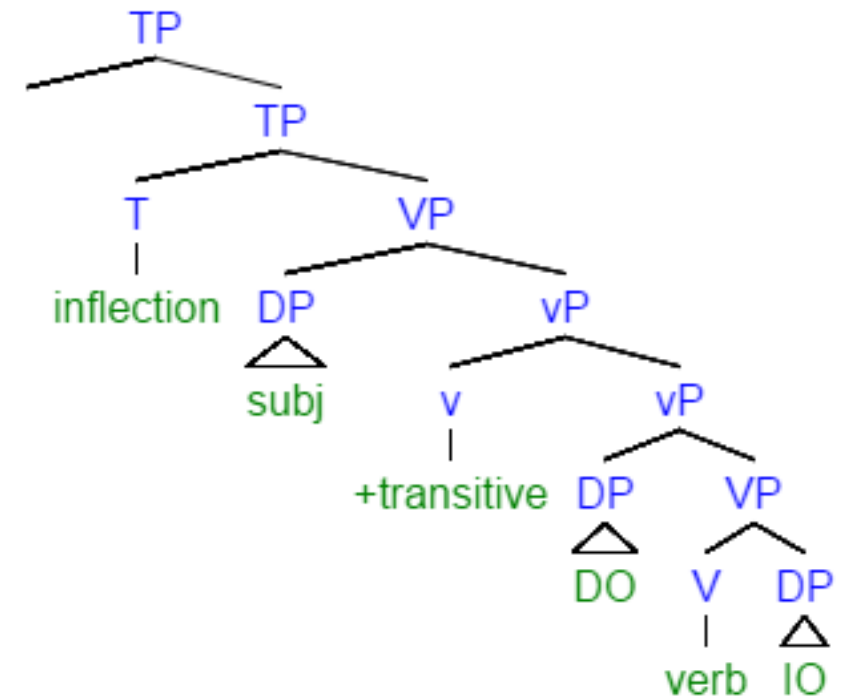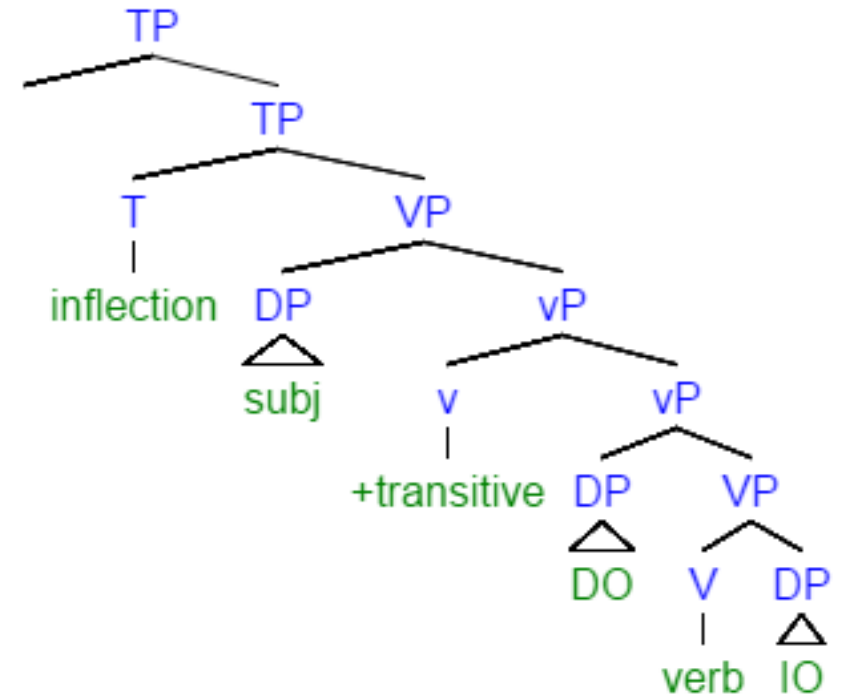# Rōzhi h'Asshai

Syntax of Verb Phrases

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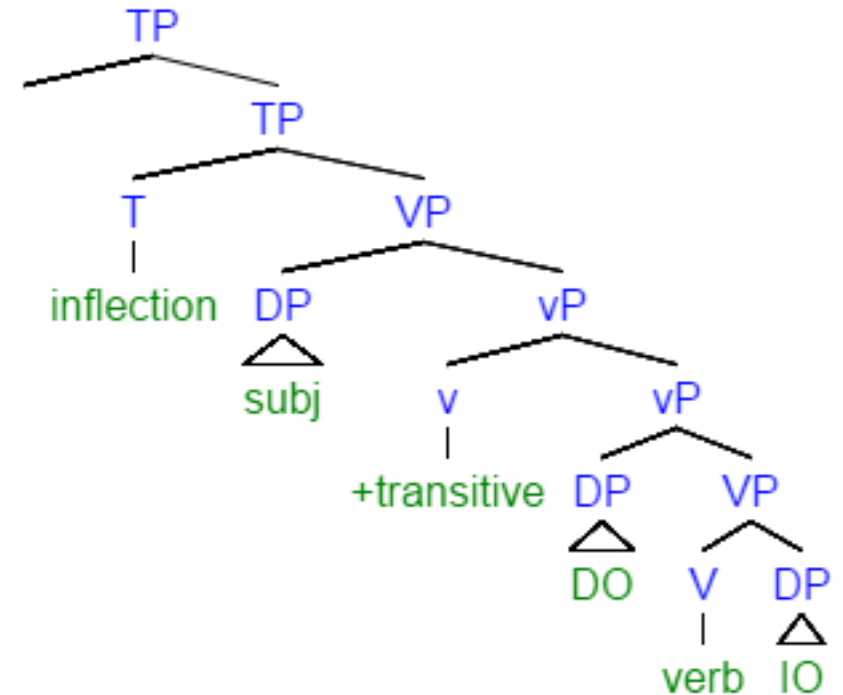   - takes the DO as its specifier

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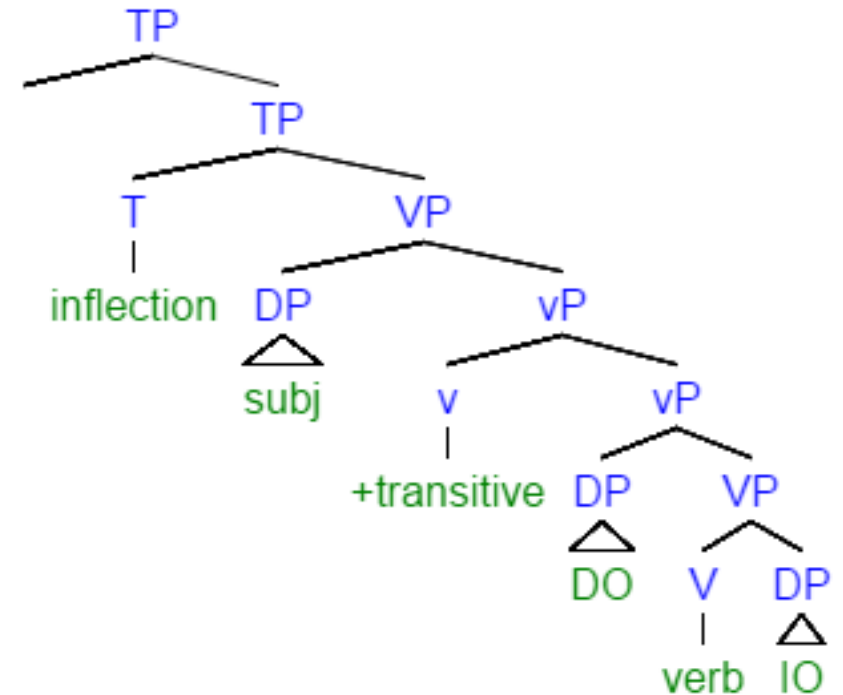 - takes the DO as its specifier

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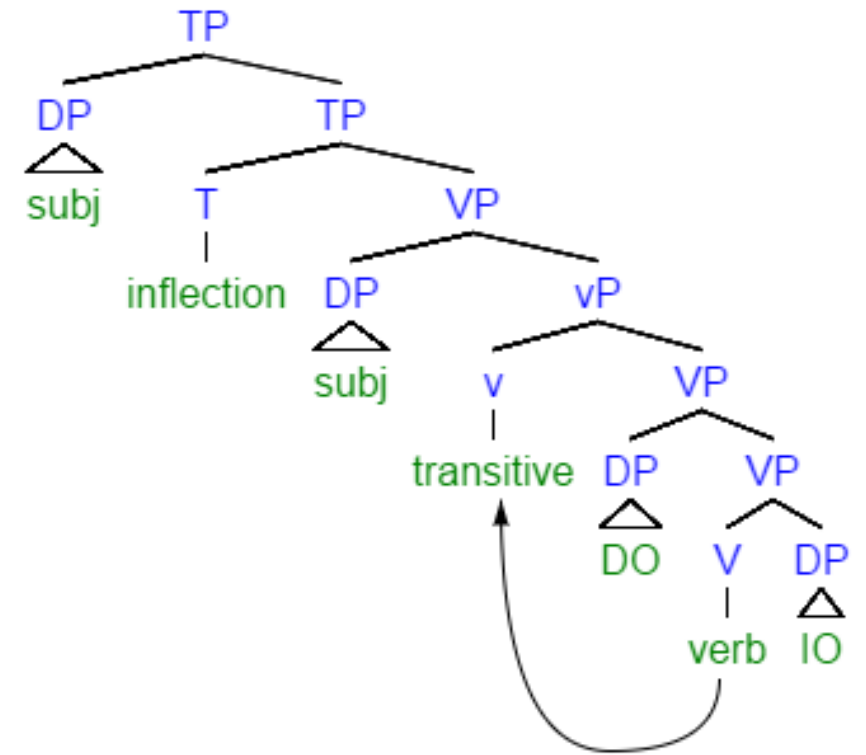 - takes VP as its complement
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- Lastly (external to this particular theory), TP:
  - is headed by T (hosts inflectional features)
  - is responsible for making the verb finite
  - assigns NOM

A normal transitive sentence
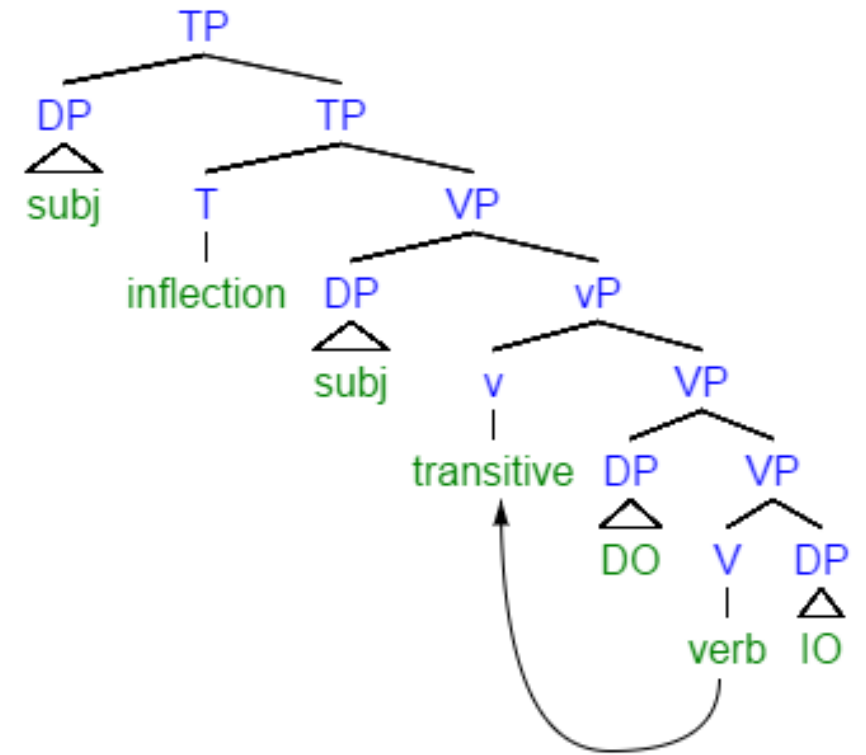
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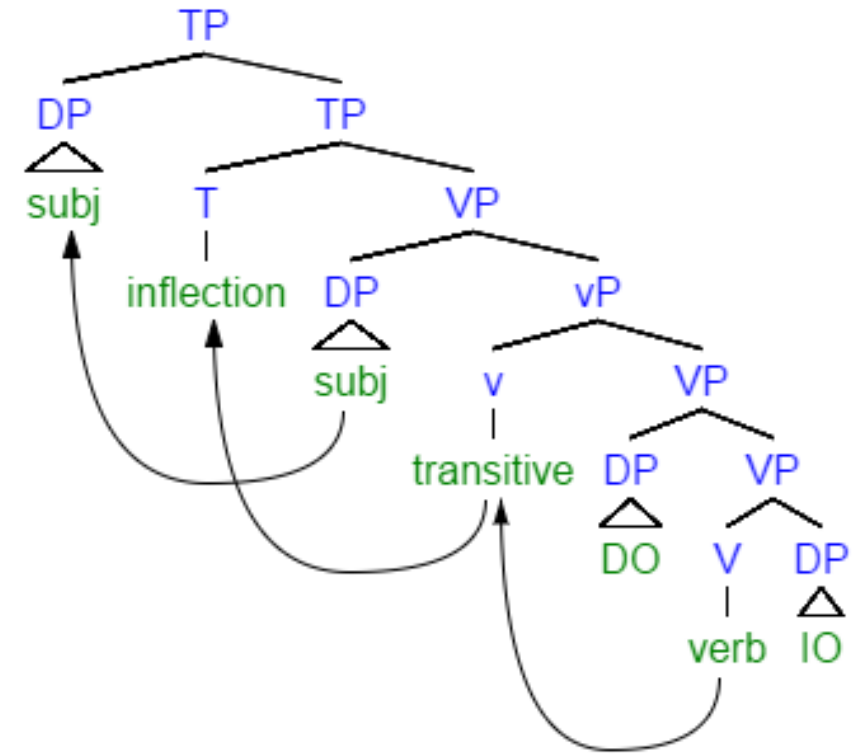   *I went not after all.

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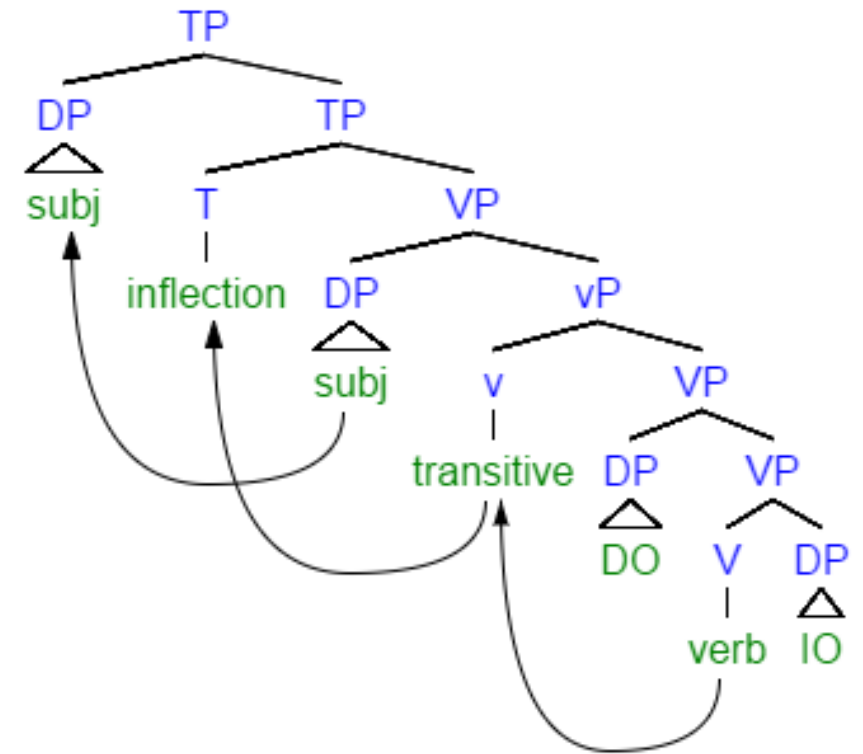
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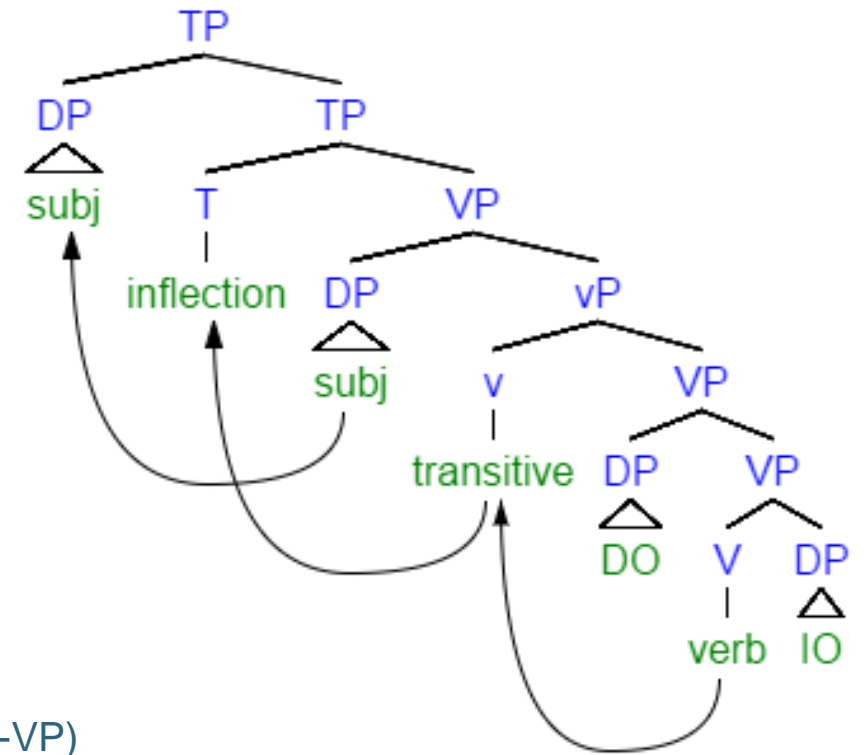
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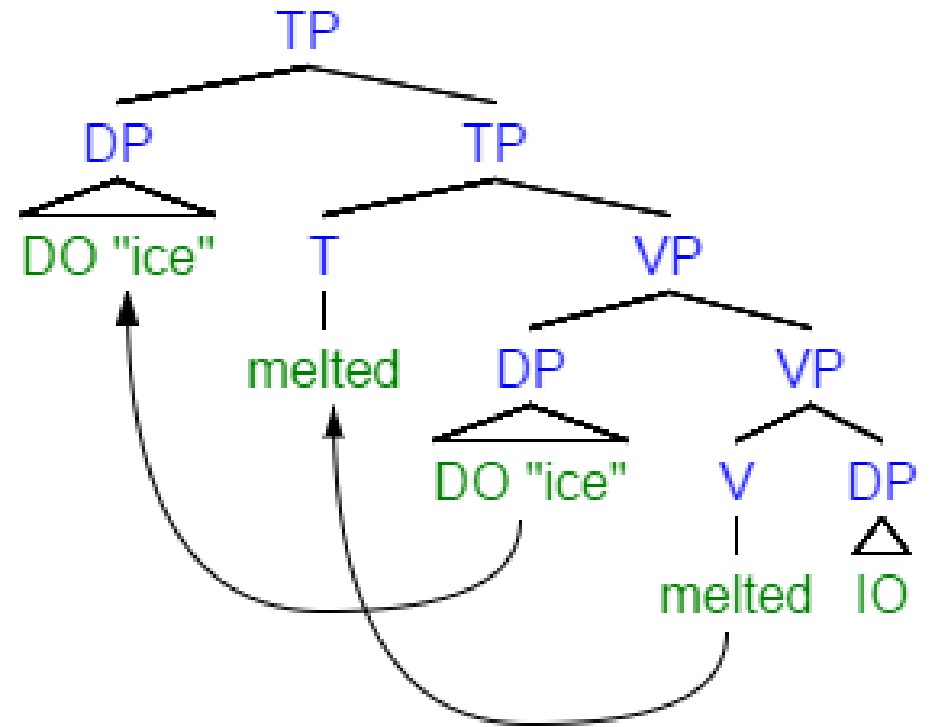
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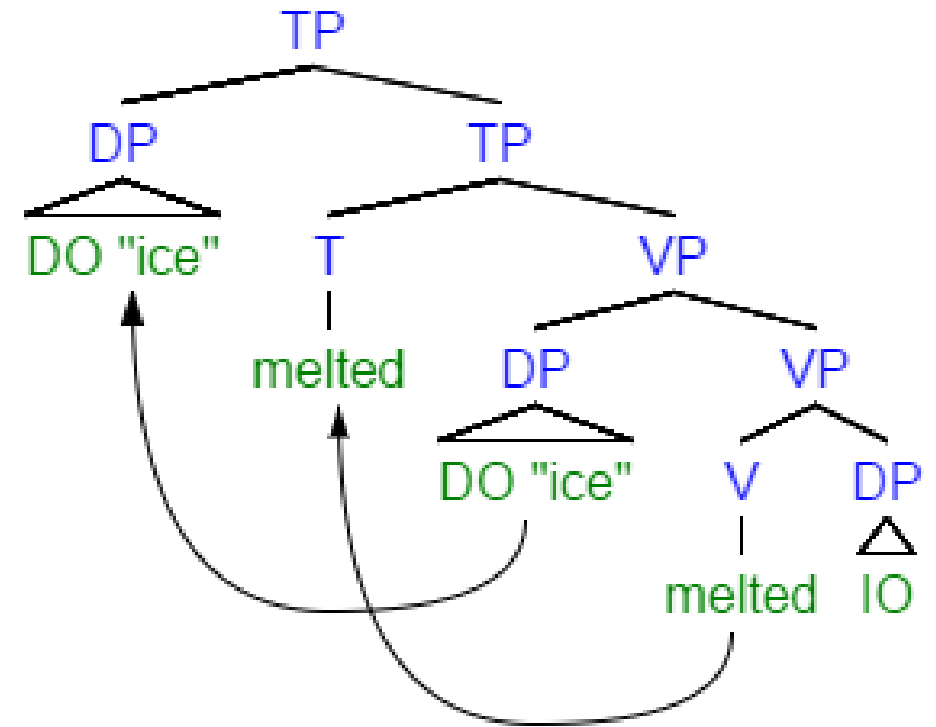
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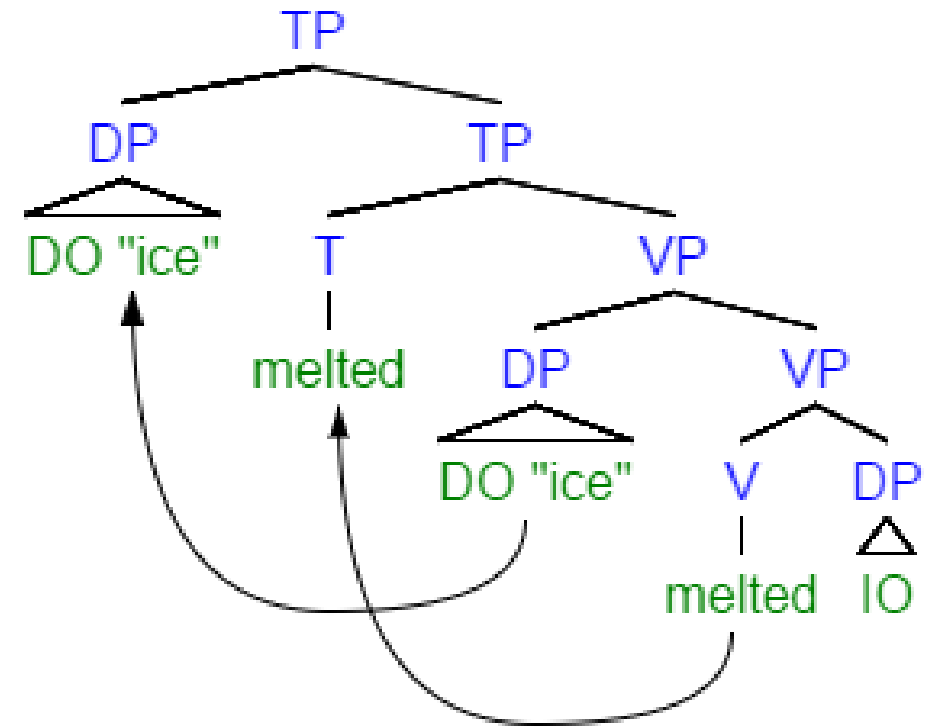
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"*Melted the ice" (if it doesn't move up to subject position, it can't get NOM, and the sentence is ungrammatical. All DPs need case.)
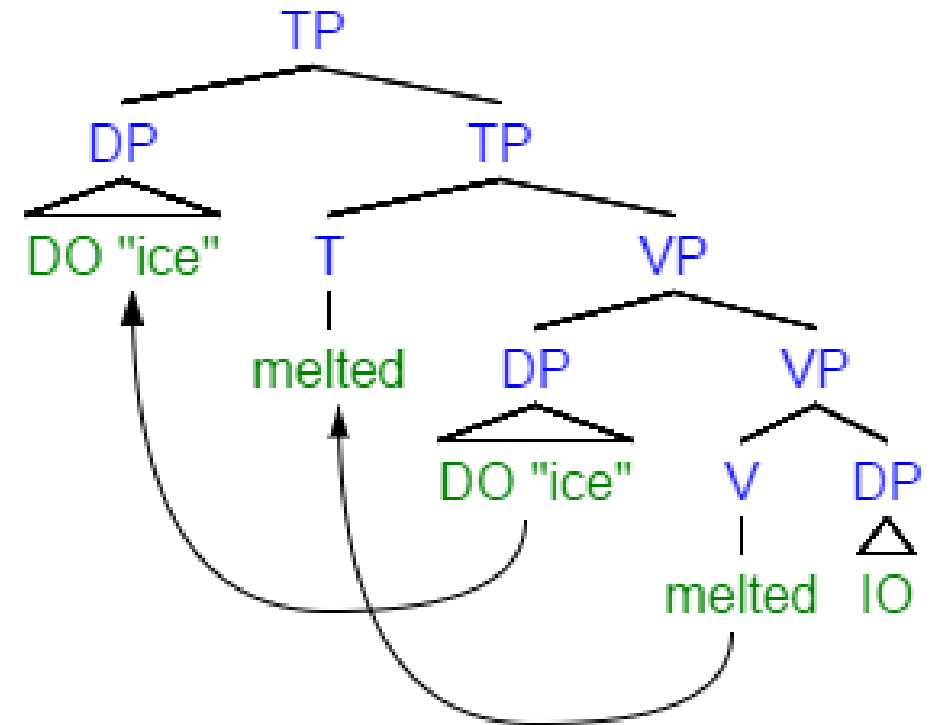
Evidence for vP

- Morphologically realized (affix or light verb) – Persian:

Rostam Sohraab-o laqat^V zad$^{little-v}$.
Rostam Sohrab-ACC kick hit.3sg.past
"Rostam kicked Sohraab"

Sohraab(-*o) laqat^V xord$^{little-v*}$.
Sohraab(-*ACC) kick eat.3sg.past
"Sohrab got kicked"
(*doesn't assign ACC)

(Toosarvandani 2009, from a handout from Ling 222C with Gribanova and Harizanov)

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What would it look like if v *lowered* to V, instead of V *raising* to v?

Rōzhi h'Asshai: Ditransitive Verbs
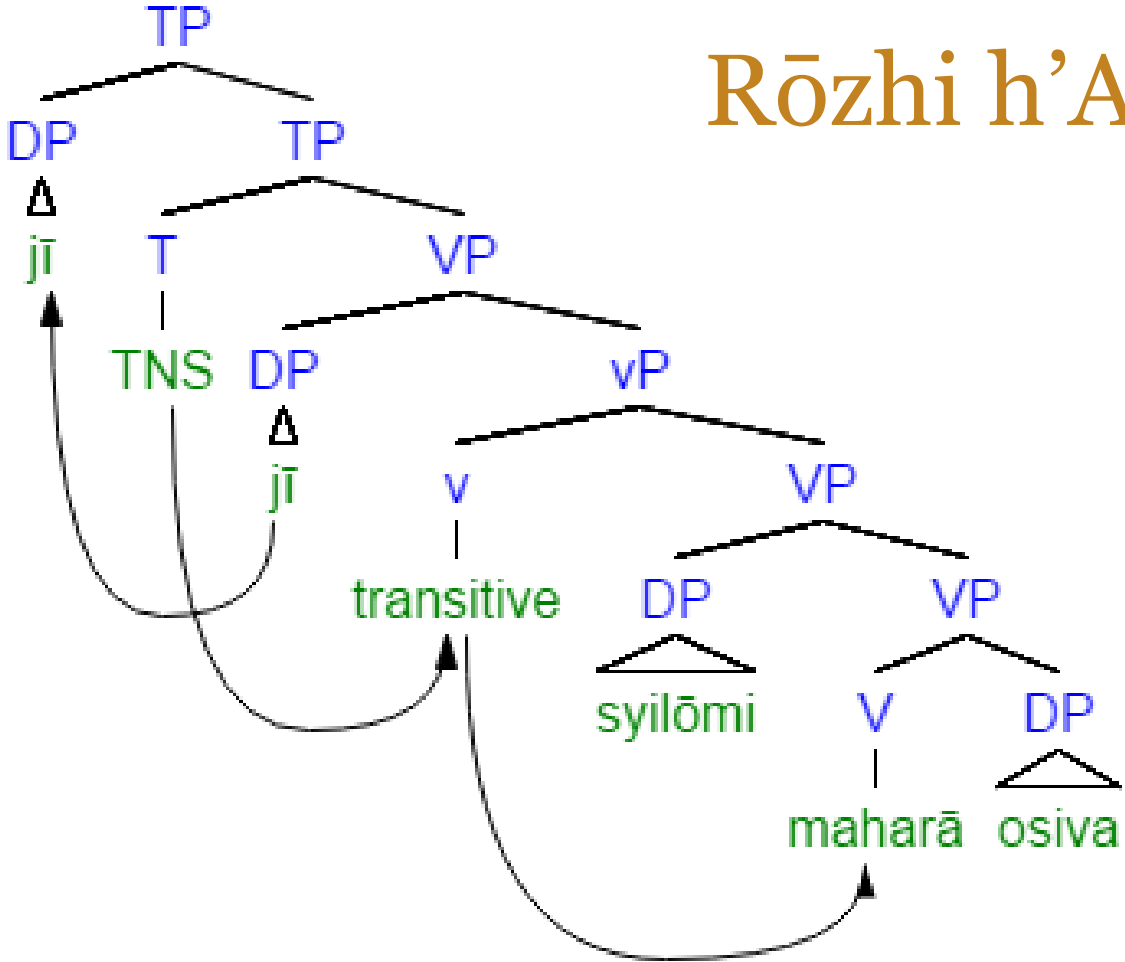
jī	syilōmi	maharā	osiva
1sg.NOM	water.ACC	give.1sg.PRES	3sg.GEN

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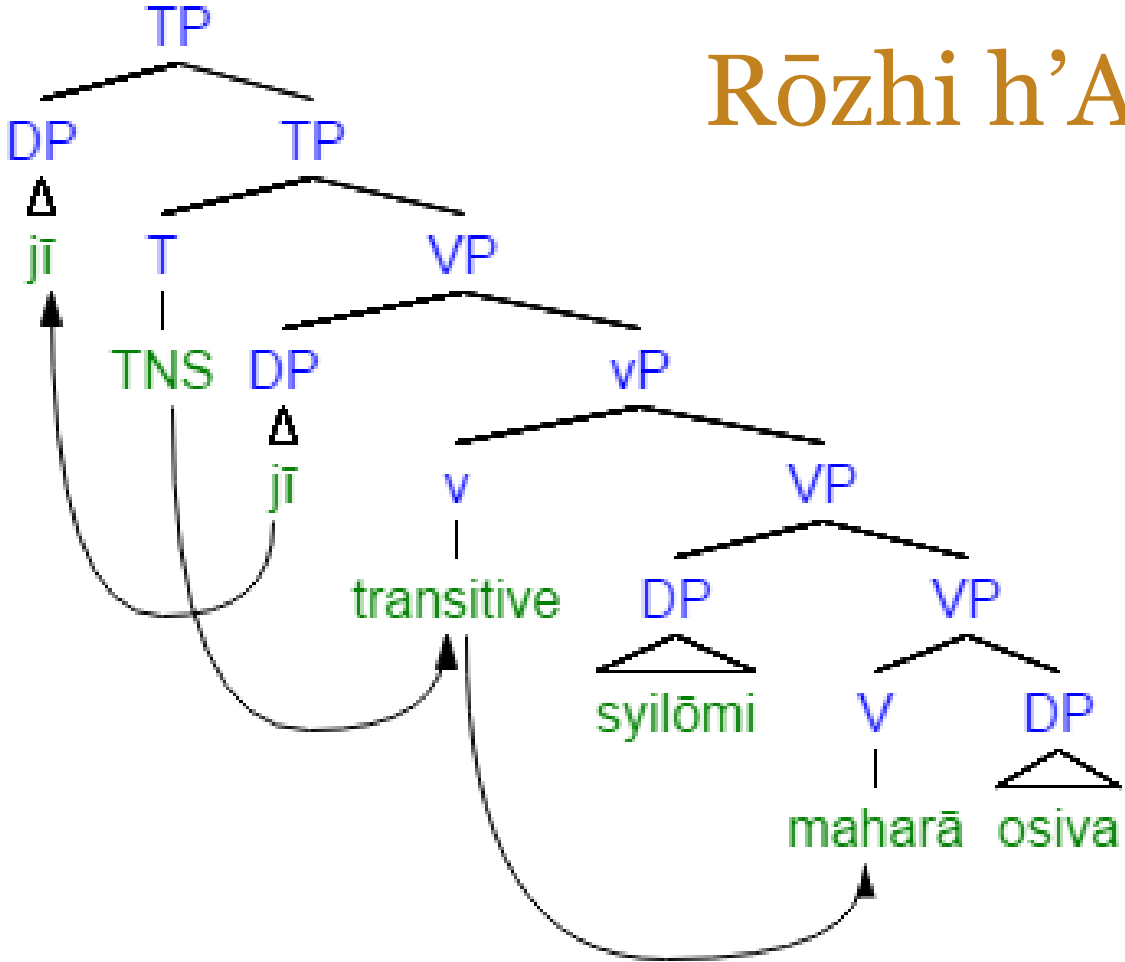
NOT an SOV language – typically, SOV languages display the order

S-IO-DO-V

But this is S-DO-V-IO

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Complement to VP can also be a TP

jī   oita   kaisyā   am   syilōmi   marag   ajī
1sg.NOM   3sg.masc.ACC   make.1.sg   INF   water.ACC   give   1sg.GEN
"I made him give me the water."

(analytic causative)
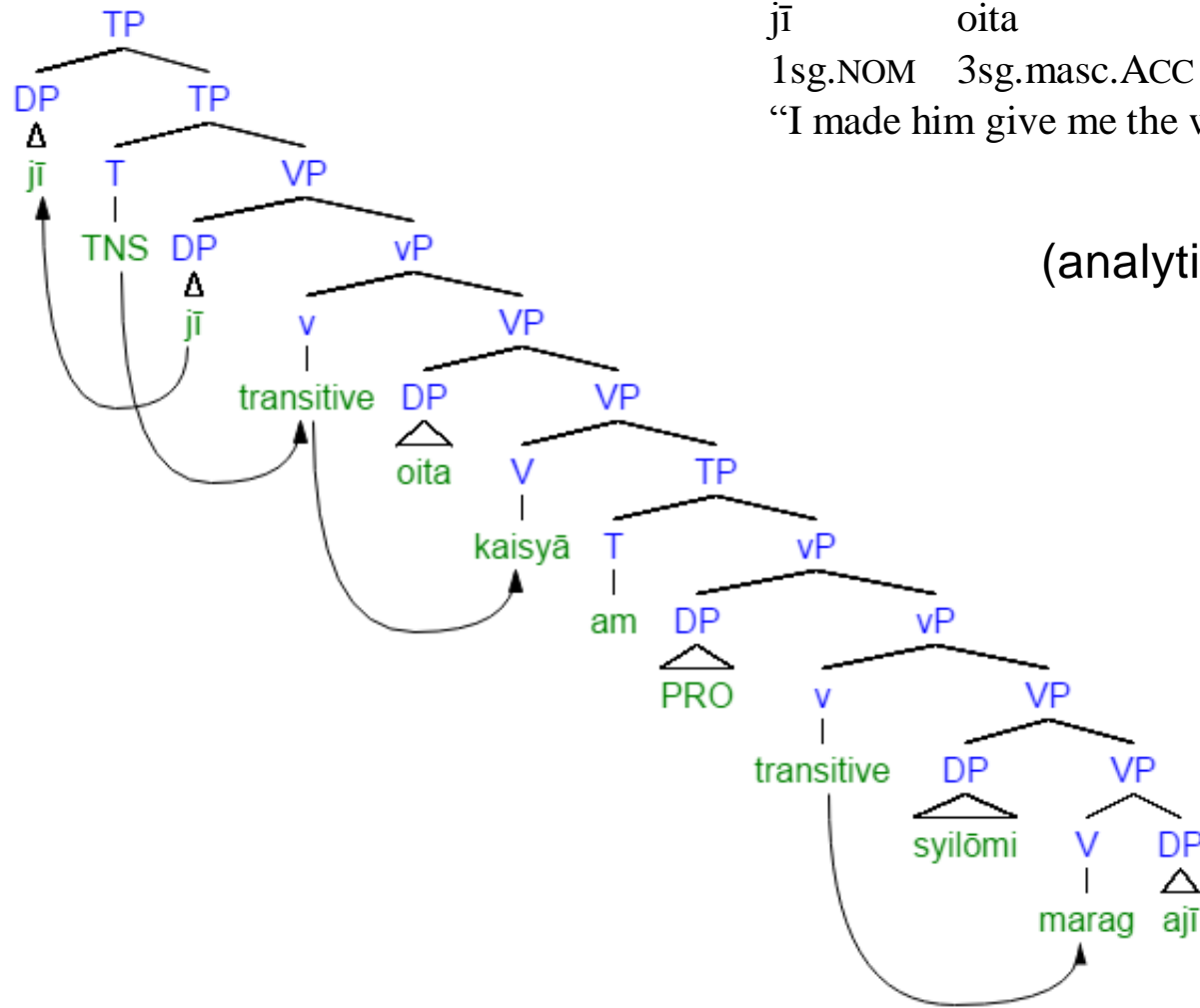
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Reflexives

Historical sort of "merger under adjacency"

The resulting phrase was then realized as a separate possible head of little-vP
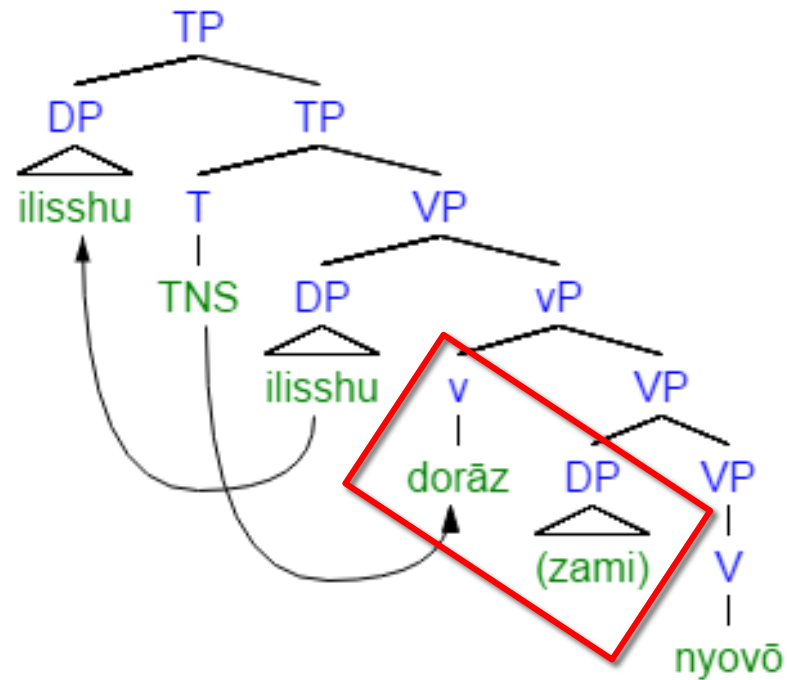
"Reflexive" Forms

- This process destroyed all inflectional information about the subject, but the object and the verb were by definition identical, so the inflectional information about the object meant that no information was actually lost.

- Since information *is* be lost when the subject and object are different (i.e. normal transitive verbs), this change didn't spread to other verbs. But a system can't exist in just one verb form for verb long—eventually it will just get levelled and decline like a regular active verb.

- So obviously there had to be a series of verbs that declined this way.

Unaccusatives (WIP)

am ōtizhā	to fall
dorās ōtizhā	he falls

----

am zhibos	to bring about
zhibosy-ar	he brings about
dōr zhibos	to happen
dorō zhibos	it happens

----

am pizyihā	to give birth to
pizyish-ai	she gives birth to
dōr pizyihā	to be born
dorāsi pizyihā	he is born

(Italian *essere* v *avere*: *andare/camminare,* **sono** *andato***/ho** *camminato*)

(Also planned: more v's than just *dōr*)

Some of you are probably wondering…

Berkeley
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Why am I doing this to you?

Not only can conlanging benefit* from linguistics, but linguistics can benefit from conlanging.

Theoretical linguistics is about theories.

Theories make predictions about what is and is not possible.

Predictions need to be tested.

You can't exactly google "language that doesn't promote V to v".

But you can make one yourself and see what falls out from that little tweak.