

Ch.5: Syntax

- **Syntax:** is the component of grammar that deals with how words and phrases are combined into larger phrases.
- **Linguistic expressions:** a piece of language that has a certain form, meaning and syntactic properties.
- **syntactic properties:** determine how we combine lexical expressions to form sentences.

2 kinds of syntactic properties:

1. **word order:** the linear order of words in phrasal expressions or sentences.

English is an S-V-O language (subject-verb-object)

exception: (oh apples, I like) O-S-V

1. **co-occurrence:** must be considered to determine syntactic well-formedness.

3 components of co-occurrence

1. **arguments:**

a linguistic expression that must occur in a sentence as a result of another expression.

ex; Sally devoured an apple

2. **adjuncts = modifiers :**

a linguistic expression whose occurrence in a sentence is optional

3. **agreements:**

a certain expression being inflectionally marked for the same gender, number or person

ex; I, you, they, this, these

- **Syntactic constituent:** a certain group of expressions within a larger phrase.

The best way to determine whether it's a constituent or not is:

1. **constructing a question**

ex; the cat was sleeping on the desk
where was the cat sleeping?
on the desk

2. Clefting

ex: it was the cat that was sleeping on the desk

3. Substitution:

ex; she was sleeping on the desk

- **syntactic distribution:**

1. the cat ran to the fence

2. the girl ate candy while in the cinema

cat & girl have the same syntactic distribution.

fence & cinema have the same syntactic distribution.

Phrase structuring rules:

Determiner محدد

Adjective صفة

Noun اسم

Verb فعل

preposition جر

adverb ly

the cat chased the mouse.

the cat / chased the mouse

NP (noun phrase) / VP (verb phrase)

S → NP + VP

NP → DET + ADJ + N

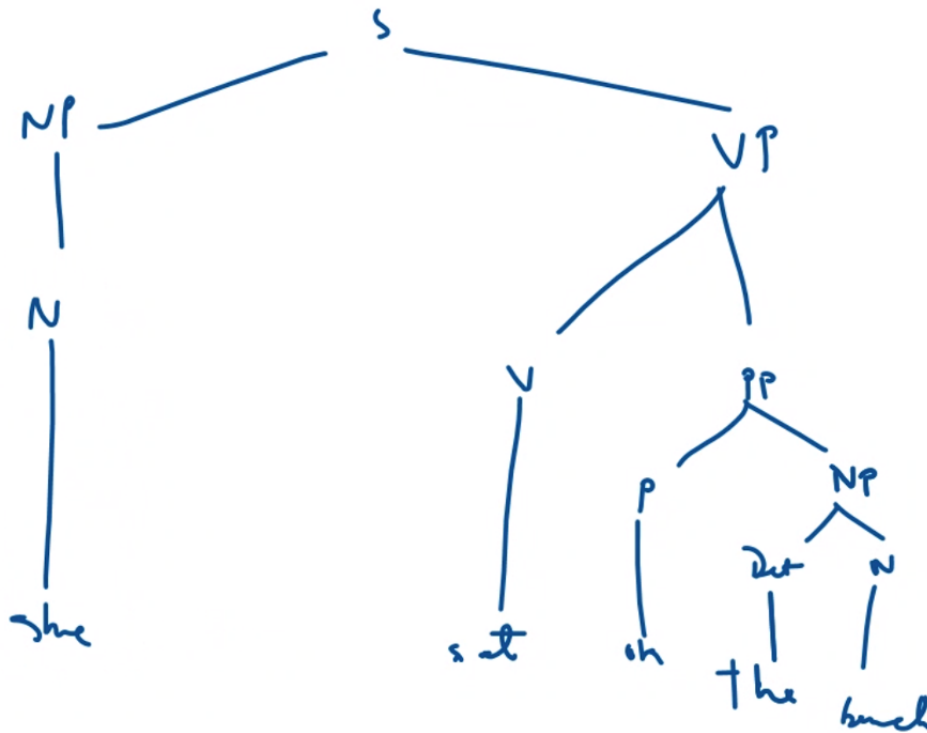
VP → V + ADV + PP + NP

PP → P + NP

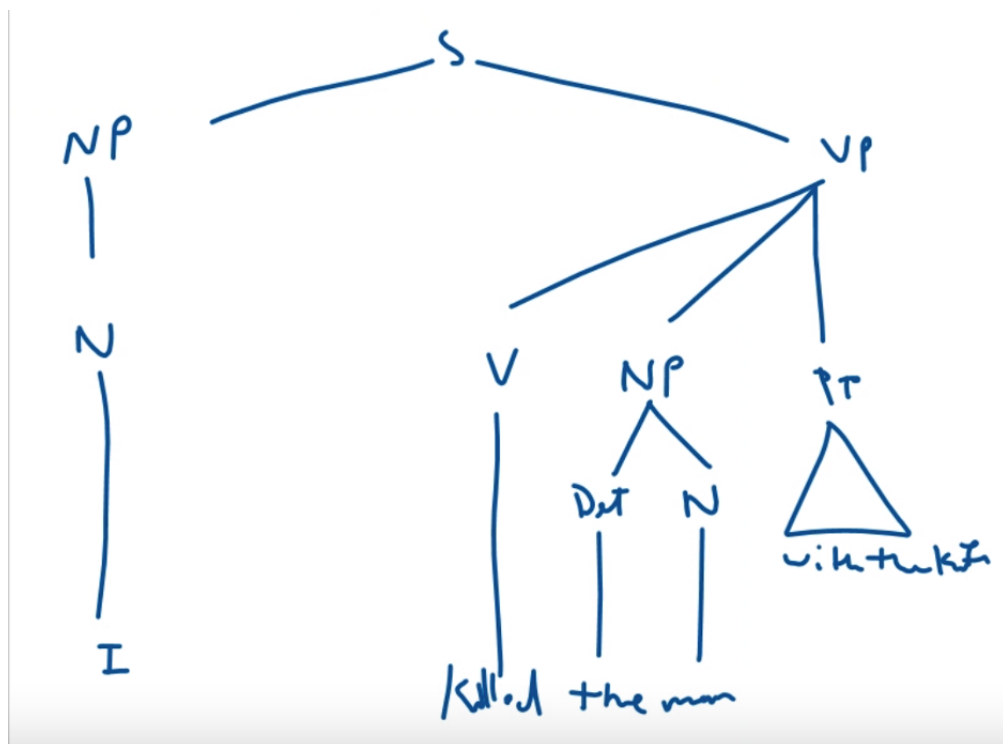
NP = he, she, you, it, me + proper nouns
VP = Verb + a compliment

Phrase structuring trees:

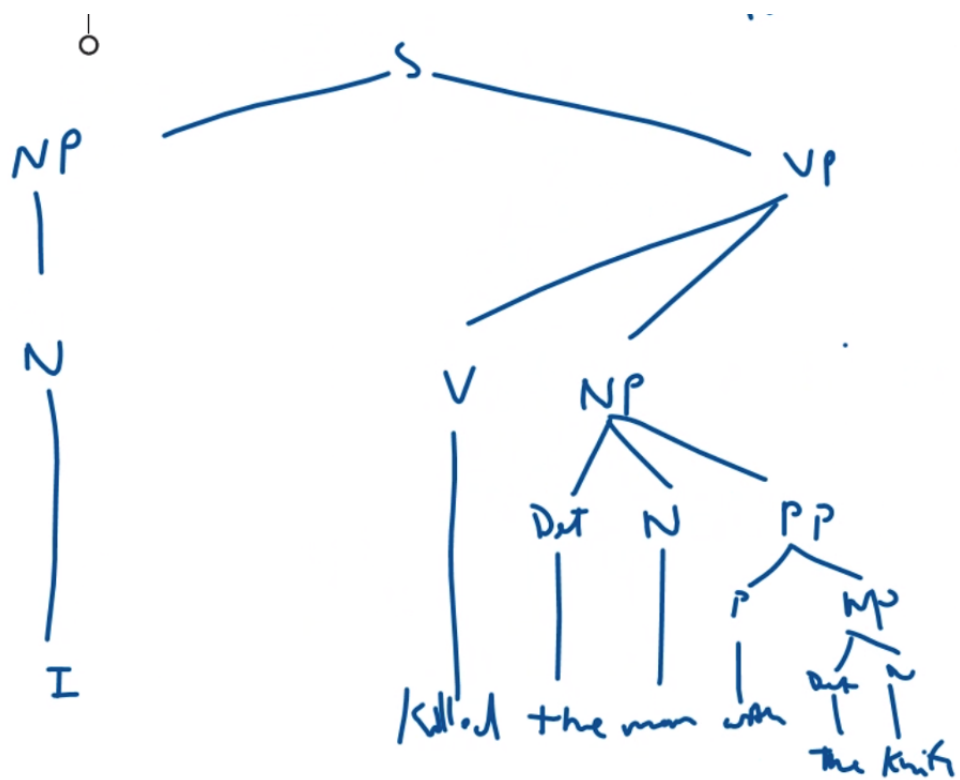
she / sat on the bench



I / killed the man with the knife



I / killed the man with the knife



the fluffy cat / slept

