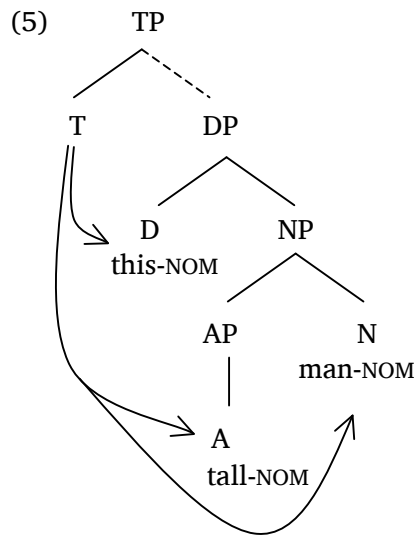
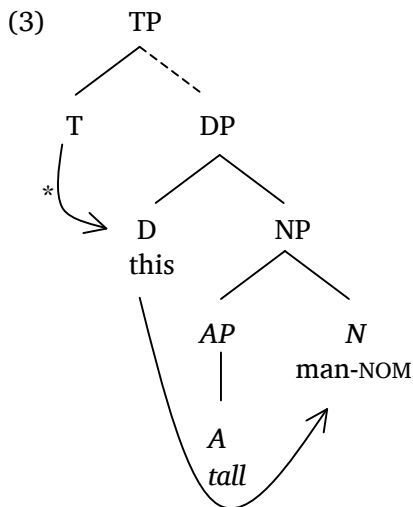
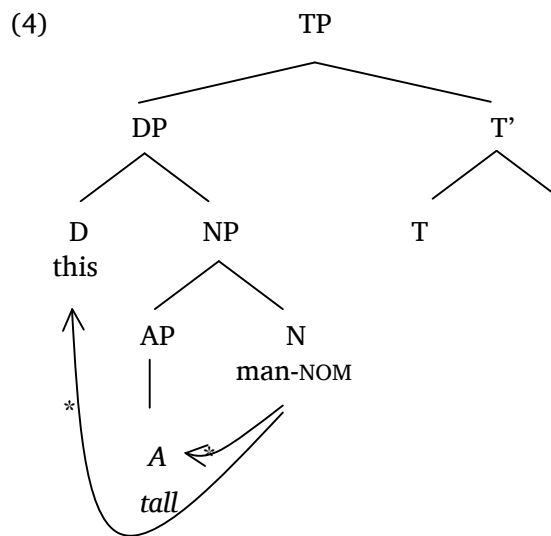
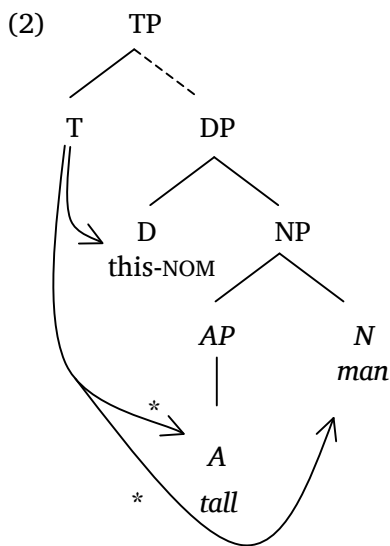


Case and Agreement Feature Uniformity: The Multiple Probe Account

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The Probe-Goal (P&G) analysis of Chomsky (2000, 2001) purports to account for clausal domain feature agreement as well as the valuation of structural Case, but does not address feature and Case uniformity within the DP, as in Russian, for example. In (1), the determiner (D), adjective (A) and noun (N) all bear the same overt features of gender, number and Case, matching the gender and number of the inflectional head of the clause. Carstens (2001) partially addresses a similar shortcoming, offering an analysis of ϕ -feature sharing within the Romance DP, but does not offer a parallel for Case, nor comment on the relation of clausal agreement to the internal structure of the complex DP. Following aspects of Hiraiwa's (2001) account of multiple agree in Japanese clauses, I account for DP-internal structural Case agreement by modifying the Agree relation as follows: a probe must enter into multiple agreement with all active goals in its domain. This modification offers a unified approach to Case valuation, and extends the data coverage to Slavic, a range of languages not within the scope of Carstens (2001). Accounts of Case and ϕ -feature uniformity that rely on feature percolation (Babby 1986 and Franks 1995) would need to be constrained in order to fruitfully account for the feature spread that yields Case and agreement feature uniformity both in the clausal and nominal domains. Additionally, under percolation mechanisms that rely on coindexation (Franks 1995), the principle of coindexation is not specified, leaving the nature of the percolation mechanism undetermined. Given Chomsky's assumptions for P&G (2000, 2001) as a head-to-head relation, I consider three potential instantiations of its application in the nominal domain, each of which is problematic. First, T cannot enter into separate Agree relations with the D, A and N to value each head's Case because T values its own ϕ -features after the first instance of Agree and can no longer act as a probe (2); Secondly, if D acts as the probe for N, it is not obvious how D can later act as goal for T, if the same features are involved in both instances, making D inactive after the first Agree operation. This conception of DP-internal Agree (3) is similar to the one that Carstens (2001) develops. Lastly, if T values the Case of N within a complex DP, this violates different notions of locality and subsequent probes fail because N cannot probe upward, in addition to no longer being active (4). The fact that N is inactive also means that it cannot serve as a goal for D. I maintain that (5), which demonstrates a modified form of Agree, in which a probe must continue Agreeing and valuing Case, involves the most straightforward and viable modification to Agree that accounts for the Slavic data. DP-internal ϕ -feature agreement is ensured as a mismatch of features of the DP heads would result in a clash at the level of the probe. After Agree occurs, the heads of the DP are valued for Case and ineligible to enter into subsequent Agree operations. Although this analysis has the consequence that the D, A and N heads enter with interface-interpretable ϕ -features, I argue that this is a natural extension from the assumption that gender on Slavic nouns, which bears little relation to biological gender, is interface-interpretable. Under this multiple probe proposal of agreement, structural Case and feature agreement within the DP are accounted for, and a unified approach to clausal and nominal agreement is maintained, while remaining consistent to the Chomskyan hypotheses of P&G and structural Case valuation.

- (1) èt-ot vysok-ij mužik prišël [Russian]
 this-M.SNG.NOM tall-M.SNG.NOM man.M.SNG.NOM arrive.PST.M.SNG
 'this tall man arrived'



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