Clause Types

A descriptive tangent into the types of clauses

Clause = subject+predicate phrase

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- subject: the NP being assigned a property

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- subject: the NP being assigned a property
- Predicate phrase: the property being assigned to the subject
  - The man left
  - Susan is a linguistics student
  - Bill ate a beef waffle

Main vs. Embedded

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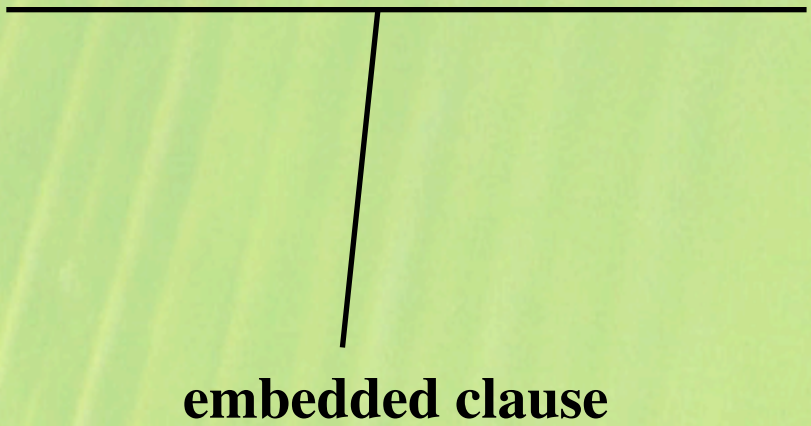

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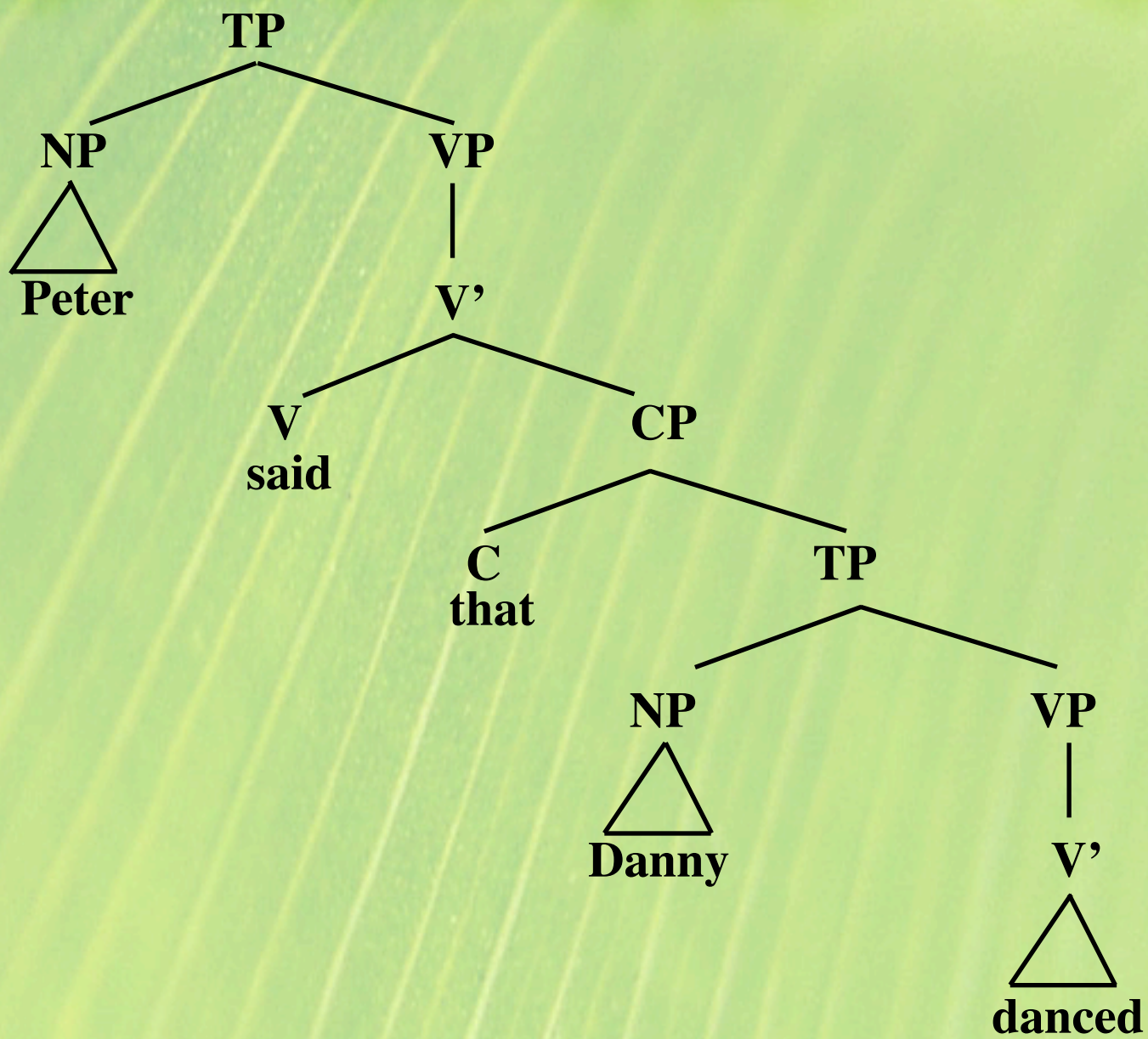

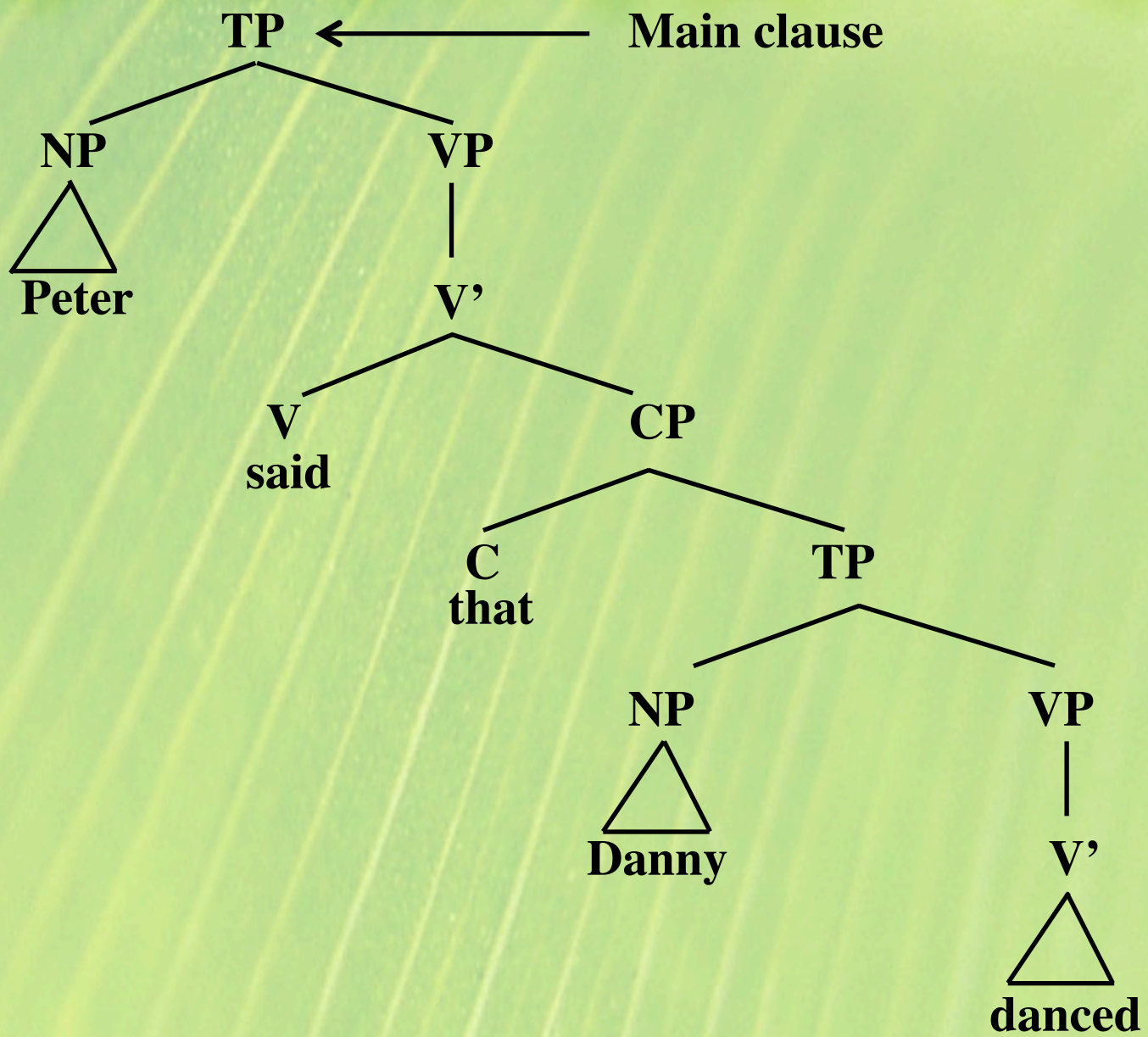

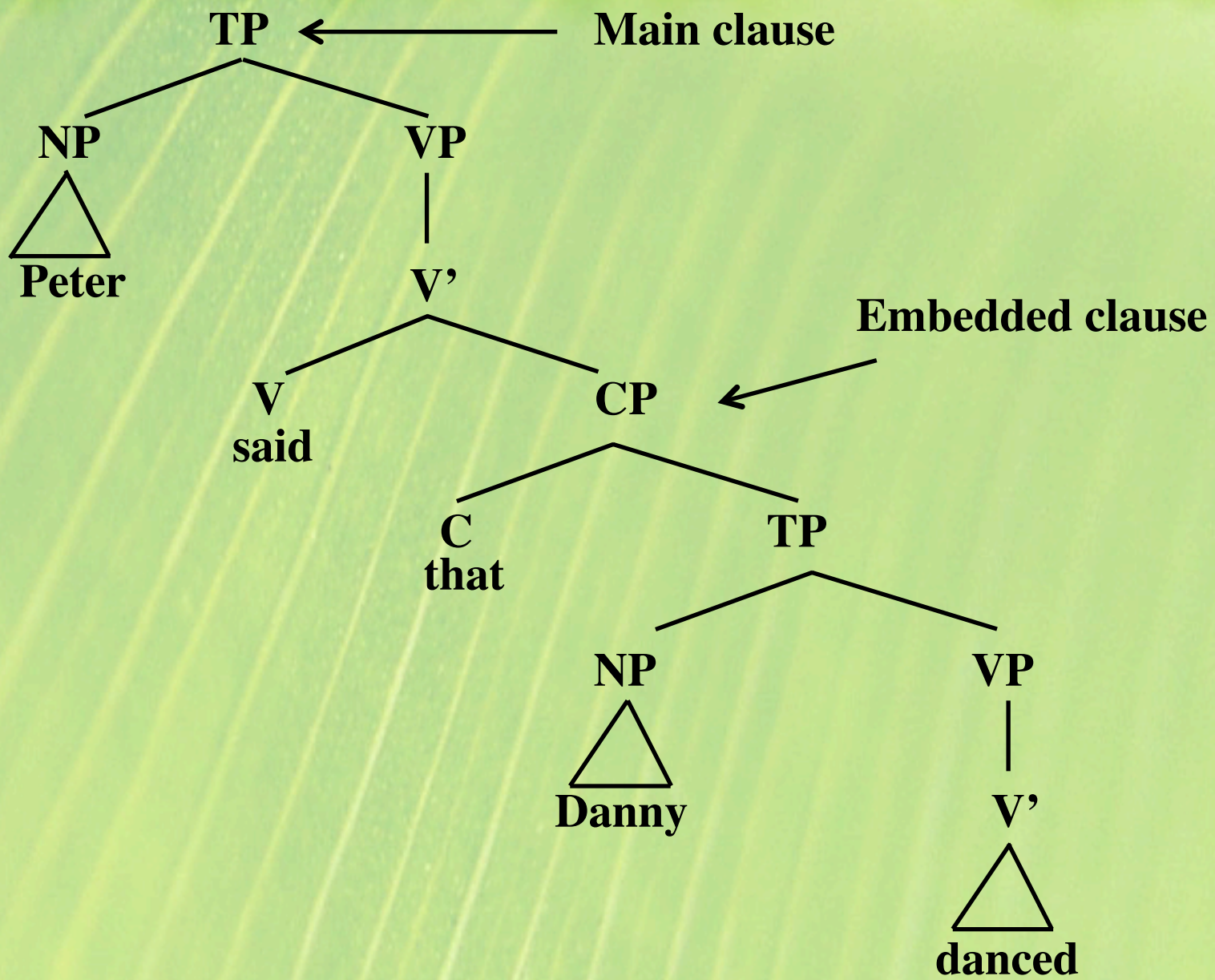

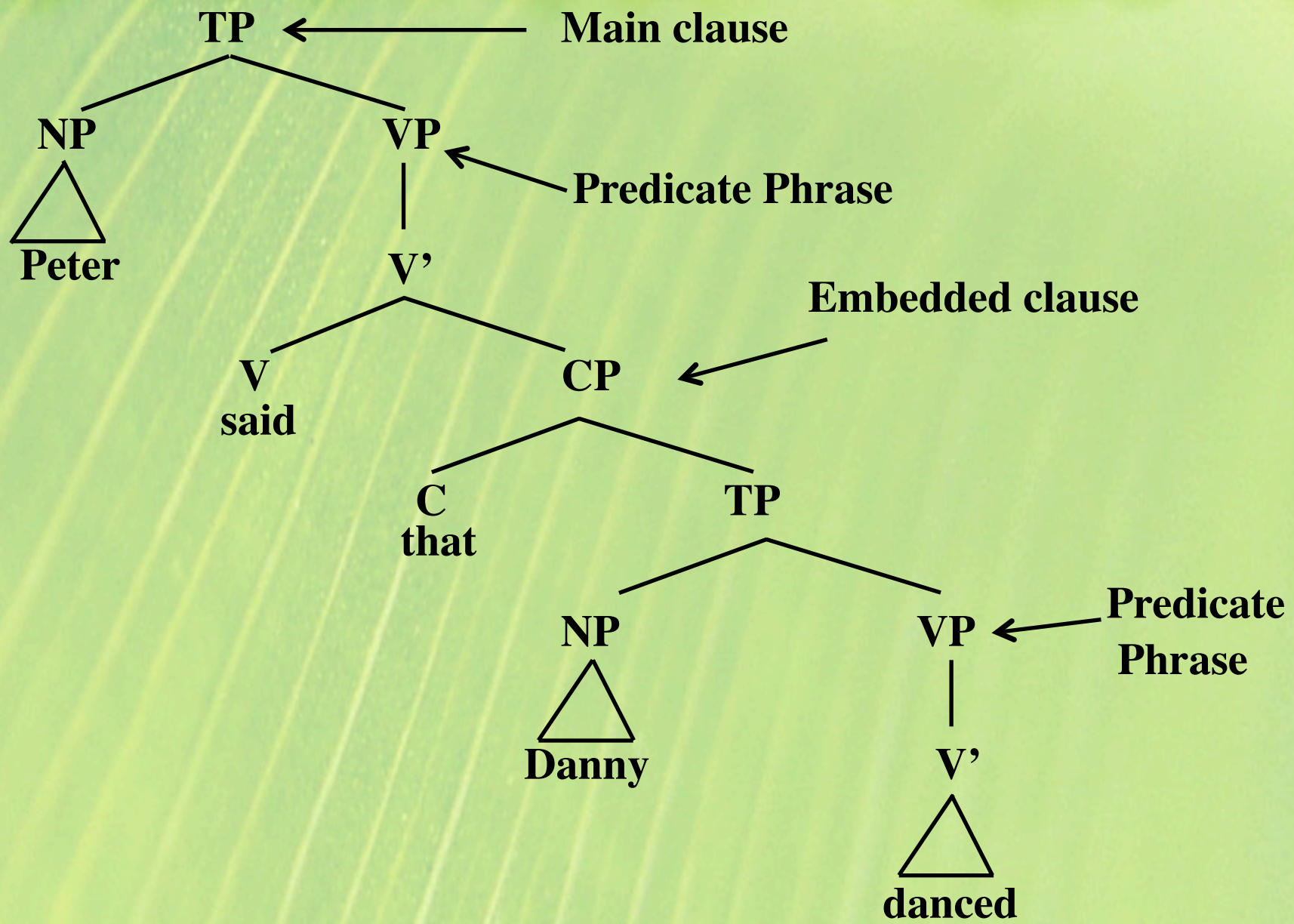

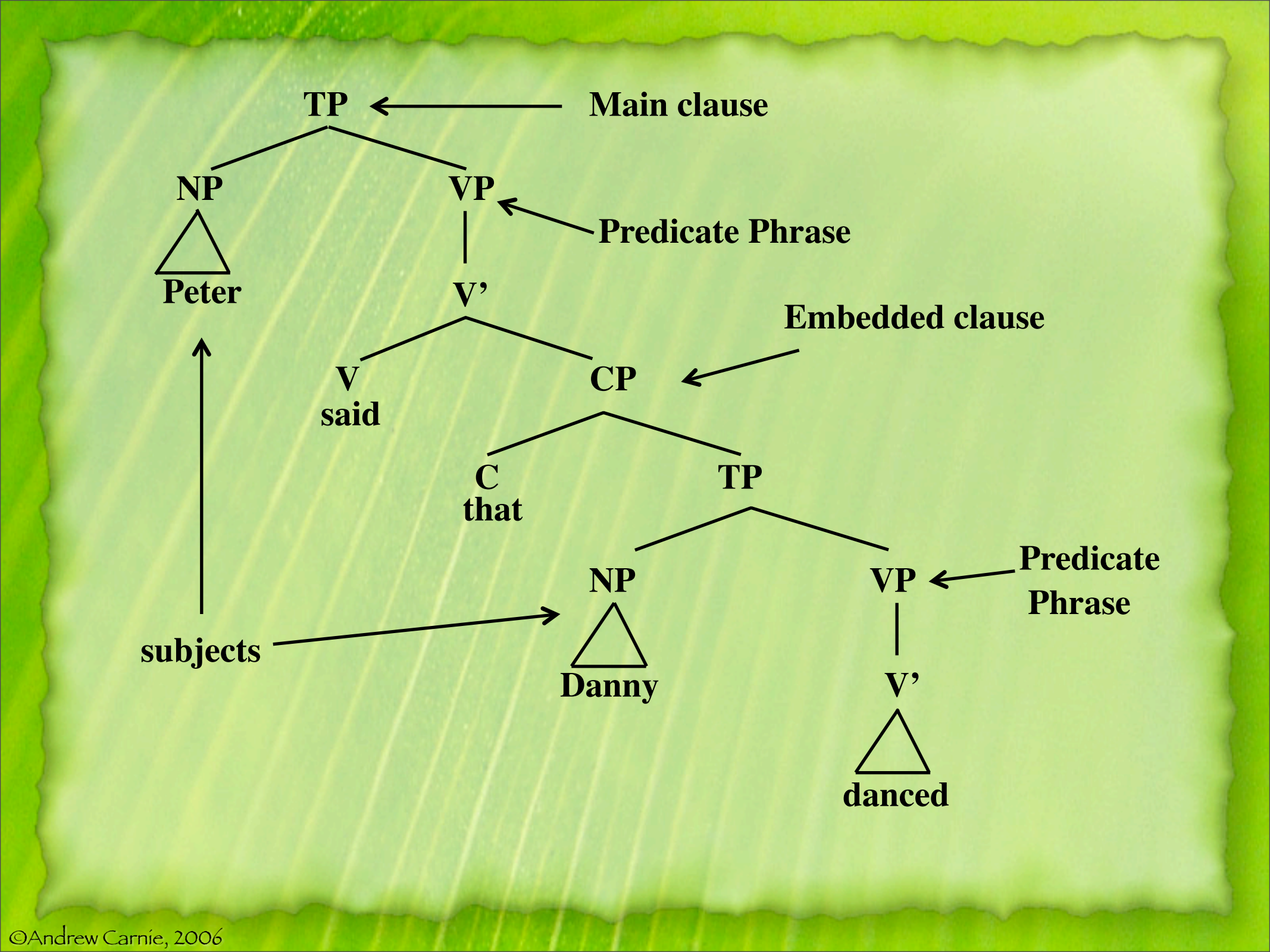

Important!

- Main clauses CONTAIN embedded clauses
  - Embedded: Danny danced
  - Main: Peter said that Danny danced.

Types of embedded clauses

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  - [[People selling their stocks] caused the crash of 29]
  - [[For Mary to love that boor] is a travesty]

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- embedded clauses in adjuncts positions
  - [The man [I saw get into the cab]] robbed the bank

Finite vs. Non-finite

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- Other terms: tensed/untensed, finite vs. infinitive (there actually are differences in what these mean, but we'll use the terms interchangeably)

Finite vs. Non-finite

- Other terms: tensed/untensed, finite vs. infinitive (there actually are differences in what these mean, but we'll use the terms interchangeably)
- Finite clauses have a tensed verb
  - I thought that [John left] tensed/finite
  - I want [John to leave] non-tensed/nonfinite

Distinguishing finite/nonfinite

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- I know [you eat asparagus] finite

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  - *I've never seen [you ate asparagus]

Distinguishing finite/nonfinite

- Subjects of finite show nominative case, subjects of nonfinite (and small) show accusative case.
  - I know [he ate asparagus]
  - I've never seen [him eat asparagus]

	Nominative		Accusative		Anaphoric	
	Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
1st	I	we	me	us	myself	ourselves
2nd	you	you	you	you	yourself	yourselves
3rd masc	he	they	him	them	himself	themselves
3rd fem	she		her		herself	
3rd neut	it		it		itself	

Distinguishing finite/nonfinite

- Types of T
  - Finite: tense suffixes, modals (could, should, would, might, can etc), auxiliaries (is, have)
    - I think [he should go]
  - Non-finite: to, Ø
    - I want [him to go]

Distinguishing finite/nonfinite

- Types of Comp
  - Finite: that, which, if, Ø
    - I think [that he should go]
  - Non-finite: for, Ø
    - I want [for him to leave]

Summary

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- Embedded vs. Root/Main
- Types of Embedded: specifier, adjunct, complement
- Types of verbal: tensed/finite vs. untensed/ nonfinite
- Tests of finiteness: inflection, case, C, T

Extending X-bar Theory

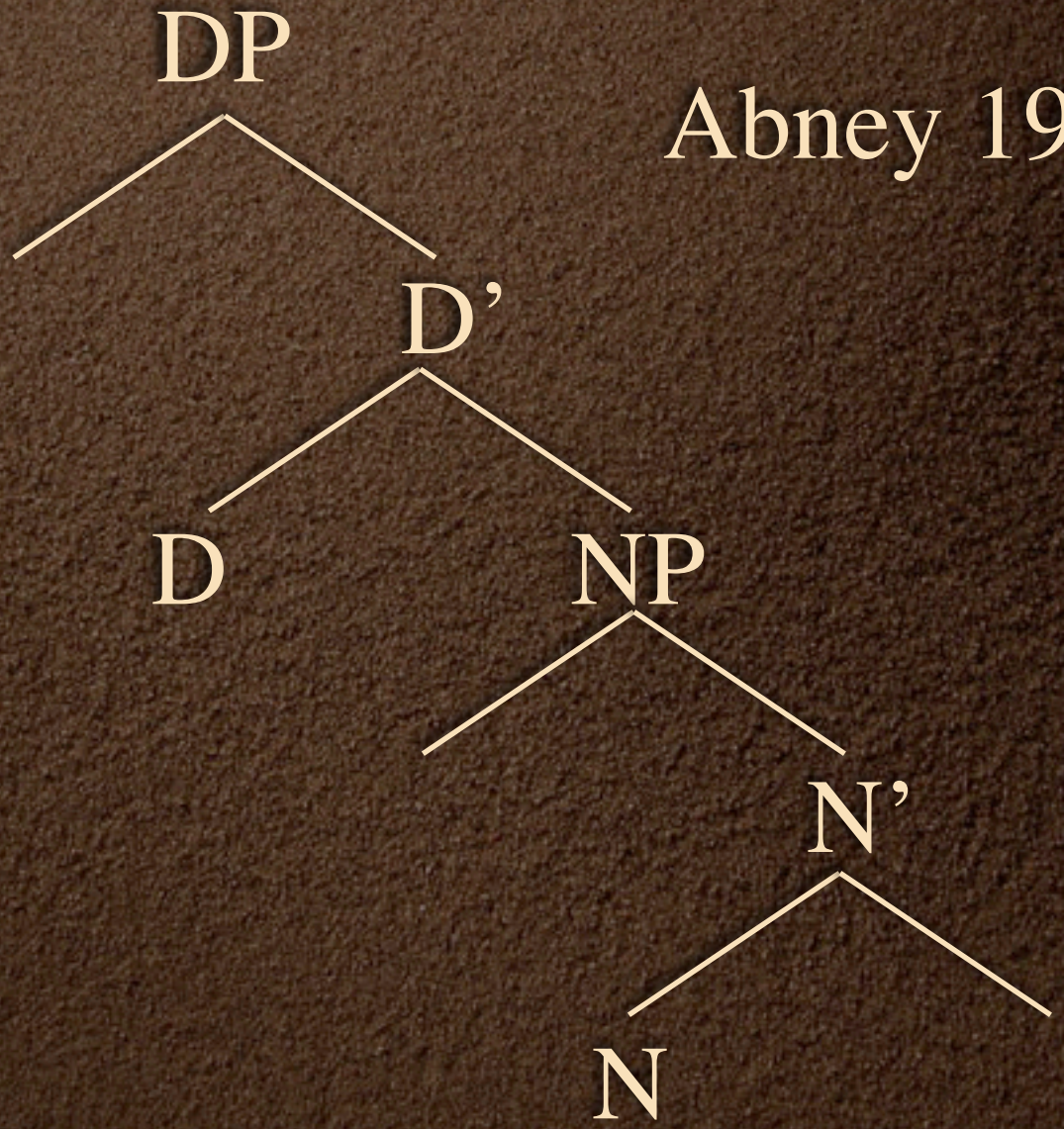
DPs, TPs, and CPs

The Puzzle of Determiners

- Specifier Rule XP→(YP) X'
  - requires the specifier to be phrasal
  - *That the book (however cf. Those two books)
- Only example of a specifier we've seen.

The DP proposal

Abney 1987



The DP hypothesis

- Explains why D isn't a phrase (it is a head of its own phrase!)
- (Notice we now have NO examples of specifiers!!)
- Evidence???????

's Genitives

- The man's coat
- Not a suffix:
  - [The man standing over there]'s coat
  - [The dancer from New York]'s shoes
- 's attaches to phrases.

's Genitives

- The man's coat — 's genitive
- The coat of the man — free genitive

- 's is in complementary distribution with determiners:
  - [The man standing over there]'s coat
  - *The man standing over there's the coat
- Complementary distribution means: two items are examples of the same thing!

's Genitives

- 's is a determiner

's Genitives

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If 's is a determiner, where does the possessor go?
(Remember the possessor modifies hat).

's Genitives

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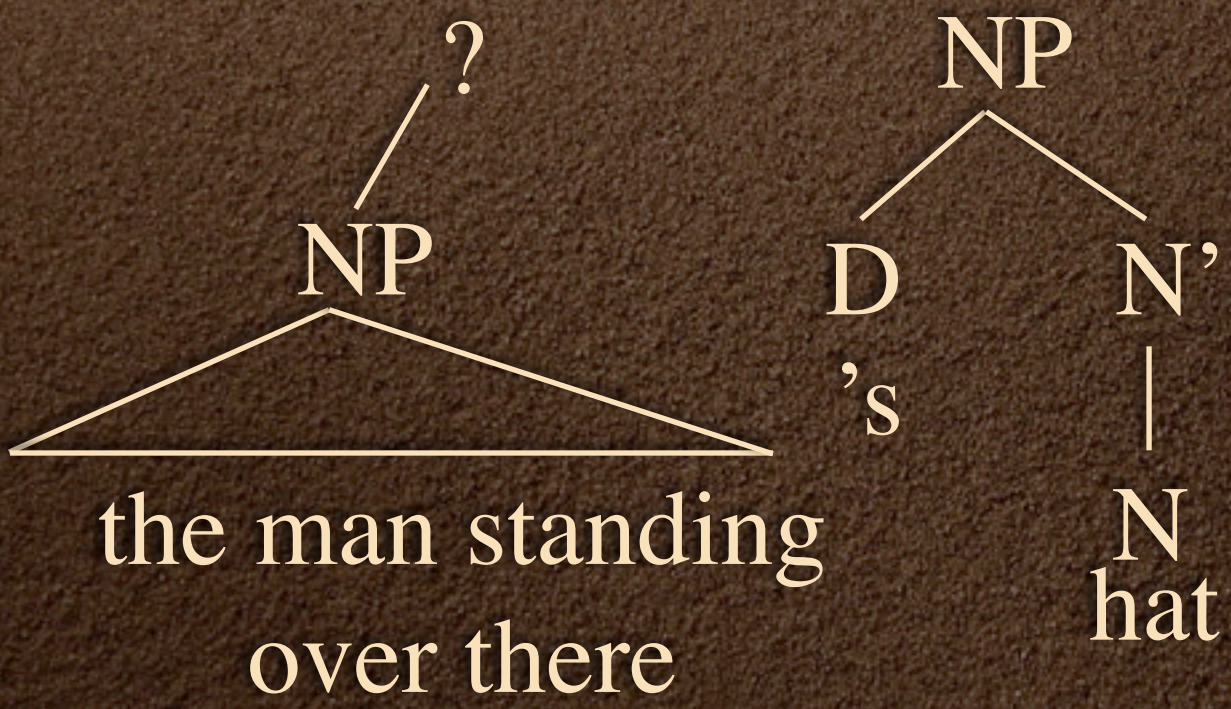

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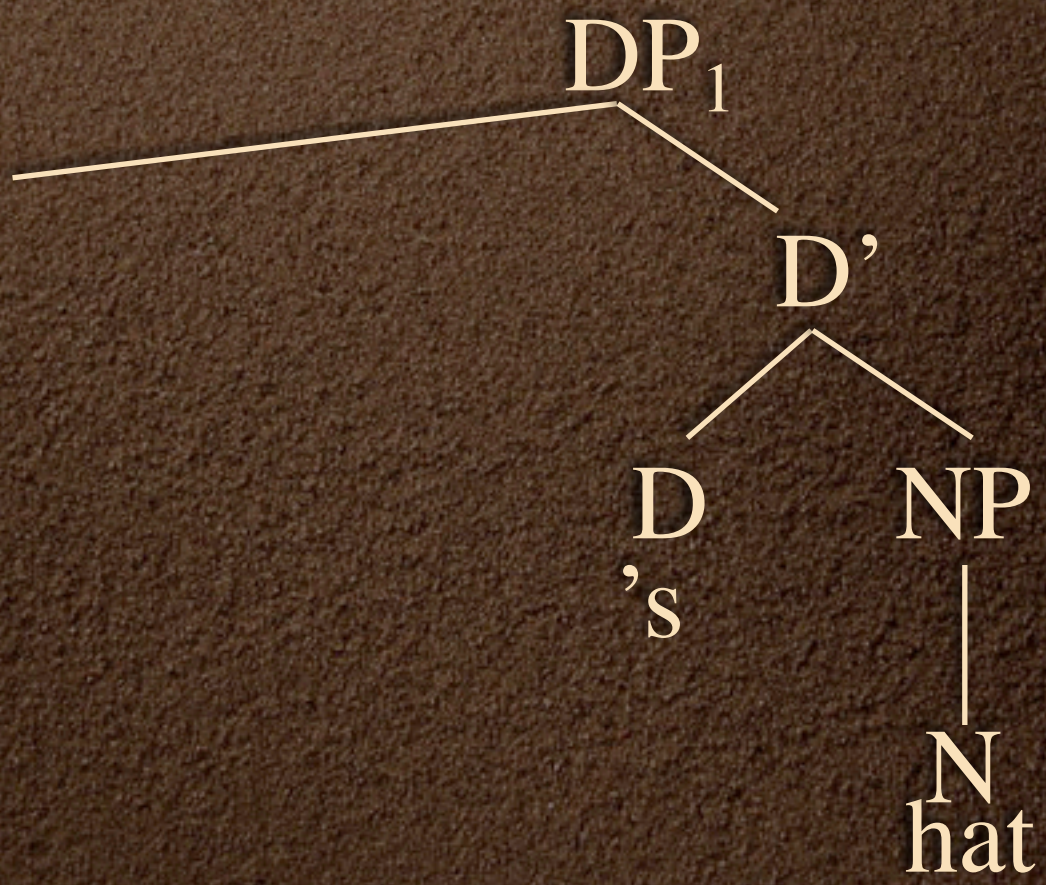
- Problem solved by DP hypothesis



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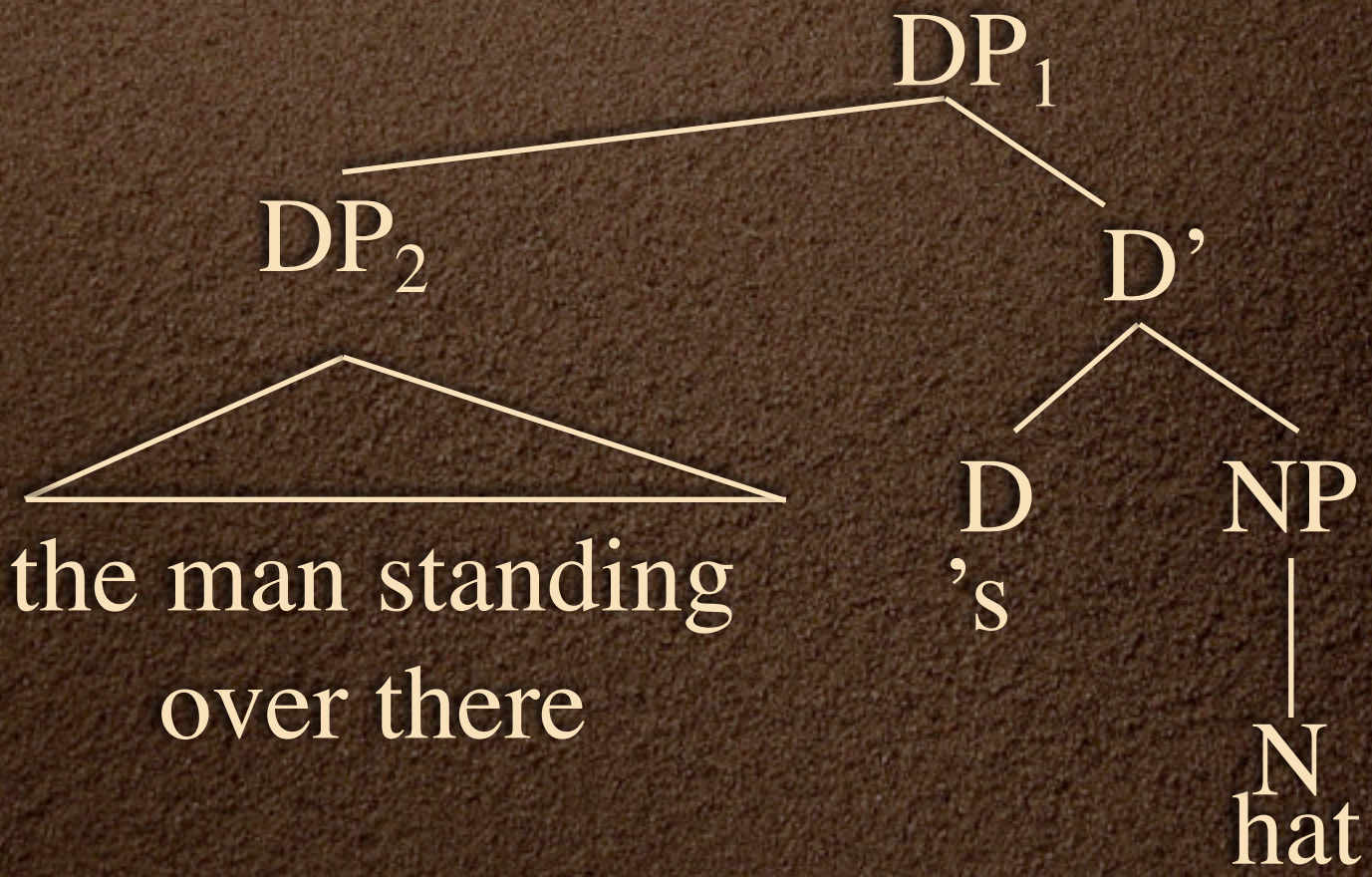

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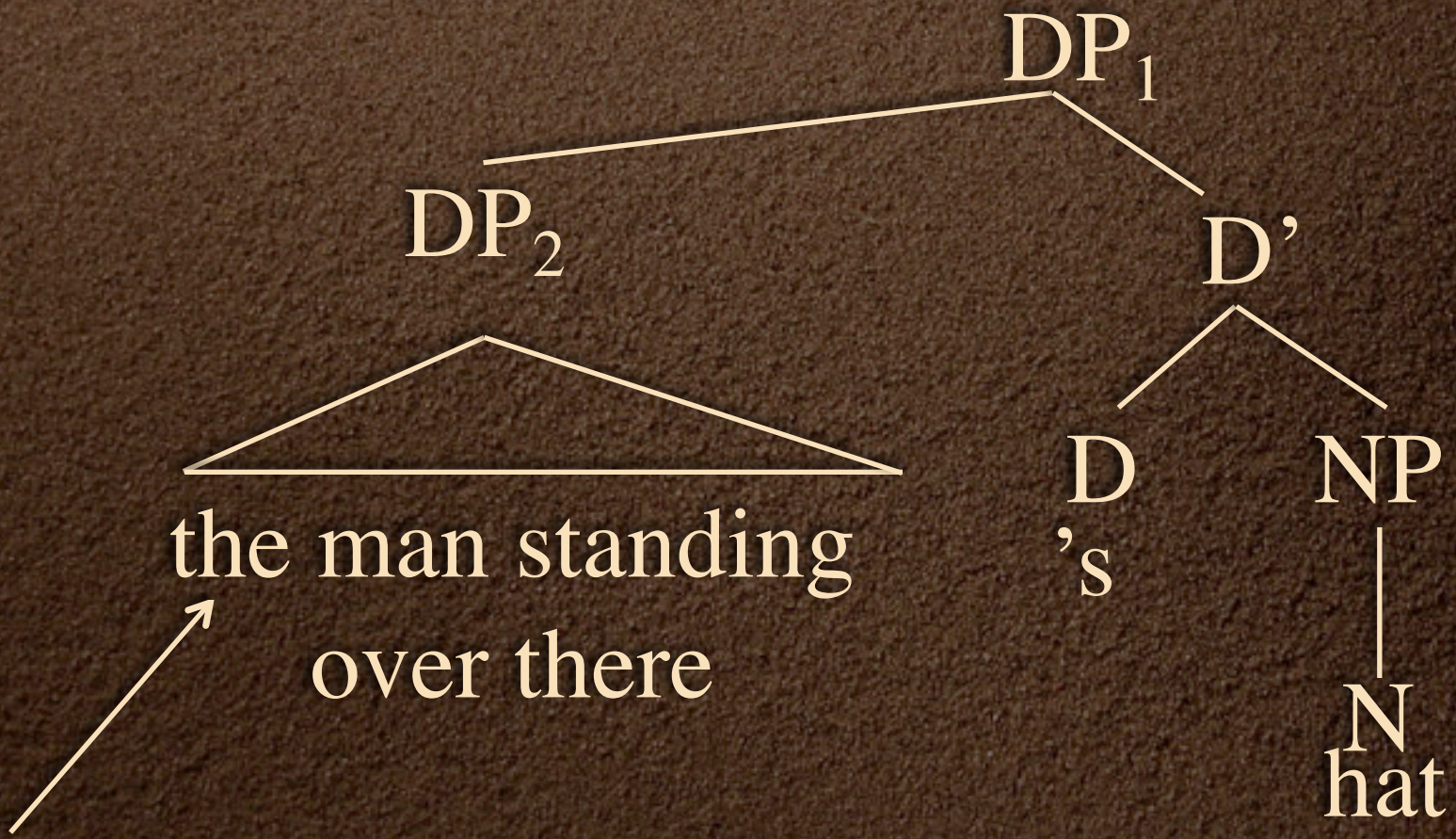


notice this is in the specifier of DP_1. Is this the subject of the DP_1?

Two other rules that don't fit X-bar theory

- TP → NP (T) VP
- CP → (Comp) S
- Problems:
  - Category Specific
  - No intermediate structure
  - What are the heads, complements, adjuncts?

The TP Rule TP→NP (T) VP

- What is the head?
  - NP? not a head; it's a phrase!
  - VP? not a head; it's a phrase!
  - T? This is the obvious head, but it's optional!
- HMMM! Let's think about headedness…

Heads

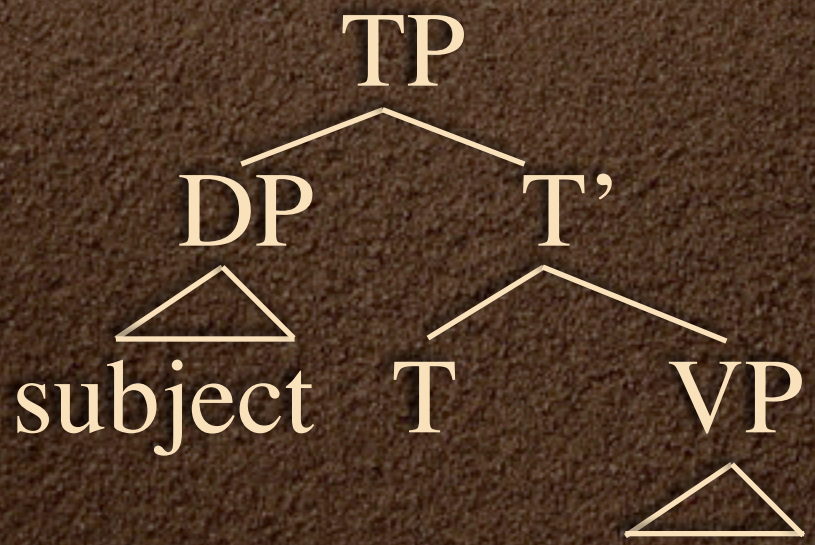
- Give their category to the phrase
  - $[_{NP}$ The big linguist$_N$ from Calgary]
- Contribute other features to their phrase
    - Linguist [+animate]
    - [The linguist from Calgary] is pregnant
    - Fridge [-animate]
    - [The fridge from Calgary] is pregnant
- The predicate "is pregnant" selects for an animate subject.

Heads of Clauses

- What are the relevant features of clauses?
  - Tense/Finiteness
- Some examples
    - I think [that Bill should leave]
    - *I think [Bill to leave]
    - ?I asked [that Bill leave]
    - I asked [Bill to leave]
- The main verb is said to select for certain types of embedded clause, based on finiteness.

The head of clauses

- Tense is represented in inflection, so perhaps T is the head of the sentence:



TP, IP, AgrP

- In the syntax literature you will see references to S, IP and AgrP. These are (essentially) the same thing as TP.
- Infl is another name for T.

HOLD ON!!!!

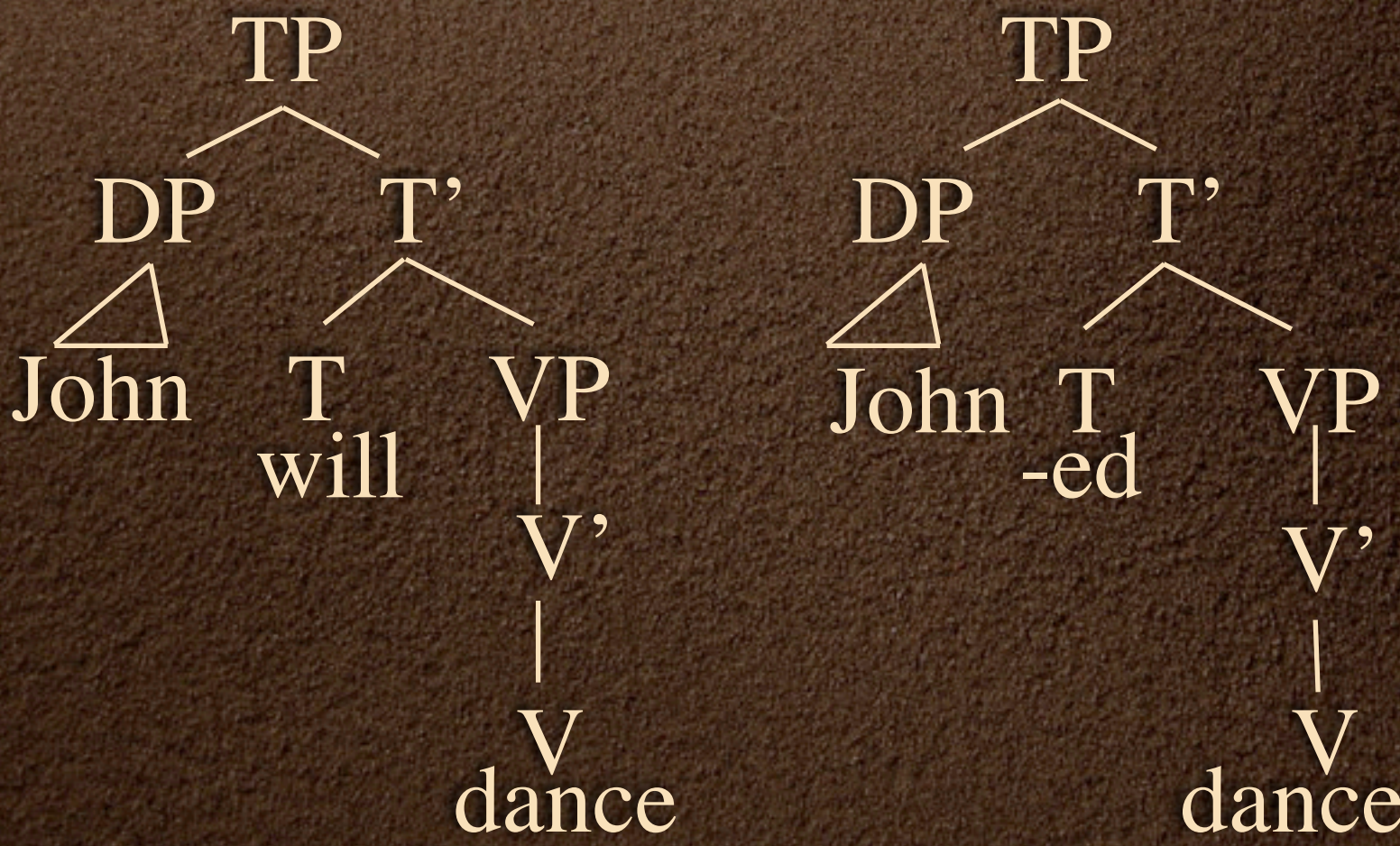
- We've only seen T in clauses with auxiliaries!! What about sentences without auxiliaries??
  - John loves peanut butter sandwiches
- If T is optional, how can it be the head?
- Maybe T is obligatory in all sentences!

T = Auxs, and suffixes

- Observation: auxiliaries and inflectional suffixes on verbs are in complementary distribution:
  - I will dance
  - I danced
  - *I will danced
  - I can dance
  - *I can danced

Proposal

- Inflectional tense & agreement suffixes are also instances of T. T is obligatory in all clauses



WAIT A MINUTE!

- The SUFFIX appears before the Verb? HUH?
- Well the suffixes *are* in complementary distribution with the auxiliaries…
- What is the difference between an inflectional suffix and an Aux?
  - suffixes must be attached to something
  - Auxes are free (don't have to be attached)

suffixes as T

- Proposal: Inflectional suffixes are generated under T, but they must be attached to a verb, so they move by lowering and attaching to the verb.

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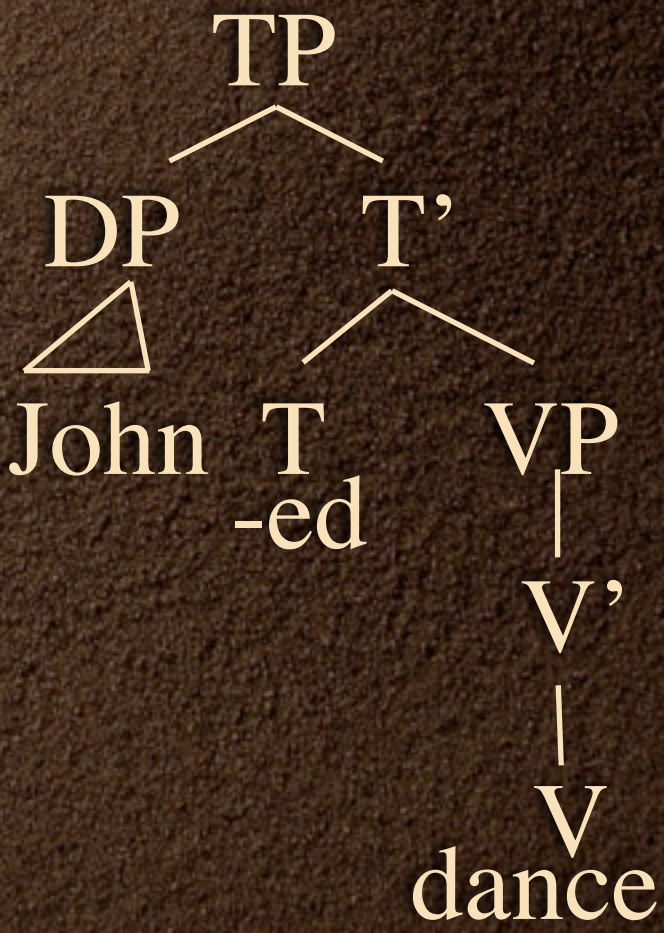

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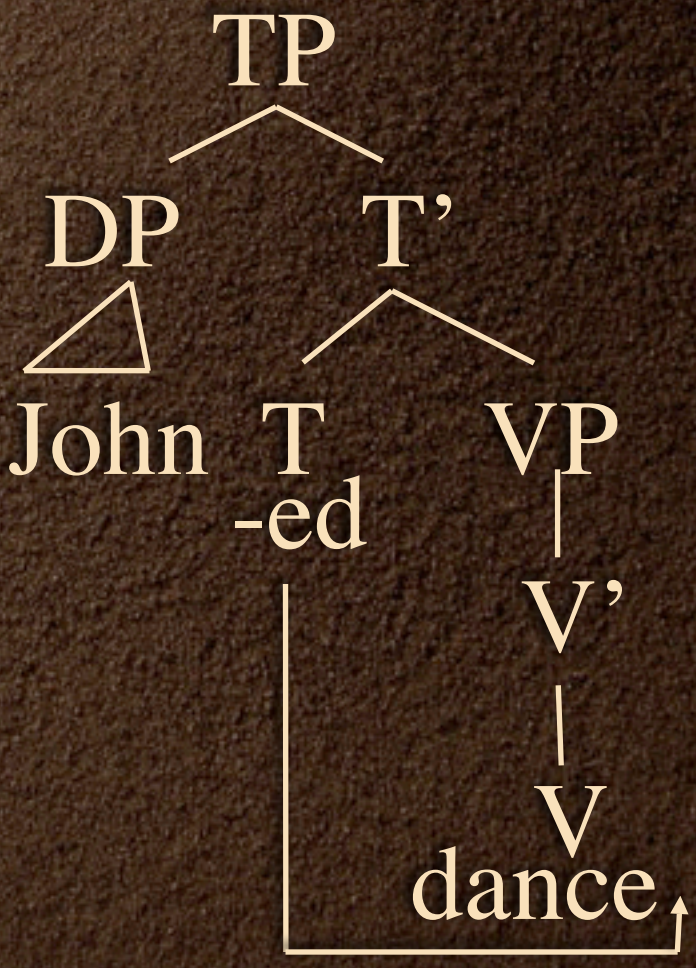

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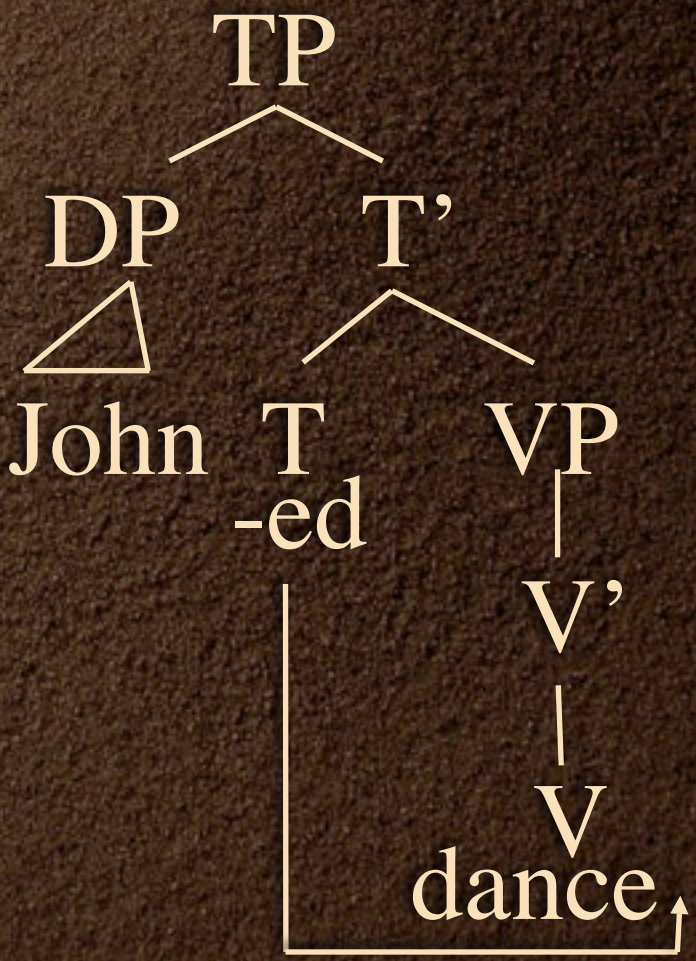

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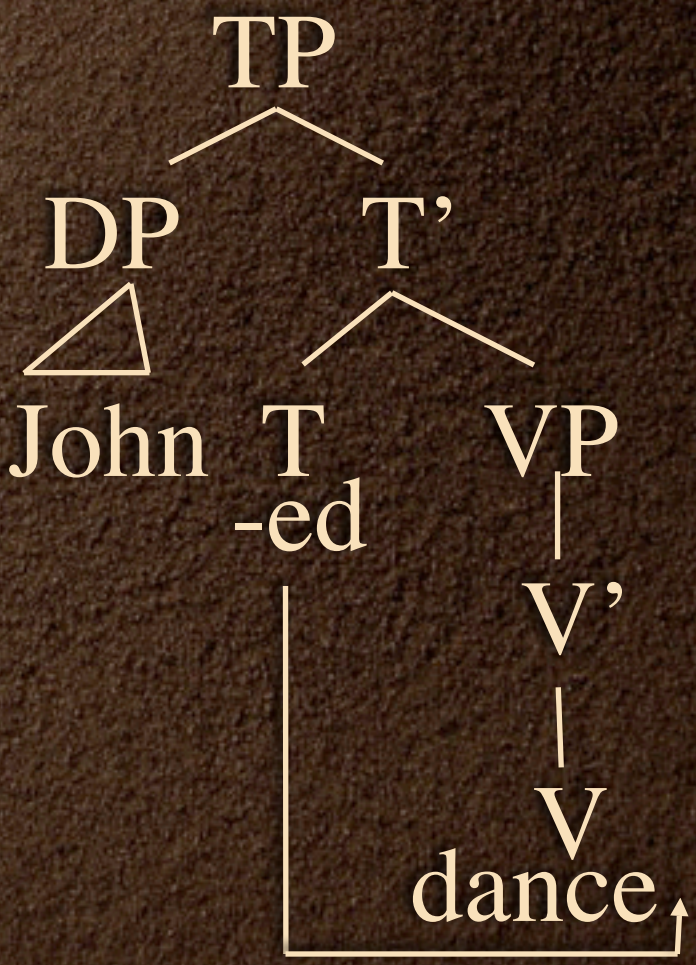
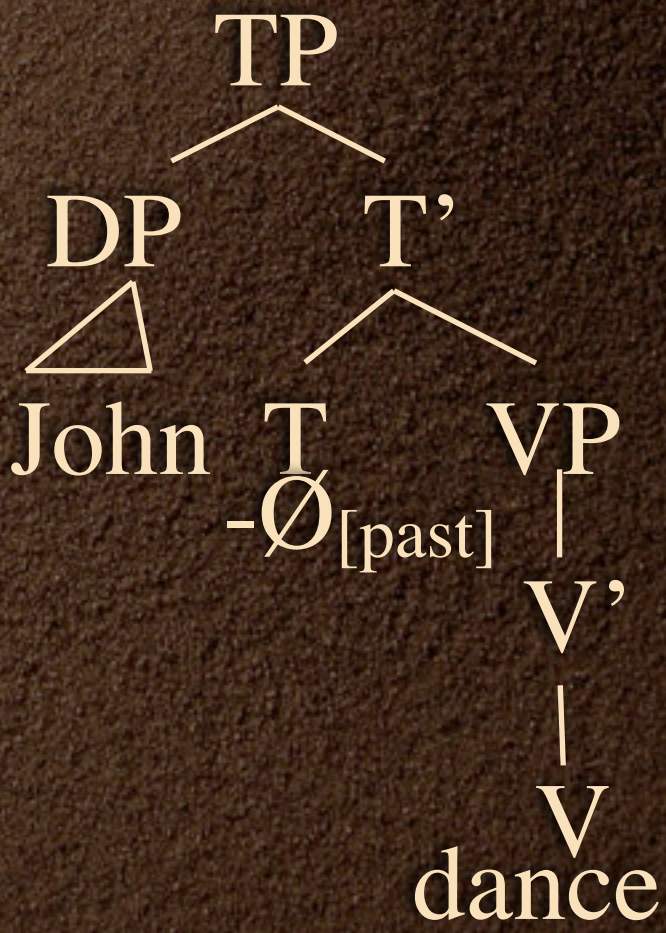
maybe, but it will get us something later (chpt 9)



This is the one exception to the restriction that you not break apart words when doing syntax

Irregular verb morphology

- John run<u>s</u> (easy case)
- John ran ???? Inflectional suffix.



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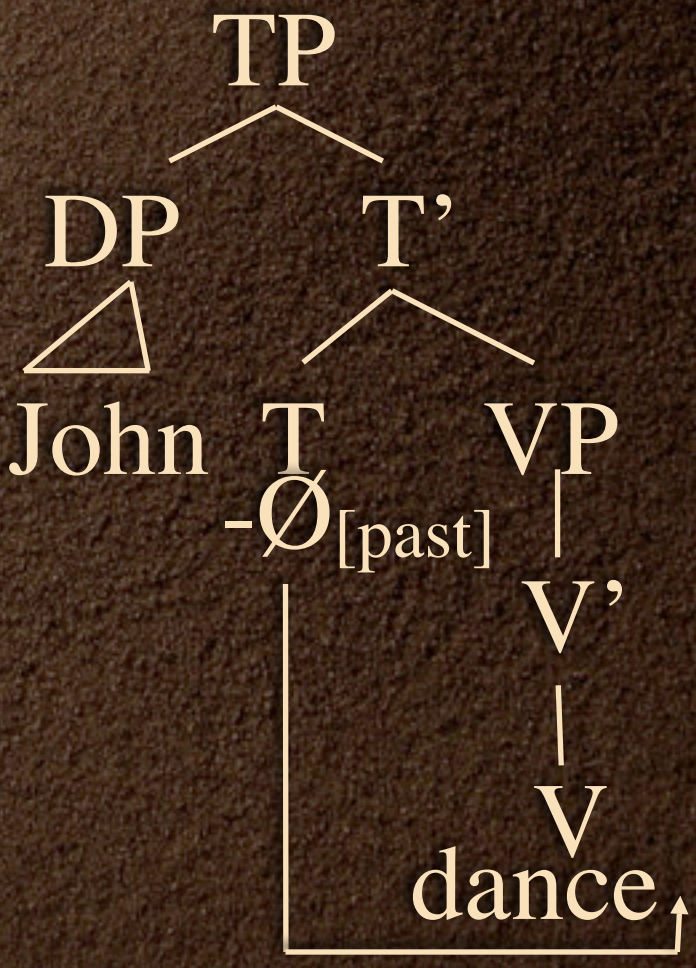

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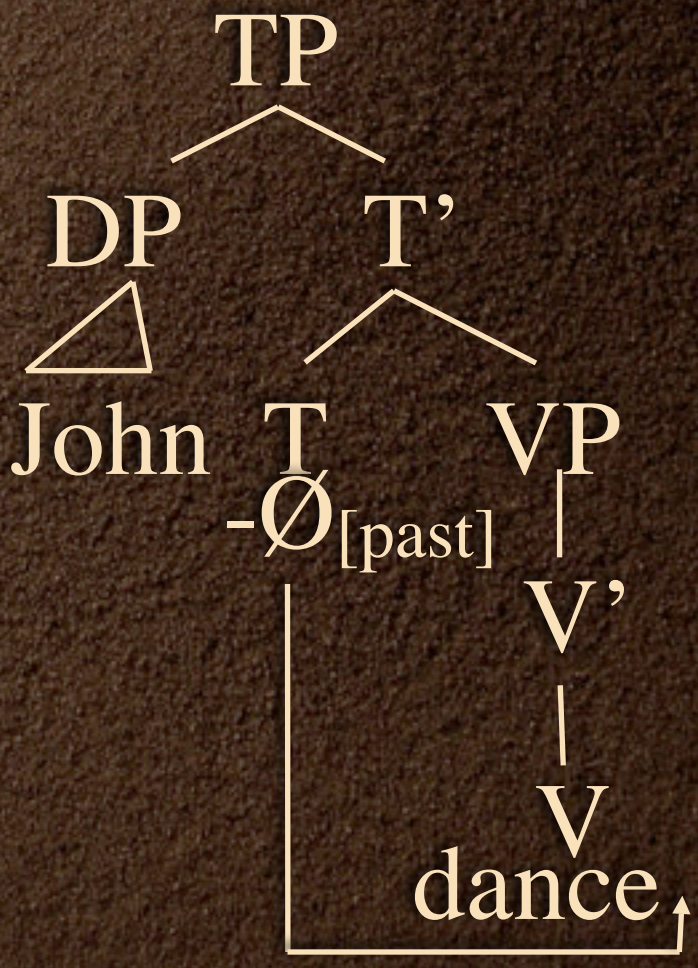


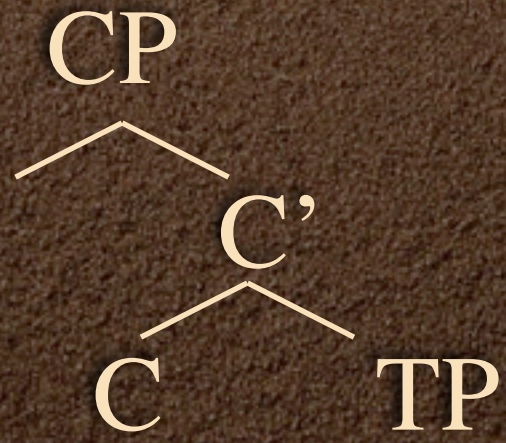
$$run + \emptyset_{[past]} = ran$$

TP

- T is obligatory, occupied by Auxes or inflectional suffixes (which lower and attach to the verb.)
- The T head gives the finiteness properties to the clause.
- The specifier of TP is occupied by the subject of the clause
- the complement of TP is the VP

C→(C) TP???

- What is the head of CP? Comp is the obvious choice!



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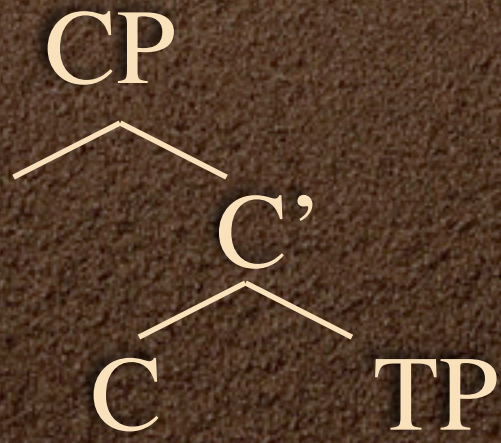


What is the specifier of CP for? We'll use it in chapter 11 when we look at *wh*-movement. It is where question words like "what" go.

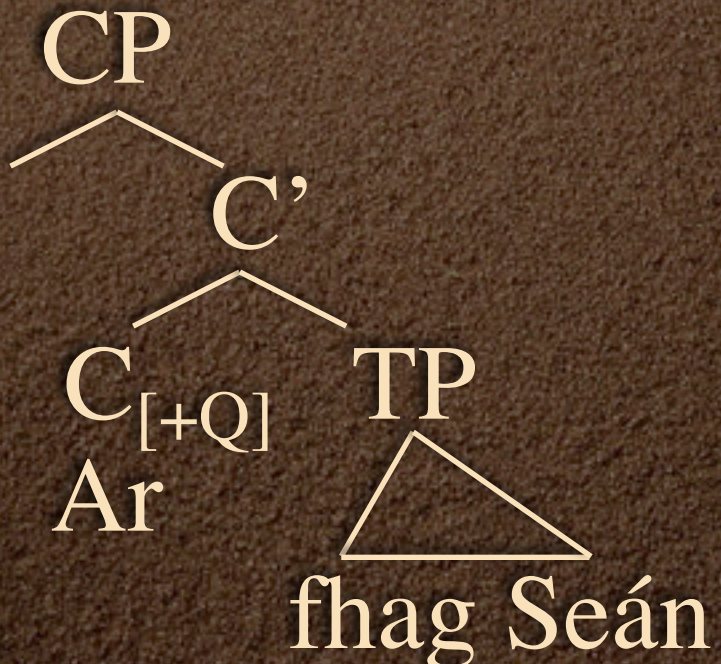
Is there a CP in every clause?

- We've claimed there is an TP in every clause. Is there a CP in every clause?
- Embedded clauses without an overt complementizer?
  - I said [Louise loved rubber duckies]
- Main clauses
  - Louise loved rubber duckies?

Evidence from Yes/No questions

- You have seen the rubber ducky.
- Have you seen the rubber ducky?
- Many languages don't do this. Instead they have special question Cs:
  - Ar fhag Seán
    Q leave John
    "Did John leave?"
- These are in complementary distribution with Cs

Evidence from Yes/No questions



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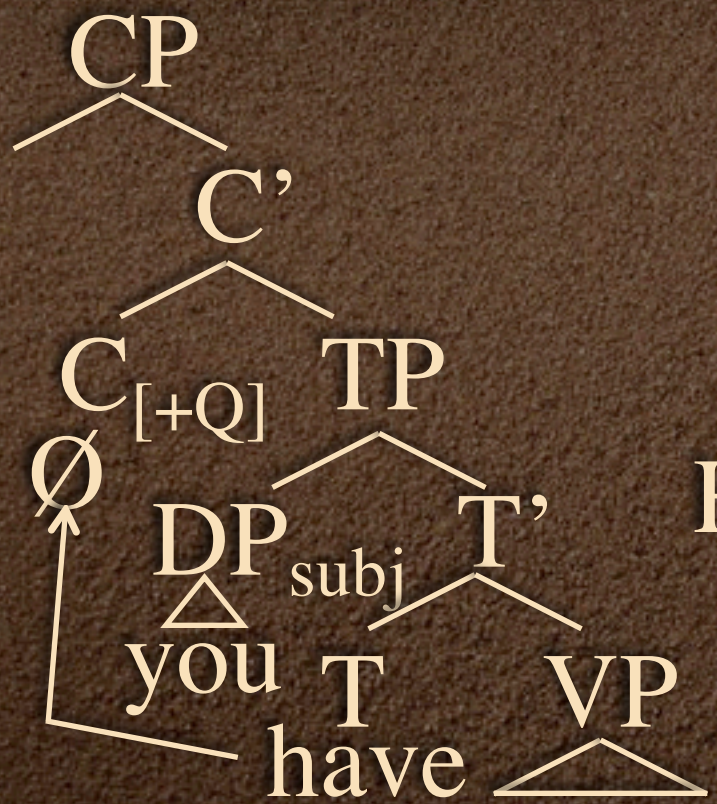
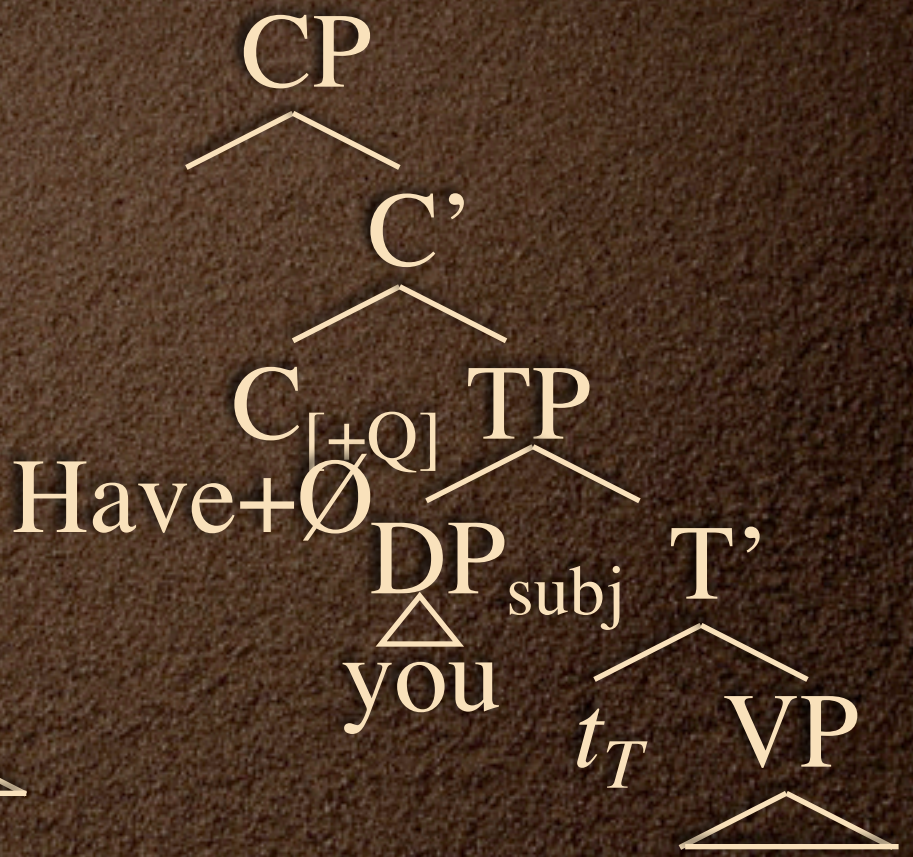




The Ø $C_{[+Q]}$ must be pronounced, so the T head moves to the position to fill it.

Evidence for [+Q] Cs in English

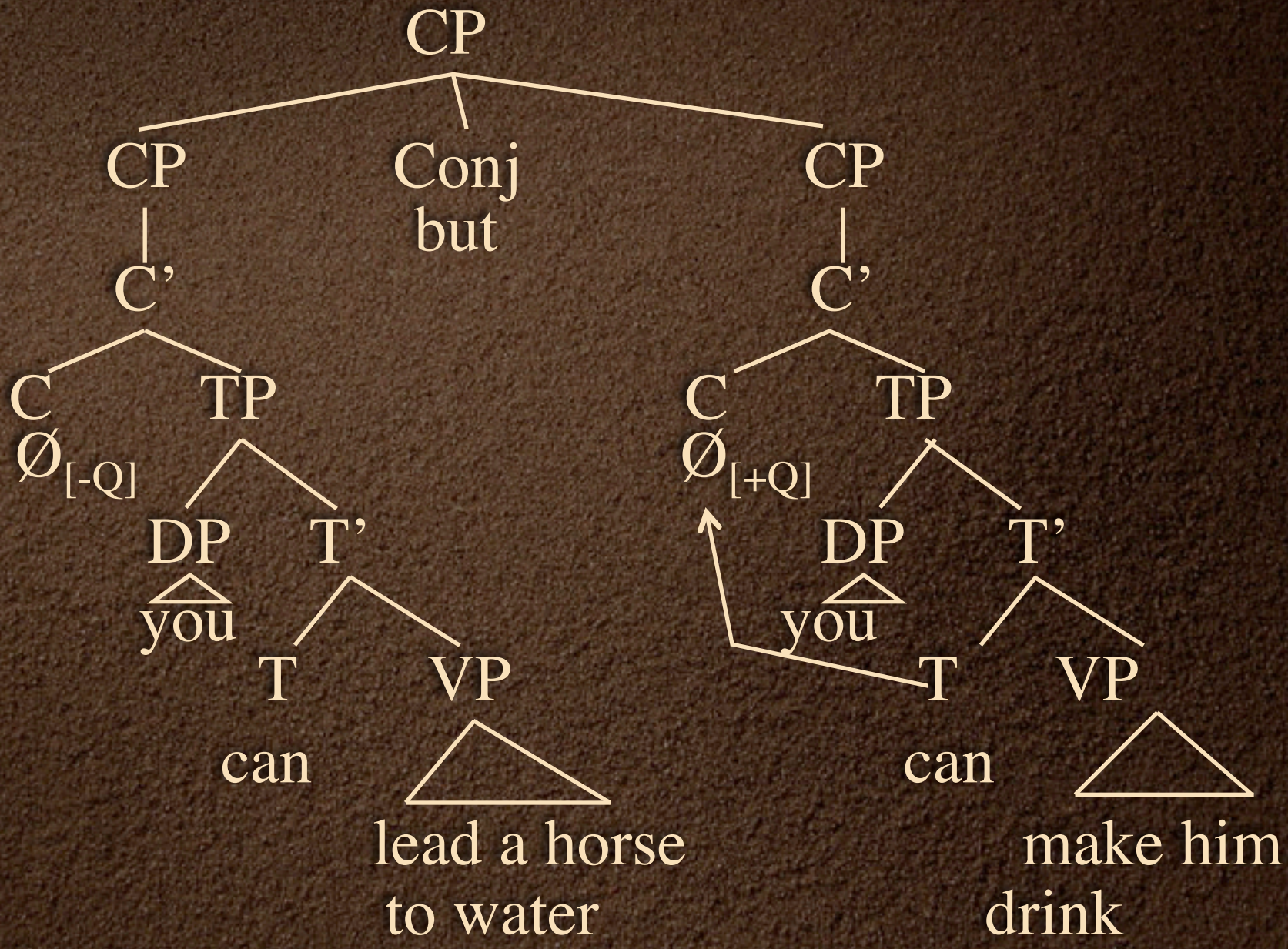
- English has a [+Q] C found in embedded clauses: (if)
  - I wonder if Louise likes rubber duckies
- SAI disallowed with if:
    - *I wonder if has Louise owned a rubber ducky.
    - I wonder if Louise has owned a rubber ducky.
- This means that SAI is a diagnostic for the presence of C in English!

Conclusion of discussion so far

- Root questions in English contain a phonologically null [+Q] complementizer.
- T raises to this [+Q] to give it phonological content.

Evidence that non-questions have null C?

- Recall that conjunction only links together items of the same category. If questions have a null C (indicated by subject/aux inversion), then anything they are conjoined with must ALSO have a C.
  - You can lead a horse to water but can *you* make him drink?
- Second clause has a null C (indicated by subject/aux; therefore, first clause must also have a null C.



since there must be a CP in the second clause, for SAI, then there must ALSO be a CP in the first clause. Therefore all

Specifiers!

The notion of subject

Specifier = Subject

- By creating DP, we got rid of our only example of a specifier.
- So do we need the notion specifier?
- Yes: we are going to use it for subjects

Specifier = Subject

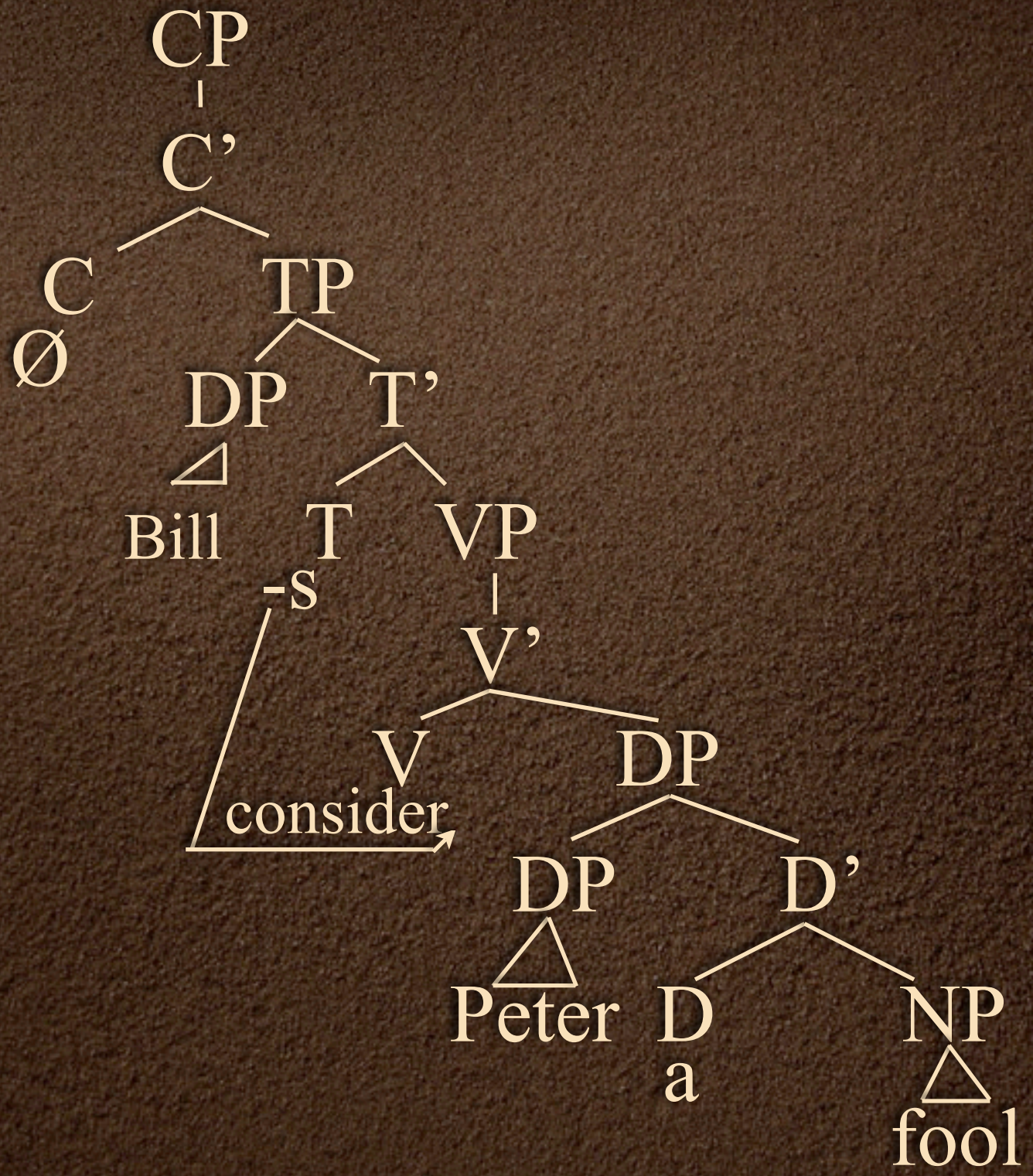
- We've already seen two examples of subjects being in specifiers:
  - The subject of a clause is in the specifier of TP
  - The possessor of an 's genitive is in the spec of DP.
- Are there other examples?

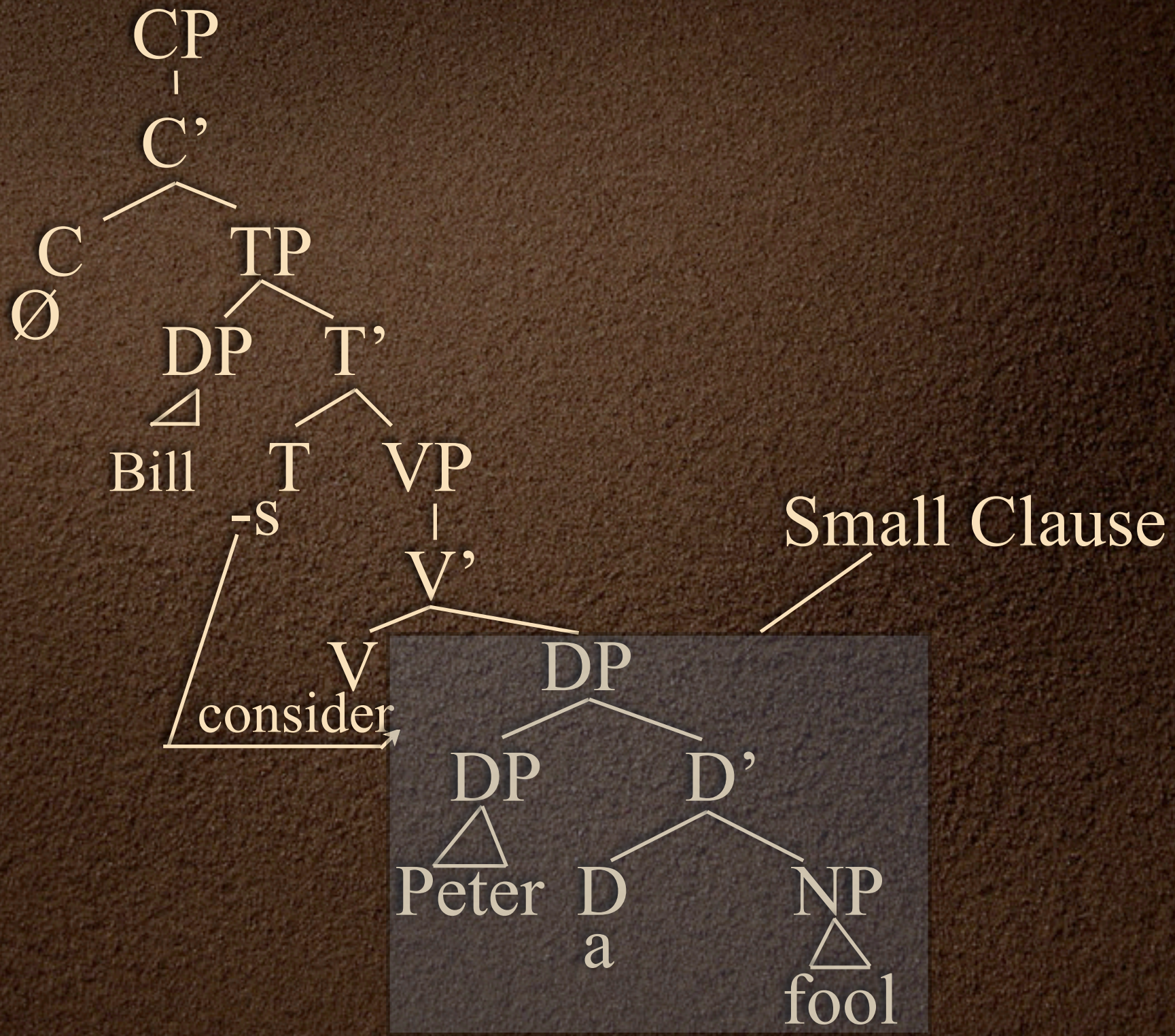
Small Clauses

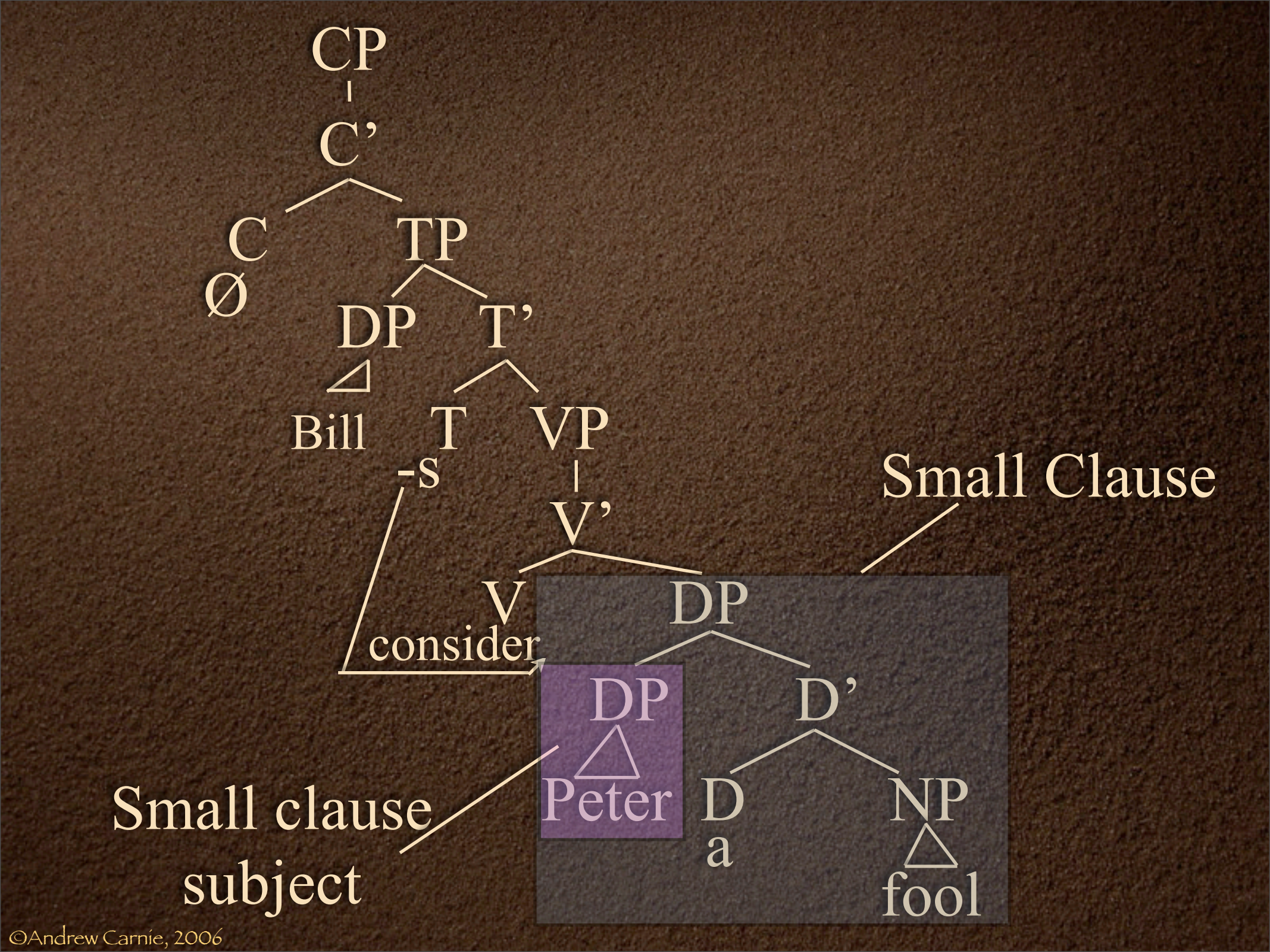
- I consider [Peter a fool]
- I consider [Peter foolish]
- I want [Peter in the play]

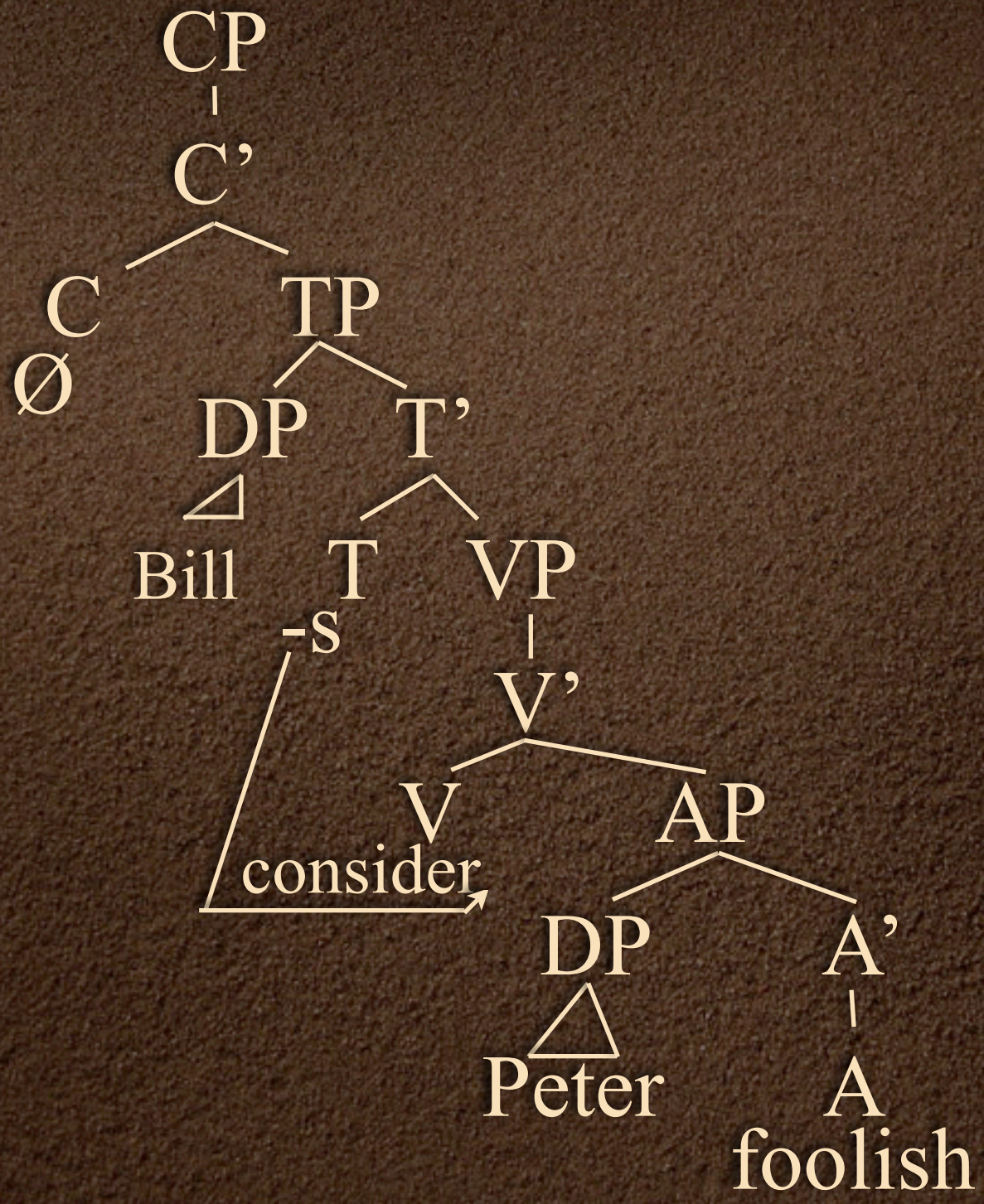
Small Clauses

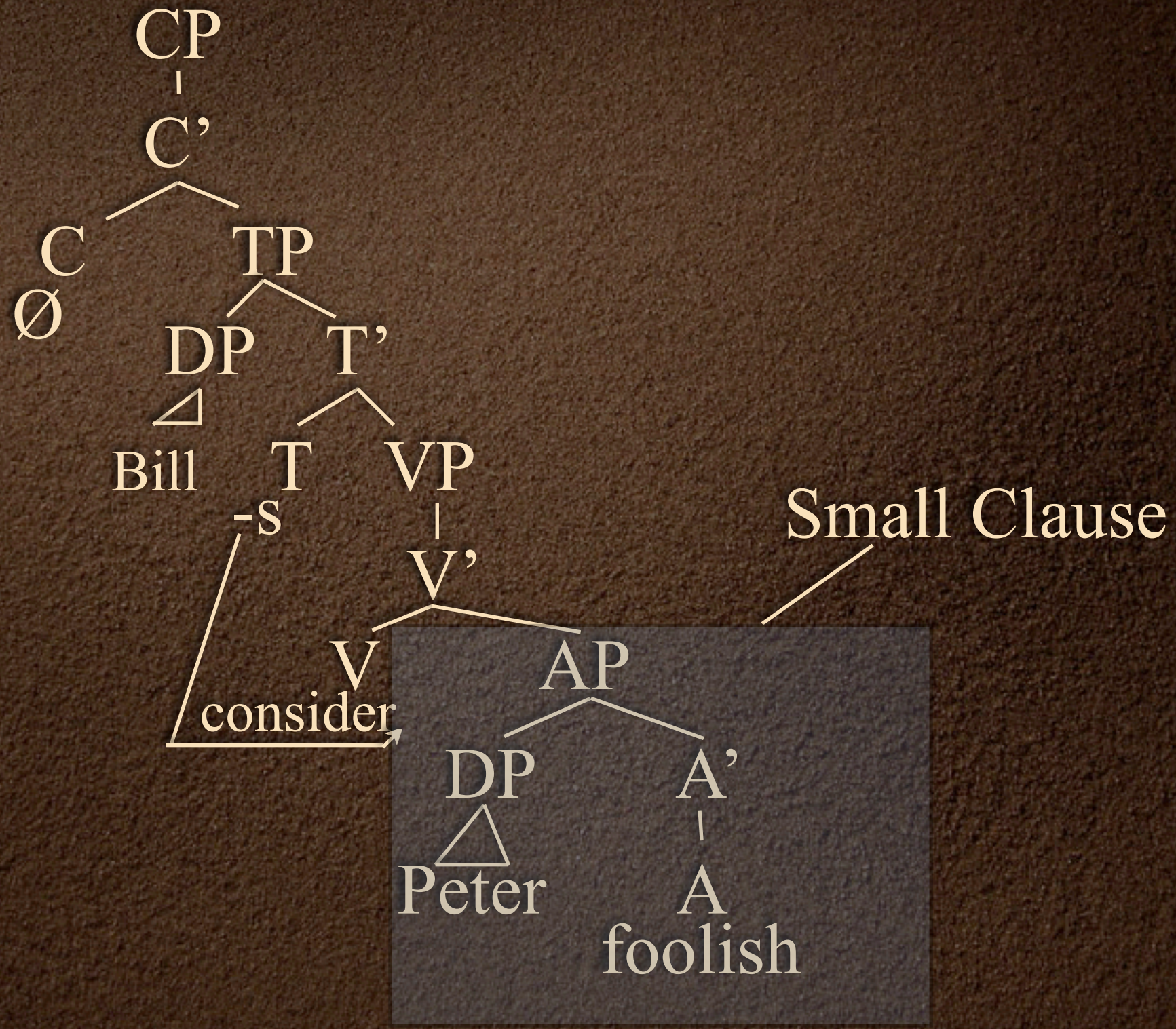
- Small clauses are characterized by having no verbal inflection (in fact they aren't verbs), so they have no TP and no CP.
- If there is no TP, where does the subject of the small clause go? In the specifier of the predicate!

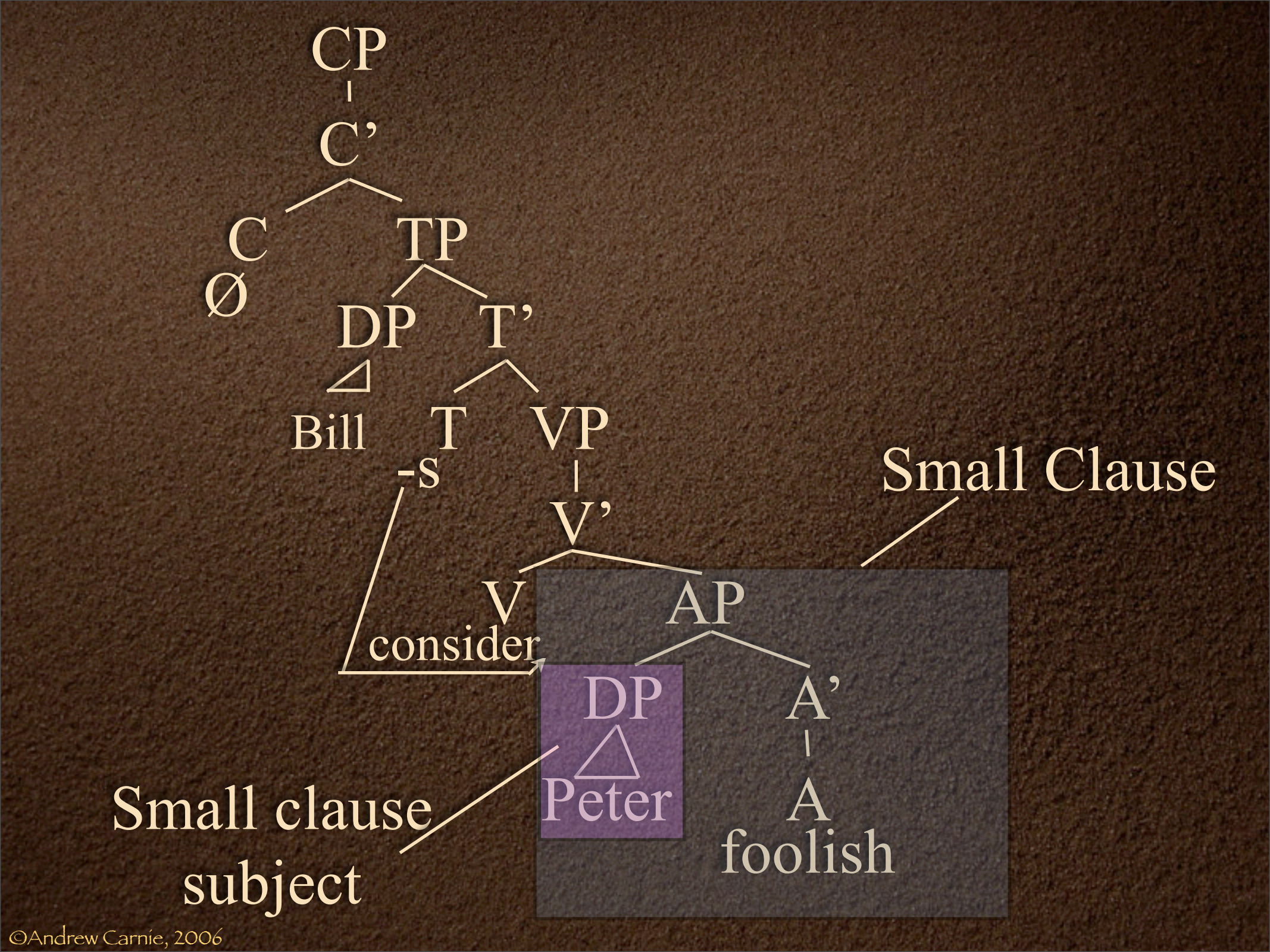


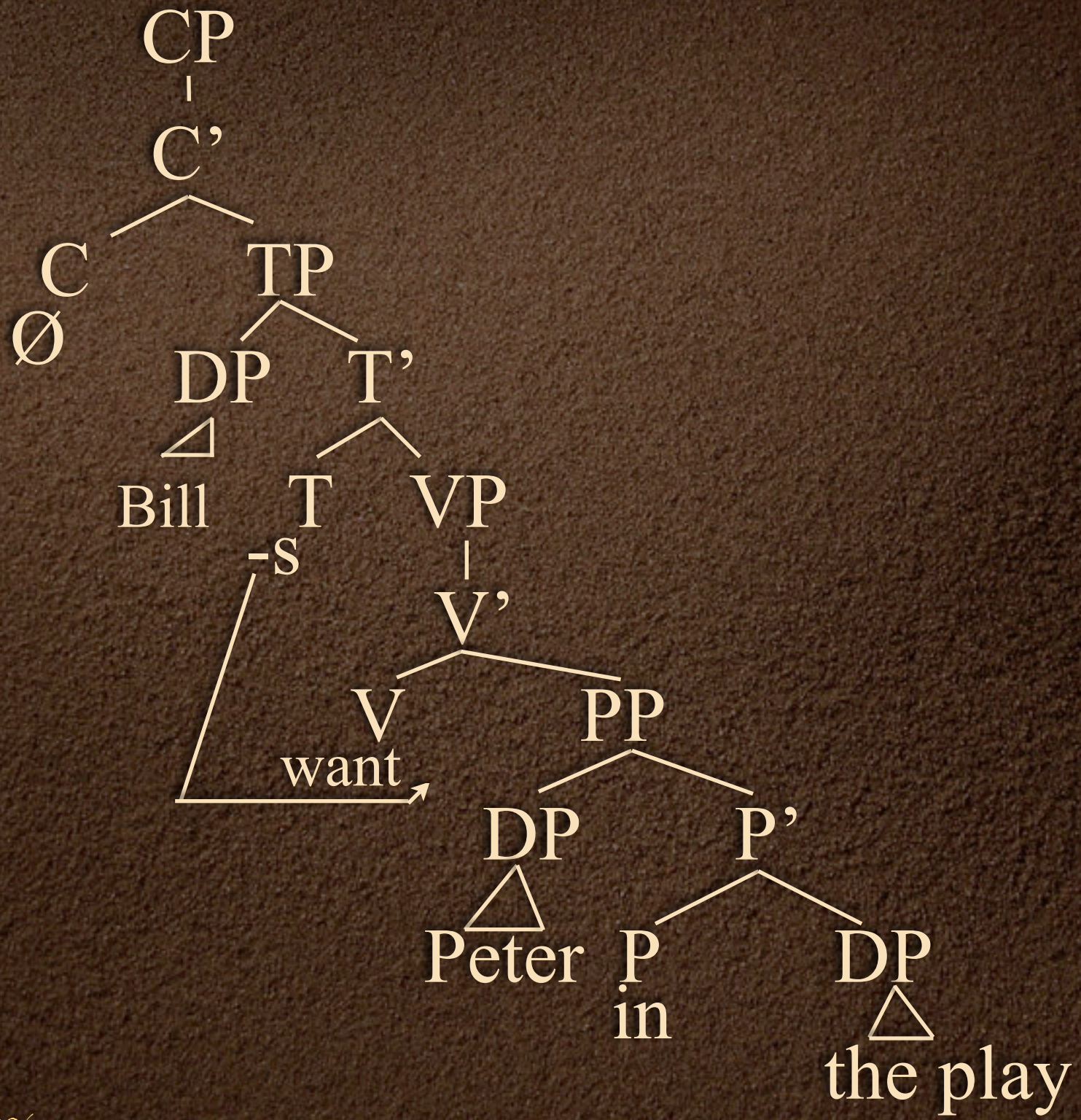


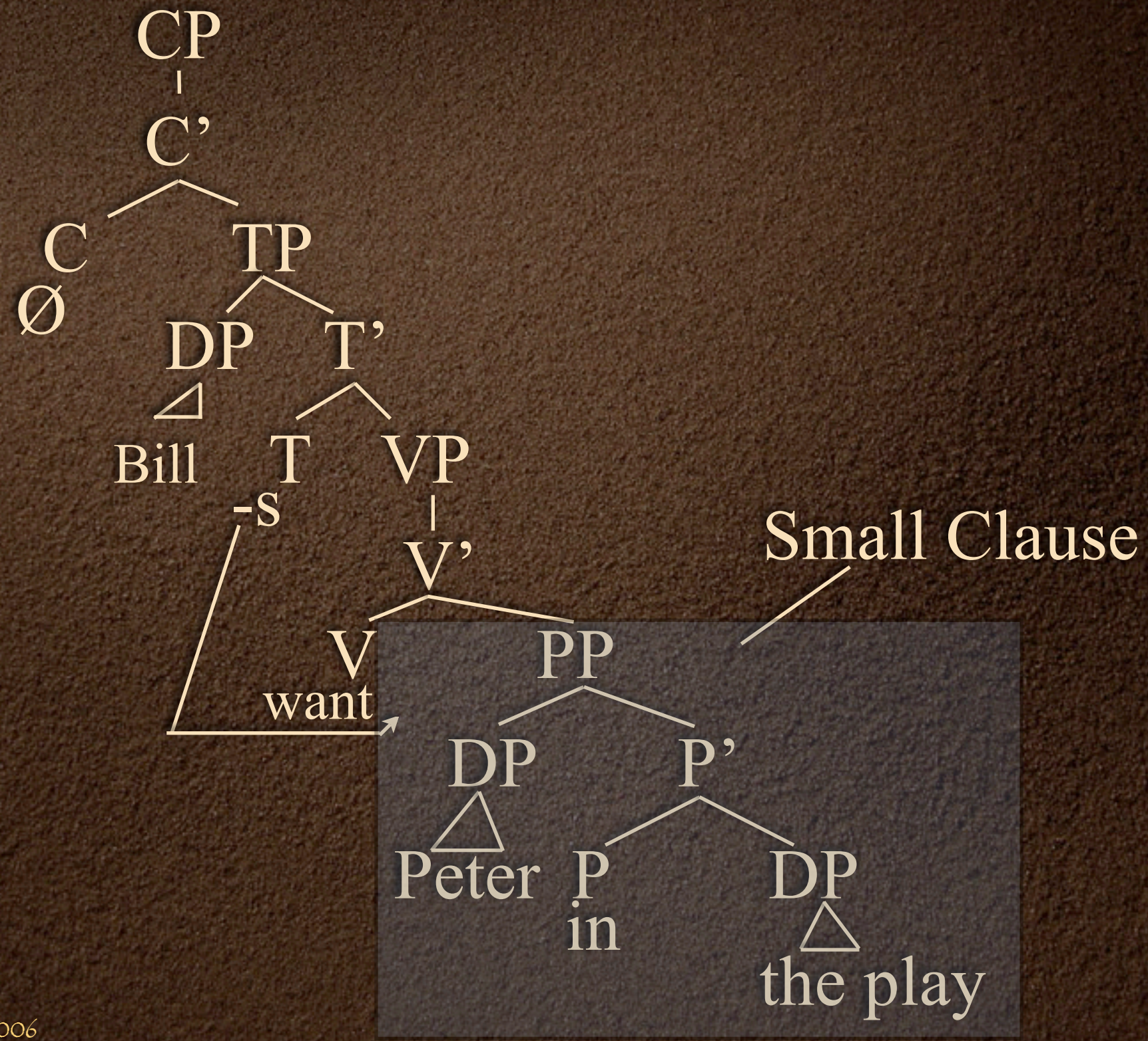


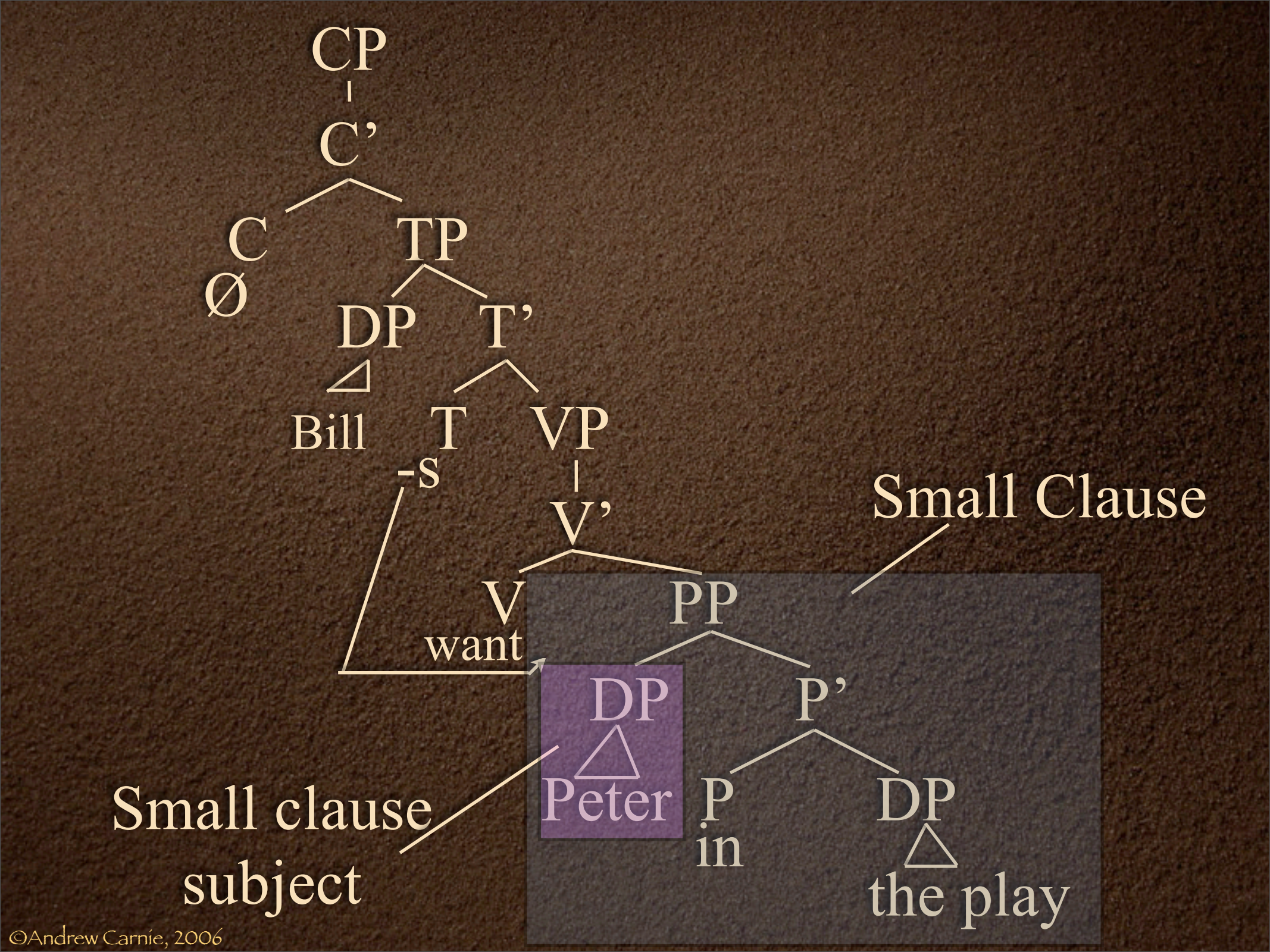












Summary

- D isn't a specifier -- it is a head. Evidence from 's genitives. DP hypothesis
- The head of the sentence is T. The sentence type is determined by the finiteness of T
- The subject is the the spec of TP
- All sentences have TP, when T is suffixal it lowers to the verb

Summary

- All clauses have a C head. It may be null. Evidence comes from subject/aux inversion in yes/no questions.

Summary

- Specifiers are now limited to subjects (of any category)
- Small clauses are clauses without inflection, and ones without a verbal predicate
- The subject of small clauses resides in the specifier of the predicate's phrase.