Raising vs. Control

Or don't judge a book by its cover

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Some surprising parallels

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- Jean is likely to leave *Raising*

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- Jean is likely to leave *Raising*
- Jean is reluctant to leave *Control*

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- Jean wants Brian to leave *Raising*

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Some surprising parallels

- Jean is likely to leave *Raising*
- Jean is reluctant to leave *Control*

- Jean wants Brian to leave *Raising*
- Jean persuaded Brian to leave *Control*

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Raising Predicate

- *Is likely*
  - proposition
- *extraposition*
  - It is likely [that John will leave]$_i$
- *clausal subject*
  - [that John will leave]$_i$ is likely.
- *subject to subject raising*
  - John$_j$ is likely [t_j to leave]$_i$

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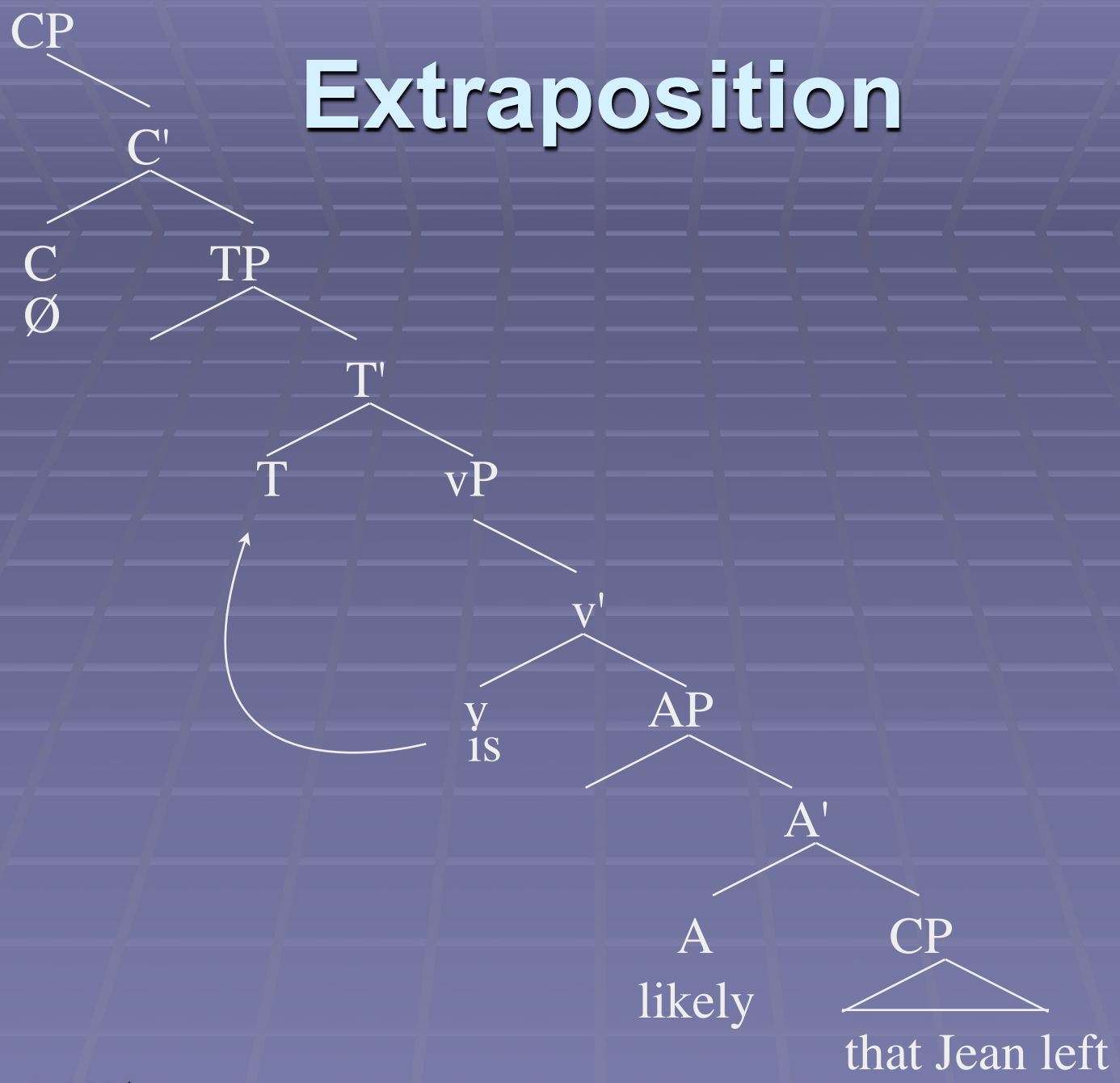
Extraposition



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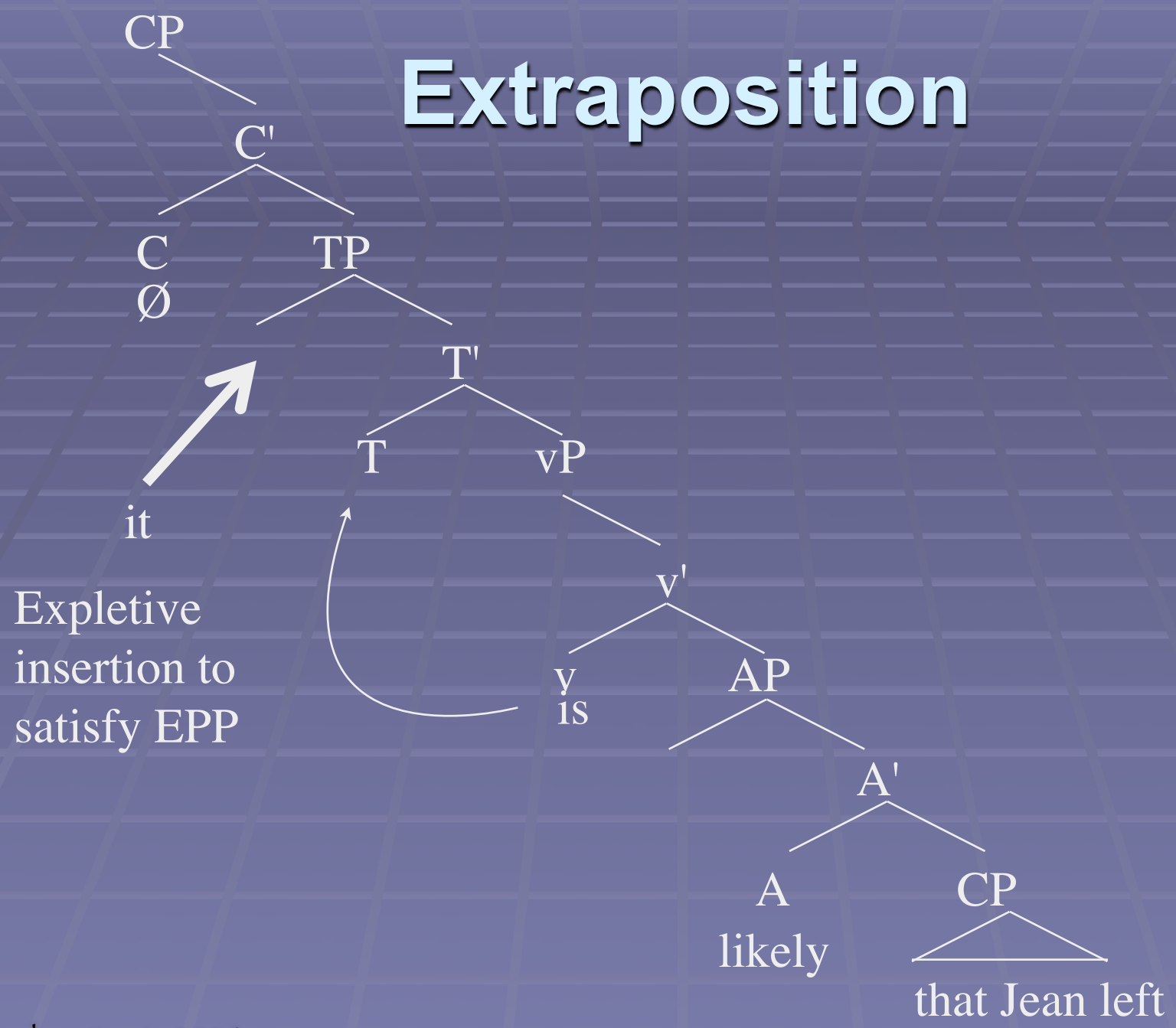
Extraposition



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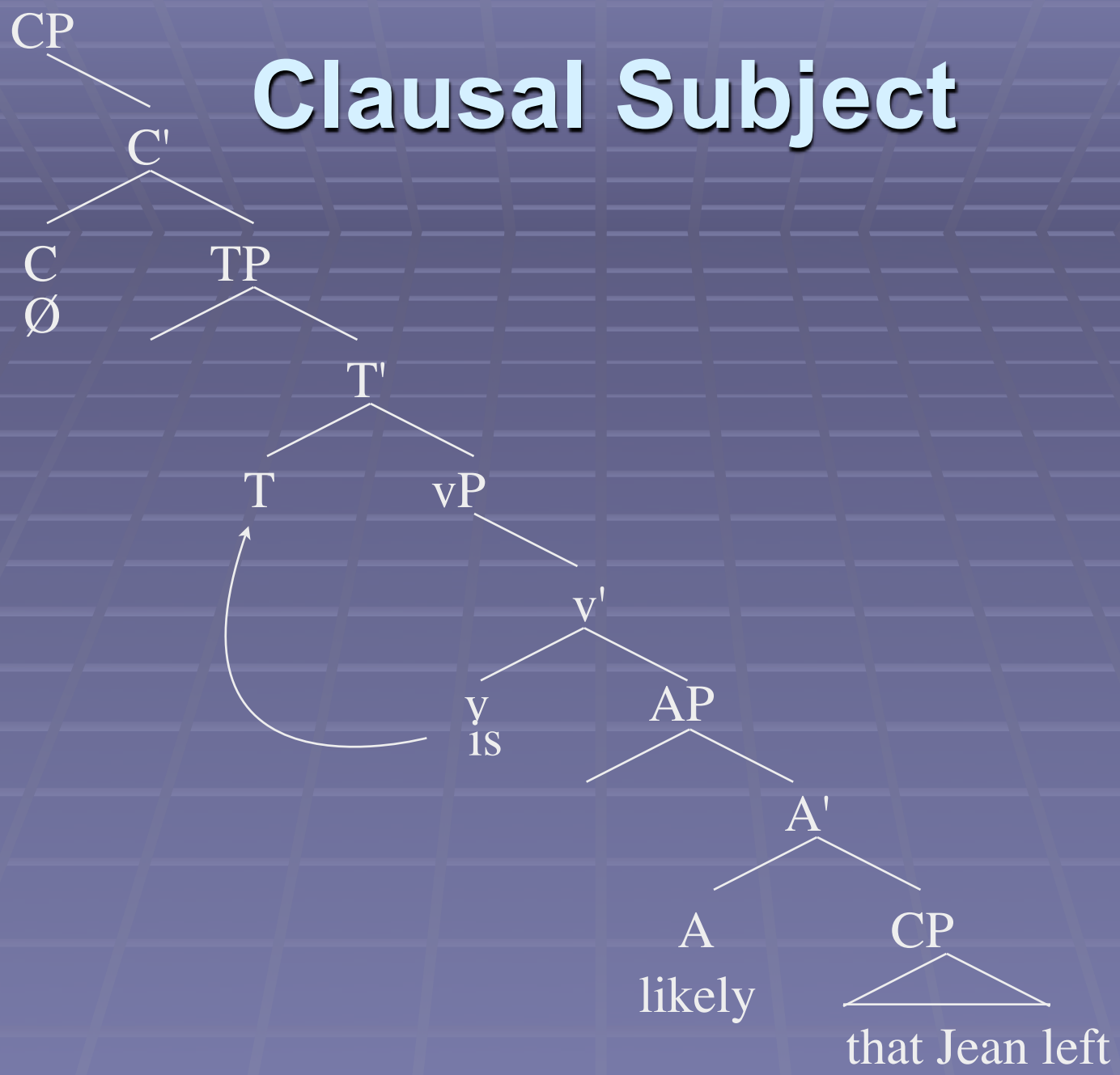
Clausal Subject



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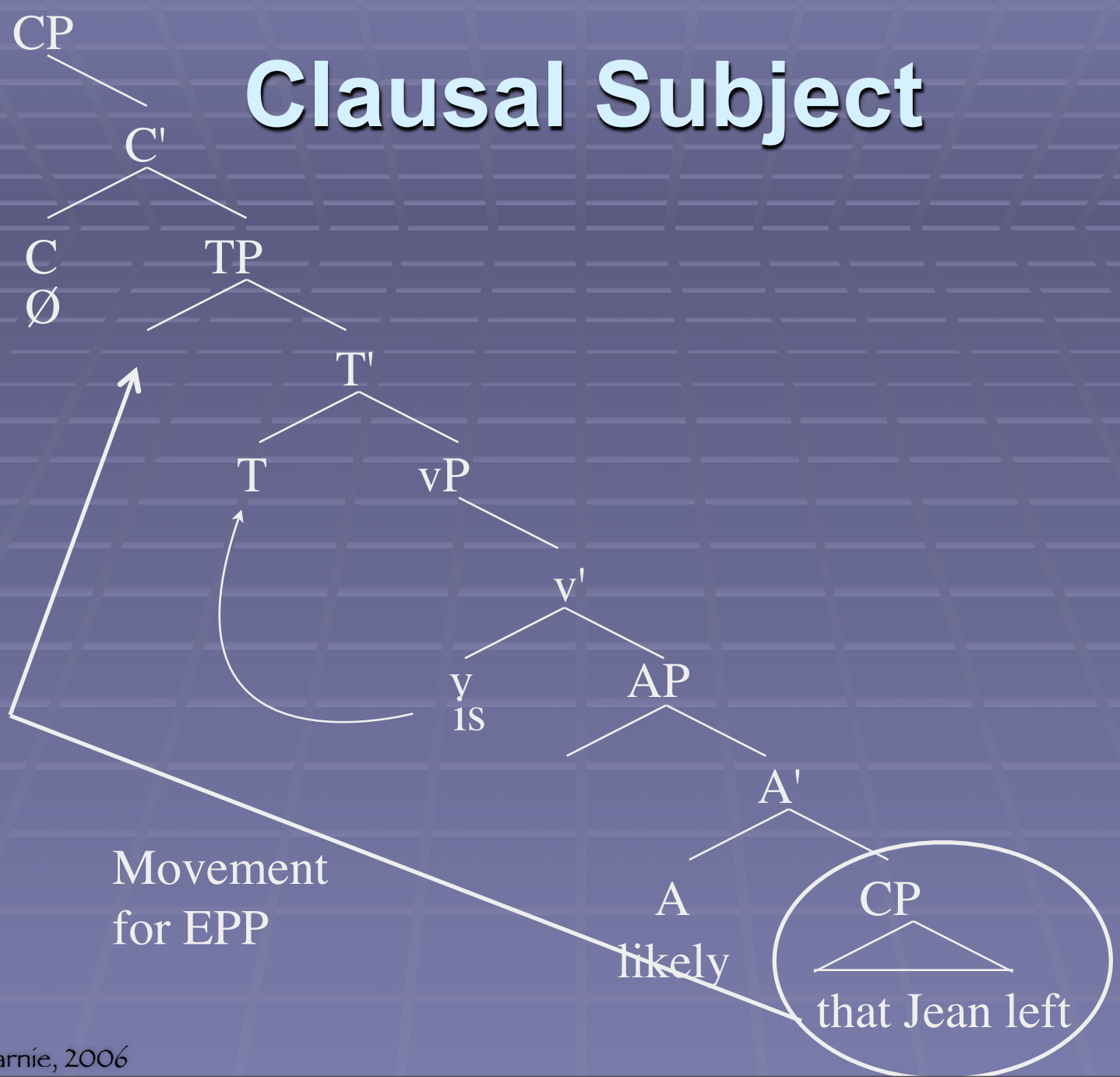

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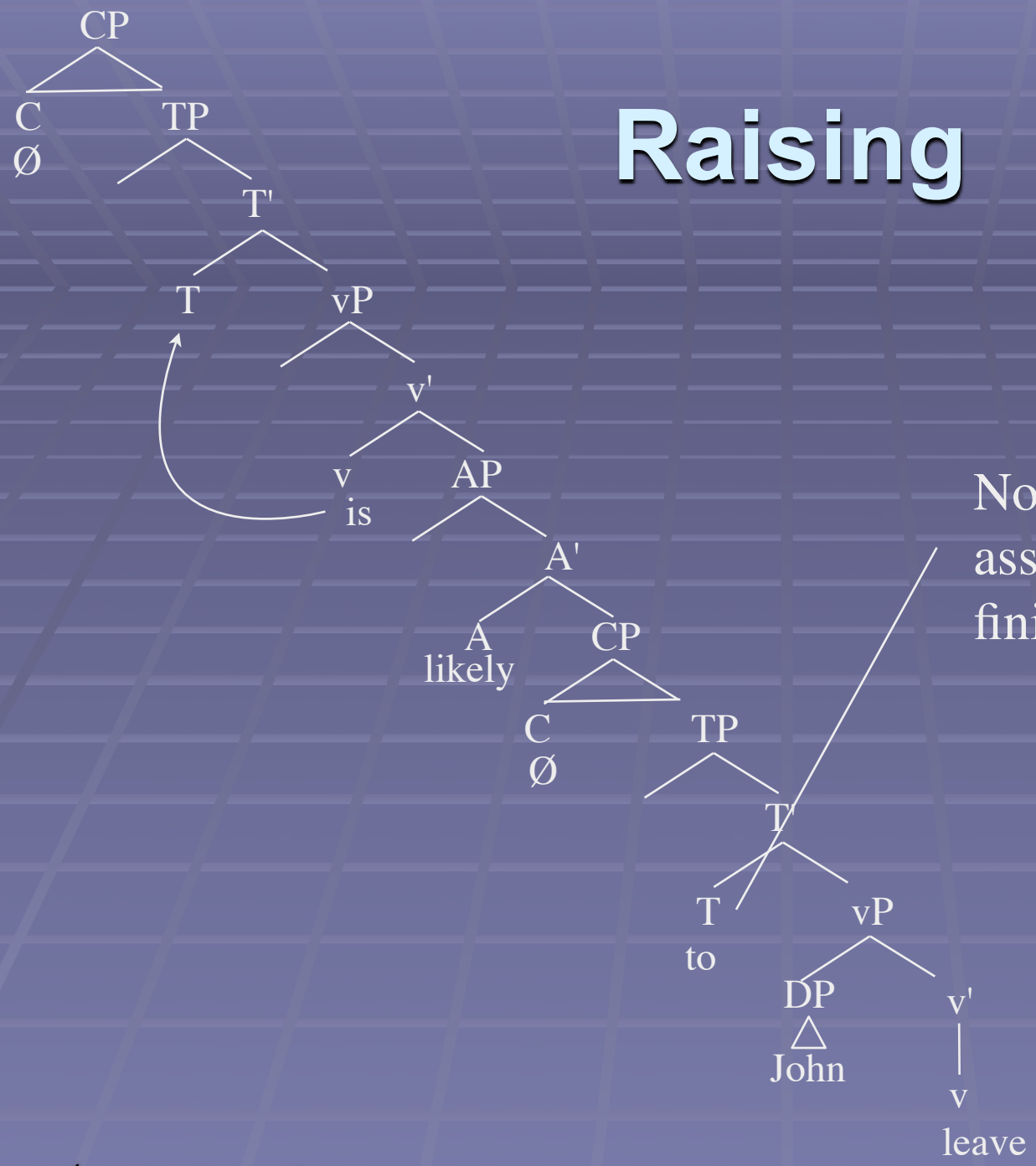
Raising



Not a case assigner: non-finite

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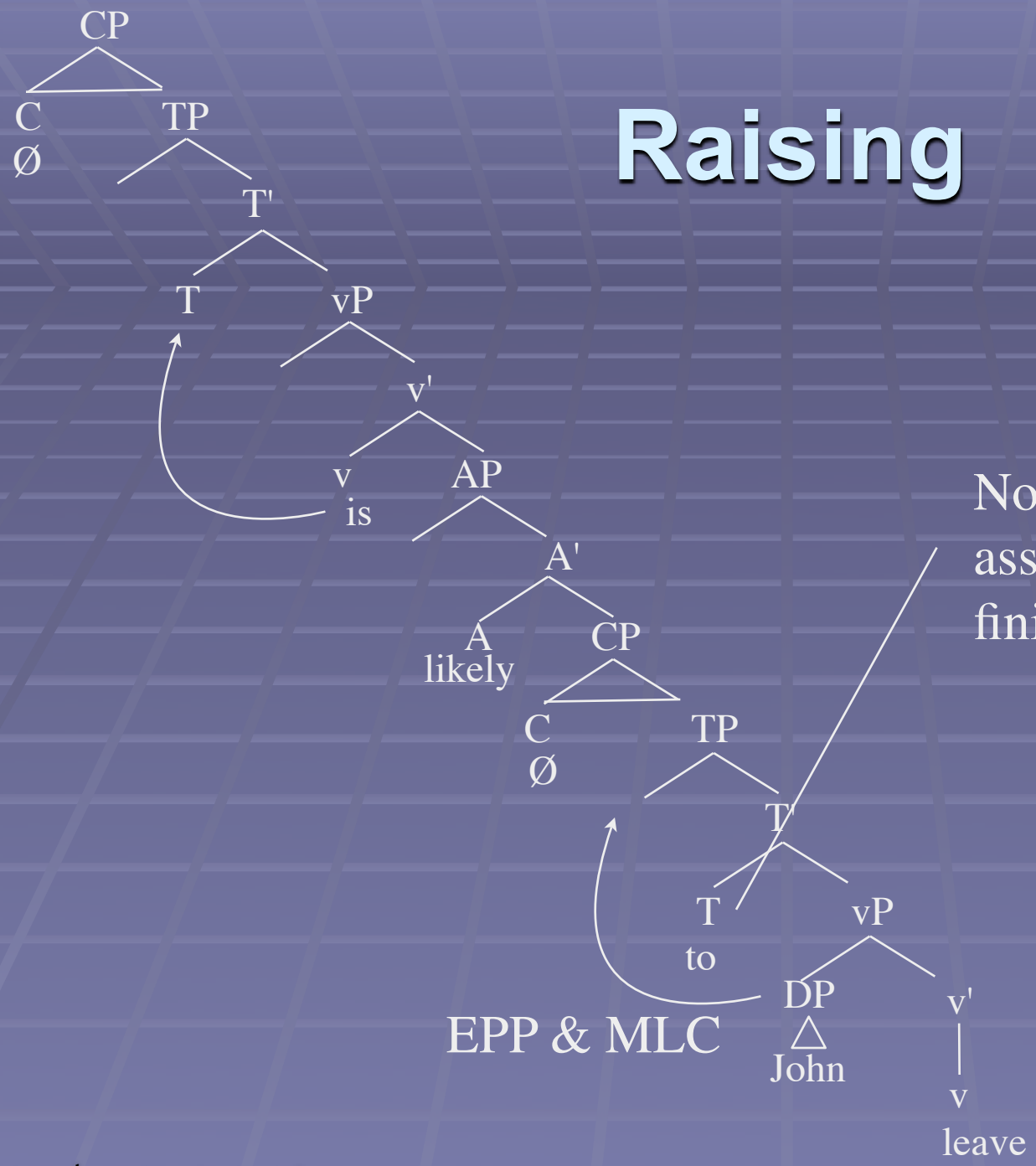
Raising



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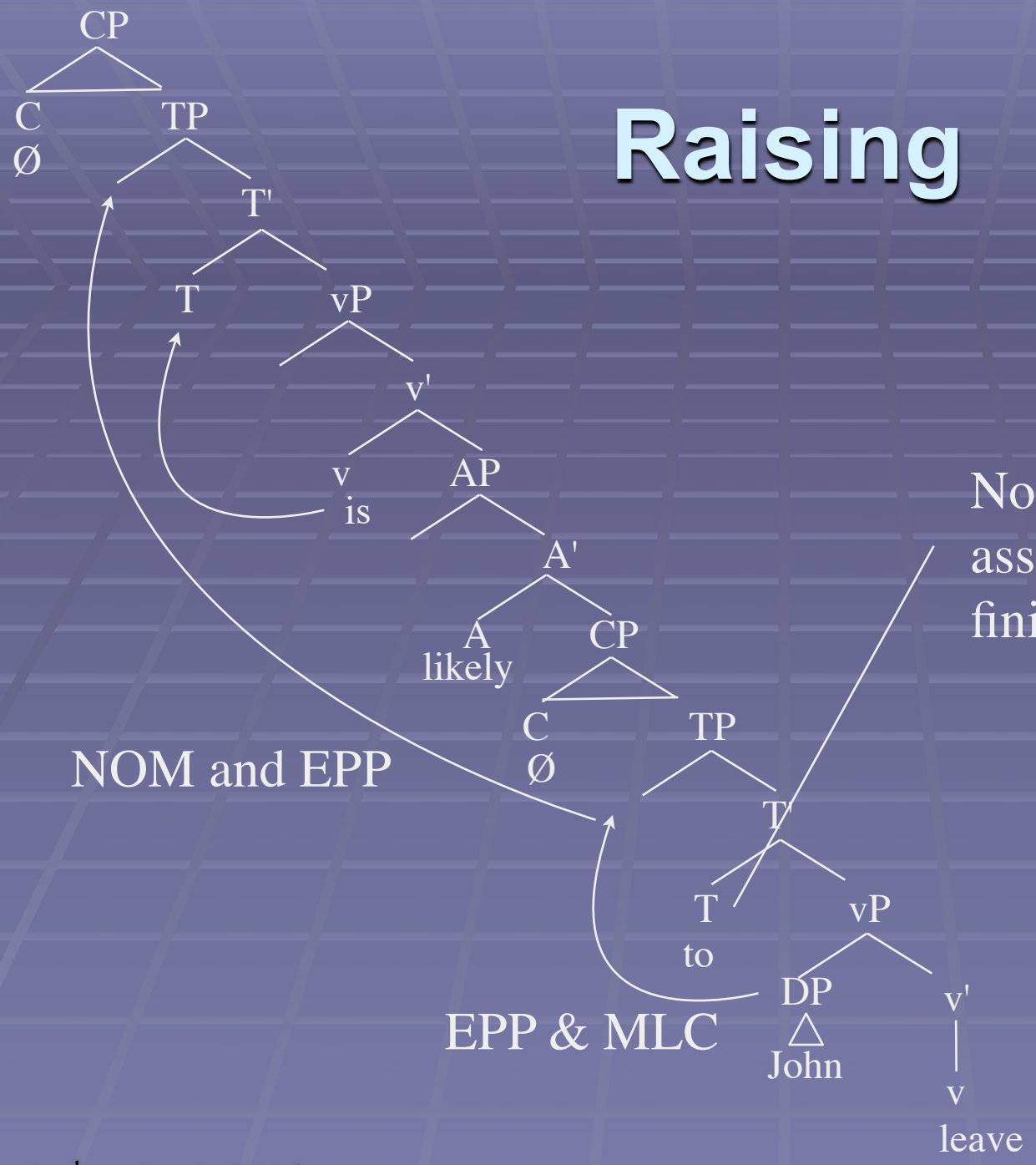
Raising



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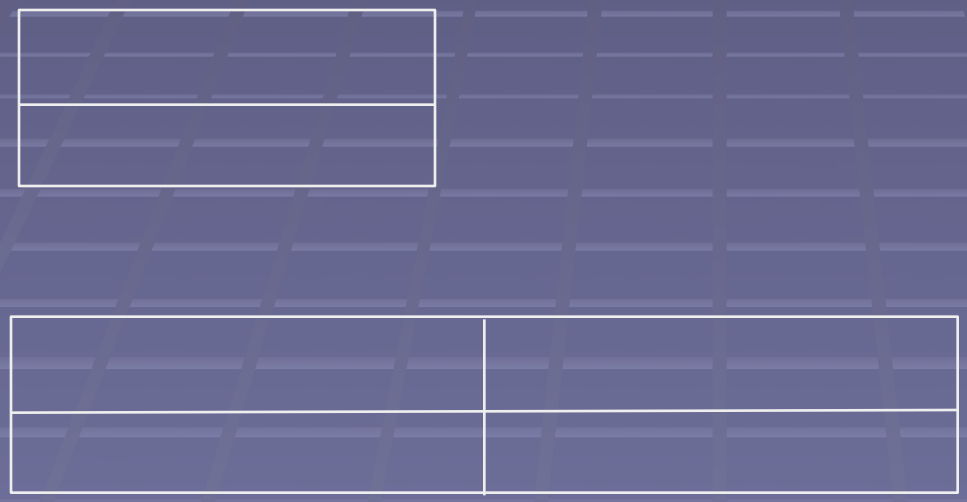
Raising vs. Control



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Raising vs. Control

- *Is likely*
  - proposition

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Raising vs. Control

- *Is likely*
proposition
- *Is reluctant*
Experiencer	Proposition

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Distinguishing Raising from Control

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Distinguishing Raising from Control

1. Work out theta grids

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Distinguishing Raising from Control

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2. Control disallows expletive subject:
   - *It is reluctant [that John will leave].

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Distinguishing Raising from Control

1. Work out theta grids
2. Control disallows expletive subject:
   - *It is reluctant [that John will leave].
3. Control disallows clausal subject:
   - *[That John will leave] is reluctant.
4. Idiom test:
   - The shit hit the fan
   - The shit is likely to hit the fan (retains idiomatic meaning)
   - #The shit is reluctant to hit the fan (loses idiomatic meaning)

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Where's the missing subject?

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Where's the missing subject?

- John is reluctant to leave

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- John is reluctant to leave
- Where is the agent of *leave*?

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Where's the missing subject?

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- John already gets theta role from *is reluctant.* So by the theta criterion it can't get one from *leave*.
- Solution: PRO

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Where's the missing subject?

- John is reluctant to leave
- Where is the agent of *leave*?
- John already gets theta role from *is reluctant.* So by the theta criterion it can't get one from *leave*.
- Solution: PRO
- PRO is a null, CASELESS subject. Notice that PRO is a DP in a position without case (explaining why it is null).

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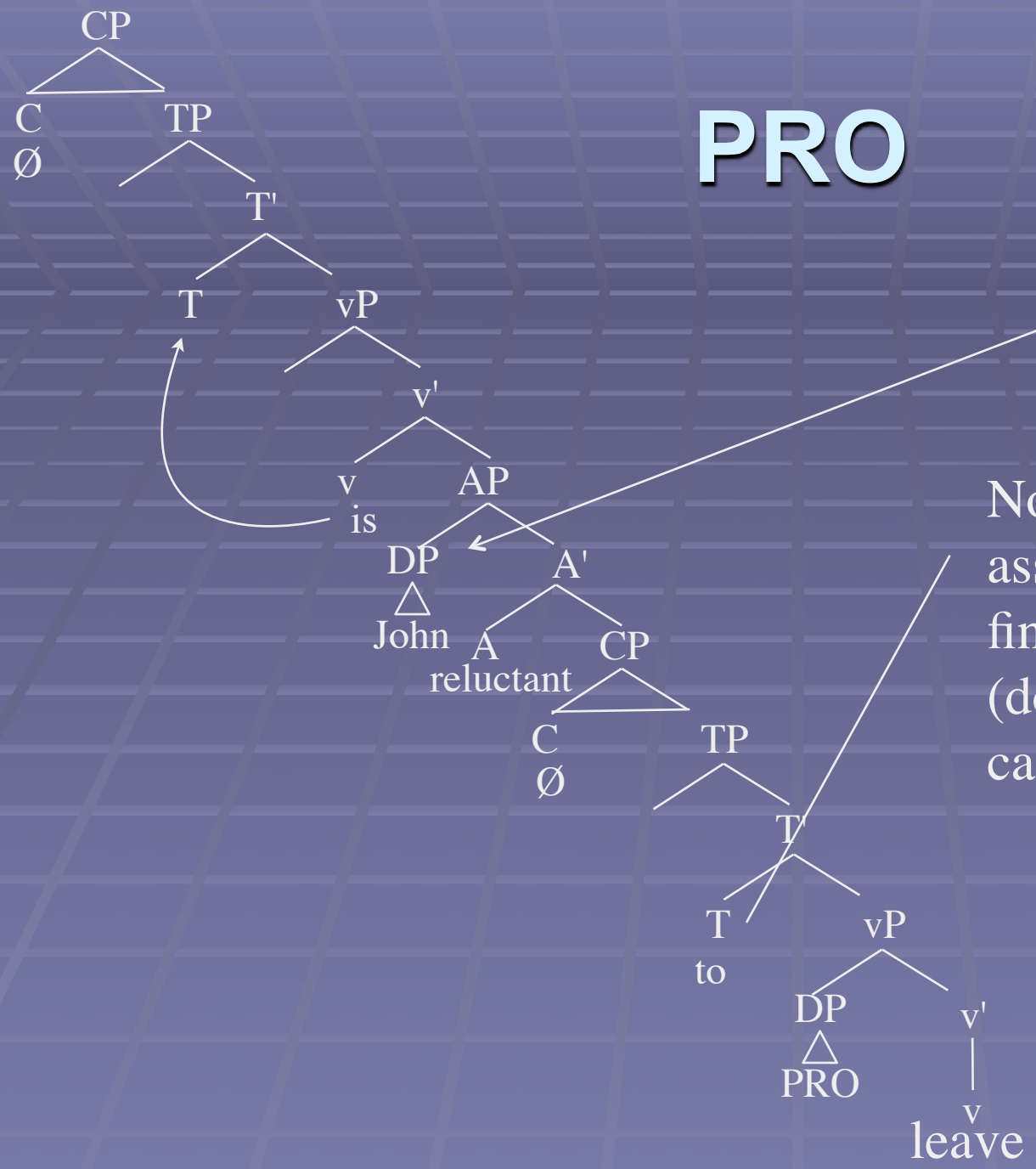
PRO



Gets experiencer role from reluctant, gets nom case from T

Not a case assigner: non-finite, so PRO (doesn't need case)

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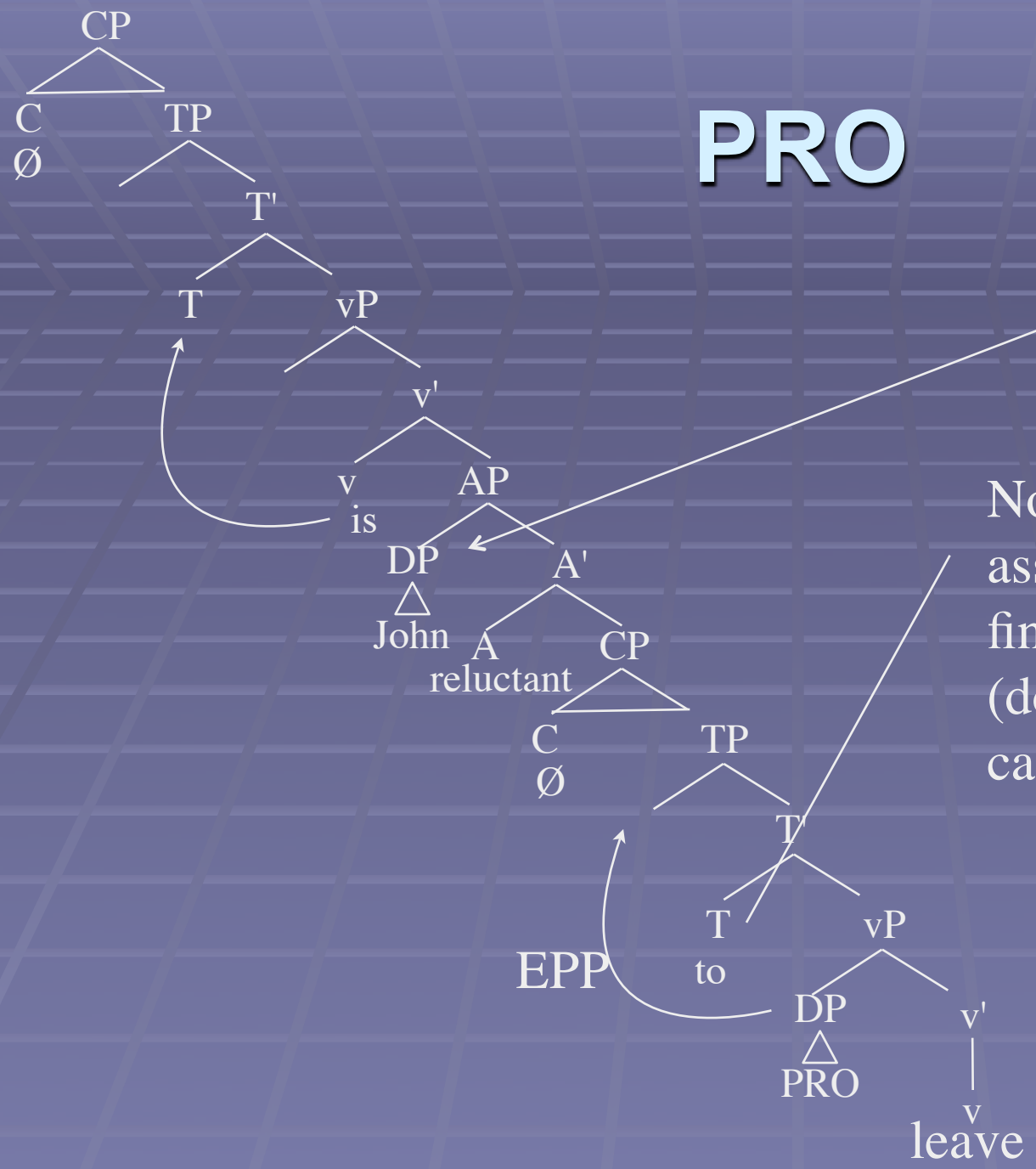
PRO



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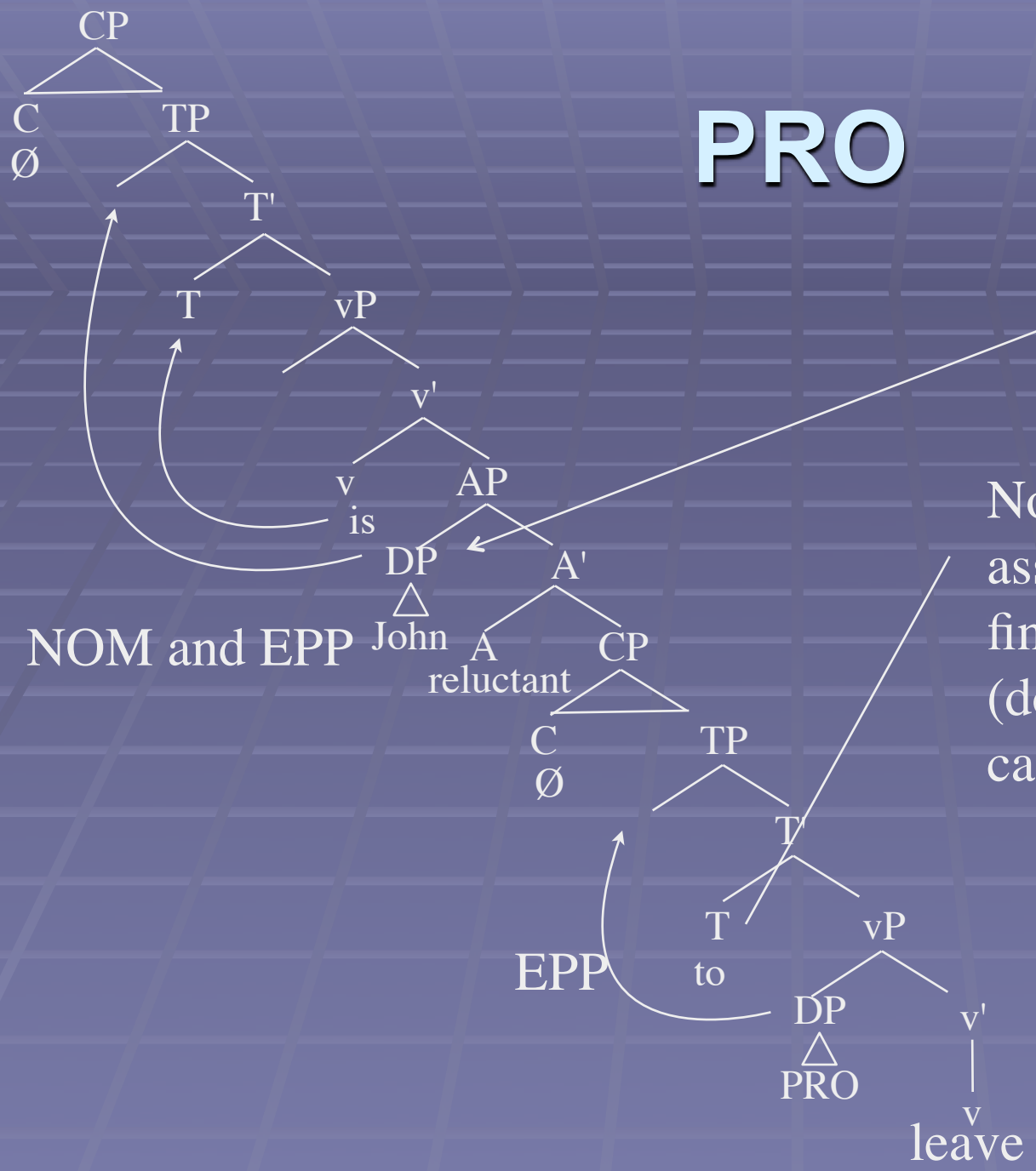
PRO



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Another Kind of Raising

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- Subject to Subject raising
  - John is likely to leave

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- Subject to Subject raising
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- Subject to Object Raising (ECM):
  - John wants Bill to leave
  - Bill wants him to leave

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Another Kind of Raising

- Subject to Subject raising
  - John is likely to leave
- Subject to Object Raising (ECM):
  - John wants Bill to leave
  - Bill wants him to leave
- In order to get accusative case on the subject of the embedded clause you have to raise the subject to be the sister of V.

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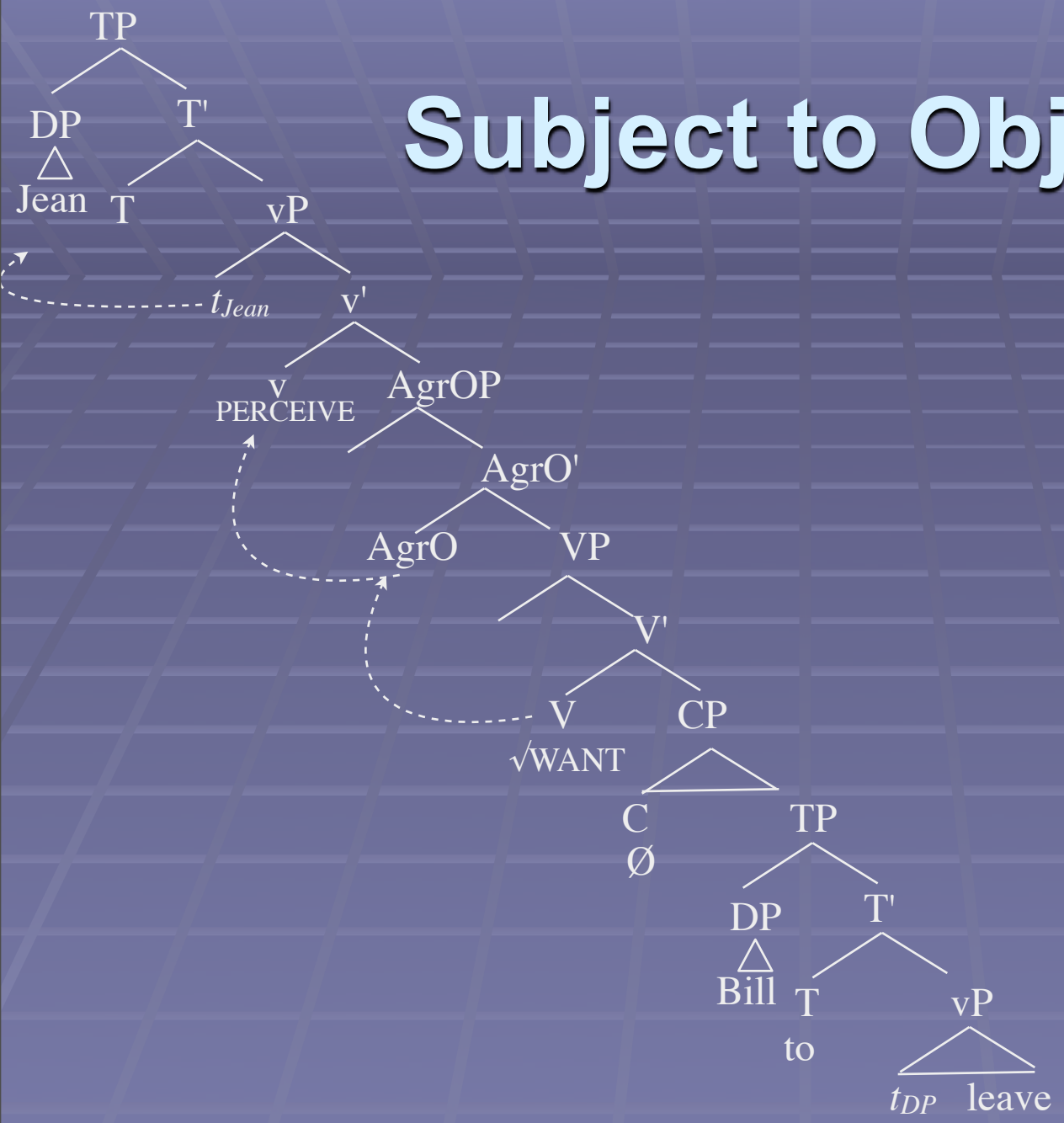
Subject to Object



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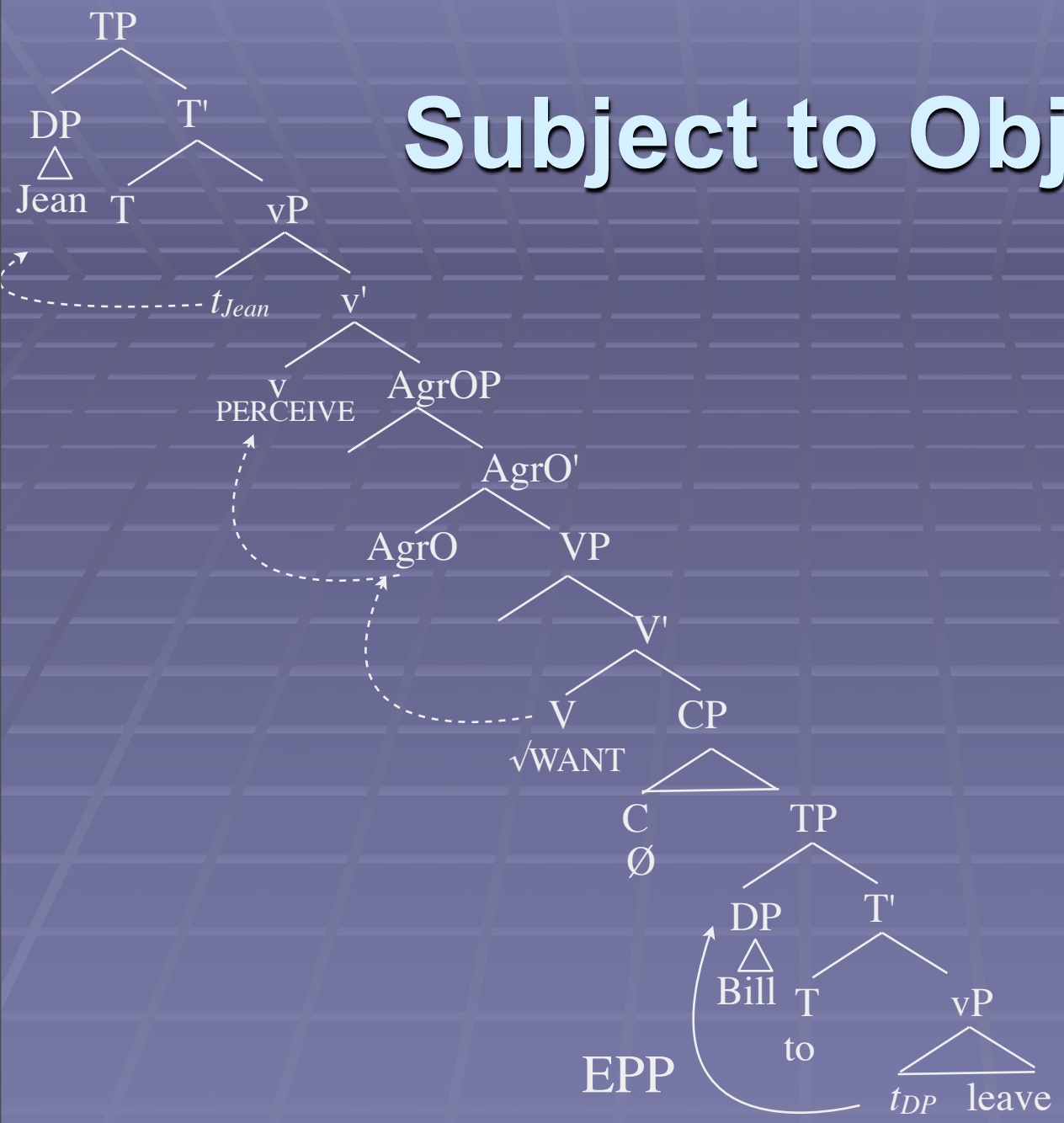

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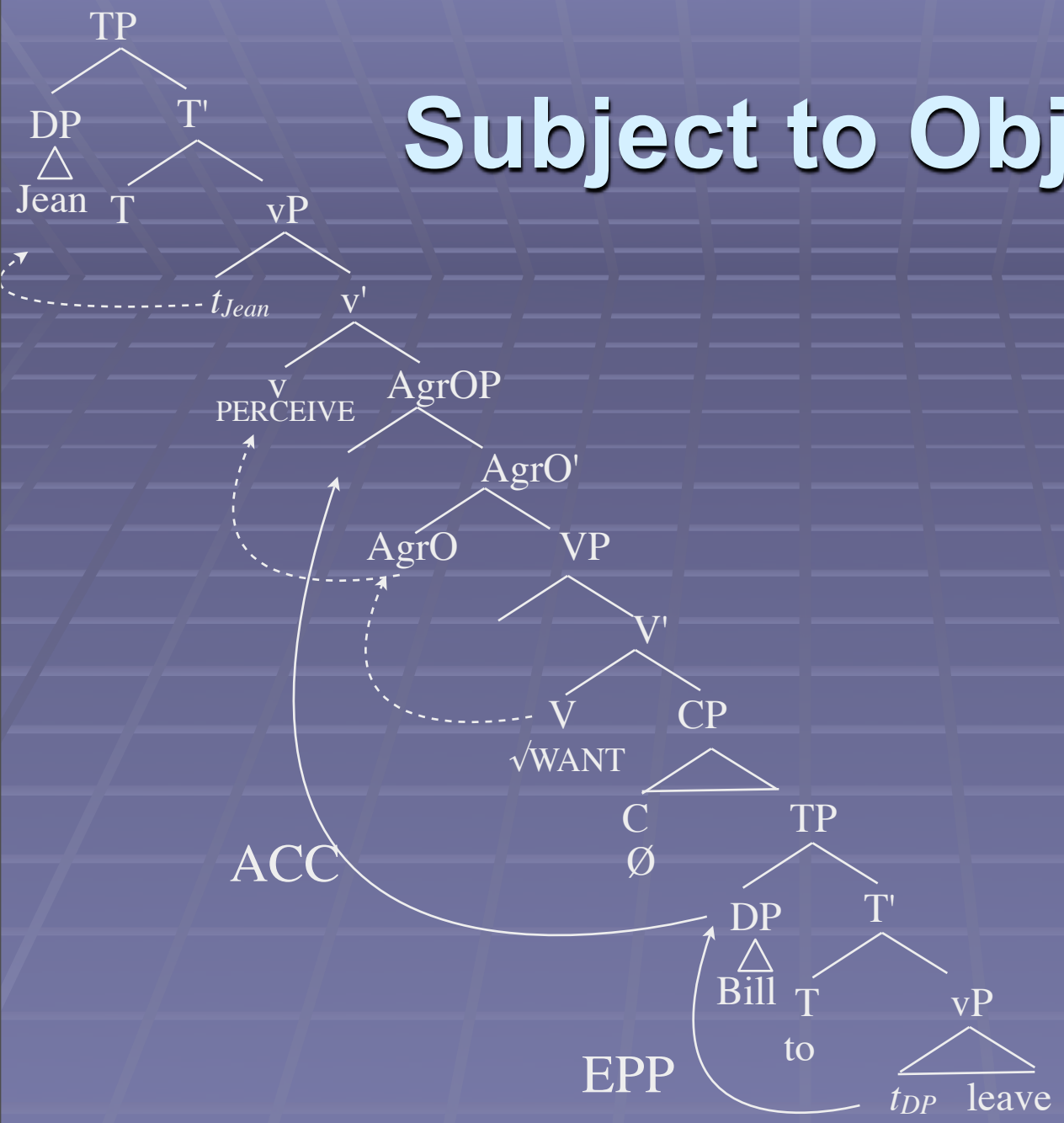

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Object Position?

- Accusative Case:
  - I want him to leave
- Binding theory:
  - John$_i$ wants himself$_i$ to leave.
  - John$_i$ wants him$_j$ to leave.
  - *John$_i$ wants him$_i$ to leave.
  - (cf. John$_i$ thinks that he$_{i/j}$ should leave)

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Another kind of control

- Subject Control:
  - Jean is reluctant PRO to leave
- Object Control:
  - Jean persuaded Robert PRO to leave
- Think about the theta grid for persuade:
  -

Agent	Theme	Proposition

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Theta grids for object control

- Persuade:
Agent	Theme	Proposition
i	j	m
- Leave:
Agent
k

Jean$_i$ persuaded Robert$_j$ [PRO$_k$ to leave]$_m$

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Distinguishing SOR from OC

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Distinguishing SOR from OC

- SOR
  - John wants the shit to hit the fan
- OC
  - #John persuaded the shit to hit the fan

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Control Theory

Determining the meaning of PRO

Or the least well worked out area of generative grammar.

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Types of PRO

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- Note, the indices here are the indices of binding theory, not the indices of theta grids.

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- PRO_{arb}:
  - PRO to find a mate, go to a dating service

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Types of PRO

- Note, the indices here are the indices of binding theory, not the indices of theta grids.
- PRO_{arb}:
  - PRO to find a mate, go to a dating service
- Non-arbitrary PRO
  - $Jean_i$ tried PRO_i to behave.
  - *Obligatory Control*:
    - $Jean_i$ tried $PRO_{i/*j}$ to behave
  - *Non-Obligatory Control*
    - $Robert_i$ knows that it is essential [$PRO_{i/j}$ to be well behaved]

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Is PRO an R-expression, Pronoun or Anaphor?

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- Well it can be bound, so it isn't an R-expression.
- It isn't bound within it's clause, so it isn't an anaphor.
- Could it be a pronoun?
  - Robert_i knows it is essential $\text{PRO}_{i/j}$ to be well behaved
  - Robert_i knows it is essential that $\text{he}_{i/j}$ is well behaved.

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- Problem: sometimes it is obligatorily bound, like an anaphor:
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  - Robert_i knows it is essential that $\text{he}_{i/j}$ is well behaved.
- Problem: sometimes it is obligatorily bound, like an anaphor:
  - Jean_i tried $\text{PRO}_{i/*j}$ to behave.
- Solution: It is neither a pronoun nor an anaphor. It does not fall within the domain of binding theory. So how do we deal with it?

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Control

- Conclusion 1:
  - The controller (loosely the antecedent) must c-command PRO:
    - [Jean$_i$'s father]$_k$ is reluctant PRO$_{k/*i}$ to leave.

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Control

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Control

- Observation:
  - In some sentences, the controller is the NP closest to the PRO
    - Jean_i persuaded Robert_k $\text{PRO}_{k/*i}$ to leave.
  - But in others it is not:
    - Jean_i promised Susan_k $\text{PRO}_{i/*k}$ to leave.

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Control

- Observation:
  - In some sentences, the controller is the NP closest to the PRO
    - Jean_i persuaded Robert_k $\text{PRO}_{k/*i}$ to leave.
  - But in others it is not:
    - Jean_i promised Susan_k $\text{PRO}_{i/*k}$ to leave.
- These sentences are identical in structure, and differ only in the verb. So the difference in controller might be specified in the lexicon.

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Control as part of the lexicon

- Persuade:
  -

Agent	Theme *controller*	Proposition

- Promise:
  -

Agent *controller*	Theme	Proposition

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But that can’t be right either:

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But that can't be right either:

- Louis$_i$ begged Kate$_k$ [PRO$_k$ to leave her job]

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But that can't be right either:

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- ACK! Here it is the embedded clause, not the main clause that is determining who the controller is…
  - Perhaps Control isn't syntactic, but pragmatic (comes from real world knowledge).
  - Or perhaps we just haven't figured it out yet!

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PRO vs. *pro*

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PRO vs. *pro*

- PRO is the caseless form found in infinitivals in English.

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- PRO is the caseless form found in infinitivals in English.
- *pro* is the null subject found in CASED positions in languages like Spanish and Italian:
  - *pro* parlo "I speak"
  - *pro* parli "you speak"

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- In many languages *pro* is licensed by rich agreement morphology.
- Null subject parameter:
  - Language allows null subject pronouns. Yes or No.
    - English, French: NO
    - Spanish, Italian, Irish: YES

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Summary

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Summary

- Distinguished SSR from SC
  - Expletive insertion
  - Clausal Subject
  - Idiom test

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- Discussed the structural, lexical and pragmatic factors underlying Control.
- Distinguished PRO from *pro*.

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