

# Irish VSO order

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

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This problem reveals some issues about how to structurally define notions like SUBJECT and OBJECT.

A structural definition uses the notions introduced in this chapter:

- 1 Constituent
- 2 Dominates
- 3 Category labels (TP, NP, VP)

# Structural definitions of subject, object

## Subject

The subject of a sentence is the NP immediately dominated by TP.

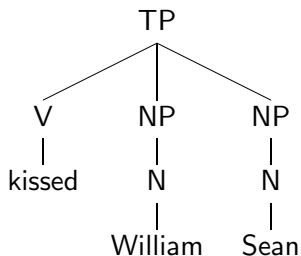
## Object

The object of a sentence is the NP immediately dominated by VP.

In order for the definitions to be universal, the notions NP, TP, and VP must all be universal. Are they?

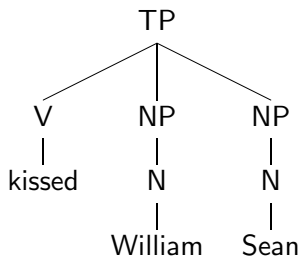


1



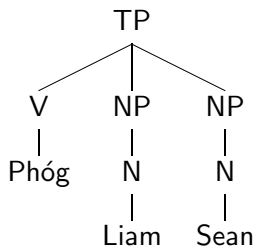
This tree has a problem!!!!

1



This tree has a problem!!!!

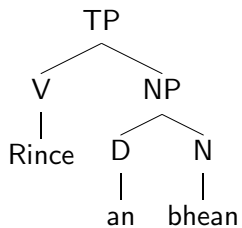
2



This tree fixes it!!!!

# Intransitives

# Intransitives



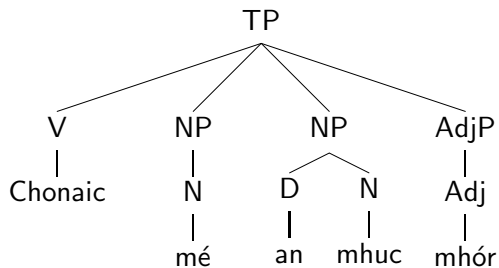
The woman danced.



# Choose!

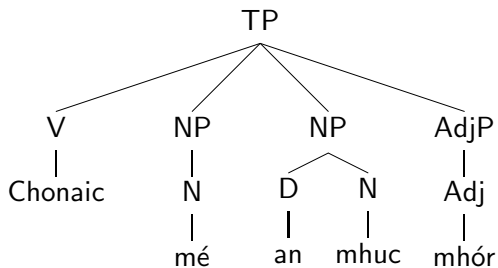
# Choose!

1

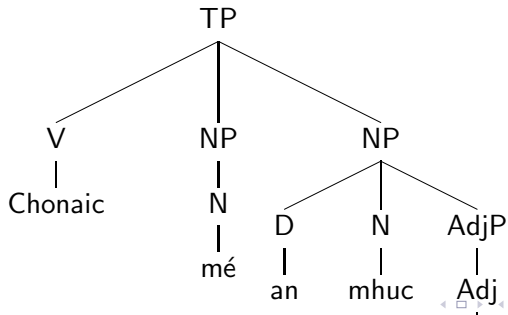


# Choose!

1



2



# Definitions of Subject and Object

## Subject

The subject of a sentence is the NP immediately dominated by TP.

No longer works! More than one NP dominated by TP.

No longer works! VP no longer universal!

# Definitions of Subject and Object

## Subject

The subject of a sentence is the NP immediately dominated by TP.

No longer works! More than one NP dominated by TP.

## Object

The object of a sentence is the NP immediately dominated by VP.

No longer works! VP no longer universal!

# Irish Subject and Object

## Subject

The subject of a sentence is the first NP immediately dominated by TP.

- 1 Maybe we can make this universal? Works for English?

*We may compromise on many things, but*

# Irish Subject and Object

## Subject

The subject of a sentence is the first NP immediately dominated by TP.

- ① Maybe we can make this universal? Works for English?

## Object

The object of a sentence is the second NP immediately dominated by TP.

- ② Can't work for English. Give up VP for English?

*We may compromise on many things, but*

# Irish Subject and Object

## Subject

The subject of a sentence is the first NP immediately dominated by TP.

- 1 Maybe we can make this universal? Works for English?

## Object

The object of a sentence is the second NP immediately dominated by TP.

- 2 Can't work for English. Give up VP for English?

*We may compromise on many things, but [<sub>VP</sub> give up the VP ]  
we never will!*