



# Syntax

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LING 101 SSII

# Overview

- The Inflection Phrase (IP)
- Modifiers
- Structural Ambiguity

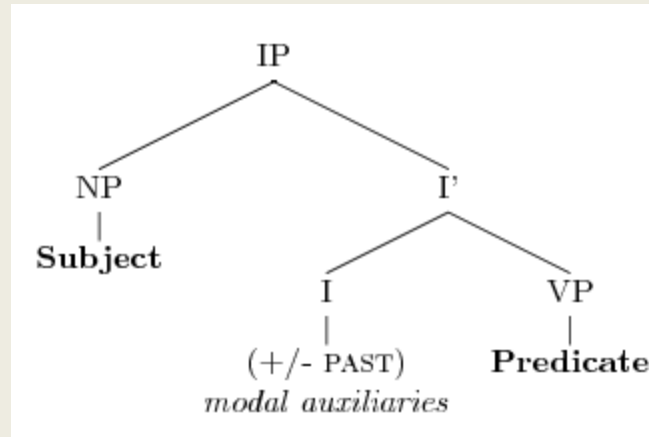
# Review

- Constituents
- Phrases
- X-bar Schema
- Specifier
- Complement
- Head

# Inflectional Phrases

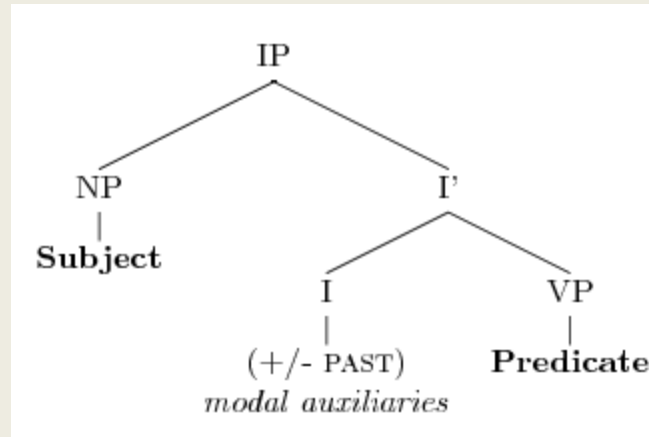
- In Linguistics, we draw all sentences as belonging to Inflectional Phrases.
  - i.e. Sentence = IP
- The head of the a sentence, then, is the category **I**, which stands for “Inflection”
  - **I** always contains a **tense feature** (+pst or –pst) and sometime contains a **modal auxiliary** (*may, might, can, could, will, etc.*).

# Inflectional Phrases



- Unlike the previous phrases we've covered, within the IP the specifier and complement are not optional.
- The **complement** of an IP is a **VP** – this is the **predicate** of the sentence
- The **specifier** of IP is an **NP** – this is the **subject** of the sentence (note that this specifier is a phrase, not a head)

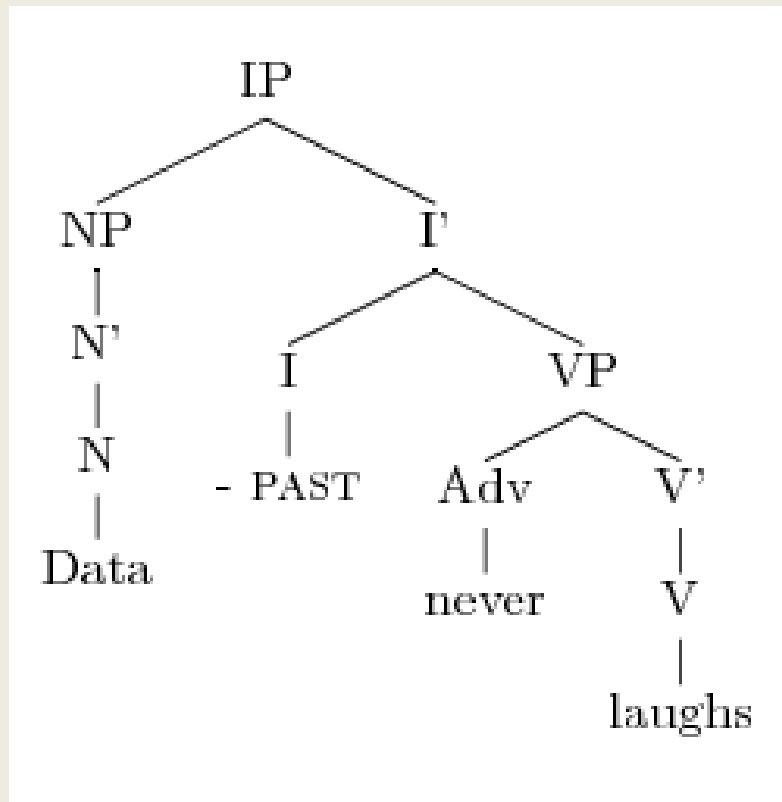
# Inflectional Phrases



- What if we had the following sets of sentences?
  - Data never laughs
  - Data is an android

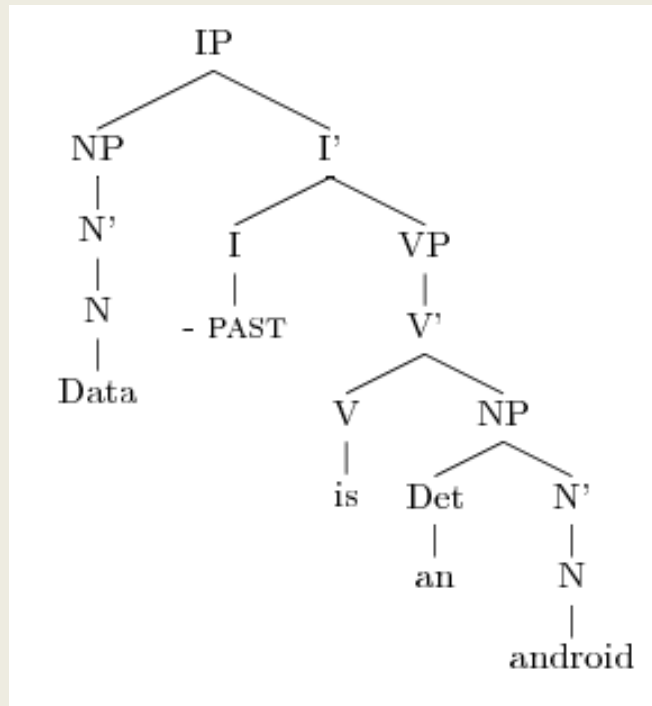
# Inflectional Phrases

- Data never laughs



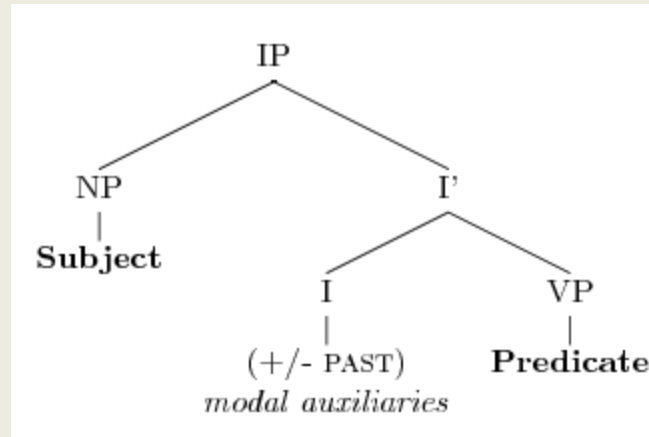
# Inflectional Phrases

- Data is an android





# Inflectional Phrases



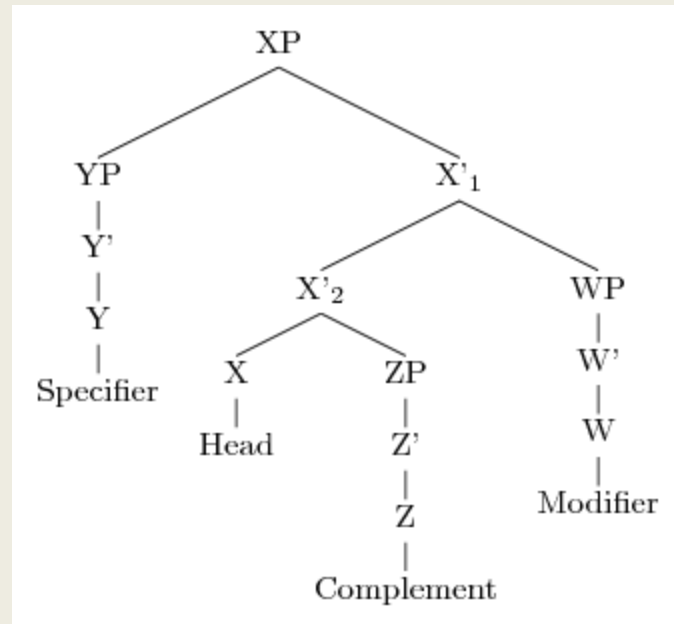
- What if we had the following sets of sentences?
  - Data is a funny, likeable android
  - Data never laughs at people
  - Data never laughs at people on Enterprise
  - Data is an android from outer space
  - Data is an android on a starship
  - Data is an android on a starship from outer space.

# Modifiers

- **Modifiers**

- Provide additional information about heads.
- APs are the most common modifiers of NPs (CL, 5<sup>th</sup> ed.)
  - *The **silly** man*
- AdvPs and PPs are the most common modifiers of VPs. (CL, 5<sup>th</sup> ed.)
  - *Mal **swiftly** punched Simon **in the face***
- They can either occur before or after the head
  - In English, **specifiers** always occur to the left of the head and **complements** always occur to the right of the head

# Modifiers



- **Modifiers**

- Structurally, we add modifiers to the sentence hierarchy by adding another  $X'$  level.
- Modifiers are always going to be daughters of and sisters to  $X'$  levels.
- Modifiers contain **optional** information and can be repetitive
  - E.g. “It was an itsy-bitsy, teeny-weeny, yellow polka-dot bikini”

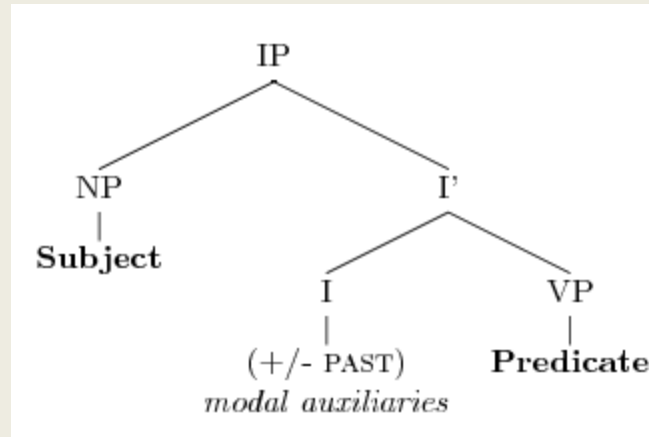
# Modifiers

- **Modifiers**

- For the purposes of this class, we will only use modifiers if:

- They are not required by the head of the Phrase and:
      - If it is an NP, the attaching phrase is an AP
      - If it is a VP, the attaching phrase is either a PP or an AdvP.

# Inflectional Phrases



- What if we had the following sets of sentences?
  - Data is a funny, likeable android
  - Data never laughs at people
  - Data never laughs at people on Enterprise

# Homeworks

- Due Thursday (the 12<sup>th</sup>)
  - Writing Assignment 5
  - p. 199, Exercise 3, (a) – (e)
  - p. 200, Exercise 6
  - p. 200, Exercise 7
  - p. 199, Exercise 4, (a), (c), (e)
  - p. 200, Exercise 5, (b), (d), (f)

Have a good day!