



Figuring Out Categories and Phrase Structure in Other Languages



Problem: Sinhala /sɪŋəla/



i) Jōn ballavədäkka

John dog saw

“John saw the dog.”

ii) Jōn janēle iñdəla ballavə däkka

John window from dog saw

“John saw the dog from the window.”

iii) Jōn eyāge taḍi ballavədäkka

John his big dog saw

“John saw his big dog.”



First, try to assign categories



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What are the verbs?

What are the nouns?

What are the adjectives?

What are the prepositions?

All other things being equal, assume parallels to English



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Plausible Verbs



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Plausible Prepositions iñdəla

Plausible Determiners eyāge



Rule for NP in Sinhala



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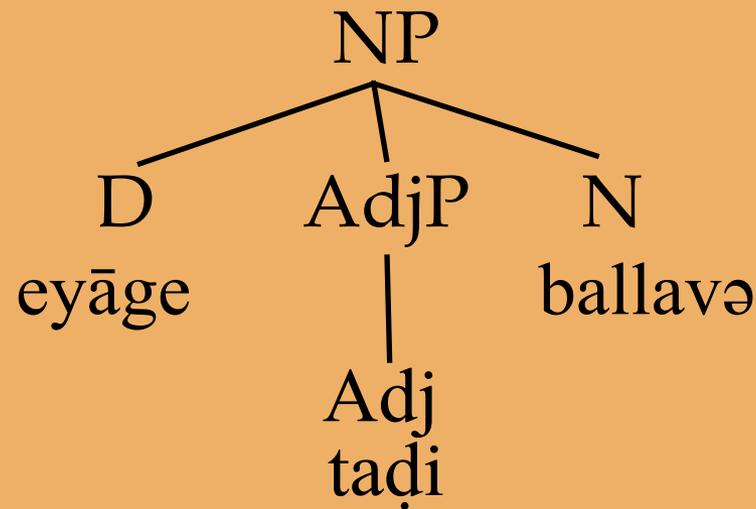


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Rule for PP in Sinhala



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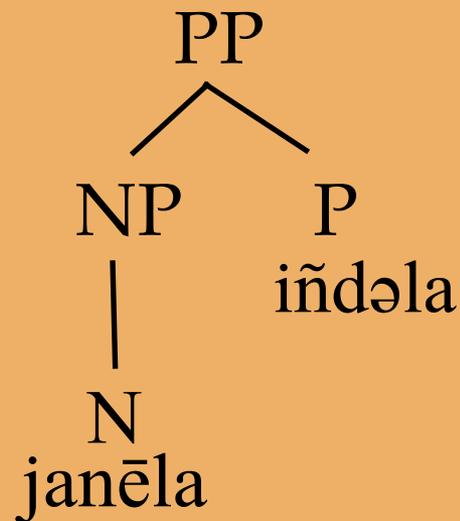


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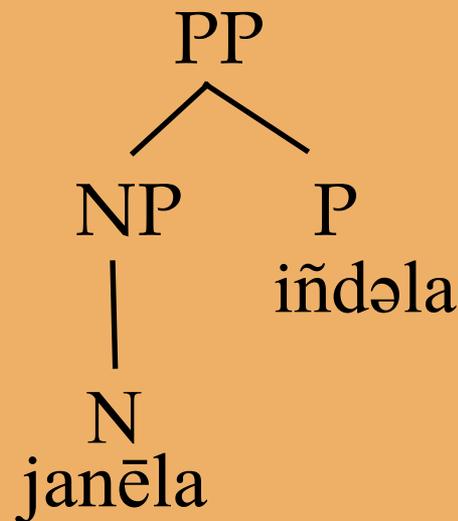


Rule for PP in Sinhala



a) What is the PP rule of Sinhala?

$PP \rightarrow NP P$



Is there any evidence that NP is optional in Sinhala?



What is the VP rule in Sinhala?



c) What is the VP rule of Sinhala? (Assume all non-head material is optional.)

- There is always a V
- Object NPs appear before V
- If there is a PP and an Object NP, then the PP is before the object (and the V)
- VP → ??????????



The VP Rule

$VP \rightarrow (PP) (NP) V$



The VP Rule

VP → (PP) (NP) V

*You are told in the question to assume
that this is optional. But note that
there is no data to support this!*



d) What is the TP rule of Sinhala?





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TP → NP VP



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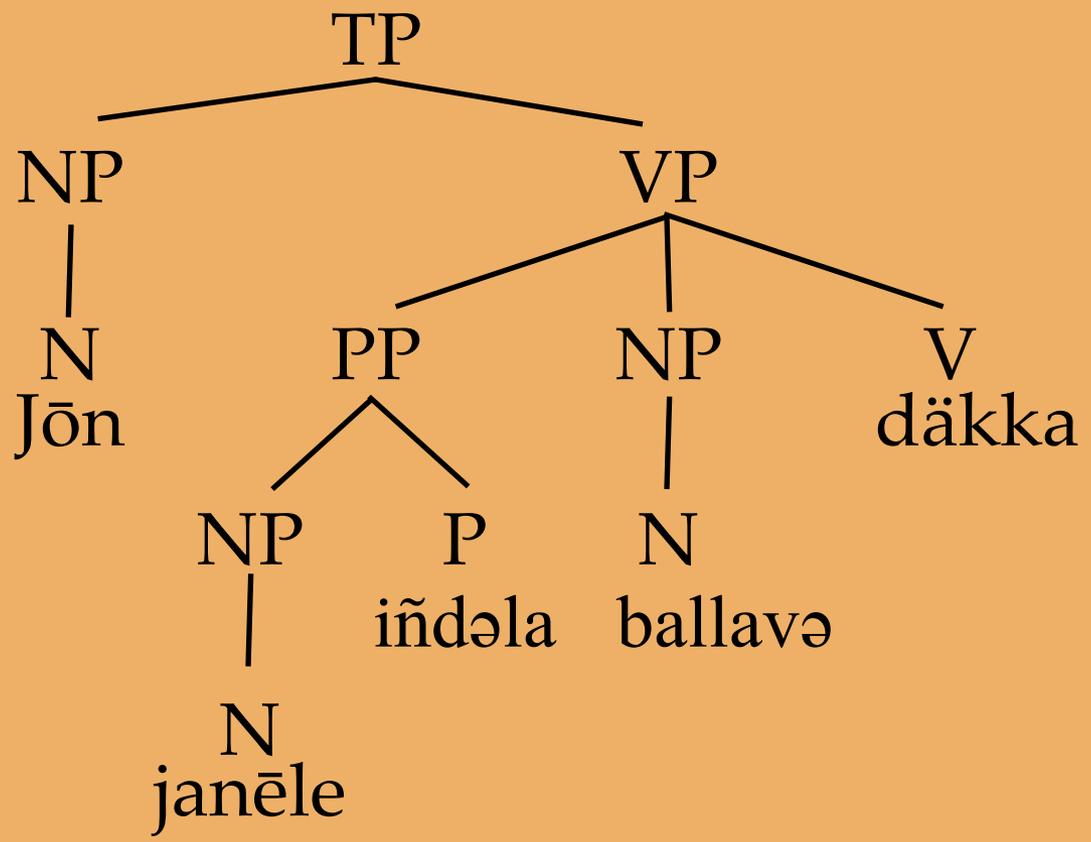
TP → NP VP

*No evidence in the data for a **T** node*

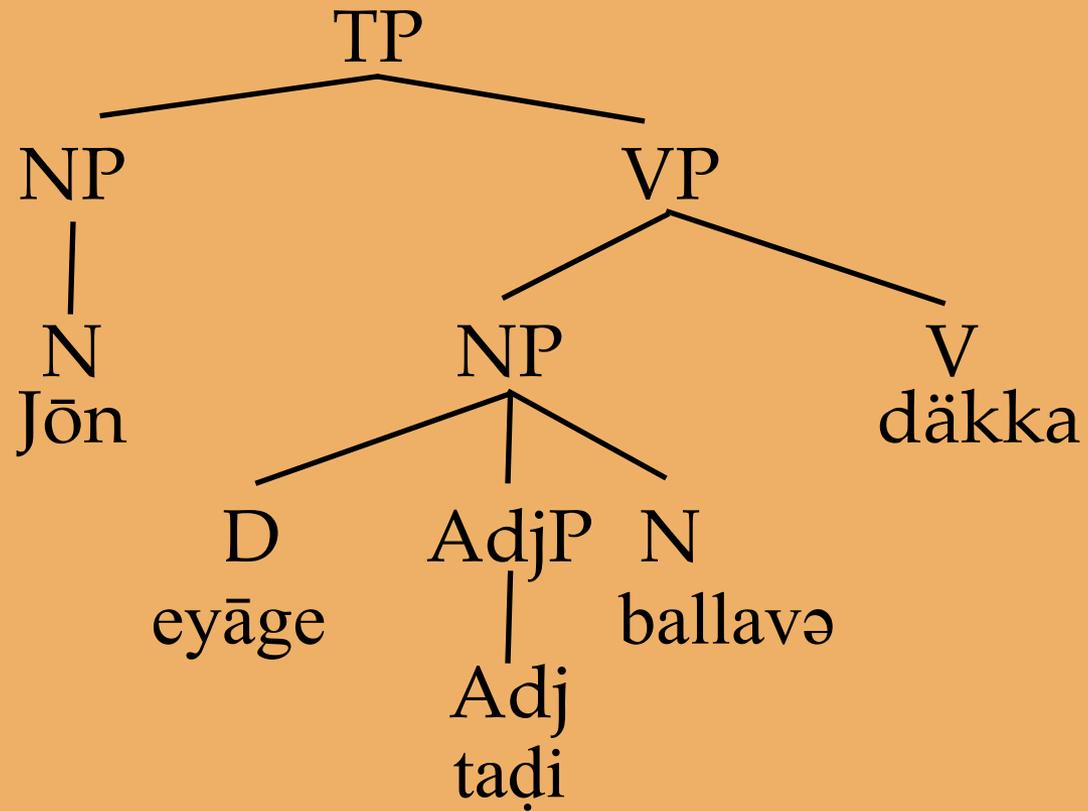




Trees (ii)



Trees (iii)



Doing Problems without glosses



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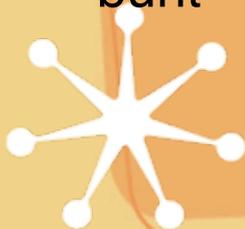
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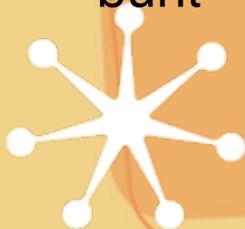
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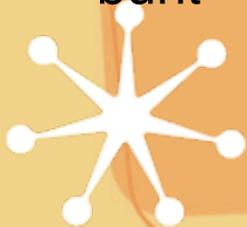


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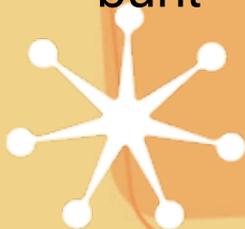
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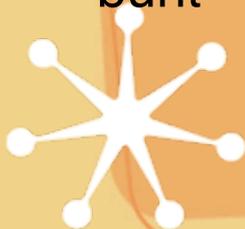
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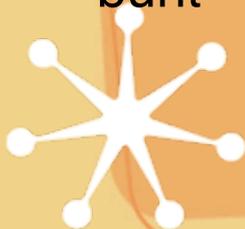
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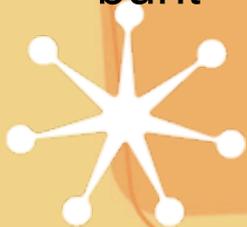
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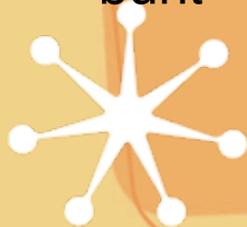
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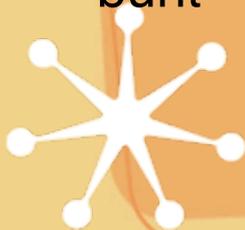
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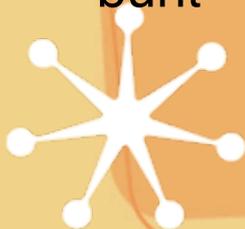
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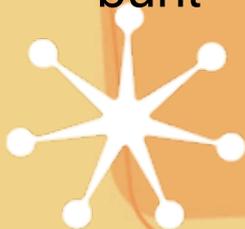
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dyn	man
y	the
drws/ddrws	door(s)
ddwy	two
bunt	pound

Agorodd	opened
Collodd	lost
Gyrhaeddodd	
Gaeth	





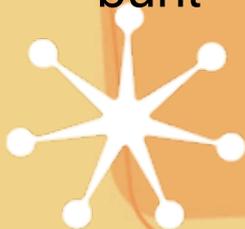
Doing Problems without glosses

- (1) Agorodd y dyn y drws
- (2) Collodd y dyn ddwy bunt
- (3) Gyrhaeddodd y dyn
- (4) Gaeth y dyn ddwy bunt
- (5) Agorodd Fred ddwy ddrws

- “The man opened the door.”
“The man lost two pounds (money)”
“The man arrived”
“The man got two pounds”
“Fred opened two doors”

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Agorodd	opened
Collodd	lost
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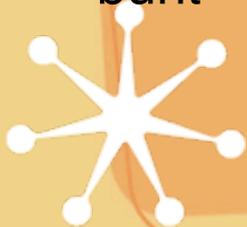
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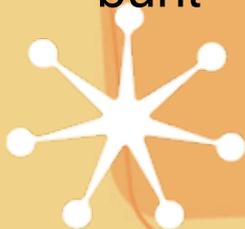
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Now you can construct a word-by-word gloss for each sentence and continue with the problem

