Model answer, Chapter 6 homework

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1 Complements v. adjuncts

2 German noun phrases

Refers to Problem GPS3: German Noun phrases

The phenomenon illustrated in examples (a)-(i) involves deletion of an N'. In each of (b)-(e) and (g)-(i), an N' is deleted. The N' s deleted in (b)-(e) can all be found in the structure of (a), the N's deleted in (g)-(i) can all be found in the structure of (f). The deletions are spelled out in Table 1. This resembles the phenomenon of one-replacement in English, in that an N' constituent in context is required, but the process involved is deletion rather than replacement [The N's in question are not *replaced* by a word like *one*; they disappear completely.]

Die schlanke Frau aus Frankrich		
	Deleted	Relevant tree(s)
(b)	Frau	A, B
(c)	schlanke Frau	B
(d)	Frau aus Frankreich	A
(e)	junge Frau aus Frankreich	A, B
Die junge koenigen von England		
	Deleted	Relevant tree(s)
(g)	Koenigen von England	C
(h)	junge Koenigen von England	C
(i)	* junge Koenigen	C

Table 1: Constitents deleted

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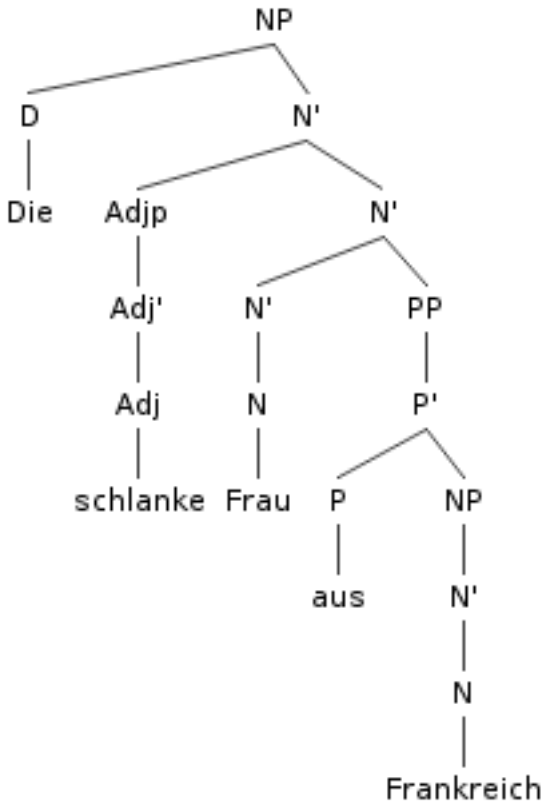

A

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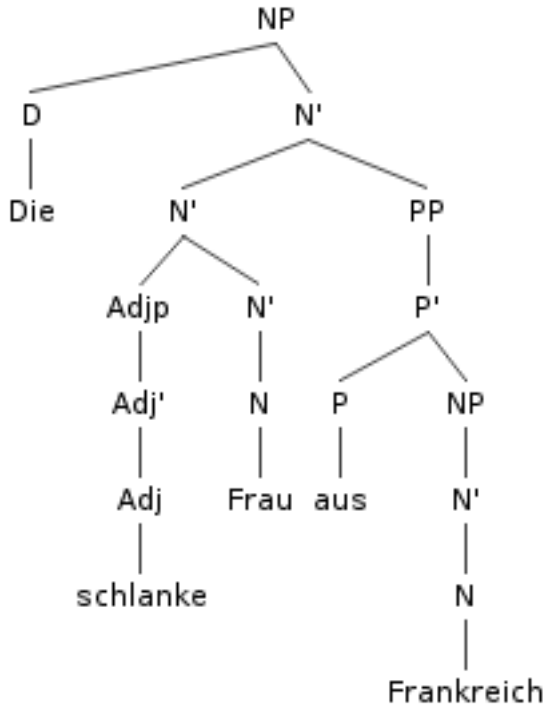

B

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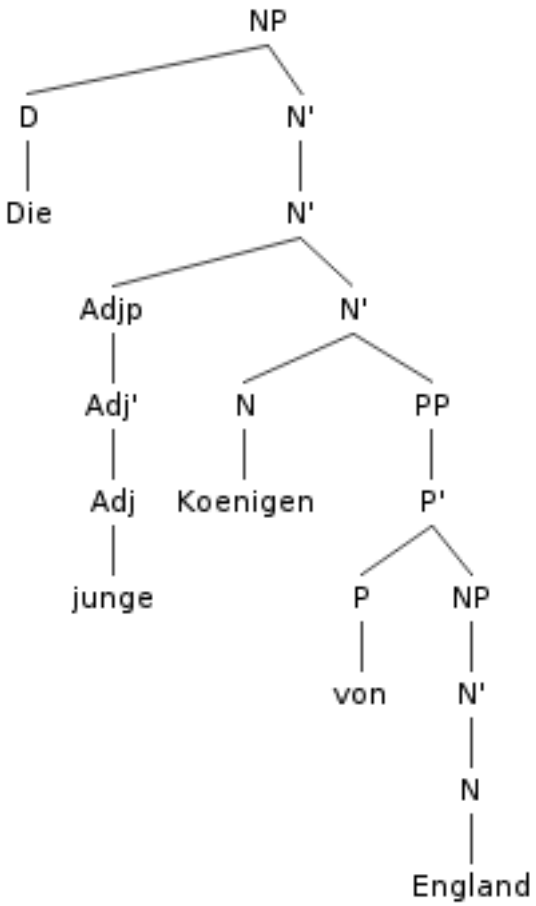

C

In example (b), *Frau* is deleted , as shown in Table 1. We assume that only N's are deleted, so to explain the grammaticality of example (b) we need a Tree that makes *Frau* an N'. Tree A does this. In example (c), however, *schlanke Frau* is deleted, and *schlanke Frau* is not exhaustively dominated by an N' node in Tree A. So Tree A can not explain the grammaticality of example (c). However, Tree B is also an appropriate tree for example (a), so, if we assume that that (a) is ambiguous between the structure in Tree A and Tree B, then we can explain both examples (b) and (c). Similarly, *Frau aus Frankreich* is deleted in example (d). In Tree A, but not in Tree B, *Frau aus Frankreich* is an N'. So we need Tree B for example (c) and Tree A for example (d). Thus, no single tree explains all the data, and it's quite fortunate that X-bar theory allows us to draw two trees for (a).

In order to explain why (i) is ungrammatical, we observe that what is deleted in (i) is *junge koenigen* (Table 1), and that *junge koenigen* is not an N' in Tree C, the correct structure for the subject NP in (f). Note that Tree C treats *von England* as a complement. This means it is impossible to draw a second tree for (f) that would make *junge Koenigen* a constituent. Consider tree D, which is an attempt to do this. That tree must attach *junge* first to *koenigen*, which means that *von England* attaches higher. But in Tree D, *von England* is sister to an N', so it is incorrectly treated as an adjunct. We can therefore explain the ungrammaticality of (i) with no new assumptions if *von England* is a complement: There is no appropriate structure for (i) that makes *junge koenigen* an N' (or even a constituent).

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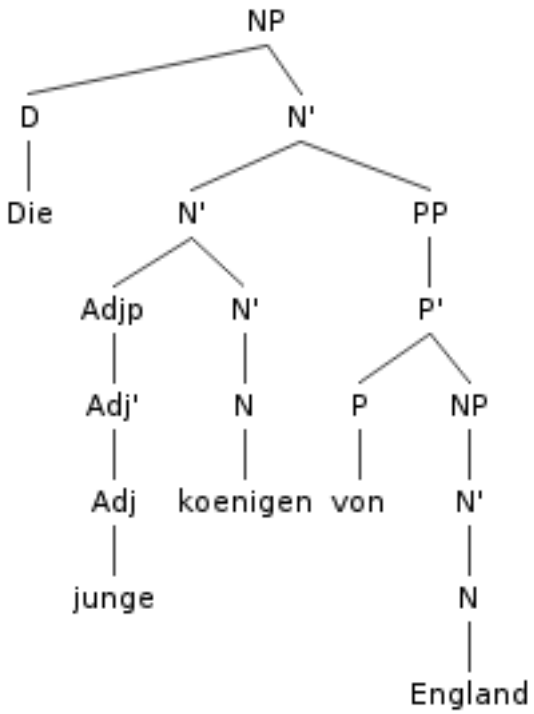

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