

# A Theory of Relative Clause Attachment

Heike Walker

University of Frankfurt

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## Outline

- 1 Relative clause phenomena
- 2 HPSG analysis: Generalized Modification
- 3 A New Theory of Relative Clause Attachment
  - Preliminaries: LRS
  - The syntactic part
  - The semantic part
- 4 Conclusion



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## Construal

- (1) a. **A man** who was wearing a hat arrived yesterday.  
b. **A man** arrived yesterday who was wearing a hat.
- (2) a. I gave **every book** which I had read to my sister.  
b. I gave **every book** to my sister which I had read.



## Obligatory RC

Certain determiners (e.g. *derjenige/diejenige/dasjenige*) require the presence of a RC (Alexiadou et al. 2000)

(3) **diejenige (Frau)** \*(**die dort steht** )  
 the+that woman who there stands  
 ‘the very woman who is standing there’

(4) Ich habe **diejenige (Frau)** bewundert, \*(**die dort steht**).  
 I have the+that woman admired who there stands.  
 ‘I’ve admired the very woman who is standing there.’

## Extraposed RC marks wide scope

### Williams' Generalization:

When an adjunct  $\beta$  is extraposed from a “source DP”  $\alpha$ , the scope of  $\alpha$  is at least as high as the attachment site of  $\beta$  (the extraposition site). (Williams 1974, Fox&Nissenbaum 1999, Fox 2002)

- (5) a. \*I looked for **anything** very intensely **that will/would help me with my thesis.**  
 b. I looked for **something** very intensely **that will (likely) help me with my thesis.**

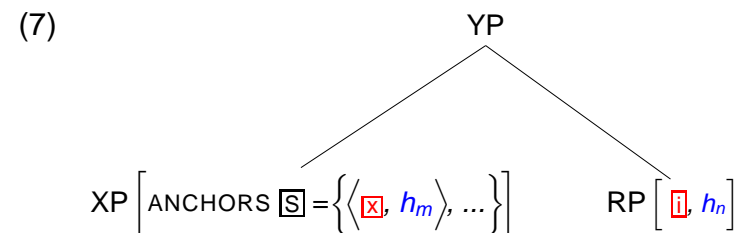
- (6) Pat looked for **a secretary** very intensely **that would proofread her manuscript.**  
 $\exists > \text{look for}$     \* $\text{look for} > \exists$

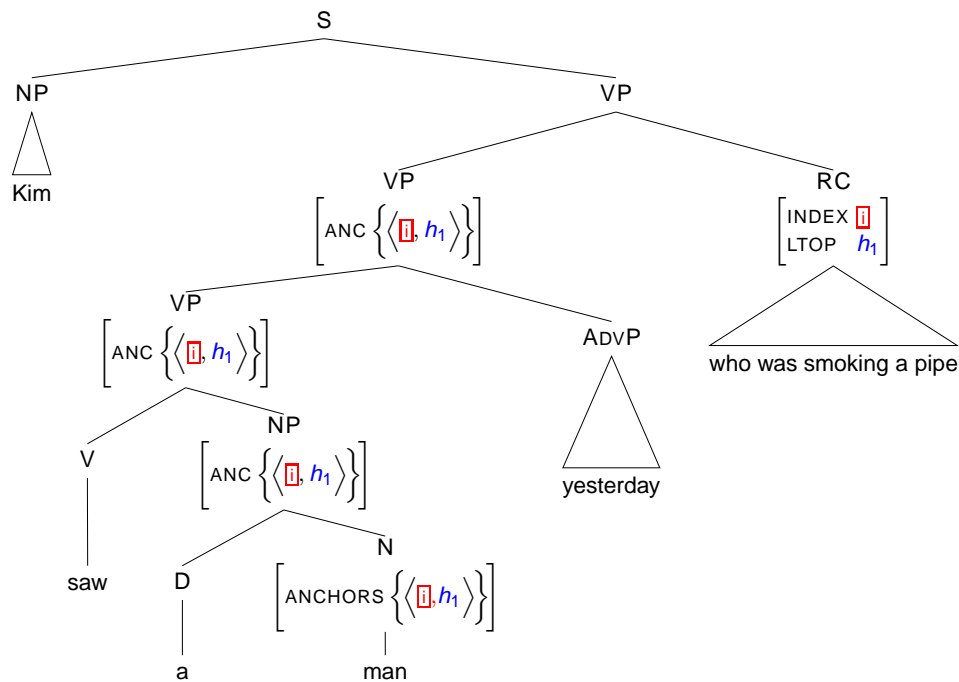
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## Generalized Modification (Kiss 2005)

- “A relative clause can be realized in a syntactic position which allows access to a suitable antecedent of the relative pronoun.”
- Nouns introduce ANCHORS (pair of index + local top handle:  $\langle \boxed{i}, h_n \rangle$ )
- Anchors percolate up the tree
- Index + handle identification





## Problems with Kiss' Generalized Modification

- Does not capture the phenomenon of determiners with obligatory RCs (*derjenige/diejenige/dasjenige*)
- Does not account for RCs with elliptical NPs
- Does not account for the scope effects

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## Revised steps

- Determiner (rather than the noun) introduces the anchor
  - obligatorily for determiners like *derjenige/diejenige/dasjenige*
  - optionally for "normal" determiners like *the/a, der/ein*
- Anchors optionally cancelled when "picked up" by a RC
- At root node, all anchors must have been used
- Noun-ellipsis-schema for elliptical NPs
- Framework of L(exical) R(esource) S(emantics) to account for scope effects

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## L(exical) R(esource) S(emantics) (Richter&Sailer 2004)

CONTENT: aspects relevant for local semantic phenomena  
(e.g. linking, selection)

(8) Appropriateness conditions of the sort *content*:

$$\text{content: } \begin{bmatrix} \text{INDEX} & \text{extended-index} \\ \text{MAIN} & \text{term} \end{bmatrix}$$

(9) Appropriateness conditions of the sort *extended-index*:

$$\text{extended-index: } \begin{bmatrix} \text{VAR} & \text{term} \\ \text{PHI} & \text{index} \end{bmatrix}$$

MAIN: main semantic predicate contributed by a word

(10) Sketch of the lexical entry of *book*:

$$\left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{word} \\ \text{PHON} \langle \text{book} \rangle \\ \text{SS|LOC|CONT} \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{INDEX} \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{VAR } x \\ \text{PHI} \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{PERS } 3rd \\ \text{NUM } sg \\ \text{GEN } neut \end{array} \right] \\ \text{MAIN } \textit{book}' \end{array} \right] \end{array} \right] \end{array} \right] \end{array} \right]$$

## Outline

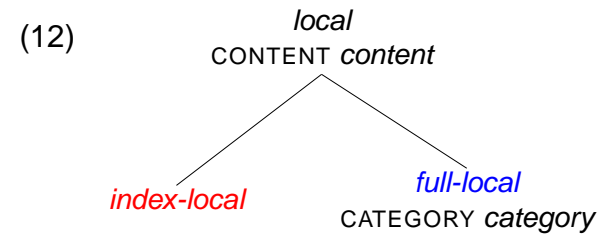
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## The anchor

(11) ANCHORS as nonlocal feature:

$$\left[ \text{SYNSEM|NONLOC} \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{INHERITED} \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{SLASH } \textit{set(local)} \\ \text{ANC(HORS) } \textit{set(local)} \end{array} \right] \\ \text{TO-BIND} \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{SLASH } \textit{set(local)} \\ \text{ANC(HORS) } \textit{set(local)} \end{array} \right] \end{array} \right] \right]$$

- Adopting Crismann's (to appear) proposal (adapted to LRS)
- A single feature ANCHORS (Crismann's EX) to model both, **RC extraposition** and **complement clause extraposition**
- Value of ANCHORS (*set(local)*) split into two types to account for the differences:



## How the anchor is introduced

The determiner as functor which selects the NP  
(Van Eynde 1998, 2006)

(13) *hd-functor-phr* ⇒

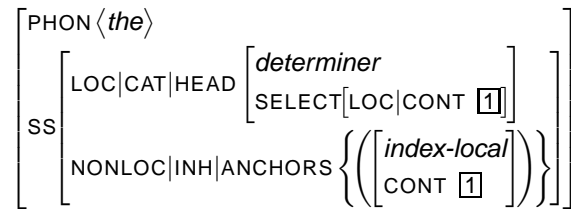
$$\left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{DAUGHTERS} \langle [\text{SYNSEM|LOC|CAT|HEAD|SELECT } \boxed{1}], \boxed{2} \rangle \\ \text{HEAD-DTR} \boxed{2} [\text{SYNSEM } \boxed{1} \textit{synsem}] \end{array} \right]$$

The determiner introduces the anchor.

(14) Lexical entry of determiner with obligatory RC

$$\left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{PHON} \langle \textit{diejenige} \rangle \\ \text{SS} \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{LOC|CAT|HEAD} \left[ \begin{array}{l} \textit{determiner} \\ \text{SELECT}[\text{LOC|CONT } \boxed{1}] \end{array} \right] \\ \text{NONLOC|INH|ANCHORS} \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \textit{index-local} \\ \text{CONT } \boxed{1} \end{array} \right\} \end{array} \right] \end{array} \right]$$

## (15) Lexical entry of “normal” determiner (with optional RC)



## How the anchor percolates

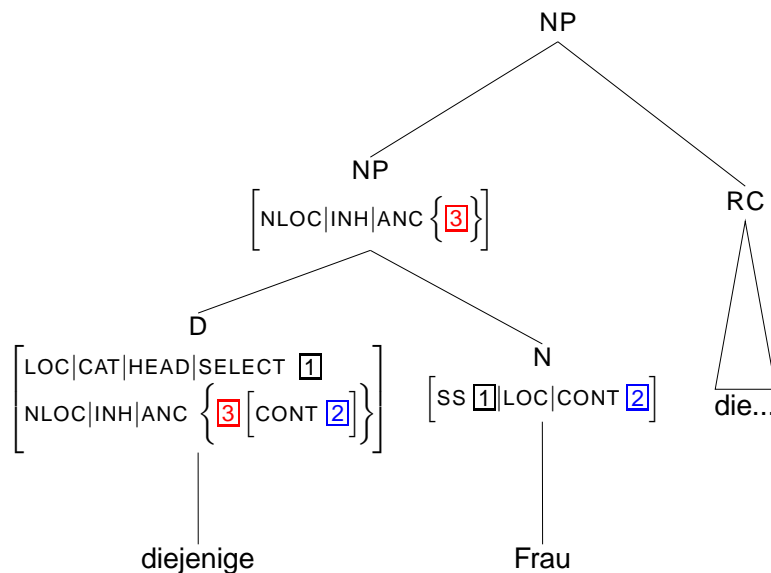
## (16) The Nonlocal Feature Principle

(Pollard &amp; Sag 1994, Kiss 2005, Crysmann (to appear))

In a headed phrase, for each nonlocal feature  $F = \text{SLASH}, \text{QUE}, \text{REL},$  or **ANCHORS**, the value of  $\text{SYNSEM|NONLOCAL|INHERITED|F}$  is the set difference of the union of the values on all the daughters and the value of  $\text{SYNSEM|NONLOCAL|TO-BIND|F}$  on the HEAD-DAUGHTER.



## (17)



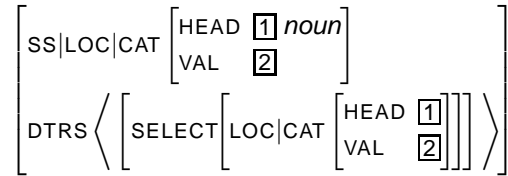
## Special case: no (overt) noun

- (18) diejenige (Frau) die dort steht  
 the+that woman who there stands  
 ‘the very woman who is standing there’

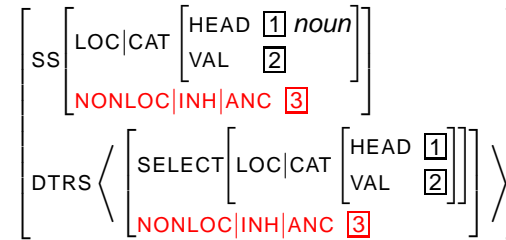


Constraint on *noun-ellipsis-functor* (adopted from Branco&Costa 2006)

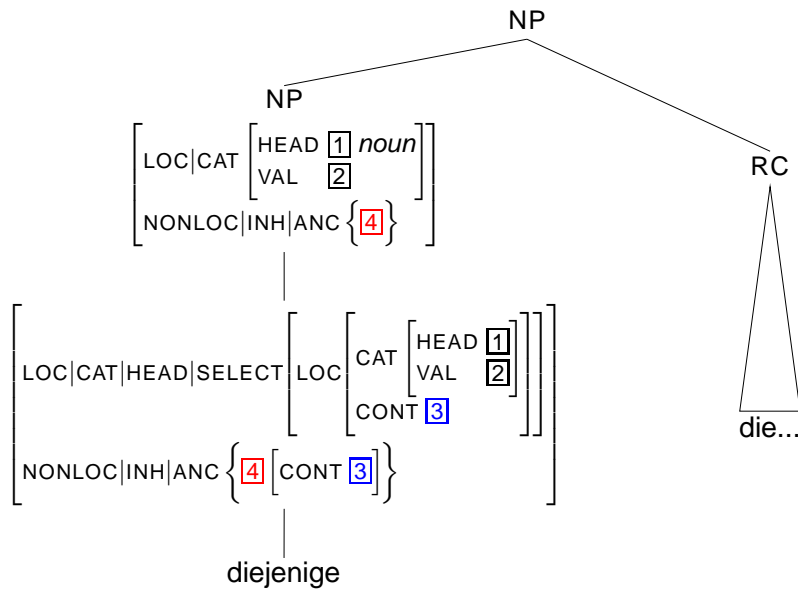
(19) *noun-ellipsis-functor*  $\Rightarrow$



(20) *noun-ellipsis-functor*  $\Rightarrow$

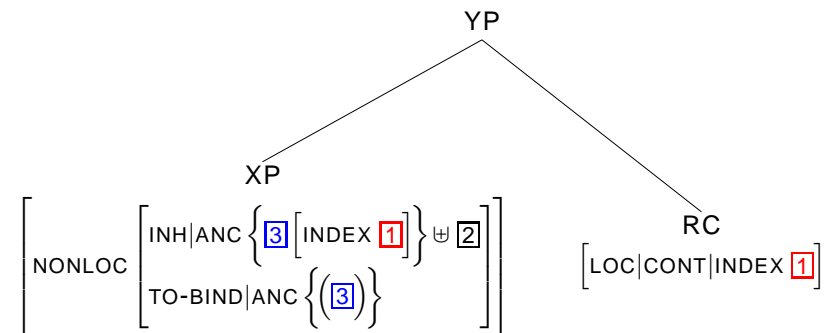


(21)



## How the anchor is “picked up” by the RC

(22) Generalized Modification (revised, preliminary)



Anchors only optionally bound in order to allow for multiple RCs:

- (23) **A paper** just came out **which you might be interested in which talks about extraposition**. (Keller 1995:2)

## Constraint on *clause*

$$(24) \left[ \begin{array}{l} \textit{clause} \\ \text{SS|STATUS } \textit{complete} \end{array} \right] \Rightarrow [\text{SS|NONLOC|INH|ANCHORS \{\}}]$$

(see Richter 1997)

- To ensure that obligatory anchors (*derjenige/diejenige/dasjenige*) are picked up by RC
- Right Roof Constraint

- (25) a. \* [That **a gun** went off] surprised noone **which I had cleaned**. (Ross 1967/1986:4)
- b. \* [Talking to **a student** is interesting] **who is intelligent**.

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## LRS (Richter&Sailer 2004)

(26) Appropriateness conditions:

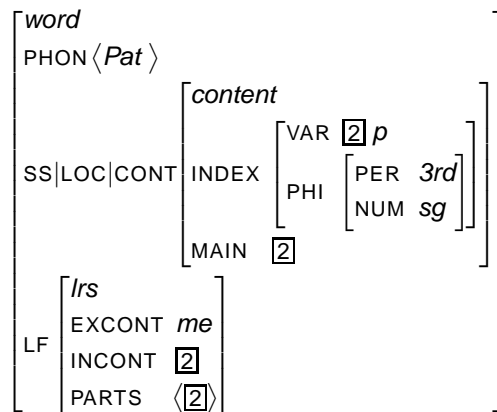
- a. *sign*:  $\left[ \begin{array}{ll} \text{PHON} & \textit{phonology} \\ \text{SYNSEM} & \textit{synsem} \\ \text{LO(GICAL-)F(ORM)} & \textit{lrs} \end{array} \right]$
- b. *lrs*:  $\left[ \begin{array}{ll} \text{EX(TERNAL-)CONT(ENT)} & \textit{m(eaningful) e(xpression)} \\ \text{IN(TERNAL-)CONT(ENT)} & \textit{m(eaningful) e(xpression)} \\ \text{PARTS} & \textit{list(me)} \end{array} \right]$

LF: aspects relevant for nonlocal semantics  
 EXCONT: overall logical form of a phrase  
 INCONT: scopally lowest element contributed by a word  
 PARTS: collection of meaning contributions of the words

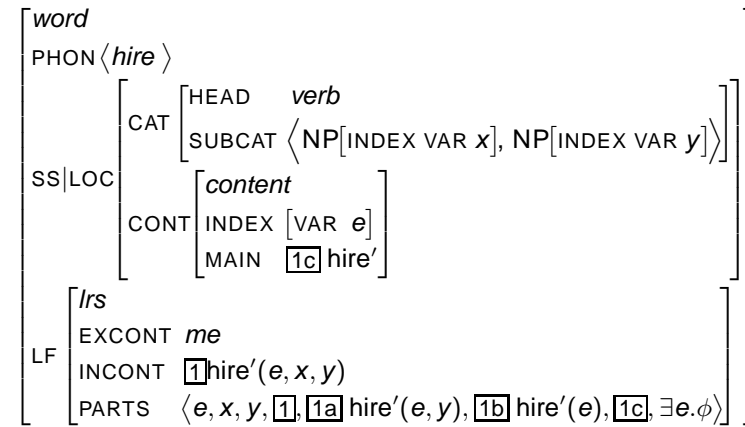


## Lexical entries

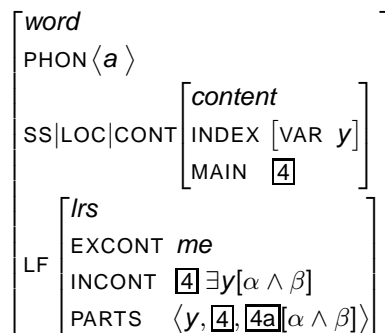
(27) Pat:



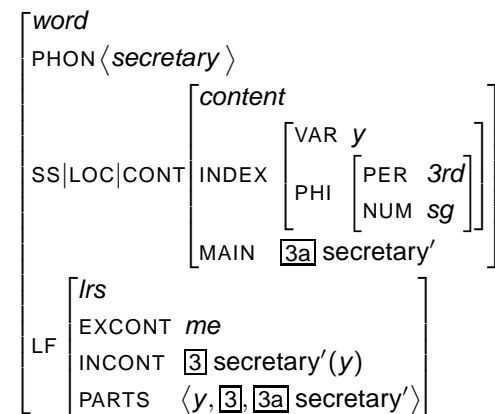
(28) hire:

&  $\boxed{1c} \triangleleft \phi$ 

(29) a:



(30) secretary:



## Basic principles

- (31) The EXCONT PRINCIPLE:
- In every utterance, every subexpression of the EXCONT value of the utterance is an element of its PARTS list, and every element of the utterance's PARTS list is a subexpression of the EXCONT value.
  - ...



## Semantics Principle, I

- (32) In each *headed-phrase*,
- the EXCONT value of the head and the mother are identical,
  - the INCONT value of the head and the mother are identical,
  - the PARTS value contains all and only the elements of the PARTS values of the daughters.



## Semantics Principle, II

- (33) In each *headed-phrase*, the following conditions hold:
- If the non-head is a **quantifier**, then its INCONT value is of the form  $Qx[\alpha \circ \beta]$ , the INCONT value of the head is a component of  $\alpha$ , and the INCONT value of the non-head daughter is identical with the EXCONT value of the head daughter,

- (34) Every **man**  
 $\text{man}'(x)$   
 $\forall x \quad [\alpha \quad \rightarrow \quad \beta \quad ]$



## Semantics Principle, II

- (35) In each *headed-phrase*, the following conditions hold:
- If the non-head is a **quantifier**, then its INCONT value is of the form  $Qx[\alpha \circ \beta]$ , the INCONT value of the head is a component of  $\alpha$ , and the INCONT value of the non-head daughter is identical with the EXCONT value of the head daughter,
  - If the non-head is a **quantified NP** with an EXCONT value of the form  $Qx[\alpha \circ \beta]$ , then the INCONT value of the head is a component of  $\beta$ .

- (36) Every **man**                      **snored**  
 $\text{man}'(x)$                        $\text{snore}'(x)$   
 $\forall x \quad [\alpha \quad \rightarrow \quad \beta \quad ]$



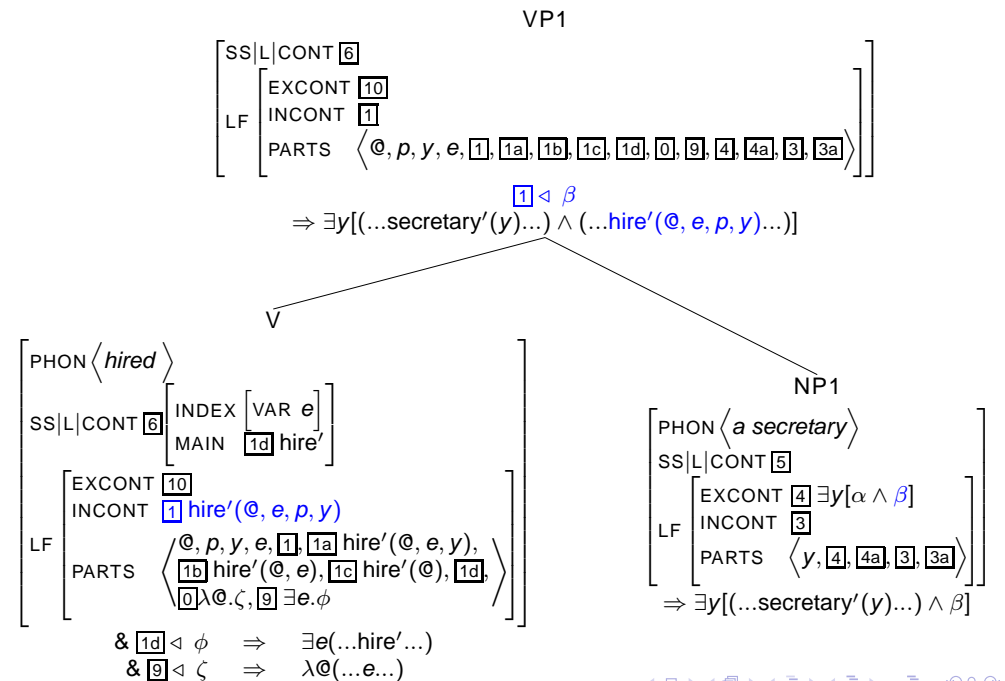
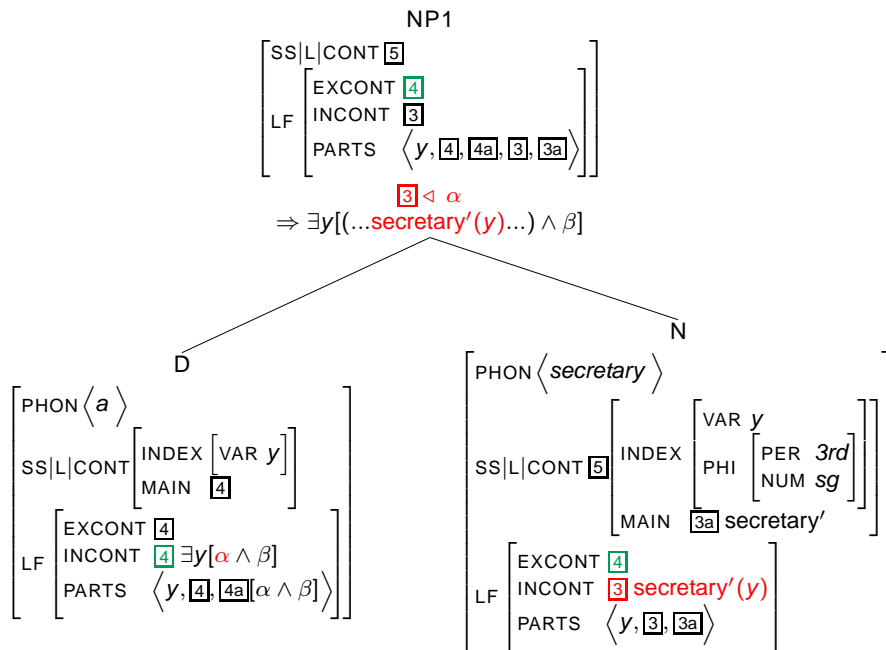
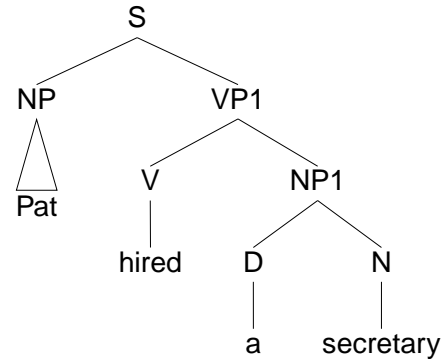
# Semantics Principle, III

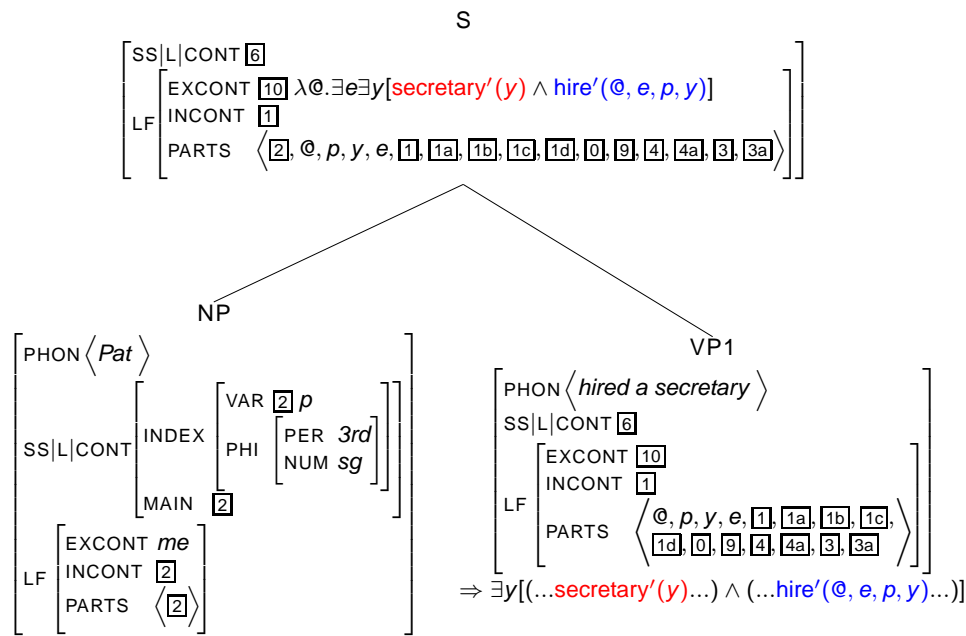
- (37) In a *head-adjunct-phrase*, the EXCONT value of the non-head is a component of the EXCONT value of the head, and
- if the non-head is an **intersective modifier**, then its EXCONT value is of the form  $\alpha \wedge \beta$  and the INCONT value of the head is a component of  $\beta$ .
  - ...

(38) red book  
 $[\alpha \wedge \beta]$   
book'(x)

# An example

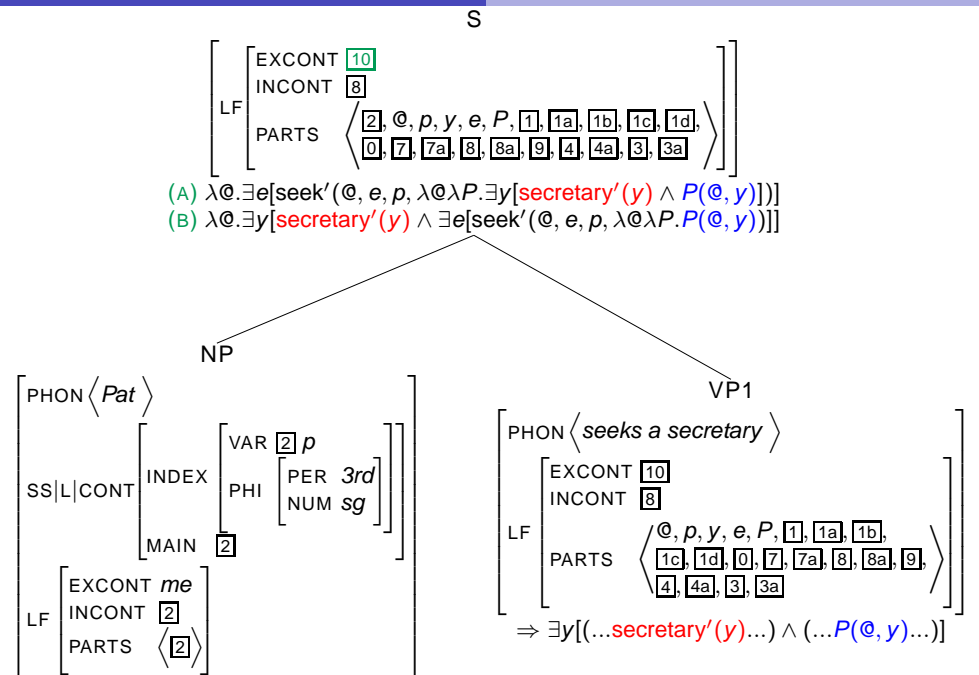
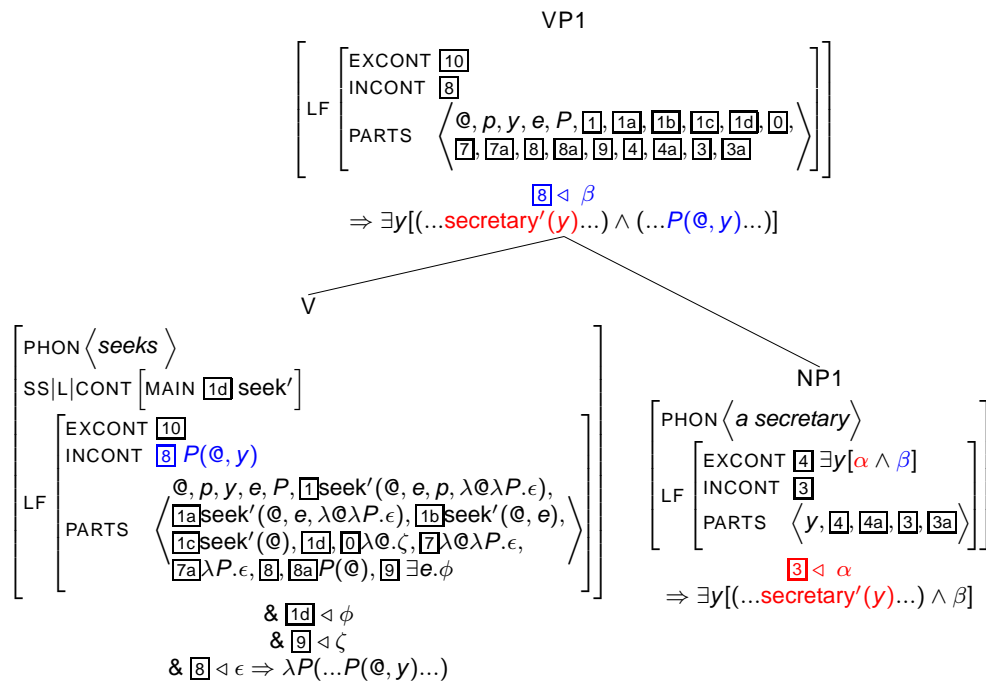
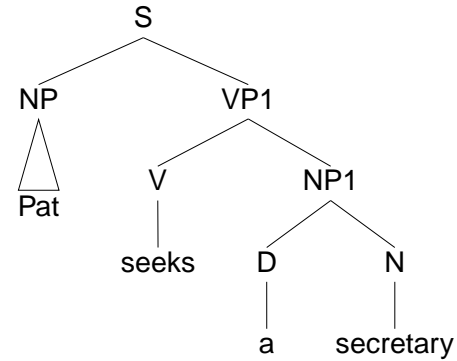
(39) Pat hired a secretary.





# An example with an intensional verb

(40) Pat seeks a secretary.



## The scope problem: RC marks scope

## Williams' Generalization:

When an adjunct  $\beta$  is extraposed from a "source DP"  $\alpha$ , the scope of  $\alpha$  is at least as high as the attachment site of  $\beta$  (the extraposition site). (Williams 1974, Fox&Nissenbaum 1999, Fox 2002)

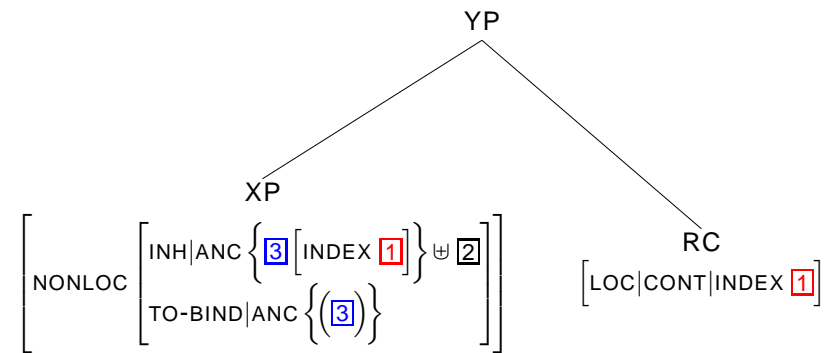
- (41) a. I looked for **something** very intensely **that will (likely) help me with my thesis**.  
 b. \*I looked for **anything** very intensely **that will/would help me with my thesis**.

- (42) Pat looked for **a secretary** very intensely **that would proofread her manuscript**.  
 $\exists > look\ for \quad *look\ for > \exists$



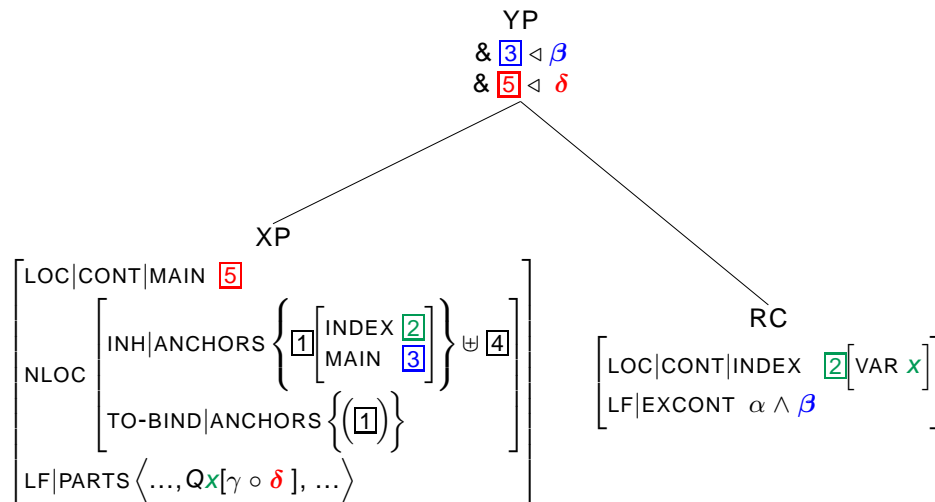
## Generalized Modification (revised, preliminary)

(43)



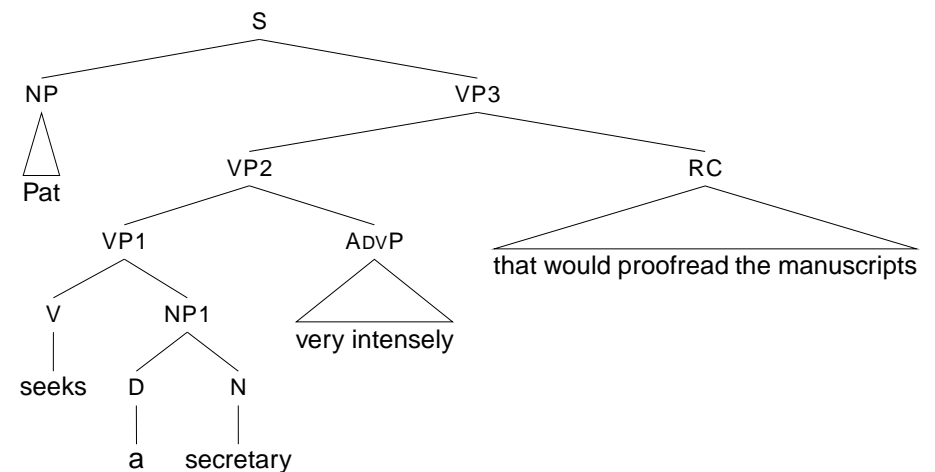
## Generalized Modification (revised, final)

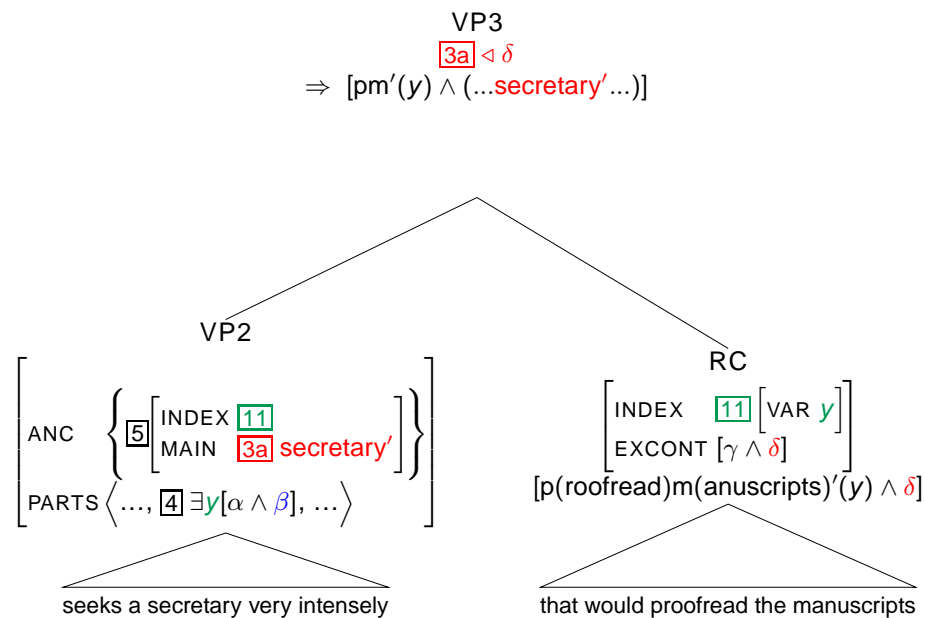
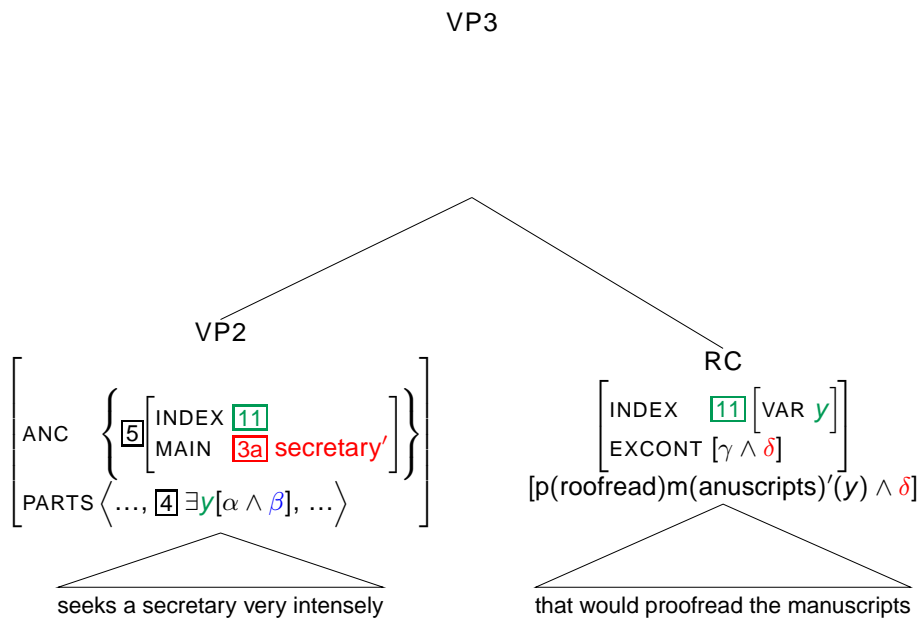
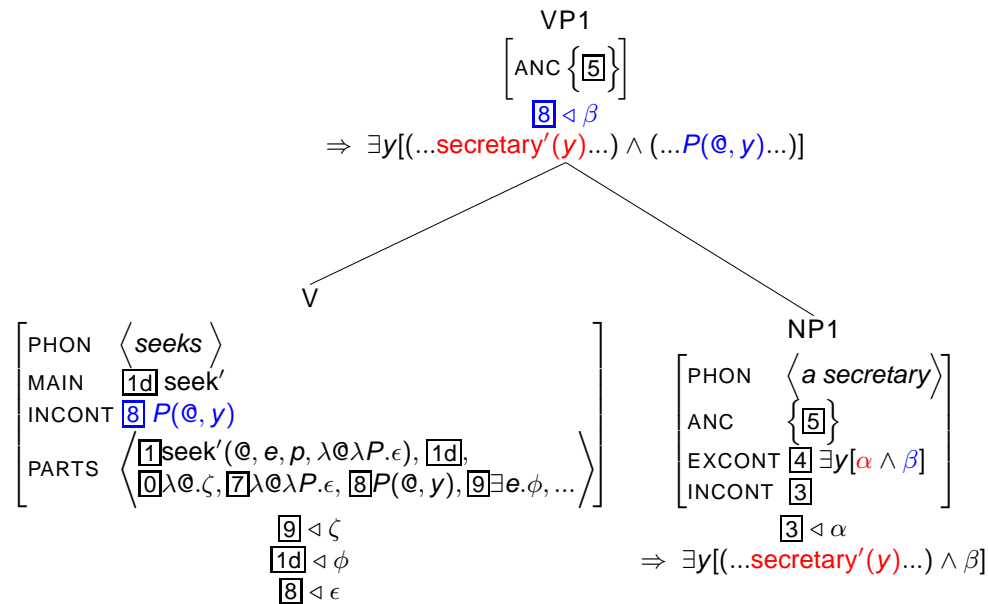
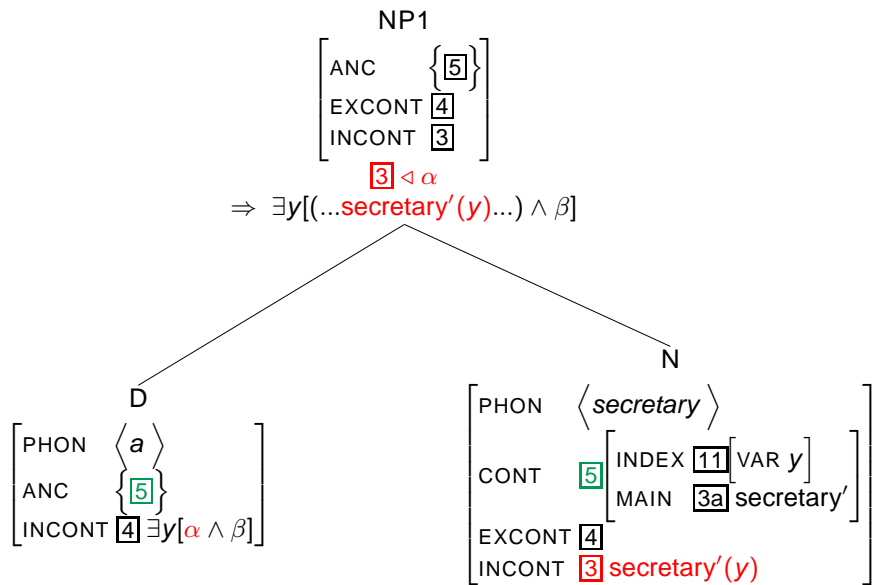
(44)



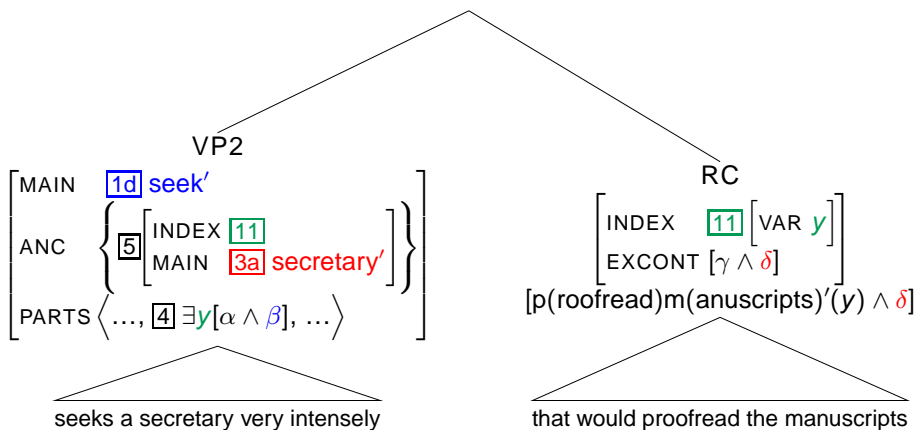
## Example: Extraposed RC

- (45) Pat seeks a secretary very intensely that would proofread the manuscripts.

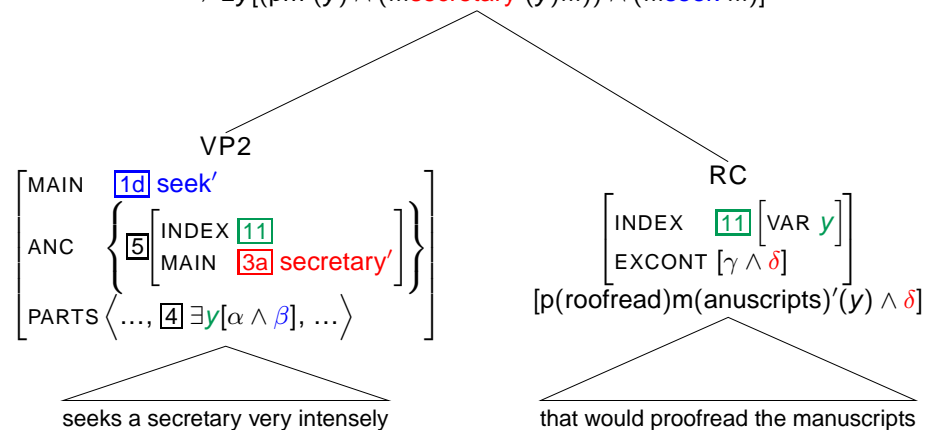




VP3  
 $\Rightarrow [pm'(y) \wedge (...secretary'...)]$   
 $\Rightarrow \exists y[(...secretary'(y)...)\wedge (...seek'...)]$



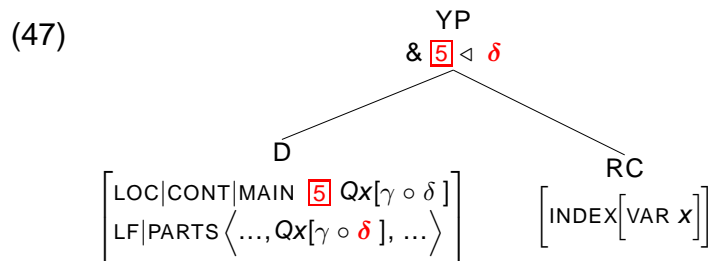
VP3  
 $\Rightarrow [pm'(y) \wedge (...secretary'...)]$   
 $\Rightarrow \exists y[(...secretary'(y)...)\wedge (...seek'...)]$   
 $\Rightarrow \exists y[(pm'(y) \wedge (...secretary'(y)...)) \wedge (...seek'...)]$



S  
 # (A)  $\lambda @. \exists e [seek'(@, e, p, \lambda @ \lambda P. \exists y [(pm'(y) \wedge secretary'(y)) \wedge P(@, y)])]$   
 (B)  $\lambda @. \exists y [(pm'(y) \wedge secretary'(y)) \wedge \exists e [seek'(@, e, p, \lambda @ \lambda P. P(@, y)]]]$

(46) \* I saw [a [who was wearing a hat]] man yesterday.

- Ruled out by the constraint that the MAIN of the head daughter must be in the scope of the quantifier
- The MAIN of a determiner cannot be in its own scope.



## Conclusion

- Generalized Modification, revised
- Obligatory RCs (*derjenige/diejenige/dasjenige*)
- Scope facts: RC marks scope

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