

A Syntactic Study of British English Press Headlines

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by

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## Abstract

This thesis presents a syntactic description of the language of English Press headlines.

It is divided into three parts which are preceded by a table of contents, a preface, a list of abbreviations, some notes on the methodology of research and system of notation; and are followed by a bibliography.

Part One, which consists of two chapters, presents the theoretical background of both the earlier approaches to the subject (Chapter I) and the grammatical technique employed here (Chapter II).

Part Two comprises three chapters, the first of which (Chapter III) presents the various types of headlines, the second (Chapter IV) relates the structure of Headlines to that of the Norm, and the third (Chapter V) discusses the issues resulting from the application of Case Grammar to headlines.

Part Three which constitutes the major part of the thesis presents us with a detailed analysis of

the main types of headlines: the Verbal Multinodal (Chapter VI), the Nominal Multinodal (Chapter VII), and the Uninodal Type (Chapter VIII), and relates their deep structure to their surface sequential order, through the use of 'patterning'.

Each chapter is preceded by a table of contents listing its constituent sections.

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Ahmad El-Bakri

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## Preface

British English Press headlines may be said to form a special dialect of British English. They are a special dialect in the sense that they exploit syntactic devices not normally used by English speakers either in oral or in written communication of everyday life. In addition, it is a special usage of the language limited to the written level. It is, furthermore, nearer to the language of 'telegrams' (in the popular sense of the term "Language") and various other systems and codes of signal than, say, to the literary or formal written language. J. R. Firth grouped all these linguistic phenomena under one heading, viz., Block Language (cf. 'I.3.7'), and referred to Headlines, on more than one occasion, as an 'elliptical' language (cf. 'I.4.5.'). H. A. Gleason (An Introduction to Descriptive Linguistics, 'Revised Edition,' U.S.A., 1961), when speaking about the ambiguity that sometimes results from the omission

of 'some words' in headlines, says: "This kind of ambiguity is characteristic of a very special style of written English, largely restricted to headlines and telegrams. It arises, of course, from the omission of certain 'small words', elements which contribute little or nothing to meaning, but function as pure structural signals. These 'small words' are commonly grouped as function words. The term is useful, but the concept is very difficult to define." (p. 156).

Thus we could speak of English Headlines (the language of Press headlines) as a dialectal variety --a kind of written dialect-- of English. A dialect standing in its own right and having its own set of "rules". And we can also speak of the ability of 'learned adult' speakers of English to grasp fully the content of such headlines --often without a moment's reflection-- as lying within the competence of such speakers. It is an acquired faculty that constitutes a special part of their competence, a part which has a minor function, and which we may consider to be a subcompetence.

Press headlines aim, for various reasons, at giving the reader as much information as possible in the smallest space. They do so in several different ways, the commonest of which is deletion. And it is on the first page that the most deleted constructions occur. One notices that the more one gets into the inside pages the more headlines tend to become lengthy and detailed, i.e., nearer to the ordinary everyday usage of the language (the Norm). Hence, it is mostly headlines of the first few pages of the paper that will be the subject of our study here.

It is evident that the various newspapers differ as to the way in which they explore different syntactic devices --besides of course having some in common-- and it would be a very tedious task to try to investigate all of them. This is why only four of the more familiar English newspapers have been chosen as sources of data. These four newspapers are: 'The Times,' 'The Guardian,' 'The Daily Telegraph,' and 'The Sunday Times.'

The main reason for choosing these four to the exclusion of others is that they are more or less

coherent in the syntactic types they exploit; thus forming a relatively formidable portion of the bulk of newspapers --a portion which could afford to be described in a readily accessible and at the same time satisfactorily conclusive manner. Including other newspapers in this study (say, "The Daily Express," or "Evening Standard"), though adding somewhat to the variety of types of heads, would only do so at the expense of cohesion of analysis, clarity of description, and relative stability of the conclusions to be reached throughout the research.

The items dealt with here are as consistently chosen as possible. This means that emphasis is laid on the more recurring types --being represented by a larger sample.

All the items quoted and analysed occurred as independent entities. This means that such items as the following are disregarded: items that are mere labels (representing titles of books 'being reviewed', titles of films, theatrical performances, and the like); heads of advertisements; heads of editors' articles and sports articles; heads of captions (i.e., pieces of news illustrated by pictures); items which

merely form a part of a larger item; small heads which occur 'within' a large article or piece of news (technically termed "cross-heads"); items introduced within a frame which denotes a special subject of interest (e.g., 'scientific page,' 'woman's page,' 'arts', 'business', etc.); heads of diaries and readers' letters; etc. The reason for setting this limitation on our choice of material is that such heads do not show a consistent type of structure of their own; they can be anything starting from 'one word' to 'the first phrase or clause of the article or letter under consideration.' This means that different rules govern their structure and distribution; and their selection depends rather on some stereotyped and technical ('journalistic') conventions. Above all, the element of newness (a major constituent of a Headlines item) is absent in many such items.

What we are in fact more concerned with are the items which do not appeal to the reader through any special topic of interest. It is these items which attract the reader's attention (even for a very short while) by virtue of the new information they impart;

and it these items that are more interesting from the point of view of this research.

## List of Abbreviations

### - Reference to bracketed symbols:

T. T.	The Times
S. T.	The Sunday Times
D. T.	The Daily Telegraph
T. G.	The Guardian
( ---- 12/11-1)	twelfth of November, page 1

### - Technical symbols:

H	a Headlines item
P	the Proposition constituent
M	the Modality constituent
A	the Agentive Case
D	the Dative Case
O	the Objective Case
I	the Instrumental Case

V	the Verbal element (a syntactic function that could be performed by any of the following five constituents)
v	verb
adj	an adjectival word or construction
adv	an adverbial word or construction
NP	noun phrase
typo	typographical mark
k	'kasmus', used to mean: indicator of Case relationships
d	determiner
S	sentence
prep p	prepositional phrase
T-adv	time adverbial
L-adv	location adverbial
Man-adv	manner adverbial, under
	M

man-adv

manner adverbial, under

v

aux

auxiliary

## Notes on Methodology of Research and System of Notation

- The syntactic technique employed here is basically that of Fillmore's Case Grammar, but within a wider Transformational Grammar framework. However, two reservations must be added here; first, by Case Grammar is meant the 1968 Model --though of course reference may be made to articles by the same author published before or after that date. Secondly, some fundamental modifications in the theory have been proposed and applied, in this thesis.
  
- Whenever the word English occurs throughout the text, it should be taken to mean British English; unless otherwise stated. In the same way, Headlines will be taken to refer to British English Headlines.
  
- When a headline is quoted more than once, it preserves the number that was attached to it the first time, and is not marked as to its reference.
  
- All quoted items fall within the calendar year 1972.

- The terms 'head' and 'headline' are used invariably to mean a Headlines item. The term 'Head' is used to mean: the main element in a noun phrase, modified by attributes.

PART ONE:

THE THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

Chapter I:

Earlier Approaches to the Linguistic Study  
of Headlines

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### I. 1. The Two Main Linguistic Works on Headlines

The linguistic study of Headlines in different languages has received but very little attention up till the present time. In the light of the recent achievements of the theories of syntax (from the forties up till the early seventies, i.e., from the start of the Neo-Bloomfieldian structural school, up till the Chomskian generative school, and the post-Chomskian generative 'Case' model presented by Charles Fillmore); such linguistic study would surely have been worthwhile, in what it could reveal about the syntactic structure of this dialect. Perhaps, the reason for the absence of any work at this stage was the existence of an earlier work exclusively on the Headlines of English (entitled Newspaper Headlines, by Heinrich Straumann, in 1934). Yet, this earlier work (of which a detailed exposition will be given below), with regard to syntactic descriptive methods, employed only what was available at that time. And although it did indeed make many valuable insights into the

linguistic nature of Headlines (insights which, even now, would still seem quite valid); yet, the mere fact of the lapse of more than thirty-five years since the date of its publication would be sufficient to mark it as out of date, and to render some of its findings highly questionable (considering the very fast development of Linguistics in recent years).

The other work exclusively on the language of Press headlines, and of which we will also give a detailed exposition below, is K. Bishr's Egyptian Newspaper Headlines (written in English, as an M. A. thesis, presented to the University of London, in 1952).

Although Headlines might have been syntactically explored by other linguists --whether in English or any other language-- the present writer is not aware of any such work that exists.

## I. 2. The Journalistic Works on Headlines

Many works have been published about the language of newspaper in general, and the language of headlines in particular (see: Bleyer; Garst & Bernstein;

Mansfield; and Radder). These works are not interested as much in the linguistic aspect as in the professional artistic aspect of the subject. They are concerned, for example, with how to mould a story properly for journalistic presentation, how to render a headline attractive, or shocking, etc. It may not be irrelevant here to quote a specimen advice written by Willard Bleyer, addressed to prospective journalists:

"By their form and position, likewise, the  
 "headlines act as advertisements for what  
 "the paper contains. Like all good advertise-  
 "ments headlines should create interest and  
 "lead to the sale of the paper. By arous-  
 "ing the reader's curiosity and at the same  
 "time partially satisfying it, the head,  
 "when skillfully written, attracts the read-  
 "er's attention and influences him to read  
 "the story." (1)

---

(1) Willard Bleyer, Newspaper Writing and Editing,  
 Houghton Mifflin Co., New York & London,  
 1914, pp. 271-2. (Note that the 'commer-  
 cial' aspect of this quotation calls to mind the art  
 of women's fashions; just how much to reveal and how  
 much to conceal !)

Such works are of no more interest to the linguist than are (figuratively speaking) the recipes of cooking to the connoisseur of food. In more scientific terms, we are interested in Headlines as a means of communication (more precisely, 'one-way' communication system); whereas to the journalist (in this case, the 'subeditor'), they are a matter of professional skill. The journalist looks at the 'art' of writing headlines from the viewpoint of economy and precision --as well as that of creating interest or excitement. He may be asked to add or take away one word or two in order for the head to fit exactly in the space allocated to it on the page; he may also be interested in the moral aspect of, for example, trying to be honest or not to overstate his case. But what we are interested in, is the internal structure of Headlines, as a natural phenomenon worthy of study and investigation, on its own merits.

Furthermore, these books are prescriptivist in nature, instructing the novice journalist in the art of his profession. By comparison, our aim here has been to gather the largest possible data in the most

consistent way possible, and to look into such data in some detail in order to arrive at the general underlying rules which govern their structure.

### I. 3. Earlier Linguists' Views on Headlines

Before we review the two main works on Headlines referred to earlier, we will start by quoting, and commenting upon, some statements of earlier linguists concerning this subject. These form remarks ventured by them, while writing about 'syntax' in general, or English syntax in particular. In presenting these observations, the order will be, more or less, chronological. The linguists we quote here are:

- a) Edward Sapir
- b) Otto Jespersen
- c) George Curme
- d) Charles Fries
- e) Henry Gleason
- f) Joshua Whatmough
- g) J. R. Firth.

(Note that Firth will be quoted twice; but the second of his views will be presented here only after we have discussed Straumann's work, as it is a review of that work.)

### I. 3. 1. Edward Sapir

The first linguist to remark on the special techniques of Headlinese --though merely regarding it as a minor issue-- was Edward Sapir. In his book "Language" (Chapter II: The Elements of Speech), he advocated the psychological as well as the logical existence of the sentence which he defined as "the linguistic expression of a proposition", and which he divided into two counterparts: the subject of discourse and the core of the predicate on one hand, and the qualifying elements, on the other. The sentence The mayor of New York is going to deliver a speech of welcome in French, he says, may be reduced to The mayor is going to deliver a speech; i.e., we can eliminate the qualifying elements of New York, of welcome, and in French, and still get an intelligible proposition. "But, further than this," he says, "we cannot go in the process of reduction. We cannot say, for instance, Mayor is going to deliver."<sup>(1)</sup> And then

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(1) Edward Sapir, Language, Harcourt, Brace & World, Inc., 1921 (British Edition, 1963), p. 36.

he attaches a footnote to this last statement, which runs as follows: "Except, possibly, in a newspaper headline. Such headlines, however, are language only in a derived sense."<sup>(1)</sup>

Sapir's last statement raises, in fact, three issues. The first, and least important, is whether such a construction as The mayor is going to deliver, is a potential head or not; and we think it highly improbable (at least, no similar item could be found in our corpus). The second issue is that Sapir thinks of this usage merely in terms of a 'process of reduction' and nothing more;<sup>(2)</sup> which implies that, for him, it only takes an eraser to reduce a sentence from its 'normal' form into a 'shortened' form, which would not be any good except for a headline. The third, and most relevant, issue at hand is that he excludes the possibility of regarding Headlines as 'language'.

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(1) Ibid., p. 36 fn.

(2) He surely did not rule out other syntactic factors, but he did not allow for them either.

He says that it is language only 'in a derived sense;' thus, presumably, thinking of it in terms of mere 'signs' or traffic signals. But, as we hope to demonstrate, it is neither.<sup>(1)</sup> It is rather a separate specialized dialect, existing on its own; and having its own syntactic rules which, in spite of the similarities that exist between it and everyday usage, has much less in common with the Norm than it might appear to have, at first sight.

### I. 3. 2. Otto Jespersen

The second linguist to consider the dialect of Headlinesese was Otto Jespersen. In his book "The Philosophy of Grammar" --while discussing the aspect of 'completion'-- he referred very briefly to this subject. He talked about the possible deletion of certain elements, and the resultant 'shortened' forms, and discussed the empirical question of how far such shortening may affect 'the whole.' Then, he concluded that

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(1) cf. the next section.

in most cases such deletions would not, however, deter us from recognizing the utterance as complete enough to be considered a 'sentence.' He, then, went on to say:

" In other cases, however, the suppression is so violent that this condition is not fulfilled. I should not recognize as sentences signboards ("J.C. Mason, Book-seller"), book titles ("Men and Women"), headlines in newspapers ("New conferences in Paris" or "Killed his father in law"), indication of speaker in plays ("Hamlet"), entries in diaries ("Tuesday. Rain and fog, Chess with uncle Tom, walk with the girls") and similar short expressions. It is, however, important to observe that all these phenomena occur in writing only and thus fall outside language proper. Spoken language may indulge in many suppressions, but the result is always distinguished from that exemplified in this paragraph."<sup>(1)</sup>

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(1) Otto Jespersen, The Philosophy of Grammar, George Allen & Unwin Ltd., London, 1924, p. 311.

One notices, at first glance, that Jespersen has grouped together what should have been considered as two separate phenomena worthy of individual treatment, namely signboards and the like, on one hand, and headlines, on the other.

Firstly, no linguist has ever made the claim that signboards and the like should be regarded as sentences. According to "Ferdinand de Saussure," all such signs would properly fall within the broader range of "Semiology." The science of Semiology has a wider perspective than that of Linguistics, and would include as its sphere of study -- besides language -- all signs of every kind. Most probably, such signboards as the one referred to by Jespersen resemble in their function, as a means of communication, traffic signals. Such traffic signals do not have a linguistic structure. They do, of course, have semantic content, but the relationship between the sign and its meaning is more direct, i.e., no linguistic medium is involved. The following diagram illustrates this distinction:

'signs' having a linguistic structure, e.g., sentences, headlines, etc.

(signified)

language as medium

(signifier)

'signs' having no linguistic structure, e.g., traffic lights, traffic signs, etc.

(signified)

various non-linguistic, aural or visual, means as medium

(signifier)

'Book titles,' 'entries in diaries,' and 'indications of speaker in plays,' etc., do not have a consistent overall structure; i.e., they could either be one-word indicators, or else brief sentence-construct-ions.

Secondly, Jespersen seems to hold the viewpoint that writing is not language proper; this we would consider untenable. We would certainly agree that speech is logically prior to writing, but we must also point out that much of the emphasis laid upon

the oral aspect of language is due to the fact that it is this particular aspect which was most persistently neglected in the past. (1)

### I. 3. 3. George Curme

The representation of a copula verb may in itself be of very little inherent syntactic value. This becomes particularly obvious when one is familiar with some of the languages which do not necessitate verbal manifestation in all types of sentences. As early as 1931, G. O. Curme made some remarks regarding this subject, and what is more interesting, he linked them to the usage of Headlinese:

---

(1) Note that we do not have 'spoken' Headlinese, unless we take into consideration the rather far fetched possibility of an illiterate person relying habitually for the receiving of his information, on the recital of a literate person; thus adding to Headlinese something which it does not have --a phonological component.

"From the very start the new type of sentence with the copula has been closely associated with formal accurate language, hence it is employed in the calm flow of thought in declarative sentences and hasn't such exclusive sway in loose colloquial speech or where strong feeling is involved. ... This old type of predication without a copula is still common in the headlines of our newspapers: SNOWDEN'S STAND CRITICISED (The New York Times, Aug. 17, 1929). Still common also in advertisements: 'Money back guarantee in every package.'<sup>(1)</sup>

Charles Fillmore, in 'The Case for Case,' follows a similar line of thought as he proposed to treat predicative adjectives, and also predicative nouns, as deep realizations of the verb-class. This is also a course which we ourselves take in this research (cf. 'V. 2. 1.').

It might be interesting here as well to link Curme's remark with a remark of John Lyons, which

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(1) G. O. Curme, Syntax (A Grammar of the English Language, Vol. III), D.C. Heath & Co., U.S.A., 1931, p. 29.

refers to the subject:

" It is a well-known fact that in many  
 "languages the sentences Mary is beautiful  
 "and Mary is a child would take the form  
 "'Mary beautiful' and 'Mary (a) child';  
 "that is to say, the predicative adjective  
 "or noun would be combined directly with  
 "the subject-noun without a copula. Even  
 "in the Indo-European languages the copulat-  
 "ive function of 'the verb to be' appears  
 "to be of secondary development."<sup>(1)</sup>

#### I. 3. 4. Charles Fries

When the concept of 'word-classes' replaced that of the traditional 'parts of speech,' there was a group of words which did not fit anywhere within the four main word-classes of noun, verb, adjective, and adverb. This small set of words, called function-words, were a group of elements whose lexical role is only minor, and which serve only as surface grammatical markers (for instance, the to in he agreed to go).

---

(1) John Lyons, Introduction to Theoretical Linguistics, Cambridge University Press, 1968, p. 322.

This class of function-words comprised most of the prepositions, demonstratives, numerals, articles, as well as some adjectives and adverbs.

Accordingly, Headlineese was viewed as a form of English which differs from the Norm in only one respect; the lack of function words. In our view, this is a rather superficial viewpoint; since as we shall see later on, the structure of Headlineese presupposes a complete set of rules, and cannot be regarded merely as a deleted form of the Norm. In 1952, Charles Fries wrote about the aspect of 'ambiguity', which he attributed to the absence of function-words:

" Newspaper headlines very frequently are  
 "structurally ambiguous because of the lack  
 "of definite part of speech or form-class  
 "marker. Some typical examples out of many  
 "are the following:

" 1. "Vandenberg Reports Open Forum."  
 "The ambiguity of this heading could be  
 "cleared by the use of such markers as the  
 "or an, as:

" Vandenberg Reports Open the Forum

" Vandenberg Reports an Open Forum

" 2. "Unfavourable Surveyor Reports Delay-  
 "ed Michigan Settlements." The ambiguity

"of this heading would be cleared by the  
 "use of such markers as have or a:  
 " Unfavourable Surveyor Reports Have  
 "Delayed Michigan Settlement  
 " Unfavourable Surveyor Reports a Delayed  
 "Michigan Settlement  
 " 3. "Briton to Be Tried for Missing Jewish  
 "Youth's Murder." Such a marker as a would  
 "clear the ambiguity here:  
 " Briton to Be Tried for a Missing Jewish  
 "Youth's Murder  
 " Briton to Be Tried for Missing a Jewish  
 "Youth's Murder  
 " 4. "Marshall Calls on Congress to Help  
 "Prostrate Europe."  
 "Hare again the markers a or -ed would clear  
 "the ambiguity:  
 " Marshall Calls on Congress to Help Prost-  
 "rated Europe  
 " Marshall Calls on Congress to Help a  
 "Prostrate Europe  
 "Or the marker to would make unmistakable  
 "the other meaning.  
 " Marshall Calls on Congress to Help to  
 "Prostrate Europe  
 "As we examine the utterances of English,  
 "we shall find that unless certain large  
 "form-classes or parts of speech have their  
 "characteristic markers the structural mean-

"ings of the utterance will be ambiguous." (1)

Fries' examples are interesting, and do show an aspect of structural ambiguity which is prevalent in many Headlines items. However, what he did not mention is that headlines are not usually ambiguous at all within context. It is because of the shared background between the writer and the reader that such function words can be left out.

### I. 3. 5. Henry Gleason

Gleason also had similar views with regard to Headlines, which he expressed in his two main works ("An Introduction to Descriptive Linguistics," and "Linguistics and English Grammar"); emphasizing the role of a very limited and closed class of words which are both verbs and nouns; and also stressing the fact that it is the lack of function-words that causes the structural ambiguity. But he was candid enough to admit that the concept of such a class of words is not easy to define. His statement runs as follows:

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(1) C. C. Fries, The Structure of English, Harcourt, Brace & Company, New York, 1952, pp. 62-3.

" A recent newspaper carried the headline  
 "Beethoven Works On Hess Program  
 "Probably a number of other readers were  
 "startled as I was, taking works as a verb.  
 "Taking works to be a noun gives a less in-  
 "congruous meaning, one which the article  
 "clearly confirms as the headline writer's  
 "intention. This kind of ambiguity is  
 "characteristic of a very special style of  
 "written English, largely restricted to  
 "headlines and telegrams. It arises, of  
 "course, from the omission of certain  
 "'small words', elements which contribute  
 "little or nothing to meaning, but function  
 "as pure structural signals.  
 " These 'small words' are commonly grouped  
 "as function words. The term is useful,  
 "but the concept is very difficult to  
 "define."<sup>(1)</sup>

Another term which Gleason uses in referring to these function words is structural signals; a term which, though clearly indicative, is not much more helpful than the first. Yet, we must give him credit

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(1) H. A. Gleason, An Introduction to Descriptive Linguistics (Revised Edition), U.S.A., 1961, p. 156.

for his statement that in most cases 'one of the two interpretations is highly unlikely;' thus broadening the scope a little bit and accounting, though implicitly, for other considerations. He says:

" Because there is so much reinforcement  
 "and duplication, it is often possible to  
 "omit various structure signals more or  
 "less completely, relying on those which  
 "remain. The familiar example is the  
 "special written style used in headlines  
 "and telegrams. Here most function words  
 "are omitted, capitalization loses its  
 "value, and punctuation is omitted or cur-  
 "tailed. The result may of course be  
 "ambiguity. The now classic example is:

" SHIP SAILS TOMORROW

"If this is recast into normal written form,  
 "at least one function word must be added.  
 "This addition immediately removes the  
 "ambiguity. There must be at least two  
 "ways to fill it out, corresponding to the  
 "competing meaning of the original:

" The ship sails tomorrow.

" Ship the sails tomorrow.

"This example, while far from unique, is  
 "certainly unusual. Most headlines and  
 "telegrams are quite clear, or only except-  
 "tionally misinterpreted. The signals

"provided by the function words are indis-  
 "pensable because they are in effect dupli-  
 "cated by others which remain in headlines  
 "style. Indeed, the example just cited  
 "would be less ambiguous in use than it is  
 "when cited out of context, one of the two  
 "interpretations is highly unlikely except  
 "in a telegram addressed to a sailmaker or  
 "ships' chandler. If context is given,  
 "most ambiguous examples become appreciably  
 "less ambiguous."<sup>(1)</sup>

A striking point in both quotations of Gleason is that he tends to speak of 'headlines and telegrams;' thus; obviously, regarding both usages as, more or less, one and the same phenomenon. We would not agree with him in this respect; but would rather hold the view that these are two separate dialects, each governed by its own rules.<sup>(2)</sup> However, we cannot go

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(1) H. A. Gleason, Linguistics and English Grammar, Holt, Rinehart & Winston, Inc., U.S.A., 1955, pp. 168-9.

(2) To quote just one aspect, it is highly unlikely for telegrams to be of the uninodal type (cf. 'III. 2') --thus excluding a sizable part of the bulk of headlines. They will mostly be of the multinodal type. ...

into this in any more detail here, as this goes beyond the scope and limits of our research.

### I. 3. 6. Joshua Whatmough

Joshua Whatmough was the first linguist to admit that Press headlines, although very concise, can be unambiguous; a fact which clearly allows for our supposition that they have phrase-structure rules different from those of the Norm. He calls headline language a 'variety of everyday discourse;' and says that this variety is characterized by being very precise and economical, yet completely intelligible. His views in this connection run as follows:

"There is one variety of everyday discourse

-----

... Furthermore, they will resort much more frequently to the grammatical category of direct address, making full employment of the personal pronouns I, we, and you; while most headlines concern the third person category, represented by the personal pronouns he, she, and they.

"that presents peculiarities of its own  
 "--the newspaper headline, and closely re-  
 "lated to it, advertising phraseology.  
 "These are distinguished, at least in mod-  
 "ern English, by a compactness that yet  
 "manages to escape vagueness or ambiguity.  
 "It tends to encourage quasi-compounds as  
 "substitutes for traditional sentence types,  
 "e.g., 'non-stop thoroughway buses,' 'better  
 "than leather miracle covering,' 'Italian  
 "assassin bomb plot disaster'. Readers are  
 "seldom at a loss; there is no call for ex-  
 "planatory glosses of the kind that lead to  
 "a loss of confidence in language, to the  
 "destruction of the message, or the substit-  
 "ution of some other device (e.g. a photo-  
 "graph or cartoon)."<sup>(1)</sup>

What is of interest here is the writer's recogni-  
 tion of headlines as being compact but unambiguous;  
 a fact which should be supported by the view that they  
 have some specific underlying rules. And the theoret-  
 ical implication of this observation is the existence  
 of a competent mental faculty in the minds of adult

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(1) Joshua Whatmough, Language, Secker & Warburg, Lon-  
 don, 1956, p. 95.

learned speakers of the language, what we choose to call the 'subcompetence.'

### I. 3. 7. J. R. Firth

J. R. Firth ideas on the language of headlines can be seen from two sources (the second of which is discussed in 'I.4.5.').<sup>(1)</sup> The first is an article entitled 'The Technique of Semantics' which appeared in Transactions of the Philological Society in 1935. In this article he made the following observation concerning the semantic realization of headlines; in which he draws our attention to the fact that Headline is basically different from the Norm, stressing its visual aspect (compare, in this respect, our hypothesis of regarding typographical marks as full elements, in 'IV.2.6.')

"The facts of Headline or Block Language  
 "are entirely different from those of norm-  
 "al speech, almost entirely visual. Yet  
 "the technique works just as well for print-

---

(1) We may also add here that he supervised, in the early fifties, the thesis on Egyptian Headlines by K. Bishr (reviewed in 'I.5.').

"ed form as for spoken form. Without mor-  
 "phology then, no semantics.

" Ogden and Richards resolve situation  
 "meaning into the three terms or triangle,  
 "of referent, reference, symbol. But mean-  
 "ing is for them a relation in the mind  
 "between the facts and events on the one  
 "hand and the symbols or words you  
 "use to refer to them. To illustrate the  
 "Ogden and Richards technique, I should  
 "like to take an example from Dr. Strau-  
 "mann's book. In newspapers there is the  
 "common phenomenon of the same event being  
 "headlined by various newspapers. The event  
 "is the Sentence of Lord X. Let us take  
 "the first headline from The Times. It  
 "runs --R. M. S. P. CASE. The News Chron-  
 "icle -- LORD X SENTENCED. The Daily Her-  
 "ald -- LORD X SENT TO PRISON FOR A YEAR.  
 "The Daily Mirror -- LORD X SENT TO GAOL  
 "FOR 12 MONTHS. The Daily Mail -- LORD X  
 "SENTENCE SHOCKS THE CITY. And lastly the  
 "Daily Worker's serve-him-right streamer  
 "-- LORD X GETS 12 MONTHS.

" According to the Ogden and Richards  
 "technique there is one referent, the sen-  
 "tence on Lord X, and quite a number of  
 "different symbols for it in the various  
 "headlines, the various references being  
 "the relation between the two, the head-

"lines and the event. By this technique  
 "the reference, or rather the relation bet-  
 "ween the referent (the event) and the  
 "symbol (the words), is regarded as thought  
 "or a mental process."<sup>(1)</sup>

#### I. 4. "Newspaper Headlines" by Straumann

This work was completed in the early thirties  
 (the author states in his Preface that he finished  
 writing his book early in 1933); thus it shows  
 certain shortcomings, in the light of the more recent  
 achievements of the modern theories of syntax.

The book is in four chapters, the fourth of which  
 (entitled 'Systematic Survey') will be our main con-  
 cern here. The first three chapters have the follow-  
 ing titles:

- I. Sociological and Psychological Aspects
- II. Linguistic and Logical Aspects
- III. Historical Aspects

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(1) J. R. Firth, Papers in Linguistics, Oxford Univer-  
 sity Press, London, 1957, pp. 18-9.

As such, that work covers a larger domain of human interest than our present research; and is, in this respect, more comprehensive.

But before we go on to discuss some of the empirical issues expounded in his fourth chapter, it may be relevant to introduce some of the general points treated in the first three chapters. The points that will be referred to here are;

- a) the uniqueness of Headlinese,
- b) the history of headline usage,
- c) the categorial classification.

#### I. 4. 1. The Uniqueness of Headlinese

In Chapter III (as well as in the Introduction), Straumann advocates the claim that Headlinese is a special usage of the language, that warrants the application of the term dialect (cf. our Preface). Straumann refers to Headlinese as block-language, and looks upon it as "a particular type of linguistic utterance such as occurs in telegrams, book-titles, diaries, catalogues, dictionaries, etc."<sup>(1)</sup> (Compare

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(1) Heinrich Straumann, Newspaper Headlines, George Allen & Unwin, London, 1935, p. 21.

this statement to our views on separating Headlines from most of these usages, in I. 3. 2.) He then supports his viewpoint by referring to books written on the profession of Journalism. We quote here a representative passage on this subject:

" The statement that the English headline  
"is written in a language apparently its  
"own can be verified, not only by a glance  
"at any of the English dailies, but also by  
"those handbooks of Journalism which devote  
"some space to the 'art of writing head-  
"lines.' There the beginner receives copi-  
"ous advice amounting in practice to defin-  
"ite rules. The fact that these rules  
"--which are given by various authors--  
"actually agree in most of the essential  
"points is perhaps less surprising than the  
"nonchalant way in which they are given.  
"They seem to be written from no point of  
"view at all. If these journalists agree  
"that a headline should always have a verb,  
"that the article and 'unnecessary' auxili-  
"ary verbs to be omitted whenever possible,  
"but retained when convenient to fill the  
"line, that the present tense of the verb  
"should be used for past events and the  
"infinitive or future tense for coming ones,  
"and that the active voice should be pre-

"ferred, they are on the other hand perfectly unaware of the fact that such a proceeding means a fundamental step toward the creation of the system of a new language."<sup>(1)</sup>

Straumann then goes on to say that all the linguistic phenomena grouped under the term block-language cannot be described satisfactorily in terms of the syntactic categories and functions attributed to the Norm.<sup>(2)</sup>

The other points which Straumann treated are the following:

a) what he called 'psychological factors,' which make a native speaker, when confronted by an ambiguous head, favour one of the senses as being more appropriate than the other (what we would call the intuition of the subcompetence).

b) the importance of contextual and situational factors, which have been fairly neglected up till that time (what Firth and Halliday introduced later

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(1) Ibid., p. 35.

(2) our terminology

on as the 'context of situation').

c) the difficulties that arose from the linguists' attempts to give a satisfactory definition to the 'sentence' --he in particular criticised Jespersen's view of excluding headlines from being language proper 'on the grounds that they merely occur in writing' (cf. 'I.3.2. '), and says that they "may well be cried out in the streets," a factor which might (in his view) invalidate Jespersen's hypothesis.

#### I. 4. 2. The History of Headline Usage

In his section 'Historical Aspects,' Straumann illustrates in a very vivid and illuminating way the origin and development of the headline.<sup>(1)</sup> He quotes one of the earliest examples of headlines (1591 A.D.) which, though it looks like a sentence, yet, as Straumann observed, shows how "the terminology of subject and predicate breaks down entirely." This

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(1) For any further interest in these aspects we must refer the reader directly to the original text.

sample headline runs as follows:

A new Ballad declaring the great Treason  
conspired against the young King of Scots  
and how one Andrew Browne an English man  
which was the King's Chamberlaine preuented  
the same.

#### I. 4. 3. Straumann's Categorical Classification

The whole of Straumann's Chapter IV (the 'Systematic Survey') is based on the system of categorical classification put forward in his Chapter II.

Although he admits that his system is ad hoc, he states that it "will prove to be of decisive importance in the classification of the various types."

He proposes four main groups of words, viz., nominals, neutrals, verbals, and particles. And then he presents what he calls the formal criteria, upon which his whole system is based. This runs as follows: (1)

---

(1) Note that the multiple exemplifications of the following extracts have been considerably cut short.

"1. Common Forms

- " a)Nominals: France, Student; Three, 69;  
 " His, This; Guilty, Unable.  
 " b)Neutrals: Talk, Fire, Play, Home, No.  
 " c)Verbals: Ask, allow.  
 " Anomalous verbals: Can, May, Is.  
 " d)Particles: Now, Up, In, To-day.

"2. s-Forms

- " a)Nominal: Raiders, Travellers.  
 " b)Neutral: Talks, Results.<sup>(1)</sup>  
 " c)Verbal: Asks, Allows.  
 " d)Apostrophe (nominals only): Germany's.  
 " e)s-apostrophe ( , , ): Occupants'.

"3. Variable, Semi-Variable, and Invariable  
 " Forms

- " a)Variables:-  
 " First variable: Took, Went.  
 " Second , , : Taken, Sunk.

-----  
 (1) Note that the lexical item results may not fit here --judging by Straumann's criterion-- because as a verb it should always be accompanied by a prepositional particle (e.g., in, from), in which case it cannot be a neutral. One can scarcely think of a head in which this item could be optionally regarded as belonging either to the verbal or to the nominal categories. In fact, the example he gives (p. 160) is Results at a glance.

- " b)Semi-variables: Held, Shot, Led.
- " Irregular semi-variables: (come) came,  
 " (beat) beaten.
- " c)Invariables: Let, Hit, Hurt.
- "4. d-Forms
- " Saved, Telephoned; paid.
- "5. ing-Forms
- " Teaching, Buying, Meeting.
- "6. ly-, er-, (e)st- Forms
- " a)ly-forms: Badly, Early, Friendly.
- " b)er-forms: Lower, Higher. (But not work-  
 " er, driver, etc.)
- " c)(e)st-forms: Blackest, Worst.
- "7. How, if, that and wh-Particles
- " a)How, If, That.
- " b)When, Where, Why, etc.
- "8. Punctuative and other Typographic Means."<sup>(1)</sup>

#### I. 4. 4. The Systematic Survey

The whole of Chapter IV in Straumann's book, as we have indicated earlier, is based on the scheme of formal classification illustrated above. More than one hundred and fifty pages are allocated to the presentation and exemplification of heads falling

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(1) Ibid., p. 110.

into one or another of the types of construction shown by the classificatory system. He introduces his methodology of research in the first paragraph of Chapter IV, by saying that: "The instances are arranged first according to the word types which they contain (nominals, neutrals, verbals, or particles), and secondly according to the position in which these words appear."<sup>(1)</sup> Then he goes on to discuss the various constructions; raising many interesting contextual and semantic issues, and also relating individual items to their social as well as psychological background, in some detail.

In order to give a very brief illustration of his technique, we will review some of the heads he discussed (using the labels he attached to them), in the next few paragraphs.

a) Constructions with Common Forms:

These would include constructions with nominals, neutrals, verbals, and particles. The following items

---

(1) Ibid., p. 110.

are examples of constructions with nominals only:

- The Court
- Parliament
- The Reform

Such constructions are the nearest equivalent to our Uninodal Type.<sup>(1)</sup> Although he gives some very illuminating allusions as to the contextual situations lying behind the headlines, as well as the impact they have on the public, yet he stops short at naming types and attaching different labels to them.

However, Straumann was candid enough to admit that: "No definite rules as to these possibilities<sup>(2)</sup> nor as to the limits set to them can be discovered."<sup>(3)</sup>

What is of interest here is that he sensed a certain difference between the syntactic natures of the examples mentioned above and these listed below:

-----  
 (1) They differ only in that these items have merely N's or N's and articles as constituents, while in our Uninodal Type there will always be an adjectival of some sort.

(2) the possibilities of internal combinations

(3) Ibid., p. 119.

- Mr. Bennet The Key
- Colenso The Key (1)

When he comes to what he calls constructions with a particle, he says very little more than what positions such particles may occupy (e.g., final, intermediate; etc.); and admits that he cannot be precise enough about the exact nature of the particles, or about the interrelationships that hold between the various elements that have a particle in-between them. In this connection, he says:

"The particle most frequently used in headlines was formerly 'of' and is now 'to'. Then follow 'in', 'on', 'for', etc., and 'and' which is a case apart. It is of course impossible to give a full account of all the possible functions in which a particle may occur within the given material. Most instances have been verified by means of the New English Dictionary."<sup>(2)</sup>

---

(1) Note that these two examples would be regarded by us as multinodal in type, and would be treated as including a V-node (cf. 'V.2.1.').

(2) Ibid., p. 128.

b) Constructions with S-Forms:

Straumann admits at the outset of this section that it is arbitrariness which brings together items like "wants a telescope" with items like "Liberals a mere handful" in the same section, on the grounds that the positional criterion judges them both to be of the same type --both starting with an s-form. Yet, oddly enough, he starts the same paragraph by stating that it is only positional criteria that "will prove most useful in bringing the order into this section."

The important issue to raise at this place is that all his positional criteria depend solely upon the linear order (plus of course the morphological structure) of the lexical elements; and to his basic classificatory system what really matters is the categorial identity of the first element of an item. Thus each of the following pairs of examples belongs to two different sections (hence, to two different types) merely because the first element in each of the first items happens to <sup>end</sup>~~start~~ with an s:

- Commons In Uproar
- The Prince In Crash.

- Boers Retreat To Colesberg
- Hudson To The Bospherous.
  
- Torpedo-Boats Attack At Night
- Historic Ceremony On Sunday.

Yet, to him, "Wants a Telescope" (p. 157) and "Died in the Street" (p. 203) are basically different, because the first element in each of them happens to end differently.

This is in fact the sort of relationships shown by Straumann. The type of syntactic analysis he presents us with is not of the kind that would reveal such basic notions as: who did what, to whom, when and where. It does not separate modalities on the item-as-a-whole from the core of the item. It rather relies heavily upon the categorial nature of the constituent lexical elements.

c) Constructions with D-Forms:

Here again, many questions are left unanswered, not through negligence, but for the lack of effective methods of syntactic analysis. He says:

"it would be possible to mark two of the

"various functions of the d-forms as either  
 "essentially nominal (the aged emperor) or  
 "essentially verbal (telephoned his cabinet).  
 "But then a large proportion represented by  
 "the type 'Berlin excited' would have to be  
 "left out of consideration, since neither  
 "nominal nor verbal would be a satisfactory  
 "term in this case." (1)

The fact that Straumann feels he must leave these  
 out of consideration reflects the <sup>limitation</sup> ~~shortcomings~~ of  
 linguistic ~~knowledge~~ <sup>theory</sup> ~~at~~ <sup>in</sup> that period. To combine the  
 following items under one section by the mere virtue  
 of their having a d-form in final position seems to  
 be a monstrous violation of the simplest grammatical  
 traditions and of the most basic principles of "des-  
 criptive linguistics:"

- Former M. P.s Returned
- Fell 80 Feet And Laughed
- List of The Killed

d) Punctuative and Other Typographical Means:

The useful observations included in this section  
 shed light on one of the very important --and very

---

(1) Ibid., p. 195.

characteristic-- features of such a written dialect as Headlines; namely, the use of typographical marks to indicate either a syntactic function or an element of semantic content. The quotations cited here may serve as introductory to the further elaborations that will be suggested in due course.

- (1) "The present section deals with punctuative  
 "and other typographical means as far as  
 "they play an essential role in the process  
 "of understanding a headline."<sup>(1)</sup>
- (2) " ... it is easy to understand that the  
 "interrogation mark, the dash, the invert-  
 "ed commas, may essentially influence what  
 "has been called the process of semantic  
 "elimination, ..."<sup>(2)</sup>
- (3) "Inverted commas are of all punctuative  
 "means most frequently used in headlines.  
 "Their function varies considerably.  
 " If the inverted commas comprise the  
 "whole of the word-group of which the head-

---

(1) Ibid., p. 250.

(2) Ibid., p. 250.

"line consists they almost in all cases  
 "indicate that the group is supposed to  
 "have been uttered by some person."<sup>(1)</sup>

" If the inverted commas comprise only  
 "part of the words of a headline they  
 "indicate that these words are not to be  
 "understood after the ordinary process of  
 "semantic understanding, but that they are  
 "to be taken in some exceptional function  
 "... .."

"Thus the inverted commas occasionally may  
 "indicate a tone or depreciation or irony,  
 "... .."<sup>(2)</sup>

#### I. 4. 5. Firth's Review of Straumann

Firth hailed this work with much enthusiasm, as  
 a pioneering study of a neglected linguistic area.

He says:

"It is not therefore surprising that so-  
 "called 'elliptical' language has first  
 "been systematically studied in the bold

---

(1) Ibid., p. 254.

(2) Ibid., pp. 255-6. (Note that in our analysis we  
 would go further than Straumann in this connection,  
 and would regard typographical marks as elements of  
 the lexicon in certain cases, cf. 'IV.2.6.'.)

"letters of newspaper headlines ... ..  
 "Elliptical? Vulgar? Incomplete? Ungrammat-  
 "ical? Full of mistakes? Well, here is a  
 "grammar of all that."<sup>(1)</sup>

Firth's review contains a very illuminating, and to some extent concise, appraisal of Straumann's methodology which seeks new forms of expression against the background of 'modern traditionalist'.<sup>(2)</sup> To quote Firth;

" Analysis by form is followed by analysis  
 "by position, which is described by such  
 "terms as initial, intermediate, and final,  
 "pre-, post-, and inter-nominal or -verbal.  
 "The importance of position will be real-  
 "ised at once from the examples CAPTAIN  
 "RUSSELL -- RUSSELL CAPTAIN or SUNK STEAM-  
 "ER -- STEAMER SUNK. To classify these,  
 "Jespersen's categories of junction (sunk  
 "steamer) and nexus (steamer sunk),<sup>(3)</sup> are

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(1) J. R. Firth, 'Newspaper Headlines "Review"', English Studies, Zandvoort, 1935, p. 111.

(2) This is a reference to early nineteenth century linguists, like Curme, Jespersen, etc.

(3) Note that the syntactic categories 'junction vs. nexus' correspond very roughly (in Bloomfieldian terminology) to 'endocentric vs. exocentric,' respectively.

"made use of as practically convenient, but  
 "not invested with any special magic. It  
 "is refreshing to find that after due consid-  
 "eration Dr. Straumann decides against verb-  
 "al or grammatical subordination and Jesper-  
 "sen's notion of a sort of verbal hierarchy  
 "of primaries, secondaries, and tertiaries."<sup>(1)</sup>

Firth also acknowledges Straumann's virtue of  
 admitting his own incapability of coping with problems  
 beyond the limitations of his methodology of research;  
 and draws attention to one technical slip:

"Dr. Straumann successfully resists all  
 "temptations to apply terms which would  
 "efface the objectivity of his formal and  
 "positional criteria, and there would  
 "appear to be only one technical slip in  
 "their rigorous application throughout the  
 "whole book. In the headline THE LATEST  
 "(p. 241) the -est form does not appear in  
 "isolation but in final position preceded  
 "by the. It is to Dr. Straumann's credit  
 "that where fine classification is obvious-  
 "ly impossible, he is content to leave  
 "vague things vague."<sup>(2)</sup>

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(1) Ibid., p. 112.

(2) Ibid., p. 113.

All this of course, besides emphasizing the value of Straumann's work, reflects the linguistic attitudes of the time; the interest and keenness with which all new attempts were hailed, and also the relatively limited outlook --compared with the vast amount of linguistic knowledge available at the present time.

I. 5. "Egyptian Headlines" by Bishr

This work may be considered as a continuation of the line of thought initiated by Straumann. The methodology of approach is very similar, in spite of differences in scope, differences in style of presentation, and differences between the structures of the two languages under consideration. K. Bishr divides his work into six chapters, which are entitled as follows:

I. The Headline-Language

II. Method of Analysis

III. Types of Headline-Function

"Classification according to their Linguistic Characteristics"

- IV. Systematic Description of Headlines  
 "Classification according to their components"
- V. Punctuation
- VI. Headline Lay-out. (1)

Much of Bishr's work is beyond the scope of our work here because the language investigated by him (a semitic language) is syntactically different from English. What mainly concerns us here is his outlook, his methodology of research, and more significantly, his views concerning Headlines usage. The following three points are the most relevant to our work here:

I. 5. 1. At the very outset, Bishr declares that:

"this study attempts to show that headlines  
 "are written in a form of language which

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(1) Out of these six chapters, the sixth lies outside the boundaries of Linguistics proper --as it is rather an investigation into professional techniques; the fifth chapter is also a recapitulation of Straumann's treatment, --as applied to a completely different linguistic system.

"exhibits certain peculiarities and characteristics. It shows concrete steps of departure from the classical language<sup>(1)</sup> and in moving steadily towards establishing general rules and usage of its own, and so deserving (for want of a better word) the title 'headlines' ..."<sup>(2)</sup>

And then he goes on, in the first chapter, to make the following remark:

" In view of the limited space allotted to the individual heading, the headline writer uses short and forceful words of a limited number. In many cases he employs words which are peculiar to headlines, and uses certain phrases and expressions which reveal various points of interest."<sup>(3)</sup>

And these points of interest which he refers to come under two main titles:

- a) Vocabulary and collocation.
- b) Peculiarities in grammar and usage.

---

(1) Arabic, in this case

(2) K. Bishr, Egyptian Newspaper Headlines, M. A. Thesis, School of Oriental and African Studies, The University of London, 1952, The Preface.

(3) Ibid., p. 1.

The first of these two sections includes such entries as: 'the use of the imperfect verb for past events,' 'the use of the imperfect for future events,' 'the use of a verbal-noun in place of a verb,' 'the use of the active voice in place of the passive,' etc.; features which, though very critical to the analytic study of Headlines, would seem, in our view, to belong to different stages in the analytic process. The process of 'the use of a verbal-noun in place of a verb,' for instance, operates on a higher level than that of 'the use of the imperfect for past events.' This means that priorities in the analytic process are not observed, and that some categorial features should have been ignored until the basic structural framework has been dealt with.

I. 5. 2. In 'Chapter III,' Bishr claims that, at the 'collocational' level, the structure of a headline differs in composition, from one situational context to another. That is, heads dealing with international affairs, for instance, would differ syn-

tactically from heads dealing with domestic affairs. To achieve this end, he exploits the technique of 'collocational sets' (what he refers to as 'pivotal words and their collocations').

In this context, he also speaks of 'conventionalized heads,' which are labels attached permanently to certain pages or columns (e.g., 'Parliament,' 'Home News'); and tries to look into their structure (in the sense that he lists the categories whose elements may fill certain positions in such heads).

As such, Bishr's work is more comprehensive than either Straumann's work or our work; since he covers diverse topics of both linguistic and journalistic natures.

I. 5. 3. When we come to 'Chapter IV' (corresponding to Straumann's 'Chapter IV'), we find that Bishr's methodology, though deriving from Straumann's, is much more formalized. In order to show such methodology at

work, two quotations are cited below; the first is of general nature, applying to Headlines usage, and the second is specific, pertaining only to the language under consideration.

- a) "the classification is based exclusively on  
 "formal criteria and considered at the  
 "following levels of analysis:  
 " (i) The contextual level.  
 " (ii) Collocation, including extended  
 "collocation with the text.  
 " (iii) Syntax.  
 " (iv) Phonetics and Phonology, as requir-  
 "ed by the implication of the utterance.  
 " (v) The form of presentation and arrange-  
 "ment of headlines.  
 " It is attempted here to give a system-  
 "atic description of the language and to  
 "classify headlines into groups and sub-  
 "groups, according to their components or  
 "the word-classes they contain, i.e.,  
 "nominals only, nominals and particles,  
 "etc., and further, according to the vari-  
 "ous forms of each word-class. The function  
 "of these forms will be considered and  
 "analysed at the levels just mentioned."(1)

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(1) Ibid., p. 126.

- b) " According to this scheme, which is based  
 "exclusively on headlines, the material of  
 "the language has been classified. Having  
 "regard to the practice of occurrence of the  
 "categories constituting the above mention-  
 "ed scheme, it is found necessary to examine  
 "headlines in the following patterns:
- " I- Nominals only.
- " II- Nominal particles and nominals.
- " III- Verbals, nominals, and nominal  
 "particles.
- " IV- Common and verbal particles, verb-  
 "als, nominals and nominal particles.
- " V- Neutrals, nominals, verbals and  
 "particles."<sup>(1)</sup>

Obviously, this approach is quite similar to that of Straumann's (cf. I. 4. 3.); and we need not re-examine the classifications and subclassifications of Bishr's. However, we have to add a note here: the use of the terms phonetics, phonology, and utterance is quite irrelevant here, since we are in the process of examining a written dialect.<sup>(2)</sup> The nearest

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(1) Ibid., p. 129.

(2) See Straumann's reservation concerning this issue (in I. 4. 1.) and ours (in I. 3. 2.).

approximation to the headline as a unit would be the sentence (a written unit) rather than the utterance (a spoken unit). And yet, the headline shares features characteristic of both the sentence and the utterance, besides some of its own. Such features are the sum of our present research.

Chapter II:

A Brief Exposition of Fillmore's Case

Grammar

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## II. 1. The Background

When Fillmore formulated his theory of "Case Grammar", the way had already been paved for him by other pioneers. The general theory of grammar had been revolutionized some ten years before, mainly by Noam Chomsky, but also by other eminent figures whose contributions are far from subsidiary (e.g., Robert Lees, Paul Postal, Emmon Bach, George Lakoff, to mention but a few).

The model which Chomsky introduced in 1957, and which was brought to maturity in 1964, became later to be known as the "Transformational Generative Model" (T. G., for short). And although some might question the validity of the basic implications of T. G., or consider some of its findings as doubtful; none, we think, would deny the weight of its ideas, or belittle the deep influence it has had on the development of Linguistics, especially with regard to ~~descriptive methods~~. And when Fillmore proposed his 'Case' system, he was enhancing a stream of thought that had already begun some time ago, with, of course, some very fundamental --even revolutionary-- changes.

This means that Case Grammar (C. G., for short) cannot be merely regarded as a continuation of the very old 'traditional' cases. (1)

II. 1. 1. It was in 1924 that Jespersen wrote that "no language of our family has at any time had a case-system based on a precise or consistent system of meanings ..."(2) This statement expresses very accurately the confusion in which most grammarians were involved before the advent of Case Grammar. All reference to 'cases' by those grammarians was either casual or else automatically based on the traditional Latin version. (3)

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 (1) viz., the nominative, the vocative, the accusative, etc.; drawn mainly from Latin, and referred to incessantly by grammarians throughout the ages, but more recently rejuvenated (in the first two or three decades of this century) by Otto Jespersen and others, cf. Bibliography for the names Callaway, Cassidy, Collinson, and Sonnenschein.

(2) Otto Jespersen, The Philosophy of Grammar, George Allen & Unwin Ltd., London, p. 185.

(3) i.e., concentrated mainly on the morphological aspect.

This state of things might have been the motive behind Jespersen's statement just quoted; as well as this other one: "Cases form one of the most irrational part of language in general."<sup>(1)</sup> The discussions which ensued from Jespersen's theorizing about the cases are not of much interest to us here.<sup>(2)</sup>

What may be more relevant in this connection is to introduce the basic concepts lying behind such traditional labels as 'nominative,' 'accusative,' 'dative,' etc. We here quote John Lyons for his very precise and well-balanced statement concerning this topic:

"the most common function of the 'nominative' is to mark the subject of the sentence; the 'vocative' is the case of address; the 'accusative' is used to mark the object of a transitive verb; the 'genitive' is the case of possession; the 'dative' marks the indirect object; and the 'ablative' has a variety of functions including that of marking the 'instrument'

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(1) Ibid., p. 186.

(2) The whole issue is summarized in Cassidy, c.f. Bibliography.

"with which something is done. It should  
 "also be noted: that particular classes of  
 "verbs may determine their objects in cases  
 "other than the accusative; that different  
 "prepositions select particular cases (most  
 "commonly the accusative or the ablative);  
 "and that the accusative and the ablative  
 "(with and without prepositions) have vari-  
 "ous adverbial functions with respect to  
 "distinctions of place and time."<sup>(1)</sup>

It must be admitted that any discussion of the cases as grammatical units involves by necessity reference to 'semantics'. John Lyons at this point does not refer to any semantic implications, but rather to a bi-dimensional syntactic entity, viz., 'local' versus 'grammatical' functions. In this connection, he states that:

" From antiquity, grammarians have argued  
 "about the relationship between the 'local'  
 "and the 'grammatical' functions of the  
 "category of case (in this context 'local'  
 "means 'relating to place and time'). In

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(1) John Lyons, Introduction to Theoretical Linguistics, Cambridge University Press, London, 1968, pp. 290-1.

"the classical languages (and in many other languages), the 'local' and the 'grammatical' functions of a particular case are often hard to distinguish; so that it is tempting to say that one is derivable from the other, or that both are derivable from some more general principle which is neutral with respect to the spatiotemporal and the syntactic. This also holds for the 'local' and 'grammatical' functions of the prepositions in English (which, as we shall see, may be regarded as cases of the nouns they govern, if the term 'case' is not restricted to inflexional variation)."<sup>(1)</sup>

## II. 2. Deficiencies of T. G.

After the publication of 'Aspects of the Theory of Syntax,' the need for a case-grammar based on the more recent findings of the syntactic theory became apparent. The reason for this is that Chomsky regarded such grammatical concepts as 'subject' and 'object' as grammatical features belonging to the

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(1) Ibid., pp. 301-2.

deep structure.<sup>(1)</sup> It is this aspect of the T. G. model (more than any other aspect) which Fillmore disagrees with. Charles Fillmore wrote:

" The deep structure relevance of syntactic functions is with respect to the projection rules of the semantic theory. The semantic component recognizes semantic features associated with lexical elements in a string and projects from them the meaning of the string in ways appropriate to the syntactic relations which hold among these elements. I do not believe that 'subject' or 'object' are to be found among the syntactic functions to which semantic rules must be sensitive."<sup>(2)</sup>

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(1) We must mention in this respect that some of the T. G. exponents spoke of a 'surface subject' and a 'deep subject', to be found in one and the same string, as for instance in he was persuaded by John to do so and so.

(2) Charles Fillmore, 'A Proposal Concerning English Prepositions,' Report on the Annual Round Table Meeting on Linguistics & Language Studies (F. P. Dinneen, ed.), Georgetown University Press, U. S. A., 1966, p. 21.

The other weak point in most of the approaches to T. G. was that prepositional phrases were open to very different analyses by different T. G. writers, and there was widespread disagreement as regards the correct procedure for dealing with them --both in phrase-structure rules and in transformational rules. We, again, quote Fillmore in this connection:

" Most of the sample phrase structure  
"rules for English that I have seen recent-  
"ly have introduced categorially such terms  
"as Manner, Frequency, Extent, Location,  
"Direction, etc. In these grammars, for  
"the constituents mentioned, either the  
"strictly categorial information is lost,  
"or else it is rescued by having non-bran-  
"ching rules which rewrite each of these  
"adverbial-type categories as Preposition  
"Phrase. In any case the formal distinct-  
"ion between relations and categories is  
"lost, and the constraints on the further  
"expansion of these preposition phrases  
"that depend on the types of adverbials  
"they manifest need to be provided, as  
"suggested above, in ways that have not yet

"been made clear." (1)

## II. 3. Fillmore's Proposals

In view of such considerations, and as a result of the efforts of other linguists aimed at minimizing the gap between syntactic and semantic features of the language (i.e., incorporating the rules for both as much as possible), Charles Fillmore proposed his new system of 'Case Grammar.' This system will be reviewed first, and then we will discuss some of the repercussions it produced.

### II. 3. 1. The Basic Conceptual Framework

a) Instead of the customary binary division of the S-node into the two components of NP and VP by Phrase-Structure rules (PS-rules, for short); the basic constituents of an S were stated as "a verb and one or more noun phrases, each associated with the

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(1) Charles Fillmore, 'Towards a Modern Theory of Case,' Modern Studies in English, D. Reibel & S. Shane (eds.), Prentice Hall, New Jersey, U.S.A., 1969, p. 362.

verb in a particular case relationship.<sup>(1)</sup> Further limitations of the structure of the S were that only noun phrases representing the same case could be conjoined, and only one representative of a given case relationship could appear in the same simple sentence.

b) In order to avoid the difficulties encountered by different T.G. linguists in their attempts to allow for the Aux-node and other peripheral elements of the sentence such as tense, negation, etc.<sup>(2)</sup>, the S was to have two main constituents, the Proposition constituent 'a timeless set of relationships involving verbs and nouns (and embedded sentences, if there are any),' and the Modality constituent which would include 'such modalities on the sentence-as-a-whole as negation, tense, mood, and aspect.' The above

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(1) Charles Fillmore, 'The Case for Case,' Universals in Linguistic Theory, Emmon Bach & Robert Harms (eds.), Holt, Rinehart & Winston, Inc., U.S.A., 1968, p. 21.

(2) Some enter these into the VP-node, others regard them as separate.

statements are expressed in the following rule:

'S' -----> M + P'.

And then the P-constituent is expanded into 'a verb and one or more case categories.'

c) The cases that were clearly formulated by Fillmore are the Agentive, the Instrumental, the Dative, the Factitive, the Locative, and the Objective. Their definitions run as follows:

"Agentive (A), the case of the typically  
" animate perceived instigator of the  
" action identified by the verb.

"Instrumental (I), the case of the inanim-  
" ate force or object causally involv-  
" ed in the action or state identified  
" by the verb.

"Dative (D), the case of the animate being  
" affected by the state or action identi-  
" fied by the verb.

"Factitive (F), the case of the object or  
" being resulting from the action or  
" state identified by the verb, or under-  
" stood as part of the meaning of the  
" verb.

"Locative (L), the case which identifies  
" the location or spatial orientation of  
" the state or action identified by the

" verb.  
 "Objective (O), the semantically most neut-  
 " ral case, the case of anything rep-  
 " resentable by a noun whose role in the  
 " action or state identified by the verb  
 " is identified by the semantic interpre-  
 " tation of the verb itself; conceivably  
 " the concept should be limited to  
 " things which are affected by the act-  
 " ion or state identified by the verb.  
 " The term is not to be confused with  
 " the notion of direct object nor with  
 " the name of the surface case synony-  
 " mous with accusative."<sup>(1)</sup>

Two other cases have been mentioned at different places of Fillmore's writings, but with no clear-cut definitions supplied. These are the Benefactive (B), and the Temporal (T). The general rule for the prepositions that are attached to the different cases is as follows:

"The A preposition is by; the I preposition  
 "is by if there is no A, otherwise it is  
 "with; the O and F prepositions are typic-  
 "ally zero; the B preposition is for; the  
 "D preposition is typically to; the L and T

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(1) Ibid., pp. 24-5.

"prepositions are either semantically  
 "empty (in which case they are introduced  
 "as optional choices from the lexicon), or  
 "they are selected by the particular  
 "associated noun." (1)

It may be an easy task to try to formulate a definition of the Temporal on the lines of the Locative (merely by changing two lexical items):

'Temporal (T): the case which identifies the  
 time or temporal orientation of  
 the state or action identified by  
 the verb.'

But it is not as easy to formulate such a definition for the Benefactive, or even to tell exactly what it is.

## II. 3. 2. Other General Aspects of 'Case Grammar'

a) Instead of having a 'categorical subcomponent' and a 'lexical subcomponent' (as in the T. G. model); we have rules of selection both for verbs and for nouns. As for verbs, they are selected according to

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(1) Ibid., p. 32.

a certain patterning of the Cases they may occur with. This grammatical device is called the 'case-frame;' and it enables us to classify the verbs of the language into a set of case-frames --saying for instance that a certain set of verbs including the verb persuade could occur in the case-frame (----- S + D + A). As for nouns, they would be supplied from the lexicon by a set of obligatory rules which specify the categories (and subcategories) of the nouns that could occur in such and such an environment --saying for instance that in order to fit in the Dative or Agentive case-categories a noun must be '+ animate'; etc.

b) The selectional operations would then include three processes: 'the choice of a particular NP to become the surface subject or the surface object,' 'the choice of prepositions to go with each case element,' and all the other necessary transformation-processes such as 'the choice of specific complementizers (that, -ing, for to, and so forth)'. As for verbs taking S-complements, the whole string would be considered to be a complex sentence and the recursion process would then take place within the Object-

ive case-category.

c) The rules for surface representations are varied and rather complicated and cannot all be reviewed here in a satisfactory manner (cf. Fillmore, 'The Case for Case'). However, we quote here some statements which are of direct bearing on our analysis, and which also serve as an indication of the nature of the transformation rules needed:

(1) "The 'universal' character of the base rules is kept intact by the assumption that prepositions, postpositions, and case affixes --semantically relevant or not-- are all in fact realizations of the same underlying element, say K (for Kasus). We may regard all of the case categories as therefore rewritten as K + NP."<sup>(1)</sup>

(2) " - If there is an A, it becomes the subject; otherwise, if there is an I, it becomes the subject; otherwise, the

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(1) Ibid., p. 33. (This represents a fundamental concept of our analysis, namely, that the 'preposition' is inherent in the case-category, and not added to it at some stage in the generation process; cf. 'IV.2.1.')

" subject is the O."(1)

(3) "This feature (( of 'passivization')) has  
 "three effects: the W loses its object-pre-  
 "position deletion property, it loses its  
 "ability to absorb the tense (requiring the  
 "automatic insertion of a be in the M con-  
 "stituent), and it must now be filled by a  
 "special 'passive' form ..."(2)

(4) " For many of the verbs which 'take' more  
 "than one case category, the one which con-  
 "tributes the subject is indicated by the  
 "verb itself. Of the verbs which are  
 "accepted into the frame (----- O + D),  
 "please, belong, interesting, and others  
 "choose O as subject, and like, want, think,  
 "as well as others choose D."(3)

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(1) Ibid., p. 33. (Compare this with our 'Subject-Fronting' rule in 'VI.2.')

(2) Ibid., p. 37. (This statement is relevant to our analysis only in so far as it relates the be-element to the M-constituent, cf. 'V.2.1.')

(3) Ibid., p. 40. (This shows Fillmore's treatment of 'adjectivals' as elements which could have equal function as that of 'verbs', cf. 'V.2.1.')

- (5) "A third process which has the effect of  
 "effacing deep-structure case distinctions  
 "is the formation of nominals from senten-  
 "ces. The case modifications under nominal-  
 "ization transformation usually involve  
 "what is called the 'genitive'." (1)

### II. 3. 3. Some Unresolved Issues

The problems that presented themselves by the advent of C. G., and which Fillmore himself admitted he could not cope with in any conclusive manner, (2) are the following:

- a) Coordinate constructions are not catered for in this system, and their constituent structure is far from clear (e.g., he and his brother bought new cars, or she went out with her dog). (3)

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(1) Ibid., p. 49. (Compare, in this respect, our treatment of headlines of the Uninodal Type, in Chapter VIII.)

(2) He only offered some fragmentary solutions.

(3) In our view, such coordinate constructions might be regarded as two NP's conjoined under one case-category, cf. Fillmore's 'The Case for Case,' p. 21.

b) No specific case has been allocated for 'complements,' that is, predicate nouns and predicate adjectives (but not 'predicate adverbs' which would be assigned either to L or T). Fillmore suggested the terms Essive or Translative (together with the preposition as) as case-categories, to provide for the complements in such sentences as she is my daughter or he is an idiot.<sup>(1)</sup>

c) The third difficulty here concerns manner-adverbials, and Fillmore wonders: "Do manner adverbials belong inside the proposition or are they part of the modality? How is the relation sometimes found between manner adverbials and the 'subject' of the sentence to be expressed in this system? ..."<sup>(2)</sup>

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(1) Our suggestions in this respect are expounded in 'V.2.1.'

(2) Charles Fillmore, 'Toward a Modern Theory of Case,' Modern Studies in English, D. Reibel & S. Shane (eds.), Prentice Hall, New Jersey, U.S.A., 1969, p. 375. (Note that such manner adverbials we would regard as constituents of the Modality on the grounds that they do not have the same freedom of 'movability' as other constituents which belong to the Proposition (cf. 'V.3.').

Some other problems are also either tentatively solved or else left unresolved; but the ones just illustrated are those which have direct bearing on our material, and which will be expounded at several places of this thesis.

#### II. 4. The Response to Fillmore's Proposals

The following points represent some of the repercussions and criticisms that C. G. has brought about:

a) The feature distinction ( $\pm$  animate) was objected to by Huddleston<sup>(1)</sup>, on the grounds that it represents just one feature out of three syntactic features that could be proposed as equally relevant to the statement of selectional restrictions, viz., ( $\pm$  animate), ( $\pm$  living), and ( $\pm$  human); and that Fillmore's choice of one of them to the exclusion of the other

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(1) Rodney Huddleston, 'Remarks and Replies: Some Remarks on Case-Grammar,' Linguistic Inquiry, 1970, 1: 501-11.

two seems to be unjustifiable.<sup>(1)</sup>

b) Another basic objection to Fillmore's restricting rule that 'only noun phrases representing the same case may be conjoined,' is that in the following sentences --as cited by Dougherty<sup>(2)</sup>-- this rule is violated:

- The window was broken once by John and once by a car's fender.
- Macy's front window was broken once by a customer and twice by a delivery truck.

These examples were given as a counter evidence against Fillmore's hypothesis which was supported by the unacceptability of:

- John and a hammer broke the window.<sup>(3)</sup>

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 (1) In our view, the first distinction seems to be the most relevant one, since it implies the second (we very rarely speak of corpses); and the third is irrelevant in Case Grammar where the distinction is between entities that can instigate actions or experience mental/physical states on the one hand, and entities that cannot, on the other.

(2) Roy Dougherty, 'Review Article: Part I: The Case for Case,' Foundations of Language, 1970, 6: 506-31.

(3) We would regard the examples given by Dougherty as conjoined sentences --thus not violating the C.G. model.

PART TWO:

THE STRUCTURE OF HEADLINESE

## Chapter III:

### Types of Headlines

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### III. 1. The Surface and the Basic Structures

As earlier studies of Headlines did not go very far beyond a categorial classification of headlines (the syntactic and/or morphological description of the surface structure), this present study seeks to reveal the various relationships that hold between the surface representations of Headline items, i.e., their orthographic shapes on the printed page, and their basic structure, i.e., the underlying Case-distinctions that reveal their semantic content. The technique used here is that of 'Case-Grammar' introduced by Fillmore (cf. Chapter II). The value of such an approach to the descriptive study of English Headlines is best assessed in relation to this work as an integrated whole.

### III. 2. The Two Main Types of Heads

Headlines of English are of two main types: the Multinodal Type and the Uninodal Type. By definition, a uninodal type of construction consists of one single

node; in our case, this single constituent is a Noun Phrase, with or without some type of attribute --the commonest form of which is the 'genitive' attribute.<sup>(1)</sup>

An item of the Multinodal Type consists of two Case-categories with or without a V, one Case-category plus a V, or else, in some few cases, three Case-categories with or without a V.

The nearest equivalent to items of the Uninodal Type, in units of the Norm, are noun phrases; the nearest to items of the Multinodal Type are 'sentences.'<sup>(2)</sup> The following two sets of heads exemplify each of the Multinodal and the Uninodal Types, respectively:

-----  
 (1) For discussion of the term 'genitive,' refer to Chapter VIII. However, stated in very simple terms, it is a surface relationship of 'possession' held between one NP and another, solely employed for the description of certain uninodal types of construction whose analysis would not tolerate any basic-structure interpretation in terms of the Cases.

(2) We use the term 'sentence' rather than the term 'utterance' since the reference here is to a written dialect.

- 1- China accuses Russia (S.T. 10/12-1)
- 2- Concorde costs rise by £85 m (T.T. 5/1-1)
- 3- George-Brown attacks leadership (D.T. 8/12-1)
- 4- Britain recognizes Bangladesh as Sir Alec leaves  
for India (T.T. 5/2-1)
- 5- Man accused of murder (T.G. 27/9-6)
- 6- Sick lawyer set free in Athens (T.T. 27/10-6)
- 7- US still confident of settlement (T.T. 13/12-7)
- 8- Two posts for N.Z. Premier (D.T. 8/12-1)
- 9- Reprimand for submariner (D.T. 15/11-2)
- 10- Gun threat to magistrate (D.T. 27/10-10)
- 
- 11- Ulster gun accident (S.T. 2/1-1)
- 12- Government's coal plan (S.T. 10/12-1)
- 13- Three-day rail chaos warning (D.T. 20/11-1)
- 14- H-test protest (S.T. 18/6-1)
- 15- Cabinet study of fuel strike (T.T. 3/2-1)
- 16- Ministry inquiry over BOAC crew asleep at controls  
of jet flying at 30,000 ft (T.T. 13/12-1)
- 17- Ban on TV advertising on 'intimate' products  
(T.T. 1/11-2)
- 18- Concern at work of private detectives  
(T.T. 13/7-4)

This basic classification into two main types entails the assumption that every Headlinese item should belong to one or the other of these two types of construction. The first of these two types, the Multinodal, is the nearest to sentences of the Norm --though by no means identical-- hence, we will sometimes refer to it as The Sentence Type.<sup>(1)</sup> The second type of construction of Headlinese, the Uninodal, is nearest, in internal structure, to titles of books, films, etc.; to posters, advertisement heads, etc.; hence, we will refer to it as The Title Type. Most significantly, in the first type, Cases are distinguished, in our analysis; in the second type, there are no Case-distinctions.

However, this basic distinction between the Multi-nodal and the Uninodal Types, though sometimes clear-cut

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(1) The similarity referred to here should be taken only in a relative sense --i.e., when contrasting multinodal items and sentences on the one hand, with uninodal items on the other. The analogy must not be carried any further than that because, in many cases, multinodal items do depart from sentences in very many respects. For a complete discussion bearing on this subject, refer to Chapter V.

and unequivocal, is, in other cases, more subtle, and will require elucidation. To illustrate, the Multi-nodal Type is easily distinguished from the Uninodal Type in the following two sets of examples:

Multinodal:

- 19- Heathrow homes would suffer jet noise four times  
the limit (S.T. 11/6-3)
- 20- Warehouse company blacked by dockers makes fresh  
attempt to gain court injunction (T.T. 11/7-2)
- 21- 12 die in train (S.T. 4/6-1)
- 22- Another provisional IRA leader caught  
(S.T. 20/8-1)

Uninodal:

- 23- 'Asian poll' result (S.T. 15/10-1)
- 24- Kissinger's 'all-out effort' (T.G. 27/9-3)
- 25- New TV transmitter (T.T. 27/10-5)
- 26- Murder charge (D.T. 20/7-17)

In the above case, the distinction corresponds fairly closely to the surface grammatical distinction between complete sentences and noun phrases. Alternatively, in certain heads (employing such preposit-

ions as for, by, or in), the distinction is more subtle and needs clarification --even at this early stage:

Multinodal:

- 27- Jail release for Pauline Jones (D.T. 8/12-1)
- 28- Oxford degree for woman aged 100 (D.T. 24/11-6)
- 29- Loans protest by Tony student group (T.T. 4/1-2)

Uninodal:

- 30- Plea for train radio link after inquest  
(T.T. 13/7-3)
- 31- Plans for nursery schools (D.T. 24/11-6)
- 32- Break in Paris talks (S.T. 10/12-1)

Although the above two sets are similar in their surface syntactic arrangement --both being of the type NP + prep p-- they are analyzed differently as regards their deep syntactic structure. Our criteria for separating the first set of heads from the second are twofold; one, the nature of the noun phrase following the preposition (the first preposition, if there is more than one); and two, the possibility of substituting a verb for the preposition involved. Firstly, it was found out that in the great majority of cases, in

order to qualify as multinodal, the noun phrase, of the item, following its preposition, must have an 'animate' noun as its Head --in our examples, Pauline Jones, woman aged 100, Tory student group. Secondly, the whole item must be substitutable with a semantically similar verbal sentence, in which case the verb replaces the preposition and can be said to correspond to it in semantic function. Thus:

a) /jail release for Pauline Jones/

/Pauline Jones gets jail release/

where the lexical elements for and get indicate the same semantic relationship between the two NP's, viz., a Dative and an Objective, in basic-structure terms

b) /loans protest by Tory student group/

/Tory student group make loans protest/

where the lexical elements by and make indicate the same relationship between the two NP's, viz., an Agentive and an Objective, in basic-structure terms.

In the second set of items, the constructions are

analyzed as Heads and attributes. If we apply the two criteria mentioned above to this set of items, the results will be negative; the NP's following the first prepositions have inanimate Heads, and the substitution test produces unacceptable units, e.g.,

- /\*train radio link gets plea after inquest/
- /\*Paris talks <sup>make</sup> break/ (1)  
                  get

### III. 2. 1. The Multinodal Type (The Sentence Type)

Within the Multinodal Type two main classes are kept distinct from each other. These two are the +V and the -V classes. V stands for the verbal element

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(1) We would think that the right interpretation of this item runs as follows:

- somebody or something caused a break in Paris talks;

hence, the underlined construction is regarded as one unit --constitutes one node-- an NP, which consists of a Head plus a prepositional-phrase attribute.

in a Headline item. The elements functioning as V may either be a verb, a predicative adjectival, a predicative noun phrase, or a predicative adverbial.

Note that we use the terms adjectival and adverbial rather than the simpler ones adjective and adverb, because the former terms will turn out to include not only simple adjectives and adverbs, respectively, but also adjectival/adverbial clauses and prepositional phrases. (1)

-V items are nominal constructions. These nominal constructions are, however, considered to be equally of the Sentence Type, in that they have two or more constituents holding between themselves grammatical interrelationships assignable to such surface grammatical categories as subject, object, etc., and such deep Cases as Dative, Objective, etc. The following two sets of items illustrate the distinction between the +V and the -V classes:

+V class:

33- Girl school battle won by father (D.T. 11/11-3)

34- BBC TV Ulster film wins news award (D.T. 8/12-2)

---

(1) 'Clauses' are constructions which, one, have verbs in them; two, function as attributes to some other elements.

- 35- Bangladesh compromise offered by Mr Bhutto  
(T.T. 27/11-6)
- 36- Austin 1100 £31 dearer in BLMC increases  
(T.T. 7/1-1)
- 37- Trident is 'crashed' by judge (D.T. 8/12-2)
- 38- Purge widening in Yugoslavia (T.G. 28/10-2)
- 39- Skyscraper blocks more vulnerable to crime  
(T.T. 27/10-6)
- 40- S. Vietnam front units back to full strength  
(D.T. 6/11-4)
- V class:-
- 41- Kashmir troop build-up by Pakistan (D.T. 20/11-4)
- 42- Christmas mail advice by Post Office(D.T. 8/12-6)
- 43- 'Health passport' for British in EEC(D.T. 23/11-8)
- 44- Jail for 18 in Navy fraud case (D.T. 15/11-1)
- 45- Tactical victory for Mr Wilson on Europe(T.T. 2/10-1)
- 46- Strike threat by Customs men (S.T. 10-12/1)

The first item in each of the two sets has the constituent structure O/A, the only difference between these two items being the occurrence of the V-element in the first case. The same correspondence holds bet-

ween 'Item 35' and 'Item 42.' Items '37' and '43' also have the same constituent-structure O/D, the only difference again between the two items being the presence of V in the first. The -V class of the Multi-nodal Type will be discussed separately in Chapter VII ('The Nominal Multinodal Type'); but there is more to say at this stage about the +V class.

### III. 2. 1. 1. The Two Subclasses of the +V Class

The Verbal Class is divided, in turn, into two subclasses, namely, the +verb subclass and the -verb one.

The verb-forms which may occur in Headlines are very much more restricted than in the Norm. The +verb subclass will have one or another of the verb-forms listed below as the filler of the V-node:

a) a finite verb-form in the present or past tenses;

b) a non-finite verb-form which, in turn, may be any of the following:

(1) a past participle verb-form,

(2) a present participle verb-form,

(3) an infinitive verb-form.

Three items exemplify each of these four cases, viz., a finite verb-form (present or past), a past participle verb-form, a present participle verb-form, and an infinitive verb-form:

items with a finite verb-form:

47- Trident crash pilot had heart attack(S.T. 29/10-3)

48- Councils 'evade duty' by taking homeless children  
into care (T.T. 13/12-3)

49- 20,000 mob destroys Dublin embassy (T.T. 3/2-1)

items with a past participle verb-form:

50- Drug companies urged to repay Health Service  
(S.T. 10/12-4)

51- Best man shot at Ulster wedding (S.T. 13/2-1)

52- Belfast schoolgirl 'informer' tarred by IRA after  
five-night ordeal (T.T. 11/5-1)

items with a present participle verb-form:

53- Wartime Cabinet records going on show  
(T.T. 1/1-1)

54- Canals 'crumbling' for lack of money(D.T. 20/11-12)

55- Bhutto facing reality (T.G. 28/10-3)

items with an infinitive verb-form:

- 56- Tory conference to discuss finances of local authorities (T.T. 3/3-4)
- 57- Queen to open Tutankhamon exhibition (T.T. 4/1-1)
- 58- Miss Jones to stay in jail (S.T. 2/1-1)

When we come to examine the -verb subclass, we find three different types of potential constituents functioning as V's. These are adjectivals, noun phrases, and adverbials.<sup>(1)</sup> The surface location of any of these three constituents is, in such a case, the same as that of the verb in the +verb subclass.<sup>(2)</sup> Compare, for instance, 'Item 59' with Items '60-63' --note in particular that the news of 'Item 59' and 'Item 60' are identical, where a verb occurs in one and an adjectival in the other:

-----

(1) For a detailed discussion of the implications of this expansion of the V-node, refer to Chapter V.

(2) It is also identical with what is traditionally termed 'the complement,' in sentences of the Norm; the only difference here being that sentences have, in such a case, a 'linking-verb,' while headlines very rarely do.

- 59- Maurice Chevalier dies (S.T. 2/1-1)  
 -----  
 60- Ezra Pound dead (T.G. 2/11-1)  
 61- King Frederik weaker (T.T. 5/1-1)  
 62- BBC role 'not arbiter of taste' (T.T. 1/11-3)  
 63- Einstein papers up for auction (D.T. 23/11-19)

'Item 59' is of the +verb subclass, the rest are not. Yet very little difference could be established between them, in semantic or syntactic terms.

The three constituent-classes filling the V-node in the last three items are an adjectival, an NP, and an adverbial. In the traditional analysis of the Norm, all three such constituents would be regarded as 'complements.' However, our analysis seeks to show their functional parallelism with verb-forms such as dies in 'Item 59.' Such an analysis has been suggested for the Norm by Fillmore and others (cf. Chapter V), and is even more relevant for Headlines since the need for a copula verb (which would require extra printed space) has been eliminated.

Two more items for each of these three types of

constituents will make clearer this subclassificatory distinction:

Adjectival as V:

64- Inspectors critical of motorway food (T.T. 6/1-2)

65- Legal centres 'inadequate' for the poor

(D.T. 27/10-2)

NP as V:

66- Access 'passport to fraud'

(D.T. 24/11-1)

67- Ending of truce not a complete surprise

(T.T. 10/7-2)

Adverbial as V:

68- Rail strike on today after talks fail

(D.T. 23/11-1)

69- Secret reports on way

(T.G. 27/9-6)

III. 2. 2. The Uninodal Type (The Title Type)

An item of the Uninodal Type consists of a Head plus one or more attributes. The Head, in our case, is always a noun. The three types of attribute-constituent employed in items of the Uninodal Type are:

a) attributive clause,

- b) attributive prepositional phrase,
- c) simple attribute(s).

The three cases are exemplified below, each by five items, with underlining supplied to mark the Head of each item:

Attributive clause:

- 70- The men who are helping to pay Mr Poulson's debts  
(S.T. 10/12-3)
- 71- Fight to aid injured girl on mountain  
(D.T. 20/11-1)
- 72- British drive to halt drugs from Hong Kong  
(D.T. 20/11-3)
- 73- Exiles who will go on protesting (T.T. 27/10-7)
- 74- Offers to take Winter Games (T.G. 9/11-7)

Attributive prepositional phrase:

- 75- Hope of Cyprus pact (S.T. 29/10-8)
- 76- Surprise over size of reshuffle (D.T. 6/11-1)
- 77- Call for early elections in Ulster (T.T. 1/11-2)
- 78- Inquiry into status of British show jumpers  
(T.T. 6/1-1)
- 79- Plight of the 23,000 Ugandans made stateless  
(S.T. 20/8-4)

Simple attribute(s):

- |                                      |               |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|
| 80- Hospital <u>inquiry</u>          | (T.T. 6/1-3)  |
| 81- 2 further 'barn' <u>charges</u>  | (D.T. 8/12-2) |
| 82- El Salvador <u>coup</u>          | (S.T. 26/3-1) |
| 83- Police chief's pay <u>rise</u>   | (T.T. 7/1-2)  |
| 84- Sir K. Joseph's <u>operation</u> | (T.T. 3/1-1)  |

Note that the last two items above show genitive attribution through the morpheme 's'. Genitive attribution is a favourite form of attribution for Headlines since it serves purposes of maximal surface economy.<sup>(1)</sup> Three more items for this form of attribution are quoted below:

- |                                     |                |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|
| 85- Trudeau's talks on trade        | (T.G. 4/12-2)  |
| 86- Fischer's first win over Spasky | (T.T. 18/7-1)  |
| 87- Barry Lennon's 10-year fight    | (S.T. 29/10-1) |

### III. 3. Minor Anomalous Types

Here we will consider some very minor types of

---

(1) For a full discussion of 'genitivity' as a grammatical term, refer to Chapter VIII.

headlines which were found to constitute merely 1-2% of our total corpus. The scarcity of occurrence of such heads was considered to be sufficient justification for their exclusion from our classificatory system. The main two minor types worth mentioning here are the 'Compound Type' and the 'Topic-Comment Type.'<sup>(1)</sup>

The first of these two types could be regarded as comprising compound headlines, i.e., headlines having two Proposition-components instead of one, but sharing at the same time certain elements within the Modality-component (such as constituents of the aux-node), e.g.,

88- Pilot dies but 50 children safe after crash

(T.T. 7/1-1)

89- Rail pay talks collapse over £4m and Mr Mcmillan considers applying for a compulsory ballot

(T.T. 5/5-1)

---

(1) We may also add here that out of these two anomalous types, the first is mostly characteristic of 'The Times,' and the second is mostly characteristic of the most left-hand column of the front page of 'The Sunday Times.'

90- Italian who tried to bribe British MP is named —  
 but 'the bird has flown' (S.T. 6/8-1)

The second of these two types shows the so-called topic-and-comment structure. The topic is the subject of reference, the thing or incident of interest to the public; and the comment is the change or effect undergone, the news to be imparted concerning the topic.<sup>(1)</sup> Headlines of this type have two main constituents --two units-- separated by a colon. The first of the two units is of the same structure as a uninodal head, and the second unit is of the same structure as a multinodal head (Items '91-4,' below); and in some rare cases, both units are of the multinodal type of construction (Items '95-6'):

Uninodal + Multinodal:

91- Small pox: Holy water blamed (S.T. 26/3-1)

-----  
 (1) For a detailed discussion of the relevance of 'topic-and-comment' as a unit of syntactic analysis, refer to the following sources:

- i- Edward Sapir, p. 119.
- ii- Noam Chomsky's Aspects, p. 221.
- iii- John Lyon's Introduction, p. 335.
- iv- Charles Hockett, p. 335.

- 92- Hunt clash: two held (S.T. 2/1-1)  
 93- Bank raid: 2 quizzed (S.T. 31/12-1)  
 94- Trident crash: was pilot to blame (S.T. 25/6-1)

Multinodal + Multinodal:

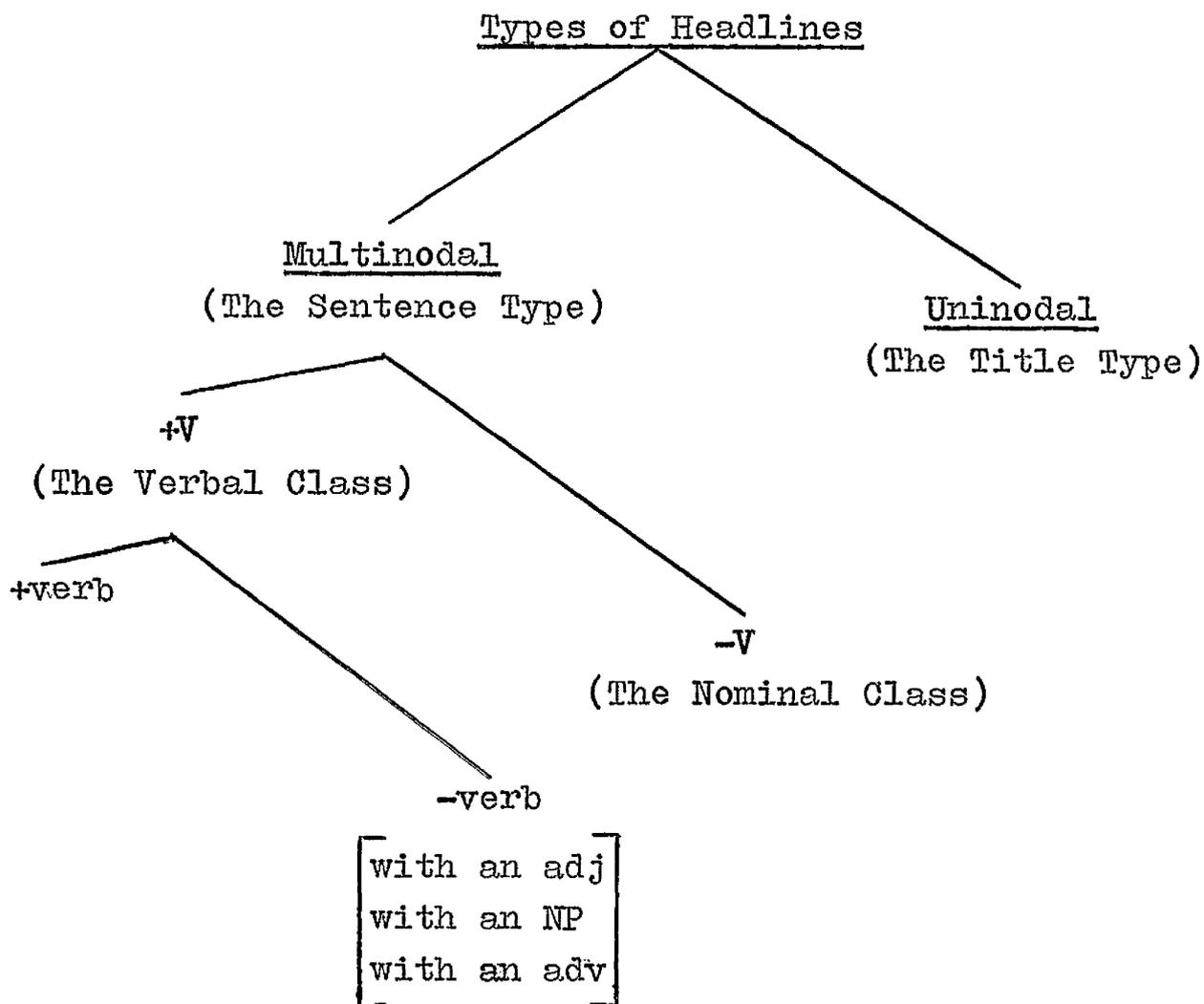
- 95- Cinema explosion injures 25: Mr Lynch expresses  
 horror (T.T. 27/11-1)  
 96- Coal up £1 a ton: Mr Davies announces £100m extra  
 aid to meet boards deficit (T.T. 17/3-1)

Note that, superficially, the above-mentioned items form a violation to our first 'phrase-structure rule,' which stipulates that an H comprises one single P (cf. Chapter V). Yet, if we regard the first half of each item as belonging, in its deep realization, to the Modality-component, such items can be analyzed as derivation transformations for the Multinodal Type --where the 'topic' is a realization of a manner-adverbial under Modality ('Man-adv'); and the 'comment' constitutes the basic core of the item, i.e., its Proposition, e.g.,

- /Holy water blamed for small box/
- /two held <sup>in</sup> after hunt clash/.

### III. 4. Illustrative Diagram

The following diagram illustrates our scheme of the basic classifications:



Chapter IV:

The Special Characteristics of Headlines

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#### IV. 1. Comparing Headlines with the Norm

English Headlines exhibits features common to the Norm as well as features alien to it. However, the view held here will be that the basic structure of Headlines is not the same as that of the Norm. This means that we are not deriving Headlines items from units of the Norm (through processes of 'deletion,' 'permutation,' etc.). There may well be some features common to both usages --lexical as well as syntactic-- yet, the sum of this research weighs more in favour of regarding them as two separate linguistic systems.<sup>(1)</sup>

---

(1) We do not believe it true that each time the reader's eyes go through a number of headlines, his mind relates their syntactic structure to that of the Norm (as seems to be implied by the statements of some earlier linguists, refer to '1. 3. '), in order to arrive at their semantic import. We would rather take the viewpoint that in the mind of any practised newspaper reader there exists a specialized faculty, trained to look at the shapes and grasp the content instantaneously, without meditating over their syntactic 'irregularities.'

#### IV. 2. Comparison of Headlines and Units of the Norm

The following main points may serve as a brief guide to the ways headlines are different from units of the Norm. The comparisons held here will be between the multinodal head and its nearest equivalent the sentence (i.e., the 'sentence' as written, since the comparison is with a written dialect), or else between the uninodal head and its nearest equivalent the noun phrase. These main points, listed below, are to be discussed in some detail, each in a separate section.

- a) Maximal exploitation of prepositions.
- b) Minimal resort to verbs.
- c) Embeddedness.
- d) Minimal resort to determiners.
- e) Utmost brevity.
- f) Use of typographical devices.

##### IV. 2. 1. Maximal Exploitation of Prepositions

Quite often, the prepositions, belonging in the basic structure to the k-node under the different Case-categories, are transported as surface representations,

without many transformational processes. This means that, in this case, in the 'generation process' based on the Cases, headlines form an intermediary stage between the basic and the surface structures of units of the Norm, and that some of the later rewrite rules have been eliminated. To exemplify, in such a sentence of the Norm as Dave gave Alan the book, the preposition 'to' characteristic of the Dative (i.e., to Alan), and the preposition 'by' characteristic of the Agentive (i.e., by Dave), are no longer represented at the surface-structure level. In Headlines, the case is different. The counterpart of the given example would most probably be something like book to Alan by Dave. Thus the k-nodes of the basic-structure Cases are preserved, and no verbs are represented.<sup>(1)</sup>

The preposition for, for instance, is mostly exploited as a syntactic element with a semantic function

---

(1) This presumes a Fillmorian type of analysis, where at the earlier stages of generation all Case-categories show a characteristic preposition (except the Objective, where the k-node is  $\emptyset$ ) which may --or may not-- be deleted later (cf. Fillmore's 'The Case for Case,' pp. 32-3).

comparable to such lexical elements as get, receive, or obtain, as in the following examples:

- 97- Rare white tiger for Bristol zoo (T.G. 28/10-1)
- 98- French aid for newspapers (T.T. 6/1-4)
- 99- Abbey service for Sir Francis (S.T. 29/10-2)
- 100- One more for the Democrats (T.G. 9/11-2)
- 101- China excursions for 1,200 cruise tourists  
(T.T. 5/1-1)
- 102- Hearing for APT inspector (T.T. 27/11-2)

Thus, the V-node is absent and the intelligibility of the item as a whole rests solely on the proper localization of Case-relationships manifest through the use of prepositions, in the mind of the reader. This amounts to saying that in such cases there is a shift of syntactic importance from the verb to the preposition.

#### IV. 2. 2. Minimal Resort to Verbs

In Headlines, 'verbs' are not indispensable elements in items, as they are in units of the Norm. The

reason for this, as we have just mentioned, is that, contrary to the Norm, the Case- categories under H preserve their k-nodes at the surface level, making the semantic content of the item accessible to the reader without the need for a verb.

This may also agree with Fillmore's view concerning language typology, as he says; "In the surface structure, case distinctions are sometimes preserved, sometimes not --depending on the language, depending on the noun, or depending on idiosyncratic properties of certain governing words."<sup>(1)</sup> In English Headlines, such Case distinctions are more preserved than they are in the Norm.

However, we must specify here that our statement about verbs applies in fact to two different types of verbs, viz., linking (or 'dummy') verbs,<sup>(2)</sup> and full

---

(1) Charles Fillmore, 'Toward a Modern Theory of Case,' Modern Studies in English, D. Reibel & S. Shane (eds.), Prentice-Hall, New Jersey, U.S.A., 1969, p. 375.

(2) cf. John Lyons' views on the subject, in '1.3.3.'

verbs (the first belongs more to the grammar of the language, the second belongs to its lexicon.)<sup>(1)</sup> Linking-verbs are almost nonexistent in the language of headlines;<sup>(2)</sup> while full verbs do occur in a considerable number of items.

---

(1) cf. Barbara Strang: "Linking verbs tend to the pole of being lexically empty; they serve the grammatical purpose of indicating the relationship between the subject and the complement in those cases where the complement is not an object. ... Non-linking verbs are lexically full words; they constitute the predicate or relate subject to object if there is one. ... The difference between the two kinds is of function, not form; indeed the same verb can be both linking and non-linking, ..." Modern English Structure, Edward Arnold Ltd., London, 1962, p. 72.

(2) Except in some very rare cases where their presence will be determined by one of two factors; either the need to stress the temporal aspect of a headline; or typographical reasons, such as to fill in a space that might otherwise be left blank. The first of these is discussed in 'V.2.1.,' below; the second involves professional and artistic aspects belonging to the general 'lay-out' of the page in a newspaper.

#### IV. 2. 3. Embeddedness

The other feature relevant here is that there is a prevailing tendency for noun phrases to have sentences as constituents. Three forms of embeddedness can be distinguished:

- a) S's as major components,
- b) S's as minor components,
- c) complex nodes.

These three forms of embeddedness are exemplified and discussed separately below.

#### IV. 2. 3. 1. Sentences can be generated within an H;

and when they thus occur, they function as either major components of minor components, according to whether they are direct expansions of the P-node, or else a lower-level branching of one of the Case-category nodes. Fillmore says of sentences:

"The frame feature +(. . . . . S) characterizes  
 "such verbs as true, interesting, and so  
 "forth; the feature +(. . . . . S + D) is common  
 "to such verbs as want and expect; verbs  
 "like say, predict, and cause appear in the

"frame (..... S + A); and verbs like force  
 "and persuade are insertable in the frame  
 "(..... S + D + A)." (1)

Examples of heads with S-nodes functioning as  
major components are:

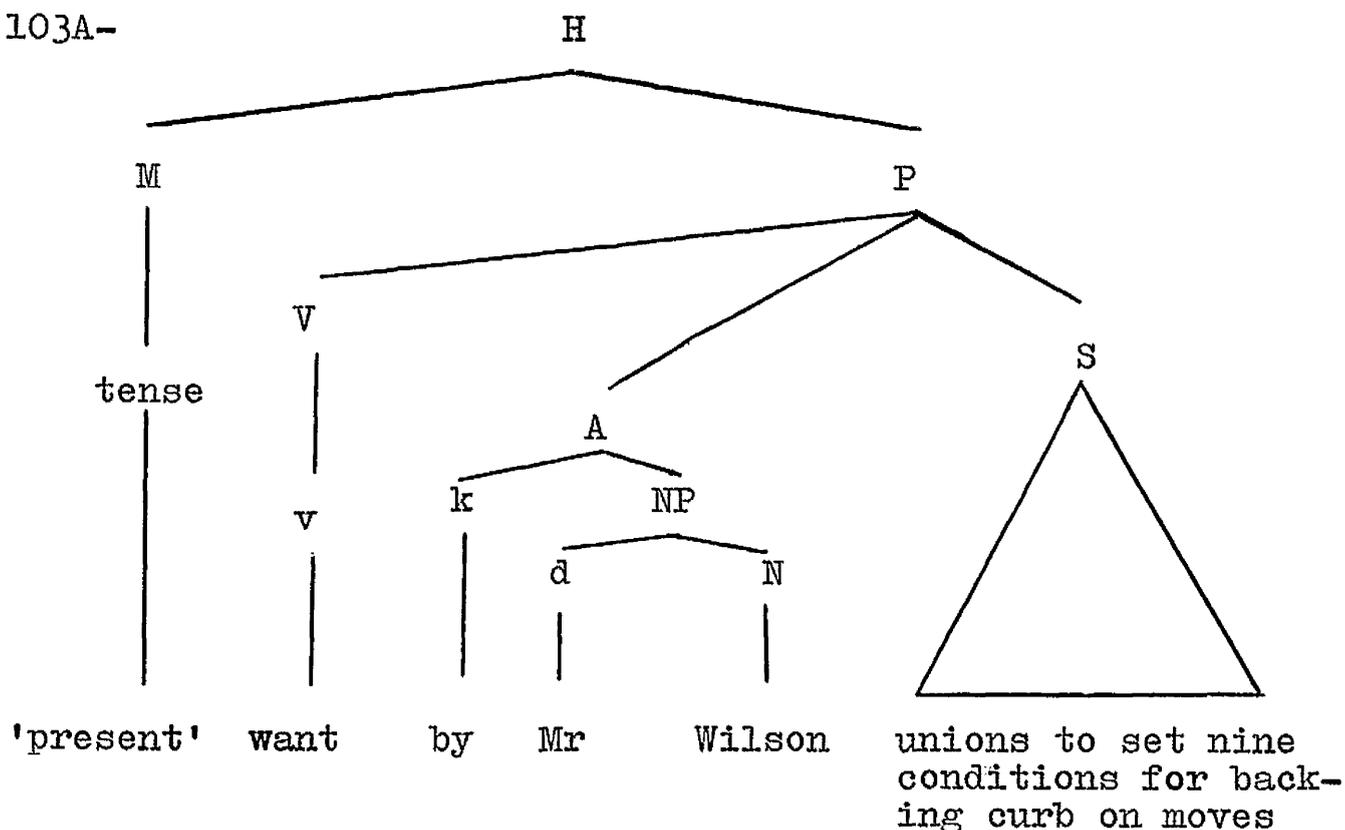
- 103- Mr Wilson wants unions to set nine conditions  
 for backing curb on moves (T.T. 4/10-1)
- 104- 'I did it,' says butler in stolen paintings case  
 (D.T. 17/11-9)
- 105- Mr Heath insists country will respond to firmness  
 on incomes and prices aim (T.T. 1/11-1)
- 106- Mr Laird indicates confrontation with Russians is  
 not sought (T.T. 11/5-1)

In all these items, the S is considered as a direct  
 branching of the Proposition-component. This is  
 illustrated by the following tree diagram of 'Item  
 103:'

---

(1) Charles Fillmore, 'The Case for Case,' Universals  
 in Linguistic Theory, Emmon Bach & Robert  
 Harms (eds.), Holt, Rinehart & Winston, Inc.,  
 U.S.A., 1968, p. 28.

103A-

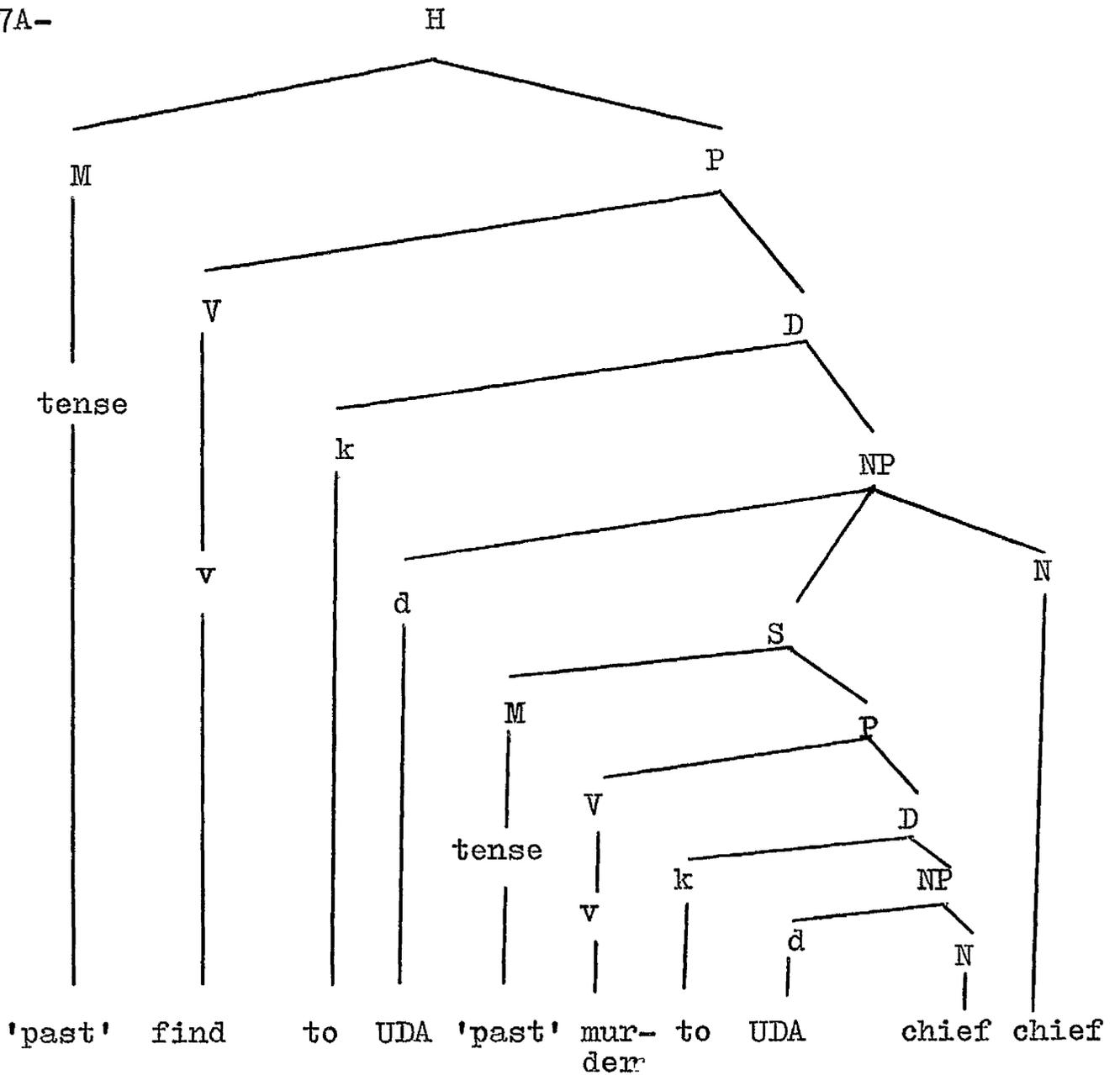


IV. 2. 3. 2. Examples of S-nodes functioning as minor components are:

- 107- UDA chief found murdered (D.T. 8/12-1)
- 108- 172 feared dead in mystery plane crash at Moscow (S.T. 15/10-1)
- 109- Man jailed on drug plot granted bail (D.T. 17/11-3)
- 110- Kidnapped girl rescued (D.T. 17/11-19)

In 'Item 107,' the lower-branching generation occurs within the Case-category D. This is shown by tree diagram '107A:'

107A-



## IV. 2. 2. 3. The third form embeddedness in Headlines

can take is the complex node. A complex node is a node containing one surface element which fills two different Case-categories, namely, the Dative and the Agentive. (Note that in tree-diagram '107A,' the recursive element was D in both higher and lower branches.) Thus, each of the surface subjects of the following two items is realized, at the basic-structure level, both as D and as A --though at the surface-structure level, the linearity order is A - V in the first item, D - V in the second:

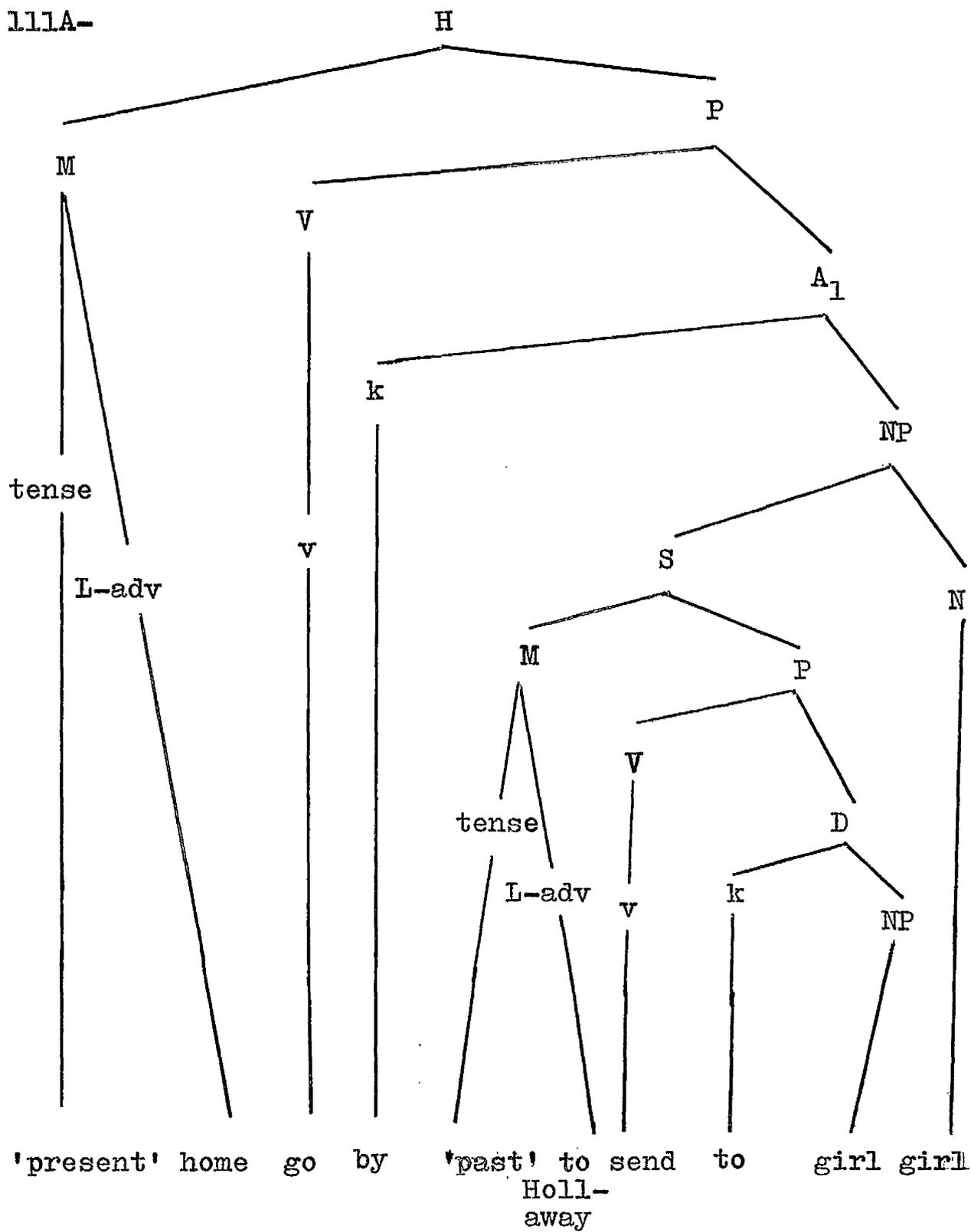
111- Girl sent to Holloway goes home (D.T. 11/10-3)

112- Father who assaulted head sent to jail

(D.T. 27/10-8)

Thus, the first lexical element in each of these two items fills a complex node, because it holds relationships with the other elements, characteristic of both Agentive and Dative. In 'Item 111,' the element girl is Agentive on a higher level than it is Dative, as can be shown from the following tree diagram:

111A-



IV. 2. 4. Minimal Resort to Determiners

A fourth characteristic feature of Headlines is the rare occurrence of articles and demonstratives as constituents of the determiner-node. Articles and demonstratives, which have a distinctive grammatical function in units of the Norm, occur very infrequently in Headline items. The following heads illustrate this characteristic:

- 113- Student is cleared of assault (T.T. 2/3-1)
- 114- Turkish sentence on boy astonishes London  
(T.T. 2/3-1)
- 115- Couple defy Mrs Thacker<sup>tch</sup> over Catholic school  
(T.T. 4/1-2)
- 116- Pilot survives month in snow (T.G. 11/12-1)
- 117- Girl in sea named (S.T. 20/8-1)
- 118- Organizers told to think again (T.T. 5/2-1)

When determiners do occur, their representation is stipulated by the same factors as in the case of linking-verbs (cf. IV.2.2.).

#### IV. 2. 5. Utmost Brevity

As a direct result of such considerations as the four factors mentioned in the four preceding sections, Headlines can be described as a dialect of maximal brevity. This characteristic brevity may sometimes lead to either ambiguity of obscurity.

In a very broad sense, most headlines are obscure outside their context, since they presuppose as background information some familiarity with the current social and political scene and the major events. Without such knowledge, the following heads may be said to be ambiguous and/or obscure:

- |                                |                |
|--------------------------------|----------------|
| 119- No hope for 43            | (D.T. 17/11-6) |
| 120- Concern on trial          | (T.G. 4/12-4)  |
| 121- Whisky threat by US       | (T.G. 11/12-1) |
| 122- 'Communists' held         | (S.T. 29/10-1) |
| 123- Children returned to wife | (S.T. 13/8-3)  |

Yet, there are varying degrees of ambiguity or obscurity. For instance, we would consider the following examples of heads to be ambiguous and/or obscure in a narrower sense:

- 124- Street escape by prisoners (T.T. 1/1-2)  
 125- Professor is jailed for secrecy (D.T. 23/11-4)  
 126- Shooting victim goes home (D.T. 20/11-3)  
 127- Stolen baby's mother shocked at sentence  
 (T.G. 2/11-1)

To elaborate, 'Items 119-27' are considered to be ambiguous and/or obscure for the following reasons:

a) specifically obscure but not necessarily ambiguous, owing to the lack of enough lexical information in the item --which would be represented either within the NP, as its q-node, or within the Modality, as its link-elem or any of its adv-nodes. Instances of this are Items '119-22, 124;'

b) ability to be interpreted in more than one way, i.e., ambiguous but not necessarily obscure, e.g., '124' (prisoners escaped to the street or while in the street), '125' (professor is jailed for acting in secrecy, for breach of secrecy, or for secrecy reasons), etc.

#### IV. 2. 6. Use of Typographical Devices

As a written dialect, Headlines makes the utmost

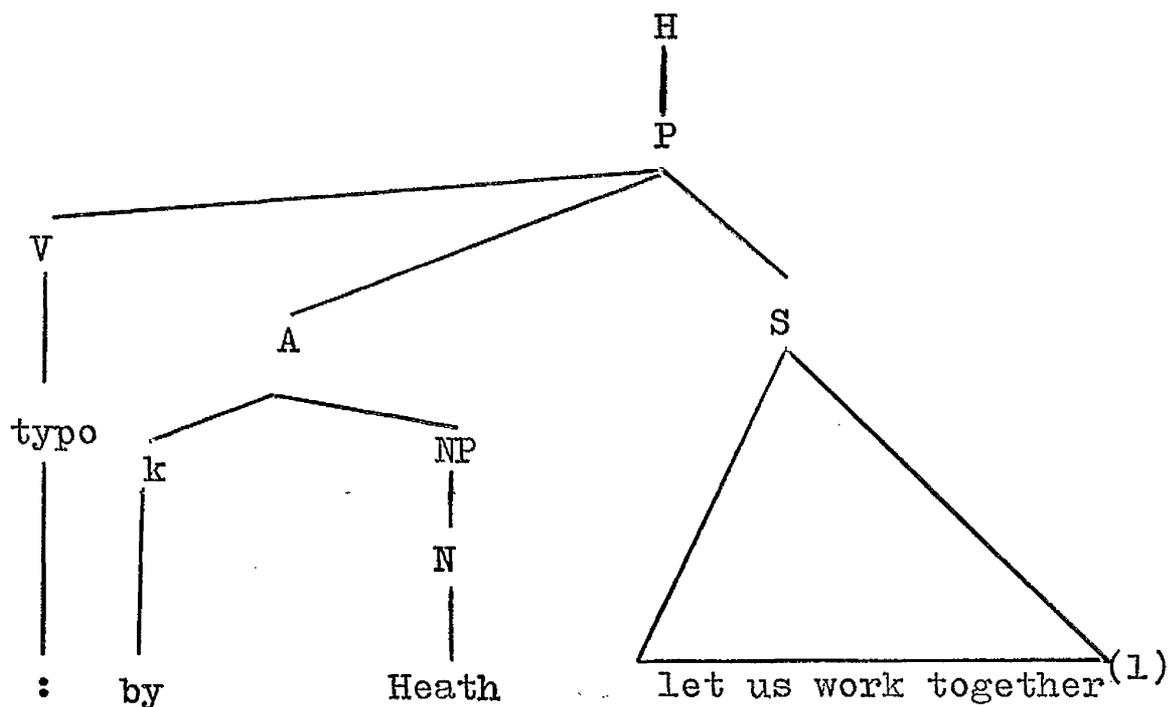
use of typographical marks as fully functional elements --sometimes with the same functional status as lexical elements. Consider, for instance, the following heads:

- 128- Heath: let us work together (S.T. 15/10-1)  
 129- 'Ignore politics' - judge (T.G. 9/11-5)  
 130- Stop picketing - Jones (S.T. 27/8-1)  
 131- Mr Wilson to unions: 'obey even bad law'  
 (T.T. 21/11-3)  
 132- Price of a child's hand - £125 (S.T. 10/12-1)  
 133- Disbelief, dismay, defeat - the heartbreak of  
 McGovern (T.G. 9/11-2)

As a general rule, the colon denotes that what follows is 'direct speech' --i.e., has the same function as the verb 'to say.' The dash, on the other hand could either perform the same function as above, as in 'Items 129-30,' or else make up for the absence of the linking-verb 'to be,' as in 'Items 132-3.' In the first case, both colons and dashes are considered, in our analysis, as constituents of the V. In the second case, dashes are considered as constituents of the

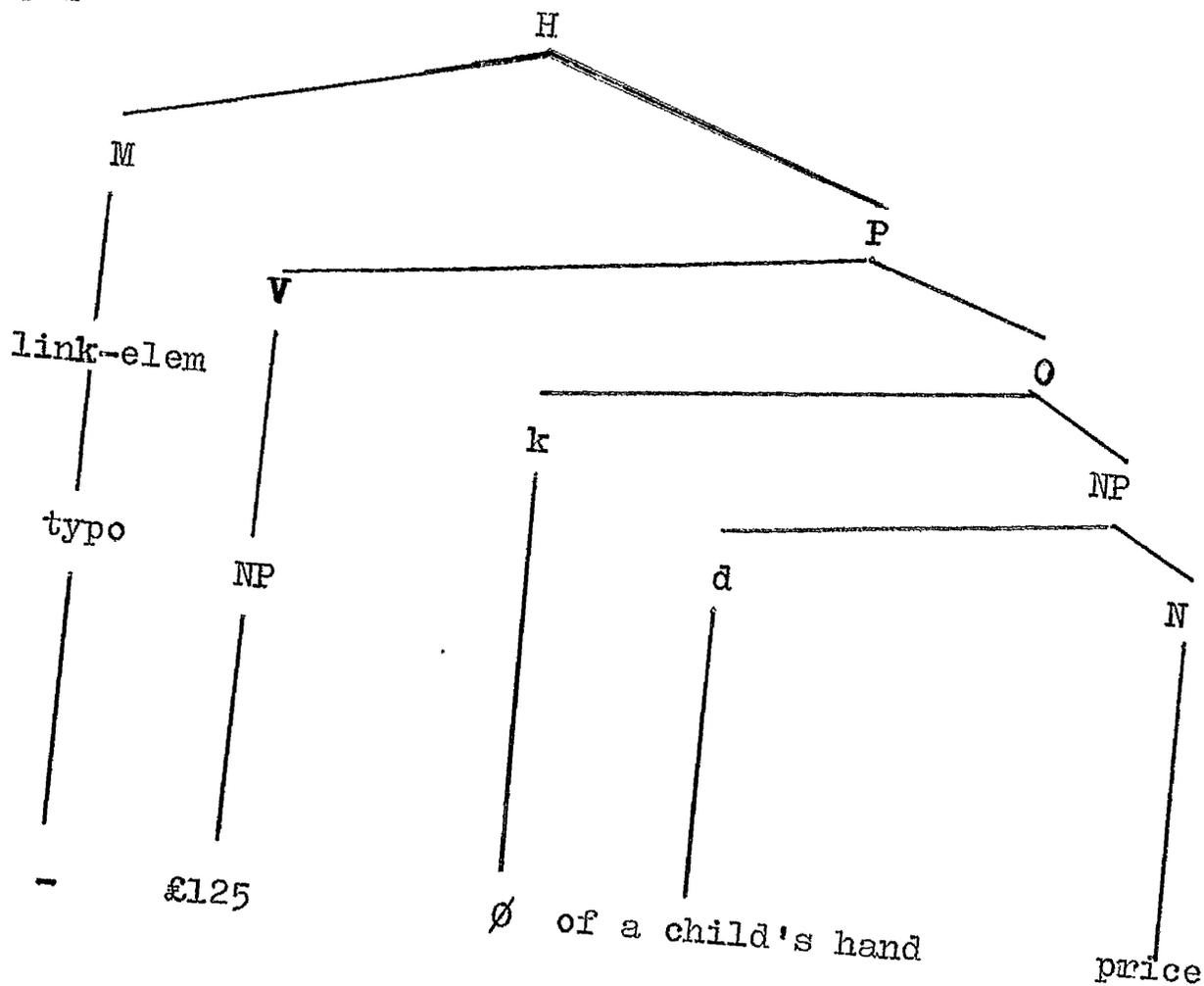
linking-element under M (in which case, that part of the item which follows the dash will be regarded as the true realization of the V). In our terminology, both marks will be labelled typo (for 'typography'). As mentioned above, members of the typo class could either function as predicative elements or else as linking elements. Each of these two cases is illustrated below by a tree diagram, in their respective order:

128A-



(1) For the absence of an M-node in this example, refer to 'V.1.'.

132A-



Chapter V:

The Application of Case Grammar to  
Headlines

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### V. 1. Adapting C.G. to Headlines

Now that most of the fundamental issues of C.G. have been presented, and some of the problems it raised reviewed; some basic modifications are proposed. Such modifications, it is felt, make the Model more suitable for the description of headlines. These are the following:

a) We will consider all surface complements (be they adjectivals, noun phrases, or adverbials) to be deep realizations of the V-node (cf. 'V.2.1.' below).<sup>(1)</sup>

-----  
 (1) Compare, in this connection, the following sources:

i) C. Fillmore, 'The Case for Case,' p. 27, fn. 36:

"I am adhering, in this discussion, to the Postal-Lakoff doctrine, which I find thoroughly convincing, that adjectives constitute a subset of verbs."

ii) G. Lakoff, 'Adjectives and Verbs,' Irregularity in Syntax, pp. 115-33.

...

b) We will expand the Modality-constituent, in order to absorb all adverbials that do not function as V (i.e., not included in Item 'a' above).<sup>(1)</sup> But note that some manner-adverbials belong to the V-node, and not to the M-node (cf. 'V.3.' below). For convenience, those manner-adverbials occurring under M will be marked Man-adv, and those under V will be marked man-adv.

-----  
 ... iii) C. Fillmore, 'The Case for Case,' p. 44:

"This situation ((of verbless sentences)) may call for the introduction of the element be into the M constituent, which is a process we have already seen to be necessary for verbs which are adjectives as well as for verbs which have been modified through addition of the feature (+ passive)."

iv) C. Fillmore, 'The Case for Case,' p. 84.

(1) cf. C. Fillmore, 'Toward a Modern Theory of Case,' p. 365:

"The constituent Modality contains interrogative and negative elements, sentence adverbials, time adverbials, and various other adverbial elements that are understood as modalities on the sentence as a whole rather than subconstituents of the constituent containing the main verb."

c) The Locative and Temporal Cases will be dispensed with. By virtue of 'a' and 'b,' such locatives and temporals will fall within either the V-node, or else the M-node, according to whether they are surface complements, or else modalities on the item-as-a-whole, respectively.

d) It also follows from 'a,' 'b,' and 'c' that a Benefactive Case would be superfluous.

Thus, the following phrase-structure rules are set up to govern the structure of Headlines (the second line in each rule represents the abbreviated form employed in the text):

$$(1) \text{ Headline} = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Verbal Proposition + Modality} \\ \text{Nominal Proposition (+ Modality)} \\ \text{Noun Phrase} \end{array} \right\}$$

$$H = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} +V' P \quad + M \\ -V' P \quad (+ M) \\ NP \end{array} \right\}^{(1)}$$

$$(2) \text{ Modality} = \text{auxiliary (+ adv)}^{(2)}$$

$$M = \text{aux (+ adv)}$$

---

(1) The only case where M is not obligatory for items with a +V' P is when the V is not a verb, and no other modalities occur.

(2) This applies to adverbials that are not verbs.

(2. 1.) auxiliary = tense (+ modal) (+ linking-  
element) (+ polar elements)<sup>(1)</sup>

aux = tense (+ modal) (+ link-elem)  
(+ polar elem)

(2. 1. 1.) linking-  
element =  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \underline{\text{Be}} \\ \text{typographical mark} \end{array} \right\}$

link-elem =  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \underline{\text{Be}} \\ \text{typo} \end{array} \right\}$

(2. 2.) adverbial = manner adverbial and/or  
time adverbial and/or loca-  
tion adverbial

adv = Man-adv ... T-adv ...  
L-adv

(3) Proposition =  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Verbal + Case-category(s) (+ Sen-} \\ \text{tence)} \\ \text{Case-category + Case-category(s)} \end{array} \right\}$

P =  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{V + C(s) (+ S)} \\ \text{C + C(s)} \end{array} \right\}^{(2)}$

---

(1) Polar elements are negation and interrogation.

(2) For the expansion of the S-node --not provided for by our phrase-structure rules-- we follow Fillmore's rules expounded in 'The Case for Case.'

$$\begin{aligned}
 (3.1.) \quad \text{Verbal} &= \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{verb (+ verbal particle)} \\ \text{predicate adjectival} \\ \text{predicate adverbial} \\ \text{predicate noun phrase} \\ \text{predicate typographical mark} \end{array} \right\} \left. \begin{array}{l} (+ \text{man-} \\ \text{adv).} \\ (1) \end{array} \right\} \\
 \text{V} &= \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{v (+ v-part)} \\ \text{adj} \\ \text{adv} \\ \text{NP} \\ \text{typo (when followed by an } \underline{\text{S}} \text{)} \end{array} \right\} \left. \begin{array}{l} (+ \text{man-adv}) \end{array} \right\}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$(3.2.) \quad \text{Case-category} = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Agentive} \\ \text{Dative} \\ \text{Objective} \\ \text{Instrumental} \end{array} \right\}$$

$$\text{C} = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{A} \\ \text{D} \\ \text{O} \\ \text{I} \end{array} \right\}$$

$$(3.2.1.) \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Agentive} \\ \text{Dative} \\ \text{Objective} \\ \text{Instrumental} \end{array} \right\} = \text{kasus} + \text{Noun Phrase}$$

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{A} \\ \text{D} \\ \text{O} \\ \text{I} \end{array} \right\} = \text{k} + \text{NP}$$

---

(1) Note that when V is not a verb no tense is represented. It may also be the case that the items which do not have a verb do not have any other modalities, in which case no M-node will be shown as part of the underlying structure.

(4) Noun Phrase = (determiner) (+ Sentence) + Noun

NP = (d) (+ S) + N

(4. 1.) determiner = {  
 article  
 adjectival  
 numeral  
 demonstrative }

d = {  
 art  
 adj  
 num  
 dem }

## V. 2. The Proposition Constituent

The two main constituents of an H are the Modality constituent and the Proposition constituent. Each of these will be discussed here in some detail. We start with the P-constituent (the M-constituent being discussed in 'V.3.').

To recapitulate, the Cases set set up in our analysis of the underlying structure of Headlines are the Agentive (A), the Dative (D), the Objective (O), and the Instrumental (I).

As regards the assignment of the different noun phrases to their Cases, we follow the conceptual framework given by Fillmore (cf. Chapter II). However, as the Fillmorian framework relies heavily on semantic perceptual criteria, we may also add here the following syntactic criteria:

a) In non-initial position NP's are allocated to their Cases by virtue of the preceding preposition, viz., by for Agentives, for or to for Datives, with or by for Instrumentals, and naught for Objectives; in this last case, the NP is an Objective if it is inanimate, a Dative if it is animate.

b) In initial position the following criteria could be applied:

(1) For an animate NP to be allocated to the Agentive, the whole item is capable of 'imperative-mood' transformation; otherwise, it is Dative.

(2) For an inanimate NP to be allocated to the Instrumental it should be followed by an Objective or a Dative (after the V if there is one); otherwise, it is Objective.

The following items illustrate occurrences of the Cases in headlines (with underlining and symbols supplied, based on the surface-structure linearity):<sup>(1)</sup>

a) The Agentive

- 134- Dr Kissinger confirms Hanoi version of draft agreement to bring Vietnam war to an end  
 (T.T. 27/10-1)  
 ( A + V + O 'embodying S' )
- 135- The nine go to Paris with money on their minds  
 (S.T. 15/10-9)  
 ( A + V + L-adv 'under M' + Man-adv 'under M' )
- 136- Man, 70, saves child from canal (D.T. 11/10-19)  
 ( A + V + D + L-adv 'under M' )
- 137- Don't harass the princess says the Palace  
 (S.T. 29/10-4)  
 ( S + V + A )
- 138- Tough talk by Hanoi negotiator (D.T. 27/10-1)  
 ( O + A )

---

(1) The technique of underlining is used in order to mark sequences of elements referable to particular nodes. Each such sequence is marked by a continuous underline, unless the end of the line breaks such a sequence, in which case an added single underline will mark the continuity of the sequence.

- 139- Students protest at 'long hair' ban  
 (S.T. 29/10-1)  
 (A + V + O)
- 140- Prince Charles to serve in minesweeper  
 (D.T. 27/10-1)  
 (A + V + L-adv 'under M')
- 141- Hunger strike threat by Asians at camp  
 (D.T. 11/11-1)  
 (O + A + L-adv 'under M')
- b) The Dative
- 142- Runaway ex-barrister arrested (S.T. 13/8-3)  
 (D + V)
- 143- British boy of 14 jailed for six years on drugs charge  
 (T.T. 2/3-1)  
 (D + V + T-adv 'under M' + Man-adv 'under M')
- 144- Missing boys found (T.T. 5/1-2)  
 (D + V)
- 145- Girl murdered on her way to church (T.T. 4/1-1)  
 (D + V + L-adv 'under M')
- 146- Mother 'not angry' over stolen child  
 (D.T. 6/11-3)  
 (D + neg 'under M' + V + Man-adv 'under M')

147- Chichester 'weaker' (S.T. 20/8-1)

(D + V)

148- Policeman's son on more charges (T.G. 27/9-7)

(D + V)

149- Christmas £25 for 22,000 P.O. clerks

(D.T. 8/12-1)

(O + D)

c) The Objective

150- Controls sought on 'rash' of private zoos

(T.T. 1/11-3)

(O + V + Man-adv 'under M')

151- Claim for lost eye rejected (T.G. 9/11-6)

(O + V)

152- Arsenal of British arms found in Rome

(T.T. 27/11-6)

(O + V + L-adv 'under M')

153- Army violence alleged by 65 priests in Ulster

(T.T. 21/11-1)

(O + V + A + L-adv 'under M')

154- Prayer book of 1662 to stay in use (D.T. 27/10-8)

(O + V + man-adv 'under V')

155- Meat levy to go (T.G. 2/11-5)

(O + V)

156- 'One car for every two people' in 2001

(D.T. 24/11-7)

(O + D + T-adv 'under M')

d) The Instrumental

157- Vietnam peace could help Sir Alec (S.T. 29/10-8)

(I + modal 'under M' + V + D)

158- Radio kept hope alive in airliner horror

(S.T. 29/10-2)

(I + V + O 'embodying S' + Man-adv 'under M')

159- Missing key foils jail break bid (S.T. 13/2-1)

(I + V + O)

160- Smuggled letter reveals grim life in Smith's

'Scale 3' prison (S.T. 29/10-8)

(I + V + O + L-adv 'under M')

161- Political stagnation in Greece causing uneasiness among supporters of Mr Papadopoulos

(T.T. 10/7-6)

(I + V + O + Man-adv 'under M')

### V. 2. 1. The Verbal Element

In Headlinese, the V-node is filled by verbs, and all other elements having the same function (cf. 'V.1.'). From the very outset, it has been a problematic issue for Case-Grammar to cater for predicate NP's and adj's. Fillmore says in two of his writings:

- a) "How are predicate-adjective or predicate-noun sentences to be dealt with in this "scheme ?" (1)
- b) " Nothing that has been said so far "suggests a way of providing for sentences "of the N be N type." (2)

Headlinese is no exception to this awkward situation. Consider, for example, the following three sets of items; five have predicate adjectivals, five have predicate adverbials, and the last three have predicate

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(1) Charles Fillmore, 'Toward a Modern Theory of Case,' Modern Studies in English, D. Reibel & S. Shane (eds.), Prentice Hall, New Jersey, U.S.A., 1969, pp. 374-5.

(2) ,, ,, , 'The Case for Case,' Universals in Linguistic Theory, E. Bach & R. Harms (eds.), Holt, Rinehart & Winston, Inc., U.S.A., 1968, p. 84.

NP's<sup>(1)</sup>, respectively:

- 162- MPs angry over EEC threat to tradition  
(T.T. 21/11-1)
- 163- Case against spinster, 70, 'shameful'  
(D.T. 17/11-19)
- 164- Landscape study too disorganized (D.T. 27/10-14)
- 165- TUC likely to differ on anti-inflation talks  
(D.T. 20/11-8)
- 166- Mercy-killing 'common in Britain' (D.T. 11/10-19)
- 
- 167- National health cost up (T.T. 21/11-3)
- 168- Nurses in fire ward were away on tea break  
(D.T. 20/7-17)<sup>(2)</sup>
- 169- Rail work-to-rule decision today (T.T. 9/5-1)

-----

(1) Walter Cook introduces a collective term for all three types of predicates, viz., 'predicate attribute': "Predicate attribute manifests an attribute of the subject by a nominal, adjectival, or adverbial word group. It is linked to the subject by a linking verb and an agreement type of concord. It is always obligatory." (Introduction to Tagmemic Analysis, Holt, Rinehart & Winston, U.S.A., 1969, p. 68.)

(2) Be is introduced here for typographical reasons, as is shown below.

170- Army in gun fight on border (D.T. 20/11-1)

171- Dock decision tomorrow (S.T. 18/6-1)

-----

172- Women's Lib a power in Australia (T.T. 27/11-7)

173- Giri's visit 'no threat to Amin' (T.G. 27/9-4)

174- Aldershot witness 'a bare-faced liar'

(T.G. 9/11-5)

The solution we propose is to regard the be-verb, whenever it occurs (as in 'Item 168'), as a constituent of the Modality-component (as a 'dummy' linking-element); and to regard the second part of the item (be it a predicate adjective, a predicate adverb, or a predicate noun) as the true realization of the V-node.<sup>(1)</sup> In this, we follow Fillmore, since according to his

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(1) Compare, in this respect, R. Jacobs and P. Rosenbaum's statement: "Perhaps the most interesting characteristics of the surface structure of verb phrases have to do directly with verbal elements --that is, verbs and adjectives. These are represented as verbals (VB) in the deep structure, with the feature (+V) and (-V) respectively." (English Transformational Grammar '1968', Ginn & Co. Ltd., London, 1972, p. 100.)

analysis the deep realization of such a sentence as he is sad would be a Dative he and a V sad. He referred to such lexical items as sad, true, interesting, etc., as 'verbs.' He also suggested, elsewhere, that with the 'N be N' type: "It might be possible to treat these nouns as, on one level, V's which are restricted to the form (..... A)." (1)

Note that it is a common feature of Headlines not to use a linking verb where one would have occurred in the Norm. Linking verbs in fact occur only under certain specific conditions. These are the following:

a) For typographical reasons, i.e., to fill in a space-gap on the page.

b) For grammatical reasons, i.e., to mark the temporal aspect, whether past, present, or future; as there is no other way of showing this where no verb

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(1) C. Fillmore, *Ibid.*, p. 84.

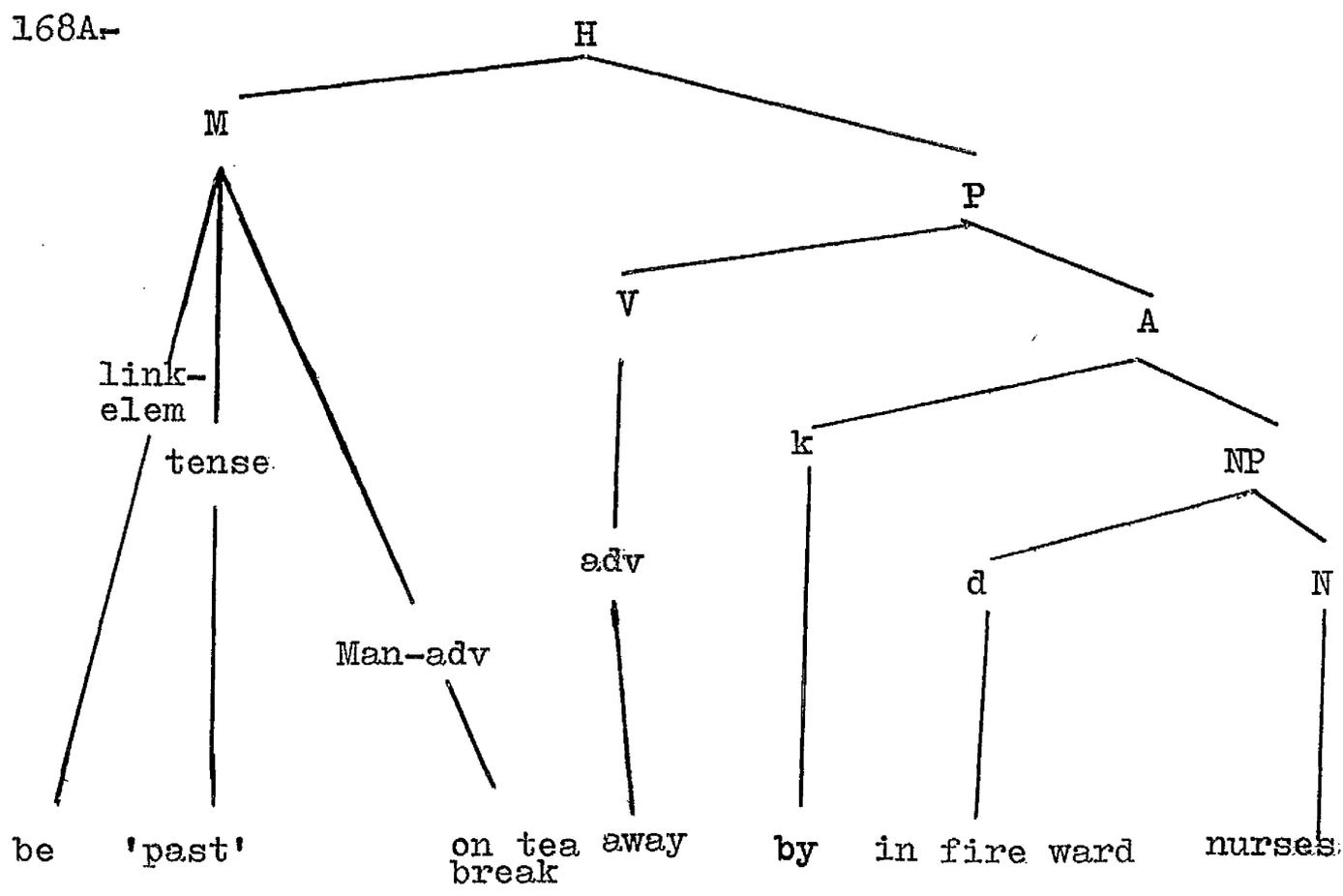
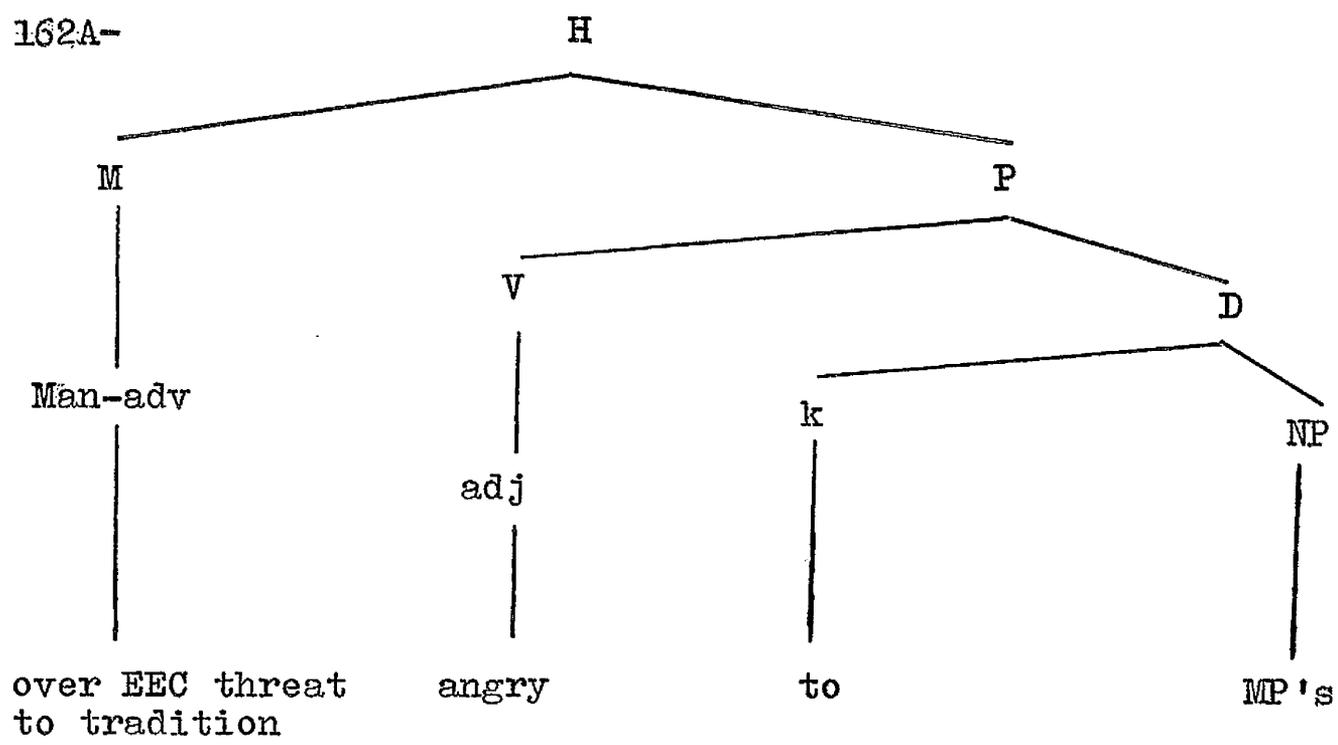
occurs but to introduce the proper linking verb. (1)

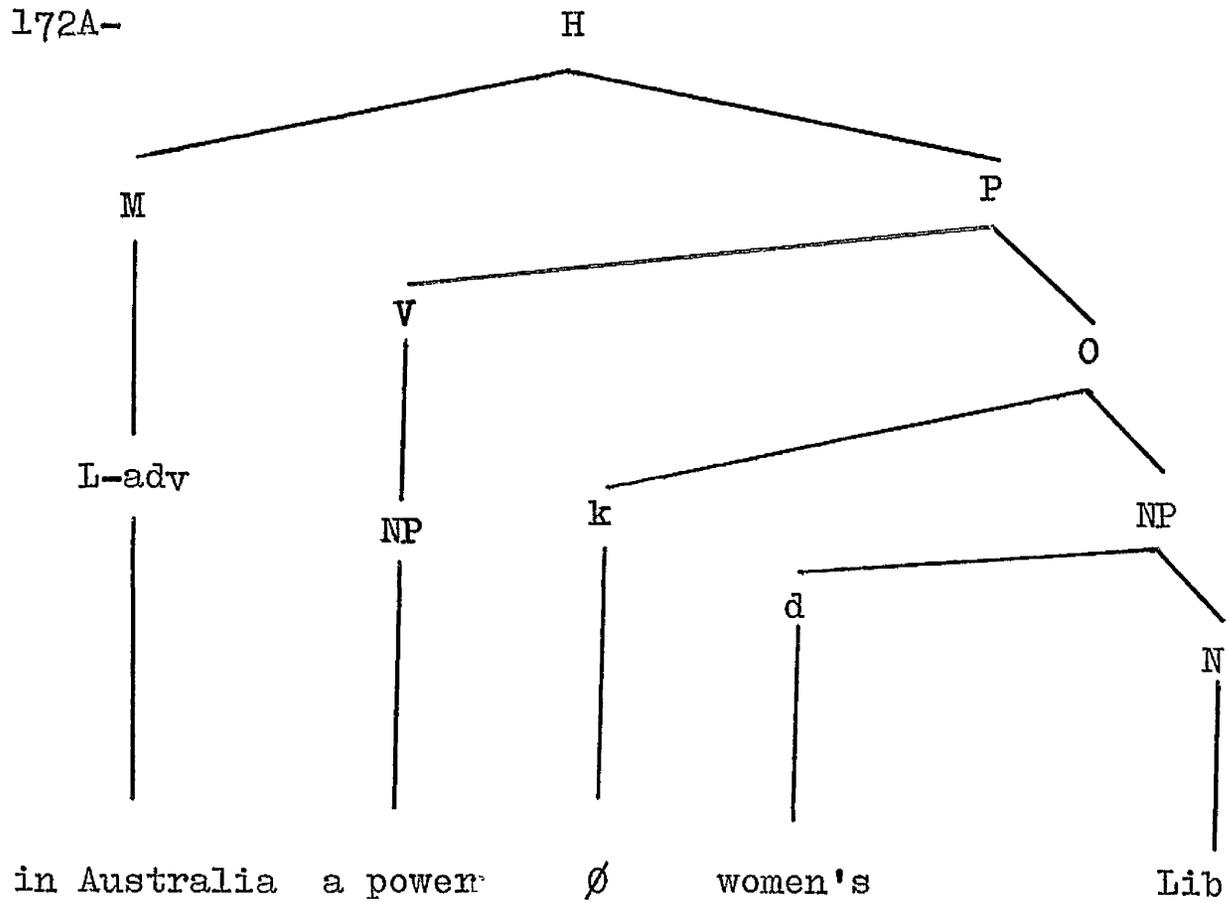
c) For contextual ('situational') reasons, i.e., to quote some statement as said by some personality verbatim, i.e., giving the actual words used.

The following three tree diagrams, representing Items '162, 168, and 172,' illustrate how the three types of predicate attributes (viz., attributive adj, attributive adv, and attributive NP, respectively) are treated in this analysis:

---

(1) Note that in Arabic, for example, the situation is very similar to that; be is only used with predicate adjectivals, adverbials, and noun phrases, when the past or future tenses need to be expressed. This is also reported to be the case in Russian, Latin, and Greek (cf. Lyons' Introduction to Theoretical Linguistics, p. 322).





V. 2. 2. Special Characteristics of the Cases in Head-  
lines

The different Cases having been exemplified, we will try to relate their basic conceptual framework to

Headline usage. Each of the Cases will be considered separately.

#### V. 2. 2. 1. The Agentive Case

The Agentive was defined as 'the case of the typically animate perceived instigator of the action ... ' (our underlining).<sup>(1)</sup>

Headline usage cannot be described entirely within this limitation. Admittedly, Fillmore foresaw the difficulties that could arise because of the qualifying element 'animate,' and therefore attached to his definition a footnote which runs as follows:

"The escape qualification 'typically' expresses my awareness that contexts which I will say require agents are sometimes occupied by 'inanimate' nouns like robot or 'human institutions' like nation. Since I know of no way of dealing with these matters at the moment, I shall just assume for all agents that they are animate."<sup>(2)</sup>

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(1) cf. Chapter II.

(2) Charles Fillmore, 'The Case for Case,' Universals in Linguistic Theory, E. Bach & R. Harms (eds.), Holt, Rinehart & Winston, Inc., U.S.A., 1968, p. 24 fn.

This is even more true of headlines, since it is a common feature in Headlines for inanimate nouns to be surface subjects of verbs which would normally require animate subjects. Thus, the Agentives in the following items are inanimate nouns --though representing human bodies of institutions:

- 175- Paris says security talks must precede troops cuts (T.T. 5/1-4)  
 (A + V + S)
- 176- Council 'should keep fuel duty' (T.T. 5/1-3)  
 (A + modal 'under M' + V + O)
- 177- Italy presses its Nato allies to find solution of Malta crisis (T.T. 7/1-1)  
 (A + V + D 'embodying S')
- 178- Senator McGovern drives home his pledge on Vietnam as nomination hour approaches (T.T. 13/7-1)  
 (A + V + man-adv 'under V' + O + Man-adv 'under M')
- 179- BBC to seek bigger local audiences on medium wave (D.T. 20/7-17)  
 (A + V + D + L-adv 'under M')

V. 2. 2. 2. The Dative Case

The observation made above concerning the feature of inanimateness of Agentives in Headlines, applies to Datives as well --far more overwhelmingly than in the Norm, e.g.,

19- Heathrow homes would suffer jet noise four times the limit

(D + modal 'under M' + V + O + Man-adv 'under M')

180- Court critical of legal aid on 'simple issues'

(T.T. 27/10-3)

(D + V + man-adv 'under V' + Man-adv 'under M')

181- Troops get wider powers to shoot when attacked

(T.T. 5/1-2)

(D + V + O 'embodying S')

182- Moscow asked to help trace IRA rockets

(D.T. 8/12-1)

(D + V + S)

183- Trident crash inquiry is told second pilot may have misinterpreted order after captain's coronary

(T.T. 21/11-5)

(D + link-elem 'under M' + V + S)

184- Court shown work-to-rule list (T.T. 13/5-2)

(D + V + O)

### V. 2. 2. 3. The Objective Case

The most recurrent type of head is that which consists of an O plus a V. This type of head is mainly used whenever the 'things affected by the action or state identified by the verb' are, in themselves, the main occupation of the public interest, and not the 'instigator of the action' --or else, where the instigator can be deduced from the nature of the action or state, e.g.,

- 185- Inquiry into Asian strike ordered (D.T. 8/12-8)
- 186- Leeds 'land grab' offer rejected (D.T. 27/10-10)
- 187- 10 per cent rise in coal prices expected  
(T.T. 3/3-1)
- 188- Flight path altered after near miss(S.T. 15/10-10)
- 189- World trade talks sought (D.T. 15/11-4)
- 190- College strike backed (D.T. 17/11-4)
- 191- Discrimination by rooms bureau alleged  
(T.T. 19/7-2)
- 192- EEC poll disaster feared by Labour (T.T. 10/7-2)
- 193- German treaty vote put off as Opposition has  
second thoughts on compromise (T.T. 11/5-1)

- 194- Bricks thrown as crowds clash with soldiers before Provisionals end two-week ceasefire  
(T.T. 10/7-2)
- 195- Open University new age limit criticized  
(T.T. 10/7-2)
- 196- Civil Service action threatened (T.T. 27/10-1)

W. 2. 2. 4. The Instrumental Case

It is very much more common in Headlines, than it is in the Norm, for Instrumentals to occur as surface subjects, with no explicit reference to an Agentive. Here, as with the Objective (above), the instigator of the action can be implied from the nature of the action or context (or in some cases an agentive may not be involved since no human intervention occurred), e.g.,

- 197- London transport pledge gives railmen new aim for pay deal  
(I + V + D + O) (T.T. 6/6-1)
- 198- Crash kills three  
(I + V + D) (T.T. 7/1-3)

199- Survey points to Atlantic oilfields(T.G. 2/11-3)

(I + V + O)

200- Accidents cutting life expectancy by one year

(D.T. 17/11-10)

(I + V + O + Man-adv 'under M')

Much less often will Instrumentals occur at the right-most position of the item (preceded by 'by'), in which case also no Agentives will be represented, e.g.,

201- Appeal of architecture not blunted by pay levels

(T.T. 7/1-3)

(O + neg 'under M' + V + I)

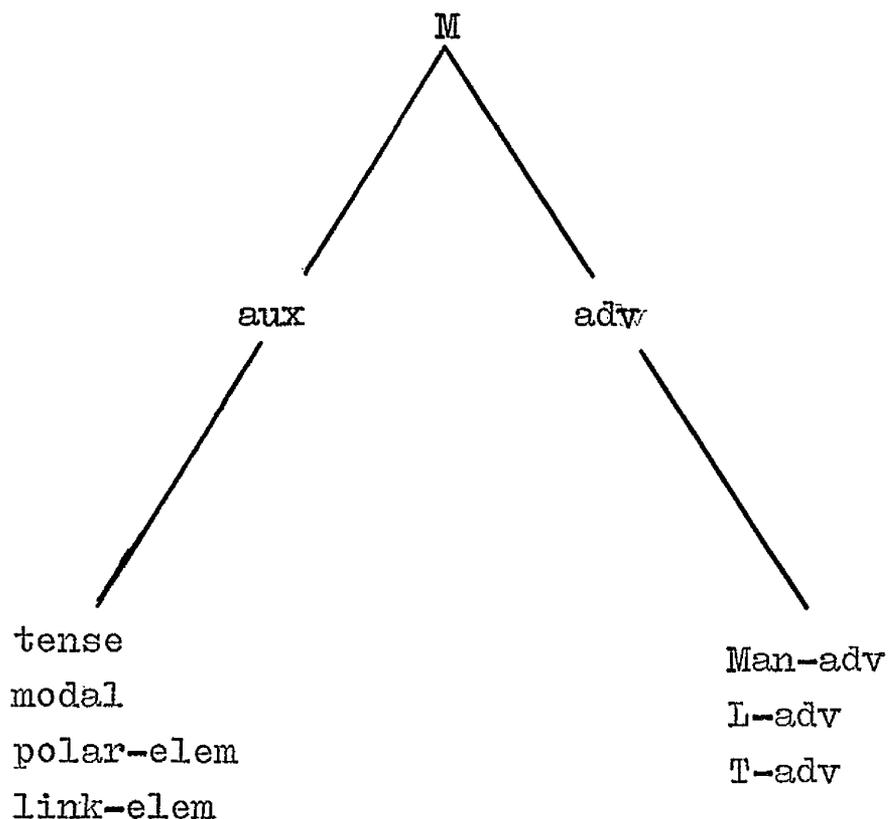
202- Nixon visit heralded in Peking by Press attack

(T.T. 14/2-1)

(O + V + L-adv 'under M' + I)

### V. 3. The Modality Constituent

It was stated earlier that the M-node is expanded into aux and adv. The expansion is illustrated by the following diagram:



In our analysis, all adverbials which do not have temporal or locational orientation are referred to as 'manner-adverbials;' that is, no further classification into adverbials of 'result,' of 'degree,' of 'frequency,' etc., is made, since these distinctions are regarded as marginal to our theory. We must also note here that, for the sake of clarity, those manner-adverbials that are modalities on the item-as-a-whole are marked Man-adv 'under the M-node,' while those which

are modalities on the verb only (or else the predicate adjectival or the predicate adverbial) are marked man-adv 'under the V-node' (cf. 'V.l.', above). The criterion set up for distinguishing one from the other is that of movability.<sup>(1)</sup> Thus, for instance, in 'Items 150 and 158,' the manner-adverbial could be shifted to the pre-Verbal position (amongst other positions, as the 'final' position in the case of '158'); while in Items '154 and 178,' the manner-adverbial is limited to the post-Verbal position; thus, our modified versions of these items are considered as acceptable units for the first two items but unacceptable in the last two. This is illustrated below:

Items with Man-adv:

150- Controls sought on 'rash' of private zoos

150A- Controls on 'rash' of private zoos sought

158- Radio kept hope alive in airliner horror

158A- Radio in airliner horror kept hope alive

158B- In airliner horror radio kept hope alive

Items with man-adv:

154- Prayer book of 1662 to stay in use

-----  
 (1) This criterion is also used to distinguish NP's representing Cases from NP's representing Modality elements. In the former case, NP's would have the ability to undergo such processes as 'subjectivalization,' 'passivization,' etc.

154A- \* Prayer book of 1662 in use to stay

178- Senator McGovern drives home his pledge on Vietnam as nomination hour approaches

178A- \* Senator McGovern home drives his pledge on Vietnam as nomination hour approaches

Note here also that other elements of modalities like 'mood,' 'aspect,' 'voice,' etc., are not set up as descriptive categories in our analysis of Headlines.

Turning now to the aux-node, we will examine its four potential constituents.

A polar element is one of two alternatives functioning as modality on the item-as-a-whole, e.g., positive vs. negative, declarative vs. interrogative, etc. Positive and declarative are treated as the unmarked terms in our system; negative and interrogative are marked as neg and int, respectively, whenever they occur.

The linking-element was expanded, as a node, into Be, and typographical marks. Be occurs only in the contexts where its presence is necessitated by some

special factors (cf. 'V.2.1.'). Typographical marks were also discussed in some detail in 'IV.2.6.,' above.

The modals that were found to occur in our data are not many. These are would, could, should, and may. Besides, their occurrence is very rare, and is, furthermore stipulated by the same factors that govern the occurrence of linking-elements, in general (cf. 'V.2.1.').

### V. 3. 1. Tense

The category of tense in Headlines differs from that of the Norm in two respects; the number of tenses exploited, and their time-reference.

As to the number of tenses, the category of tense in Headlines shows the following terms:

a) The Present Simple tense (marked in our terminology as 'present'): This is represented by a finite -s verb-form, e.g.,

203- Ayub Khan rejects 'come back' plea (S.T. 20/8-3)

204- Italian denies MP's bribe charge (S.T. 13/8-1)

- 205- Heath pleads for the Yes society (S.T. 15/10-5)  
 206- Yemens agree to unite (S.T. 29/10-1)  
 207- Bonn Parties agree on December 3 as date of elections  
 (T.T. 11/7-6)

b) The Present Progressive tense (marked as 'pres pro'): This is represented by a non-finite -ing verb-form, e.g.,

- 208- Britain following policy of restraint in 'cod war'  
 (T.T. 27/10-6)  
 209- Government giving shipbuilders £1m a week  
 (D.T. 27/10-10)  
 210- Cuba not returning hijackers (T.G. 2/11-2)  
 211- Engineering union facing crisis over industry act  
 (D.T. 6/11-8)  
 212- Couples married in Rhodesia not living in sin  
 (D.T. 11/11-7)

c) The Past tense (marked as 'past'): This is represented by an -ed<sub>1</sub> verb-form (preterite verb-form), or by an -ed<sub>2</sub> verb-form (past-participle verb-form). These two verb-forms were found to be in 'complementary

distribution' as follows:

(1) ed<sub>1</sub> verb-form is employed following Agentives and Instrumentals, e.g.,

158- Radio kept hope alive in airliner horror

213- Newspaper 'went too far' (T.G. 27/9-6)

(2) ed<sub>2</sub> verb-form is employed following Objectives and Datives, e.g.,

214- Shot fired in £5,000 raid (S.T. 20/8-1)

215- 85 held at pop festival (S.T. 13/8-1)

216- Diplomat recalled (S.T. 13/2-1)

217- Girl who took baby for 15 minutes jailed  
(T.T. 1/11-1)

218- Supertrain plan was started eight years ago  
(D.T. 23/11-4)

219- Madrid police stoned (T.T. 2/3-6)

220- Priest killed while he gives the last rites  
(T.T. 10/7-1)

221- New £50 m Liverpool dock blacked (T.T. 8/5-1)

(3) As an exception to the above two rules, when Datives are followed by verbs of the intransitive type, and where no agents can be posited, e.g., 'to die,' and 'to

have; ' ed<sub>1</sub> occurs, e.g.,

47- Trident crash pilot had heart attack

222- Pensioner died chasing boys from garden

(D.T. 11/10-19)

d) The Future tense (marked as 'future'): This is represented by the to+infinitive verb-form, e.g., (1)

223- Anne to visit Spain (S.T. 25/6-1)

224- Swiss to buy more Hunters (D.T. 23/11-4)

225- Housing fee scale to go (D.T. 20/7-1)

226- Money markets to stay shut (S.T. 25/6-1)

As to time-reference, a given tense may serve to denote (as in the Norm) different points in the tem-poral space. However, as headlines are mostly concerned with 'past events,' most time-reference will be to the past. Thus, the present tenses may refer to past events--what is traditionally known as 'historical present-- the Past tense refers to past events; and the Future tense refers to decisions taken, or volitions expressed, in the past, regarding future events.

-----  
(1) Note that 'will' (but not 'shall') was found to occur at a rate of less than 1%, this is why it is not included in our rules.

More specifically, we can distinguish the following possibilities:

a) the present tenses:

i) expressing past events, e.g.,

- 227- Policeman dies on emergency trip to patient  
(T.T. 6/1-2)
- 228- Miners on eve of strike refuse invitation to  
ministry (T.T. 7/1-1)
- 229- Mr Wilson asks Mr Heath for example of restraint  
(T.T. 17/7-2)

ii) expressing present events, e.g.,

- 230- Sir Alec leaves today for talks in Peking  
(T.T. 27/10-8)
- 231- German amnesty begins (T.G. 2/11-3)
- 232- Sheikh Mujib facing a jute crisis (T.G. 27/9-4)

b) the Past tense:

expressing past events, e.g.,

- 233- Husband burned wife's body (T.G. 2/11-5)
- 234- Three killed in crash (S.T. 2/1-1)

235- 'Prisoners dined on smoked salmon and brandy'

(T.T. 12/7-4)

c) the Future tense:

expressing past decisions concerning future  
events, e.g.,

236- Mr Heath to lead EEC treaty signing(T.T. 3/1-1)

237- French to help clean the Rhine (D.T. 27/10-4)

PART THREE:

THE PATTERNS OF HEADLINES AND THE  
SURFACE RULES

Chapter VI:

The Verbal Multinodal Type

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## VI. 1. The Patterns of the Verbal Multinodal Type

In discussing the internal structure of the Verbal Multinodal Type, we will group heads under certain 'patterns' for convenience of syntactic description. These patterns, eight in number, will be labelled according to their constituent Case-categories. The eight patterns will also be described in terms of two characteristics; the total structure of the Proposition, which divides them into Patterns, and the type of the V-constituent, which divides them into 'subpatterns.'

The eight patterns of the Verbal Multinodal Type are:

- Pattern 1: Objective/Verbal
- Pattern 2: Dative/Verbal
- Pattern 3: Agentive/Verbal (Sentence)
- Pattern 4: Agentive/Verbal/Objective
- Pattern 5: Instrumental/Verbal/Objective
- Pattern 6: Agentive/Verbal/Dative
- Pattern 7: Dative/Verbal/Objective
- Pattern 8: Instrumental/Verbal/Dative

However, these eight patterns somehow differ in their complexity of structure. Hence, it was found convenient to divide them into two 'groups.' Each group of patterns has some special characteristics that are not shared by the other group. These two groups are:

Group A: Pattern 1: O/V  
 Pattern 2: D/V  
 Pattern 3: A/V (S)

Group B: Pattern 4: A/V/O  
 Pattern 5: I/V/O  
 Pattern 6: A/V/D  
 Pattern 7: D/V/O  
 Pattern 8: I/V/D

The reasons why the eight patterns are split into two groups are the following:

a) Patterns of Group A are binodal, those of Group B are tri-nodal (except that there will be an S-node in some items of 'Pattern 3,' only when the V-node is filled by the verb 'to say' or a predicative

typo mark).

b) Items belonging to any of the three patterns of Group A are grouped under certain subpatterns, according to whether the V-node is filled by a verb, an adj, an adv, an NP, or a typo. 'Pattern 1' has four possibilities, 'Pattern 2' has three, 'Pattern 3' has two (except that when there is an S, a typo-element is the third possibility). Items belonging to any of the five patterns of Group B have only one type of V which is the verb; hence, subpatterning is irrelevant. We would then merely discuss the different tenses of the verb as causing some certain variations in the pattern. The verb in 'Pattern 4' is characterized by its ability to occur in all the four tenses, viz., Present Simple, Present Progressive, Past, and Future. 'Pattern 5' has three possibilities, 'Pattern 6' has two, and Patterns '7 & 8' have only one.

The following diagram illustrates the graded complexity of the eight Patterns --based on the type of the V-constituent:

Group A: Pattern 1: '4' subpatterns

Pattern 2: '3' ,,

Pattern 3: '3' ,,

Group B: Pattern 4: one subpattern: '4' tenses

Pattern 5: ,, ,, : '3' ,,

Pattern 6: ,, ,, : '2' ,,

Pattern 7: ,, ,, : one tense

Pattern 8: ,, ,, : ,, ,,

## VI. 2. The Surface-Selection Rules

In our analysis, following 'Case-Grammar' theory, basic-structure elements are order-free; the surface-sequential order of elements is generated through specific Surface-Selection Rules. But note that, for reasons of simplicity of statement and economy in formulating the rules; constituents of the underlying structure are placed in the initial 'tree diagram' in the sequence which will involve the least need for change of order, e.g., d precedes N, M precedes V, V precedes Case-nodes, v precedes man-adv, etc.

The Surface-Selection Rules devised for the

generation of headlines, are of two kinds; subject-fronting rules, and context-sensitive rewrite rules.

These are the following:

a) Subject-fronting rules, for the Verbal Multi-nodal Type:

Rule i: - A is the subject,

I is the subject if there is no A,

D is the subject if there is no A or I,

otherwise, O is the subject.

- Whichever Case-category is fronted, delete its k-node. (1)

- Also delete the k-node of D where it follows a v-element. (2)

Rule ii: After subject-fronting, absorb tense in the v according to the Headlines tense-structure scheme (cf. 'V.3.1. '), observing concord.

b) Context-sensitive rewrite rules:

Rule iii: M-adv  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{prep p} \\ \text{clause} \end{array} \right\} + P \text{ ----} \rightarrow P + \text{M-adv}$

Rule iv: d  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{prep p} \\ \text{clause} \end{array} \right\} + N \text{ ----} \rightarrow N + d$

(1) Note that the k-node of O is  $\emptyset$ . The use of  $\emptyset$  as a filler of the k-node is for simplicity reasons, i.e., to enable the rules to apply for all the Case-nodes without having to cater for O separately.

(2) as in heads belonging to Patterns '6 & 8' below.

There will also be five more context-sensitive rewrite rules (in this chapter and the following one), but these will only be mentioned where relevant --as they follow directly from the discussion.

### VI. 3. 'Group A' of the Verbal Multinodal Patterns

This group comprises Patterns '1,' '2,' and '3.' These three are the most common patterns of Headlines.

#### VI. 3. 1. Pattern 1: Objective/Verbal

This patterns is exploited in many cases to account for changes to, or happenings affecting, the state of affairs. The object that underwent the change is represented by the Objective Case, and the happening or the change is the Verbal. The surface-placement order is O - V. Out of the five alternative constituents of the V, only the first four are potential components for Pattern 2. These four constituents are verb as V, adj as V, adv as W, and NP as V. The following four sections discuss these four cases.

VI. 3. 1. 1. Subpattern 'a' of Pattern 1 (verb as V)

This subpattern includes heads with an Objective and a Verbal, where the V-node is filled by a verb. Note from the examples cited below that the verb is, in the great majority of cases, in the Past Tense. By virtue of the rules set up for the morphological structure of verbs in Headlines with regard to tenses (cf. 'V.3.1. '), the Past Tense here takes the form of a past-participle verb-form (i.e., an  $-ed_2$  verb-form). We quote here ten examples, followed by tree diagrams illustrating the surface-selection process of the first and the last items. It is understood that the basic-structure elements are order-free; and that we always start by applying Rules 'i' and 'ii' (the 'Subject-Fronting Rules'), which are obligatory for the Verbal Multinodal Type.

- 238- Preparations for Nixon visit go on in Moscow  
(T.T. 11/5-1)
- 239- Optimism wanes as Turks study note on Timothy  
Davey (T.G. 4/12-4)
- 240- Airport plan shelved (T.T. 5/1-2)
- 241- Jail bars removed (T.T. 5/1-2)
- 242- Protests to BBC upheld (D.T. 20/7-5)

243- Science research changes outlined in white paper

(D.T. 20/7-5)

244- Rules changed to cut charter flight snags

(D.T. 11/10-2)

245- Weaving factory sawed

(D.T. 15/11-1)

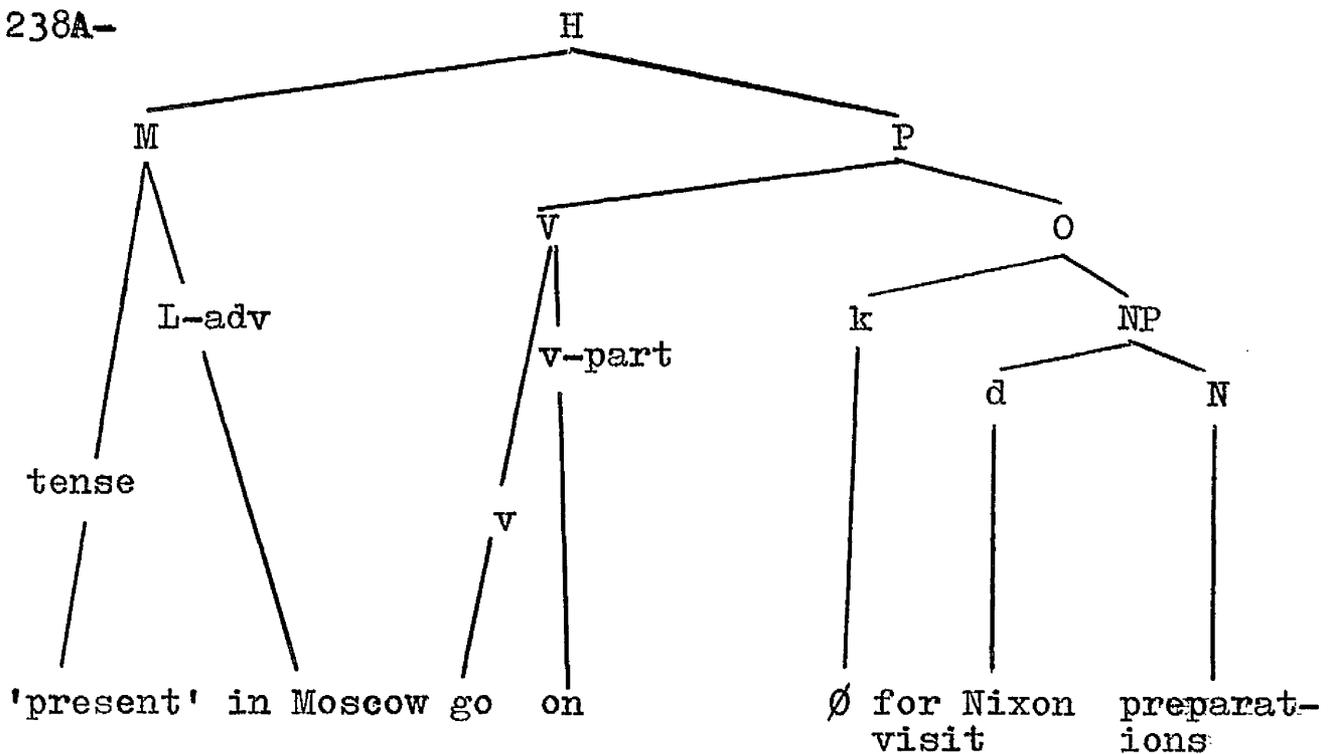
246- Court deck altered

(T.T. 5/1-2)

247- Taylor's back trouble now diagnosed

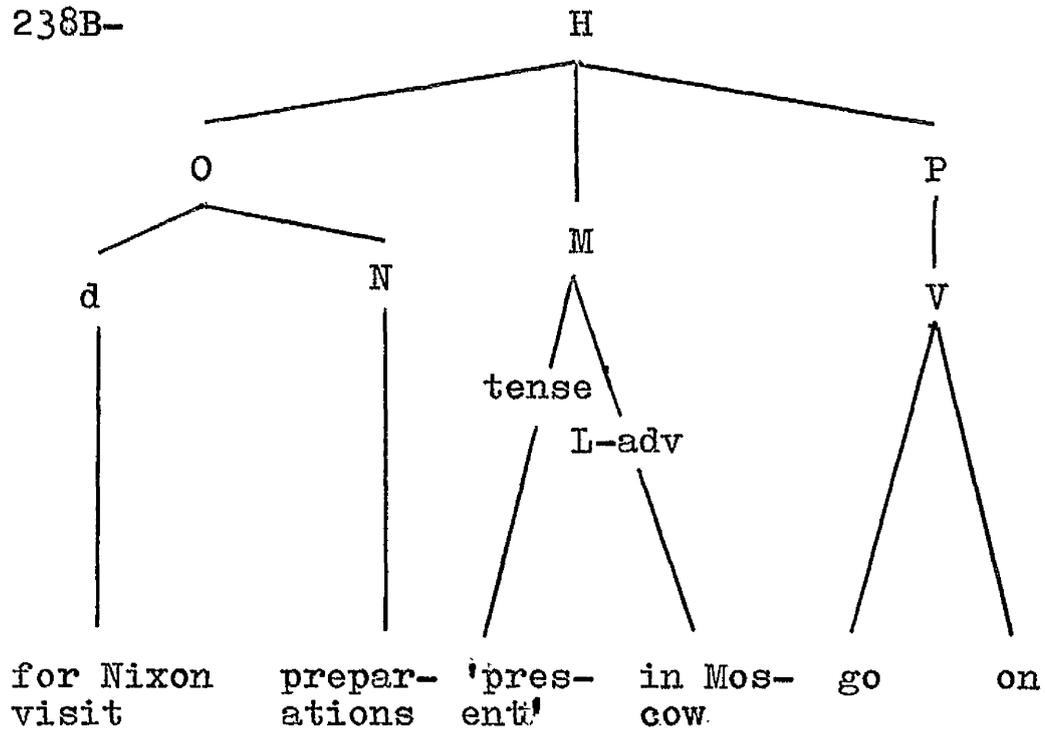
(T.T. 6/1-6)

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238A-



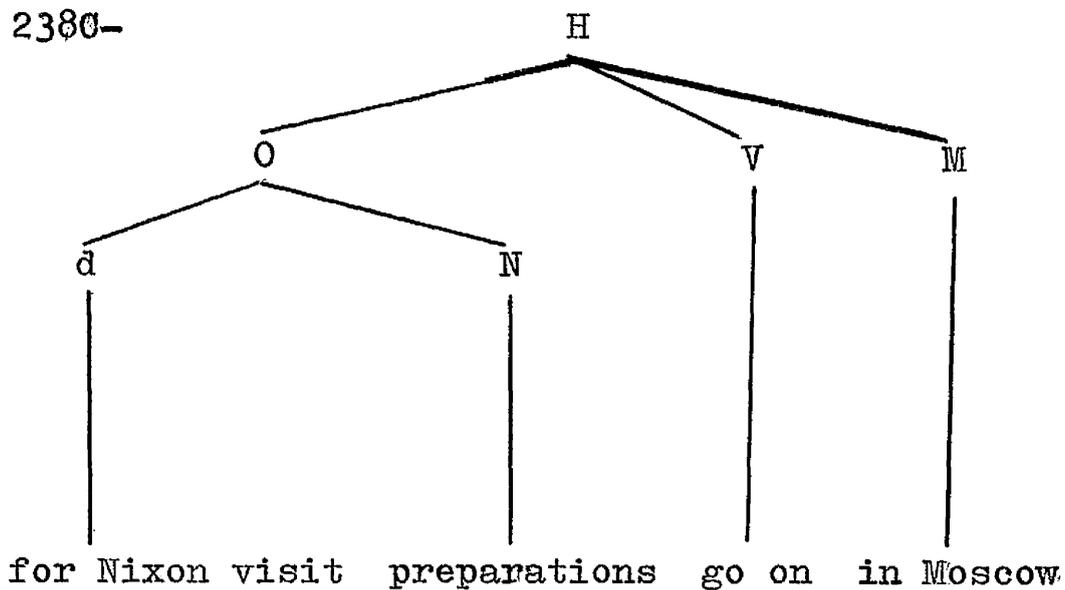
By application of 'Rule i', we get '238B':

238B-



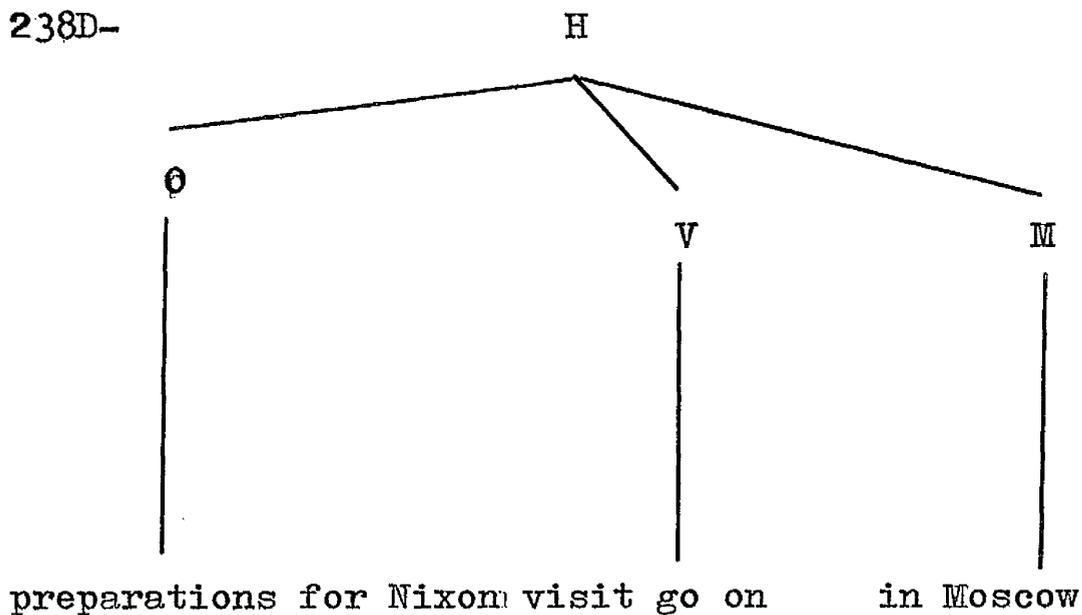
By application of 'Rules ii, iii', tense is incorporated, and the adverbial is shifted to the end of the string:

2380-



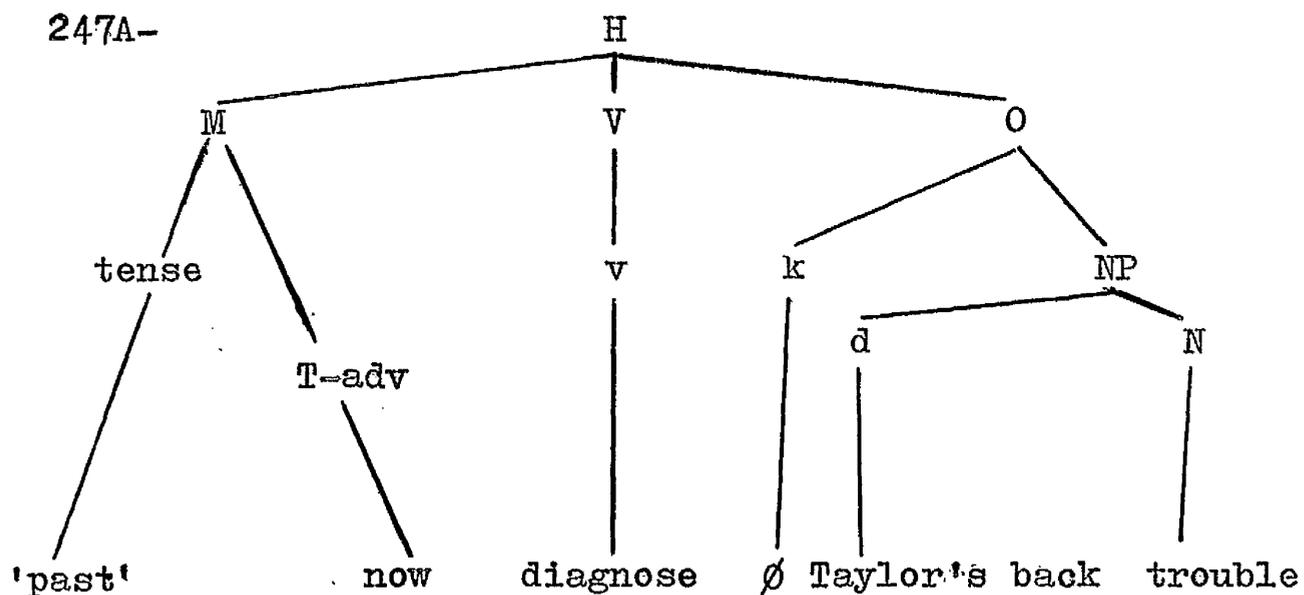
One more rule needs to be applied, which is 'Rule iv'.  
This rule reverses the surface order of the  $\bar{d}$  and the  
N nodes, in the context of  $\bar{d}$  being a phrase or a clause.

238D-



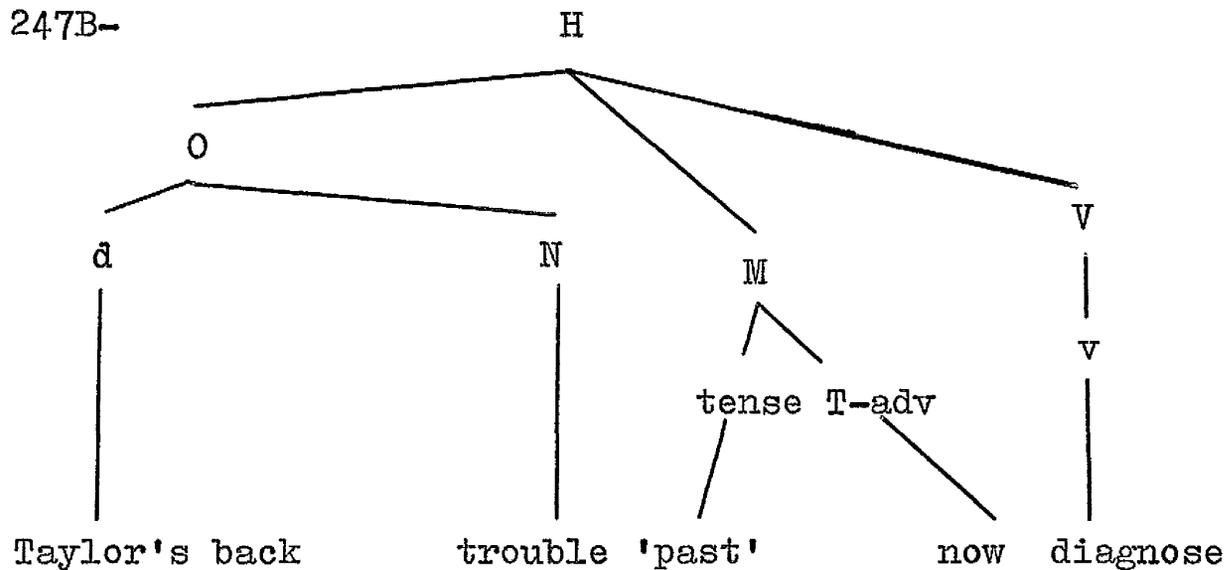
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247A-



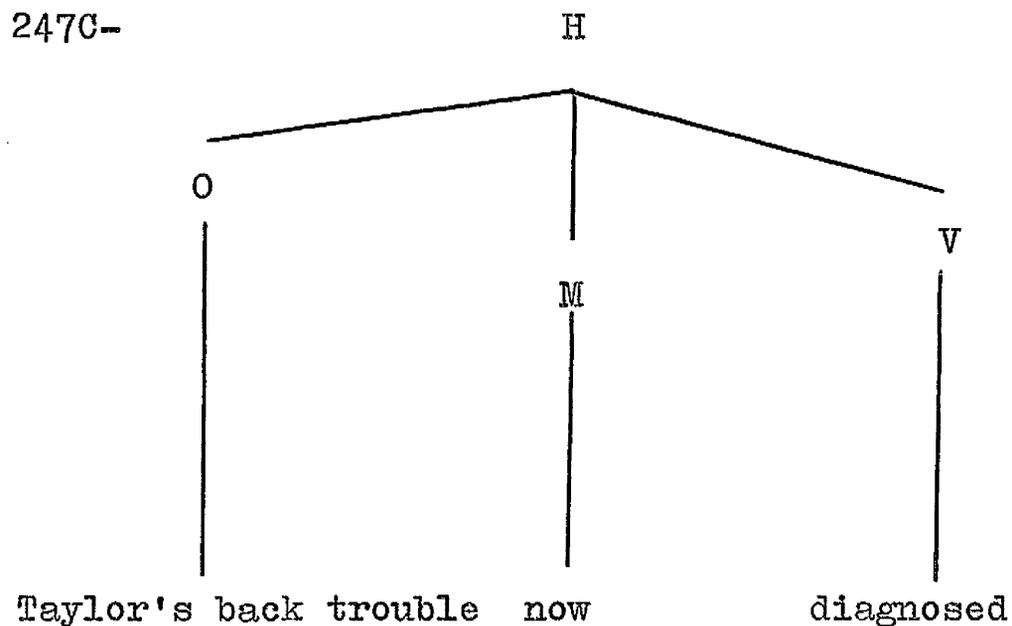
Through the application of 'Rule i,' O is shifted to the front; its k-node is deleted:

247B-



Then, by application of 'Rule ii,' tense is absorbed in the v:

247C-



VI. 3. 1. 2. Subpattern 'b' of Pattern 1 (adj as V)

This subpattern includes heads with an O and a V, where an adjectival fills the V-node. An adjectival could be a one-word adjective, as in Items '249-52,' below, or else an adjectival construction, as in 'Item 248.' In the latter case, the adjectival construction 'best for bored children' is assigned to two separate nodes under the V-constituent. The first part of the construction, which is the adjective, fills the adj-node; the second part, which is an adverbial phrase qualifying the adj, falls within the man-adv node. (Refer back to 'V.1.,' where the Verbal element was expanded into five constituents, but with the limitation that only the first three are capable of having a man-adv node attached to them, e.g.,

$$V = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \left\{ \begin{array}{l} v (+ v\text{-part}) \\ adj \\ adv \\ NP \\ typo \end{array} \right\} (+ \text{man-adv}) \end{array} \right\} .)$$

The examples quoted below are followed by tree diagrams illustrating the surface-selection process

of the first and the last items:

248- Outdoor education 'best for bored children'

(D.T. 27/10-8)

249- S-W Africa self-rule 'unlikely'

(D.T. 15/11-4)

250- Food prices stable

(D.T. 8/12-1)

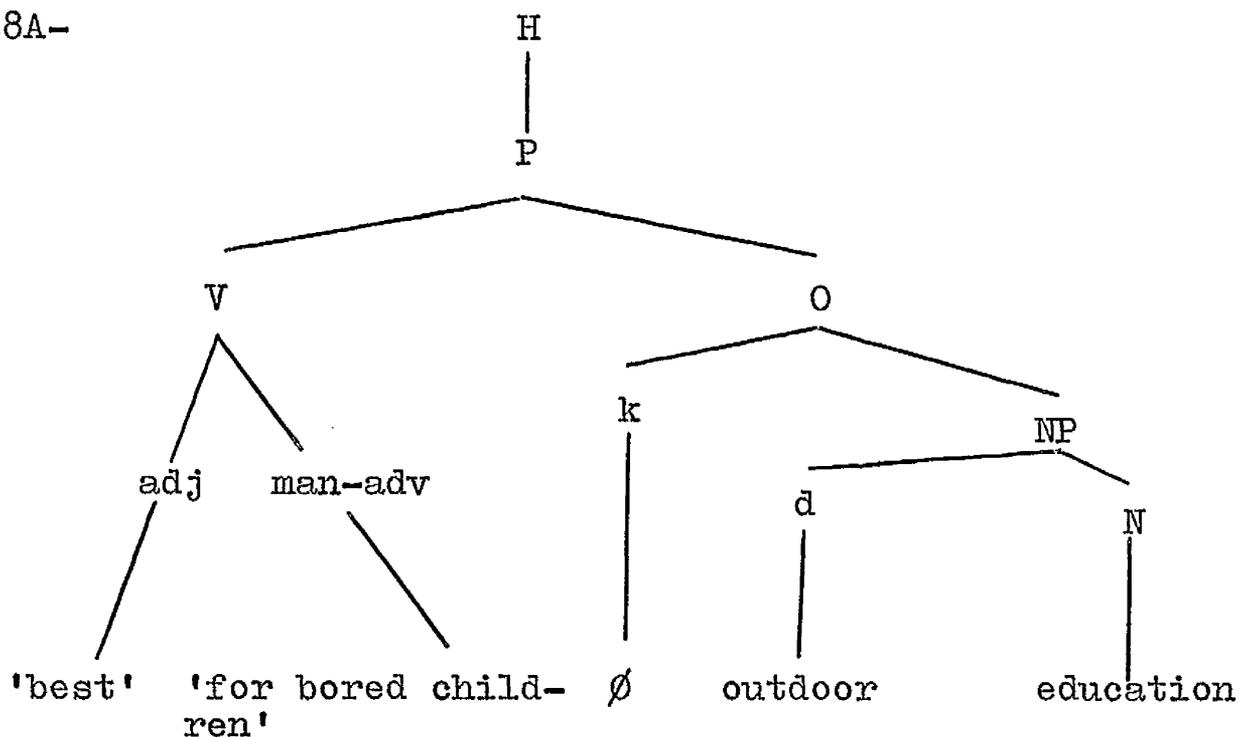
251- Leaflet 'appalling'

(T.G. 2/11-5)

252- EEC meetings in secrecy 'not democratic'

(T.T. 17/7-2)<sup>(1)</sup>

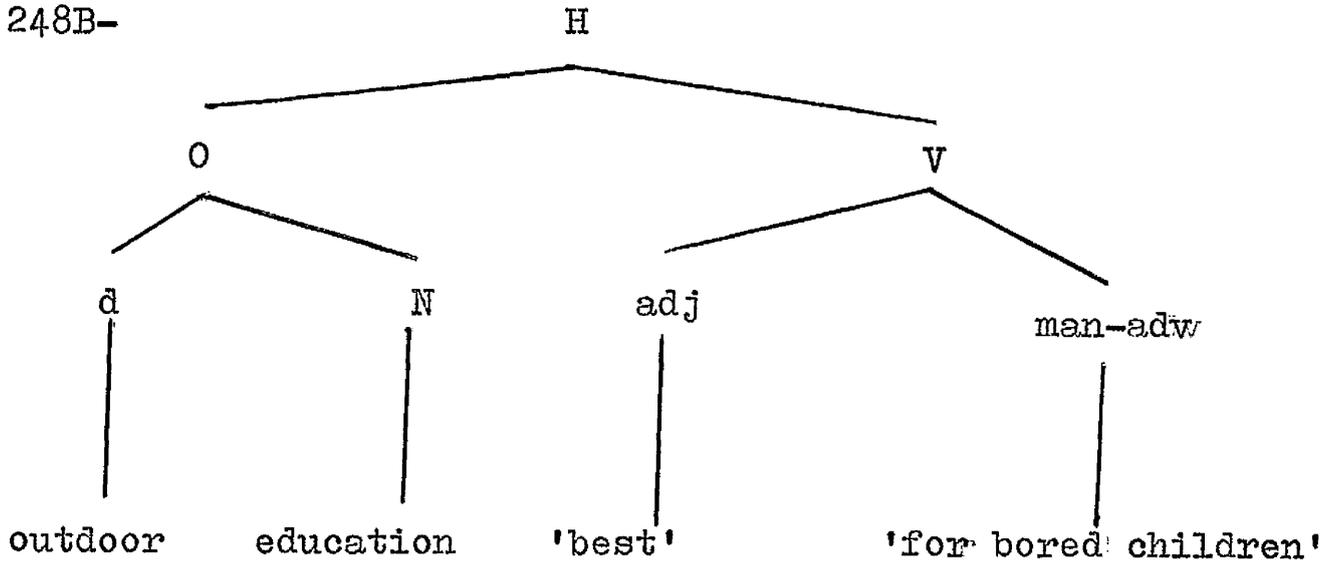
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248A-



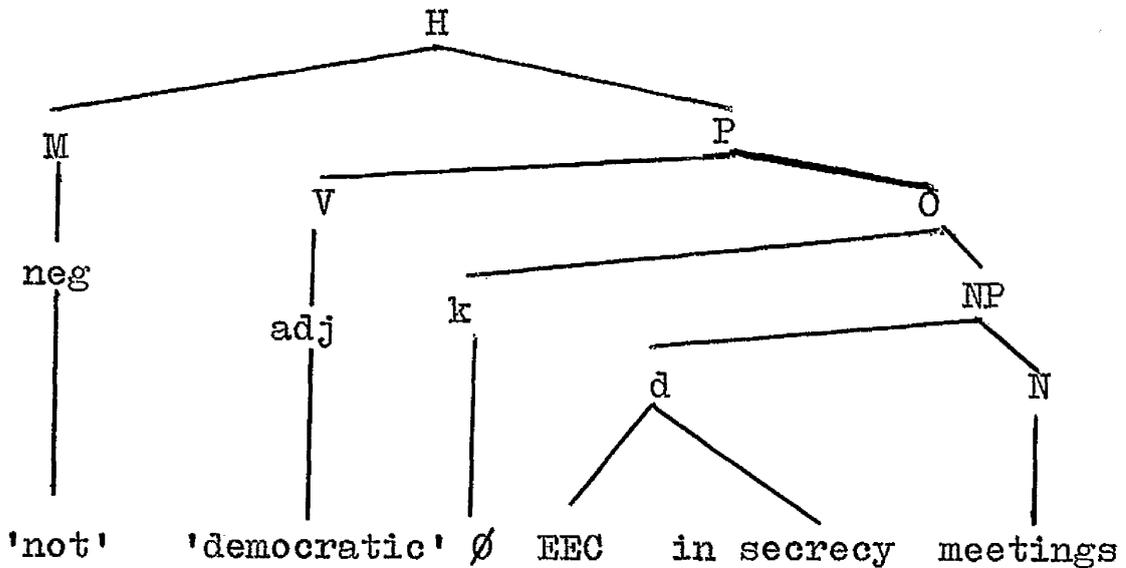
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(1) Note that the inverted commas present in the above items are here regarded as a semantic feature occurring in the deep structure and attached to certain lexical elements.

By virtue of 'Rule i' subject-fronting takes effect:

248B-

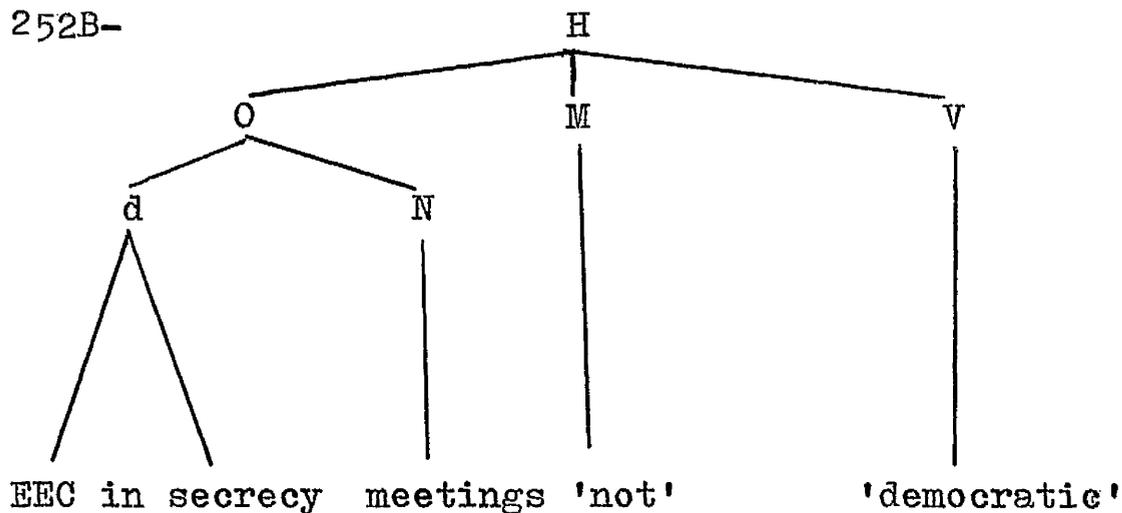


252A-



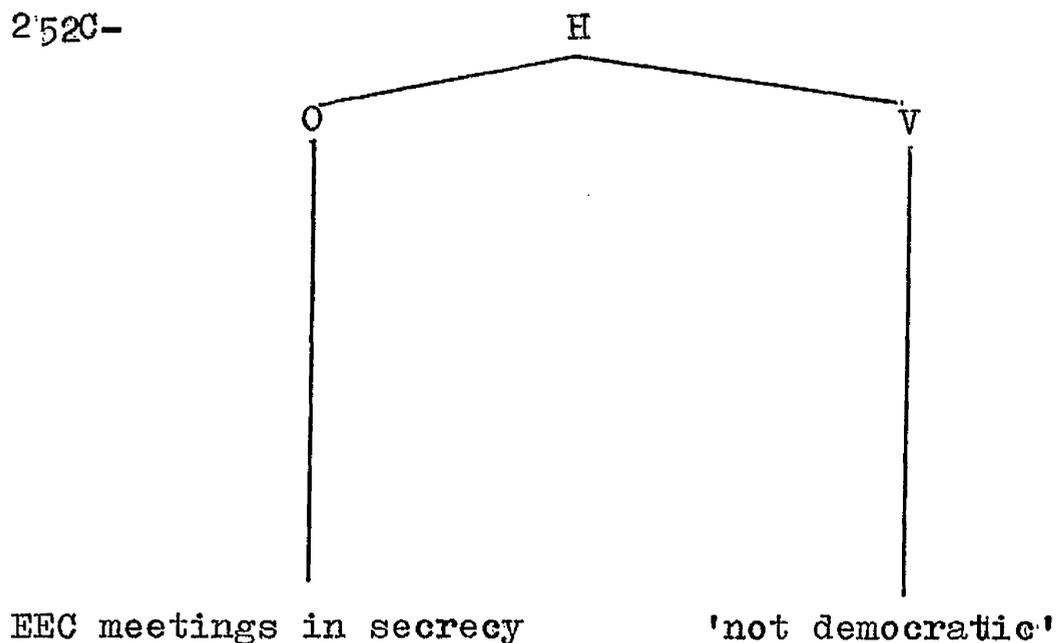
'Rule i' effects subject-fronting:

252B-



The d-node has two elements, the second of which is a phrase, 'Rule iv' moves this element to the post-nominal position; and negation is incorporated into the V.

252C-

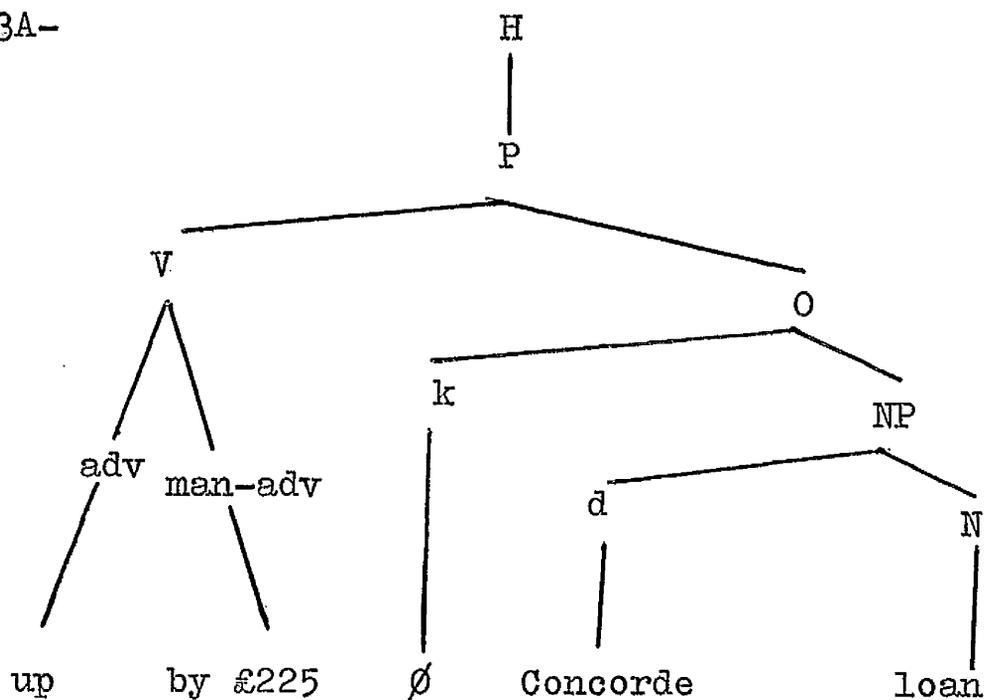


VI. 3. 1. 3. Subpattern 'c' of Pattern 1 (adv as V)

This subpattern includes heads with an O and a V, where the V-node is filled by an adverbial. What was said in the preceding section, concerning the branching of the V-node, applies also to the first of the items quoted below. This item has an adverbial construction filling the V-node. The first part of the construction, the lexical element up, is the adv, and the second part of the item, the lexical elements by £225, is realized as the man-adv 'under V.' The rest of the items have simple V-nodes, i.e., nodes consisting of one constituent. The following five heads represent this subpattern; and are followed by the illustrated surface-selection rules for the first and the last items:

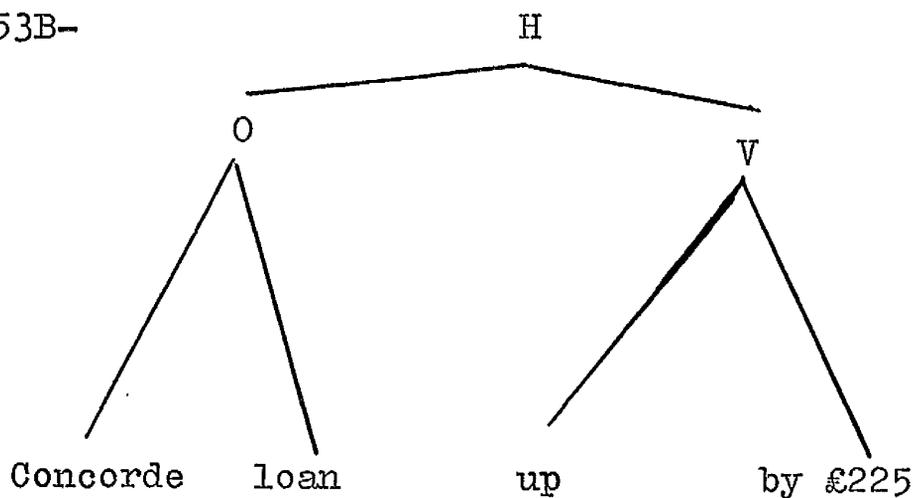
- 253- Concorde loan up by £225 (D.T. 24/11-9)
- 254- 18 m eggs off market as glut cuts prices (T.T. 12/7-1)
- 255- Inquiry report by Friday (S.T. 13/2-1)
- 256- McGovern campaign in full spate (T.T. 1/11-6)
- 257- Three-man strike now in second year (D.T. 8/12-8)

253A-

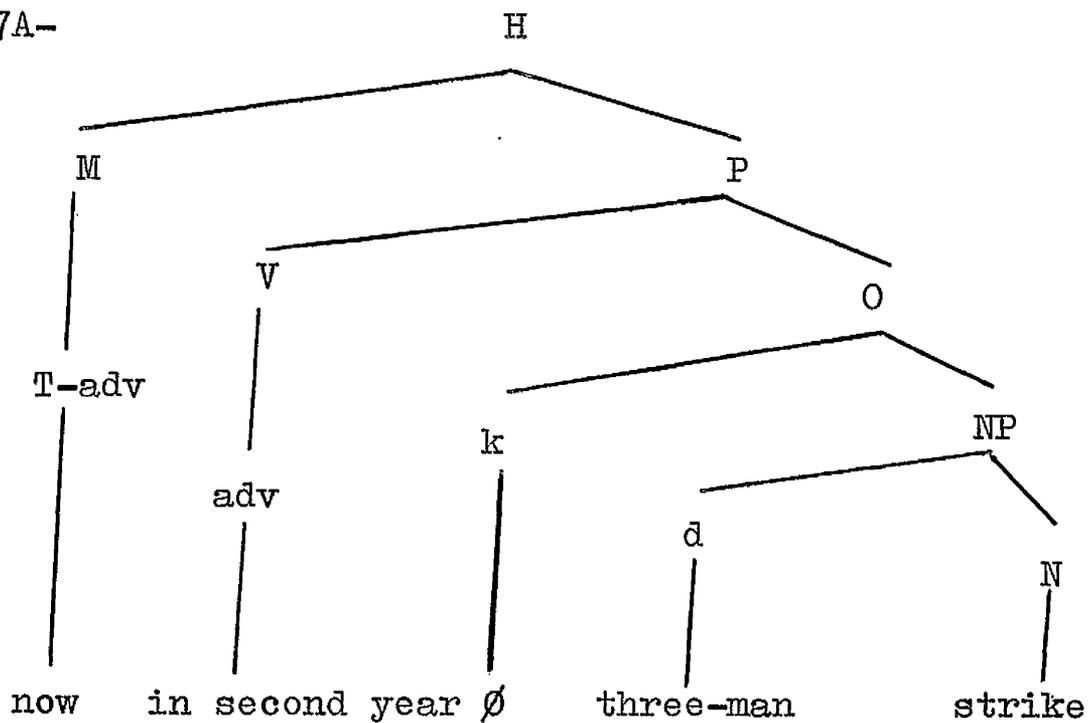


'Rule i' moves the Objective Case-category to the front --which is all that is needed for the surface-selection process of this item:

253B-

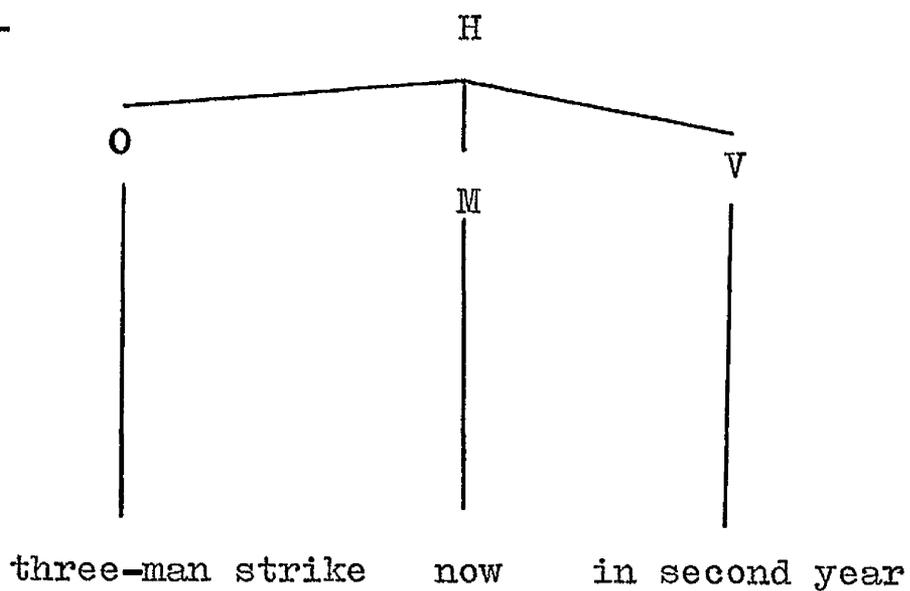


257A-



By virtue of 'Rule i,' we get the surface structure shown in '257B:'

257B-



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VI. 3. 1. 4. Subpattern 'd' of Pattern 1 (NP as V)

This last subpattern of Pattern 1 includes heads with O's and V's, where the V-node is filled by an NP-construction. The NP-node may only have an N as a constituent (as in 'Item 258'), an N plus one adjectival element 'under the d-node' (as in Items '259, 261'), or an N plus more than one adjectival element (as in 'Item 260').

This subpattern is represented by four items, the first and the last of which are shown in 'static' tree diagrams illustrating their basic structure. The generation process, from basic to surface, is very much the same as in the previously illustrated cases.

258- IBA adverts standards 'nonsense' (D.T. 20/11-8)

259- Bilingual signs 'traffic hazard' (T.G. 4/12-7)

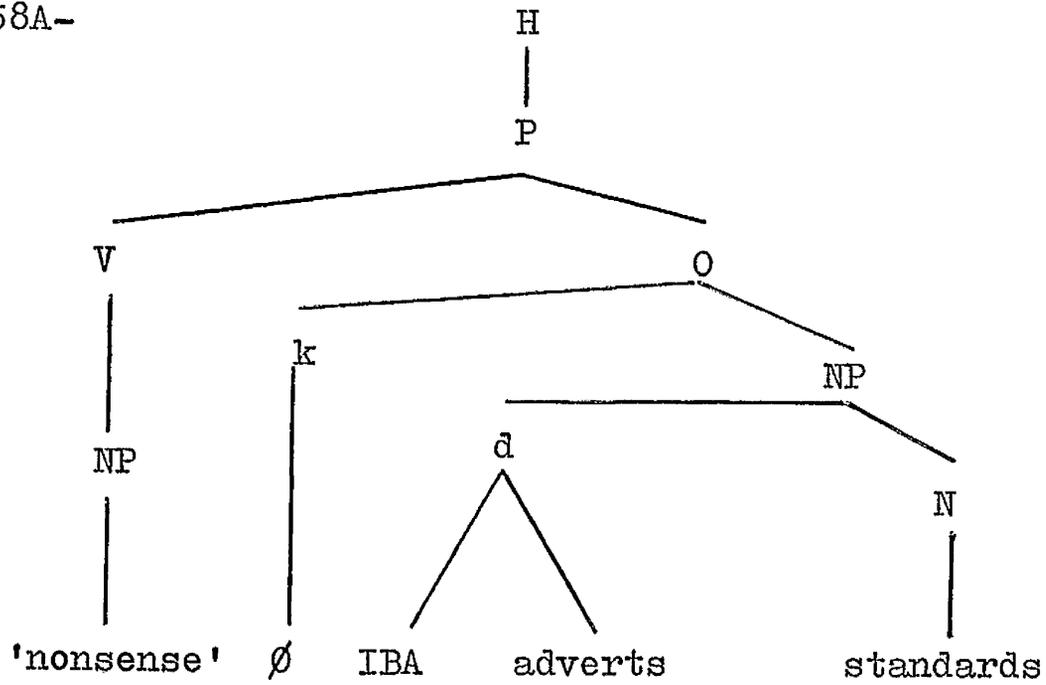
260- X marks censors' tender spot (T.G. 4/12-1)

261- Most package trips to Spain 'good value'

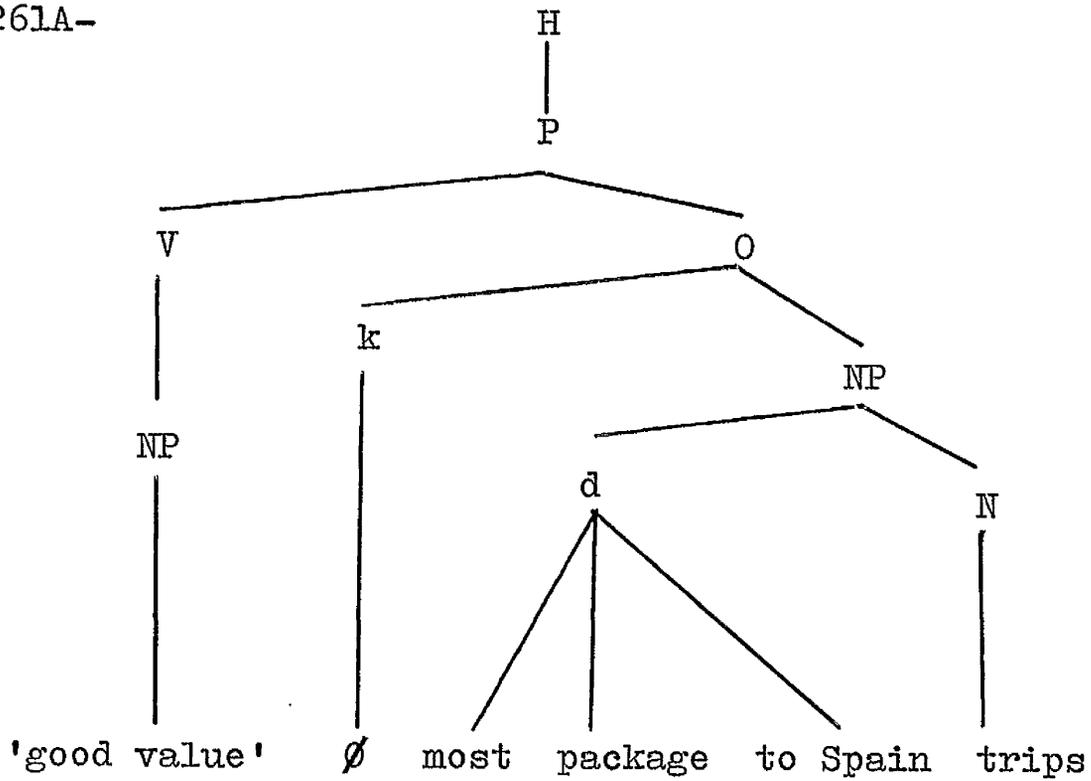
(T.T. 6/1-3)

(Note that, in 'Item 261,' the prepositional phrase to Spain is the only constituent of d that is to be moved to the post-nominal position, by virtue of 'Rule iv'.)

258A-



261A-



### VI. 3. 2. Pattern 2: Dative/Verbal

Items belonging to this pattern usually indicate an event or a mental state befalling or affecting some person. The person is perceived as the Dative, and the happening or state as the V. The surface-placement order is always D - V.

To recapitulate, the V-node was expanded into a verb, an adj, an adv, an NP, or a typo (cf. 'V.1.'). However, only the first three of these five alternatives are potential constituents of the V in Pattern 2. These three alternatives are discussed in the following three sections.

#### VI. 3. 2. 1. Subpattern 'a' of Pattern 2 (verb as V)

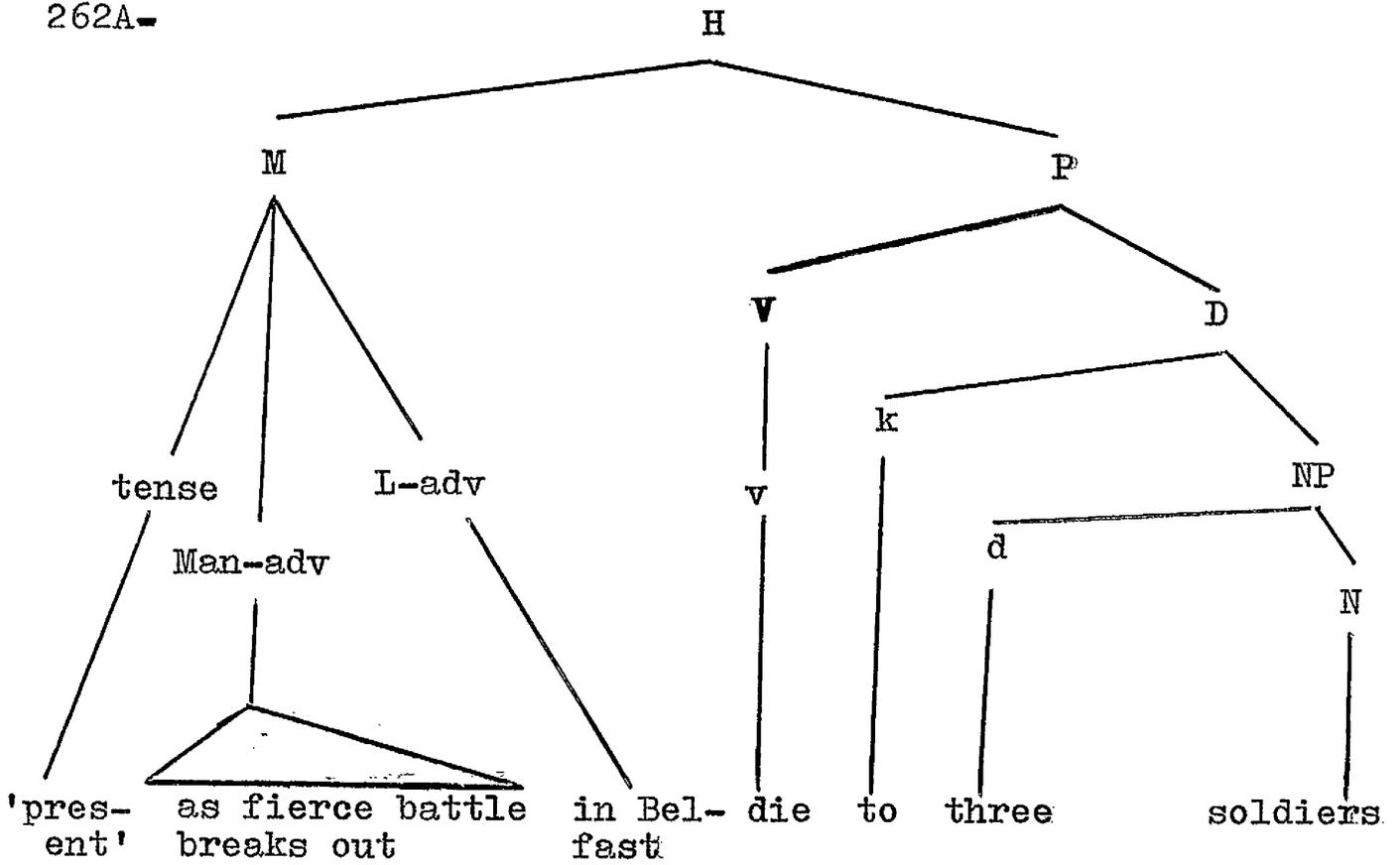
This subpattern includes heads with a Dative and a Verbal, where the Verbal-node is filled by a verb. The verb in this case is, in the majority of cases, in the Past Tense. The only other alternative is the Present Simple Tense, in which case the only two verbs that were found to occur in our data were the intransitive verb 'to die' and the verb 'to lose' used intransitively. (It is interesting to note here that

although there are many other intransitive verbs in English whose 'subject' can be understood as the person affected by the state or action, such as deteriorate, grow, disappear, etc.; only the two mentioned verbs occurred in our data.)

This subpattern is represented below by ten items. The generation process of the first and the last of these items is subsequently shown through tree diagrams.

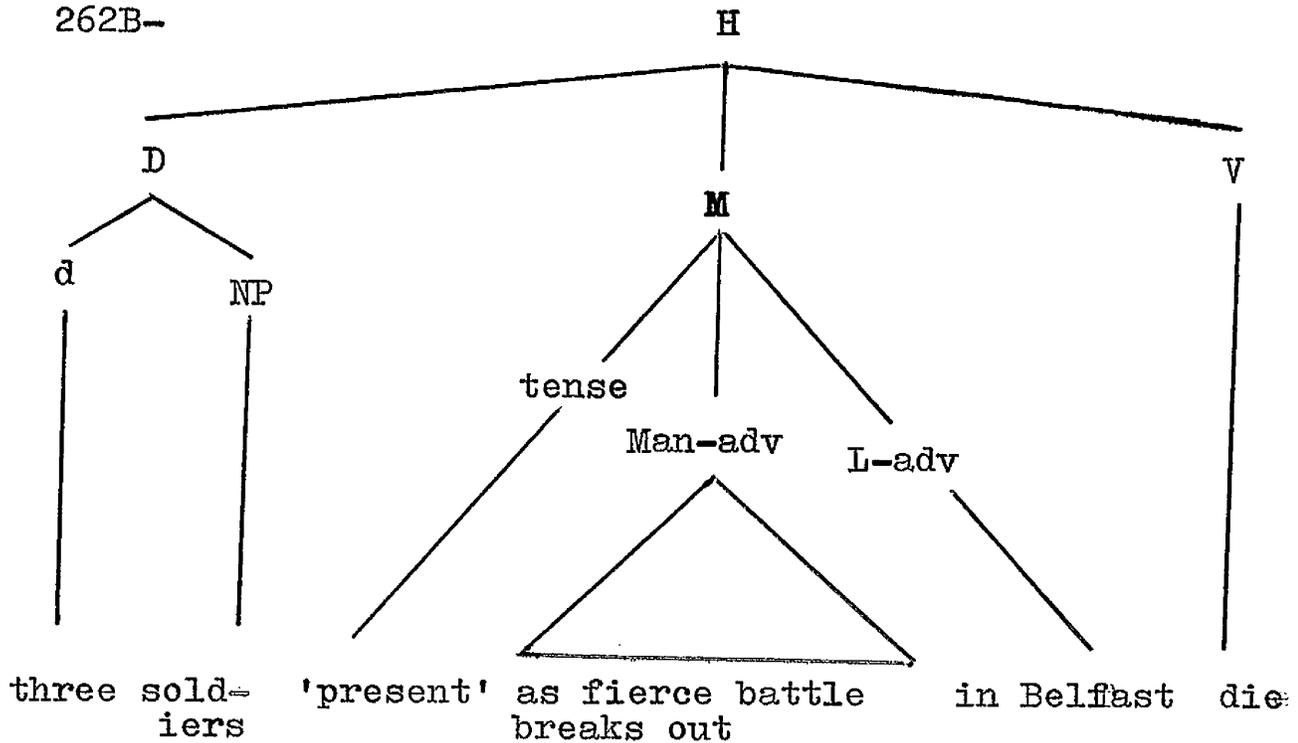
- 262- Three soldiers die as fierce battle breaks out in  
Belfast (T.T. 14/7-1)
- 263- Mr Uffa Fox, boat designer, dies aged 74  
(T.T. 27/10-1)
- 264- One of shot family dies (T.G. 9/11-1)
- 265- 14 die in air crash (S.T. 4/6-1)
- 266- School milk rebels lose (S.T. 2/1-3)
- 267- Swimming star cleared of drugs charge  
(D.T. 8/12-3)
- 268- Michael X arrested heading for Brazil  
(T.T. 2/3-1)
- 269- Baby girl snatched (S.T. 5/11-1)
- 270- Nine killed in French cable-car test (T.T. 27/10-1)
- 271- Naval officer and director sent for trial  
(T.T. 12/7-2)

262A-



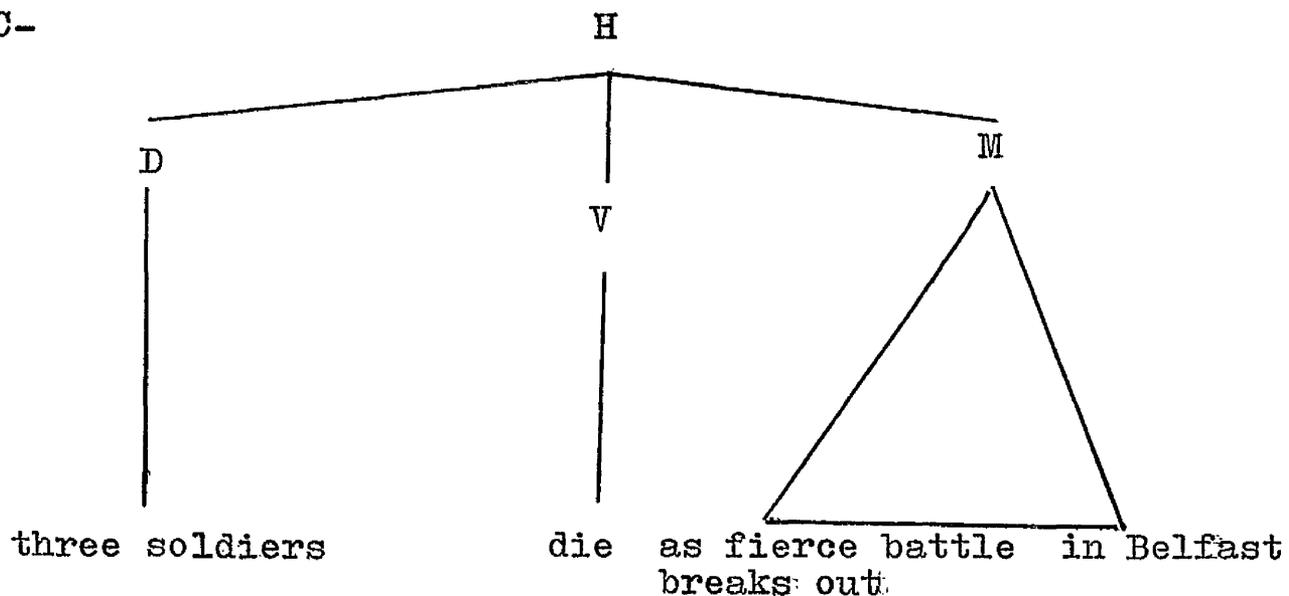
By virtue of 'Rule i,' this becomes:

262B-

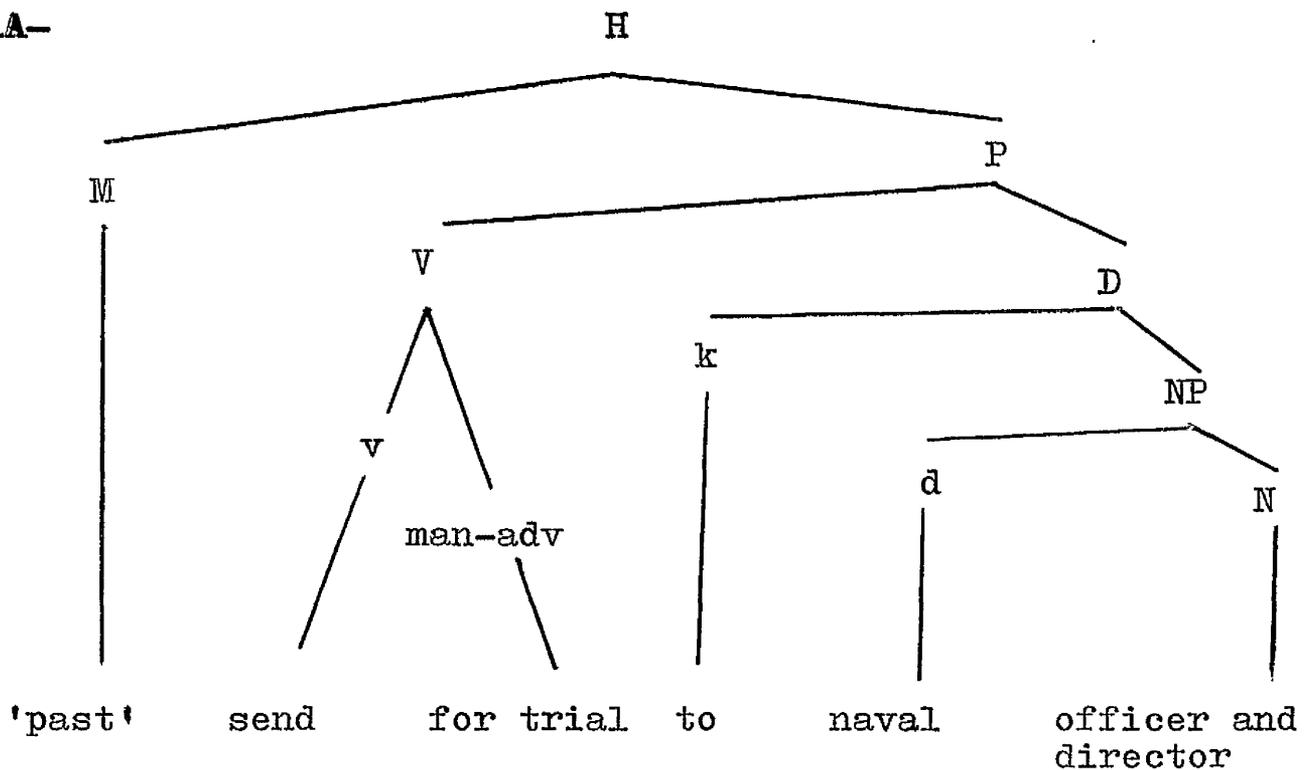


And by applying 'Rules ii and iii', we arrive at the terminal string of the Item:

262C-

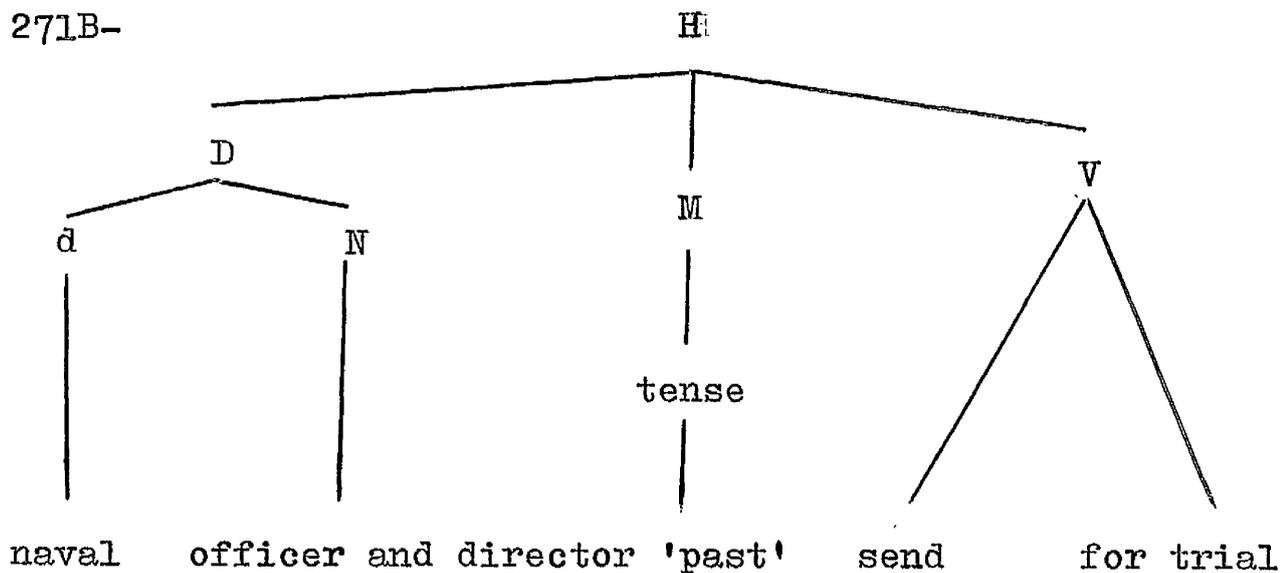


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271A-



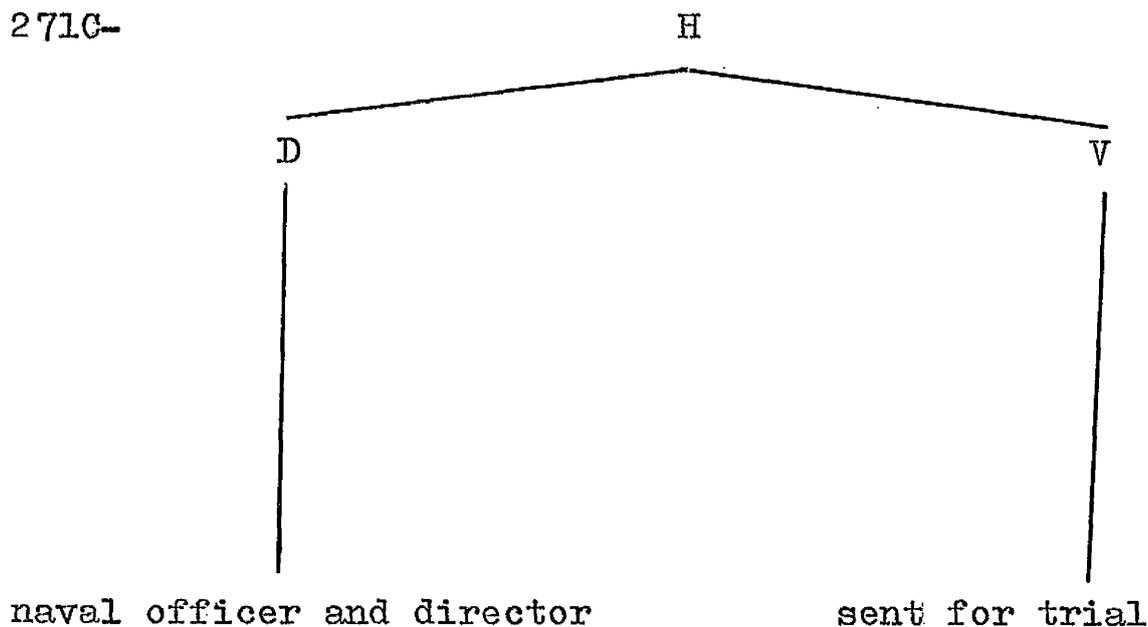
By virtue of 'Rule i,' this becomes:

271B-



Then 'Rule ii' is applied (taking into consideration our rules for the morphological structure of verbs with regard to tense, which stipulate that ed<sub>2</sub> occurs after D):

271C-



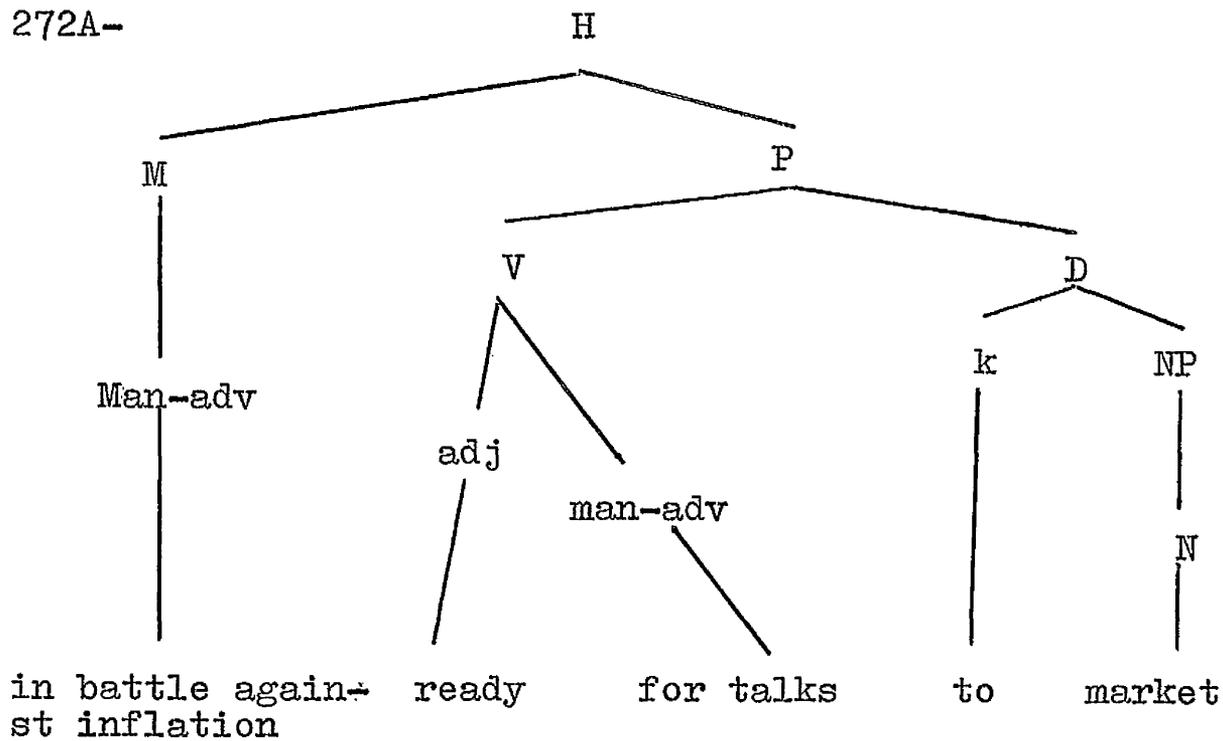
VI. 3. 2. 2. Subpattern 'b' of Pattern 2 (adj as V)

This subpattern includes heads with a D and a V, where an adj-element fills the V-node. What was said above about adjectivals and the man-adv nodes that could be attached to them (cf. 'VI.3.1.2.') applies here as well. The first of the examples given below ('Item 272') has the adjectival construction ready for talks. This construction is realized as an adj ready and a man-adv for talks. Note also that the D-node is filled by an inanimate noun which is, however, considered here as representing a group of people 'a human institution, etc.' (cf. 'V.2.2.2.').

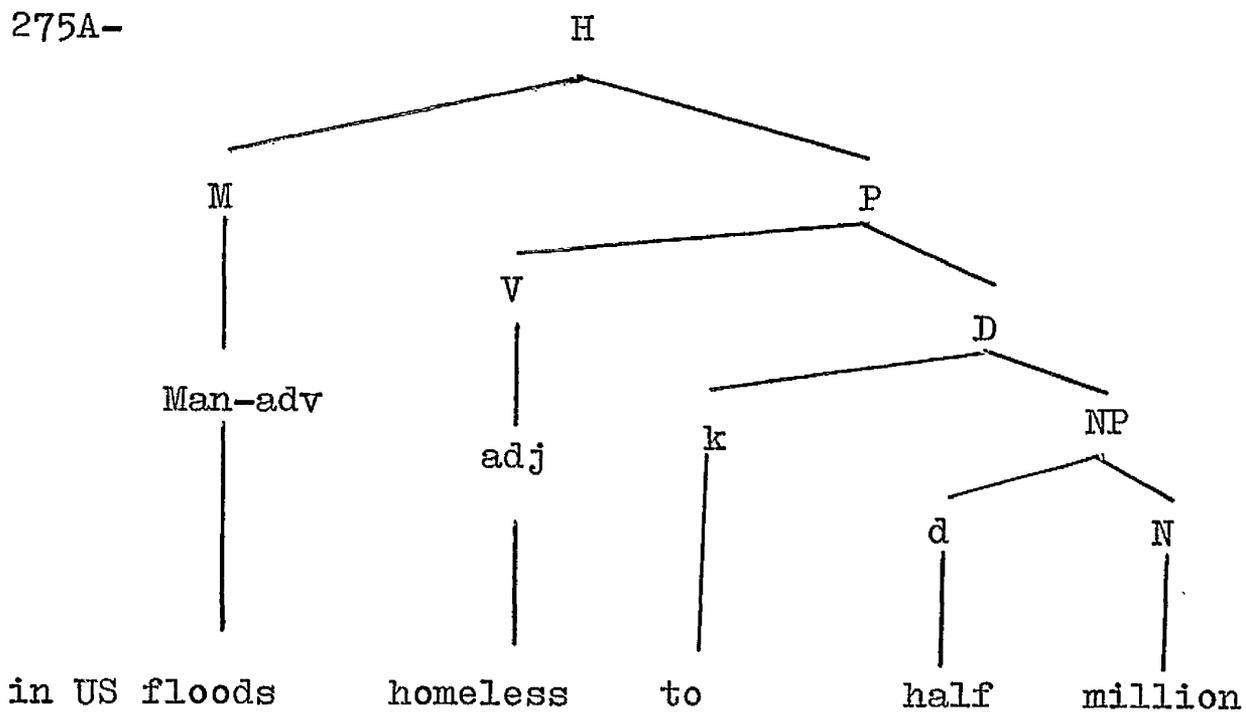
Examples of this subpattern are given below; the first and the last of which are shown in static tree diagrams illustrating their basic structure.

- 272- Market ready for talks in battle against inflation (D.T. 15/11-4)
- 273- Many Canadians still undecided in last days before election (T.T. 27/10-8)
- 274- Footballer 'very ill' (S.T. 2/1-1)
- 275- Half million homeless in US floods (S.T. 25/6-1)

272A-



275A-



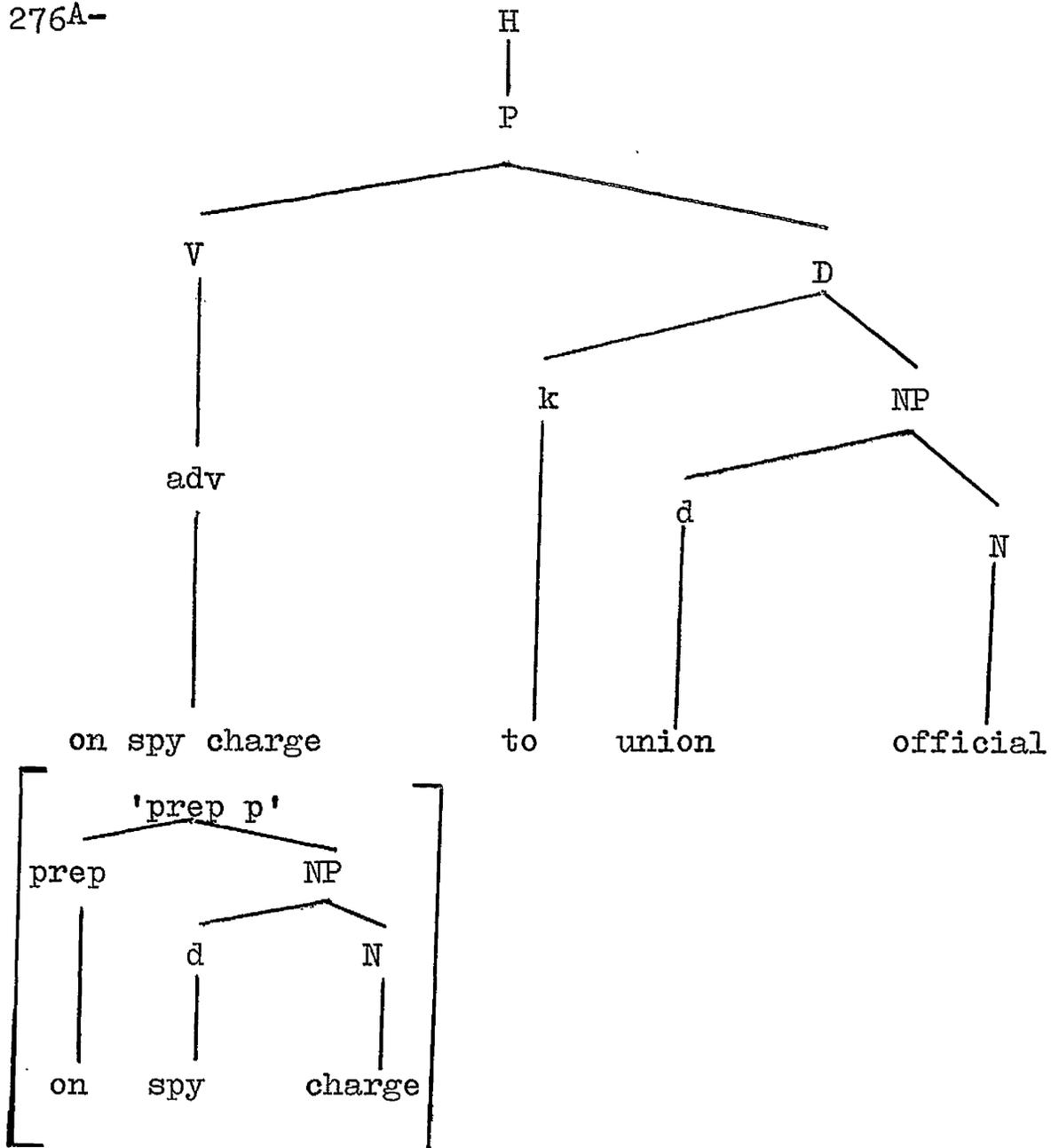
VI. 3. 2. 3. Subpattern 'c' of Pattern 2 (adv as V)

This subpattern includes heads with a D and a V, where the V is an adv. The adv-element is always an adverbial prepositional phrase (i.e., in the context where it follows a D). The prepositional phrase may be expanded, as in the Norm, into a preposition and an NP which, in turn, may be expanded into a d plus an N.

Five examples illustrate this subpattern. The Surface-Selection Rules are illustrated, for the first and the last of these items, through tree diagrams:

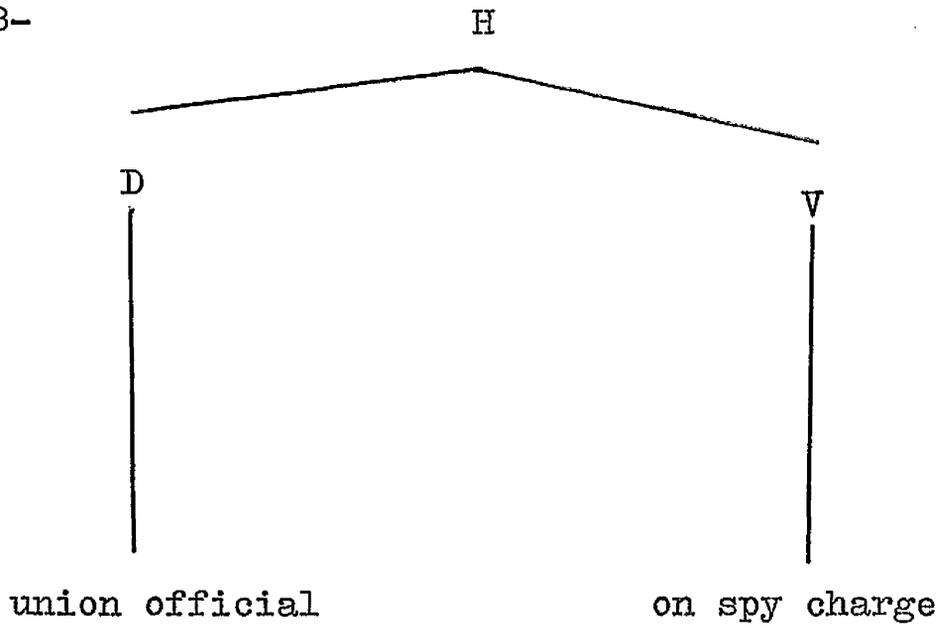
- |  |                |
|--|----------------|
| 276- Union official on spy charge                      | (T.G. 27/9-4)  |
| 277- Trawlers in gale trouble                          | (S.T. 29/10-1) |
| 278- New York airport hostess on drug smuggling charge | (T.T. 3/3-7)   |
| 279- Farm men under fire                               | (T.G. 27/9-3)  |
| 280- Party in rift over Union                          | (D.T. 6/11-8)  |
-

276A-

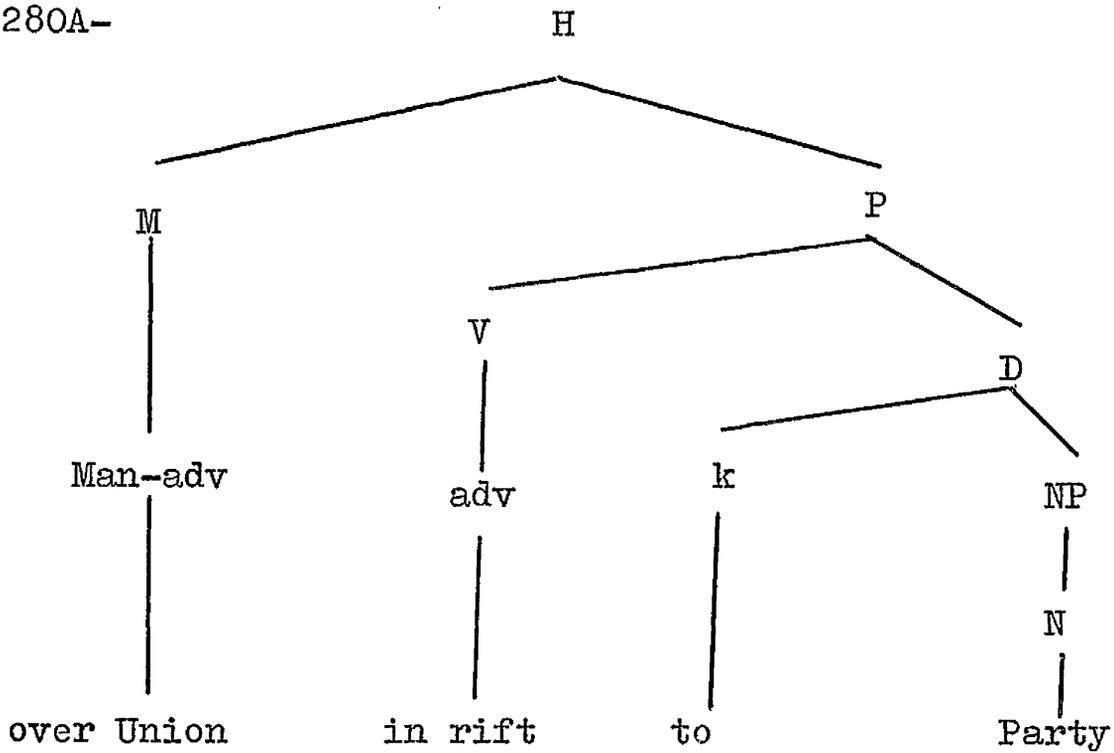


By application of 'Rule i,' the D-node is front-shifted; its k-node is deleted:

276B-

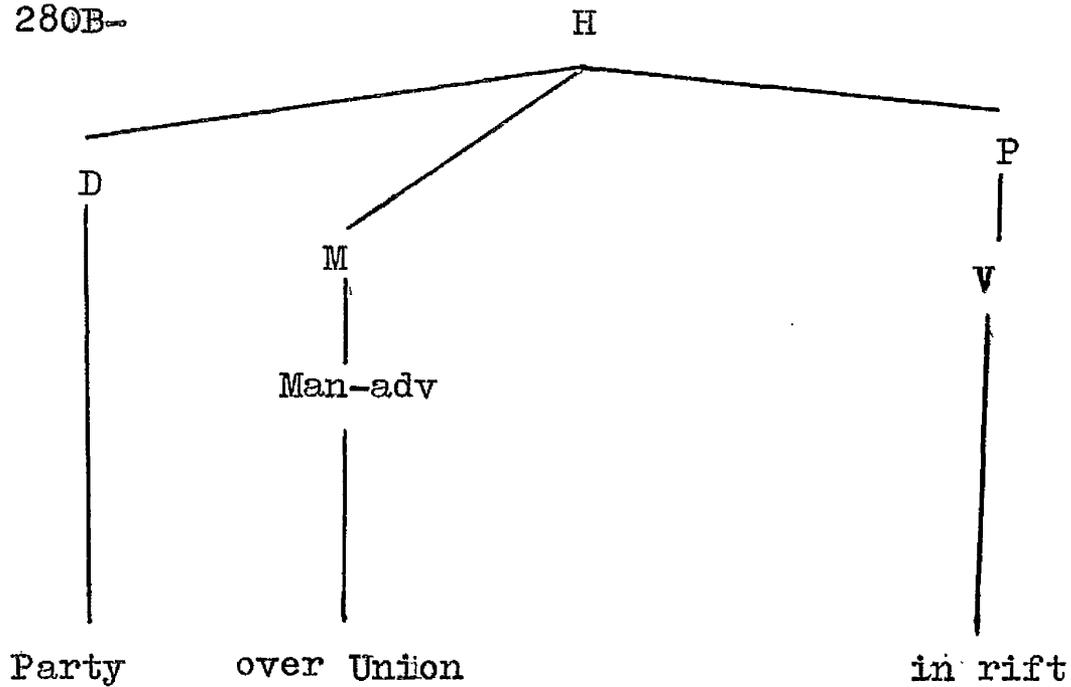


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280A-



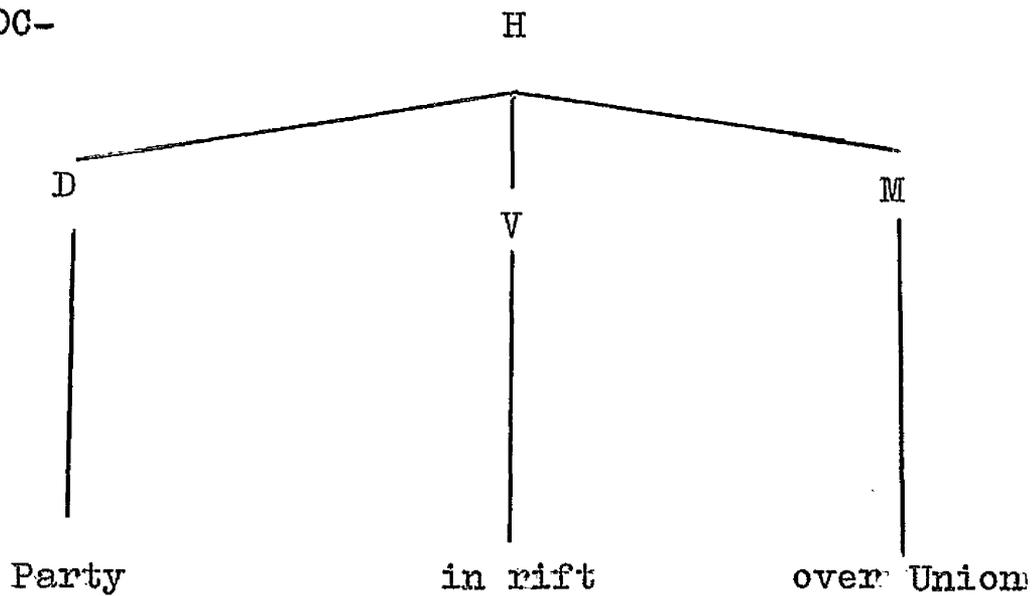
By virtue of 'Rule i,' this becomes:

280B-



Then 'Rule iii' shifts the M-adv to the right-hand side of the string:

280C-



### VI. 3. 3. Pattern 3: Agentive/Verbal (Sentence)

The surface-placement order of items of this pattern is always A - V, unless the Verbal element is the verb 'to say' or a typo element, in which case there will be an S and the two possibilities A - V - S and S - V - A occur. (This latter case is discussed separately in 'VI.3.3.3.' below.) Out of the five possible types of constituent of the V-node, only verbs and adverbials are potential components for the sequence A - V; only verbs and typo's for the sequence A - V - S (or 'S - V - A'). The two former cases (i.e., of v and adv as V) are discussed in subpatterns 'a' and 'b'; the two latter cases (i.e., of v and typo as V) are discussed in subpattern 'c'.

#### VI. 3. 3. 1. Subpattern 'a' of Pattern 3 (verb as V)

This subpattern includes heads with an A and a V, where the V is a verb. When the Agentive, as the only Case-category in an item, is followed by a verb, the verb is always of the intransitive type. The verb is either in the Present Simple Tense or in the Future

Tense. The Future Tense, as was indicated in 'V.3.1.,' has the morphological structure to+infinitive verb-form. Six items illustrate the first type of v; three items illustrate the second. These are then followed by illustrative tree diagrams showing the generation process.

items with verbs in the Present Simple Tense:

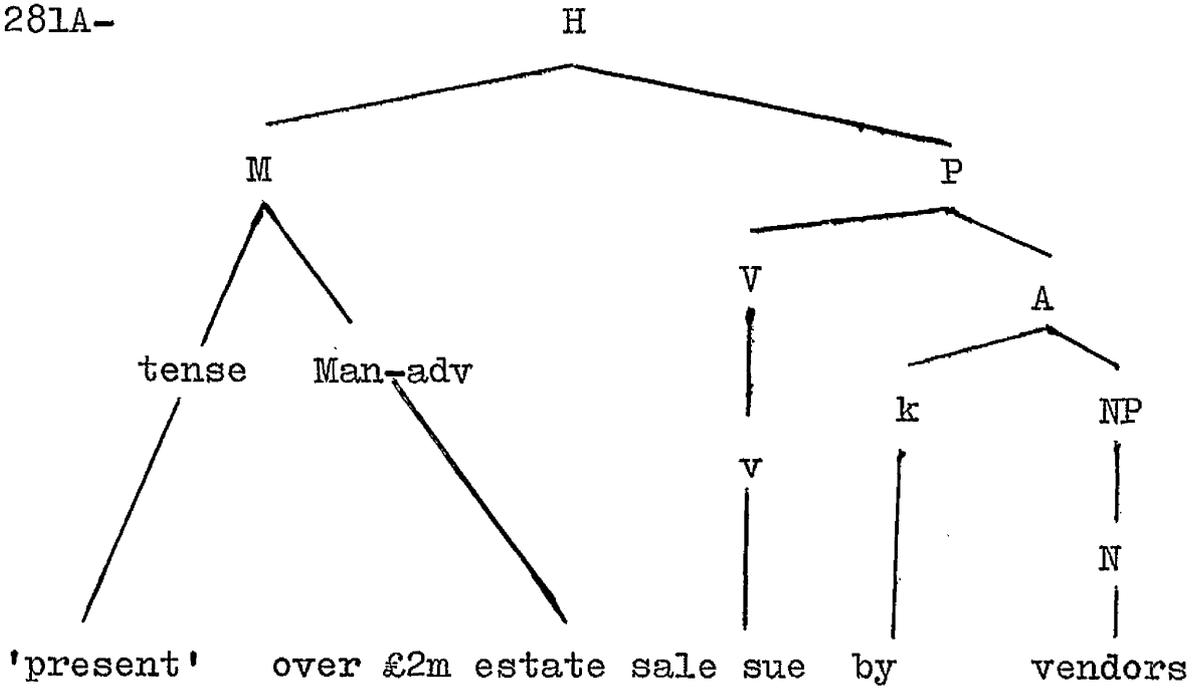
- 281- Vendors sue over £2m estate sale (T.T. 12/7-2)  
 282- Government resign in Belgium (D.T. 23/11-4)  
 283- Yugoslav liberal quits (S.T. 29/10-1)  
 284- Father sues over 'mouldy' hotel (D.T. 20/11-17)  
 285- Mrs Whitehouse crusades towards the White House  
 (S.T. 29/10-3)  
 286- Mr Maudling resigns over Poulson case  
 (T.T. 19/7-1)

items with verbs in the Future Tense:

- 287- Labour MP to quit (S.T. 27/2-1)  
 288- Jane Fonda to wed again (S.T. 10/12-1)  
 289- 'Fortune' soldier to sue (T.T. 1/11-4)

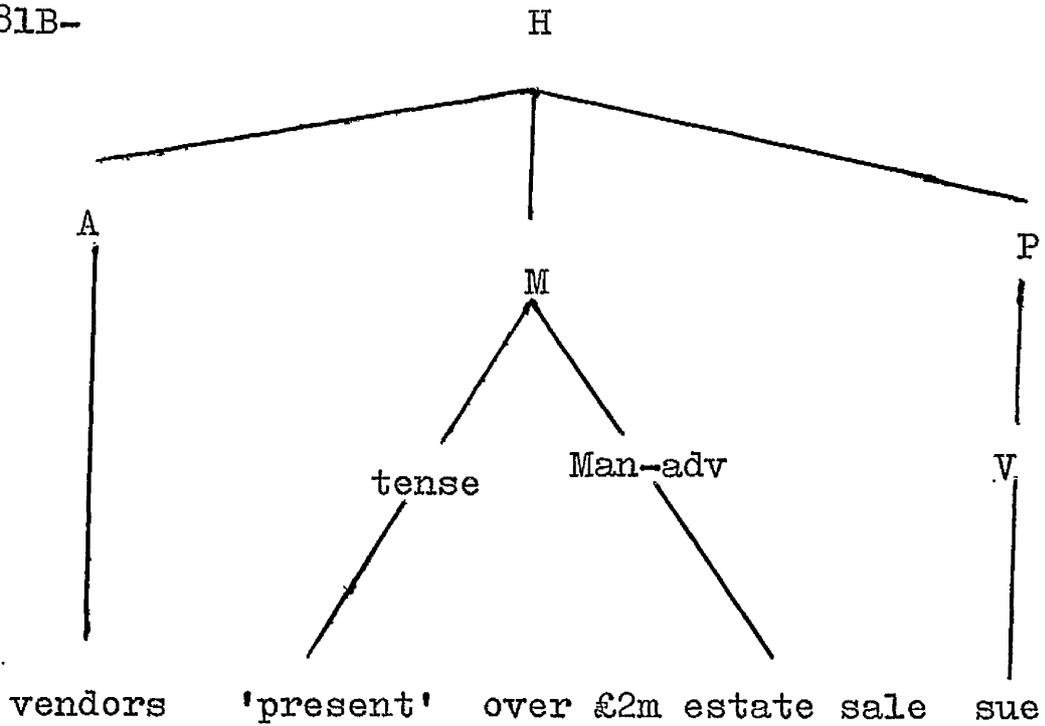
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 The generation processes for 'Items 281 & 287' run as follows:

281A-



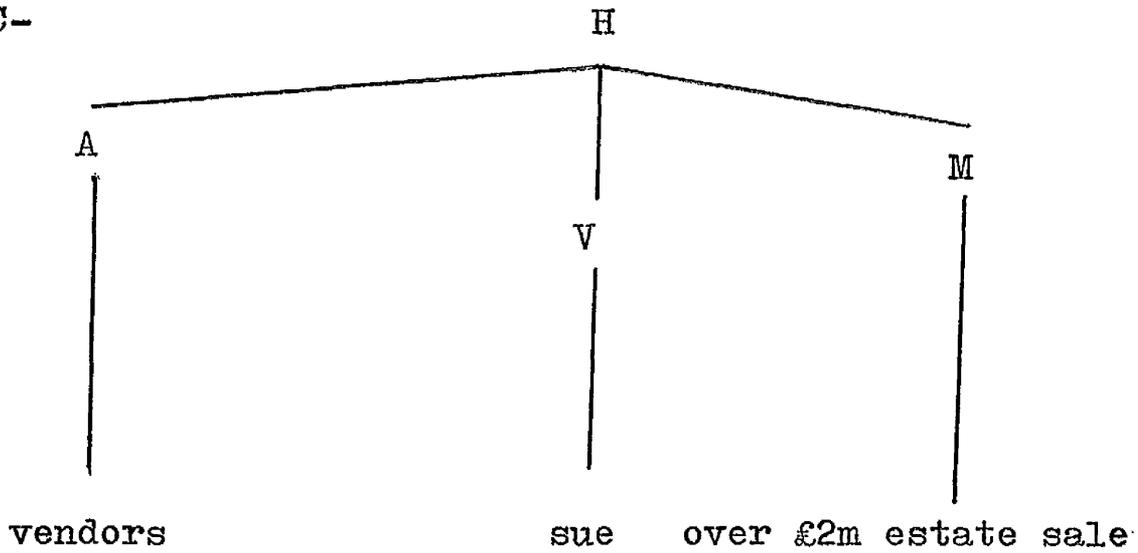
By virtue of 'Rule i,' this becomes:

281B-

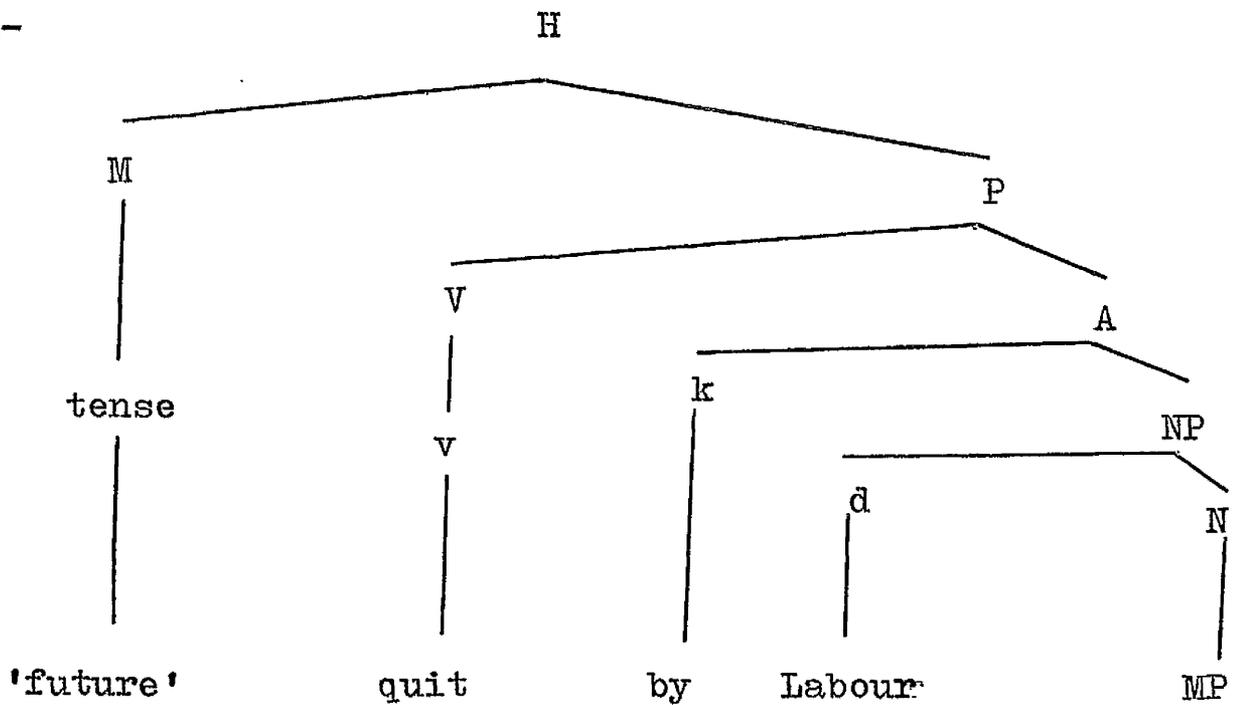


'Rule ii' incorporates tense in the v; and 'Rule iii' shifts the adv to the end of the string:

281C-

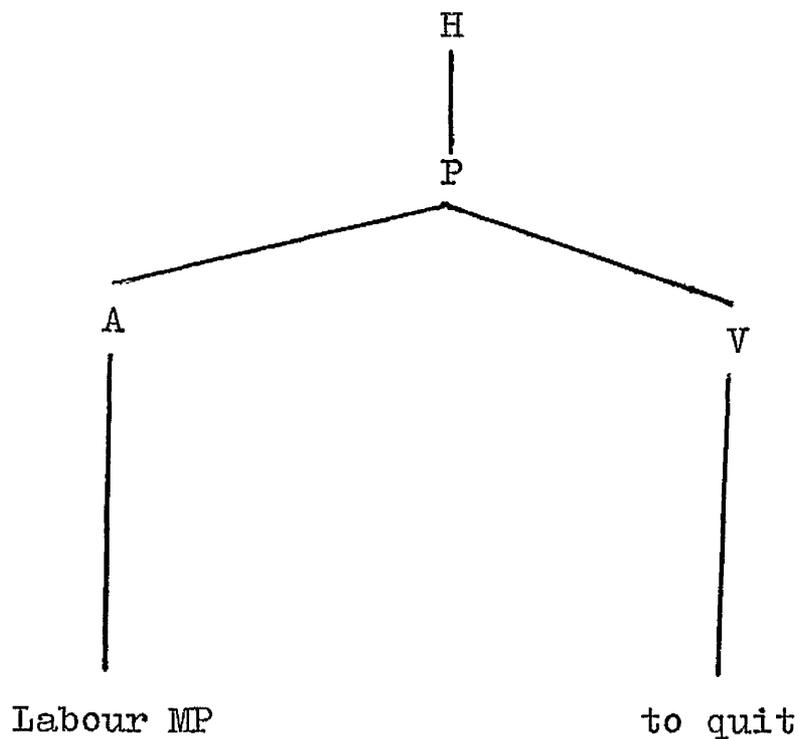


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287A-



A is fronted, and the k-node deleted (by virtue of 'Rule i'); by virtue of 'Rule ii,' tense is incorporated, e.g.,

287B-



#### VI. 3. 3. 2. Subpattern 'b' of Pattern 3 (adv as V)

This subpattern includes heads with an A and a V, where the V is an adv. The adv-construction is always an adverbial prepositional phrase --in most cases with the preposition in. The NP's in initial position in the following items are perceived as Agentives, i.e.,

not as Datives, on the grounds that the whole item, in such a case, is capable of 'imperative-mood' transformation (cf. 'V.2.').

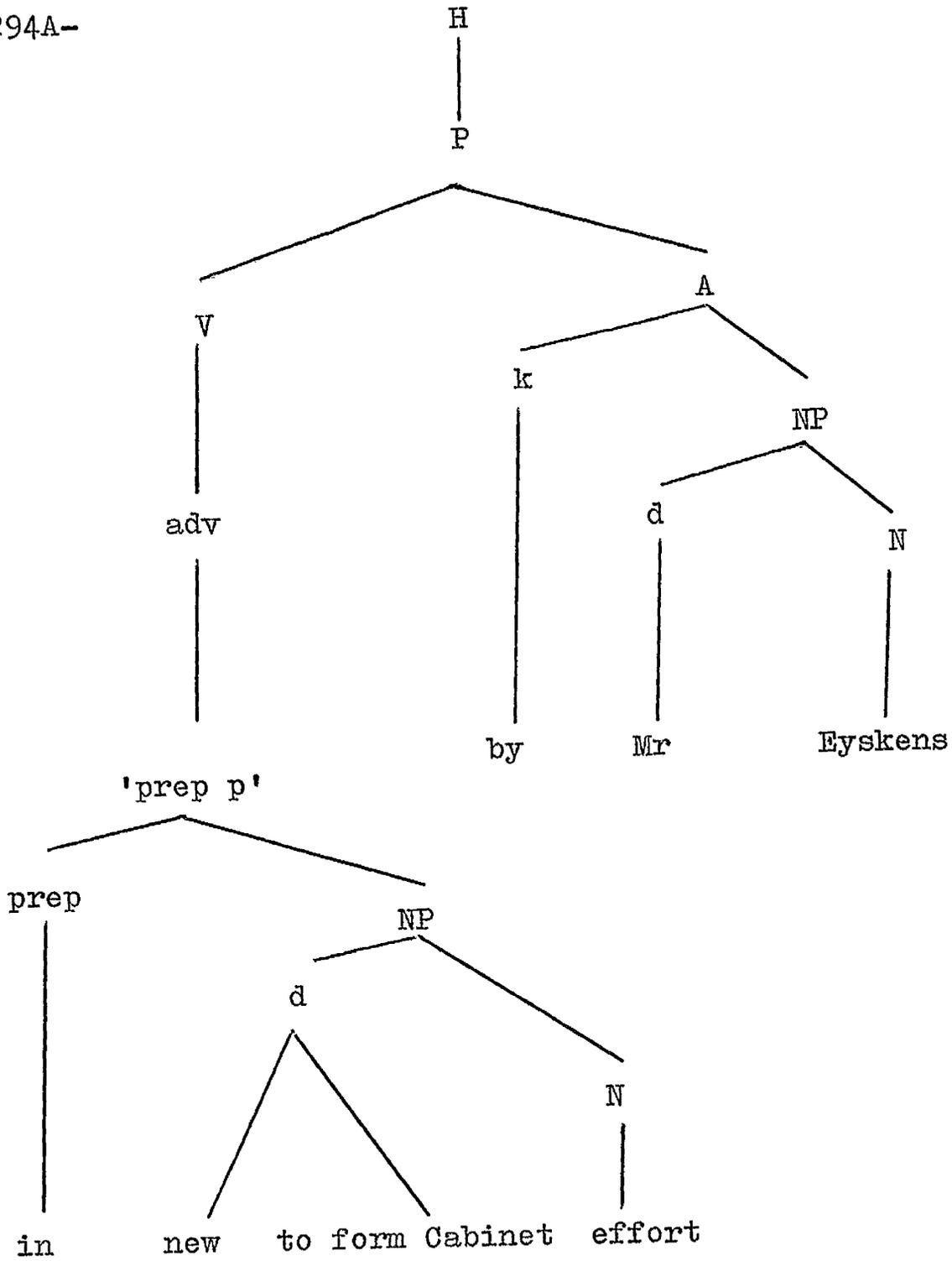
Five items exemplify this subpattern; they are subsequently followed by a static tree diagram showing the basic-structure constituents of the last item.

- 290- Police at hospital (S.T. 2/1-1)  
 291- Mr Walker in Piccadilly talks (T.T. 6/5-1)  
 292- Herr Barzel in London talks on Europe  
 (T.T. 12/7-5)  
 293- Mr Trudeau in talks at Chequers (T.T. 5/12-5)  
 294- Mr Eyskens in new effort to form Cabinet  
 (T.T. 7/1-4)

-----

(Note that for 'Item 294,' whose basic structure is illustrated by the following tree diagram, all that is needed for the generation of its surface structure, besides the 'Subject-Fronting Rule,' is 'Rule iv' which shifts the attributive clause to form Cabinet from the pre-nominal position shown in the diagram to the post-nominal position.)

294A-



### VI. 3. 3. 3. Subpattern 'c' of Pattern 3 (A/V/S)

Items of this subpattern have the surface placement order A - V - S or S - V - A. The difference in surface-sequential order between the alternatives is mainly due to stylistic --rather than syntactic-- factors. This means that either sequence is acceptable as a form of surface structure in Headlines. However, it was found that the S is front-shifted when there is a need to stress the semantic content of the S-node in contrast with the relatively unimportant, or commonplace, semantic content of the A-node. Quite often, heads with a front-shifted S include direct quotations of the speech of some politician or official --the important news element here being the specific wording of the speech rather than the identity of the speaker. Quotation marks may or may not be used. The first set of the following items represent heads with the surface-sequential order A - V - S, which is the normal order stipulated by the Subject-Fronting Rule (where A is the only Case-category in the sequence); the second set of items represent heads with the reversed sequential order, in which

case, the following 'context-sensitive rewrite' rule accounts for this alternation:

Rule v: For the basic-structure elements A, V, S,  
the surface sequence S - V - A is only  
chosen when the S is of the type S<sup>stressed</sup>.

-----  
items with the sequence A - V - S:

- 295- Majority say they'll pay more to keep trains  
running (S.T. 29/10-5)
- 296- Davey's mother says: I planned escape attempt  
(D.T. 11/10-1)
- 297- Wilson says: We will still win (S.T. 10/12-1)
- 298- Expert says signature on will was forgery  
(T.T. 31/10-2)

-----  
items with the sequence S - V - A:

- 299- Vietnam peace is at hand, says Kissinger  
(D.T. 27/10-1)
- 300- Talk, says Maudling (S.T. 2/1-2)
- 301- Not the shark's fault, says John (S.T. 23/4-1)
- 302- Spy story distorted says MP (D.T. 11/10-19)
-

Note also that for Subpattern 'c' of Pattern 3, not only v's are potential constituents of the V-node, but also typo's, e.g.,

128- Heath: let us work together

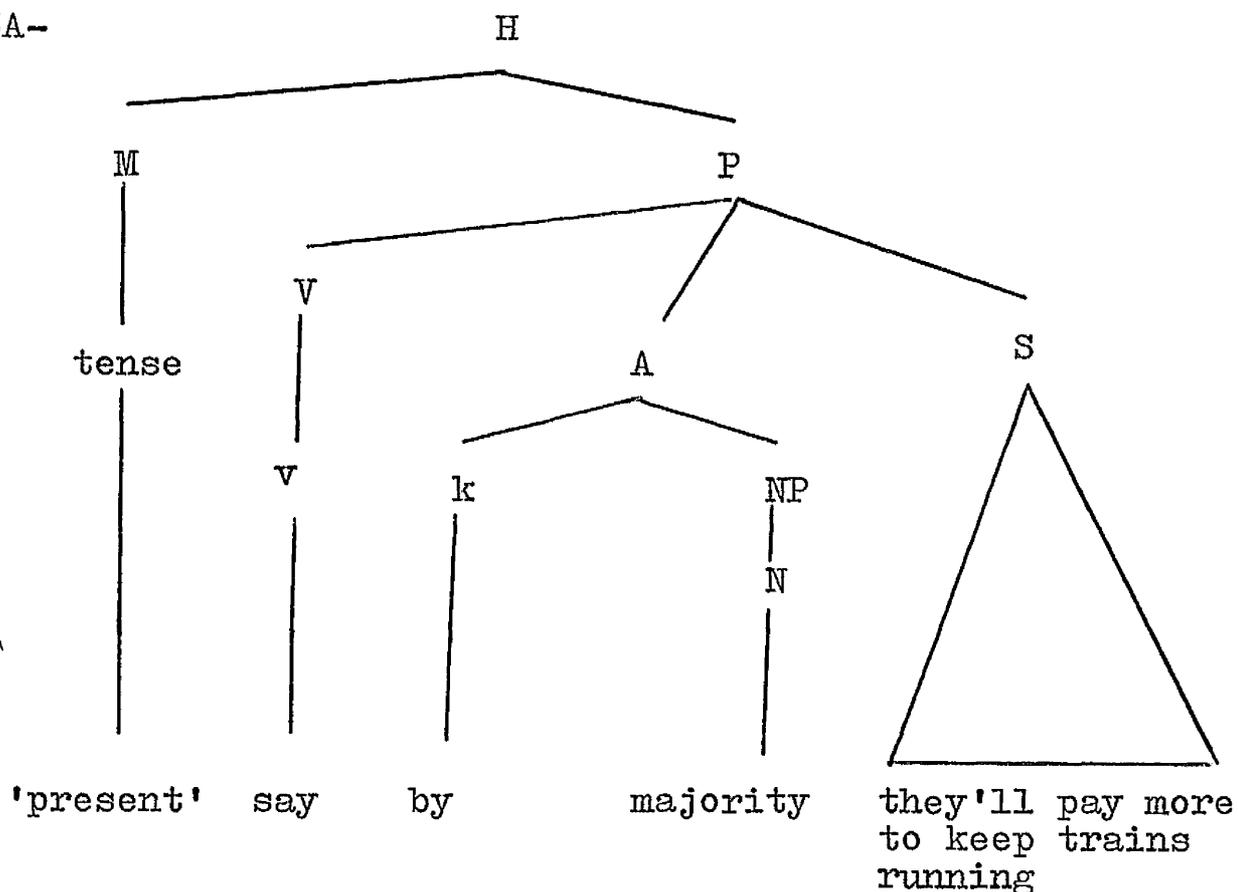
129- Stop picketing - Jones

303- Wilson: such is Heath's kingdom (S.T. 18/6-4)

The case of a typo-element filling the V-node has already been discussed, and our conception of regarding this typo as a basic-structure element has been illustrated (cf. 'IV.2.6.' for examples and tree diagrams).

The basic structure of 'Item 295' is illustrated by the following tree diagram; the generation process of this item only involves subject-fronting and tense absorption (these two processes are catered for by the Rules 'i and ii' of our Surface-Selection Rules). Note also that the tense in this item is the Present Simple Tense; this seems to be the case with all items of this Subpattern, which means that the verb 'to say' never occurs in its 'Past Tense' form in Headlines.

295A-



#### VI. 4. 'Group B' of the Verbal Multinodal Patterns

As there is only one potential constituent for the V-node (which is the verb) in all patterns of this group, subpatterning is irrelevant here. However, the different Tenses occurring in items of each pattern do have some bearing on our analysis; hence, the different Tenses in each pattern will be discussed separately --except for Patterns '7 & 8' where only

one possibility occurs.

To recapitulate, the four tenses set up for the description of Headlines are the Present Simple Tense represented morphologically by an -s verb-form, the Present Progressive Tense represented by an -ing verb-form, the Past Tense represented either by an -ed<sub>1</sub> verb-form or an -ed<sub>2</sub> verb-form, and the Future Tense represented by a to+infinitive verb-form (cf. 'V.3.1.').

#### VI. 4. 1. Pattern 4: Agentive / V / Objective

Heads belonging to this Pattern were found to be of the commonest occurrence amongst heads of all the patterns of 'Group B.' The general order of the surface-structure placement is either A - V - O or O - V - A; the first surface sequence being of more frequency, e.g.,

304- Mr McGovern offers support in peace moves

(T.T. 27/10-1)

305- Police find Paris kidnappers' flat (S.T. 12/13-1)

306- Asians want race relations ministry (T.T. 13/5-2)

307- Protestants threaten Belfast 'no go' action unless strong line is taken on IRA (T.T. 15/5-2)

-----

37- Trident is 'crashed' by judge

308- Scandinavian paper tariff sought by Britain

(T.T. 10/7-4)

These two latter examples present some difficulty, as they may be considered as a violation of 'Rule i' which stipulates that A should be the subject. So, the following 'context-sensitive rewrite' rule, which is also applicable for Pattern 5 (below), is supplied:

Rule vi:  $\frac{A}{I} - V - O$  (when the verb is in the Past Tense)  $\rightarrow O - V - \frac{A}{I}$

Heads of Pattern 4 may occur in any of the four Tenses of Headlines. Each of the four possibilities is discussed separately below.

#### VI. 4. 1. 1. Items in the Present Simple Tense:

Items in this tense always have the surface sequence A - V - O. This is shown by the examples cited below:

309- Norwegian ministers on mission to EEC nations  
 win Italian support for special fishing rights

(T.T. 6/1-4)

310- Union defends case in Industrial Court

(T.T. 12/5-7)

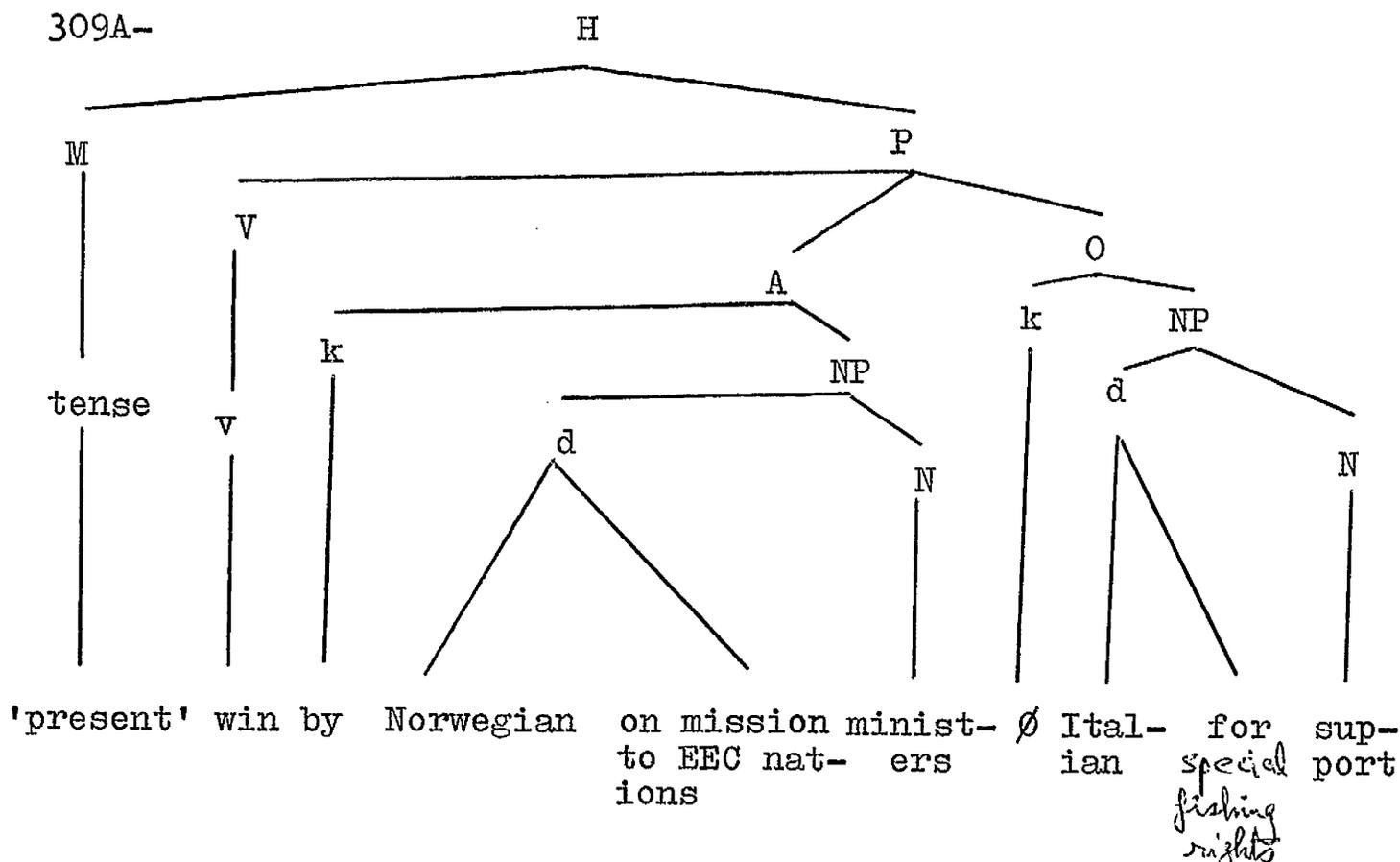
311- Smiths ban Time Out

(S.T. 29/10-3)

312- Czechs modify stand on 1938 Munich agreement

(T.G. 4/12-4)

A static diagram of 'Item 309' shows its basic structure. The rules applied for the generation of its surface structure are mostly those applied and illustrated before.



## VI. 4. 1. 2. Items in the Present Progressive Tense:

Items in this tense always have the surface sequence A - V - O. This is shown by the following three items:

313- Brilliant Fischer heading for a victory

(T.T. 17/7-1)

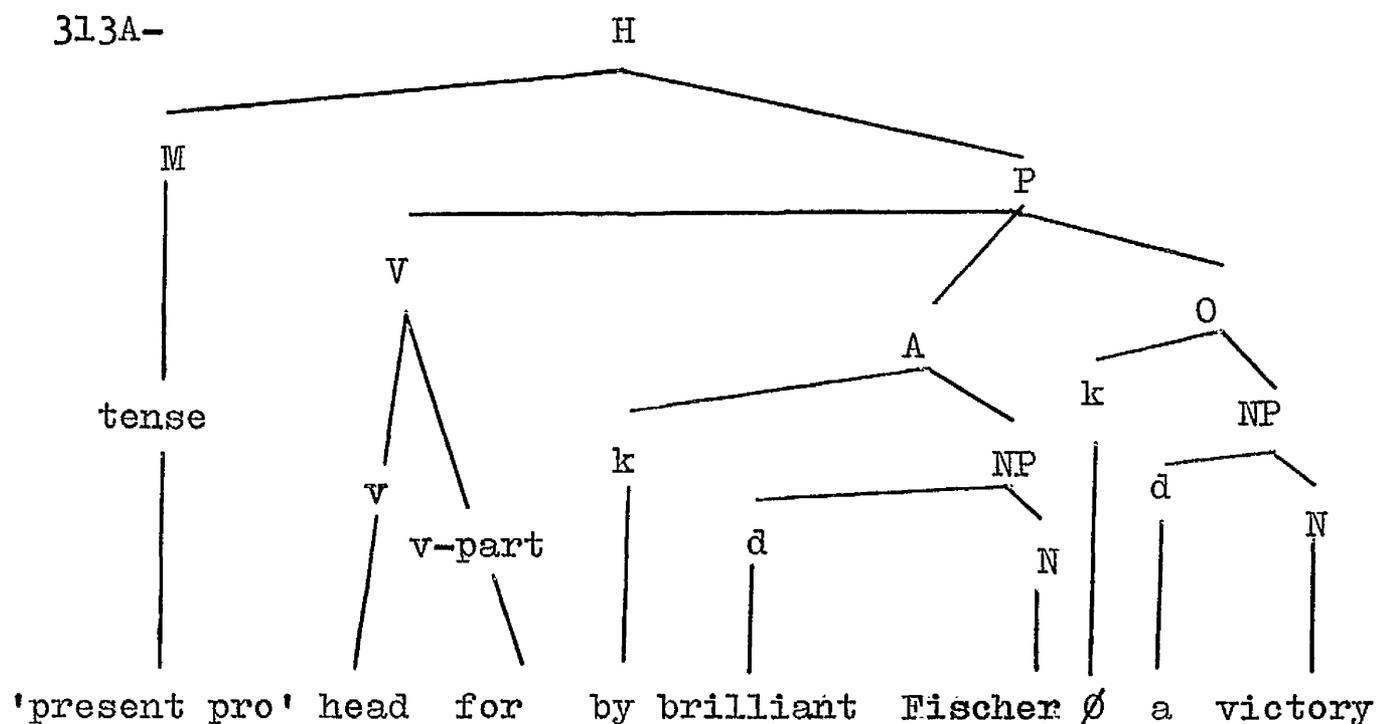
314- Astronauts making up lost time

(D.T. 8/12-1)

315- Opposition 'spreading poison'

(D.T. 15/11-4)

The first of these items is represented below in a tree diagram showing its basic constituent structure:



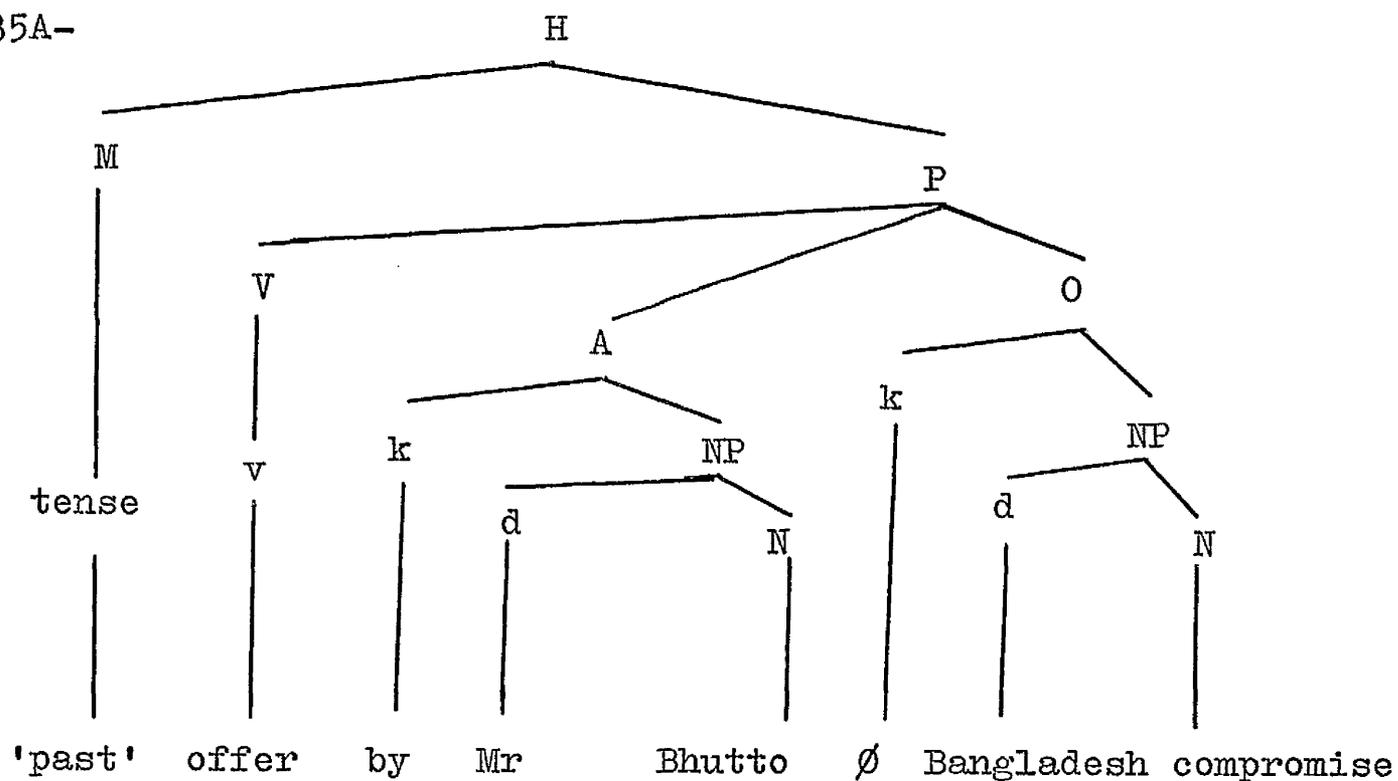
## VI. 4. 1. 3. Items in the Past Tense:

The surface-placement order for items in this tense is always O - V - A; this is where 'Rule vi' applies. Note that the Agentive-preposition by is not deleted in this case since the whole A-node is not front-shifted. The following two items represent such items; they are subsequently followed by the illustrated generation process for the first item:

35- Bangladesh compromise offered by Mr Bhutto

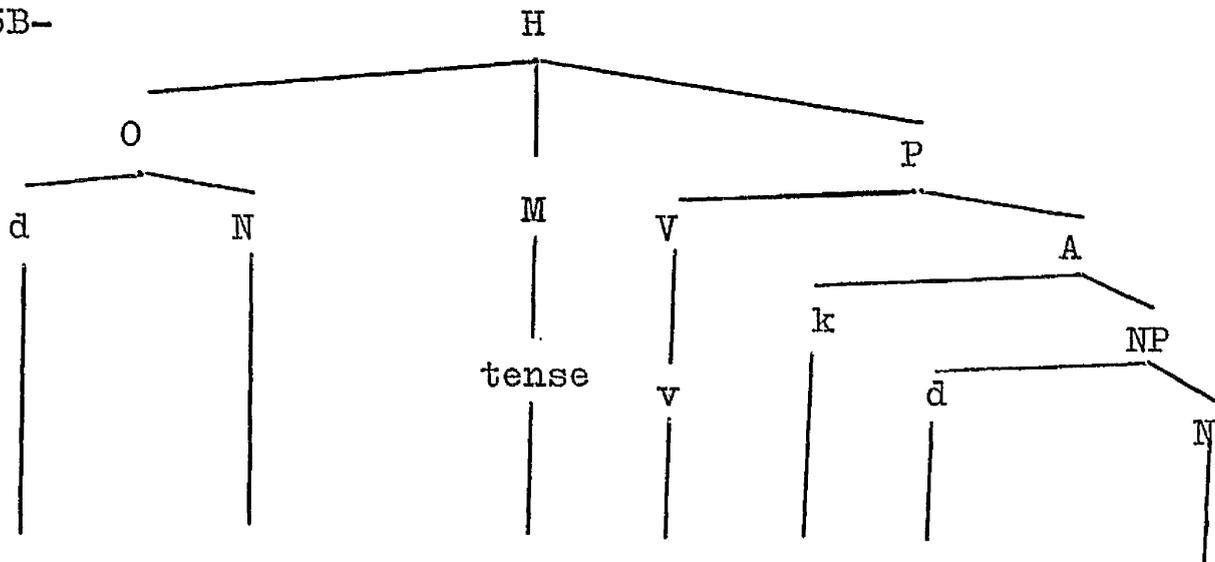
308- Scandinavian paper tariff sought by Britain

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35A-



By virtue of 'Rule i' and the reservation added in 'Rule vi,' this becomes:

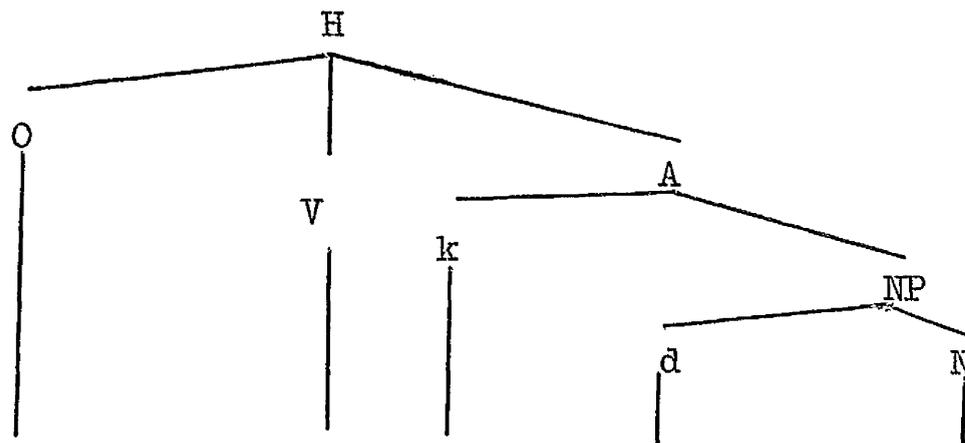
35B-



Bangladesh compromise 'past' offer by Mr Bhutto

'Rule ii' incorporates tense in the verb; the k-node of A is not deleted since the whole node has not been fronted:

35C-



Bangladesh compromise offered by Mr Bhutto

## VI. 4. 1. 4. Items in the Future Tense:

Items in this tense always occur in the surface placement order A - V - O. The Future Tense is morphologically represented by a to+infinitive verb-form.

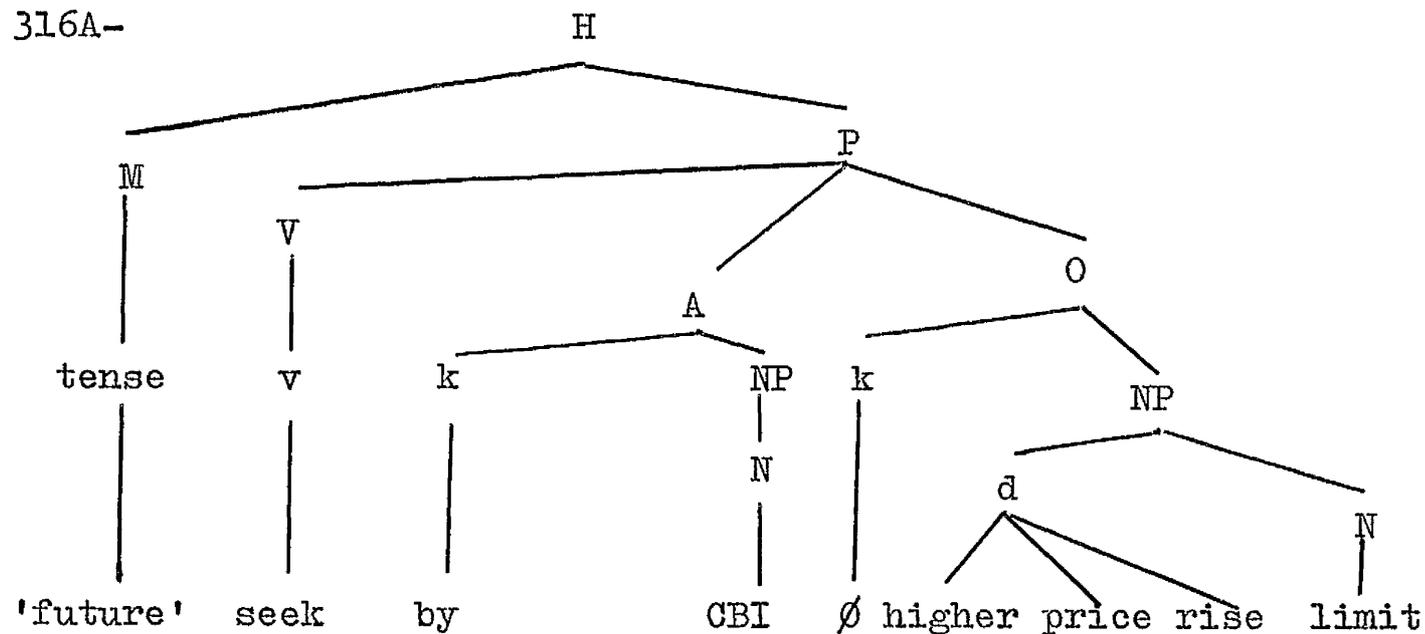
This is shown by the following three items; which are subsequently followed by a basic-structure manifestation of the first item in the set:

316- CBI to seek higher price rise limit (T.T. 13/10-1)

317- Mr Jenkins to put argument against boycott of EEC  
(T.T. 13/12-1)

318- Union to investigate BOAC 'incitement to strike'  
claim (D.T. 20/7-7)

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316A-



#### VI. 4. 2. Pattern 5: Instrumental / V / Objective

The surface-placement order of heads of this pattern is commonly I - V - O, but in some rare cases O - V - I. In the former case, I is chosen as the surface subject, by virtue of 'Rule i'. In the latter case, O is chosen as the surface subject only if the V-node is filled by a v in the Past Tense, by virtue of 'Rule vi.'

The different tenses appearing in items of this pattern are:

- a) the Present Simple Tense
- b) the Present Progressive Tense
- c) the Past Tense

The three cases are exemplified and illustrated separately below.

#### VI. 4. 2. 1. Items in the Present Simple Tense:

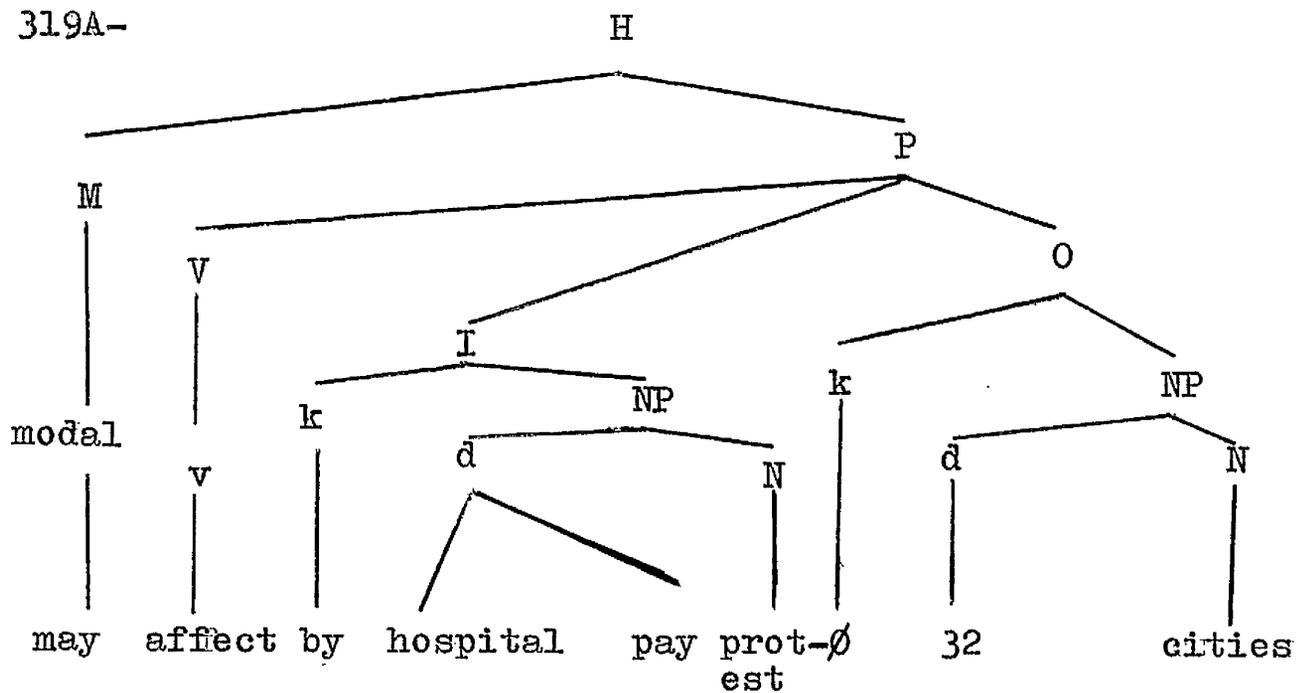
Items in this tense always have the surface-placement order I - V - O. Note that it is mostly in this case that modals occur, particularly could and may. This may be related to the fact that since the subject

is inanimate, total prediction is avoided. This is shown by the following examples:

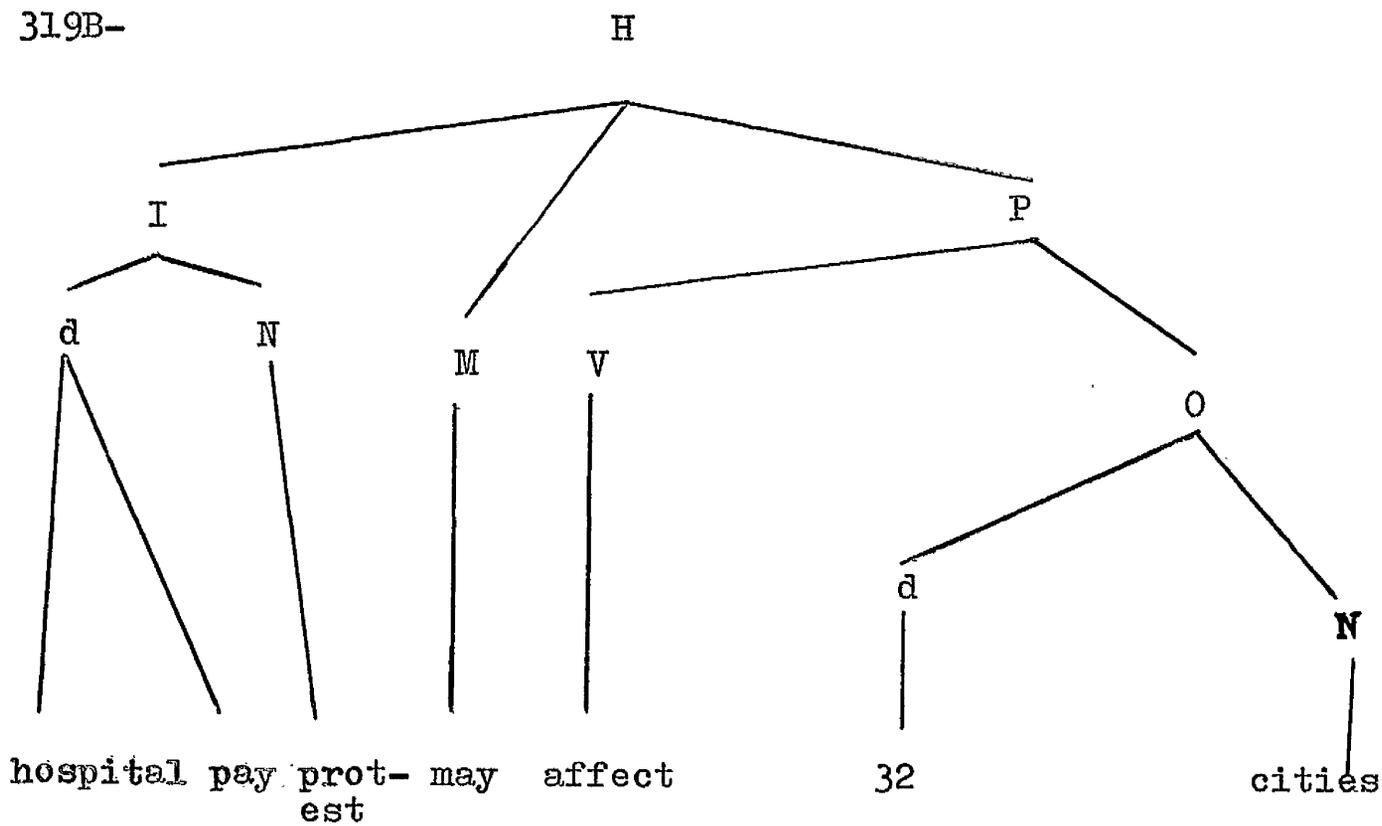
- 319- Hospital pay protest may affect 32 cities  
(T.T. 13/12-2)
- 320- Privacy report urges bugging, snooping curbs  
(S.T. 11/6-1)
- 321- Ministry muddle allows new birth control coil on sale before safety vetting  
(S.T. 15/10-5)
- 322- Conservatives' single-seat victory in Canada could mean fresh poll  
(T.T. 1/11-1)
- 323- Train crash toll may top 100  
(S.T. 18/6-1)
- 324- Mr Whitlam's big victory sets off struggle for leadership of Australia's defeated liberals  
(T.T. 5/12-5)
- 325- Coal strike 'could paralyse economy'  
(T.T. 5/1-2)
- 326- Mr Maudling's letter expresses concern  
(T.T. 5/1-2)

The generation process for 'Item 319' is illustrated below. (For the choice of the preposition of the Instrumental k-node, refer back to 'II.3.1.'.)

319A-



319B-



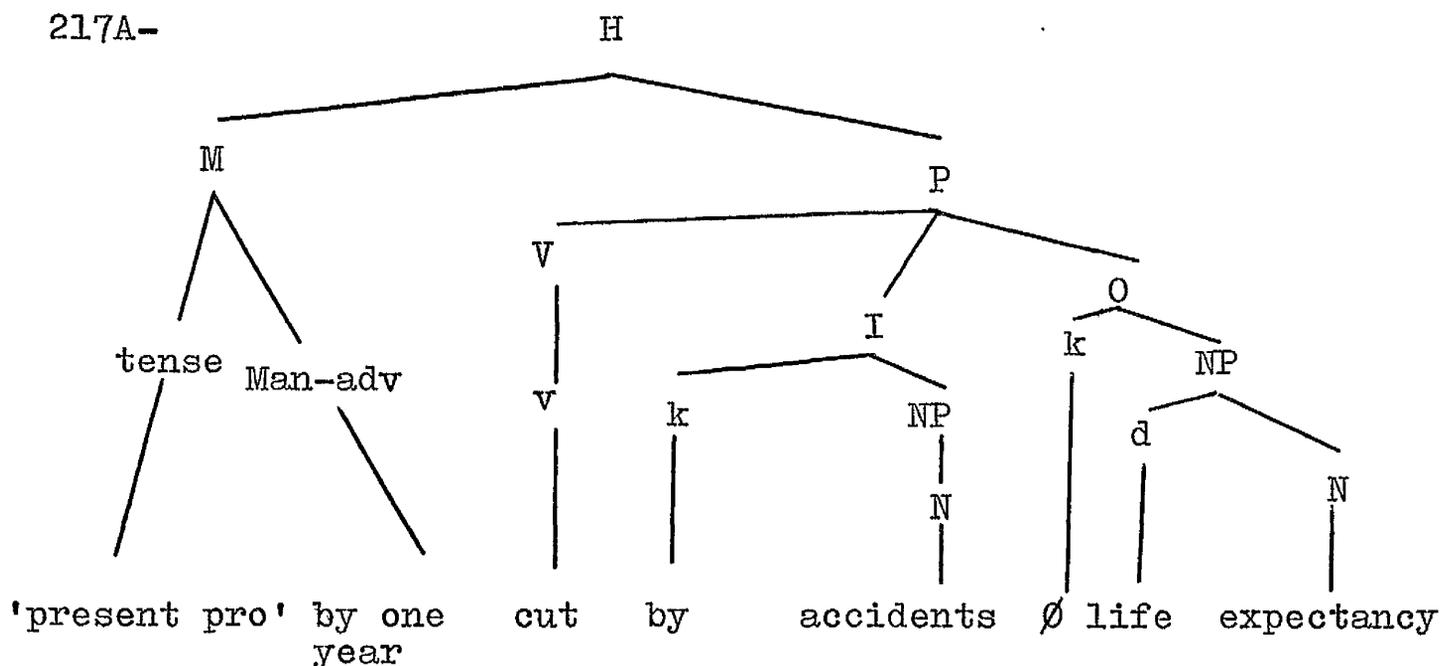
## VI. 4. 2. 2. Items in the Present Progressive Tense:

Items in this tense always have the surface sequential order I - V - O. Note that Instrumentals as subjects, in the context of Present Progressive Tense, are not very common. The following two items exemplify this case:

161- Political stagnation in Greece causing uneasiness among supporters of Mr Papadopoulos

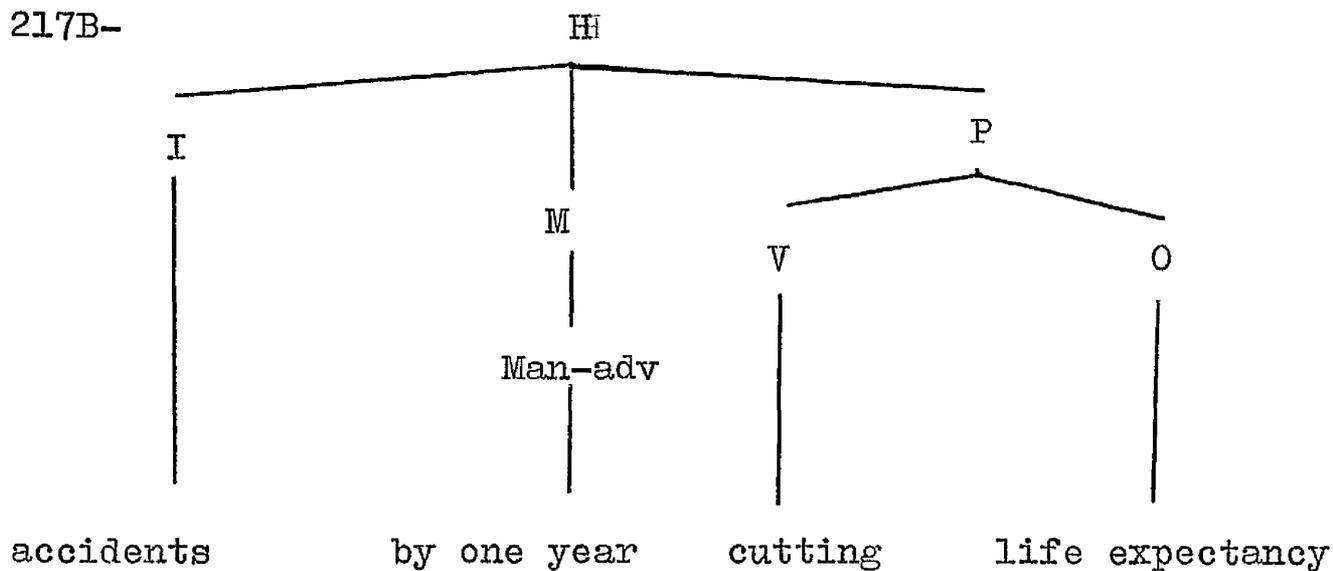
200- Accidents cutting life expectancy by one year

The following illustrations show the generation process employed for surface selection of the basic structure elements of 'Item 217:'



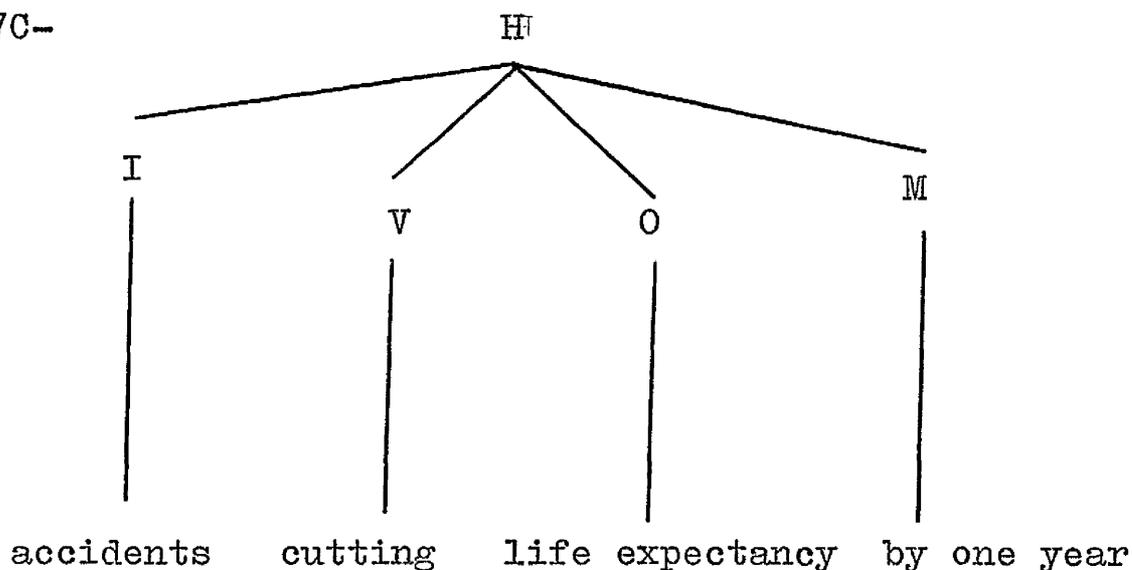
By virtue of 'Rule i' and 'Rule ii,' subject-fronting  
takes effect, and tense is absorbed, respectively:

217B-



Lastly, 'Rule iii' moves the prep-p Modality-adverbial  
to the end of the string:

217C-



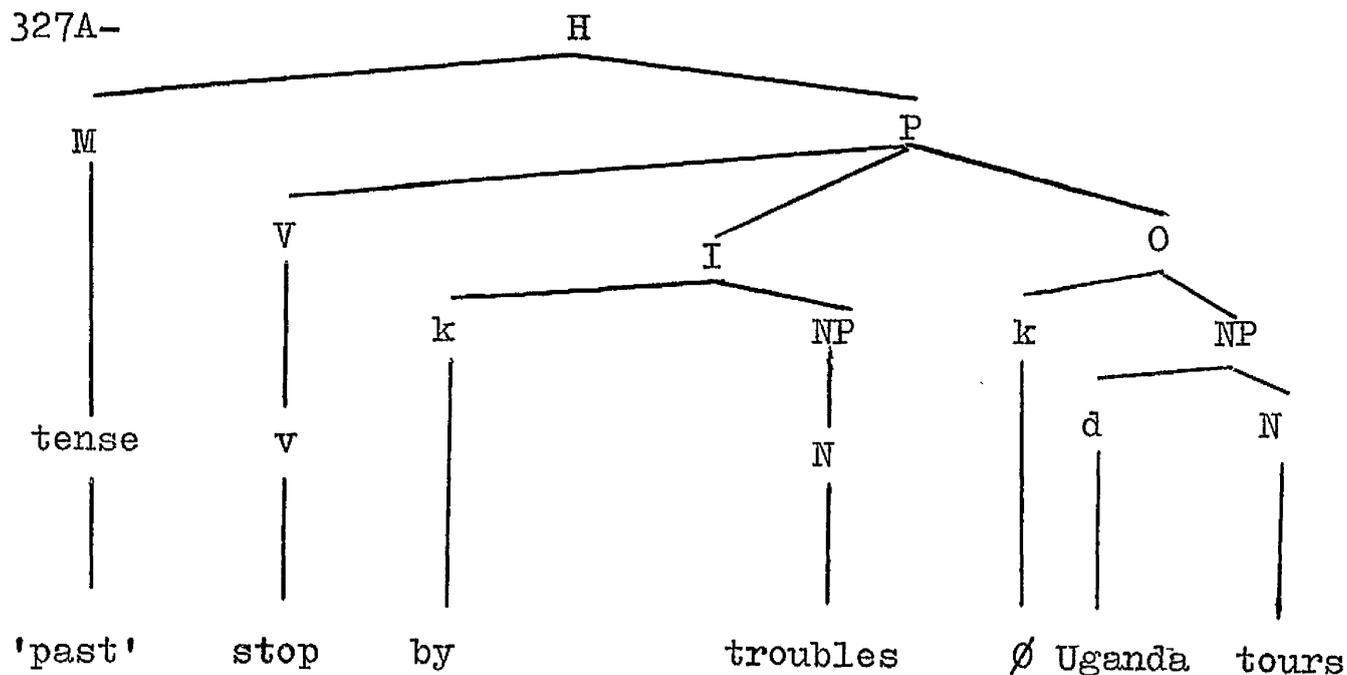
## VI. 4. 2. 3. Items in the Past Tense:

Here the verb is in the Past Tense. Again, this is where the surface order is reversed, by virtue of 'Rule vi', from I - V - O to O - V - I (cf. 'VI.4.1.'). Thus, O is chosen as the surface subject. Note that the verb-form of the Past Tense is, in this case, an -ed<sub>2</sub> verb-form; i.e., in the context where it follows an O (cf. 'V.3.1.'). This is shown by the following two examples; subsequently followed by generation illustrations of the first item:

327- Uganda tours stopped by troubles (D.T. 17/11-4)

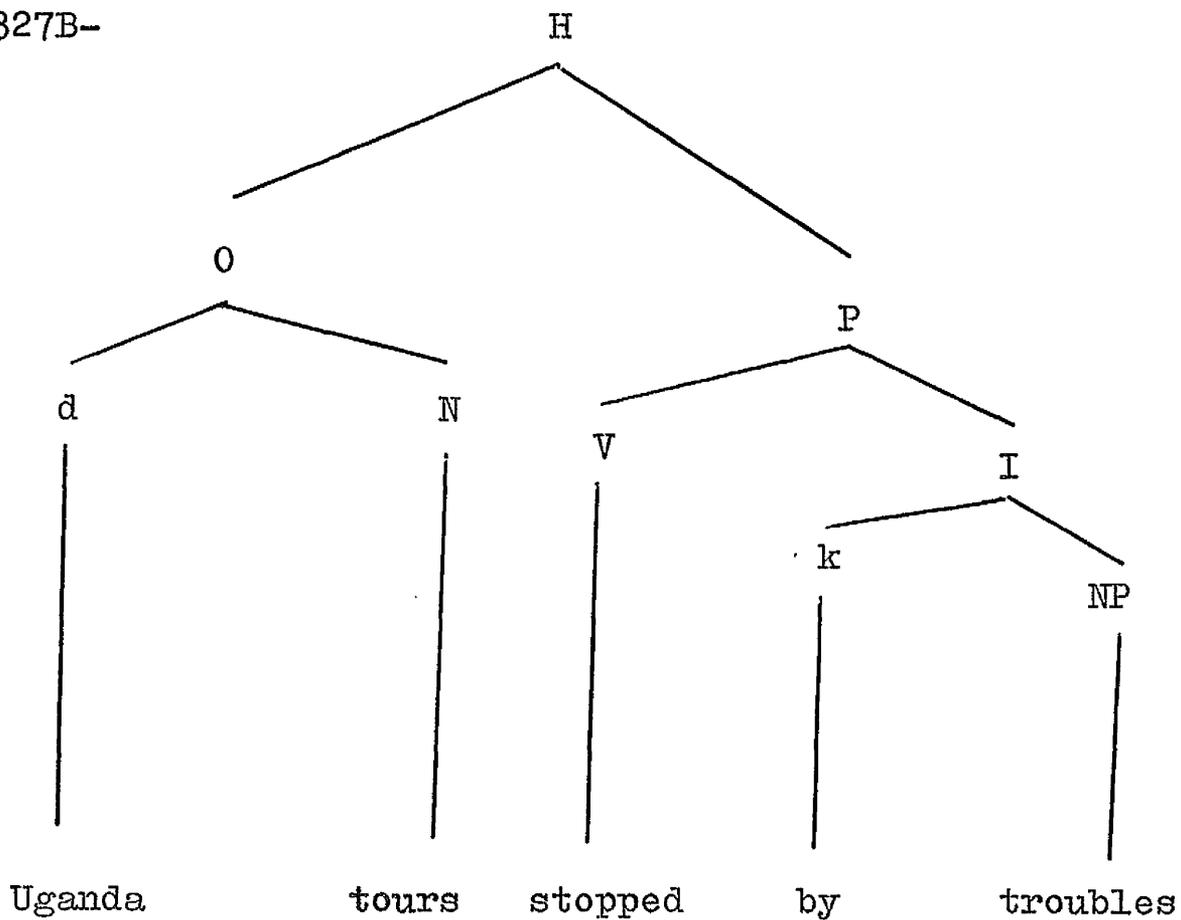
328- Spanish package holiday prices threatened by  
rising costs (D.T. 20/11-16)

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327A-



'Rule i' and 'Rule vi' combined together bring about subject-fronting; 'Rule ii' effects tense absorption, in accordance with the morphological rules set up for the description of Headlines (cf. 'V.3.1.')

327B-



VI. 4. 3. Pattern 6: Agentive / V / Dative

The surface-placement order of heads of Pattern 6 is A - V - D. This means that A is obligatorily the subject. The only potential constituent for the V is, as in all patterns of 'Group B,' a verb. The verb in this case could either be in the Present Simple Tense or in the Future Tense. This is shown by the following examples; four in the Present Simple, two in the Future. The surface-selection processes for these items are identical with many of those illustrated above through tree diagrams.

items in the Present Simple Tense:

- 329- Duke meets jobless of Wearside (T.T. 12/5-2)  
 330- Police seek death crash witness (S.T. 20/2-1)  
 331- Miss Delvin strikes Mr Maudling in Commons  
 (T.T. 1/2-1)  
 332- Hanoi leaders may meet Kissinger (S.T. 18/6-1)

items in the Future Tense:

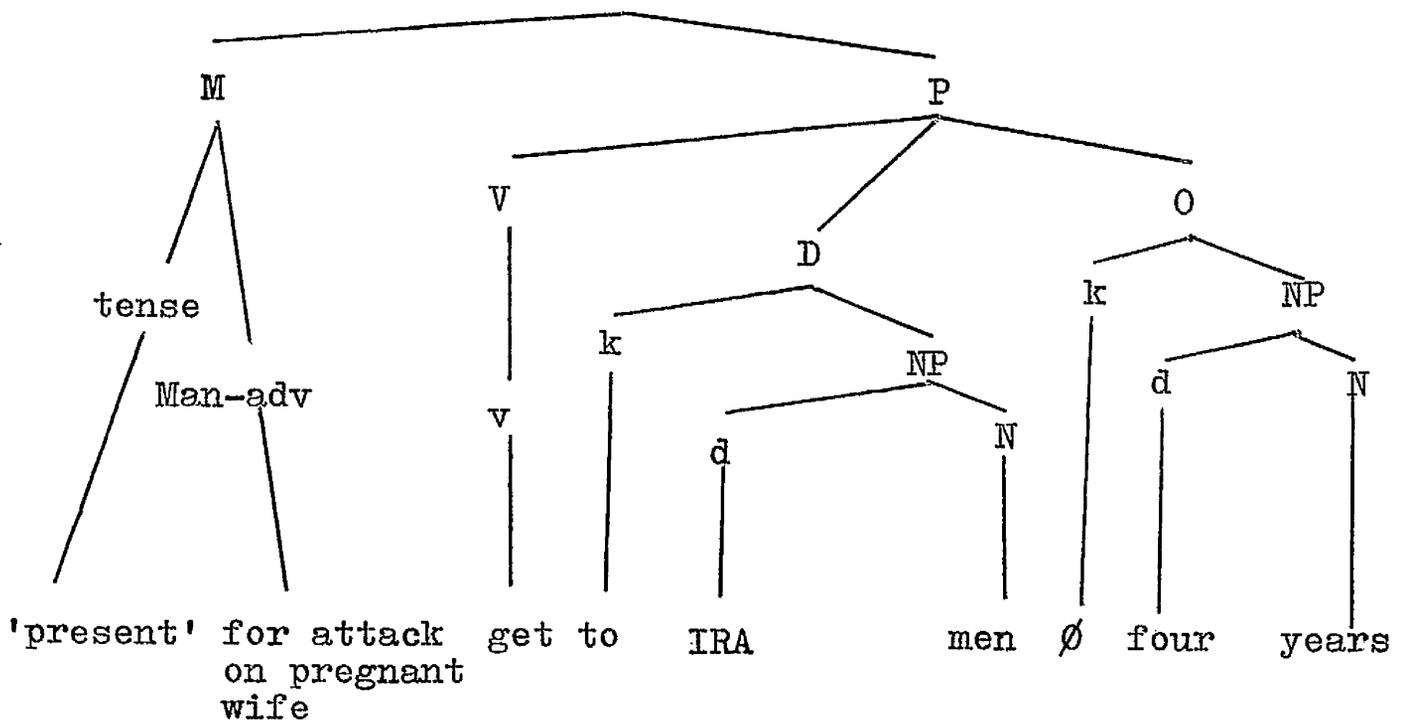
- 333- Kenya not to expel more Asians (D.T. 20/11-4)  
 334- Baby Caroline to see mother eight times a month  
 (D.T. 15/11-19)

(Note that this is where the third part of 'Rule i' applies; namely, the k-node of D is deleted where D follows a verb.)



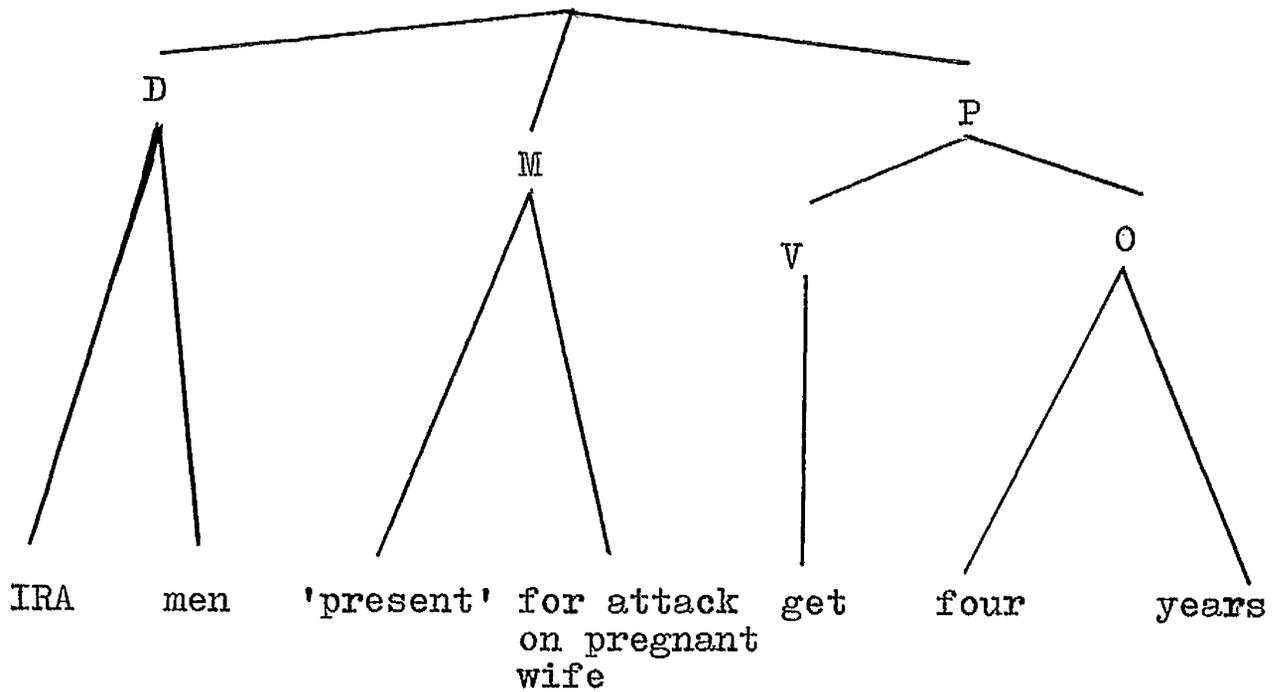
335A-

H

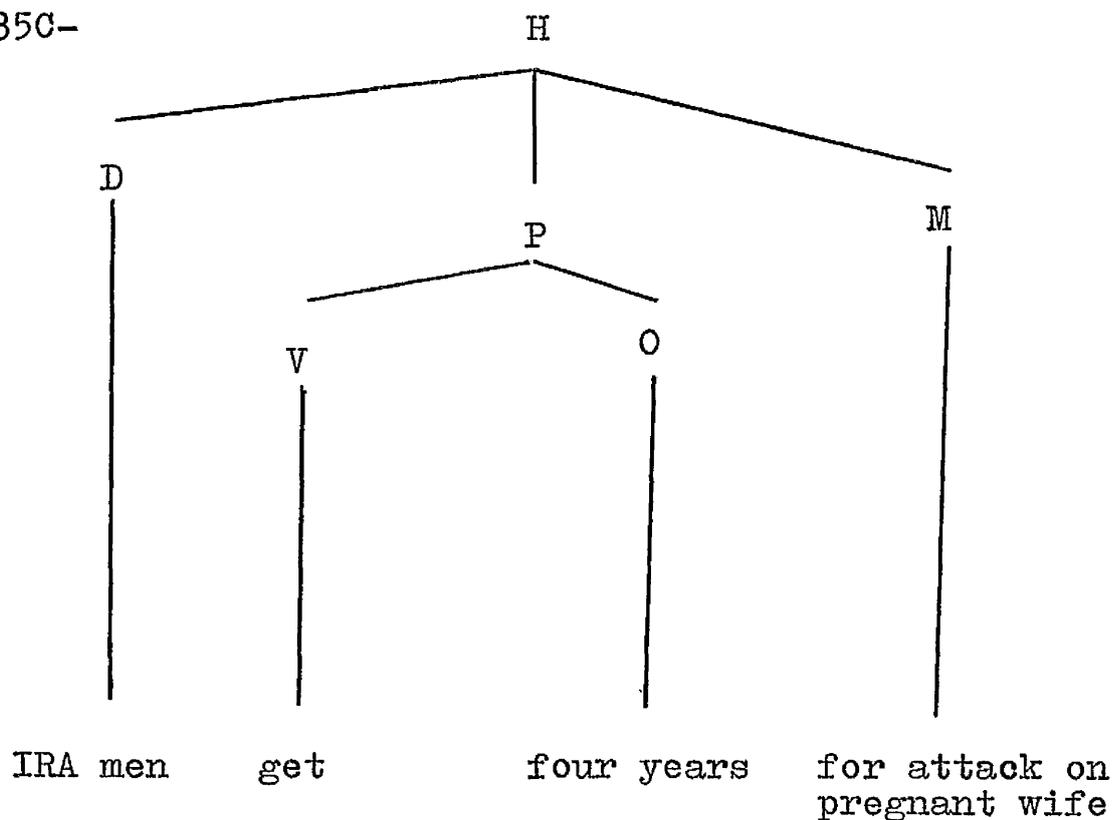


335B-

H



3350-



#### VI. 4. 5. Pattern 8: Instrumental / V / Dative

The surface-placement order of items of Pattern 8 is I - V - D. Thus I is chosen as subject according to 'Rule i.' The verb is always in the Present Simple Tense. The following items exemplify this type of head; they are subsequently followed by a static tree-diagram illustration of the basic structure of the first item in the set:





### VII. 1. The Surface-Selection Rules

As was pointed out earlier (cf. 'Chapter III'), Case-distinctions are recognized, in our analysis, in headlines of the Nominal Multinodal Type. The constituent surface structure of such headlines is as follows:

NP + prep p (+ prep p)

The criterion supplied for separating heads of this type from heads of the Uninodal Type (which have superficially similar structure) is that:

the N-node of the second prep p (and of the third, if there is one) of a Nominal Multinodal item should always be filled by an animate entity (or a human institution such as nations, councils, governing bodies, etc.)

The prepositions typically employed for heads of this type are for and to for Datives, and by for Agentives.

We will take the preposition for, as an example, and compare the two different syntactic environments in which it would occur, and which would determine the exact syntactic identity of the headline under consideration (i.e., whether it belongs to the Multi-nodal Type 'The Sentence Type,' or to the Uninodal Type 'The Title Type'):

- 340- Homes for 6,700 (T.T. 6/1-2)
- 341- Divorce decree for Raquel Welch (T.T. 7/1-6)
- 342- No bail for two accused of girls' kidnap  
(D.T. 11/10-19)
- 
- 343- Nixon plans for drastic strike in N Vietnam  
(T.T. 6/5-1)
- 344- Yard TV plea for help over £2m robberies  
(T.T. 27/11-1)
- 345- Labour plan for EEC boycott (S.T. 13/8-3)
- 

The first three items have the underlying basic-structure: O + D; a fact which could be demonstrated through insertion in the test-frame: NP 'gets' NP (cf. 'III.2.' for testing the semantic function of D),

e.g.,

/6,700 get homes/

/Raquel Welch gets divorce decree/

/two accused of girls' kidnap get no bail/

\*/drastic strike in N Vietnam gets Nixon plea/

\*/help over £2m robberies gets Yard TV plea/

\*/EEC boycott gets Labour plan/

As can be seen from the above-illustrations, items of the first set fit into the frame; items of the second set do not.<sup>(1)</sup> Hence, items of the first set are regarded, in our analysis, as belonging to the Nominal Multinodal Type; items of the second set as belonging to the Uninodal Type. Note, furthermore, that it is also the case that the first NP in a uninodal head is always marked by the feature 'inanimate.'

As there is no Verbal element in items of the Nominal Multinodal Type, any reference to subject fronting would be irrelevant here. Yet, some surface-selection rules have to be formulated, in

---

(1) and therefore do not involve a Dative.

order to account for the surface sequential order of the different elements, which is generated from the order-free basic-structure group of elements. The one and only rule devised for the surface-selection process of the Case-categories in a Nominal head runs as follows:

Rule vii: For the -V multinodal head, choose 0 as the first element in the surface sequence.

### VII. Patterns of the Nominal Multinodal Type

In the same way as was done with heads of the Verbal Type nominal heads will be discussed under certain 'patterns' which were found to govern their internal structure.

As there is no V involved but merely a sequence of two or three NP's separated by prepositions, the Modality component will only have, as constituents, adverbials, whether of time, location, or manner; i.e., no aux-elements occur in headlines of the Nom-

inal type.

The main patterns of the Nominal Multinodal Type are three. These three patterns, which we will call 'Group C' (in continuation of the numbering of Multi-nodal Type), are the following:

- Group C: Pattern 9: Objective/Dative  
 Pattern 10: Objective/Agentive  
 Pattern 11: Objective/Agentive/Dative

VII. 2. 1. Pattern 9: Objective/Dative (O/D)

Heads belonging to this pattern are the most common type of the Nominal Class of heads. Headlines of this type indicate an event befalling, or a state affecting, some person. The event or state is perceived as the Objective Case, the person as the Dative, e.g.,

- 346- Success for Army in Ulster despite restrictions (D.T. 11/10-2)  
 347- Stubble trouble for farmers (T.T. 13/10-16)  
 348- Cash hope for rialways (S.T. 29/10-3)

- 349- English by radio for Chinese masses(T.T. 2/3-8)  
 350- 35-vote defeat for Heath (D.T. 23/11-1)

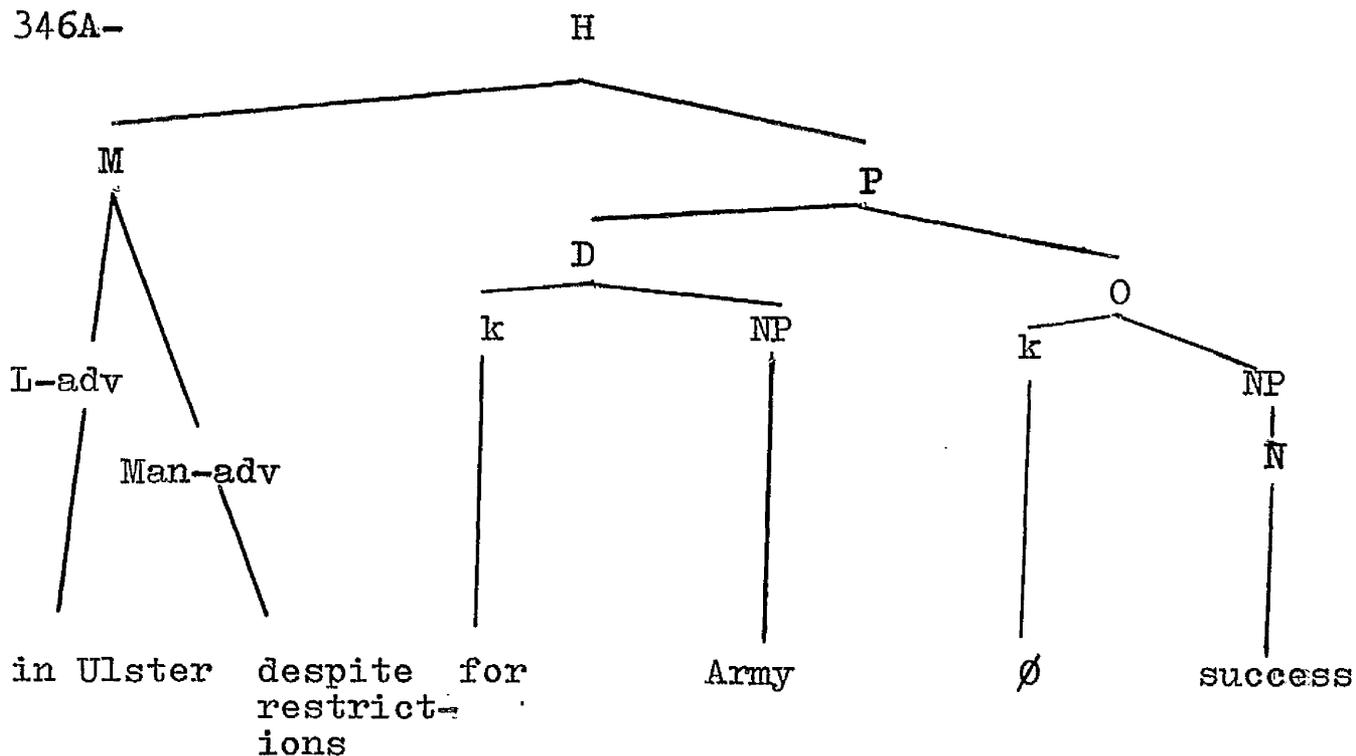
The surface-selection process for the first and the last of these items is illustrated below through tree diagrams. Note that the two prepositions for D in Headlines are for and to, although only one of these two prepositions is employed in the items cited above. The rule which accounts for the occurrence of one preposition to the exclusion of the other runs as follows:(1)

Rule viii: For heads with two Case-categories, choose for as the D-preposition; for heads with three Case-categories, choose to.

---

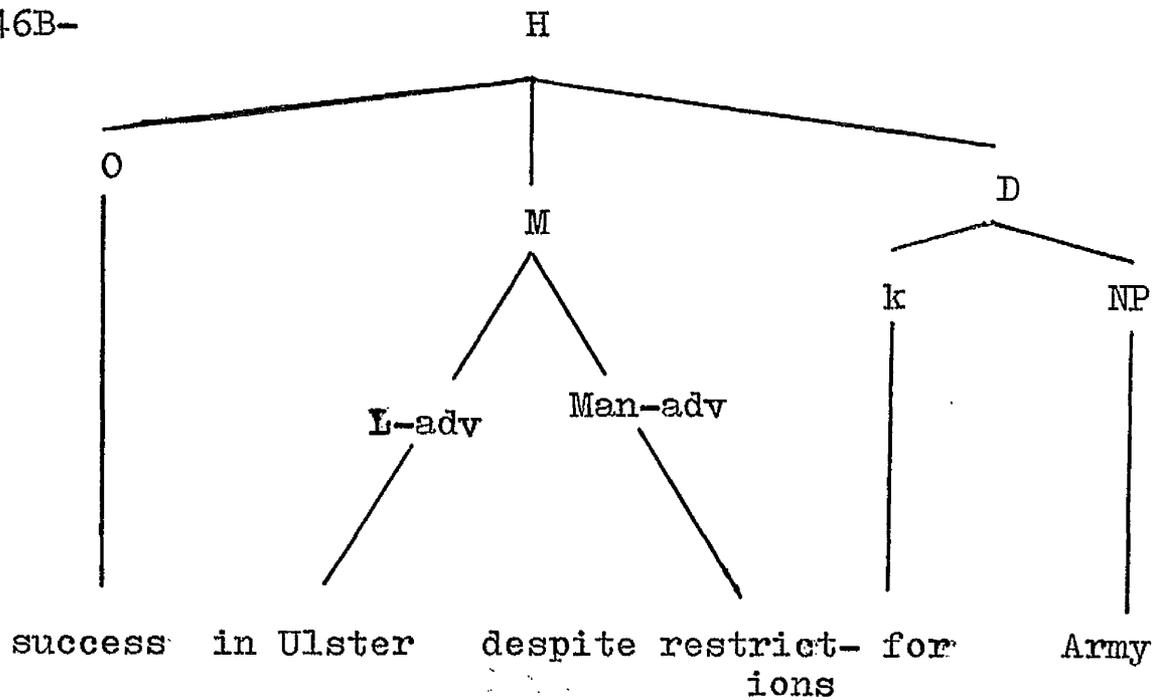
(1) This will be made **still** clearer when we come to discuss 'Pattern 11,' where the second alternative occurs.

346A-



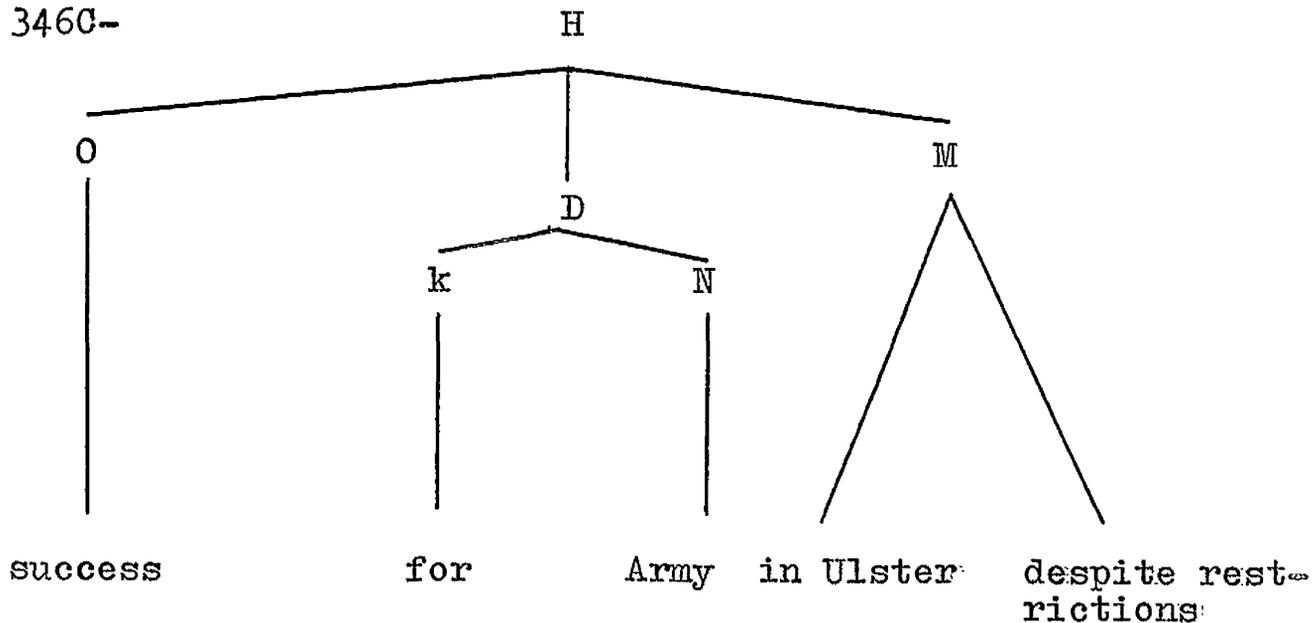
By application of 'Rule vii,' this becomes:

346B-

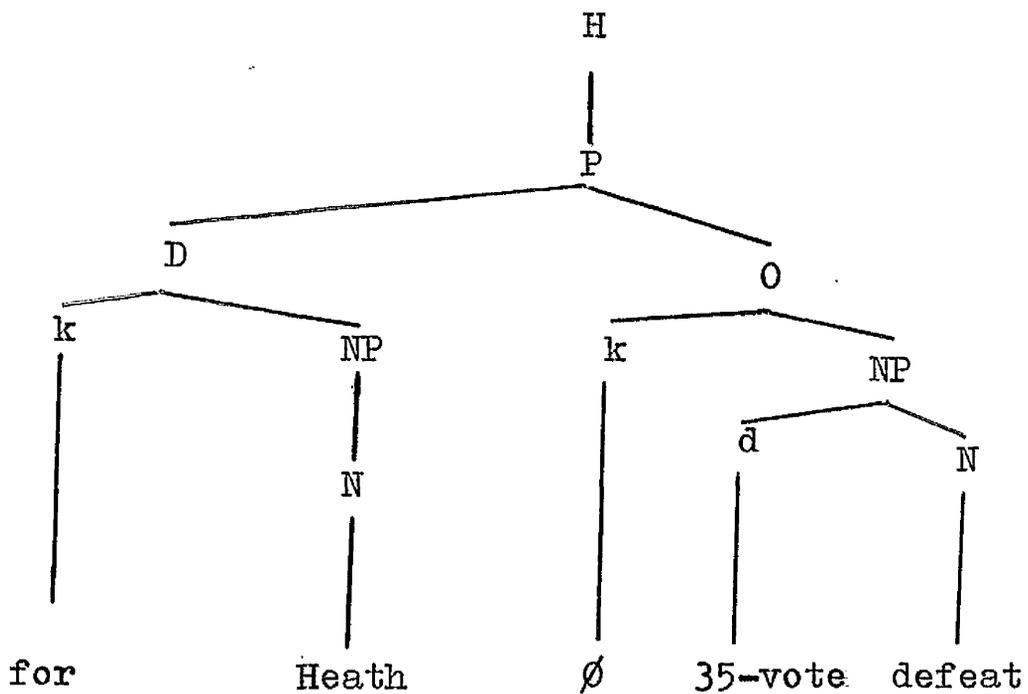


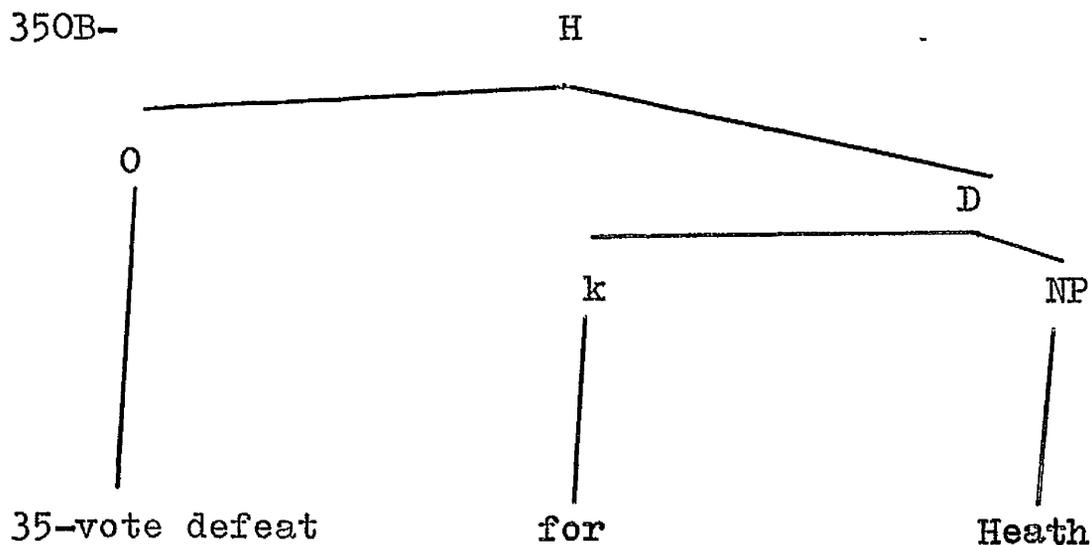
'Rule iii' shifts the Modality-adverbials to the end of the string:

346C-



350A-





VII. 2. 2. Pattern 10: Objective/Agentive (O/A)

By virtue of 'Rule vii,' items of this pattern have the surface-placement order O - A. The O represents an event or a state; while A represents the instigator. The A-preposition is by, which is not deleted since the whole item is not front-shifted, e.g.,

- |      |   |                |
|------|---|----------------|
| 351- | Salaries plea by teachers                           | (D.T. 20/11-2) |
| 352- | Disciplinary court walk-out by 24 Stirling students | (D.T. 23/11-2) |
| 353- | Pleadings appeal by Maxwell                         | (D.T. 8/12-2)  |

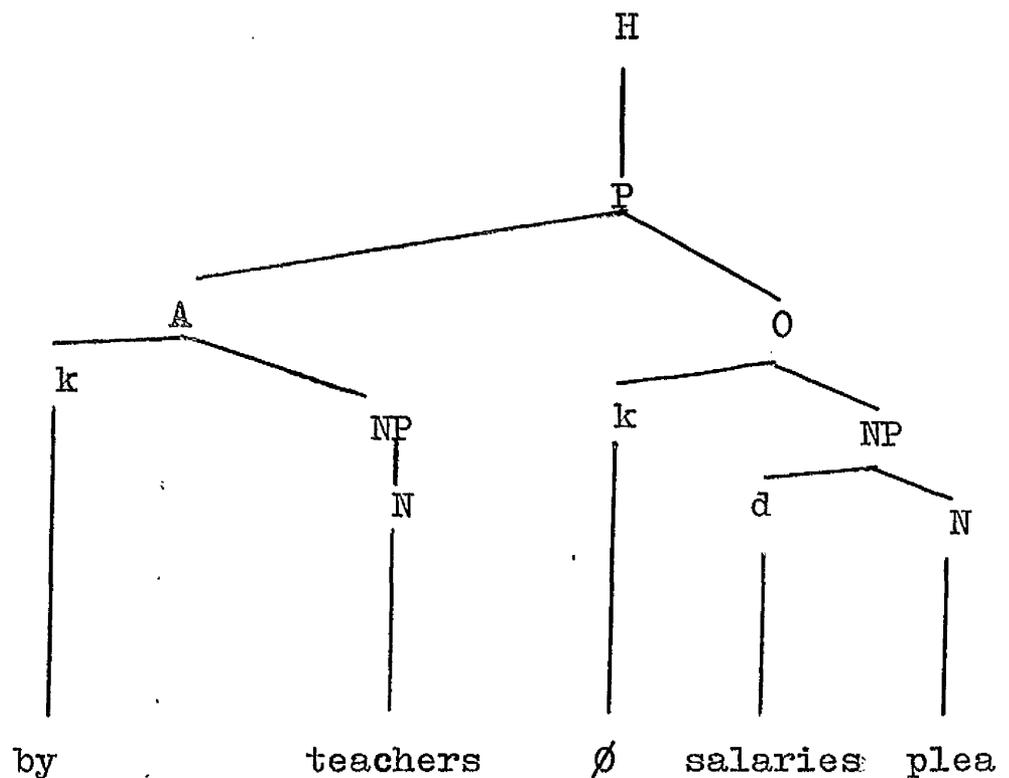
354- 200-seater air bus plan by Lockheed(D.T. 20/7-5)

355- Protest by Britain at Bonavia expulsion

(T.T. 9/5-1)(1)

The generation rules for the first and the last of these items is illustrated below:

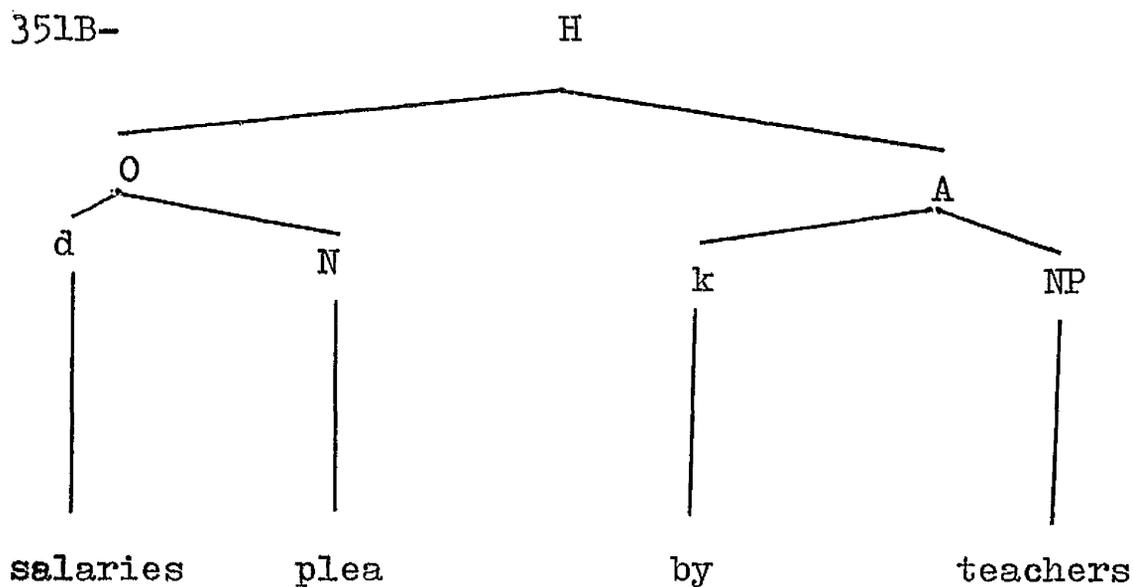
351A-



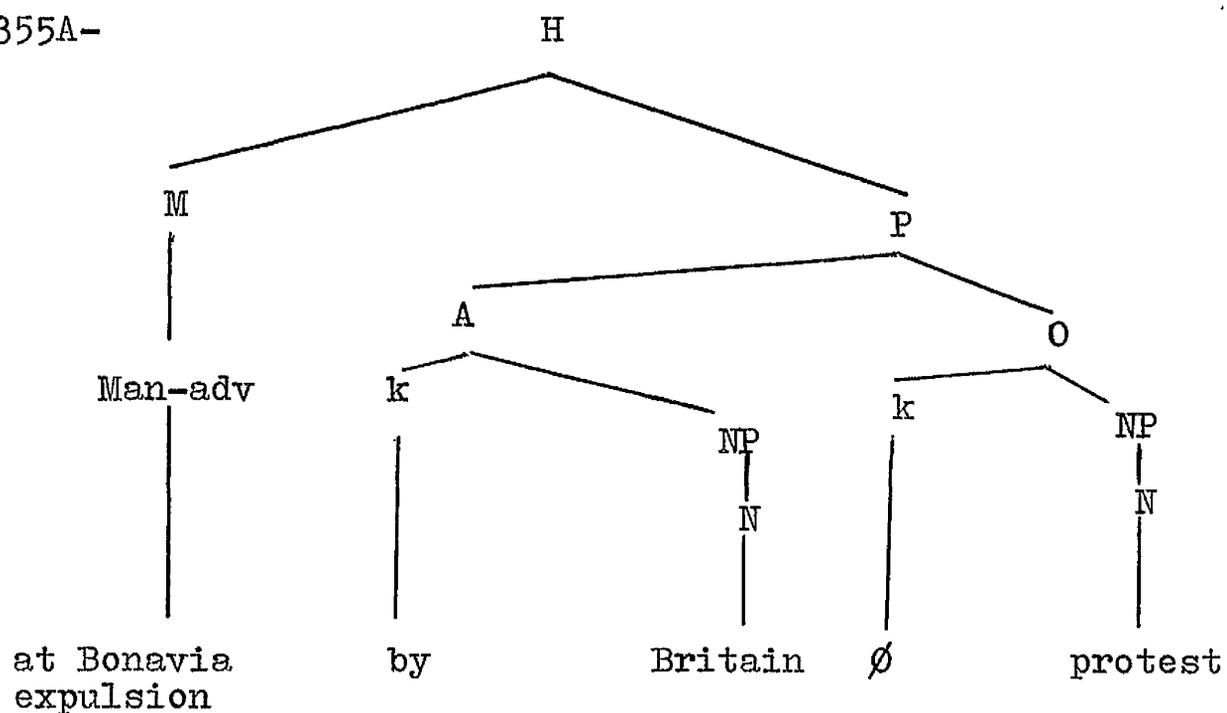
By virtue of 'Rule vii,' O is front-shifted; giving the surface form of the head:

(1) Note that the preposition by occurs in certain heads where it is part of a prepositional-phrase attribute, not an Agentive-indicator; as, for example, by radio in 'Item 349' above.

351B-

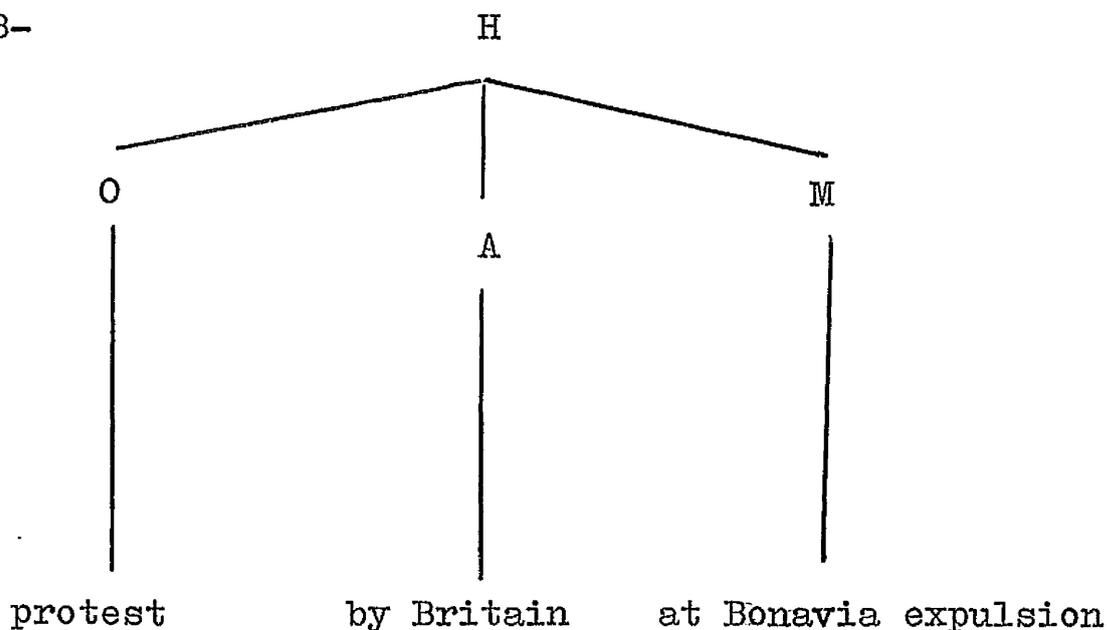


355A-



O is front-shifted according to 'Rule vii;' and the M-node is moved to the right-most position:

355B-



### VII. 2. 3. Pattern 11: Objective/Agentive/Dative (O/A/D)

One of the least common patterns of the Multinodal Type is this last one consisting of three Case-categories. This can be related to the general requirement of brevity which would select, where possible, the least number of Case-categories, in one headline. As the only pattern with more than two Case-categories (amongst the eleven patterns), it represents an unfavourite type.

The surface sequential order is either O - A - D or O - D - A (O being the first surface element in the sequence in both cases). One more rule --the last

one in our series-- will account for this alternation in surface-placement order:

Rule ix: O - A - D    {when the d-node of A is  
a phrase or a clause}    ----->

O - D - A

The explanation of this seems to be that a headline will not tolerate the separation of two constituents by a third constituent of excessive length. The following two examples illustrate this:

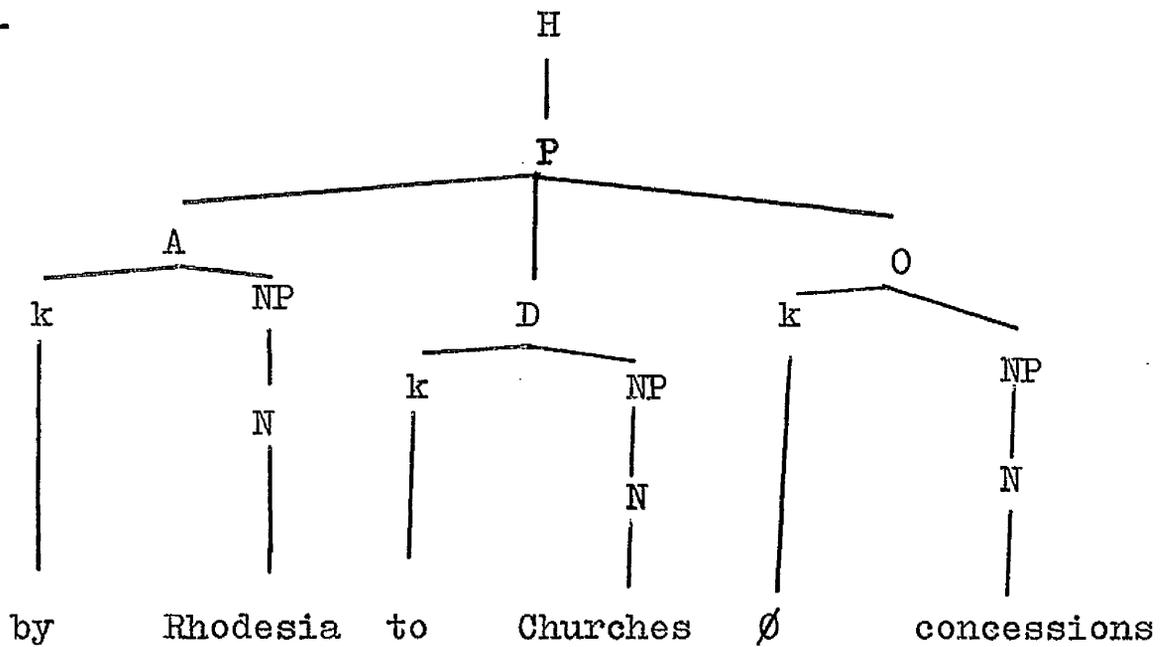
356- Concessions by Rhodesia to Churches(D.T. 24/11-4)

-----

144- Apology to judge by detective who was missing

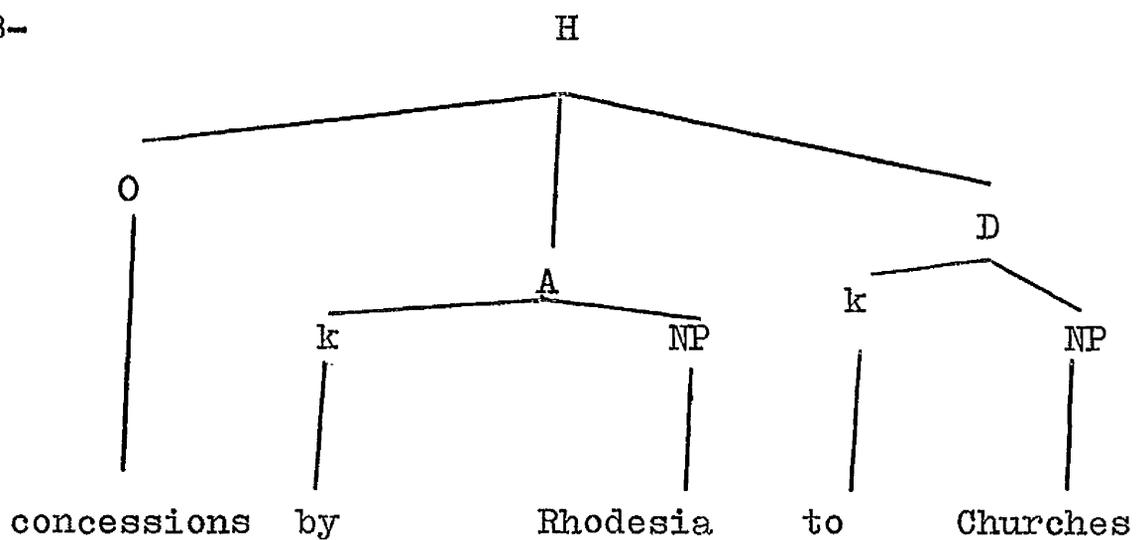
In the first item, the d-node of the three NP's is empty; in the second item, the d-node of A has a clause as its constituent, hence the whole A-node has been placed at the end of the string. The two cases are illustrated through the following tree diagrams:

356A-

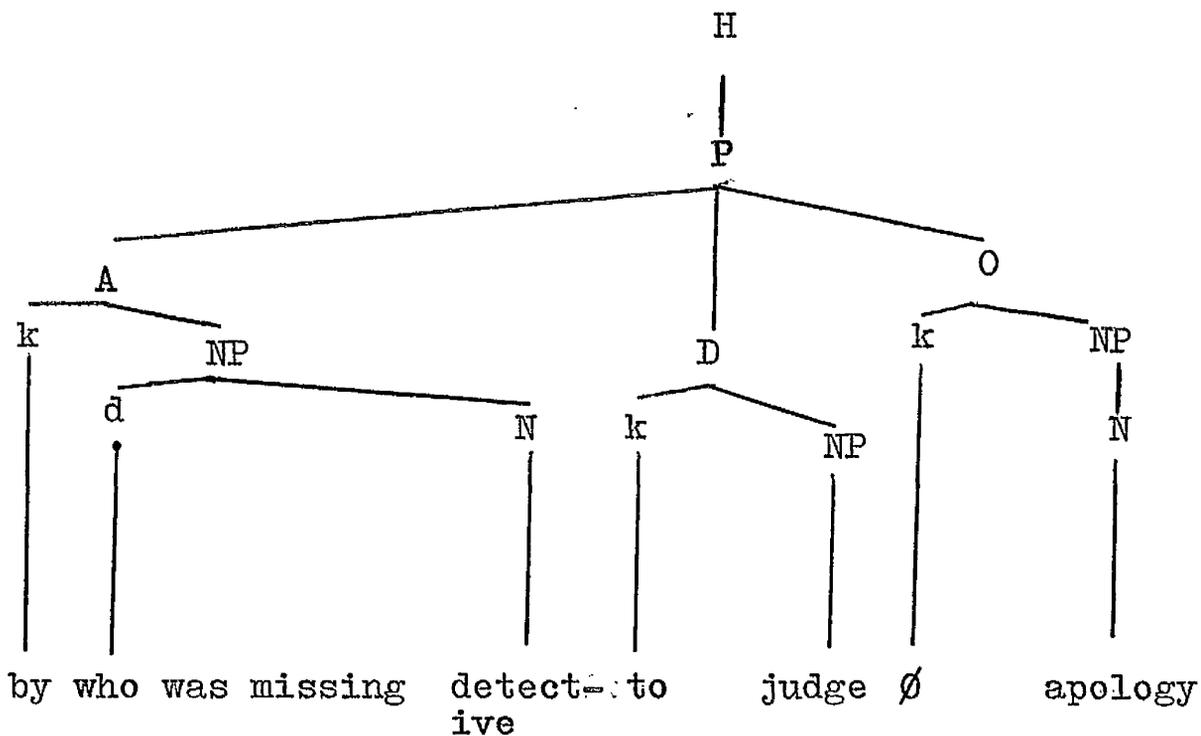


Note here that the preposition for D is to, not for;  
by virtue of 'Rule viii.' Then, following 'Rule vii,'  
O moves to the front. Note that as 'Rule ix' does  
not apply here, A remains in the middle:

356B-



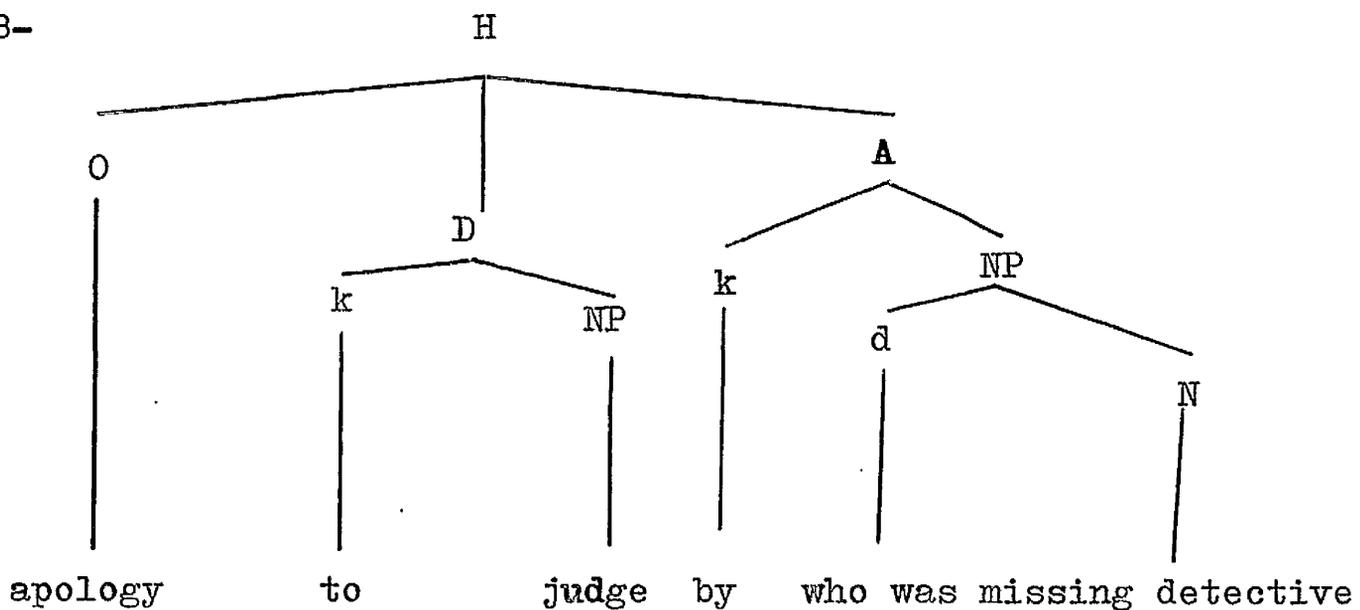
144A-



'Rule vii' front-shifts the O; and 'Rule ix' moves

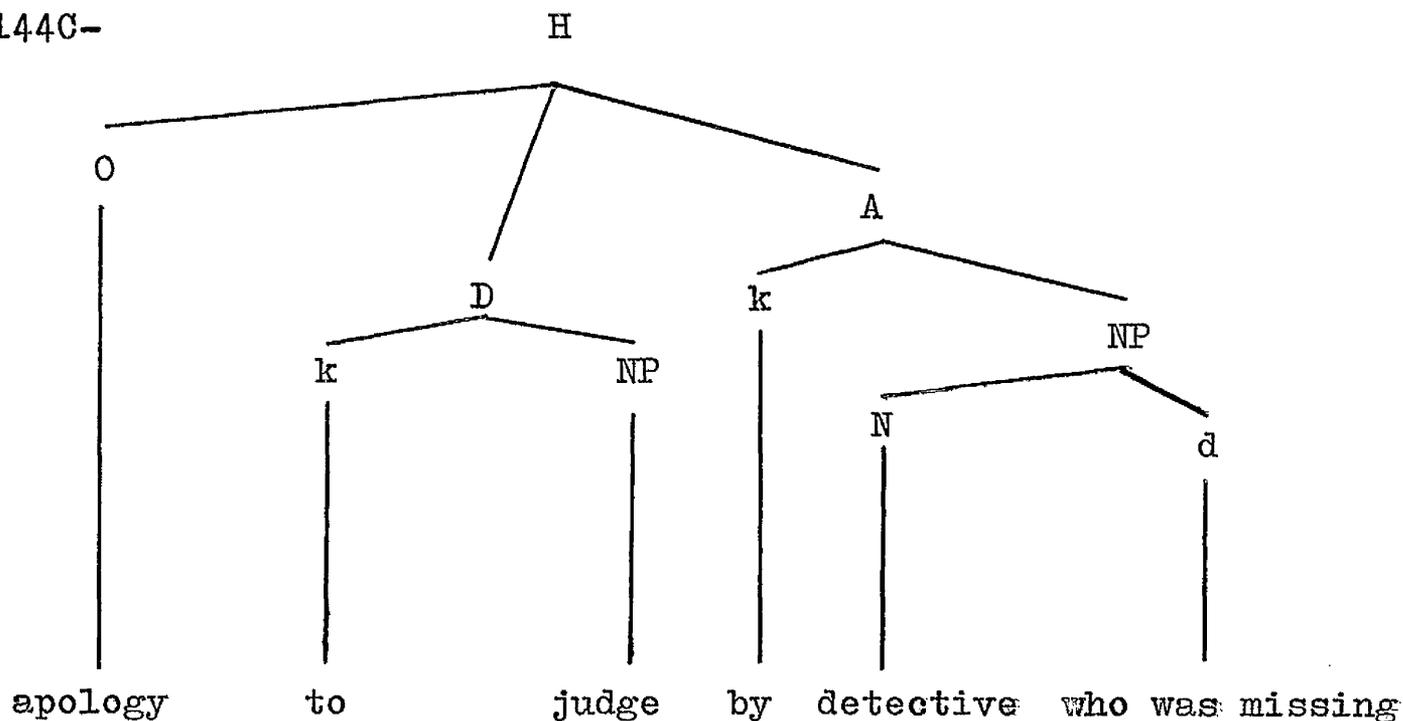
A to the end of the string:

144B-



The  $\bar{d}$ -node of the A is moved from pre-nominal to post-nominal position, by virtue of 'Rule iv': (1)

144C-




---

(1) Note also, more specifically, that in this example, as well as in the previous ones, the Case-categories that have not undergone a front-shift preserve their  $\bar{k}$ -nodes.

Chapter VIII:

The Uninodal Type

VIII. 1. Uninodal heads (The Title Type)	248
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### VIII. 1. Uninodal Heads (The Title Type)

Heads of the Uninodal Type ('The Title Type') are of much less frequency of occurrence than heads of the Multinodal Type. Note that in conformity with the restrictions on the choice of data put forward in 'The Preface,' the only items included here are those which impart news in the way described above; i.e., all items serving as mere indicators to the text such as 'Bids and Deals,' 'Mining,' 'New Issues,' which were introduced within the larger frame of "Business News" (T.T. 3/10-21) are not included in our data.

No Case-distinctions are realized in this type of head. Such heads are analyzed as noun phrases consisting of Heads and attributes, e.g.,

- |   |                |
|---|----------------|
| 357- A million jobs                       | (S.T. 5/3-7)   |
| 358- New housing director                 | (T.T. 5/1-2)   |
| 359- £1 million raid clue                 | (S.T. 29/10-1) |
| 360- Italian telephone tapping claim      | (T.T. 27/10-6) |
| 361- Jet crash report                     | (T.T. 5/1-1)   |
| 362- Health council director              | (T.G. 27/9-7)  |
| 363- Teachers pay move                    | (S.T. 5/3-1)   |
| 364- Thieu journey to Hue to rally forces | (T.T. 5/5-1)   |

The H-node is expanded, in the case of the Uninodal Type, merely into an NP (refer back to 'V.1.').

This means that, in our analysis, we are not deriving NP's from sentences, i.e., we do not regard them as 'nominalized' constructions; hence, they are not treated as having a separate underlying structure.

To recapitulate, the NP-node was expanded as follows:

$$\text{NP} = (\text{d}) (+\text{S}) + \text{N}$$

However, we do not have heads of the Uninodal Type consisting merely of one lexical element, i.e., an N; the minimal being a determiner plus an N. Hence, the rule has to be modified so as to make the d-node obligatory. Thus, our expansion of the NP, as the sole component of an H of the Uninodal Type runs as follows:

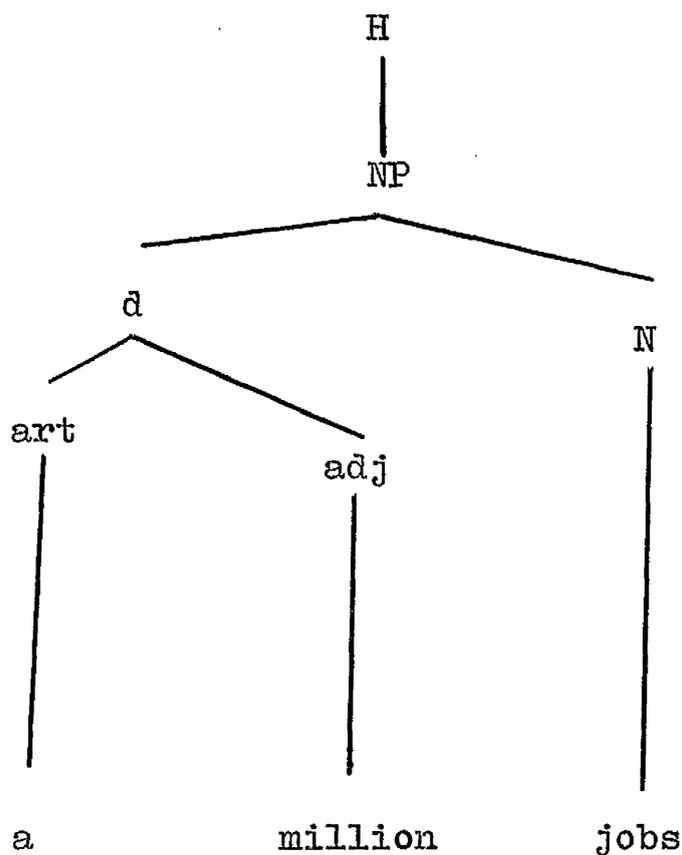
$$\text{NP} = \text{d} (+\text{S}) + \text{N}$$

Then, the d-node is expanded in the following manner (cf. 'V.1.')

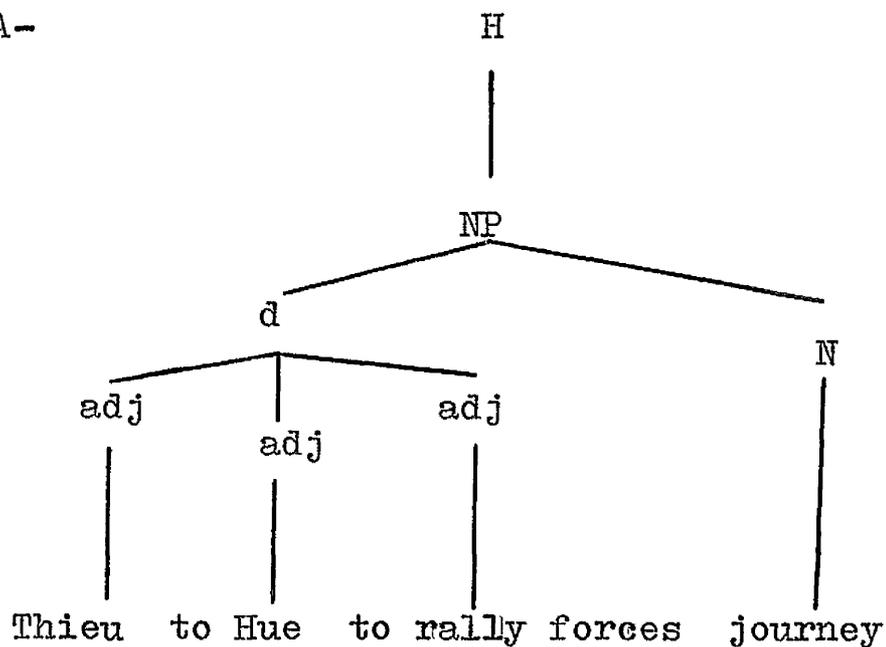
$$d = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{article} \\ \text{adjectival} \\ \text{numeral} \\ \text{demonstrative} \end{array} \right\}$$

Thus, the constituent structure of the first item and the last one in the above quoted set of items (i.e., Items '357 & 364') could be illustrated through the following tree diagrams.

357A-

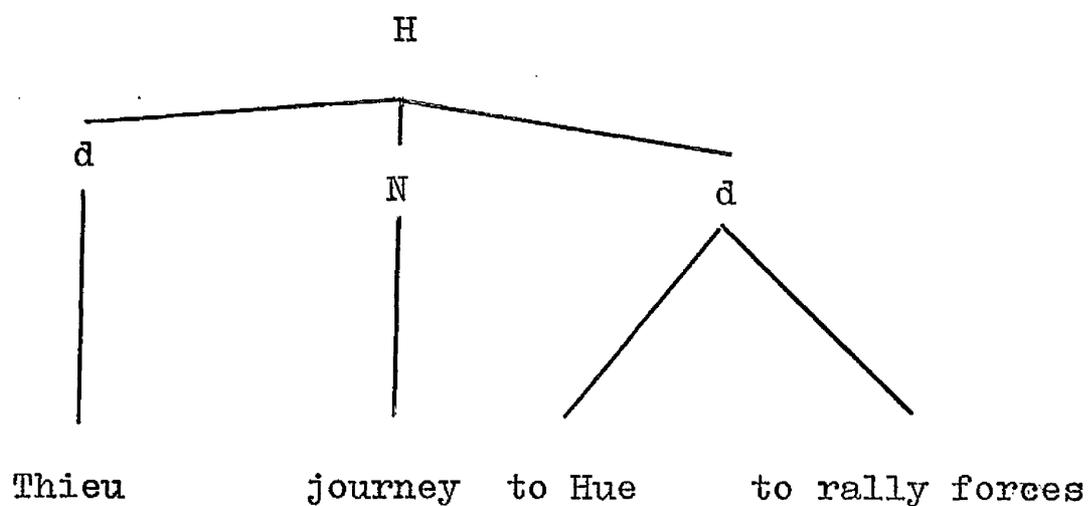


364A-



According to 'Rule iv', adjectival phrases and/or clauses are properly placed at the right-hand side of the N:

364B-



Notice from the last example diagrammed above that there is a covert genitive relationship implied in the sequence Thieu journey; while not present in the other items ('357' to '363').<sup>(1)</sup> Heads with genitive attribution constitute the majority in items of the Uninodal Type, e.g.,

- 365- The prioritization of Nixon (S.T. 15/10-8)  
 366- Lady Simon's bequest to colleges (D.T. 11/10-2)  
 367- Heath plan for pay and prices (S.T. 29/10-1)

The reason for the commonness of heads with genitive attribution seems to be that they make utmost use of the available printed space --as is consistent

---

(1) cf. John Lyons: "The most typical function of what is called the 'possessive', or 'genitive', is to modify a noun, or a noun-phrase, in an endocentric construction, and this is also the most typical function of the adjective: cf. Harry's pencil, the red pencil. It is this function to which the traditional term 'adnominal' is given ..." (Introduction to Theoretical Linguistics, pp. 296-7).

with the normal requirements of Headlines.<sup>(1)</sup>

The genitive relationship is not here treated as being of equal status with the relationships assigned the Cases Dative, Agentive, etc. It is not assigned to a Case in our analysis; but treated as a type of attribution. Charles Fillmore, in this connection, makes the following statement:

"A third process which has the effect of  
 "effacing deep-structure case distinctions  
 "is the formation of nominals from senten-  
 "ces. The case modifications under nomin-  
 "alization transformation usually involve

---

(1) cf. Barbara Strang: "... various forces combine to keep alive a sense of patterns formerly productive in the language; one such force is the analogy of idioms, ... and a third is newspaper usage, especially in headlines, for which the compactness of the case form is very convenient, so that it is often used where it would ordinarily be inappropriate, ... " (Modern English Structure, p. 94).

"what is called the 'genitive'." (1)

This observation applies, in Headlines, to headlines of the Uninodal Type which have genitive attributes. Such heads are regarded as uninodal since no Case distinctions are recognized.

John Lyons, also, refutes theories implying that all NP's with surface genitive relationships have underlying sentence-constructions ~~--a viewpoint which~~ <sup>and we share his</sup> ~~viewpoint~~ <sup>viewpoint</sup> ~~we share:~~

" In most of the transformational accounts  
 "of English Syntax so far published, it has  
 "been assumed that phrases like John's book  
 "are to be derived from an underlying  
 "structure in which the 'possessive' noun  
 "is the subject of 'the verb have': in  
 "other words, it is assumed that have is a  
 "deep-structure verb, which differs, how-  
 "ever, from the majority of transitive verbs

---

(1) Charles Fillmore, 'The Case for Case,' Universals in Linguistic Theory, Emmon Bach & Robert Harms (eds.), Holt, Rinehart & Winston, U.S.A., 1968, p. 49.

"in that it cannot undergo the passive transformation. There are many reasons for believing that this account of the relationship between 'have-sentences' and 'possessive phrases is incorrect.'"<sup>(1)</sup>

#### VIII. 2. Forms of the Attribute

Headlines of the Uninodal Type differ only as regards the form of the attribute, i.e., the form of the adj-constituent 'under the d-node.' Three forms of adj-constituent can be distinguished:

- a) one-word adjectivals,
- b) adjectival prepositional phrases,
- c) adjectival clauses.

Three sets of items exemplify each of the three forms of the d-constituent found in uninodal heads. The constituent structure of the first item in each

---

(1) John Lyons, Introduction to Theoretical Linguistics, Cambridge University Press, London, 1968, p. 391.

set is, subsequently, illustrated through a tree diagram. (1)

one-word attributes (preceding the Head):

- |                                   |               |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| 368- Another M1 <u>Sunday</u>     | (T.G. 4/12-1) |
| 369- More Viet <u>talks</u>       | (S.T. 5/11-1) |
| 370- No <u>women</u>              | (T.G. 27/9-6) |
| 371- Hunger strike <u>protest</u> | (S.T. 5/11-1) |
| 372- £200m city <u>bids</u>       | (T.G. 2/11-1) |
| 373- Fleet Street <u>offer</u>    | (S.T. 5/11-1) |

attributive prep p (following the Head):

- |   |                |
|---|----------------|
| 79- <u>Plight</u> of the 23,000 Ugandans made stateless |                |
| 374- <u>Backlash</u> of anti-drug campaigns             | (T.T. 13/12-4) |
| 375- Gunfire <u>threat</u> in cod war                   | (D.T. 24/11-1) |
| 376- 17pc <u>fall</u> in car exports                    | (D.T. 24/11-1) |
| 377- Torchlight <u>march</u> on prison                  | (D.T. 8/12-1)  |
| 378- <u>Shake-up</u> of NHS                             | (S.T. 13/8-3)  |

---

(1) Note that the Head-word in each item is underlined, so as to show its position within the construction, i.e., whether 'initial,' 'intermediate,' or 'final.'

attributive clause (following the Head):

379- Dublin hint that door is still open for talks

(T.T. 11/7-1)<sup>(1)</sup>

72- British drive to halt drugs from Hong Kong

74- Offers to take Winter Games

380- BEA proposals to cut air stacking delays

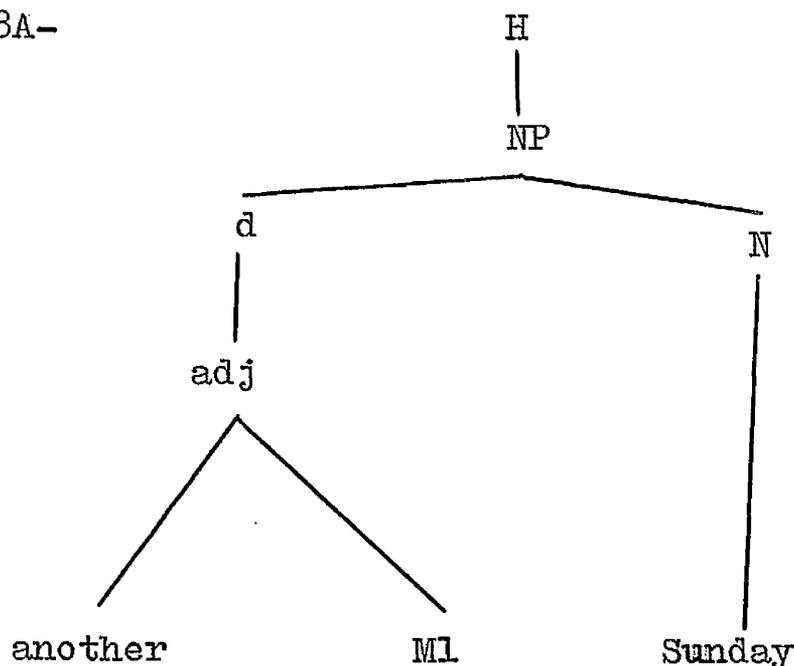
(D.T. 27/10-7)

381- The man who has to give away money (S.T. 15/10-8)

382- Ministry move to stabilize price of sugar

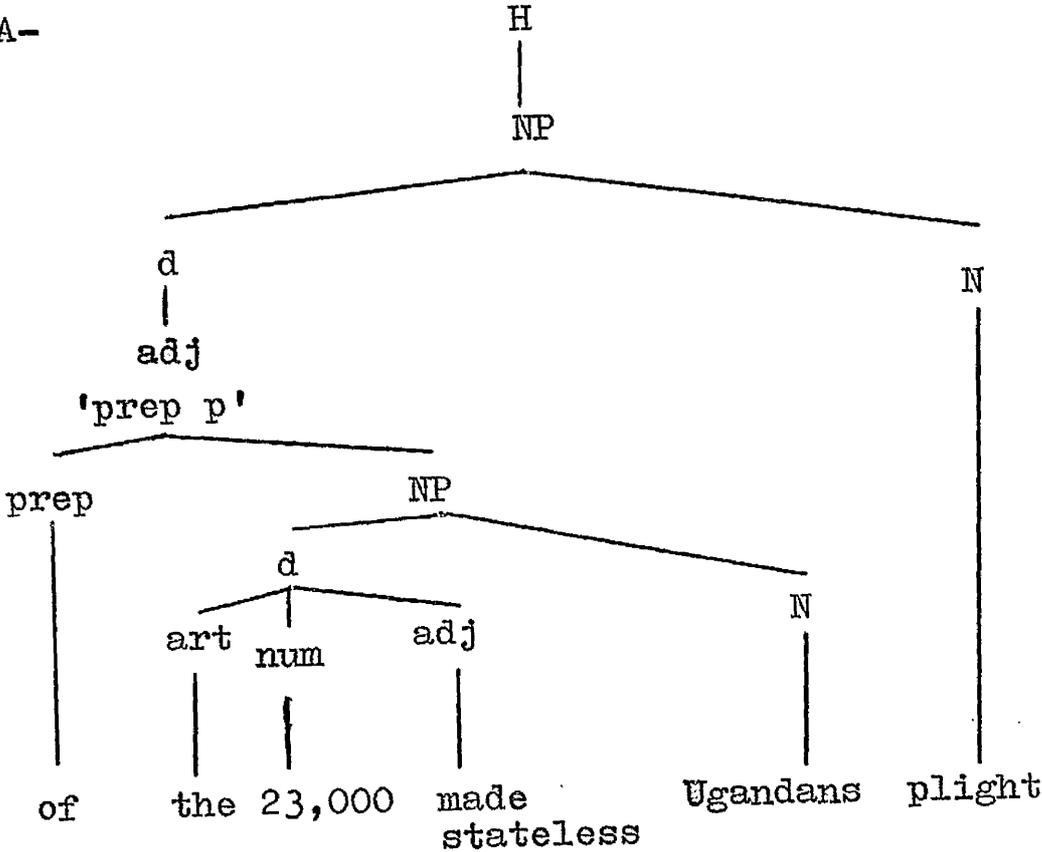
(T.T. 1/2-1)

-----  
368A-

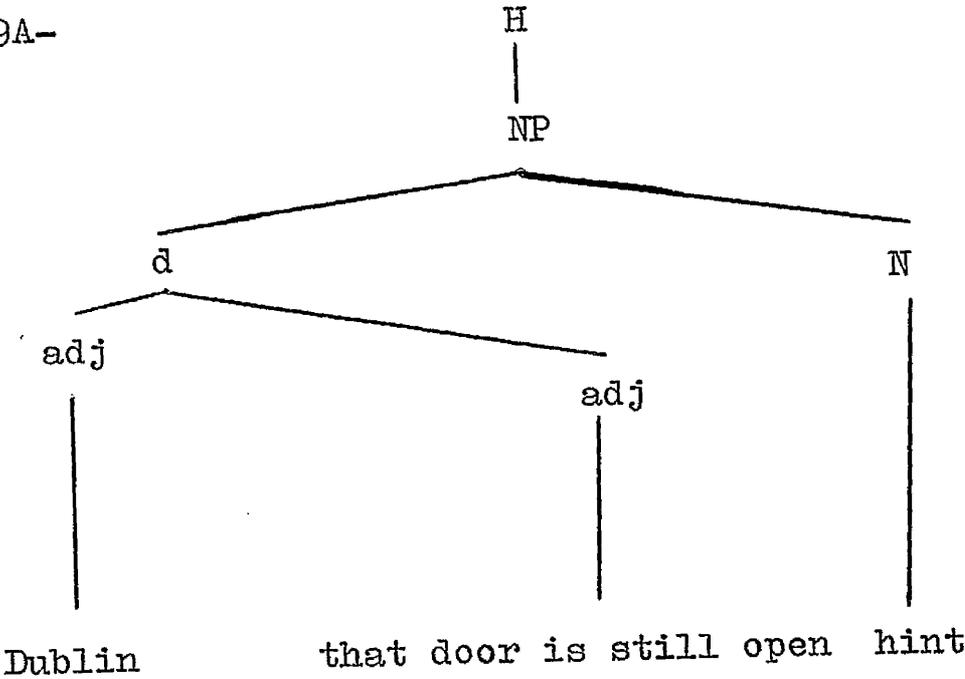


-----  
(1) Note that the lexical element hint is here considered as an N, not as a v; since it does not have the distinctive -s suffix syntactically associated with a verb-form following a singular noun as Dublin.

79A-



379A-



VIII. 2. 1. NP' Embeddedness

It is quite common in Headlines to have uninodal heads with successive layers of embedded noun phrases.<sup>(1)</sup> This means that the NP representing the whole item would have more than one other embedded NP's. This would normally occur within the adjectival-node 'under d,' which would then be of the form:

$$\text{adj} = \text{NP (NP(NP( ... (N))))}$$

Recursive embeddedness is illustrated by the following items:

- 13- Three-day rail chaos warning
- 359- £1 million raid clue
- 360- Italian telephone tapping claim
- 383- Rhodesia plane order move (T.T. 4/1-1)
- 384- £35m Belfast shipyard boast (T.T. 5/5-1)
- 385- Trees removal cost warning (D.T. 27/10-10)

Note that such heads with recursive embeddedness

---

(1) This again serves the purposes of maximal economy referred to more than once earlier.

are very clearly distinguished from heads with more than one 'one-word adjectivals', e.g.,

heads with more than one 'one-word adjectivals':

369- More Viet talks

heads with recursive embeddedness:

385- Trees removal cost warning

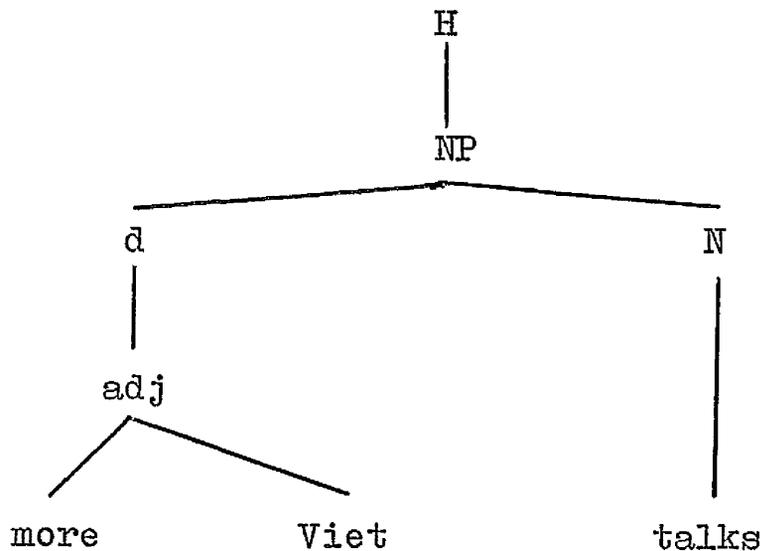
The criterion employed for separating one type of attribute from the other is that the ordering of the successive elements could be broken in the first case ('Item 369'), but not in the second ('Item 385'). This is demonstrated by the acceptability of '369A' below, but the unacceptability of '385A'; as near equivalents to the quoted items:

369A- /more talks/

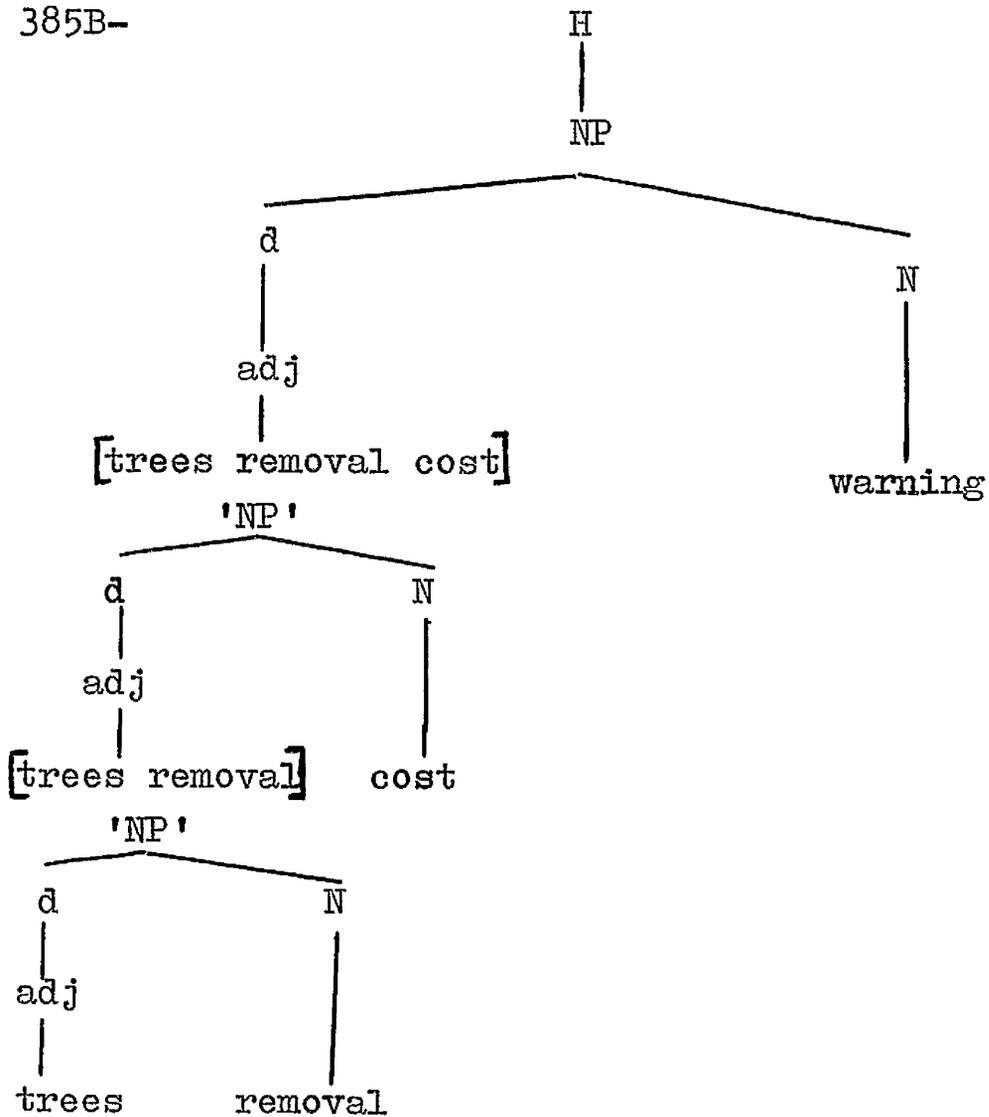
385A- /trees warning/

The following two tree diagrams of the two illustrated items show this basic distinction between heads with more than one 'one-word attributes' on one hand, and heads with recursive NP-attributes on the other hand:

369B-



385B-



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