

University of Sienna  
8<sup>th</sup> of May 2007

## **Elements of Comparative Generative Syntax: A Cartographic Approach**

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### **I. Introduction**

Two issues to deal with the structures of CP and DP and the transformations that apply therein

1. Adverb syntax (clause)
2. Adjective syntax (noun phrase)

What can these two lexical classes tell us about the structure of the clause and the noun phrase?

#### **Working hypotheses :**

1. Adverbs have fixed positions in the Mittelfeld of the clause
2. Attributive adjectives have fixed positions in the Mittelfeld of the noun phrase

⇒ Adverbs and adjectives can move only to the left-periphery of CP and DP, respectively

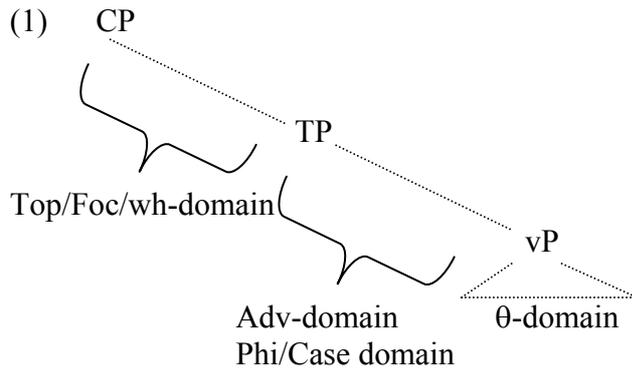
- **Crosslinguistic (comparative study) on 14 languages**

### **II. Phrase structure and clausal/nominal structure**

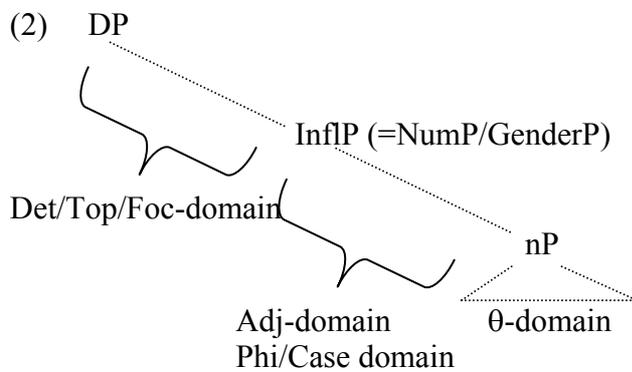
- 3 domains (Grohmann 2003)

Clause	Noun phrase	
(i) vP/VP	nP/NP	= $\theta$ -domain (Nachfeld)
(ii) IP/TP	NumP	= $\phi$ -domain (Mittelfeld)
(iii)CP	DP	= $\omega$ -domain (Vorfeld)

- Chomsky's (2000) core functional complex for the clause:

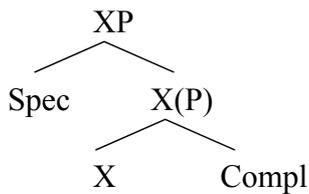


- For the noun phrase



- Kayne's (1994) antisymmetry theory

(3) Spec-head-Compl configuration



≠ Strong Minimalism (no multiple specifiers, no free/multiple adjunction)

The category that projects is the one that selects. There are two types of selection:

- C-selection => Categorical selection
- S-selection =>  $\theta$  + adjunct selection

LCA : universal Spec-head-Compl order (SVO)



## IV. Partition of the clause and of the noun phrase

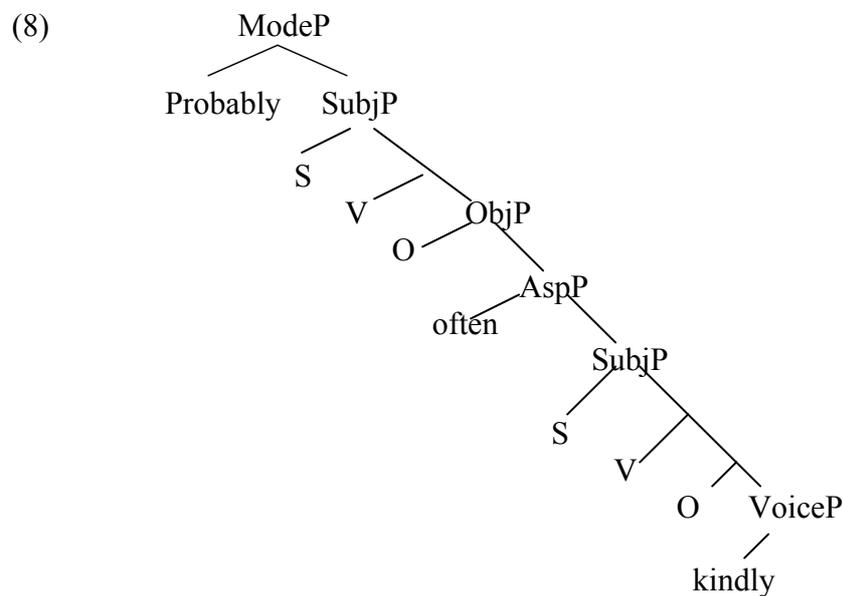
- **Parallel structure**

- (7) a. [DP ... [DP [FPadj1 ... [FPadj2 ... [nP ... [NP .. ]]]] ] ] ]  
 b. [CP ... [CP [FPadv1 ... [FPadv2 ... [vP ... [VP .. ]]]] ] ] ]

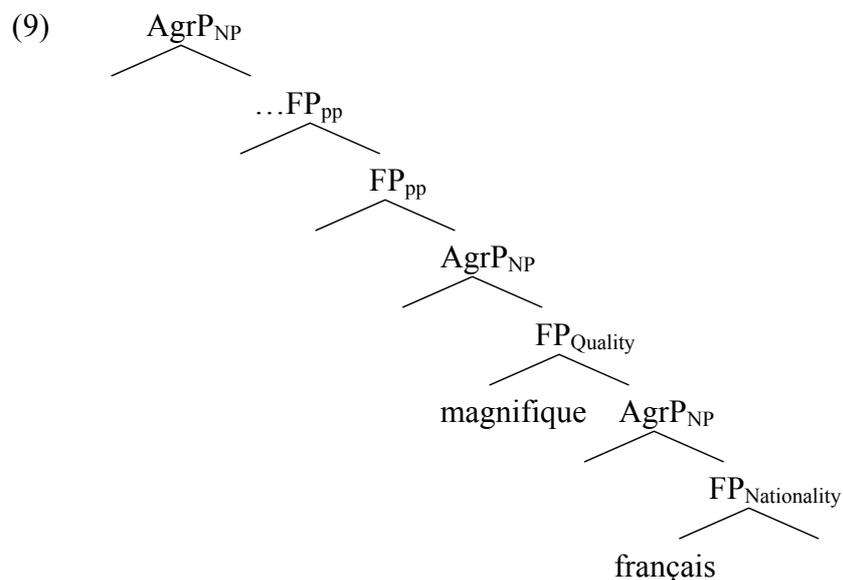
- **The Mittelfeld**

The Mittelfeld of the clause: Adv<sub>1</sub> > S / V / O > Adv<sub>2</sub> > S / V / O > Adv<sub>3</sub> (see Cinque 1999)

Hypothesis: there are V/N-related and Case related positions among adjunct-related projections !

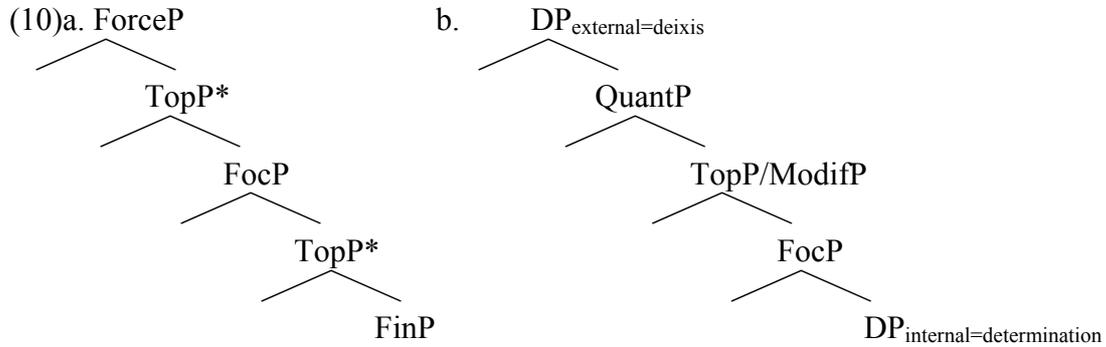


The noun phrase: Case/P-positions > AgrP<sub>NP</sub> > Adj<sub>1</sub> > AgrP<sub>NP</sub> > Adj<sub>2</sub>



- **The Vorfeld**

Rizzi's (1997) layered CP and Laenzlinger(2005)/Puskas & Ihsane (2001) layered DP



## V. Parallel transformation

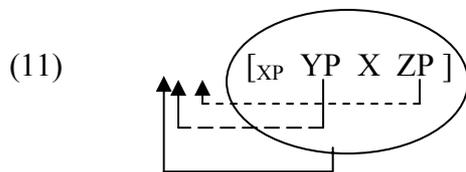
- Verb raising

- VP-movement (Majahan 2000, Koopman & Szabolcsi 2000, Laenzlinger 2004)

- Noun raising

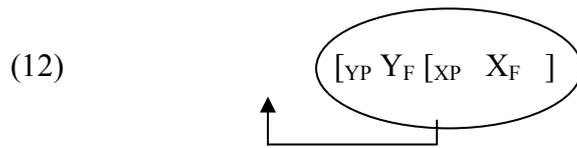
- NP-movement (Aboh 2004, Laenzlinger 2005, Shlonsky 2005, Cinque 2005)

- Remnant movement:



- Generalized raising/scrambling: remnant VP movement entails argument (DP) movement (subject raising, object raising, PP-merging (Kayne 2002))

- (Heavy) pied-piping movement<sup>1</sup> (Koopman & Szabolcsi 2000)



=> the mirror-image order of postnominal adjectives/adverbs (see also Cinque 2005, Shlonsky 2006 for further arguments)

- (13) a. une[[ [NP **destruction**] [VoiceP **violente**]] [TP récente ] ]  
 vs. a recent violent destruction  
 b. une [[[NP **voiture**] [ColorP **rouge**]] [QualP splendide ] ]  
 vs. a splendid red car

- (14) Les américains ont [ [VP **envahi**] [DP l'Irak] [VoiceP **violemment**]] [TP récemment ] ]  
 The American invaded Irak violently recently'

## A. The clause

Generalized scrambling:

- Subject => Nom/Agr-related position + IS-feature (i.e. focus new info= Spec-SubjP/AgrsP)
- Object => Acc-related position +/-informational feature (Spec-ObjP/AgrOP)

- (15) a. ...parce que Jean lisait probablement ce livre tranquillement  
 b. ...because John probably read this book quietly  
 c. ...weil Hans wahrscheinlich dieses Buch ruhig las.

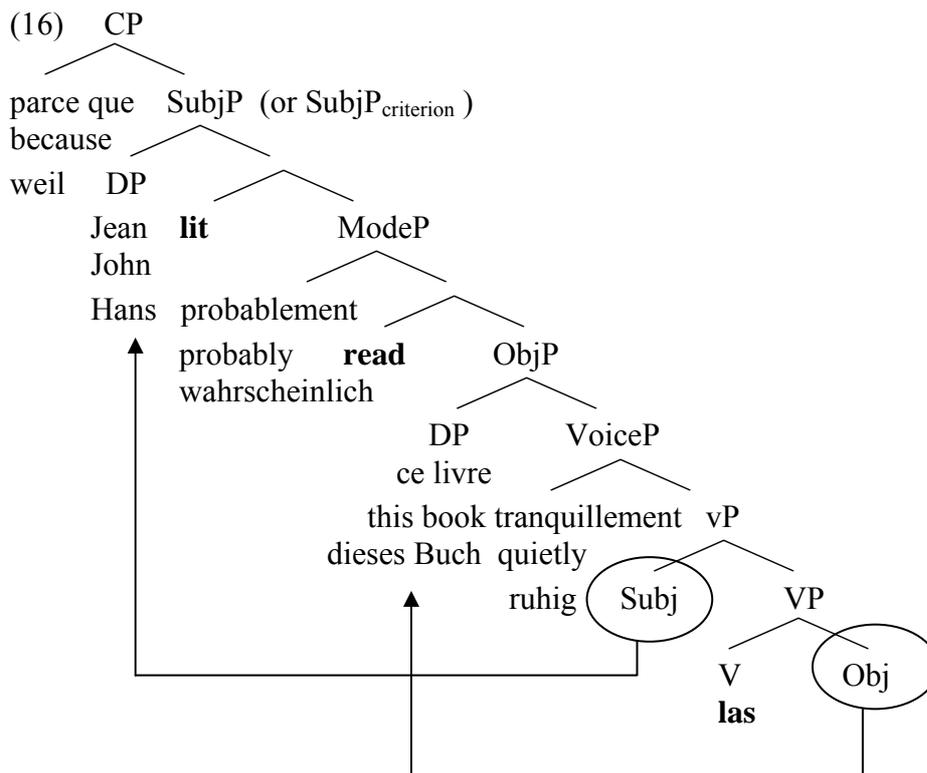
<sup>1</sup> Feature Inheritance Hypothesis (Pearson 2000:339)

a. A functional projection FP is *categorically non-distinct* from a lexical head L iff it has a lexical feature from L.

b. A functional projection FP inherits a feature  $\phi$  from a lexical L iff:

(i) An X<sup>o</sup>-projection containing  $\phi$  adjoins to F<sup>o</sup>, or

An XP-projection containing  $\phi$  enters into a Spec-Head configuration with F<sup>o</sup>.



- Common properties:
  - SVO
  - Generalized scrambling
  - Adverbs have fixed position (even sentence-finally)
- Distinctive properties:
  - Verbs move high in French, lower in English and does not move in German (except in V2, see (8c))
  - Optional objet scrambling in French and English

- (17)a. [<sub>SubjP</sub> Jean lisait [<sub>VoiceP</sub> tranquillement ce livre]]  
 b. [<sub>SubjP</sub> John [<sub>VoiceP</sub> quietly read this book]]

Adverbs can move, but only to the left periphery:

- (18)a. [<sub>TopP/ModifP</sub> Tranquillement [<sub>SubjP</sub> Jean lisait ce livre]]  
 b. [<sub>TopP/ModifP</sub> Quietly [<sub>SubjP</sub> John read this book]]  
 c. [<sub>TopP/ModifP</sub> Ruhig las [<sub>SubjP</sub> Hans dieses Buch]] (+V2)

Subj / Obj : according to Minimalism case is parasitic on  $\phi$ , but according to Pesetsky & Torrego (2004), Nom is equated with Tense (and Acc with Aspect ? see Travis 1992, Borer 2005)

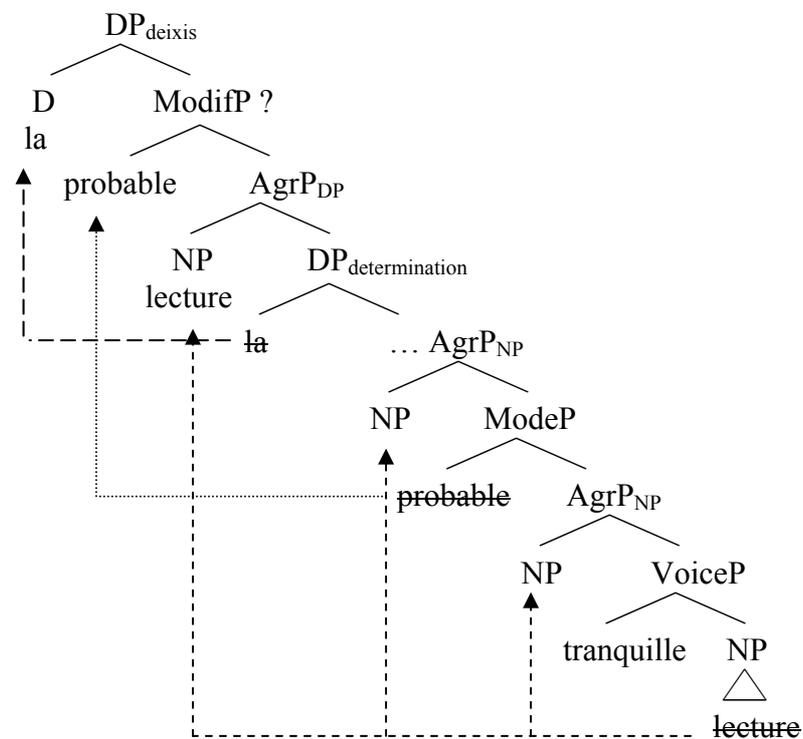
**Hypothesis :** there is no IS-projection within the Mittelfeld. TopP and FocP occur only in the peripheries (Rizzi 1997, Belletti 2001) contra McNay (2004). But there are IS-features in the Numeration on  $N_{\text{subject/object}}$ . These feature enter an Agree relation with peripheral Top/Foc.

## B. The noun phrase

- Split DP-analysis
- D to D raising
- NP-movement

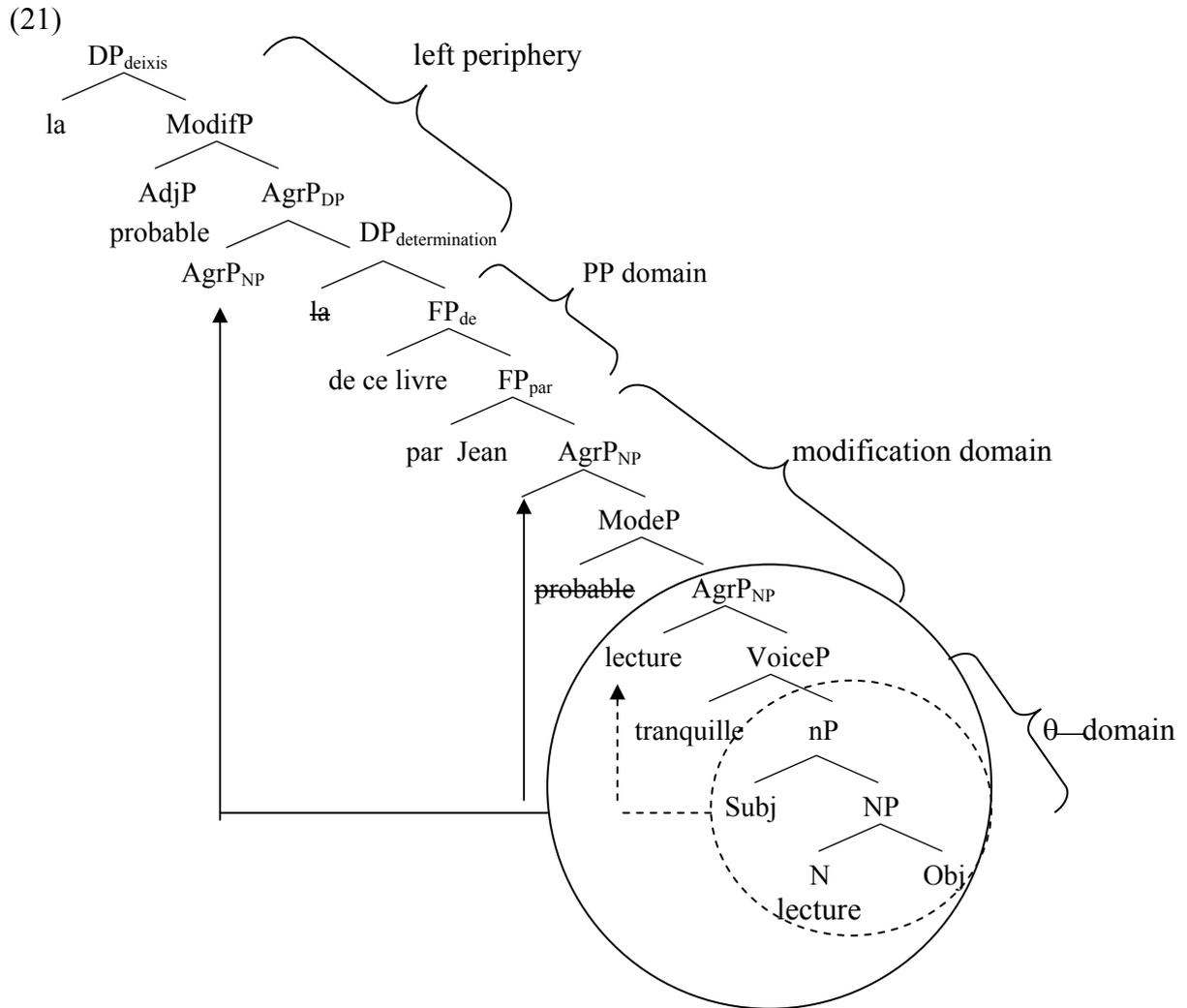
(19)a. la probable lecture tranquille de ce livre par Jean  
 b. John's probable quiet reading of this book

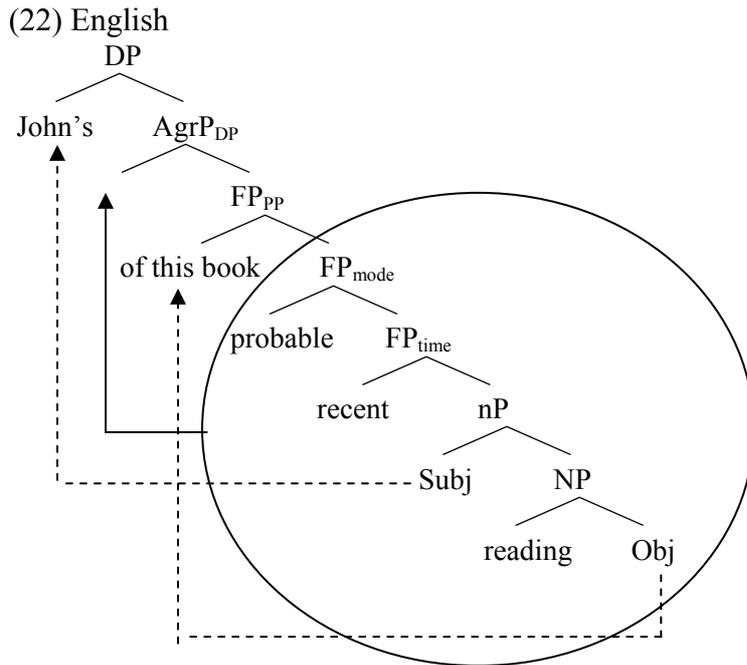
(20) French :



- Adjective fronting

- According to Kayne (2002) PPs are built outside the predicate domain (vP/nP) and, presumably, higher than the adjective domain (see head-final languages like Japanese, Turkish)





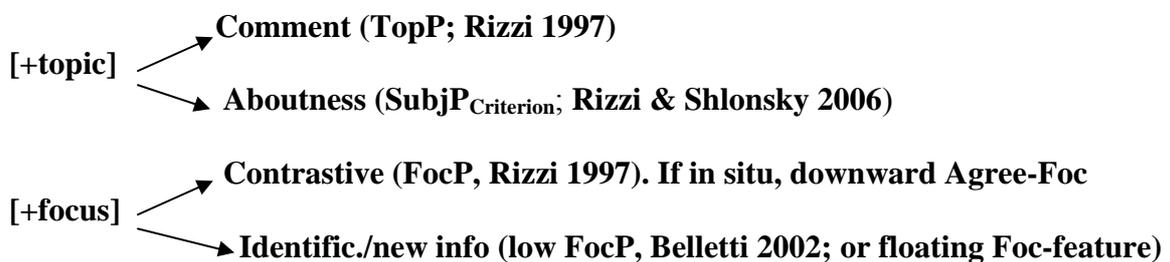
⇒ PPs are built in the highest part of the Mittelfeld

## VI. Syntax-Information Structure interface

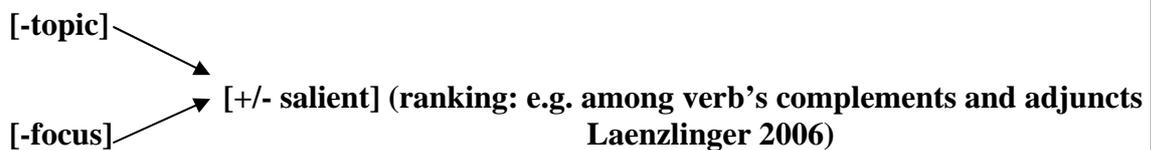
- **Assumption:** word order variations among adverbs, verb(s) and arguments cannot depend solely on Case/Agreement properties. They also depend on informational properties

⇒ **Syntax-Information Structure Interface**  
(Vallduví 1992, Choi 1999, Lambrecht 1994)

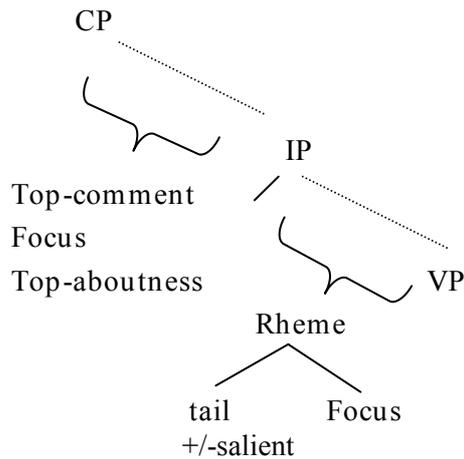
### Informational typology:



### Tail: (rhematic domain)



(23)



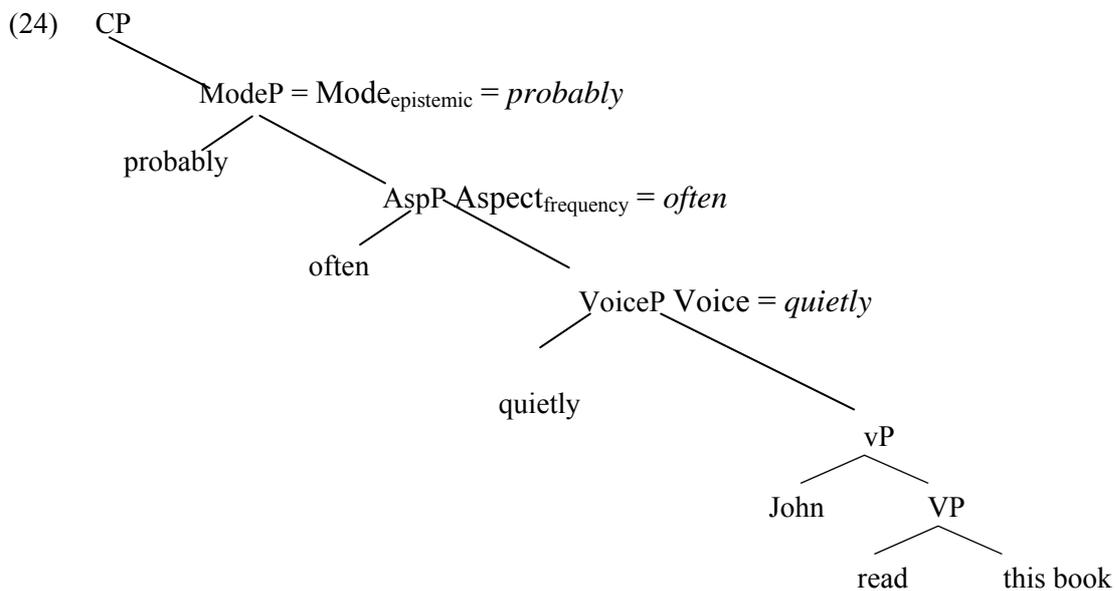
(24) Informational weight (salience/prominence)

$Foc_{contrastive} > Foc_{new\ info} > Top_{comment} > Top_{aboutness} > Info_{marked} > Info_{unmarked}$
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## VII. The comparative dimension: word order variations

### A. The clause

- SVO languages: English, French, Hebrew, Swedish
- VS(O) languages = inversion languages: Italian, Spanish, Romanian, Greek
- Scrambling languages – SOV: German, Tatar, Japanese
  - SVO: Russian, Serbian
- Hungarian



(i) S V O (O=DP object, V=simple tensed verb)

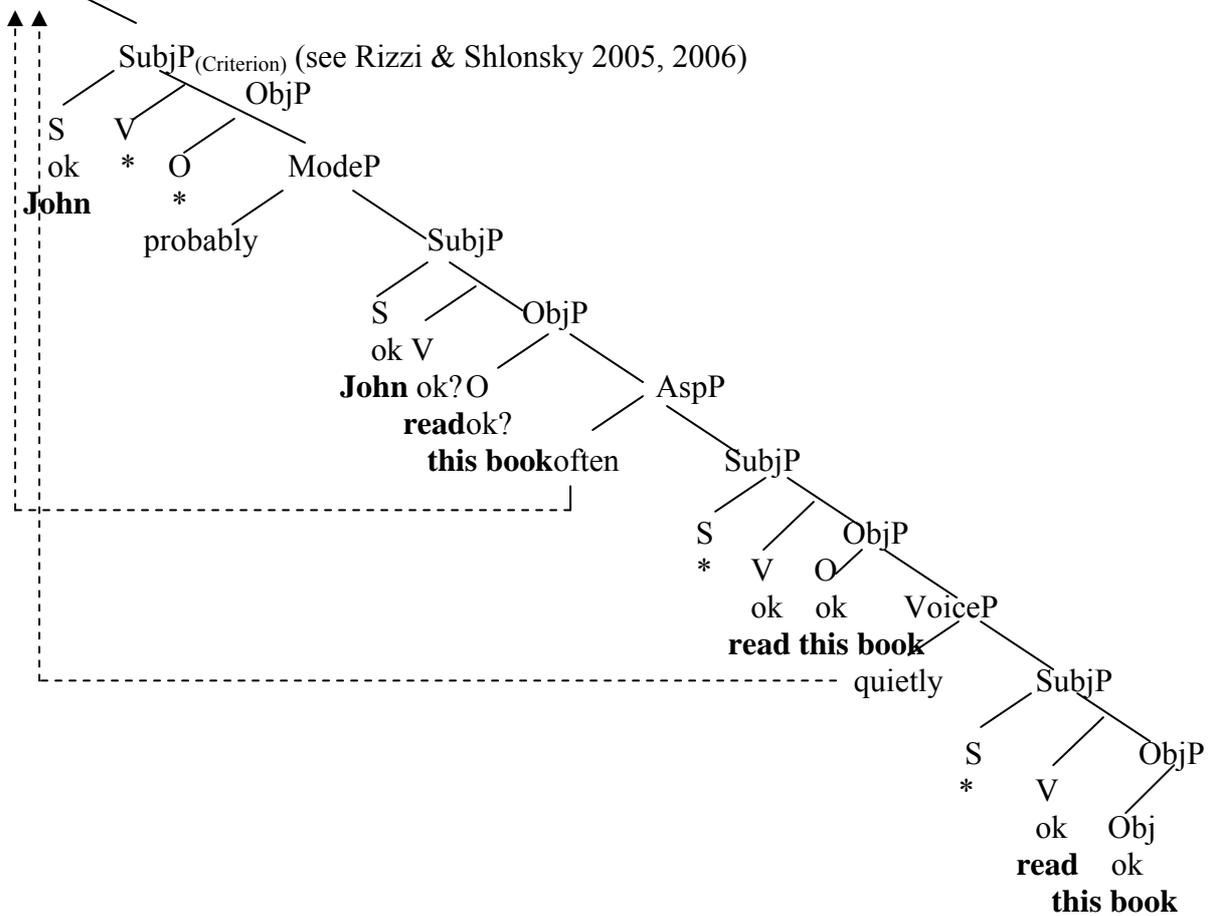
English:

(Adv <sub>1</sub> )	S	(Adv <sub>2</sub> )	V	(Adv <sub>3</sub> )	O	(Adv <sub>4</sub> )
{top, foc}	{foc-new info}	{mode, {+/-salient}}	*	{foc-new info}	{aspect, {+/-salient}}	{aspect, manner}
	{top-aboutness}	aspect,				
	{+/-salient}#	manner}				

# = +/- prominent (ranking) w.r.t adverbs

(25)

FocP/TopP/ModifP

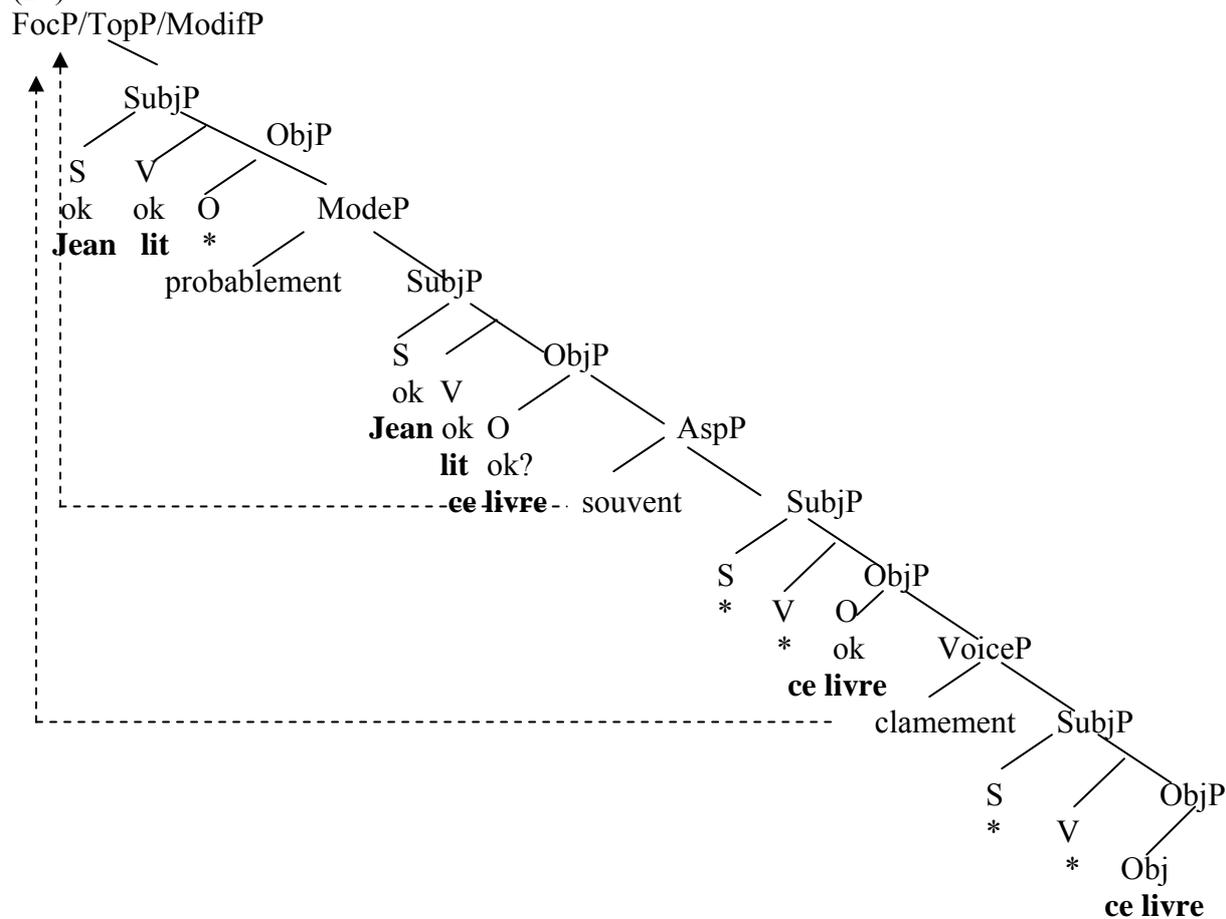


- (26) a. Probably/often/quietly John read this book.  
 b. John probably/often/quietly read this book.  
 c. \*John read probably/often/quietly this book.  
 d. John read this book \*probably/?often/quietly.

**French :**

(Adv <sub>1</sub> )	S	(Adv <sub>2</sub> )	V	(Adv <sub>3</sub> )	O	(Adv <sub>4</sub> )
{top, foc}	{foc-new info}	*	{+/- salient}	{mode, aspect, manner}	{foc-new info}	{aspect, manner}
	{top-aboutness}				{+/- salient}	
	{+/- salient}					

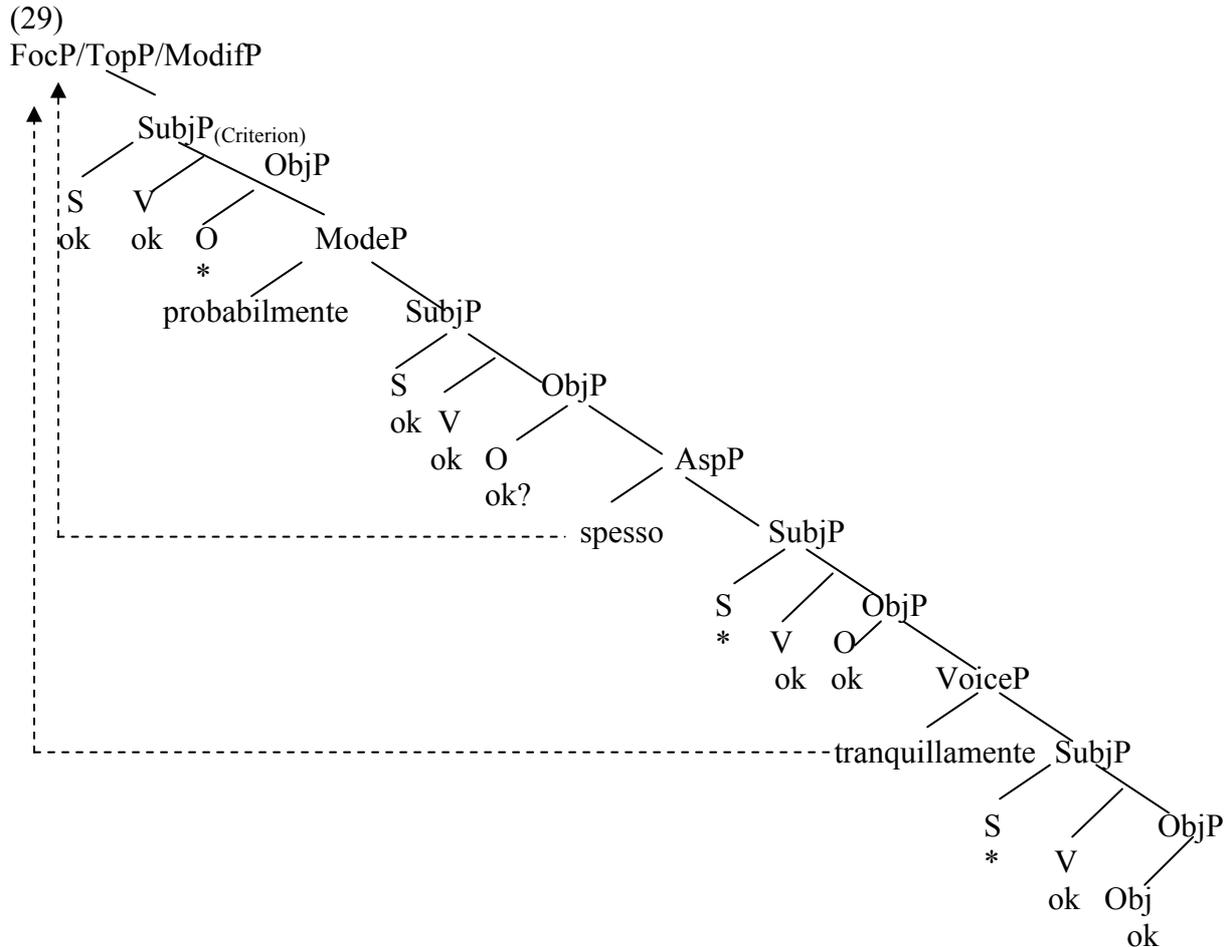
(27)



- (28) a. Probablement/souvent/tranquillement, Jean lit ce livre  
 b. \*Jean probablement/souvent/tranquillement lit ce livre  
 c. Jean lit probablement/souvent/tranquillement ce livre.  
 d. Jean lit ce livre \*probablement/ ?souvent/tranquillement

**Italian, Spanish, Romanian, Greek (inversion languages):**

(Adv <sub>1</sub> )	S	(Adv <sub>2</sub> )	V	(Adv <sub>3</sub> )	O	(Adv <sub>4</sub> )
{top, foc}	marked	{mode, {+/- salient}}	{mode {foc-new info}}	{aspect, {+/- salient}}	{aspect, {+/- salient}}	{manner}
	{top-aboutness}	{aspect,		aspect, {+/- salient}		
				manner}		

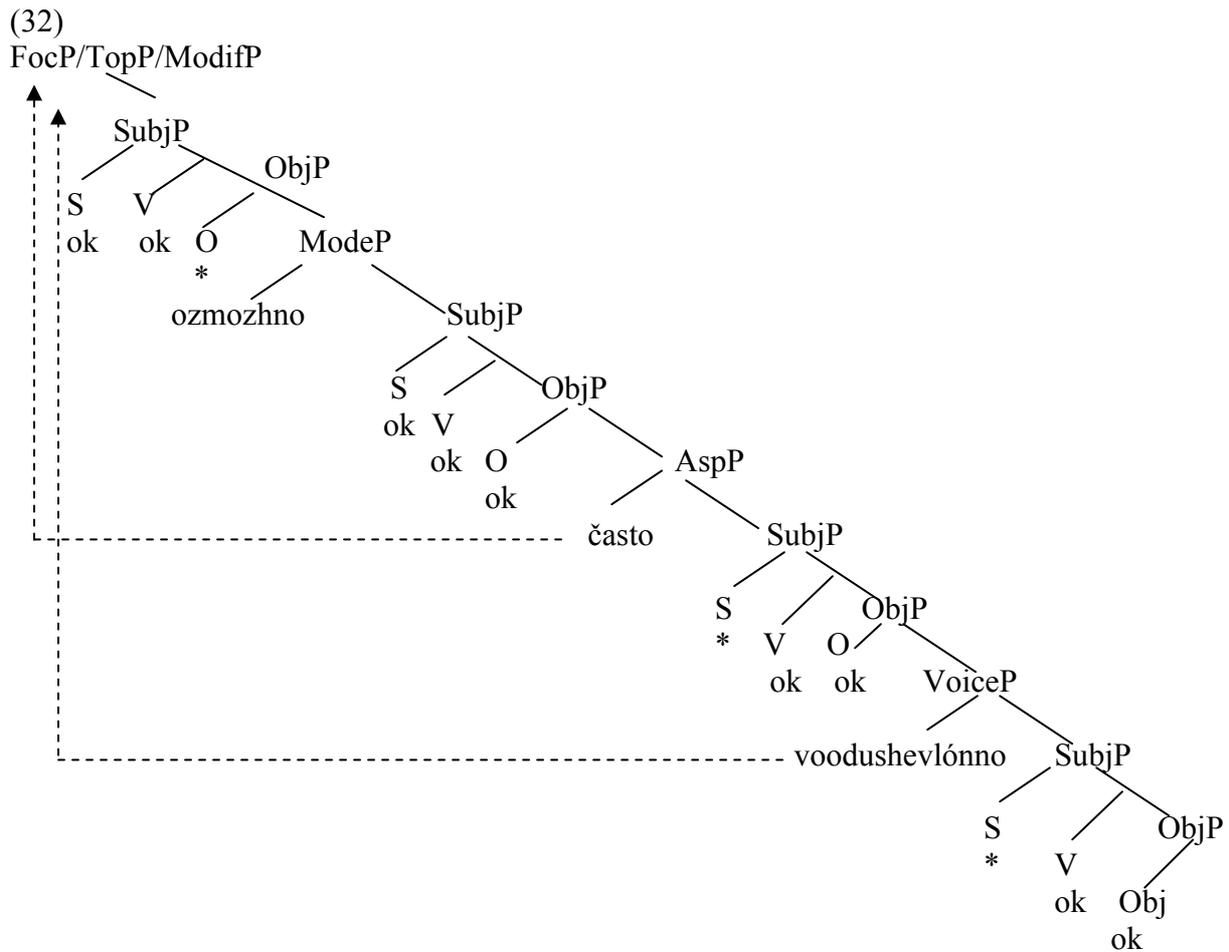


- (30) a. Probabilmente/spesso/tranquillamente Gianni leggeva questo libro.  
 b. Gianni probabilmente/spesso/tranquillamente leggeva questo libro.  
 c. Gianni leggeva probabilmente/spesso/tranquillamente questo libro.  
 d. Gianni leggeva questo libro \*probabilmente/ ?spesso/<sup>ok</sup>tranquillamente.

- (31) a. Probabil/adesea/calm Ion citește această carte.  
 b. Ion probabil/ADESEA/CALM citește această carte.  
 c. Ion citește probabil/adesea/calm această carte.  
 d. Ion citește această carte \*probabil/adesea/calm.

## Russian, Serbo-Croatian, Hebrew, Hungarian (SVO languages)

(Adv <sub>1</sub> )	S	(Adv <sub>2</sub> )	V	(Adv <sub>3</sub> )	O	(Adv <sub>4</sub> )
{top, foc}	{top-aboutness}	{mode, {+/-salient}}	{mode, aspect, manner}	{mode, aspect, manner}	{foc <sub>new info</sub> , {+/-salient}}	{aspect, manner}



(33) a. Ozmozhno/často/voodushevlónno, Boris prepodajot sintaksis. (Russian)

Probably often with enthusiasm Boris teaches syntax

b. Boris ozmozhno/často/voodushevlónno prepodajot sintaksis.

c. Boris prepodajot ozmozhno/často/voodushevlónno sintaksis.

d. Boris prepodajot sintaksis \*ozmozhno/(?)(?)často/voodushevlónno.

(34) a. Verovatno/često/mirno Jovan čita tu knjigu. (Serbo-Croatian)

Probably often quietly Jovan read this book

b. Jovan verovatno/često/mirno čita tu knjigu.

c. Jovan čita verovatno/često/mirno tu knjigu.

d. Jovan čita tu knjigu verovatno/često/mirno.

e. ?Jovan čita tu verovatno/često/mirno knjigu.

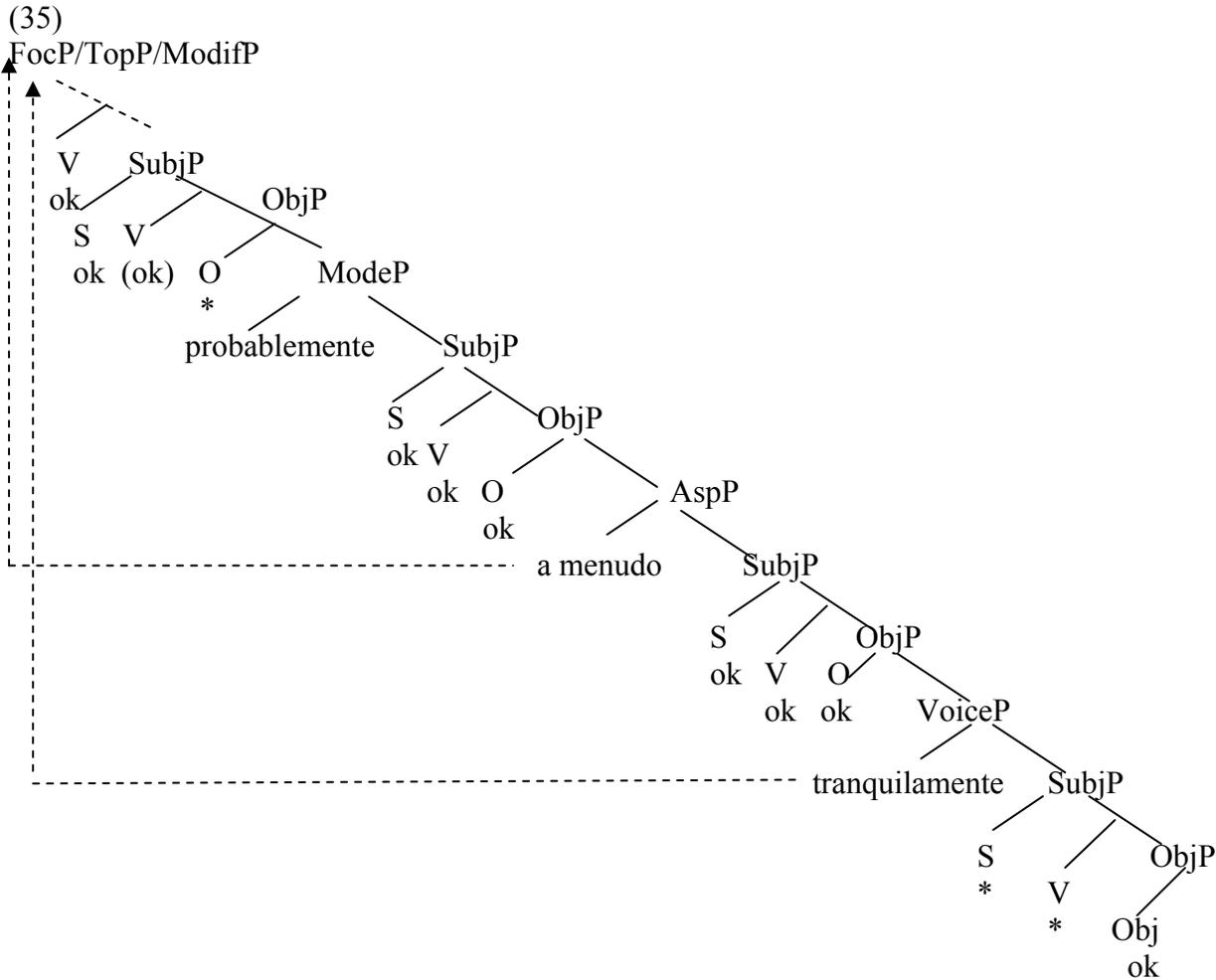
(ii) V S O

Spanish, Romanian, Greek (neutral)

Italian : VS

(Adv1)	V	(Adv2)	S	(Adv3)	O	(Adv4)
{top, foc}		{mode neutral}		{mode {foc <sub>new info</sub> }	{aspect, {aspect, {+/-salient}}	{aspect, {+/-salient} manner}

Adv <sub>1</sub>	V	Adv <sub>2</sub>	S	*Adv <sub>3</sub>
S = Belletti's low FocP				



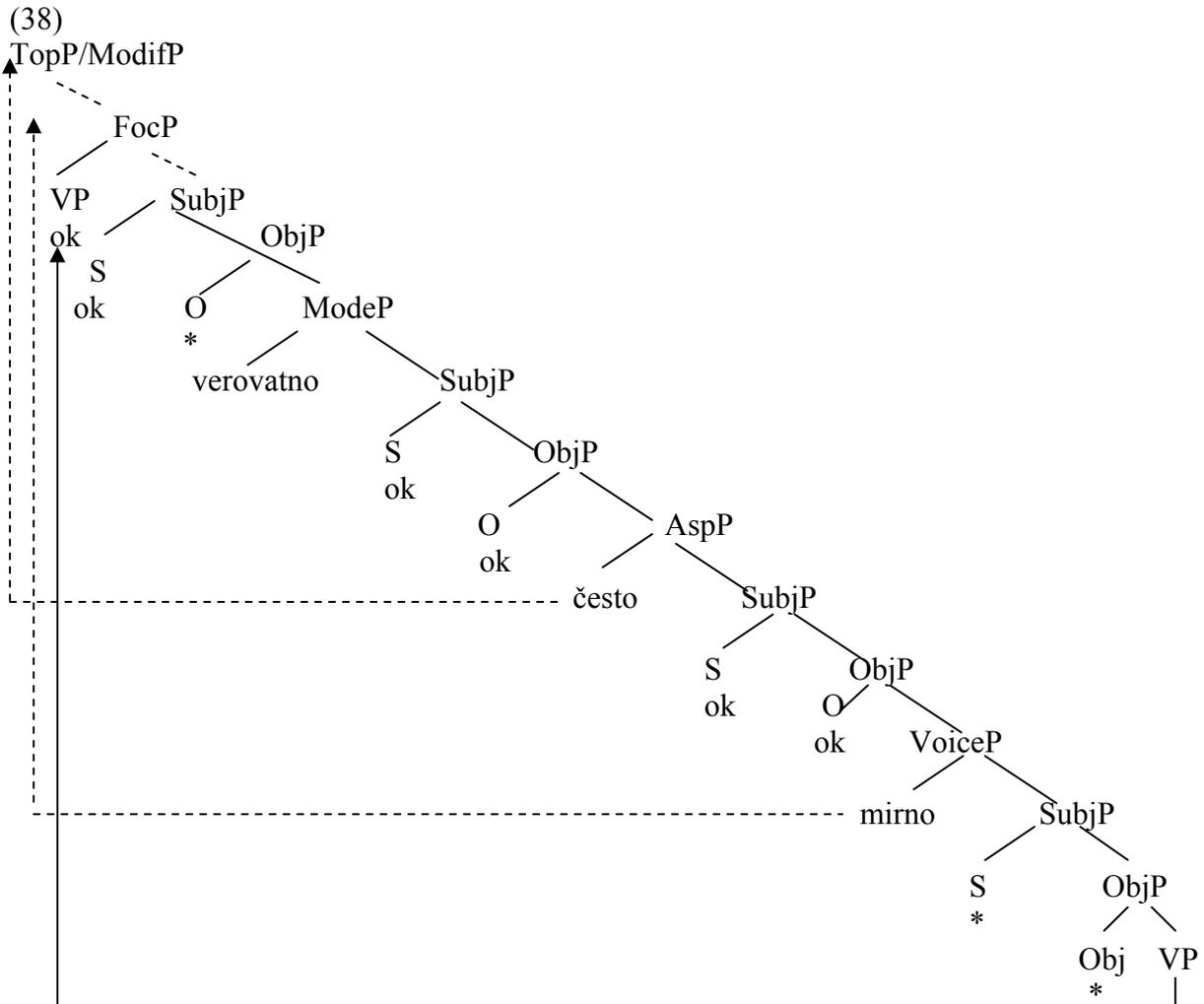
- (36) a. Probablemente/a menudo/tranquilamente leía Juan este libro.  
 b. Leía ?probablemente/a menudo/tranquilamente Juan este libro.  
 c. Leía Juan probablemente/a menudo/tranquilamente este libro.  
 d. Leía Juan este libro \*probablemente/<sup>ok</sup>a menudo/<sup>ok</sup>tranquilamente

- (37)a. Probabil/ ADESEA/CALM citește Ion această carte.  
 b. Citește probabil/adesea/calm Ion această carte.  
 c. Citește Ion probabil/adesea/calm această carte.  
 d. Citește Ion această carte \*probabil/<sup>ok</sup>adesea/<sup>ok</sup>calm.

- The verb must be higher than SubjP and ObjP (a parameter to fix !)

## Russian, Serbo-Croatian

(Adv1)	V	(Adv2)	S	(Adv3)	O	(Adv4)
{top}	focus	{mode, {aspect, manner?}}	{+/-salient}	{mode aspect, manner}	{+/-salient}	{aspect, manner}



Verb=focus. It moves as a remnant VP to the left-periphery

- (39)a. Verovatno/često/mirno čita<sub>+focus</sub> Jovan ovu knjigu.  
 Probably/often/quietly reads Jovan this book  
 b. Čita<sub>+focus</sub> verovatno/često/ mirno Jovan ovu knjigu.  
 c. Čita<sub>+focus</sub> Jovan verovatno/ često/ mirno ovu knjigu.  
 d. Čita<sub>+focus</sub> Jovan ovu knjigu \*verovatno/<sup>ok</sup>često/<sup>ok</sup>mirno.

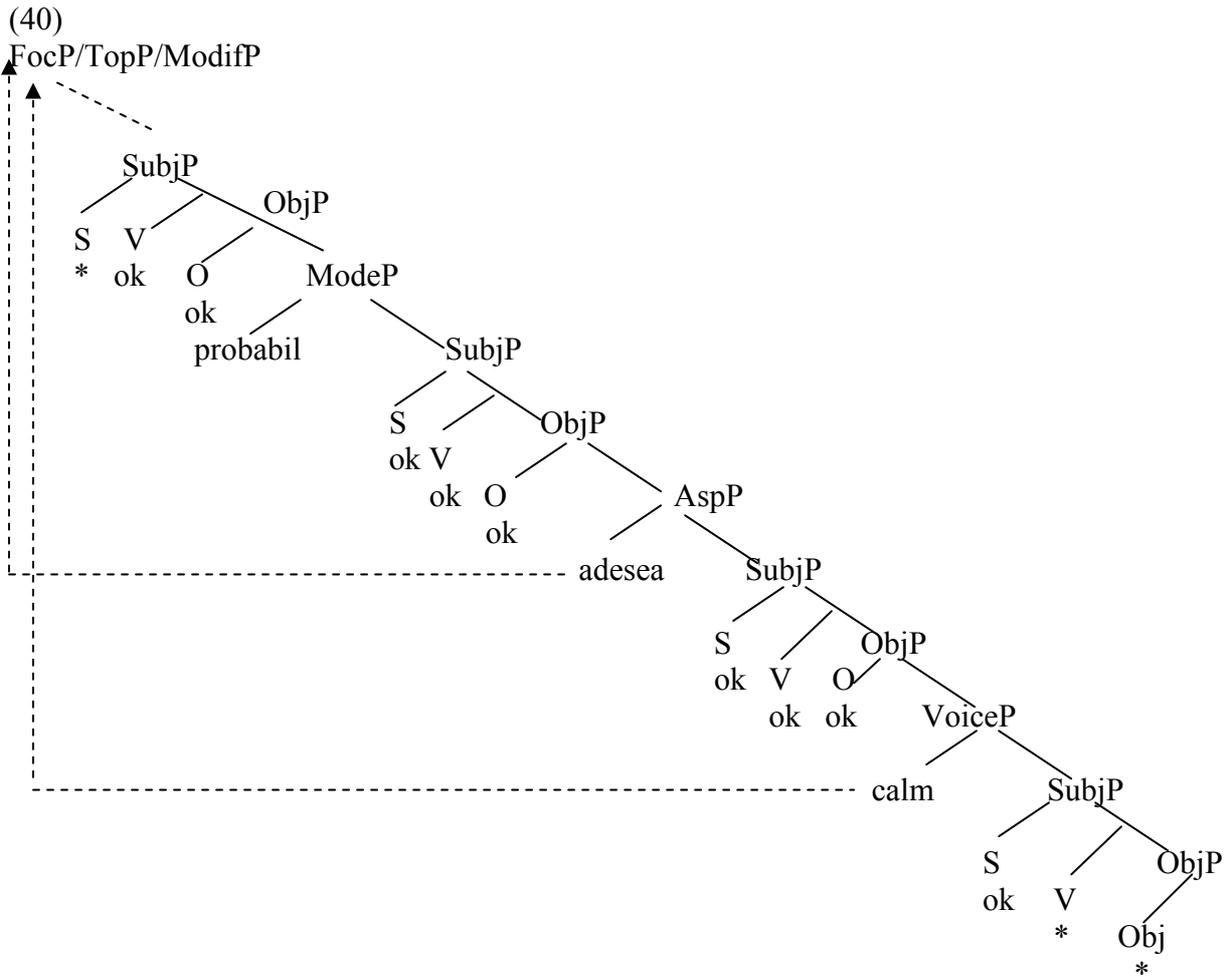
(iii) V O S

Spanish, Romanian, Greek

(Adv1)	V	(Adv2)	O	(Adv3)	S	(Adv4)
{top, foc}		{mode, aspect, manner}	{+/-salient}	{mode, aspect, manner}	{foc <sub>new info</sub> }	{aspect, manner}

Italian

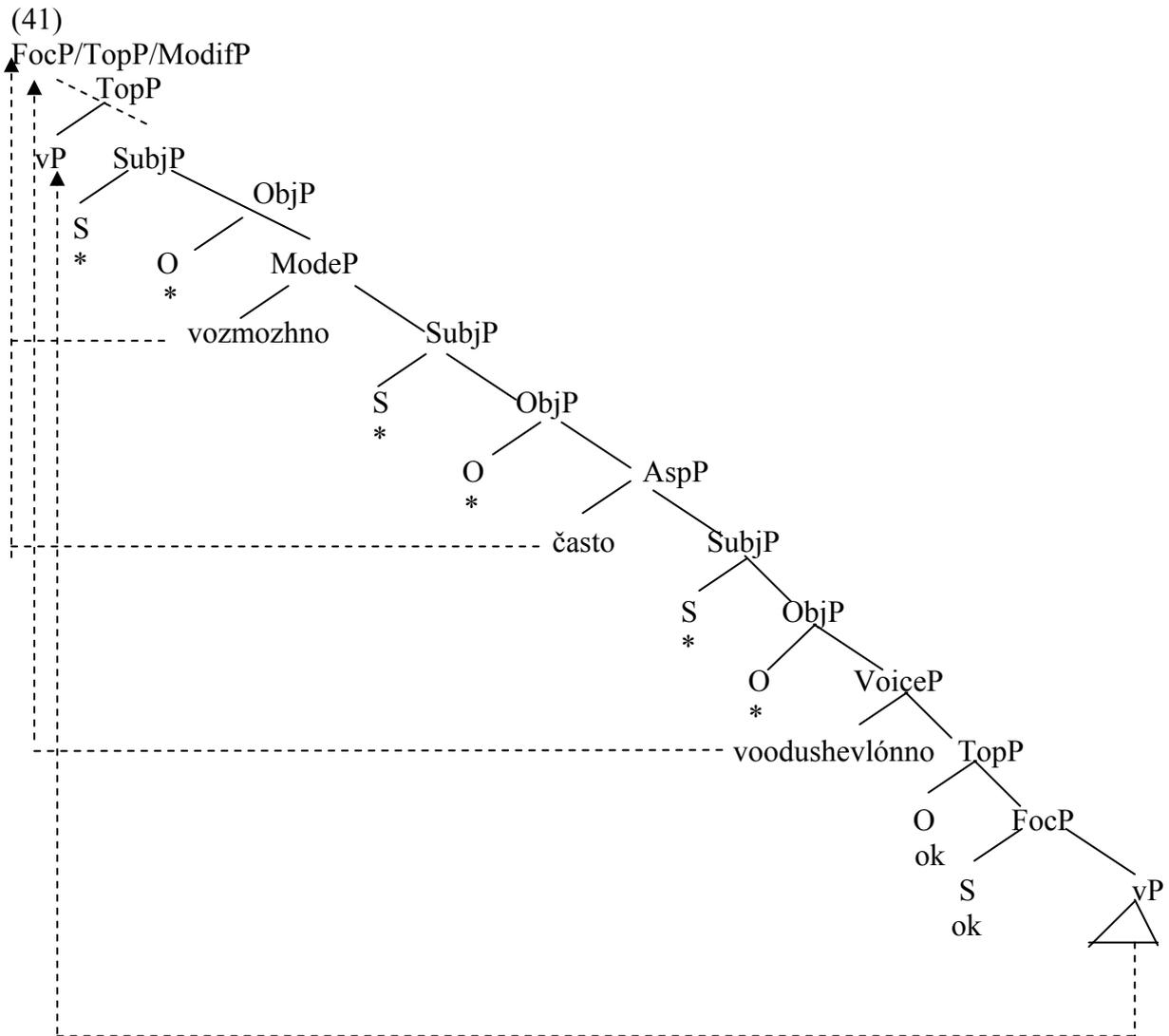
V	O	S (*Adv)
topic		focus
see Belletti 2001		



- (40) a. Probabil/ ADESEA/ CALM citește această carte Ion.  
 b. Citește probabil/ ADESEA/ CALM această carte Ion.  
 c. Citește această carte probabil/adesea/calm Ion.  
 d. Citește această carte Ion \*probabil/<sup>ok</sup>adesea/<sup>ok</sup>calm.

## Russian, Serbo-Croatian

<b>(Adv1)</b>	<b>V</b>	<b>(Adv2)</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>*(Adv3)</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>*(Adv4)</b>
{top, foc}	topique	{mode?, (topique)}	aspect, manner}		focus	



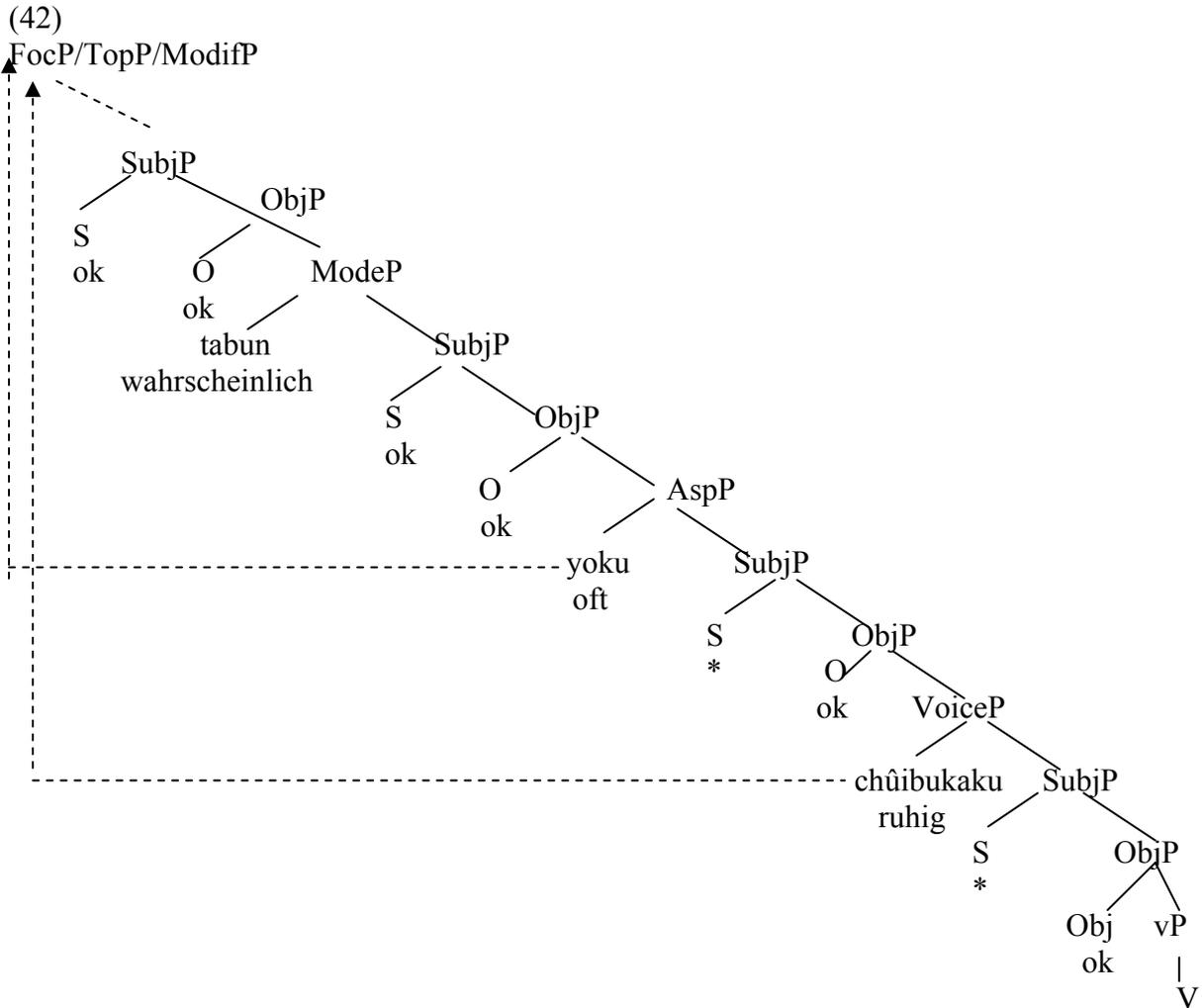
## Russian

- (41) a. Vozmozhno/často/ voodushevlónno prepodajot sintaksis Boris.  
 ‘Probably /often/with enthusiasm teaches syntax Boris’  
 b. Prepodajot vozmozhno/často/ voodushevlónno sintaksis Boris.  
 c. Prepodajot sintaksis \*vozmozhno/\*často/\*voodushevlónno Boris.  
 d. Prepodajot sintaksis Boris \*vozmozhno/\*často/\*voodushevlónno

(iv) S O V

German, Japanese, Tatar (head-final languages)

(Adv1)	S	(Adv2)	O	(Adv3)	V	*(Adv4)
{top, foc}	{top-aboutness}	{mode	{+/-salient}	{mode,		
	{foc new info}	{aspect		aspect,		
		manner }		manner}		



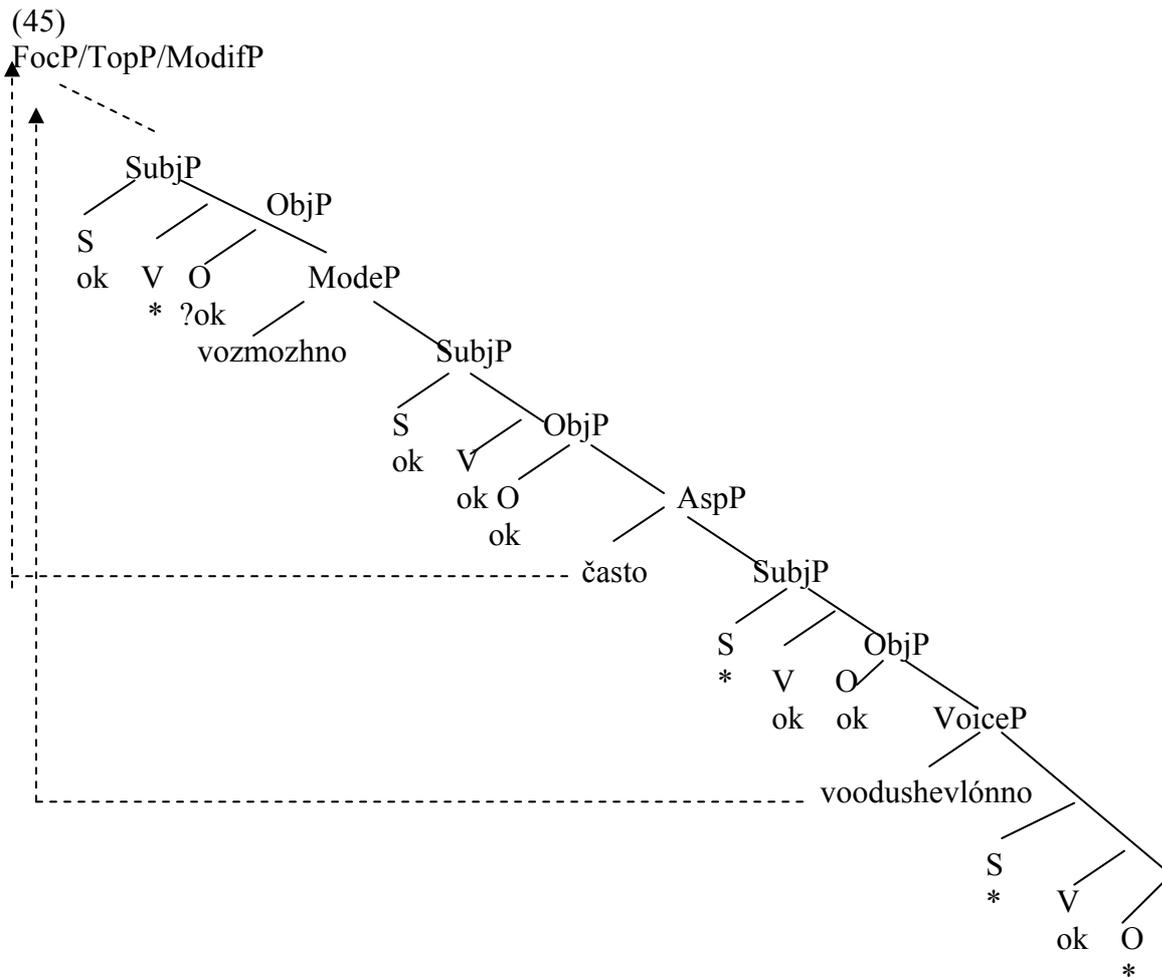
- (43) a. Tabun/yoku/chûibukaku John-ga hon-o yon-da  
 Probably/often/carefully John(Nom) book(Acc) read+past  
 'Probably/often/carefully John read the book'  
 b. John-ga tabun/yoku/chûibukaku hon-o yon-da  
 c. John-ga hon-o tabun/yoku/chûibukaku yon-da

- (44) a. weil wahrscheinlich/oft/ruhig Hans das Buch las.  
 b. weil Hans wahrscheinlich/oft/ruhig das Buch las.  
 c. weil Hans das Buch wahrscheinlich/oft/ruhig las.  
 'because Hans the book probably/often/quietly read'

NOTE: in Tatar and Japanese two adverbs can permute, especially if they are adjacent

## Russian, Serbo-Croatian

<b>(Adv1)</b> {top, foc}	<b>S</b>	<b>(Adv2)</b> {mode, aspect,	<b>O</b> topic	<b>(Adv3)</b> {mode? aspect, manner}	<b>V</b> focus <sub>new info</sub>	<b>(Adv4)</b> {aspect, manner}
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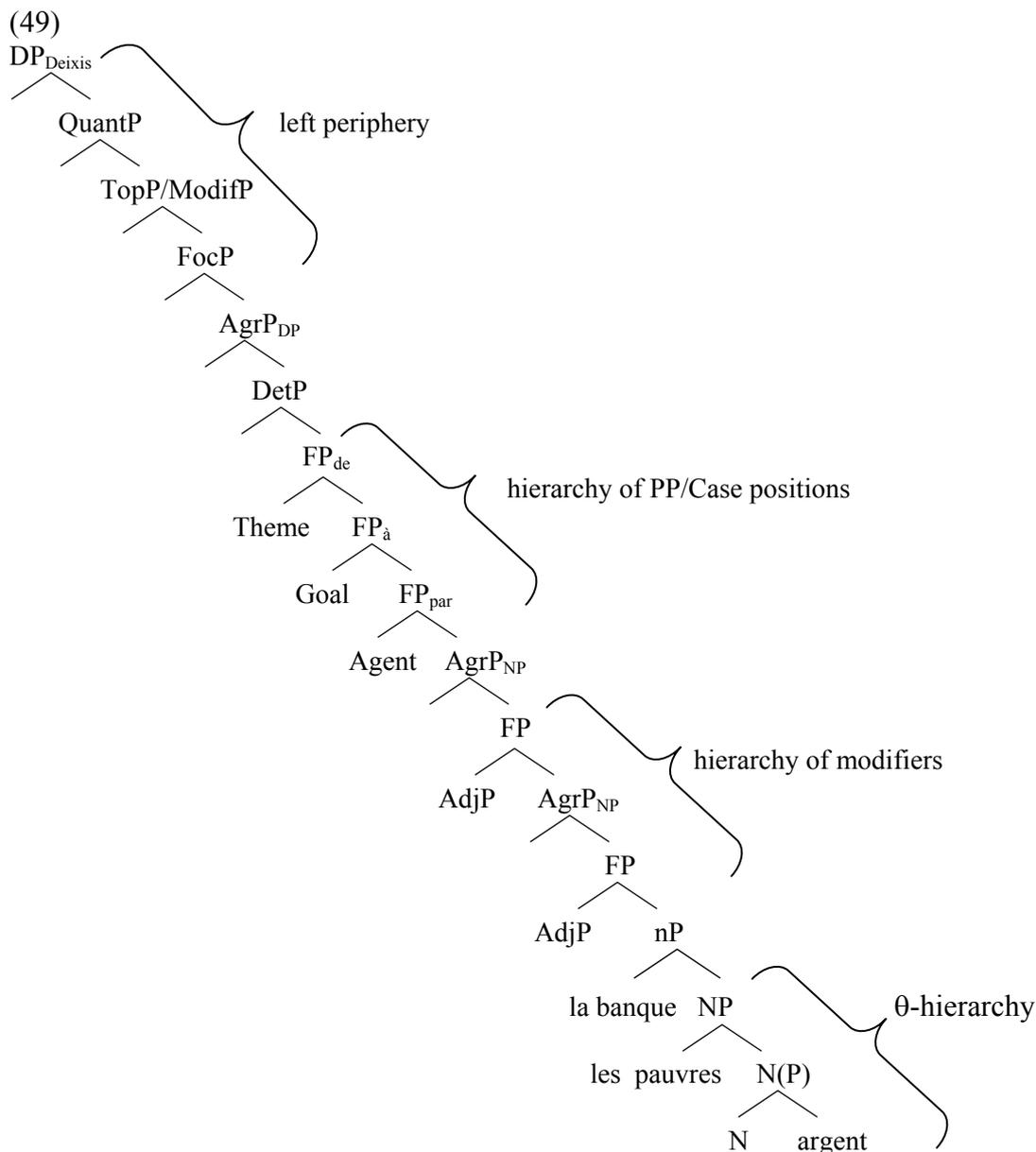


**Conclusions on the clause:** word order variations depend notably on the following properties:

- (i) The Information Structure plays an important role (Choi 1999): informational features are parasitic on Case/agreement projections through the EPP-feature that attracts the arguments => scrambling is more generalized across languages that it appears. Freer word order languages (with a richer Case system) use the Mittelfeld extensively, in addition to the Vorfeld, to express its IS.
- (ii) a. Absence of verb (VP?) movement = SOV  
 b. Short verb movement (SAdvVO) / long verb movement (SAdvO)  
 c. Verb movement past S (VSO)

## B. The noun phrase

Assumption : The noun phrase is also associated with an information structure



### (I) Japanese, Tatar

- prenominal adjectives
- prenominal PPs

There is no NP-movement and the order between PPs and adjectives reflects the Mittelfeld hierarchy

(50) [DP [FP<sub>pp</sub> dushman<sub>pp</sub> tarafynnan [FP<sub>Gen</sub> shäherneng [TP älege [QualP rähimsez  
 enemy by/from city<sub>GEN</sub> recent brutal  
 [NP jimerelüe]]]]]]] (Tatar)  
 destruction  
 ‘the brutal destruction of the city by the enemy’

(51) [DP [FP<sub>pp</sub> teki-niyoru [FP<sub>Gen</sub> machi-no [TP saikin-no [QualP hagesii [NP hakai]]]]]]]  
 enemy by city Gen recent brutal destruction  
 (Japanese)

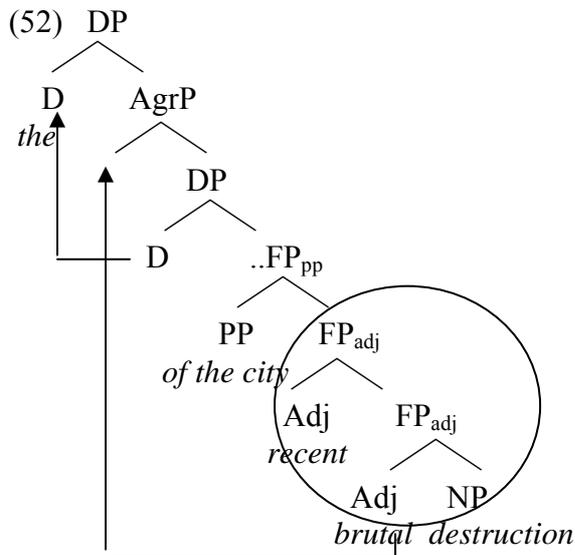
**Note:** possibility of permuting the adjectives. Should they be analyzed as unordered small clauses (like reduced relatives; Endo p.c.)

### (II) English, Swedish, German, Hungarian, Russian, Serbian

- prenominal adjectives
- postnominal PPs

Analysis:

- pied-piping movement of the noun plus the adjective-related projection(s) past the PPs.



(53) The recent brutal destruction of the city

There is D-to-D raising in English/German, but not in Swedish

(54) [DP [AgrP [NP hus] [DP -et [...]]]] (Swedish)  
 house -the

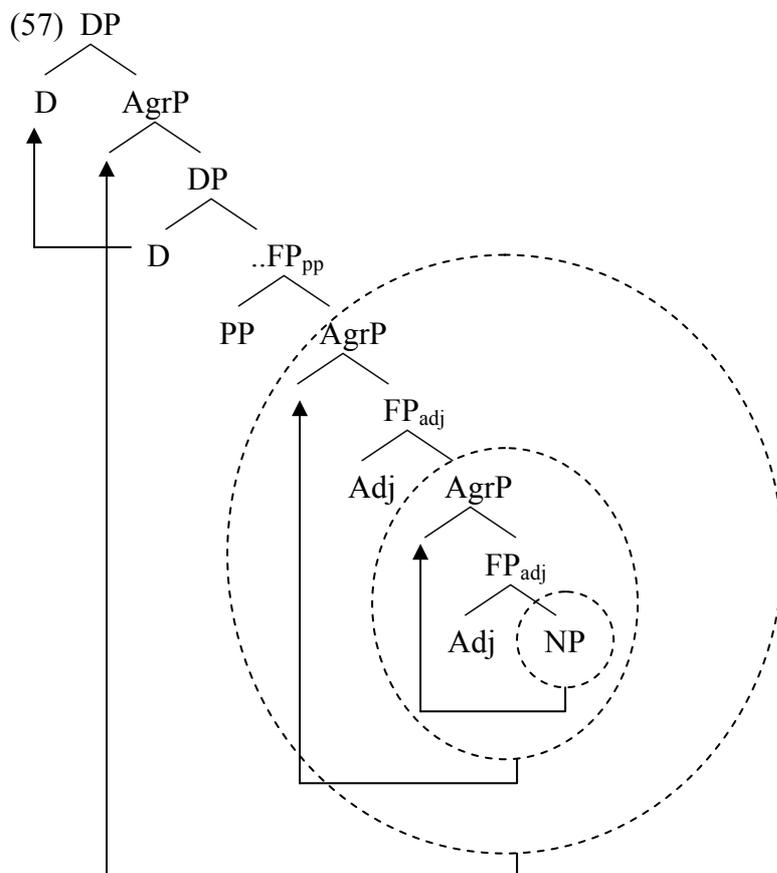
Determiner doubling:

(55) [DP det [AgrP [FPadj stora [NP hus]] [DP -et [...]]]] (Swedish)  
 the big house -the

### (III) Hebrew: postnominal adjectives and postnominal PPs (Shlonsky 2006)

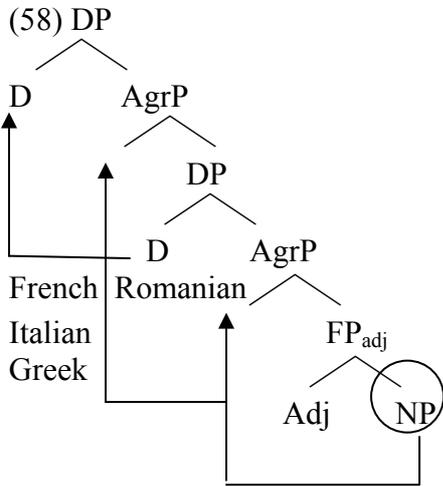
- reverse order of postnominal adjectives
- N > Adj2 > Adj1 > PP

(56) a. hafgaza 'isra'elit masivit 'efšarit šel ha-'ir  
 bombardment Israeli massive possible of the city  
 'a possible massive Israeli bombardment'  
 b. Ha Volvo ha xadaš ha axaron šel Schneider  
 the Volvo the new the last of Schneider  
 'Schneider's last new Volvo'



#### (IV) Mixed languages : French, Italian, Spanish, Romanian, Greek

- Adjectives are most naturally postnominal, but some of them can be prenominal

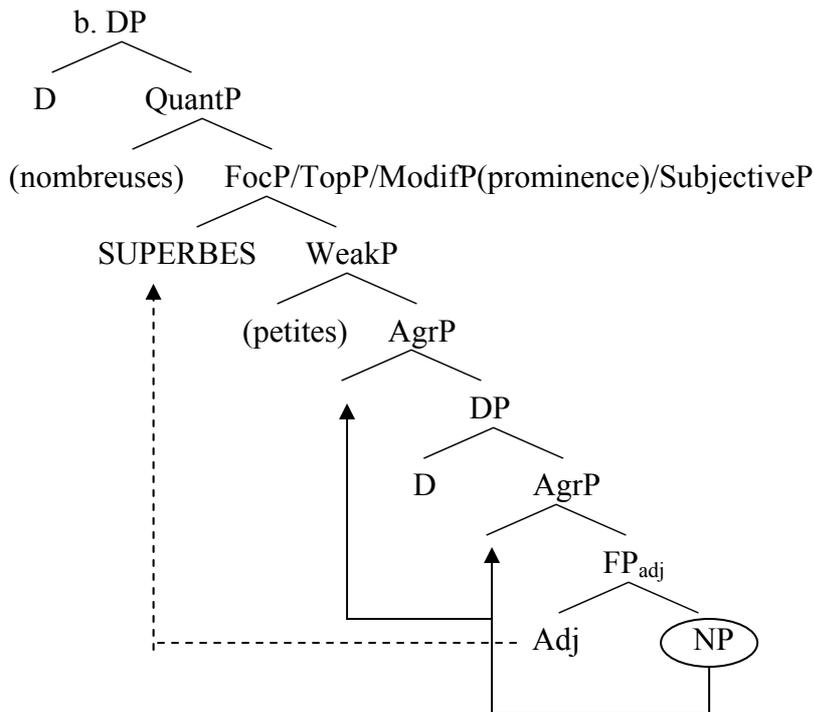


- Romanian: enclitic definite determiner

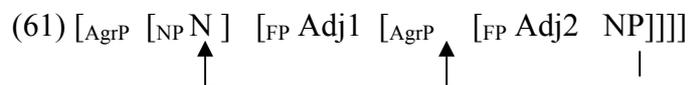
(59)  $[_{DP} [_{AgrP} \text{băiat-} [_{DP} [_{D} \text{ul}] [_{FP_{qual}} \text{frumos} ]]]]$   
 poet -the famous

- Prenominal adjectives in Romance

(60)a. de nombreuses SUPERBES petites voitures  
 ‘numerous beautiful small cars’

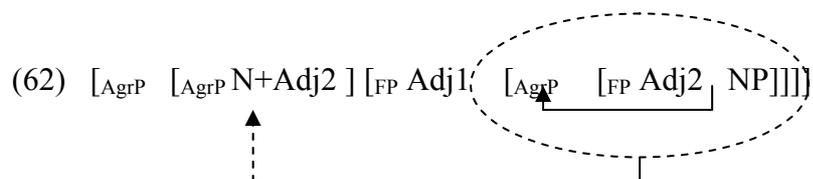


- N < Adj1 < Adj2  
(une) voiture rouge italienne

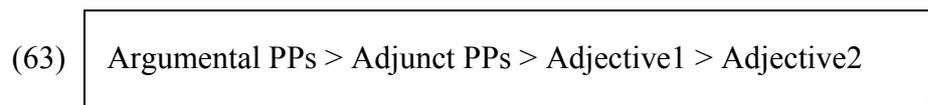


- N < Adj2 < Adj1  
(une) voiture rouge splendide

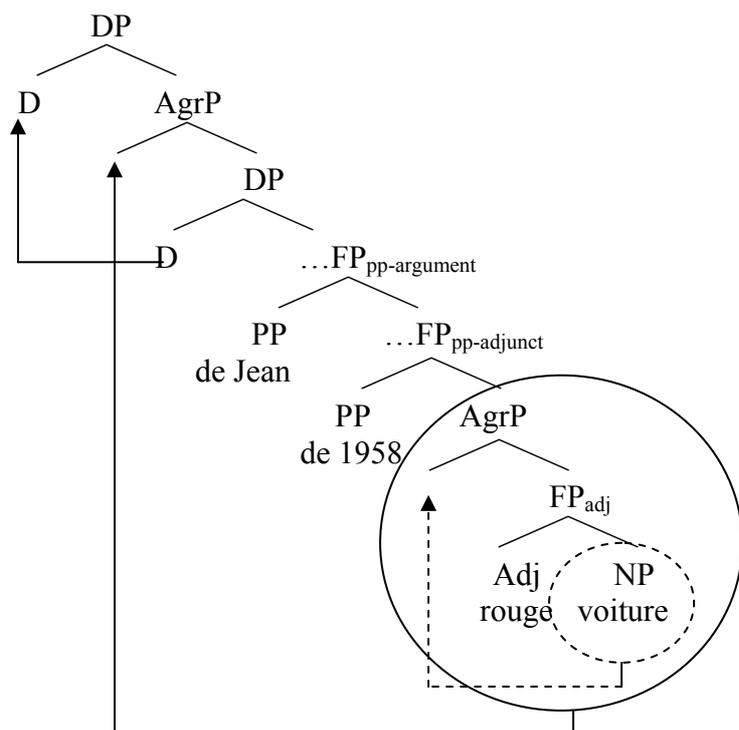
(Laenzlinger 2005, Cinque 2005)



- Postnominal PPs



- (64) la voiture rouge de Jean de 1958  
the car red of Jean of 1958  
'John's 1958 red car'



## (V) Fronting to the Vorfeld

- (Pied-piping) NP-movement
- Adjective fronting
- Argument fronting

### (i) Case

- (65) a. [DP [GenP [DP John]'s [DP [NP book] ]]] (English)  
 b. [DP [GenP [DP Johanns] [DP [NP Buch] ]]] (German)  
 c. [DP (a) [NomP [DP Mari] [QualP szep [NP kalap-ja]]] (Hungarian)  
     the Mari nice hat (Szabolcsi 1994)  
     'Mari's nice hat'  
 c.' [DP [DatP [DP Mari-nak] [DP a [QualP szep [NP kalap-ja] ]]]]

### (ii) Topic/focus

- (66) a. . [DP egy [TopP [DP a szegenyeknek] [TopP [PP a bank reszerol] [QualP nagyleku  
     a the poor+Dat the bank by generous  
     [NP penz adomany ] [DP a szegenyeknek] [PP a bank reszerol]]]]]  
     money gift (Hungarian)  
     'a generous gift of money to the poor by the bank'  
 b. [DP [[QualP velikolepnaya [NP mašina]] [FPGen [DP moego papi] ]] (Russian)  
     beautiful car my father+Gen  
     'my father's beautiful car'  
 b.' [DP [TopP/FocP [DP moego papi +Gen] [[QualP velikolepnaya [NP mashina]] [FPpp S  
     otkryvaiusheisia kryshjei]]]]]  
     'my father's beautiful car with an open roof'  
 c. [DP to [AdjP oreo] [DP to [NP vivlio] [DP+Gen tis Marias]]] (Greek)  
     the nice the book the Maria  
     'Maria's nice book'  
 c.' [DP [FocP [DP Tis Marias] [DP to [AdjP oreo] [DP to [NP vivlio] ]]]] (Ntelitheos 2002)

## To summarize the syntactic properties of noun phrases:

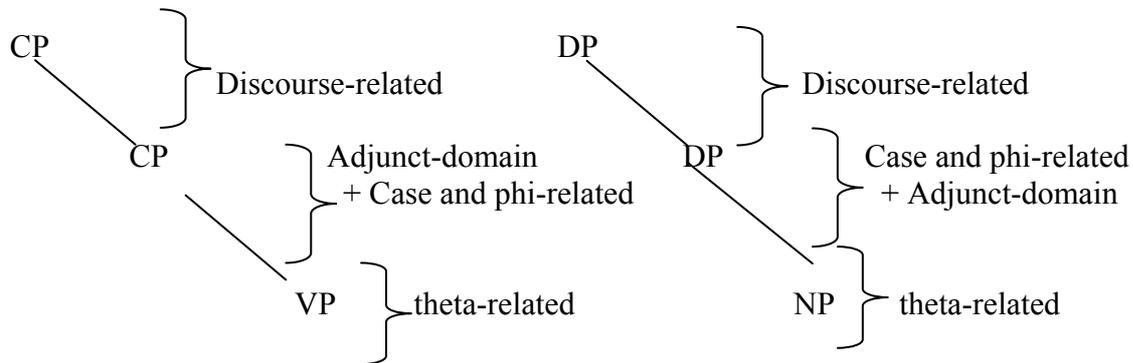
- **Noun raising:**
  - (i) no NP-movement
  - (ii) NP-movement
  - (iii) extended pied-piping (NP-)movement

e.g. [FPadj Adj [ N ]]  
 [AgrP N [ Adj ]]
- **Generalized noun's complement movement to Case- and P-related positions**
- **Fronting to DP:**
  - (i) (extended) NP-movement for agreement with D
  - (ii) adjective fronting (top/foc)
  - (iii) argument fronting for Case (Gen) or for Top/Foc

## VIII. Conclusions

### Cartographic approach:

- A. Antisymmetry: Spec-Head-Compl, no multiple Spec, no free/multiple adjunction
- B. Specifier-based approach to adjunct merging
- C. Parallel structure for the clause and the noun phrase according to 3 domains



Case and phi-related positions float among adverb-related projections

Case/PP and phi-related positions are higher than the adjective-related positions

### D. Parallel transformations

- 1) Remnant movement: NP-movement and possibly VP-movement
- 2) Modifiers in final position are stranded after predicate and argument movement (remnant movement)
- 2) More or less heavy pied-piping movement to account for some mirror-image ordering in the postnominal/verbal domain

### E. Syntax-IS interface to motivate movement

- The left-periphery contains discrete discourse positions
- The Mittelfeld contains A-positions associated with informational features (calculated in terms of informational ranking)
- The Nachfeld is the predicated/thematic domain evacuated by the arguments

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