

CAS LX 522 *Syntax I*
Week 10a: Notes on DPs

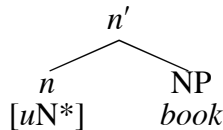
These are a couple of things about DPs that were discussed. Mainly, I'm providing the tree for *his book's cover fell*, as requested.

Recursion

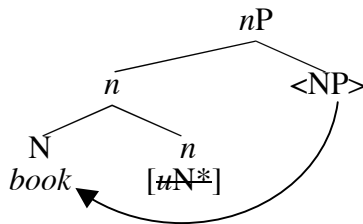
The interest here is particularly in the recursive nature of the DP. So, let me first start small. *His book*.

First, *book* is an N. It has no needs, we're done with N as soon as we take it off the workbench. The HoP says next up is *n*. We take *n* off the workbench and Merge it with N. The features of *n* project, so the whole thing is now a *n*-type thing. Perhaps strictly speaking it is an *n'* at this point, since *n* does still have needs: it needs a local N (that is, it has a $[uN^*]$ feature).

Step 1

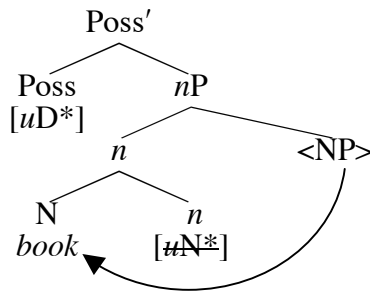


Step 2

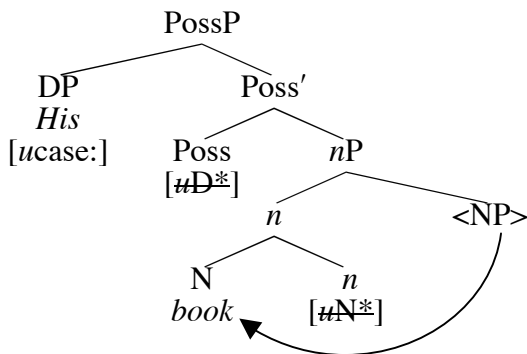


Right. Now, on to *his*. *His* is a possessor, and in order to be interpreted as a possessor, it has to enter the tree in the specifier of PossP. The fact that we have a possessor also has resulted in there being a Poss lying around on the workbench. So, we pick it up, Merge it with our nP (as the HoP indicates we should), then satisfy its need by Merging the resulting Poss' with *his*.

Step 3



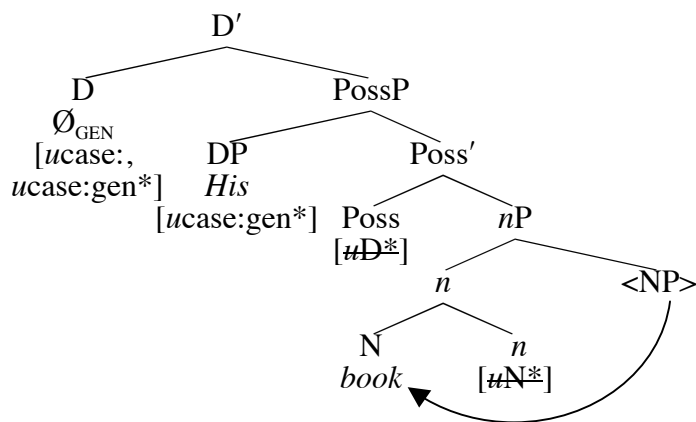
Step 4



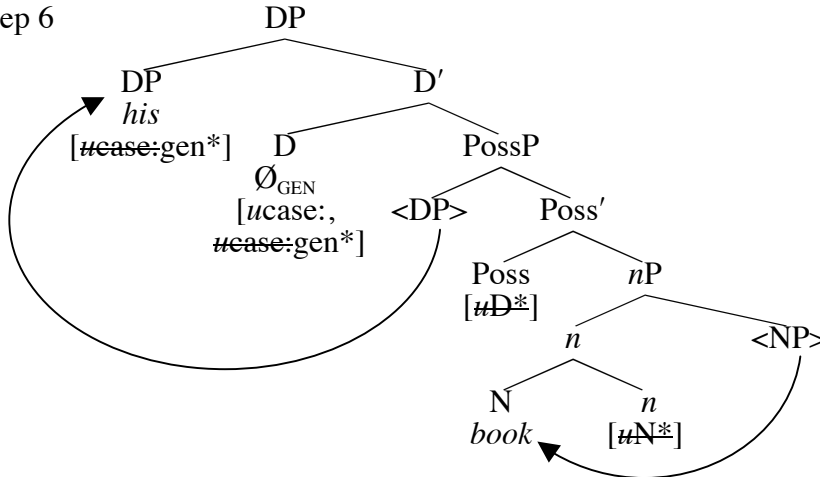
Like any DP, *his* needs to be assigned case—we'll get to that. Left on the workbench, we have (at least) a D of the \emptyset_{GEN} variety. This D (being a D) has a [ucase:] feature (because all Ds do), but it also has a [ucase:gen*] feature, because it assigns case. So it needs case, and it assigns case.

The HoP tells us that next up, now that the PossP is finished, is D. So we pick up that D from the workbench and Merge it. Shazam, the [ucase:gen*] feature of \emptyset_{GEN} can see the [ucase:] feature of *his* now, and so the [ucase:] feature of *his* is valued as genitive (but strong—so it is not checked yet, it needs to move to become a sister of a projection of \emptyset_{GEN}). To check the [ucase:gen*] feature, the DP *his* is moved (copied and Merged again) to D', becoming the specifier of DP.

Step 5



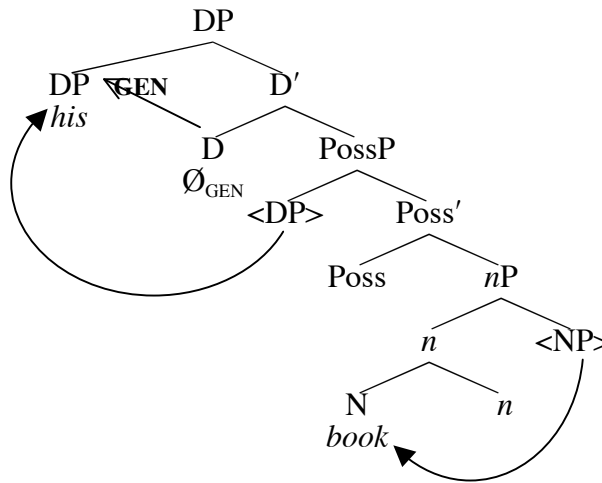
Step 6



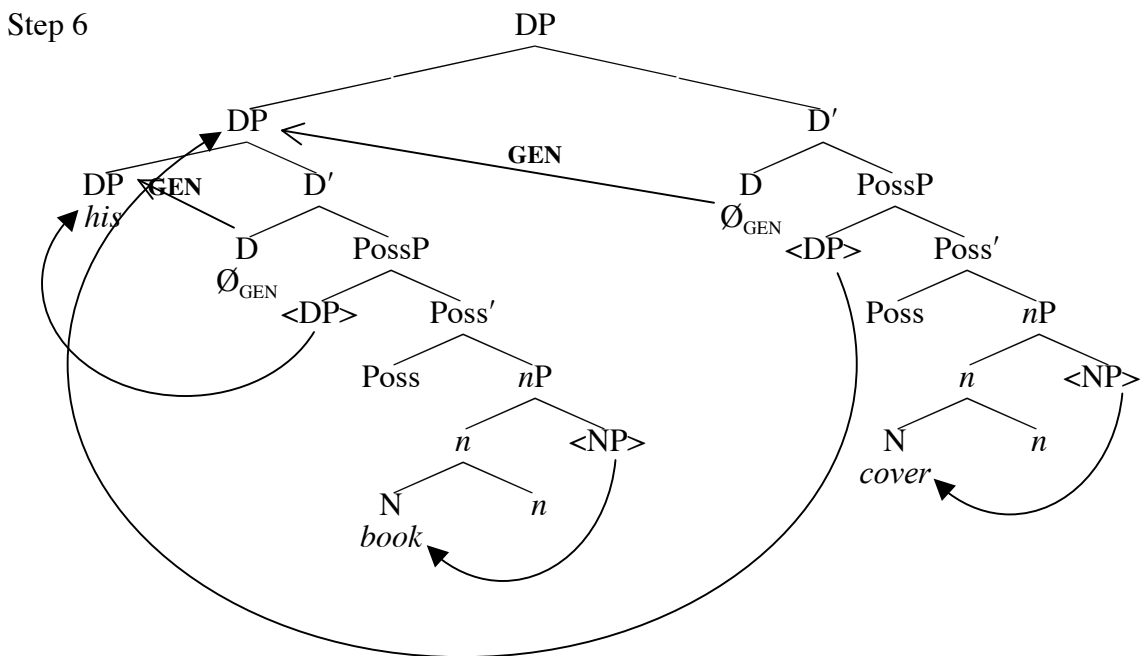
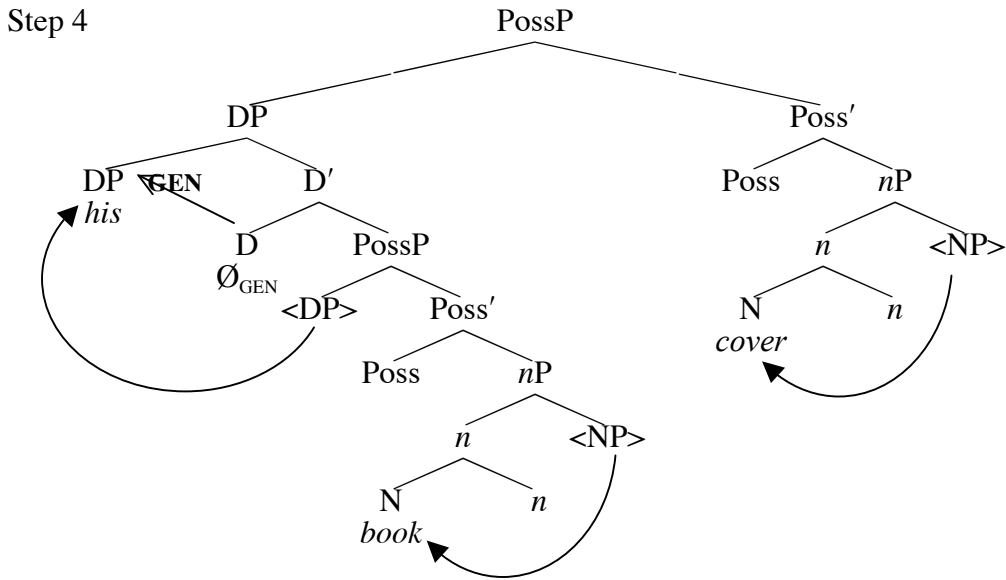
At this point, we have a DP, *his book*. It is a DP and nothing else has happened to it, so it still needs case itself—which it can get by being a subject (*his book fell*) or an object (*I burned his book*), etc.

The simpler rendition of *his book*, if you aren't drawing and checking features, but are drawing case-assignment arrows (like on homework 7) is this:

Step 6'

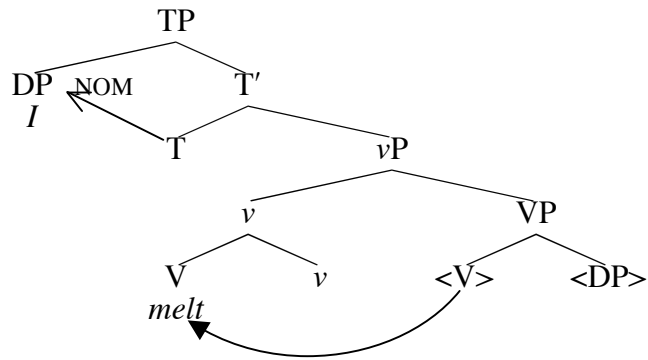


Right, ok. Now, *his book's cover*. Basically the same thing, we're going to build the DP *X's cover*, except instead of *his* for X, we'll have *his book* for X.



Right. So, again, we have a DP: *his book's cover*. The whole thing still needs a case feature, which it can get by putting it into a sentence. Suppose we make it the argument of the (unaccusative) verb *melt*, where it will travel to the specifier of TP and get nominative case from T.

The main clause is nothing fancier than *I melted*. Here's *I melted*, and then I'll substitute in *his book's cover* from above to get *his book's cover melted*.



And, then, *his book's cover melted*:

