

# Merger

## Chapter 2

# Chapter 2 Principles, Conditions and Constraints

- **Headedness Principle**  
Every nonterminal constituent in a syntactic structure is a projection of a head word
- **Binarity Principle**  
Every nonterminal constituent in a syntactic structure is binary-branching
- **Co-ordination Condition**  
Only constituents of the same type can be co-ordinated
- **Economy Condition**  
Syntactic structures should contain as few words as possible, and syntactic operations should affect as few words as possible
- **Preposing Condition**  
When material is preposed in order to highlight it, what is preposed is the smallest possible maximal projection containing the highlighted material
- **Functional Head Constraint / FHC**  
The complement of a certain type of functional head F (such as a determiner or complementiser) cannot be moved on its own (without also moving F)
- **Polarity Condition**  
A polarity item must be c-commanded by an affective (e. g. negative, interrogative or conditional) constituent
- **Binding Condition**  
A bound constituent must be c-commanded by an appropriate antecedent

# Merger

## **Combining constituents to make larger constituents**

Constrained by the **Headedness Principle** (since every nonterminal constituent is the projection of a head word, all nonterminal constituents must have a head) and the **Binarity Principle** (limits all mergers to the combination of two constituents at a time).

**American intervention in Iraq has caused considerable controversy**

A N P N T V A N

**American intervention in Iraq has caused considerable controversy**

A

N

P

N

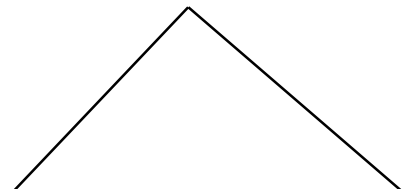
T

V

A

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A

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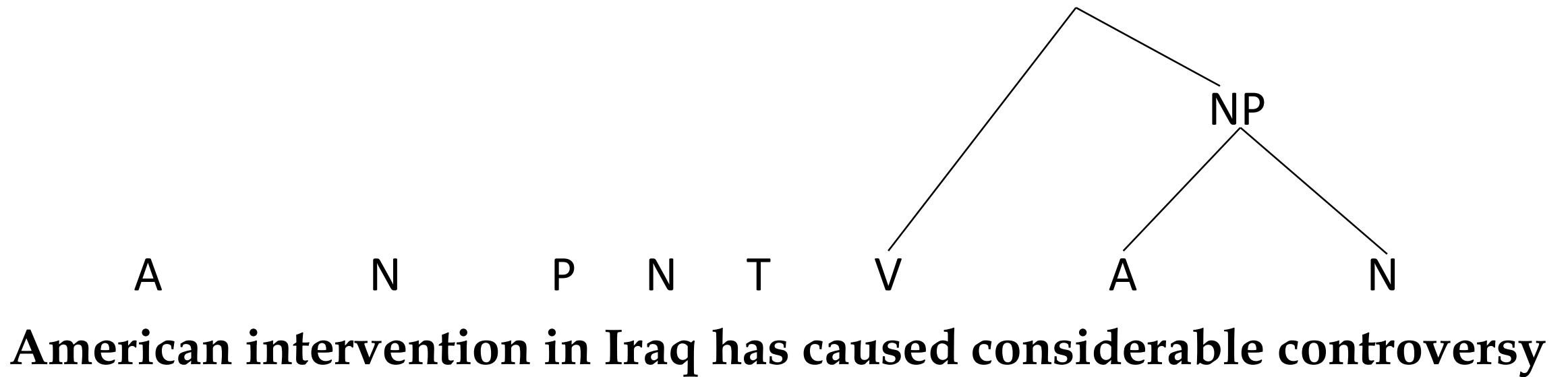
V

A

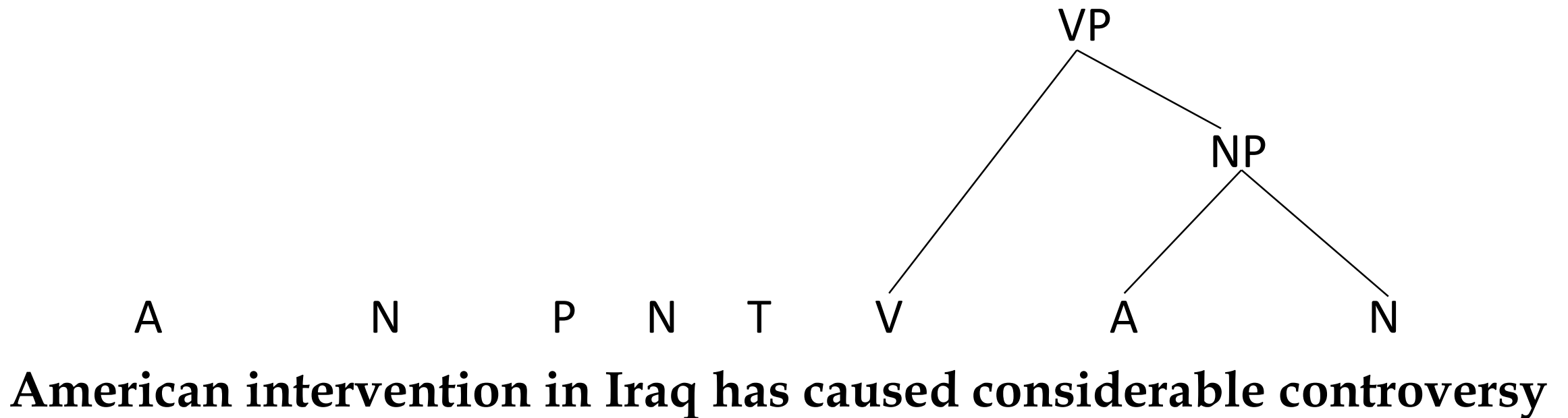
NP

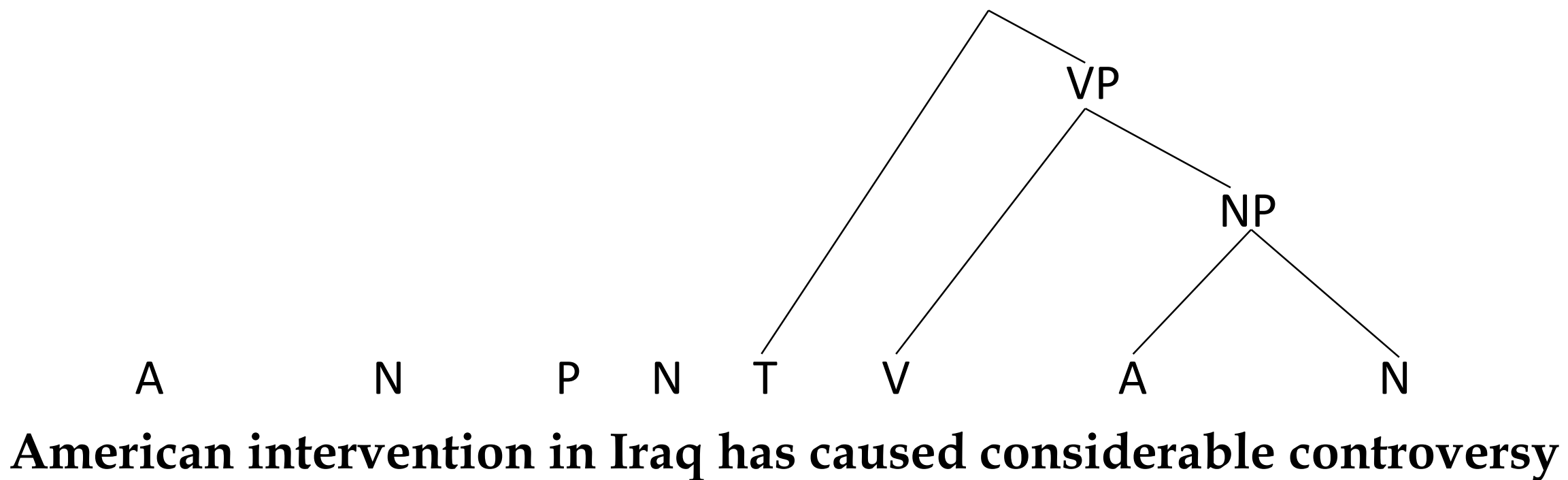
N

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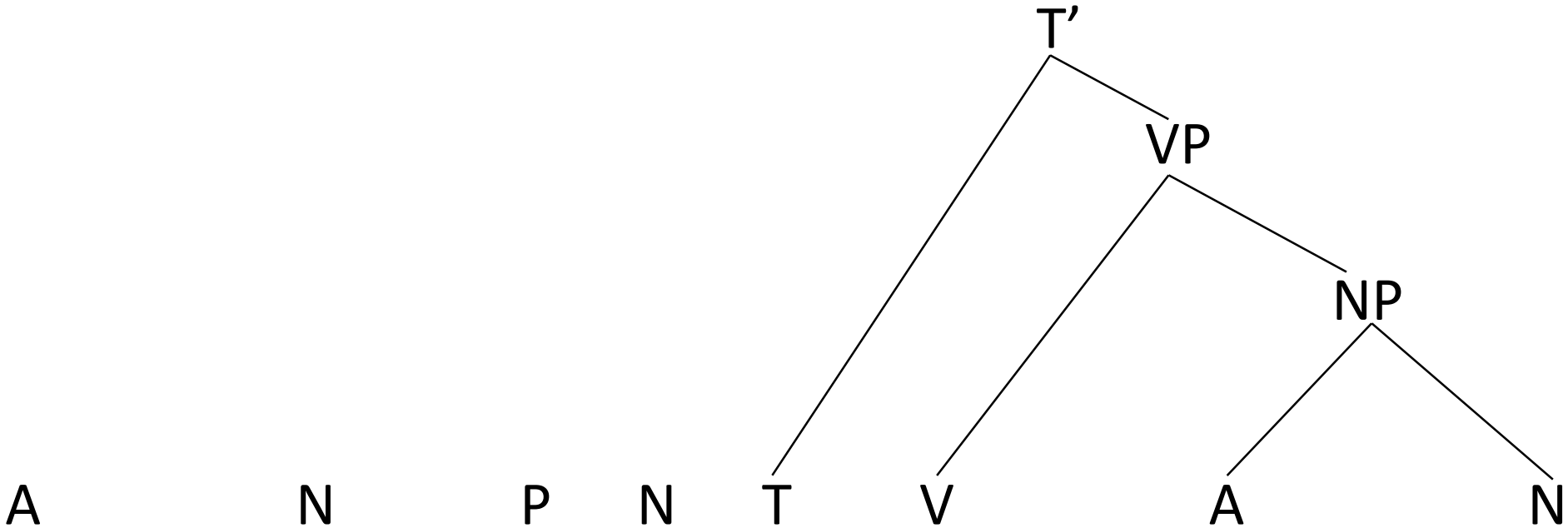




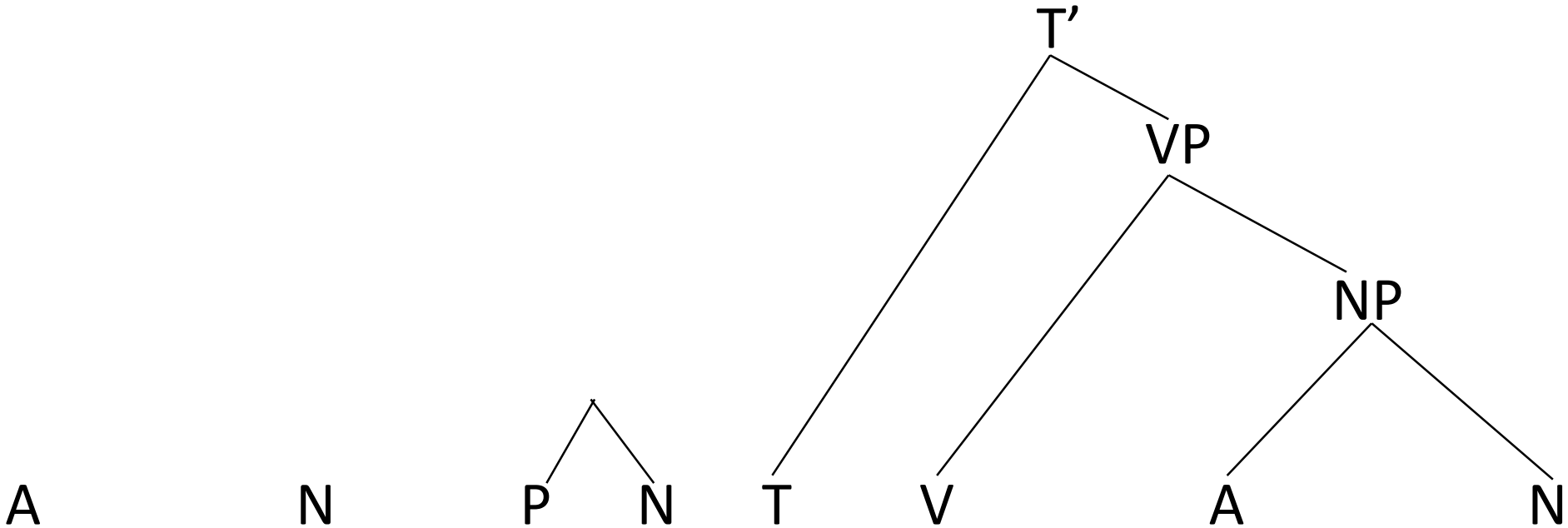




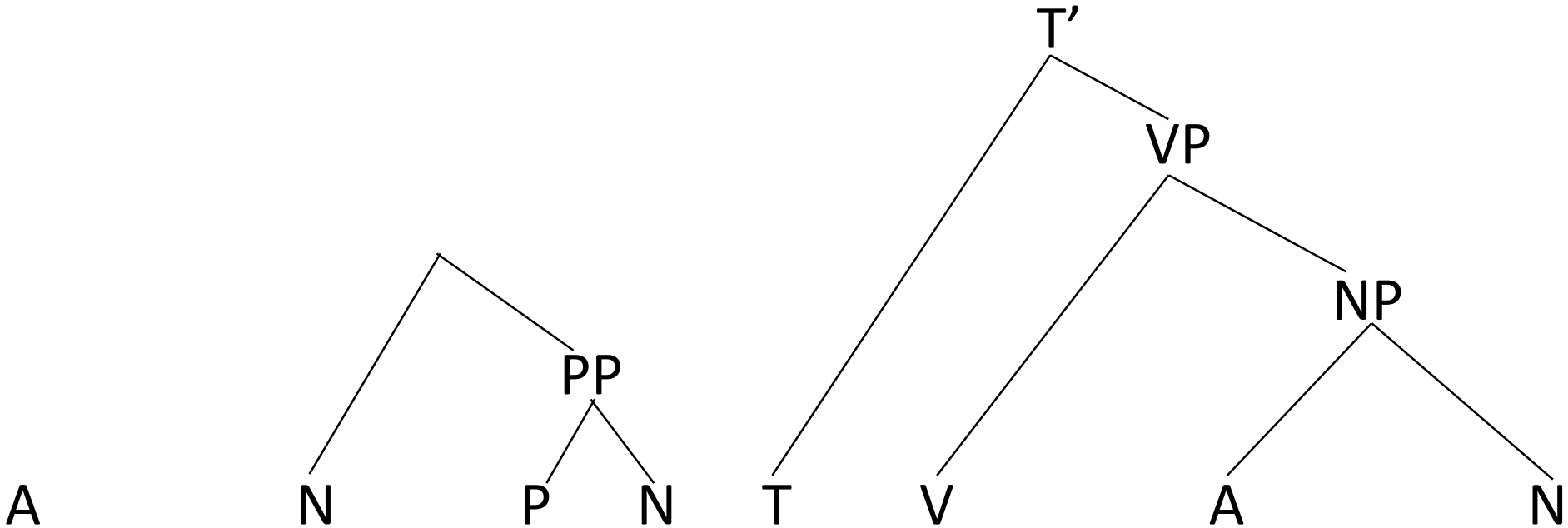
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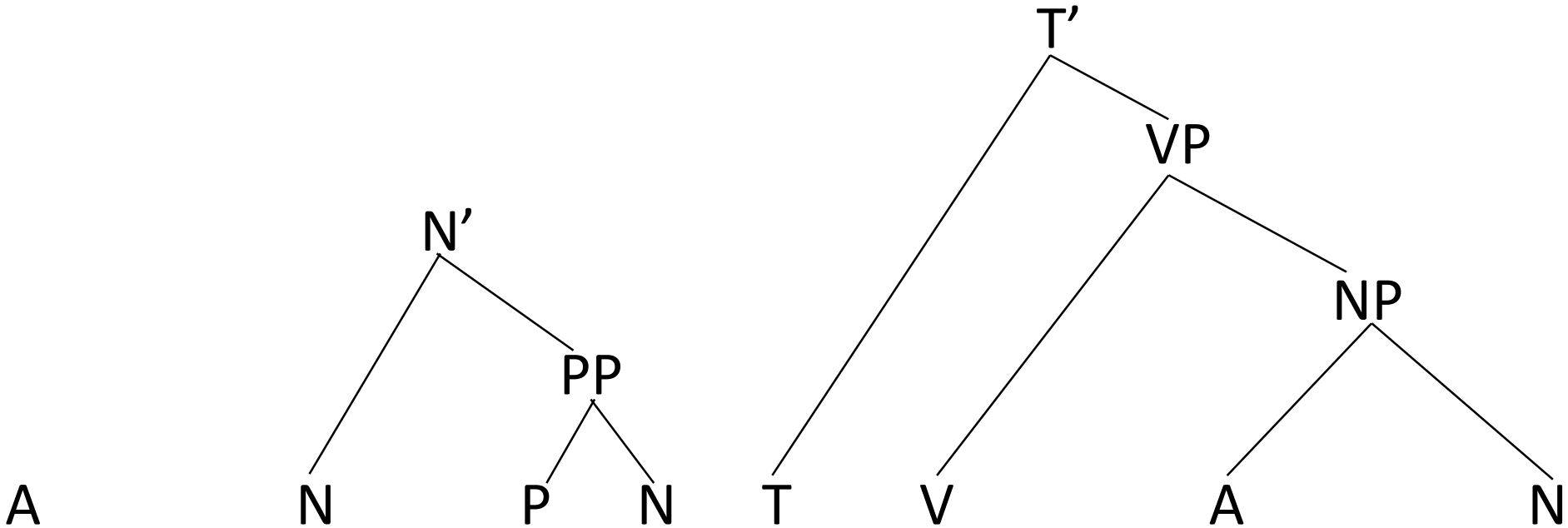
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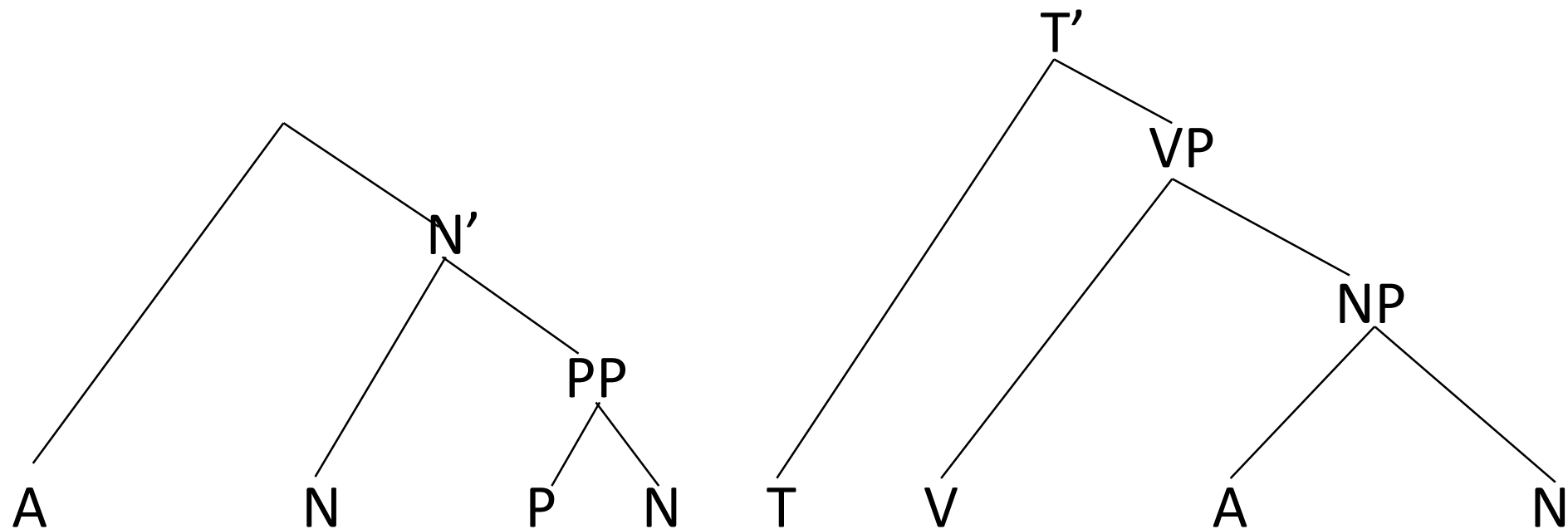
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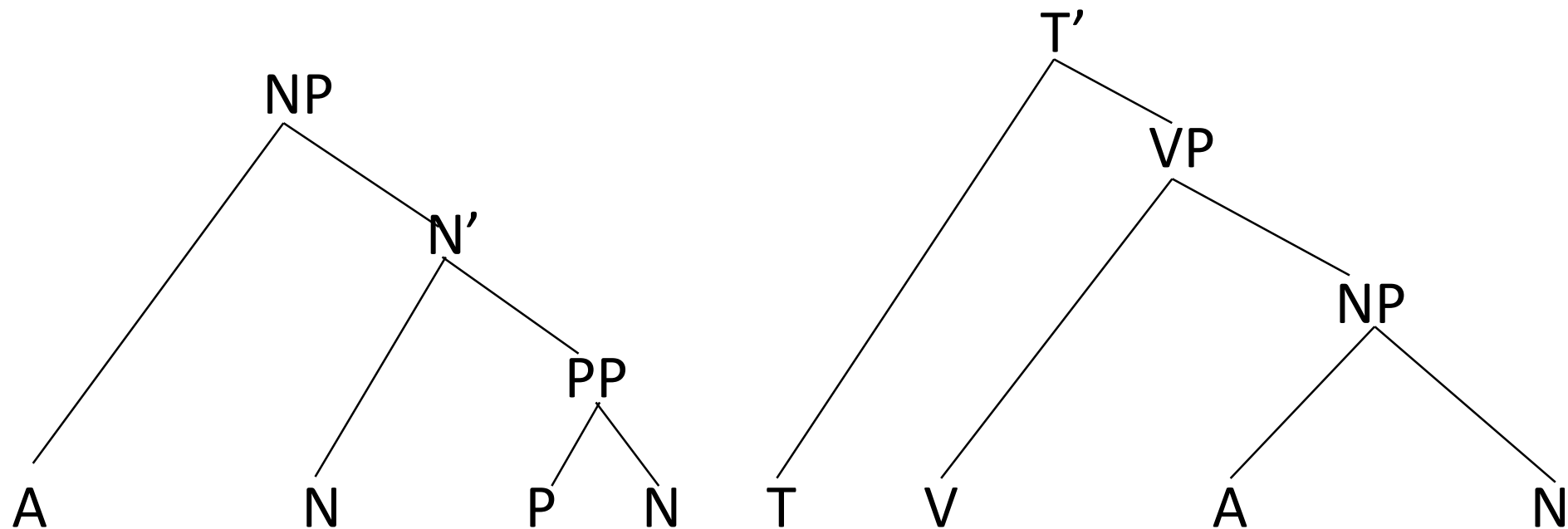
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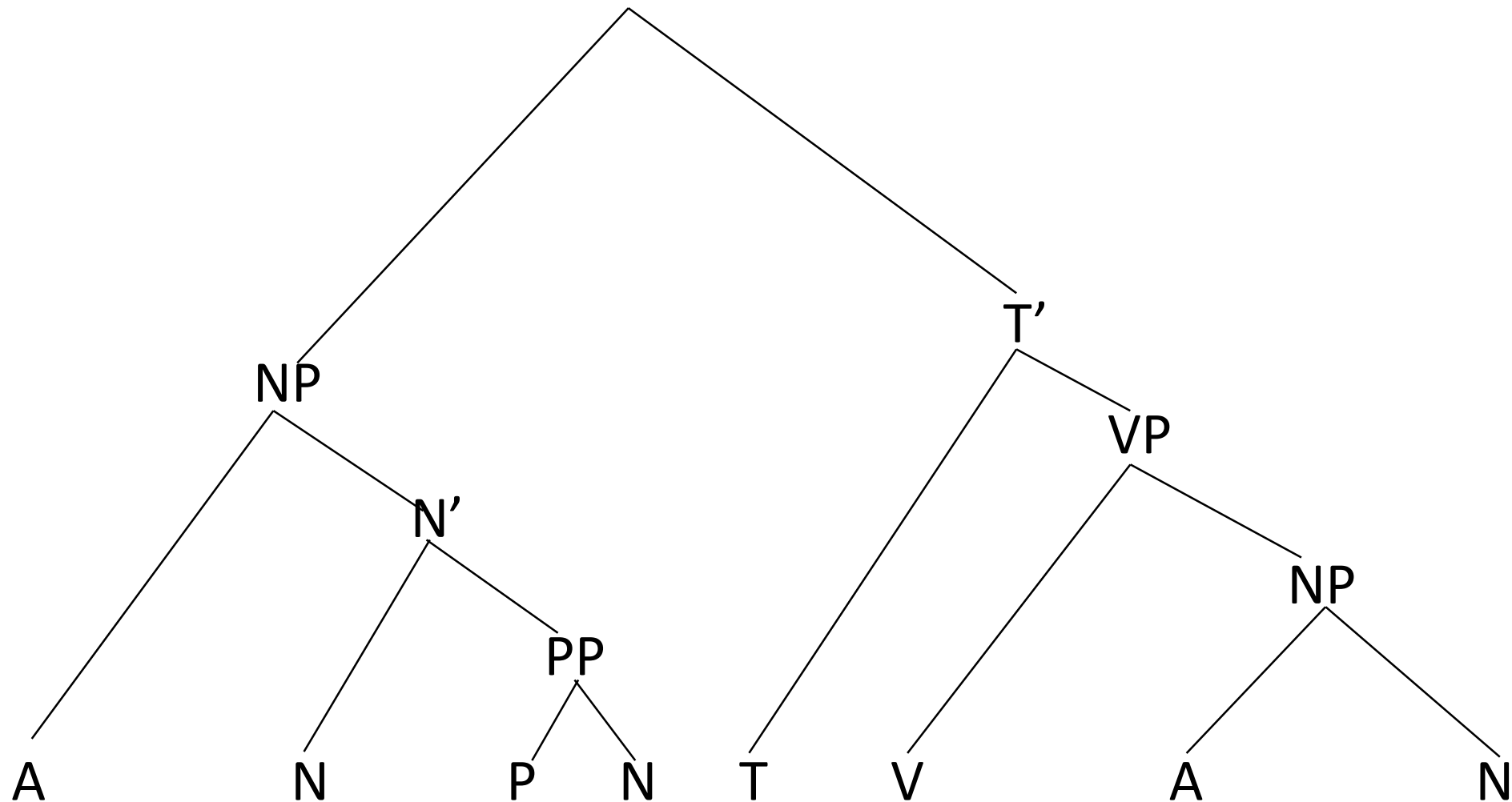


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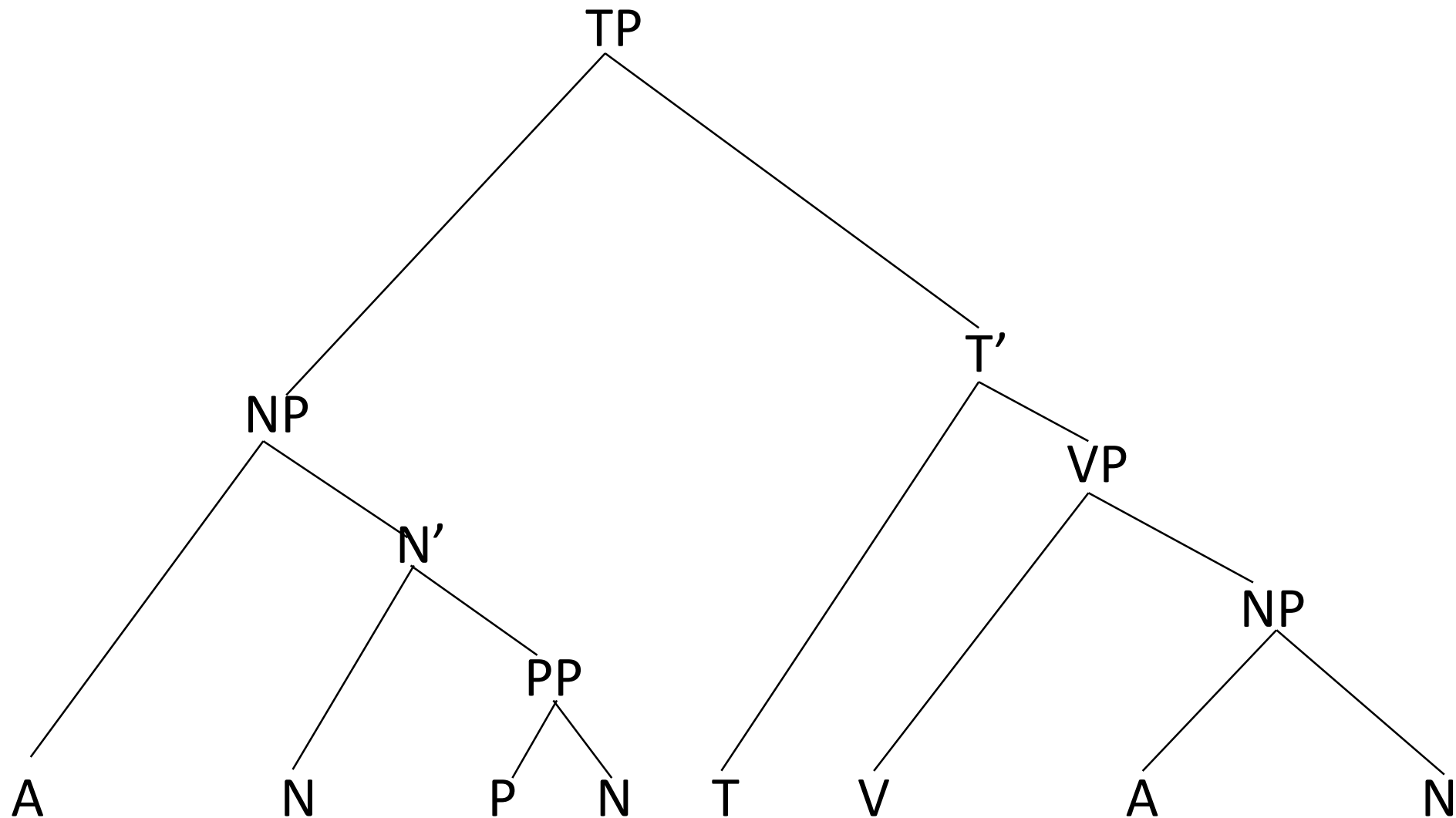


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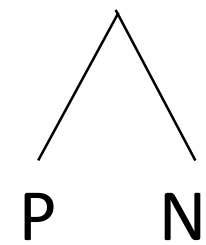
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N

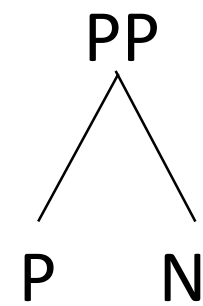
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P N

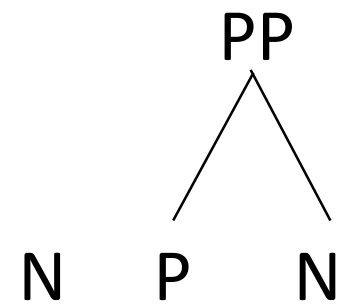
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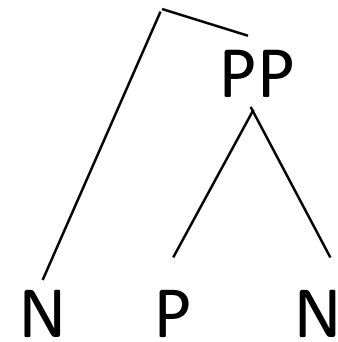


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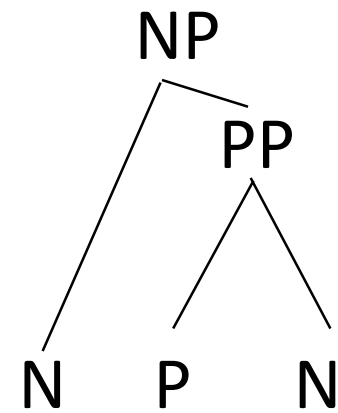


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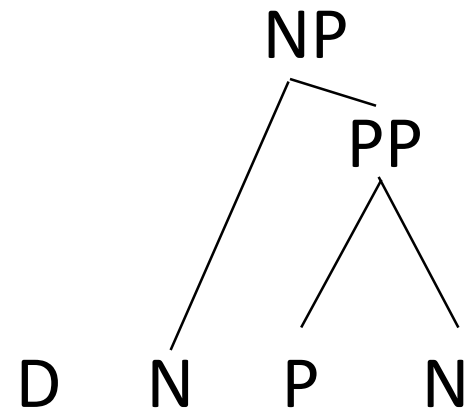




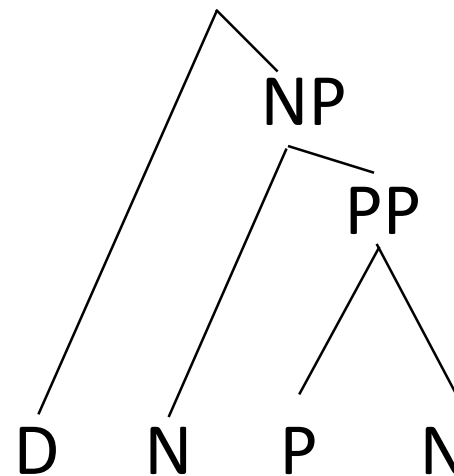
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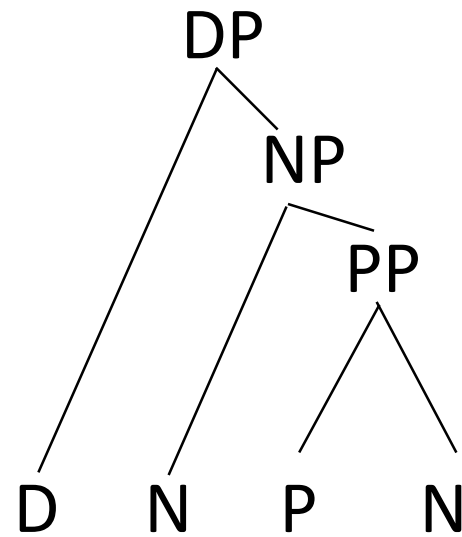
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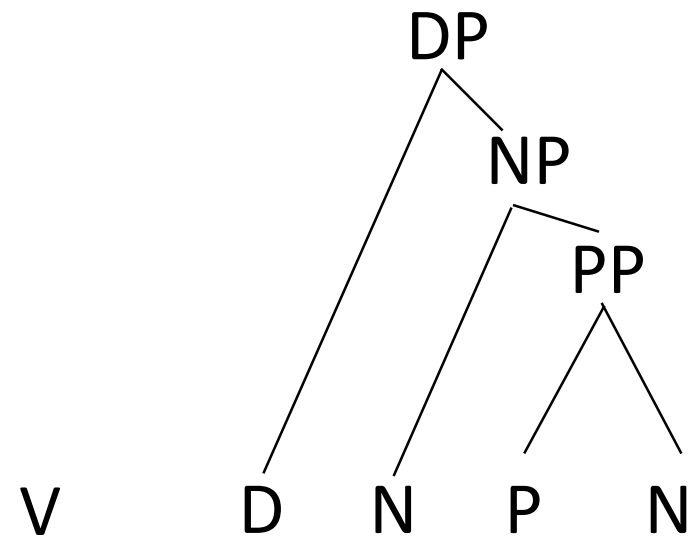
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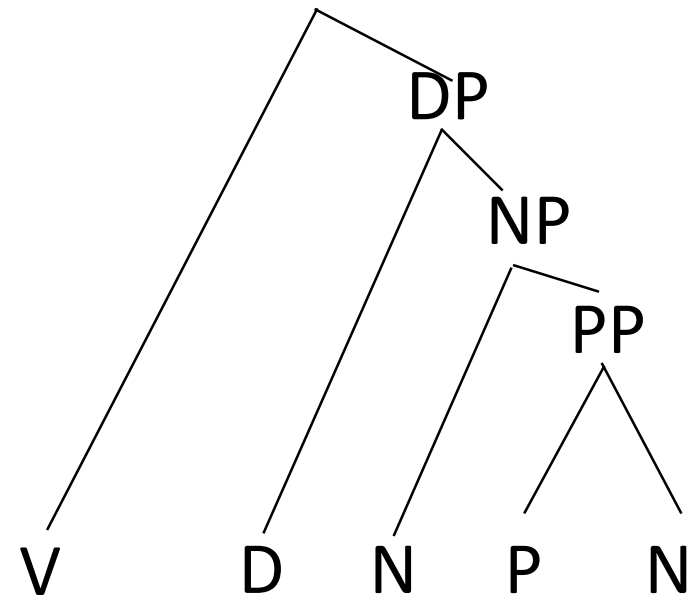
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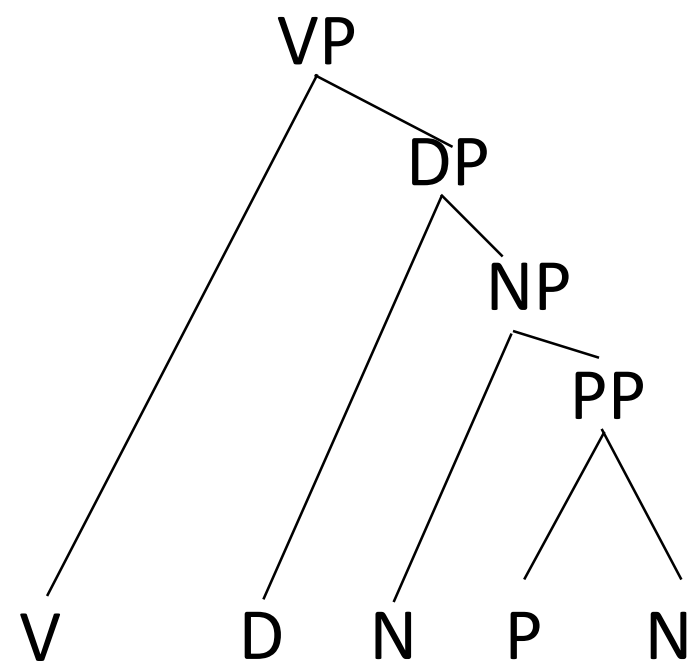
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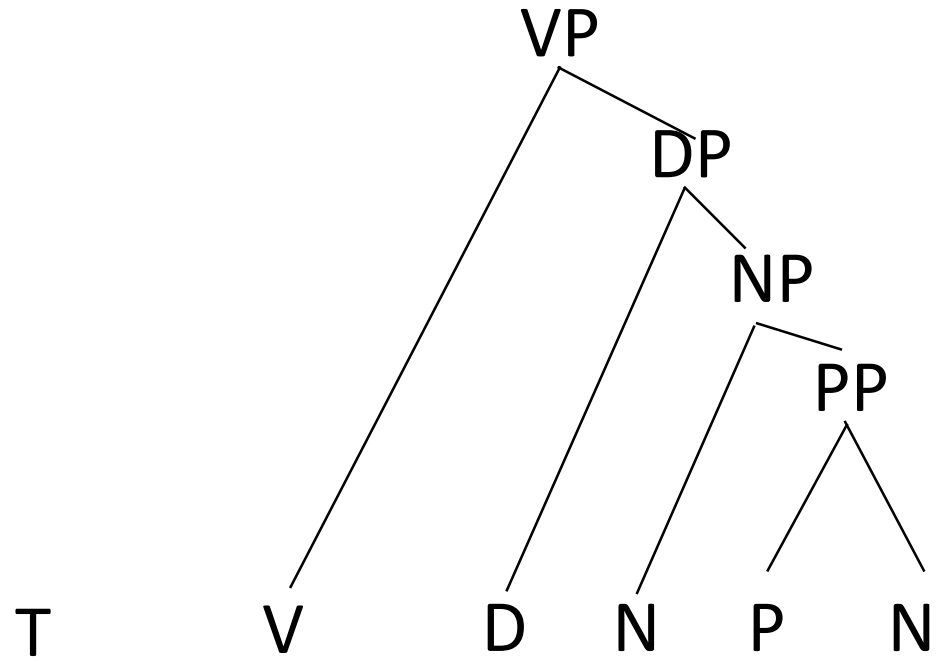


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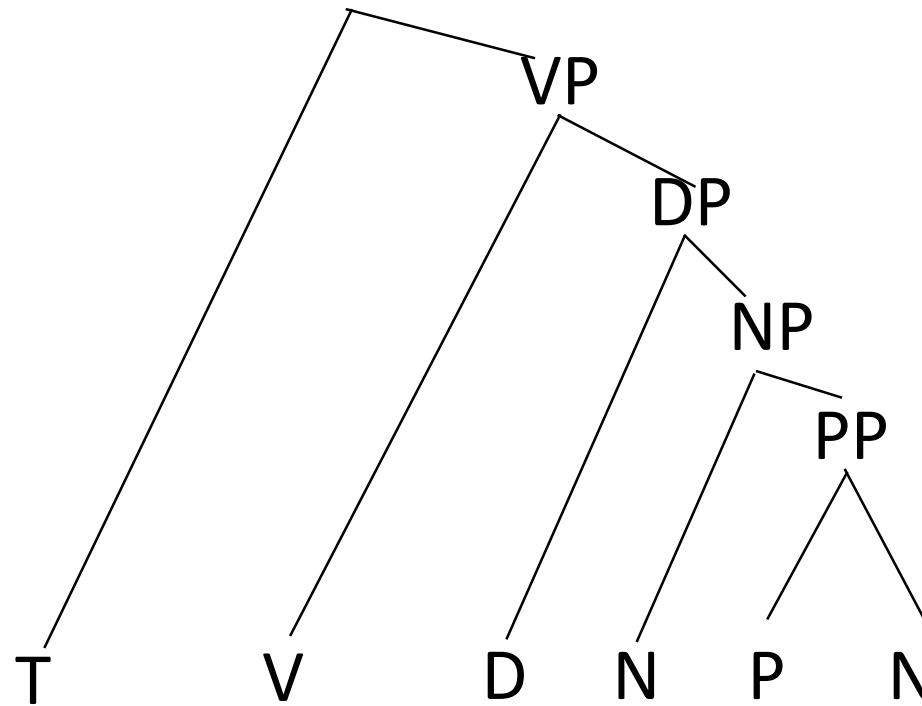


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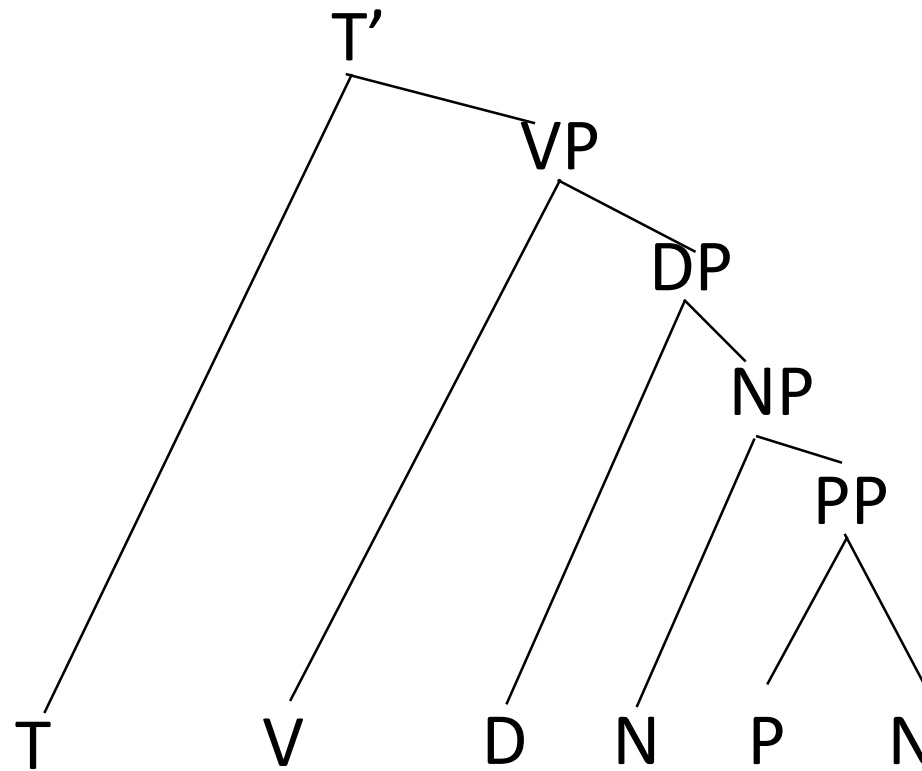




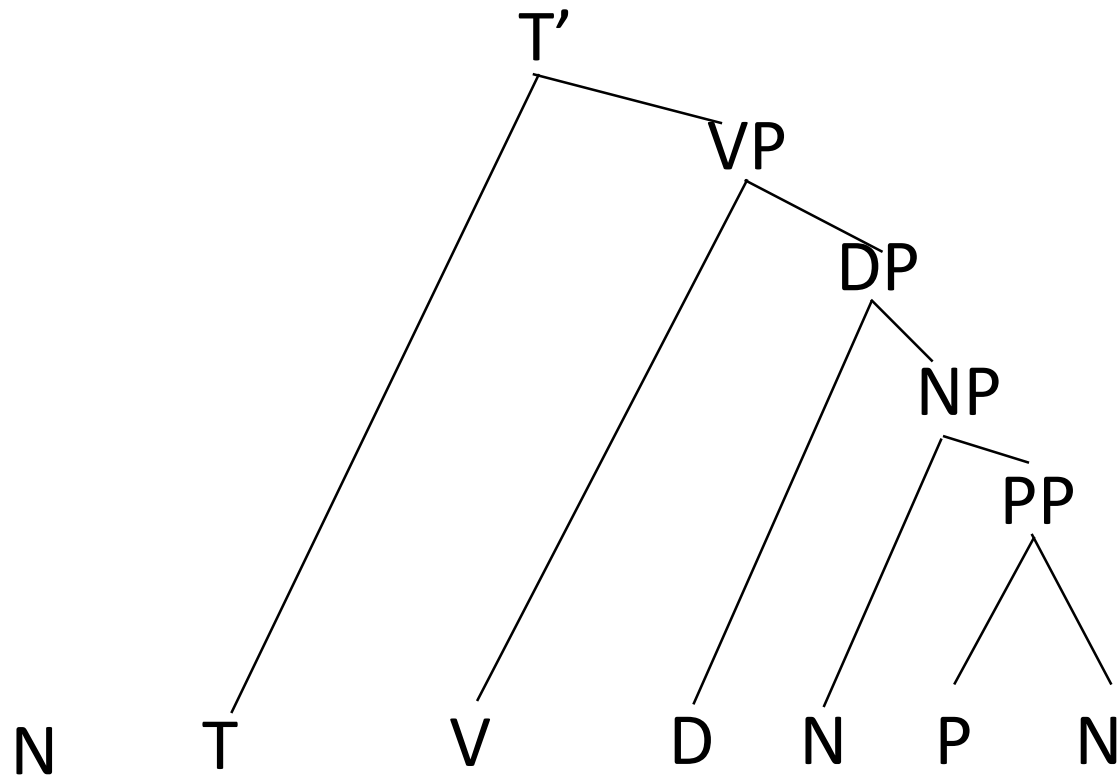
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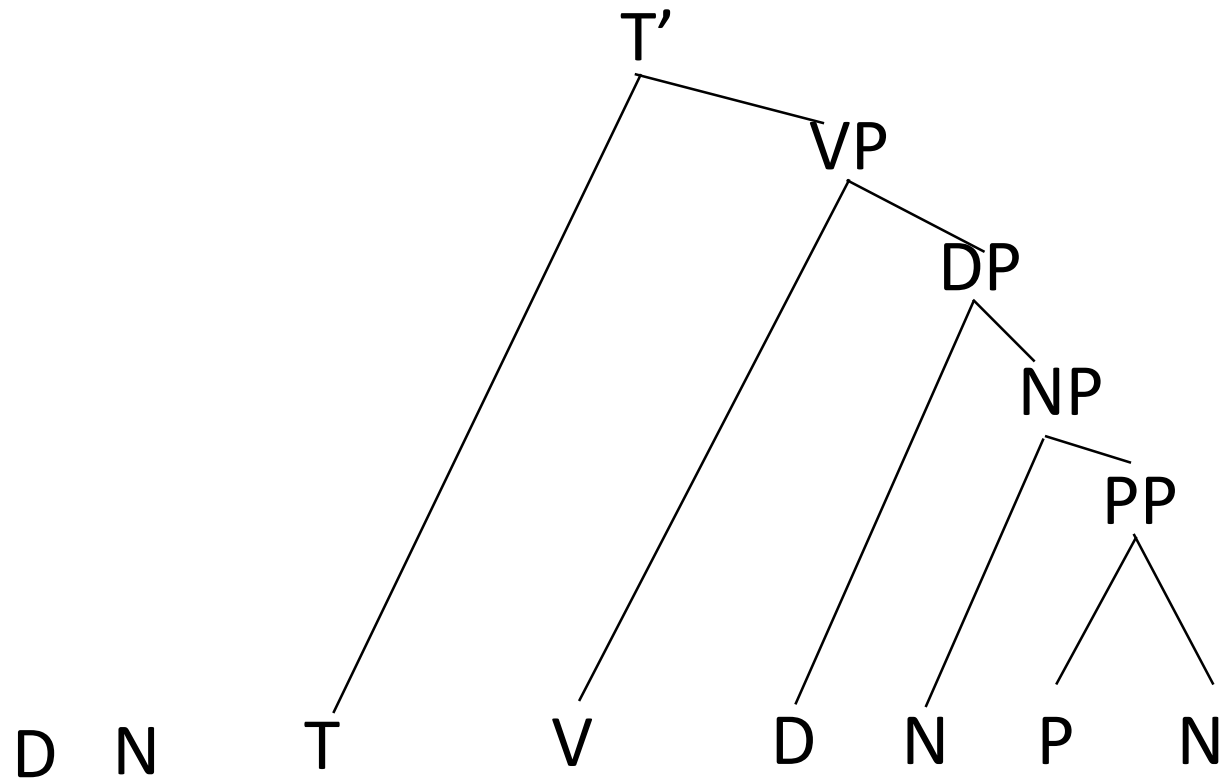
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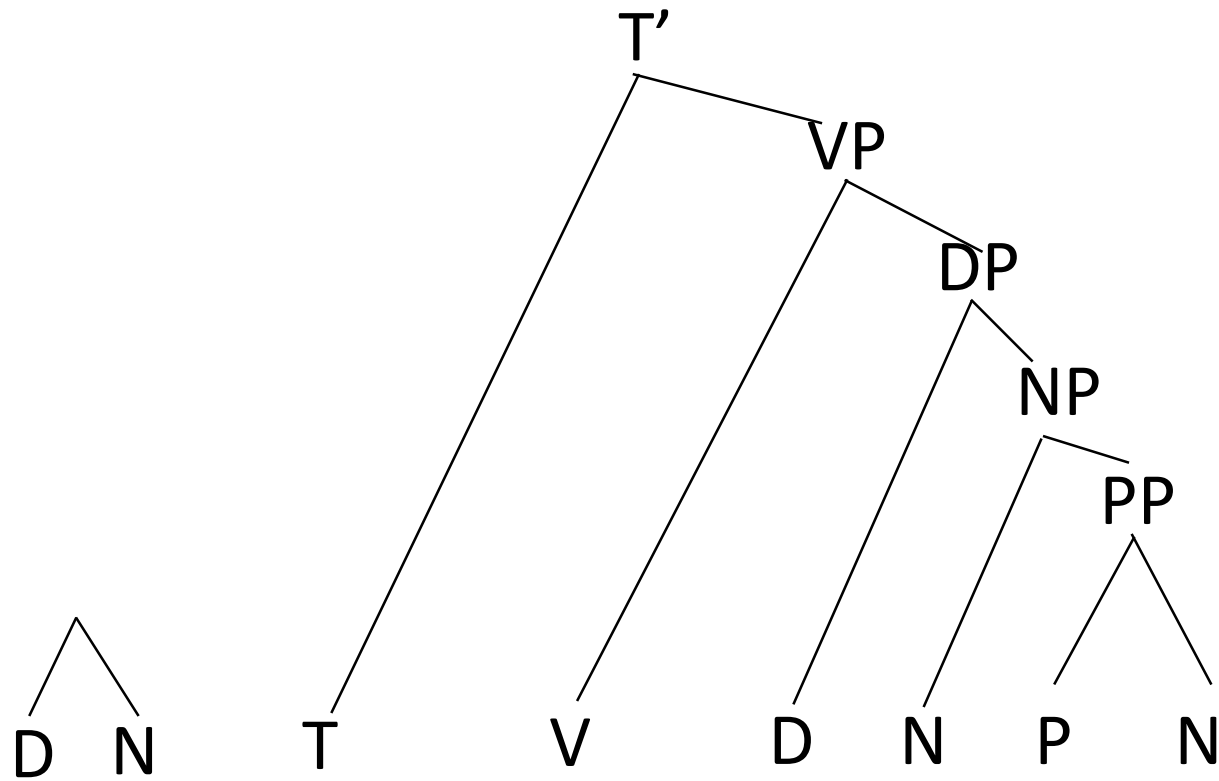
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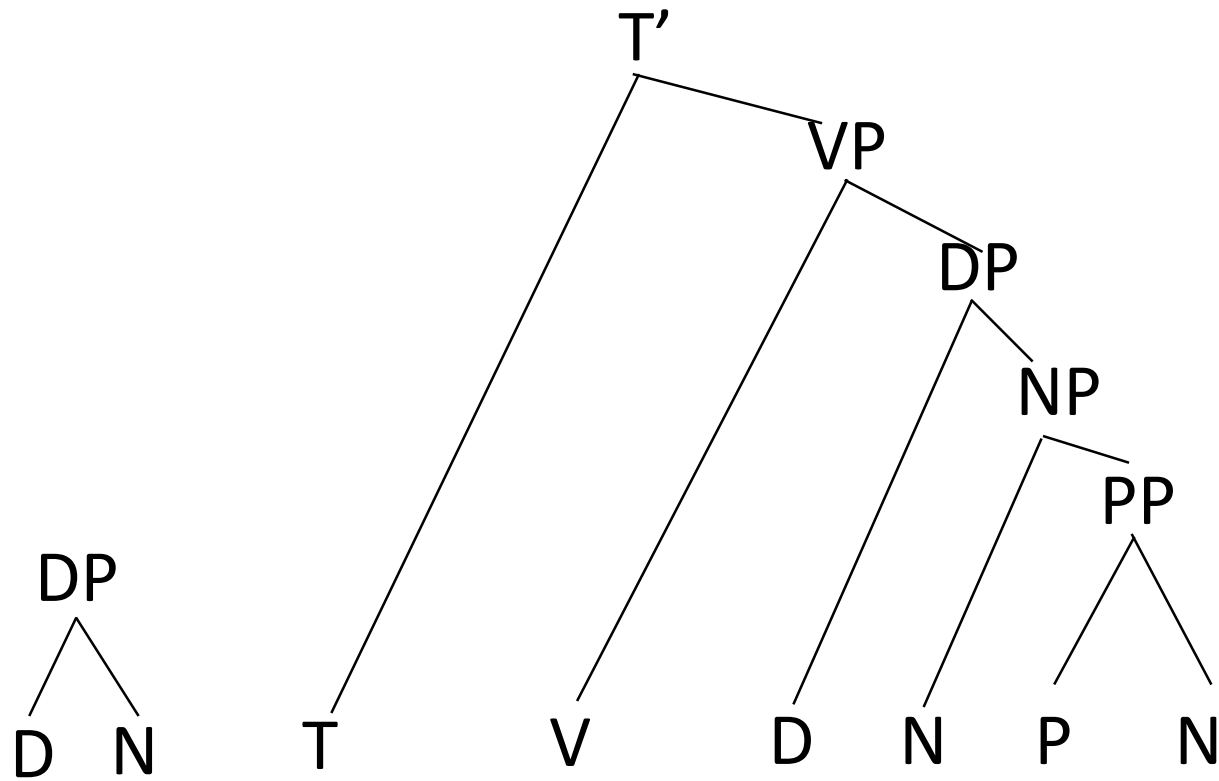
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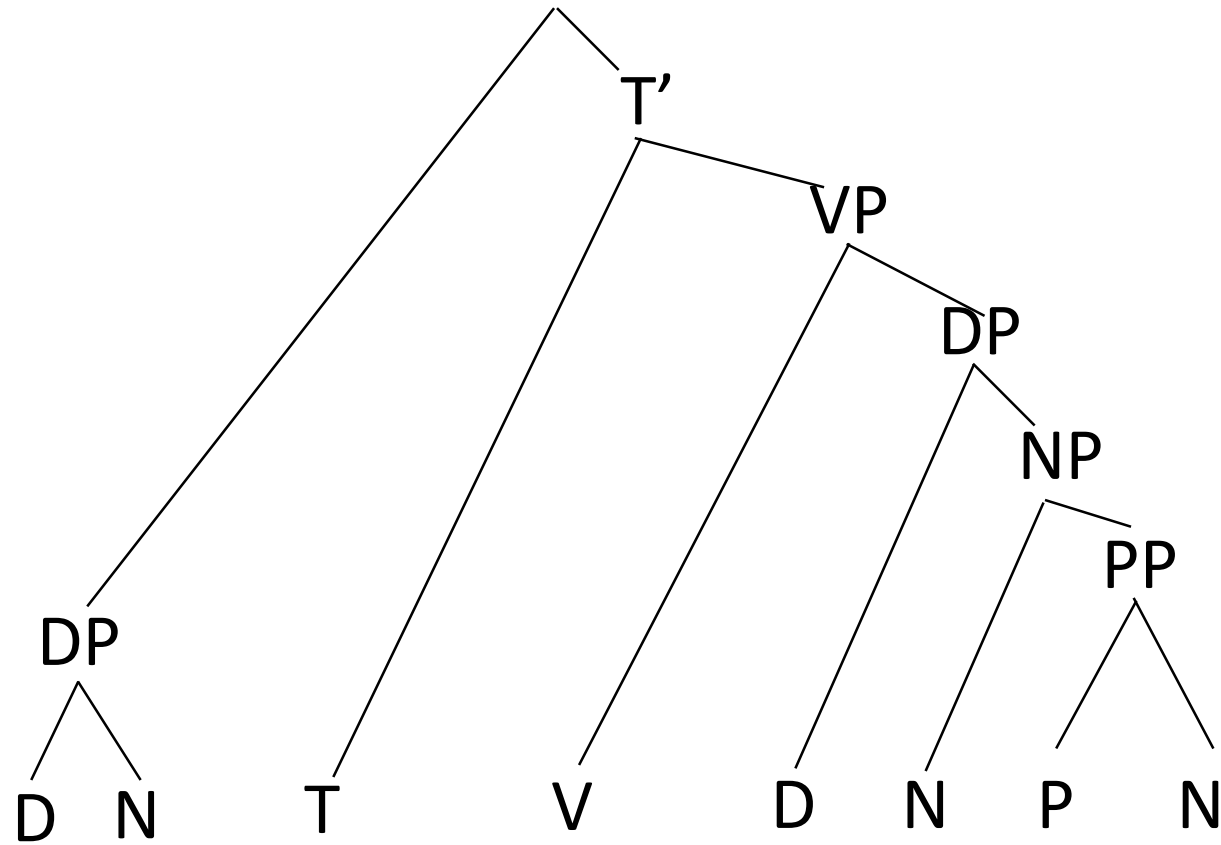
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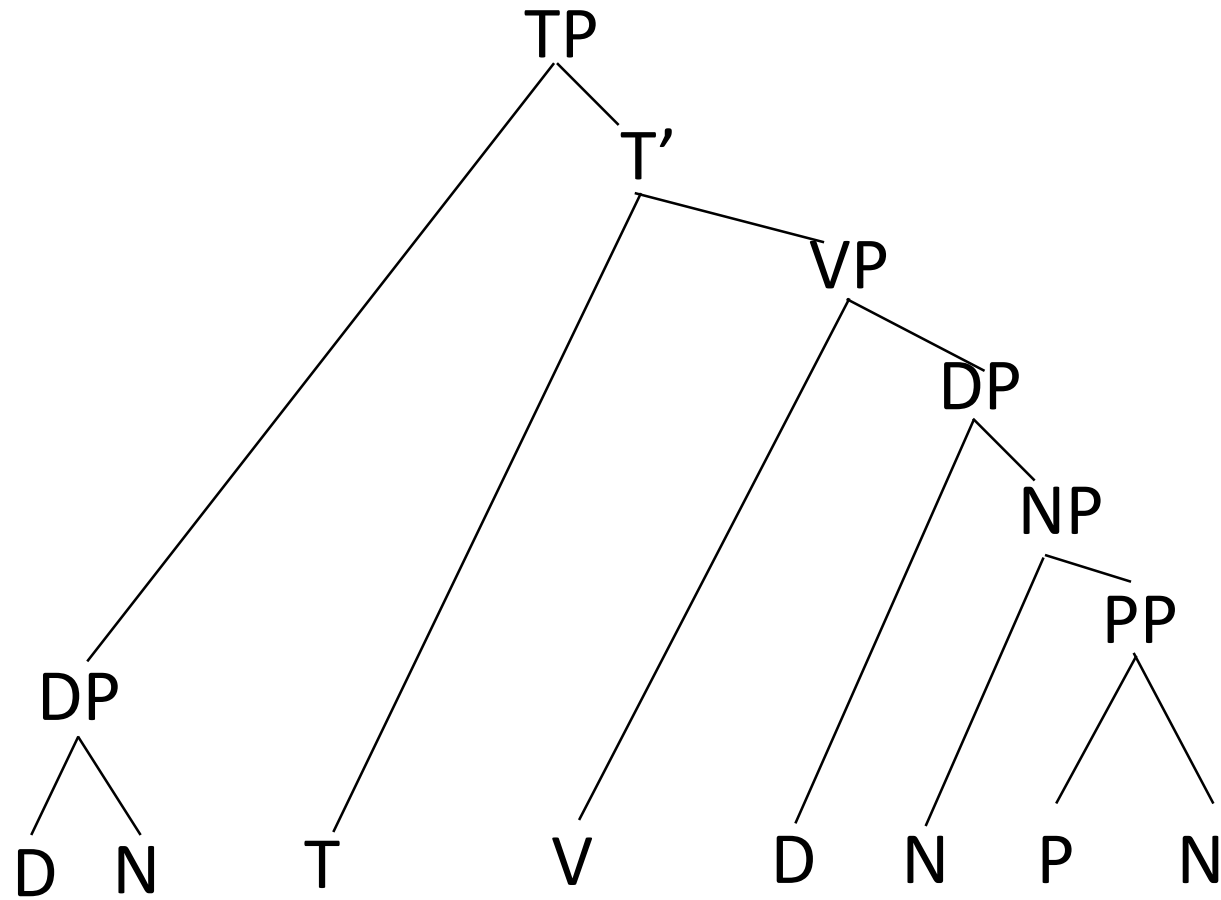


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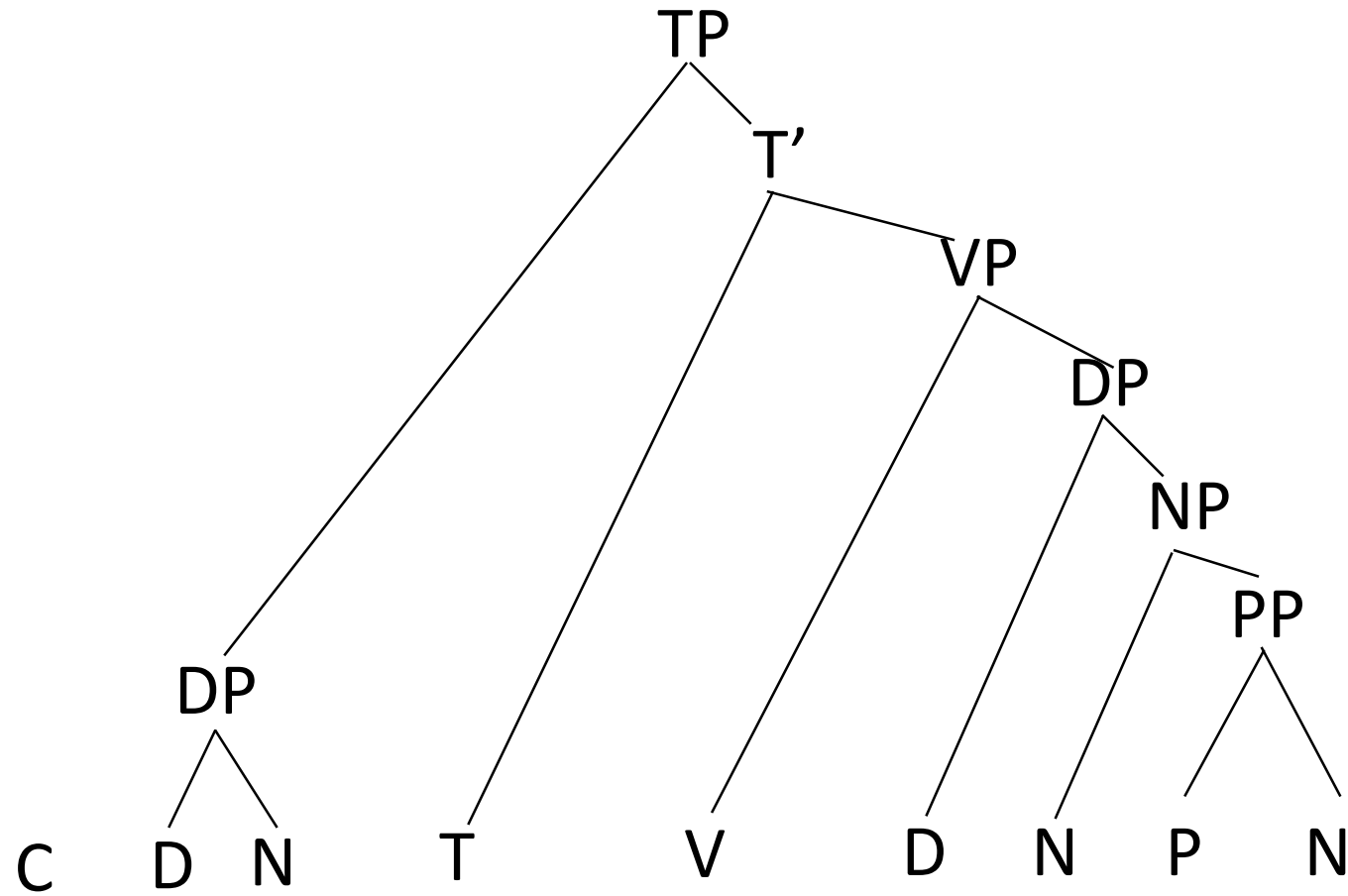


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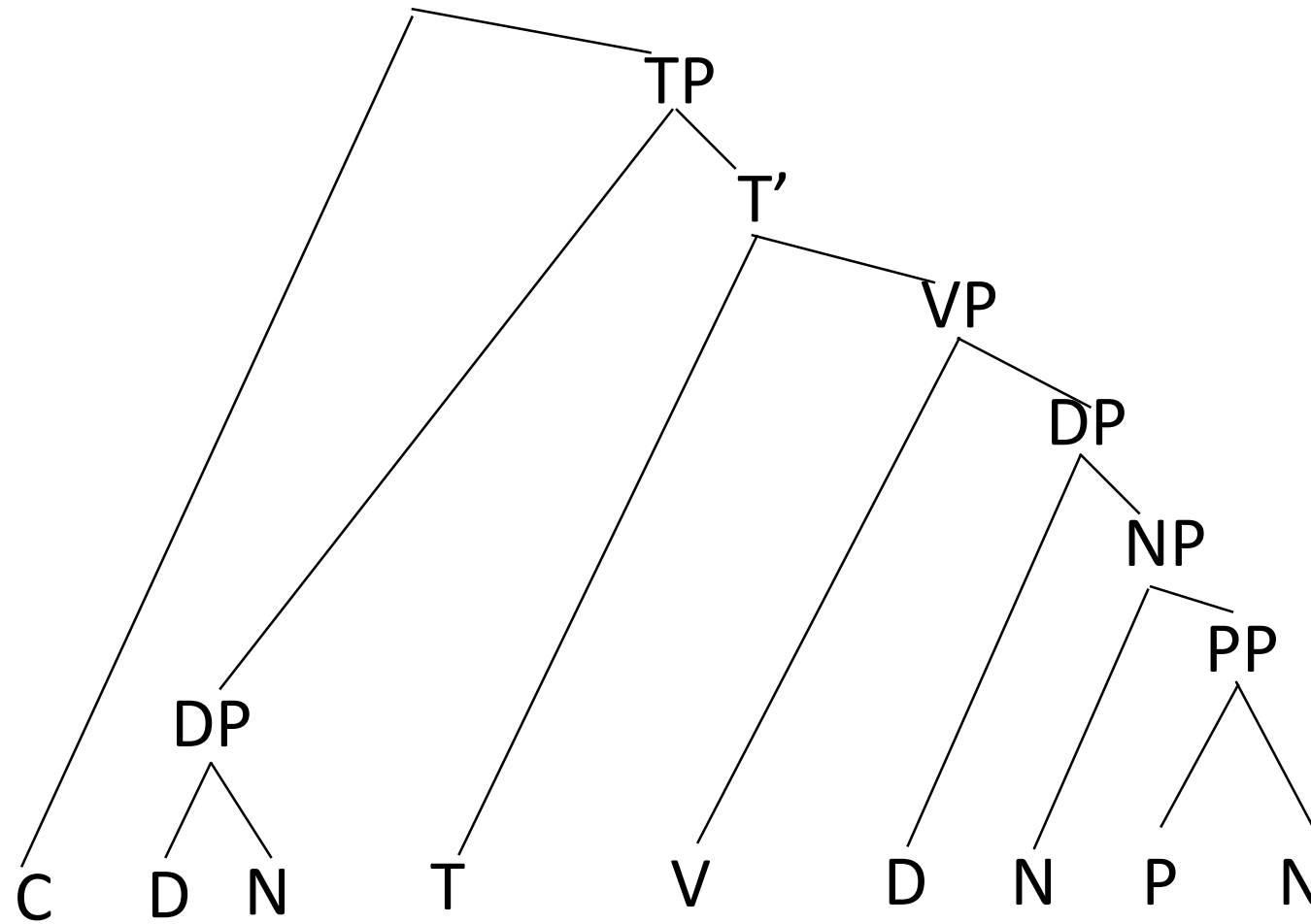




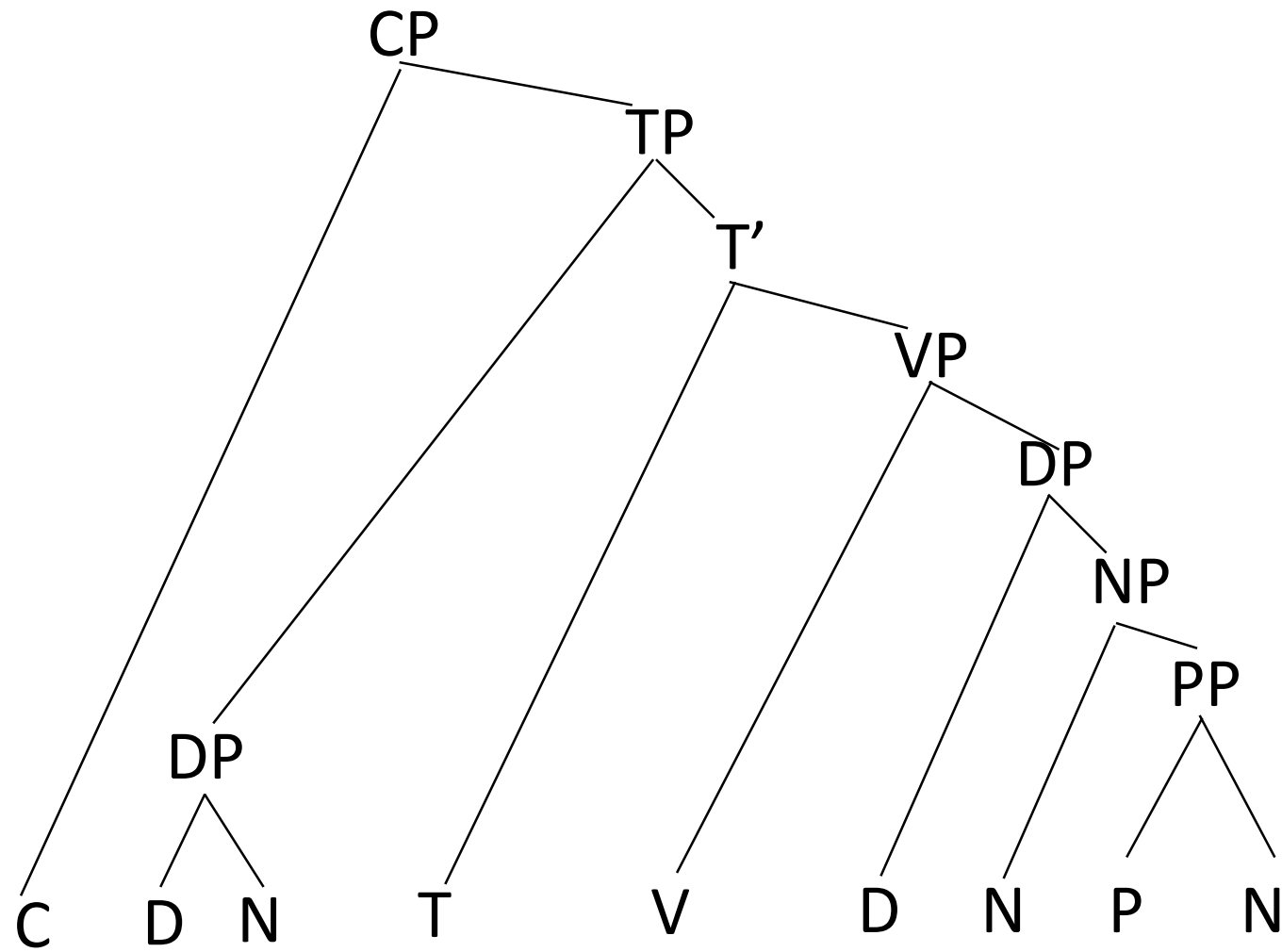
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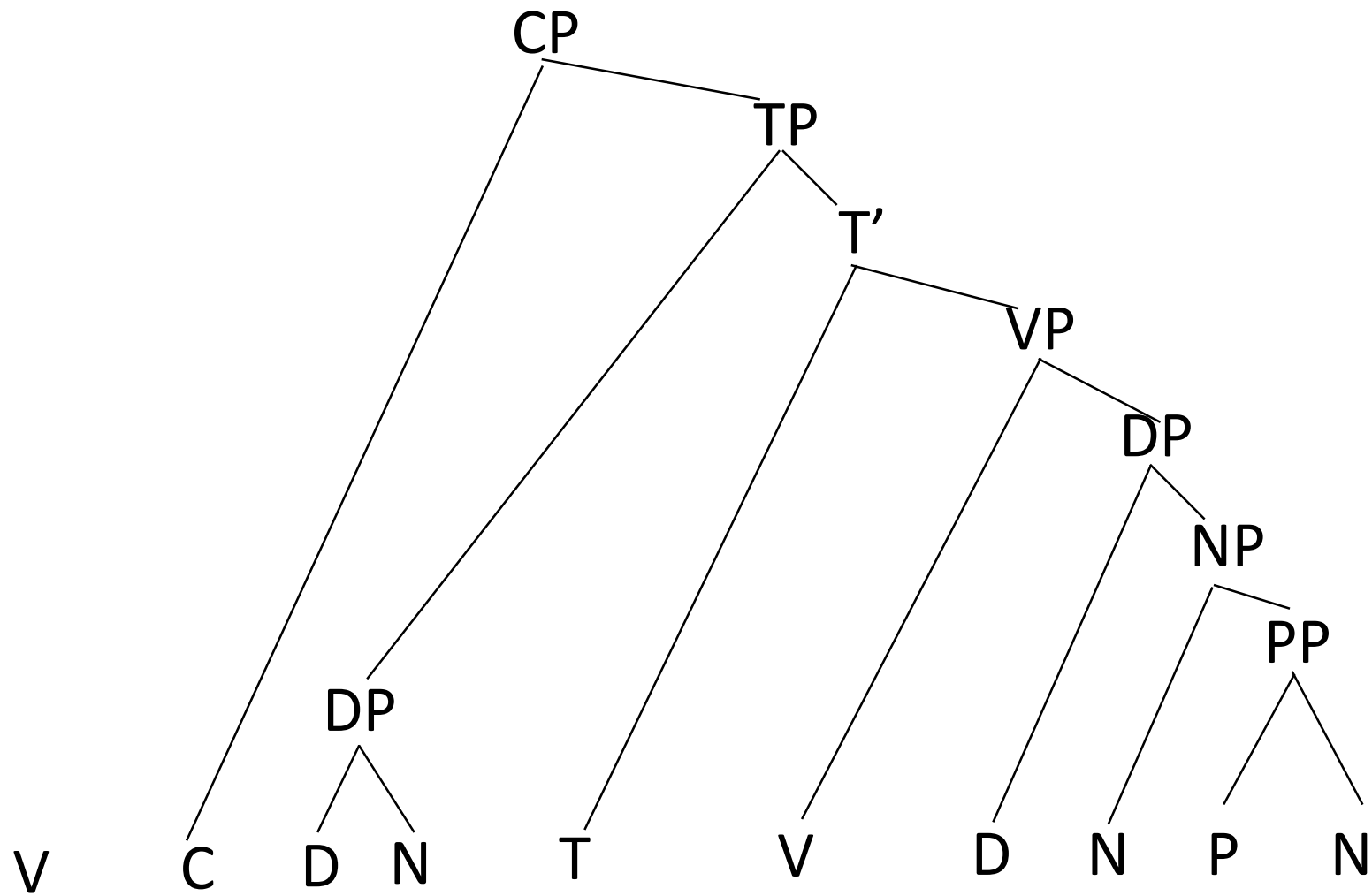
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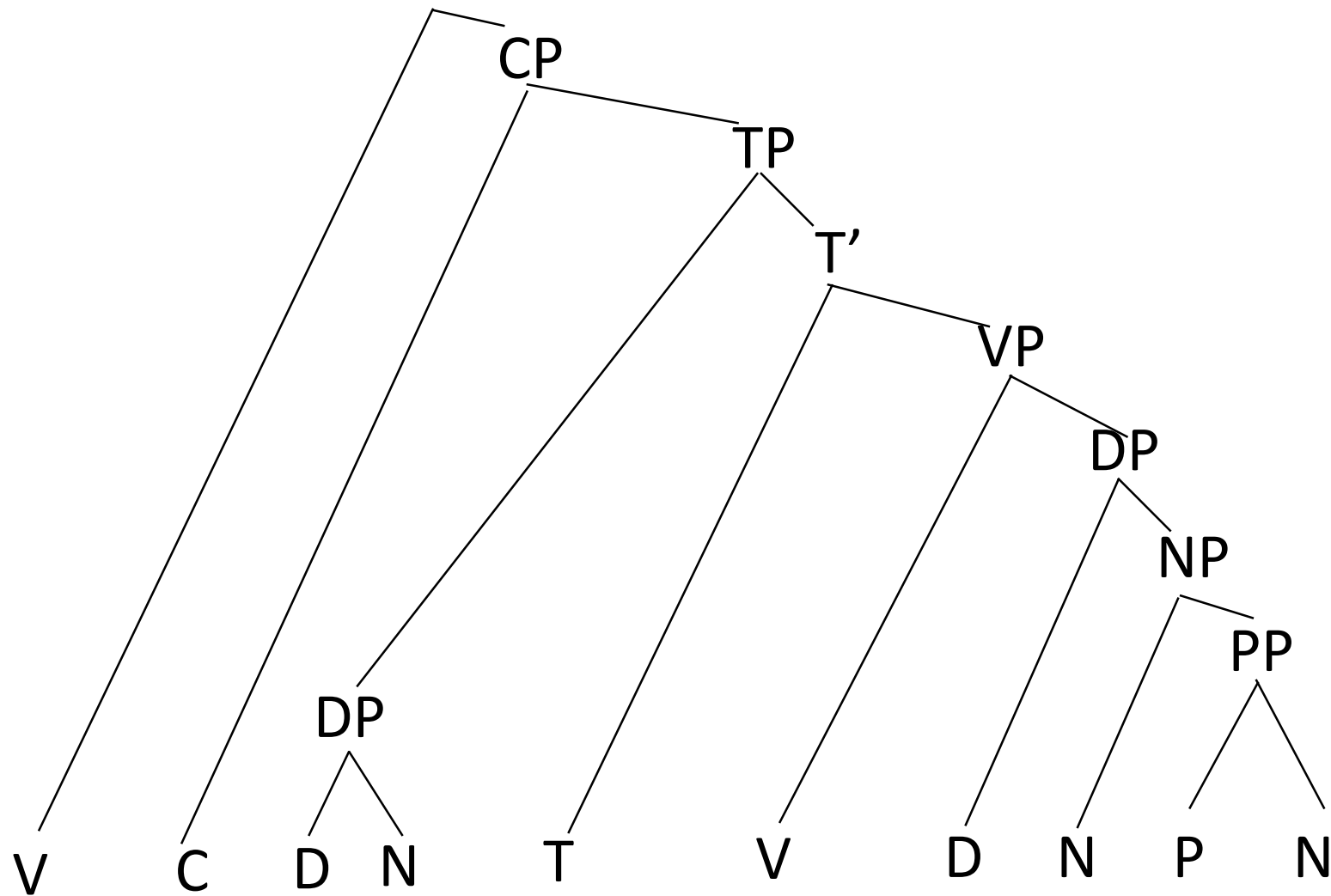
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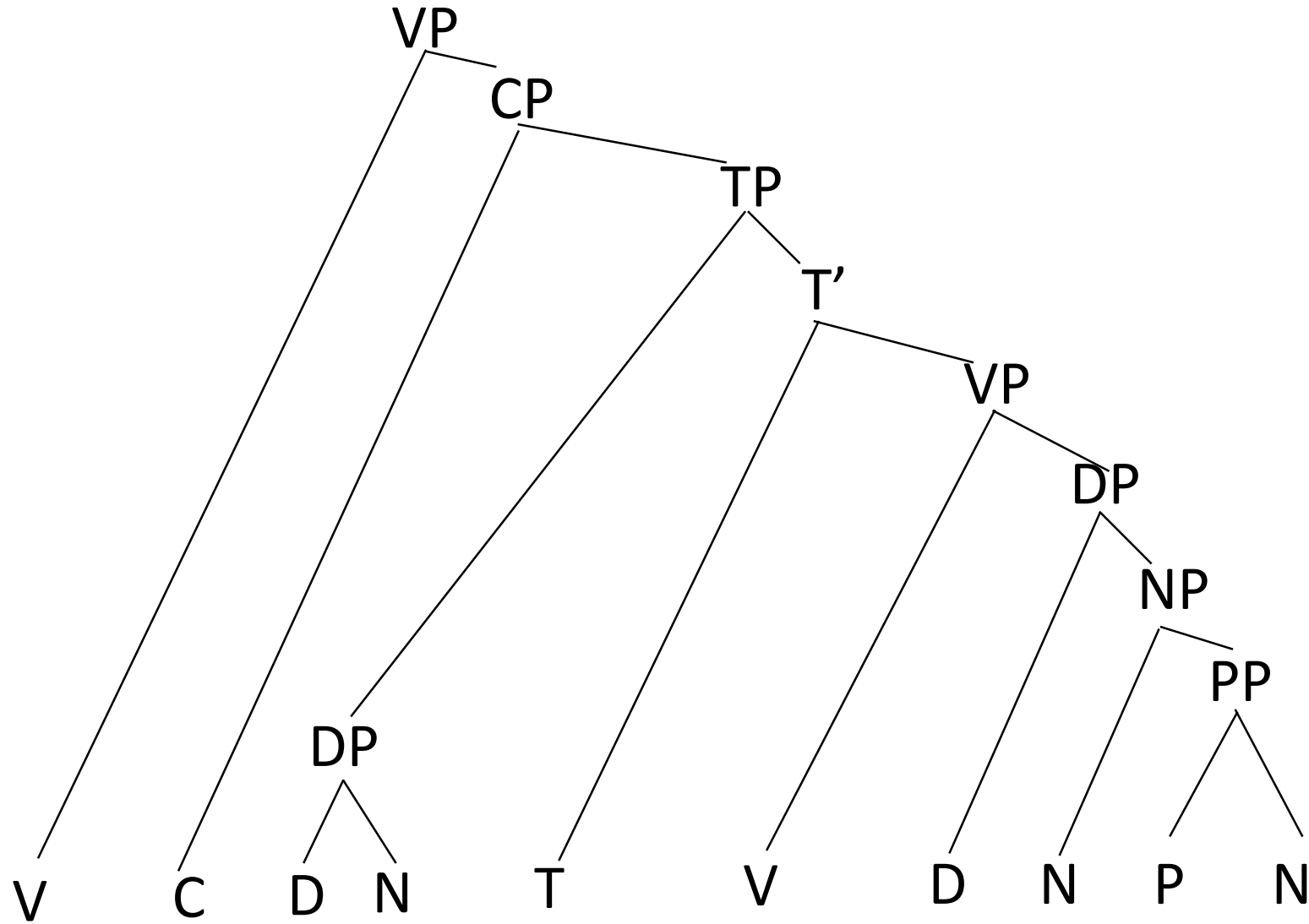
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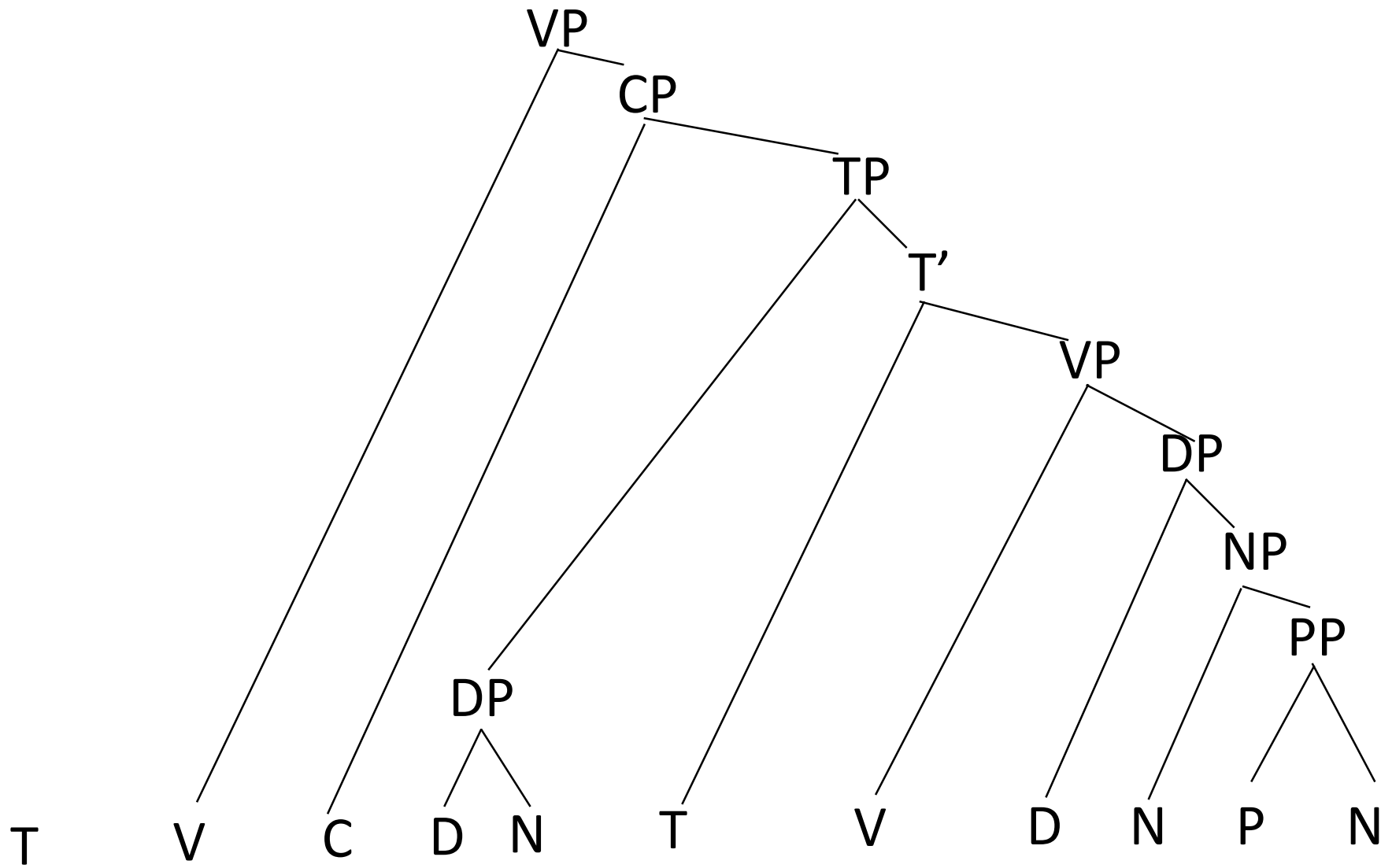
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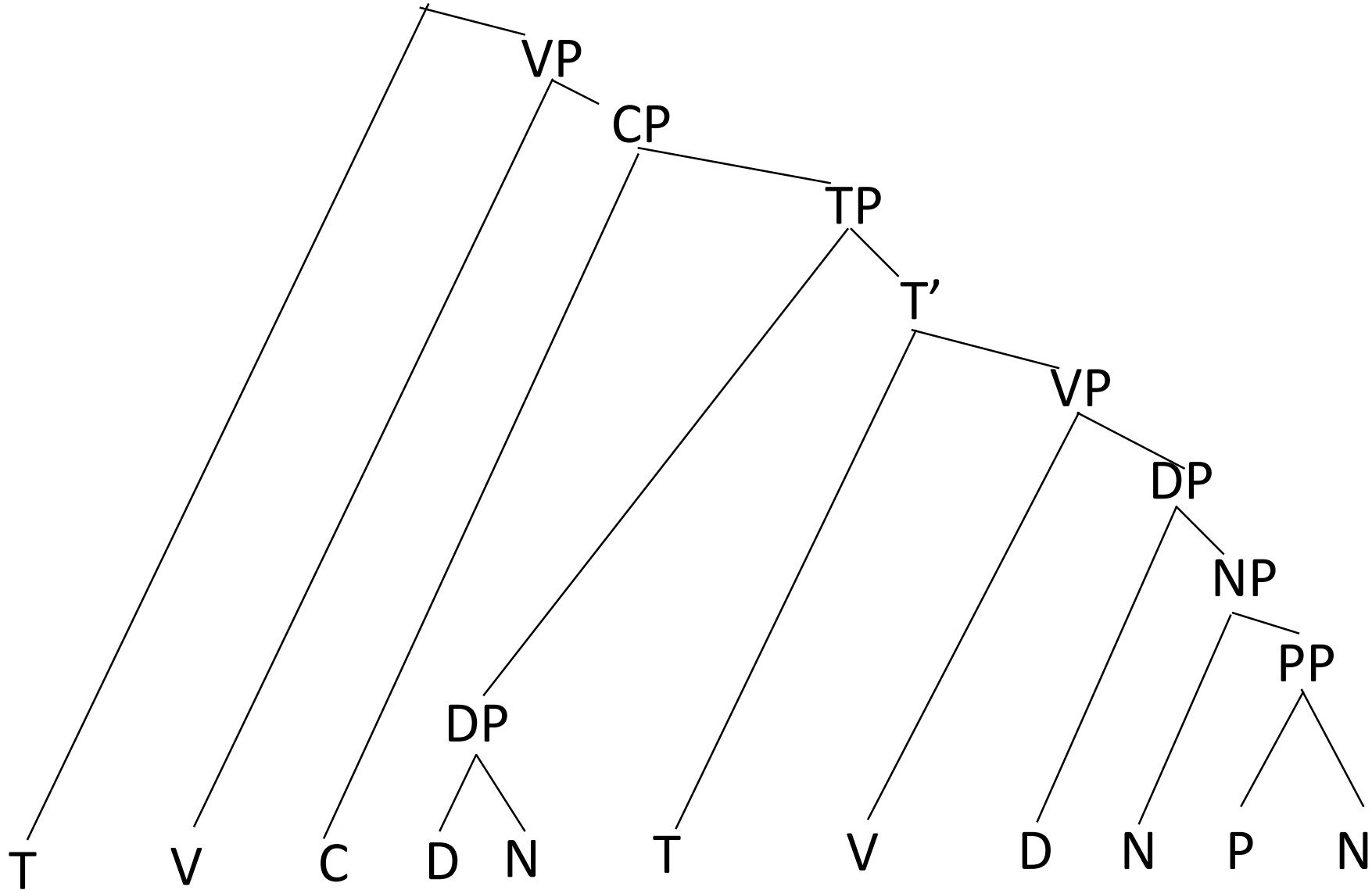


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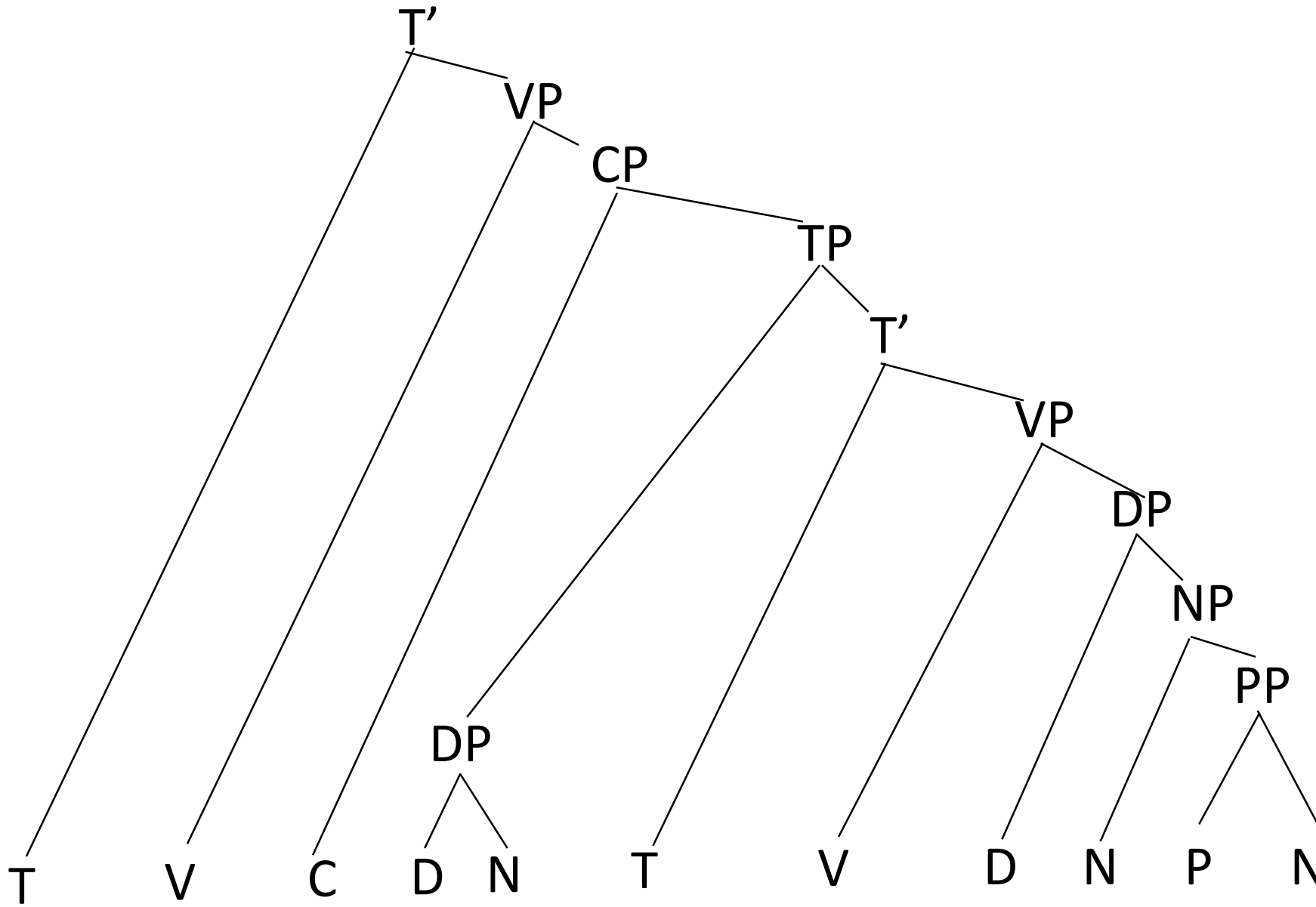


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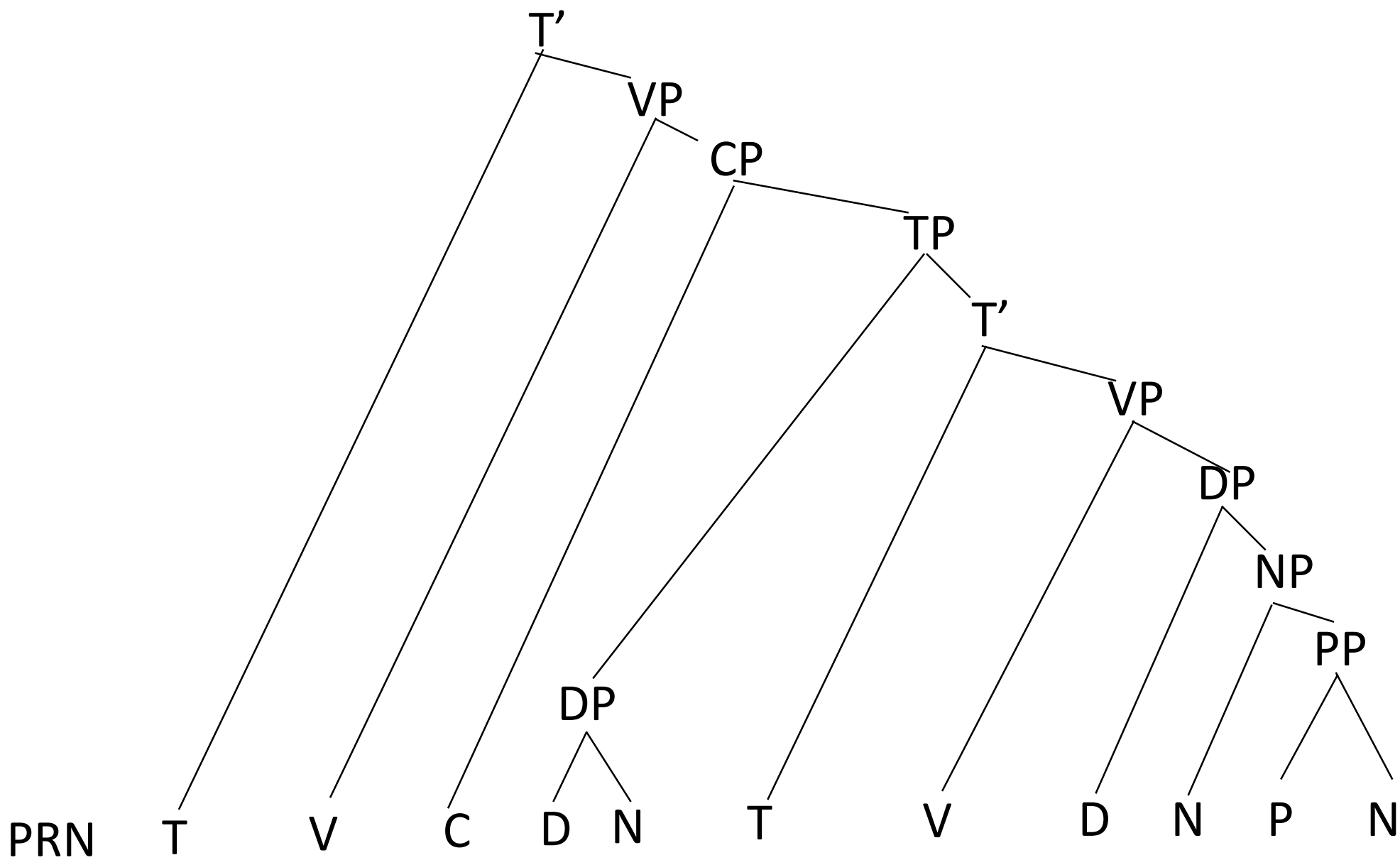




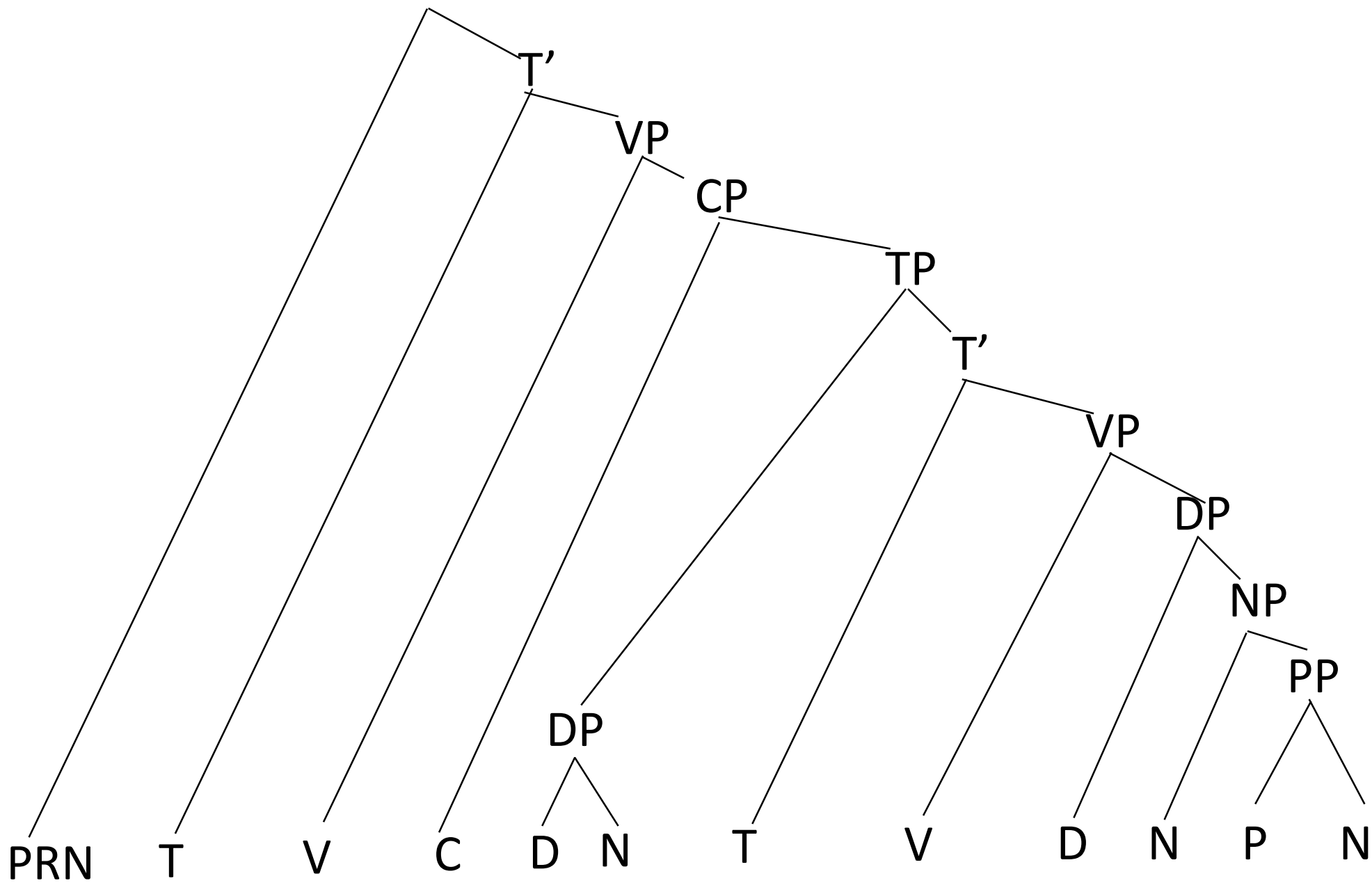
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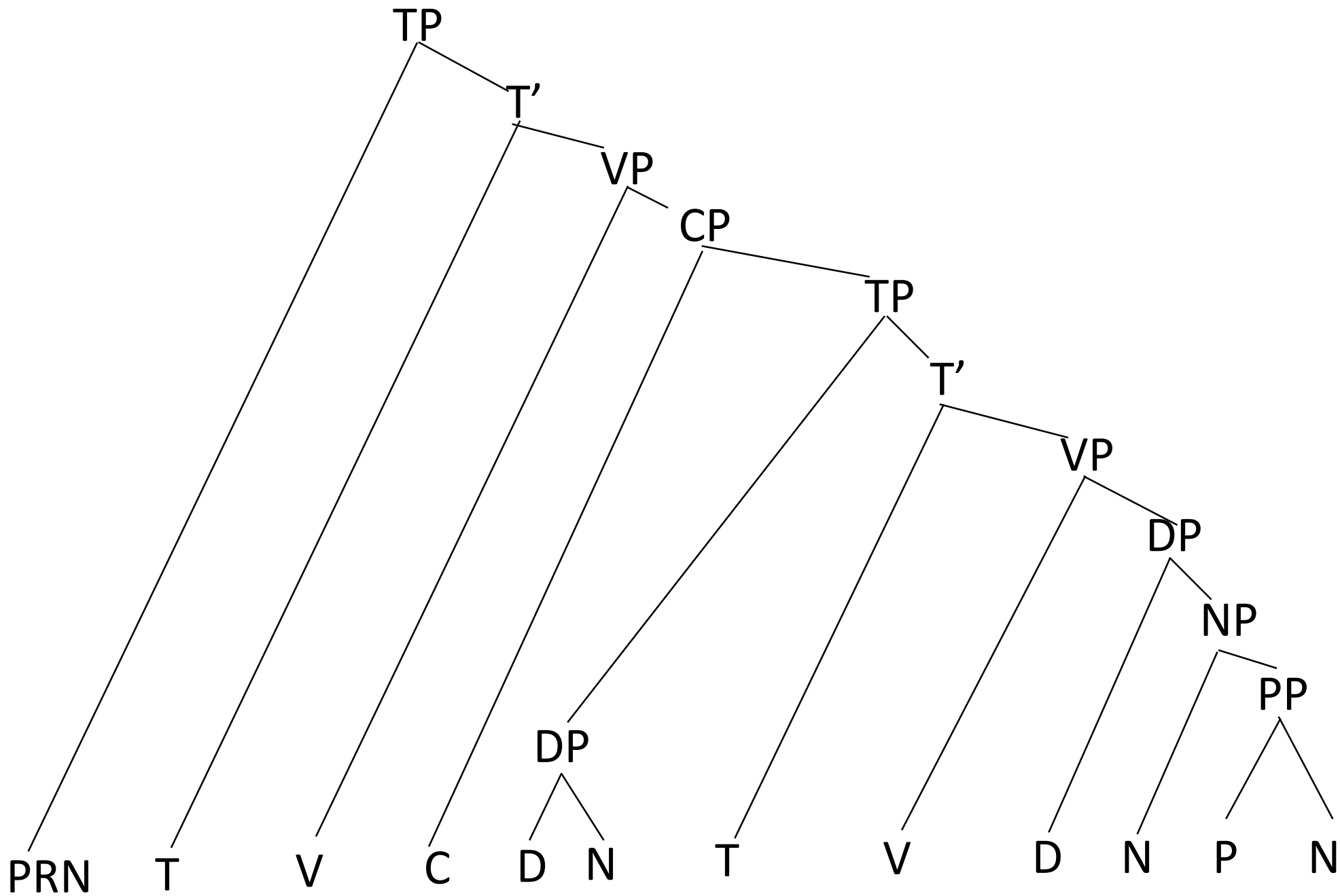
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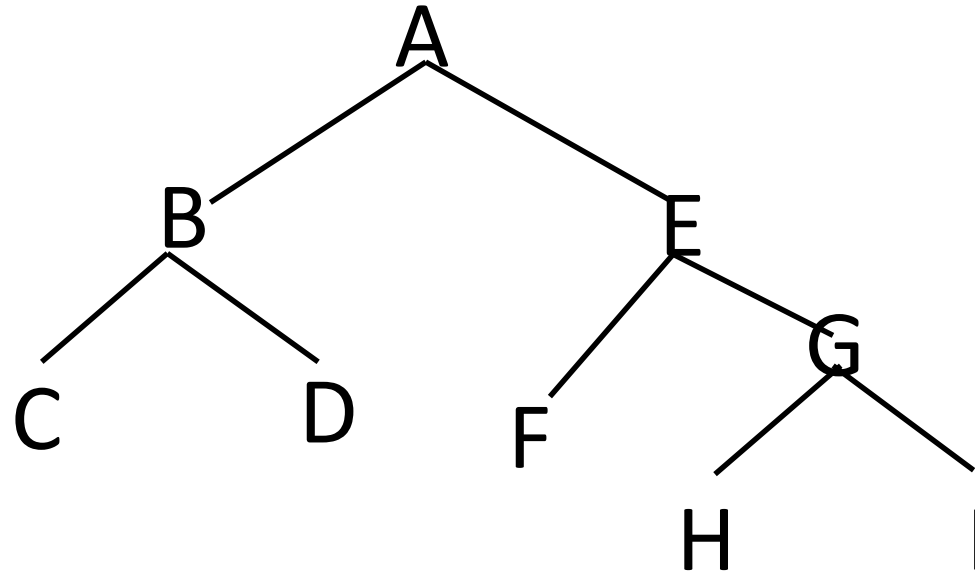
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## c-command

A constituent  $X$  c-commands its sister constituent  $Y$  and any constituent  $Z$  which is contained within  $Y$



# Polarity Items

Partitive quantifiers *any, anyone, anybody, anything, anywhere, etc.*

*ever, at all, any more, in ages*

Modal *need, dare*

Idioms *budge (an inch), lift a finger, hold a candle to, bat an eye, give a damn, etc.*

## **Polarity Condition**

A polarity item must be c-commanded by an affective (e.g. negative, interrogative or conditional) constituent



# Polarity Condition

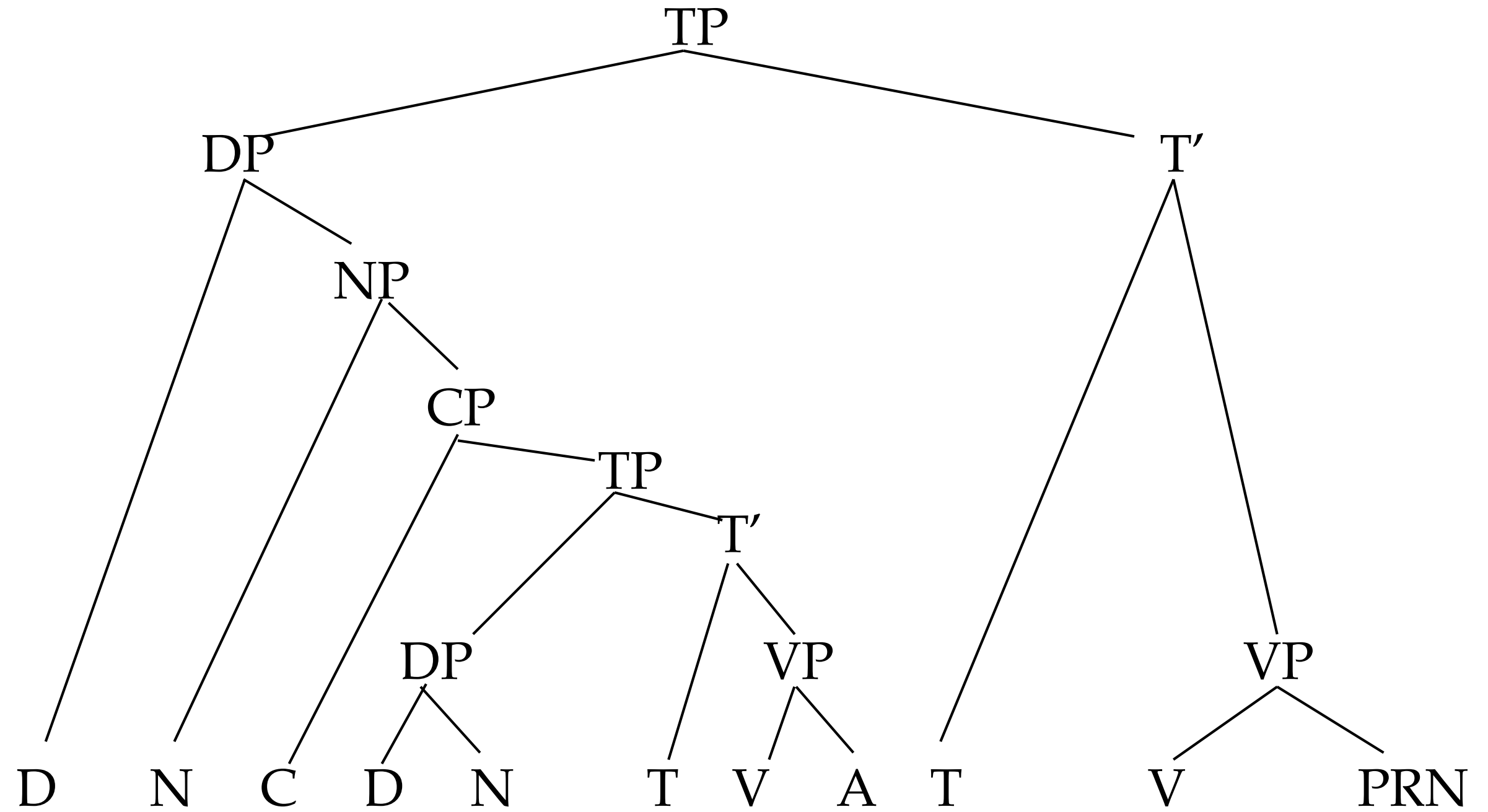
A polarity item must be c-commanded by an affective (e.g. negative, interrogative or conditional) constituent

1. \*Oscar can work at all.
2. Oscar can't work at all.
3. Can Oscar work at all?
4. If Oscar can work at all, we'll be happy.
5. \*That child has done anything.
6. That child hasn't done anything.
7. Has that child done anything?
8. If that child has done anything, we'll be happy.

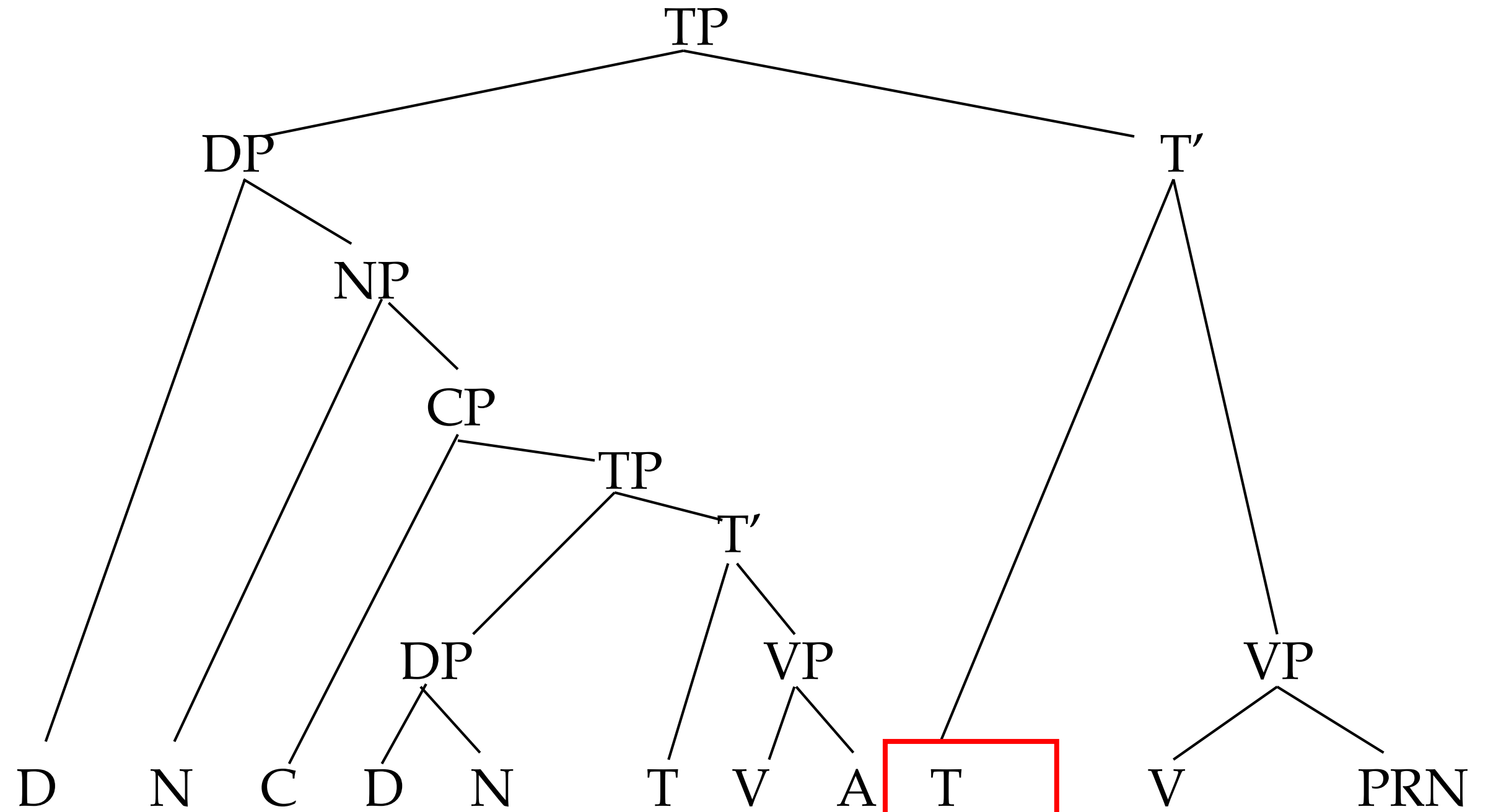
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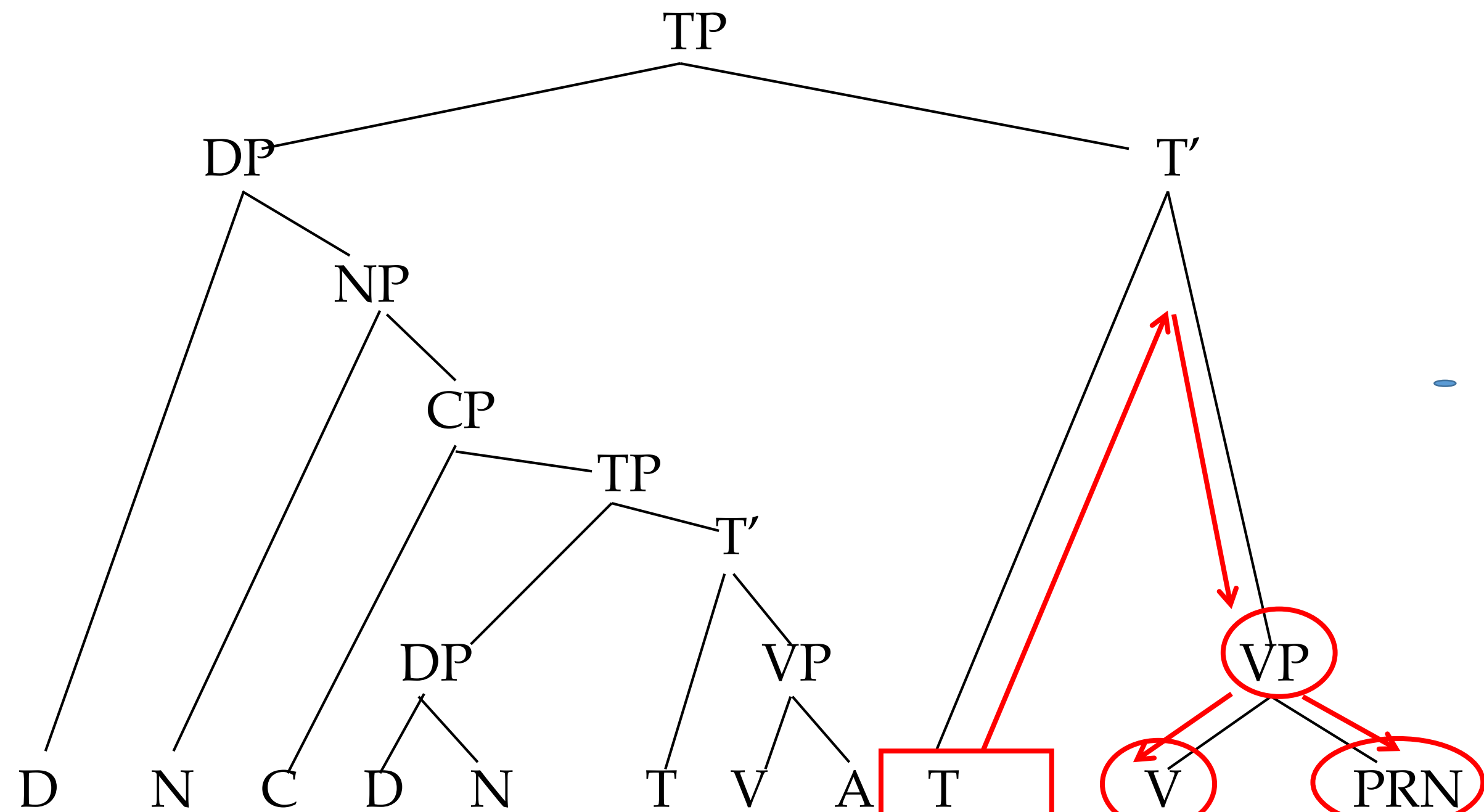
1. The claim that the world could be flat hasn't convinced anyone.
2. \*The claim that the world couldn't be flat has convinced anyone.



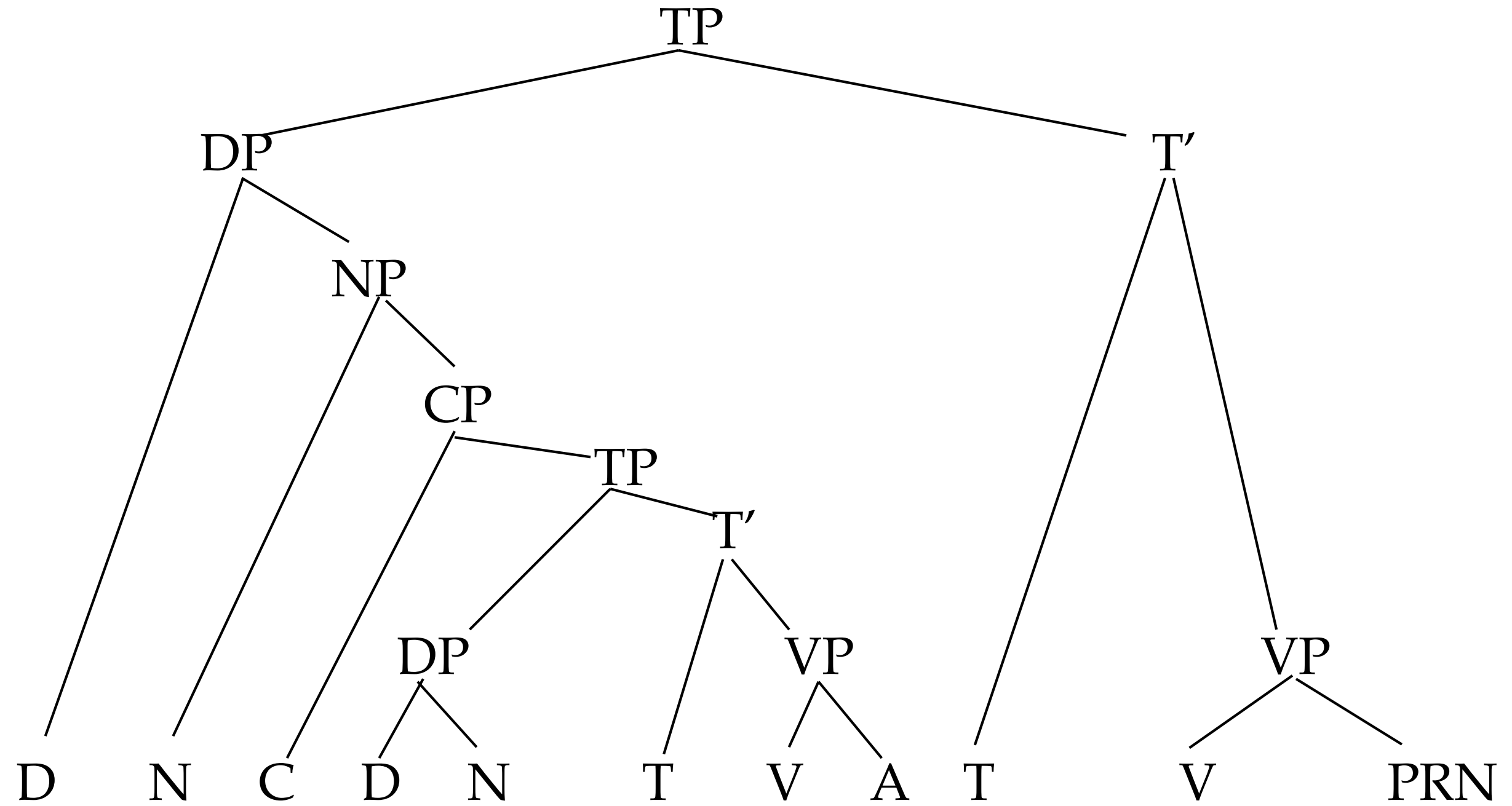
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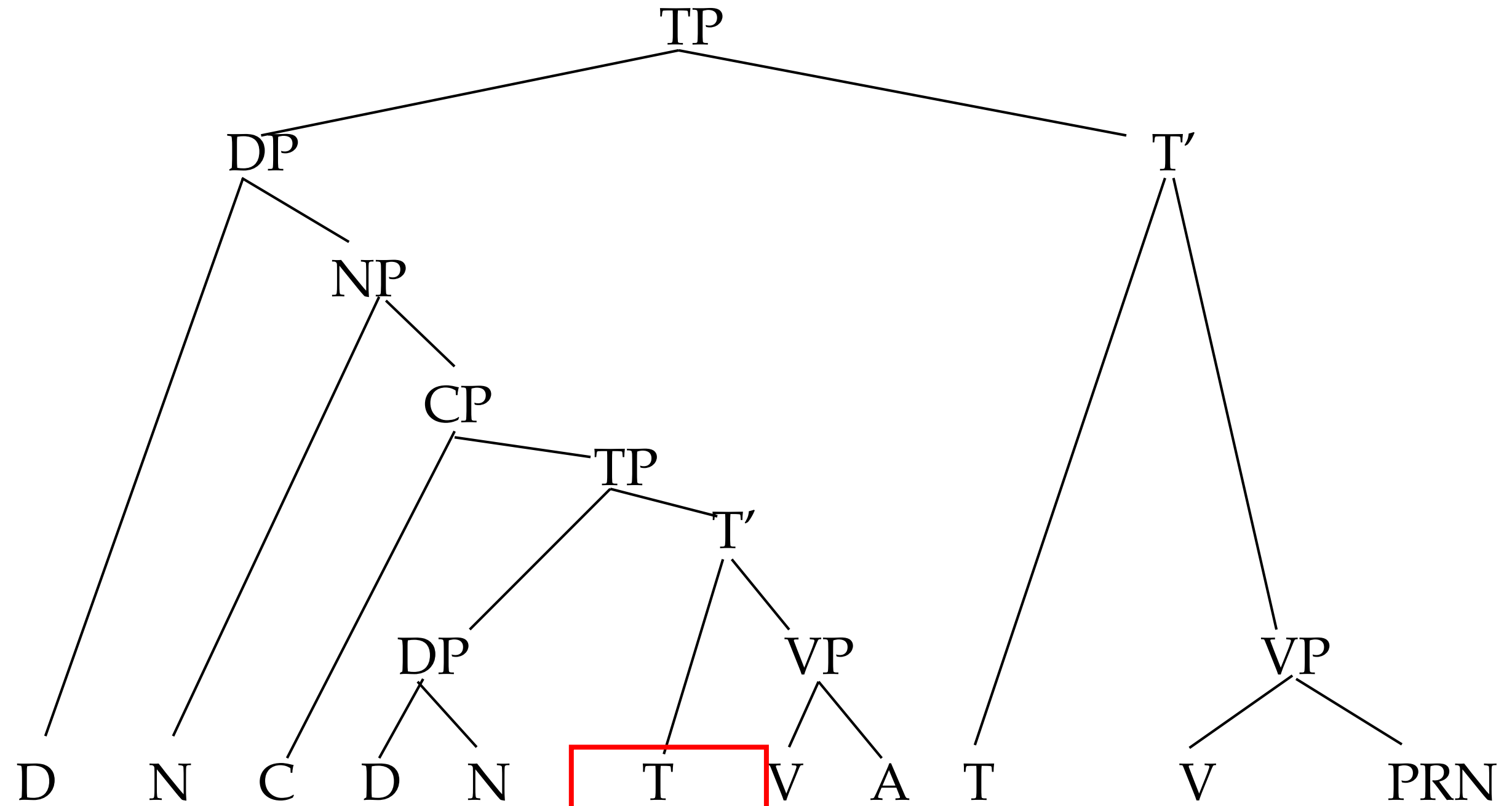
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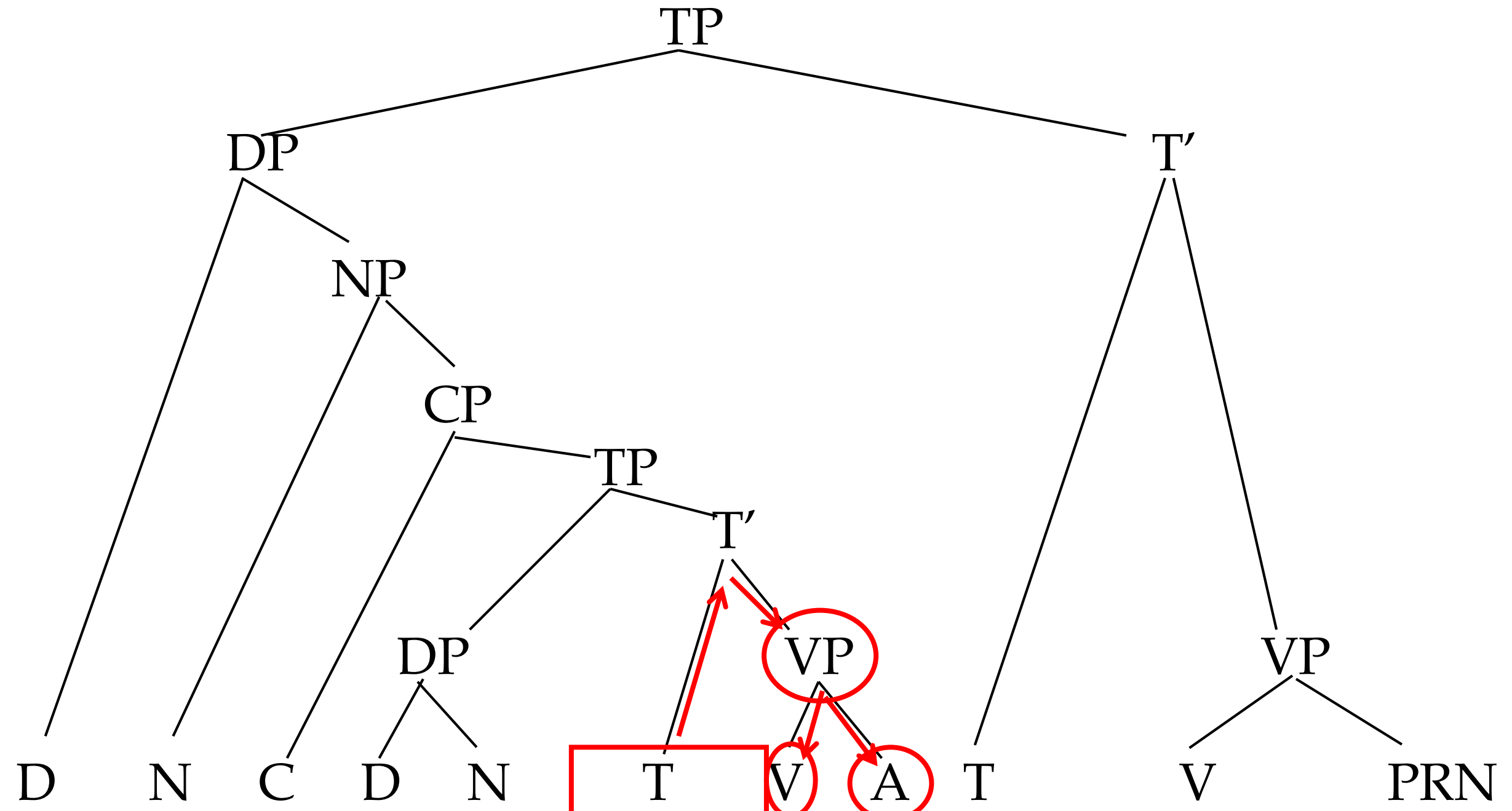
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