form	The head verb of this VP has the FORM <i>gerund, participle, base</i> , etc.
passive	The head verb of this VP is <i>passive be</i>
progressive	The head verb of this VP is <i>progressive be</i>
perfect	The head verb of this VP is <i>perfect have</i>

Grand slam

Grand slam



Pass VP examples

VP[form ger,+PASS]

John was *being interrogated*

VP[form part,+PASS]

John had *been interrogated*

VP[form bare,+PASS]

John may *be interrogated*

VP[form preterite,+PASS]

John *was interrogated*

VP[form present,+PASS]

John *is interrogated*

Perf VP examples

Features	Example
VP[form ger,+PERF]	<i>Having interrogated</i> the prisoner, John left.
VP[form part,+PERF]	GAP
VP[form bare,+PERF]	John may <i>have interrogated</i> Mary.
VP[form preterite,+PERF]	John <i>had interrogated</i> Mary.
VP[form present,+PERF]	John <i>has interrogated</i> Mary.

will

will

VP[form bare]
i

The glass will [_{VP[form bare]} break]_i

(a) * The glass will [_{VP[form ger]} breaking]

(b) * The glass will [_{VP[form part]} broken]

(c) * The glass will [_{VP[form pret]} broke]

Perfect

have_{PERF}

VP[form part]

The glass has [_{VP[form part]} broken]

(a) * The glass has [_{VP[form ger]} breaking]

(b) * The glass has [_{VP[form part]} broken]

(c) * The glass has [_{VP[form pret]} broke]

progressive

be

VP[form ger]
i

The thief was [_{VP[form ger]} stealing the necklace.];

- (a) * The thief was [_{VP[form bare]} steal the necklace.]
- (b) * The thief was [_{VP[form part]} stolen the necklace.]
- (c) * The thief was [_{VP[form pret]} stole the necklace.]

passive

be_{PASS}

VP[form part]

i

The necklace was [VP[form ger] stolen]_i

- (a) * The necklace was [VP[form bare] steal]
- (b) * The necklace was [VP[form ger] stealing] (with passive meaning)
- (c) * The necklace was [VP[form pret] stole]