Re-examining **Ellipsis** :

In the View of Role and Reference Grammar

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Outline

- Introduction (ellipsis types; what RRG has discusses)
- Nexus-juncture types
- Semantic-to-syntactic linking

1. Introduction

- five ellipsis types
- what RRG has covered

The appearance of ellipsis is to avoid redundancy, and to improve efficiency of communication

- “Noelle will order food delivery /but Jack won’t order food delivery.”
- “The boss is considering to promote someone, but no one knows who is considering to promote someone.”

Various Types of ellipsis

- Noelle will order food delivery /but Jack won't [VP]. (VP ellipsis)
- Noelle read more papers /than Jack did [V] books. (pseudo-gapping)
- The boss is considering to promote someone, but no one knows who [TP]. (sluicing)
- Noelle likes [DP] / but Jack hates eggplants. (Right-node raising)
- Noelle knows every classmate$_i$ [that Jack doesn't [~~know~~ t_i]. (ACD)

The concept of omission in RRG

1. pivot and control (in text)

"Kim $_j$ worked on the project yesterday and __*pro*__ $_{j/*k}$ will finish it soon."

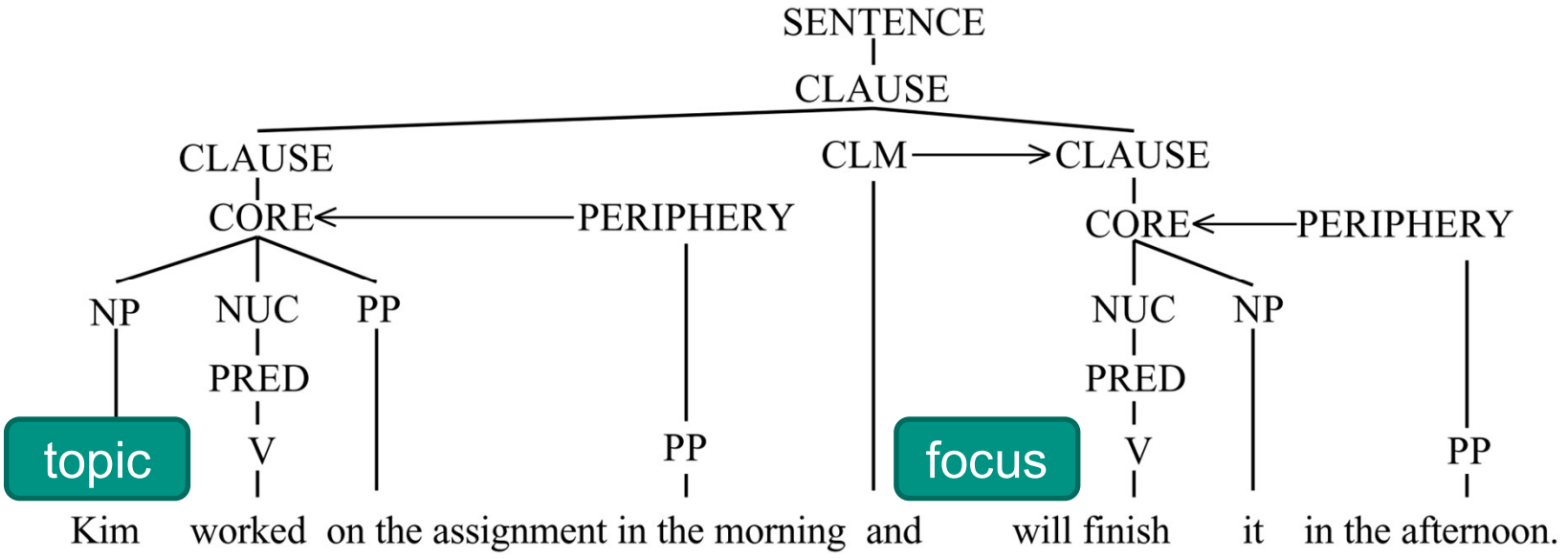
CONTROLLER PIVOT

→ **only covers deletion of arguments; not ellipsis**

The concept of omission in RRG

2. conjunction reduction

(Van Valin, 2005: 229)



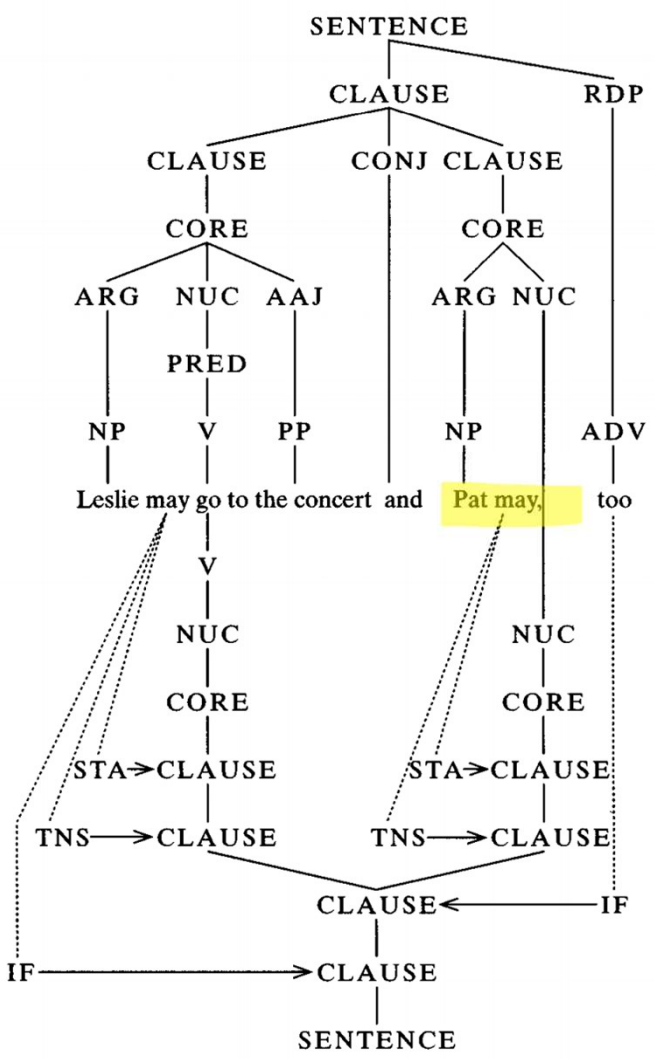
The concept of omission in RRG

3. VP ellipsis

"*Kim is eating an ice cream cone, and Sandy is ____, too*."

- Not mapped into the syntactic representation
- "*Kim is eating an ice cream cone, but is Sandy____?*" → coordination
- Using the layered structure of *focus* → instead of *VP*

Neither (1997) nor (2005) offers a semantic-syntactic representation of VP ellipsis.



Gap 1. only missing arguments and VPE are discussed

Gap 2. no representation in the linking algorithm

What about…..

- Sluicing
- Right-node raising
- Pseudo-gapping
- Antecedent-contained deletion

Research objectives

1. To extend the use of RRG in various ellipsis structures
2. To sketch their linking representations

Using a. Wilder's notion of sharing and deletion

b. the semantic-syntactic linking algorithm in RRG

3. The nexus-juncture types

to know which syntactic templates to select

- core/ clausal <---- separate adjuncts
- coordination / co-subordination <--- IF/ tense/ status operator sharing

1. Sluicing (wh-words)

- Noelle wrote something on the book,
  but I don't know what [TP]. = she wrote XX on the book
- The boss is considering to promote someone, but no one knows who [TP]. = he is considering to promote XX

clausal subordination

2. Antecedent-Contained Deletion

- Noelle knows every classmate$_i$ [that Jack doesn't [~~know t$_i$~~]].
- I know which episodes Noelle has watched/ but I don't know which episodes$_i$ [she hasn't [~~watched t$_i$~~]].

clausal subordination

3. VP ellipsis

- Noelle will order pizza /but Jack won't [VP].
- I haven't done it yet, but I will [~~do it~~].
- He began the paper last week, but I haven't [ ] yet.

"Noelle will order pizza, but will Jack?" ---> IF can differ (2005)

clausal coordination

4. Pseudo-gapping (comparative)

---> tense operators can differ.

- Noelle eats **more /than** Jack did [eat] yesterday.
- Noelle is making **more** friends /**than** she is [ ] enemies.

*Noelle eats more than did Jack?
shared IF

clausal co-subordination

5. Right-node raising

- Noelle (quickly) ordered [ ] / and Jack (reluctantly) paid for the meal.

  *Noelle ordered, but did Jack pay for the meal ---> IF has to be shared

  shared tense
  vs. conjunction reduction (missing S)

  clausal/core co-subordination

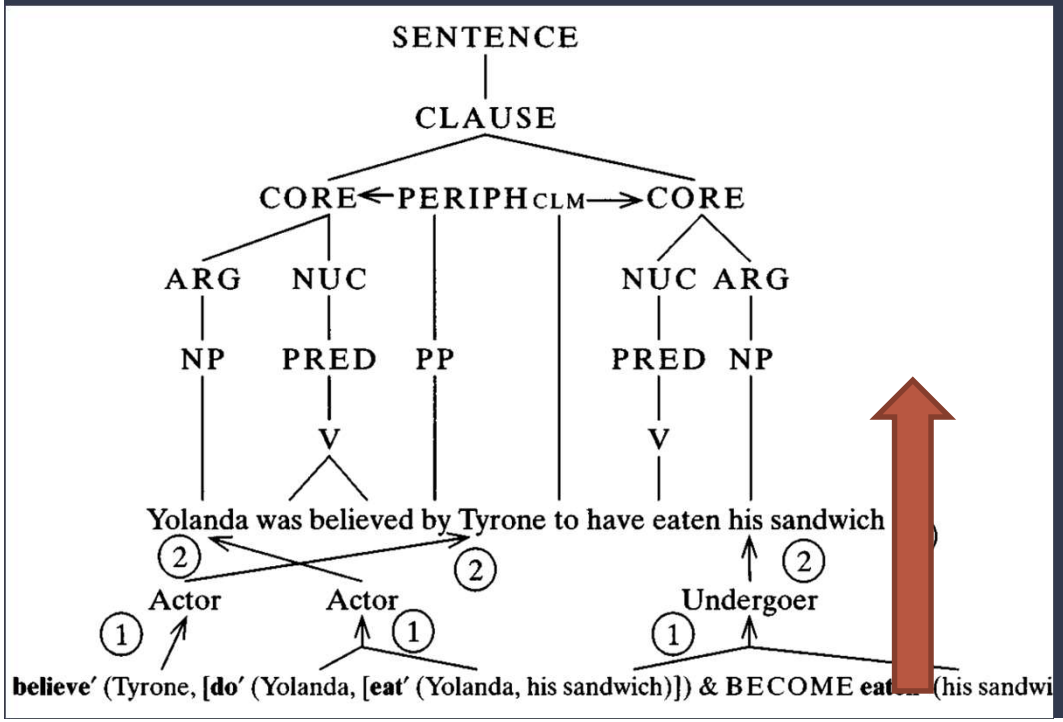
Overview

nexus	ellipsis types (with juncture)
coordination	VP ellipsis (clausal) tense and IF can differ
co-subordination	right-node raising (clausal), pseudo-gapping (clausal) shared IF shared IF
subordination	antecedent-contained deletion (clausal), sluicing (clausal)

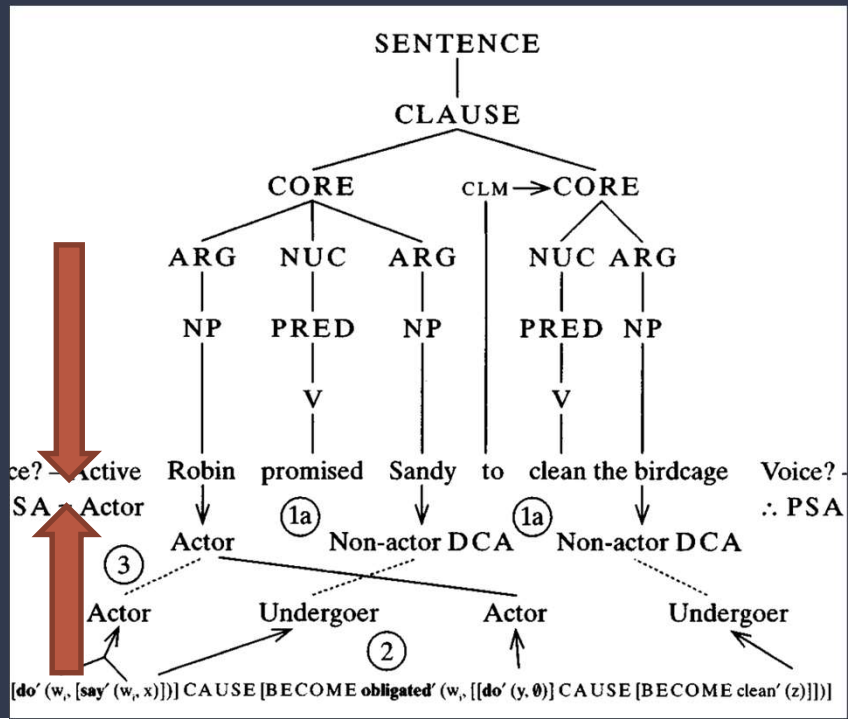
→ All are joined by clausal juncture

Which linking direction ?

Semantic-to-syntax



Syntax-to-semantics



A united analysis

4. Semantics-to-syntax linking algorithm

Wilder (1997)'s sharing and deletion

+

Syntactic-semantic linking

Wilder (1997) – the notion of sharing and deletion

Backward sharing	(deleted unit)
a. Mary bought [ ] / and ate the cheese.	*RP*
b. Mary will [ ] / and Jack must buy the textbook.	*Pred.* + *RP*

Forward sharing	
a. Alice checked out at the counter / and [ ] left the store.	*RP*
b. Alice bought John soda / and [ ] Matt coffee.	*RP* + *predicate*
c. Alice ordered pizza / and Jack [ ] fried chicken.	*pred.*
d. Alice untangled the wire / but I don't know how [ ].	*pred.* + *RP*
e. Alice likes eggplants but Jack doesn't [ ].	*pred.* + *RP*
f. I know which restaurant [Alice opens *t*] and [Jack recommends *t*].	*RP*

Either backward or forward sharing exists for each type.

Steve bought [ ] and ate the cheese. (RNR)
*Steve bought the cheese and ate [ ].

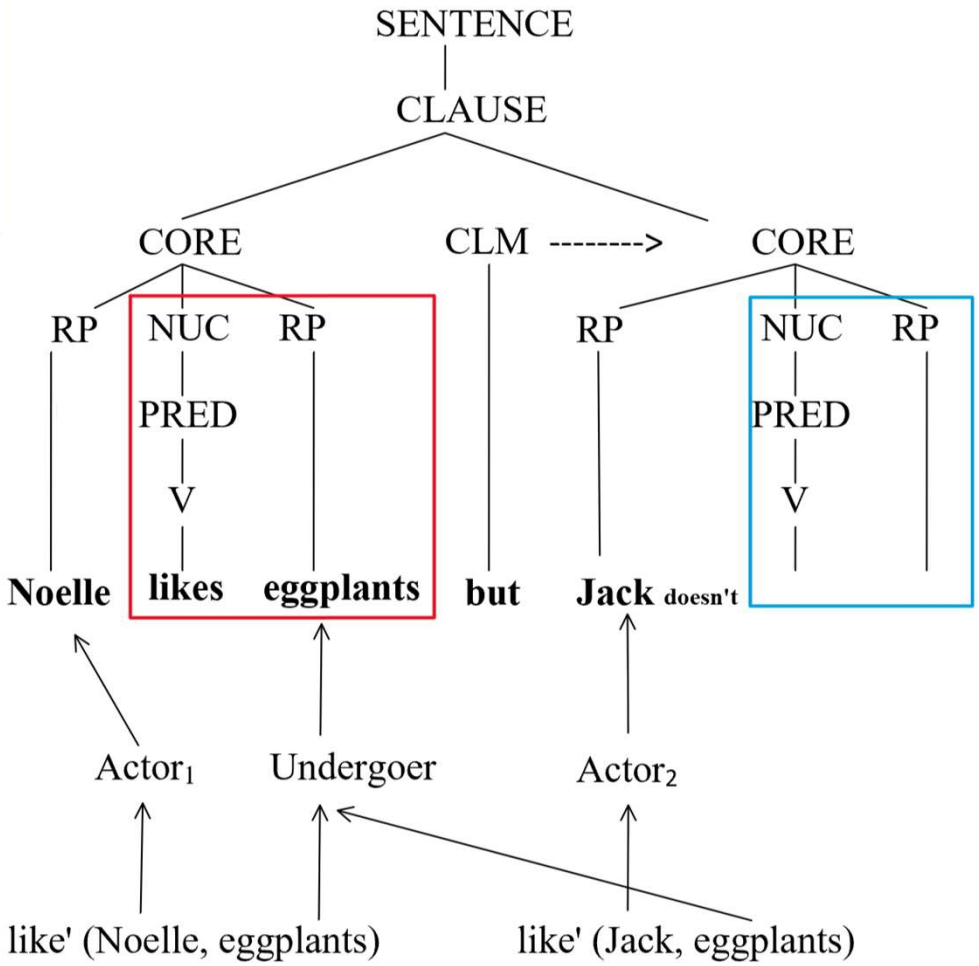
Steve ordered pizza / and Jim [ ] fried chicken. (pseudogapping)
*Steve [ ] pizza / and Jim ordered fried chicken.

Noelle like eggplants / but Jack doesn't [ ]. (VP ellipsis)
*Noelle does [ ] / but Jack doesn't like eggplants.

Noelle bought Bill soda / and [ ] Matt coffee. (left-node raising)
*[ ] Bill soda / and Noelle bought Matt coffee.

Where to put the shared materials?

generated at where they are present,
shared through linking



Link to where the shared elements are present

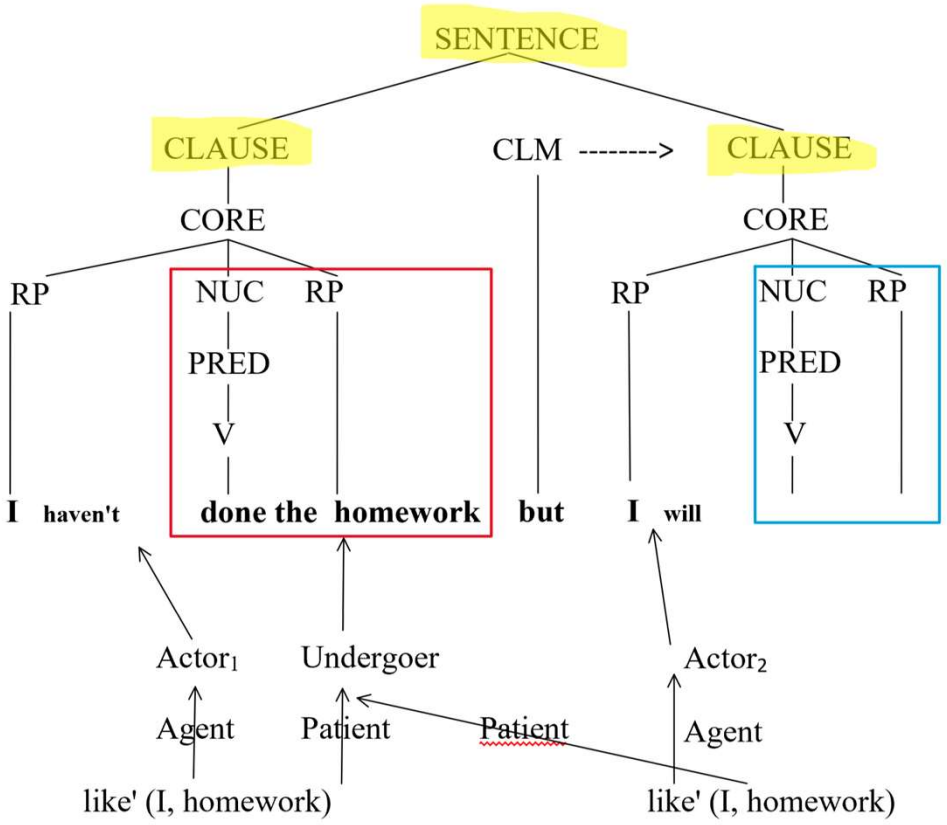
two logical structures

Applied to various ellipsis structures

The templates are based
on Van Valin (2005)

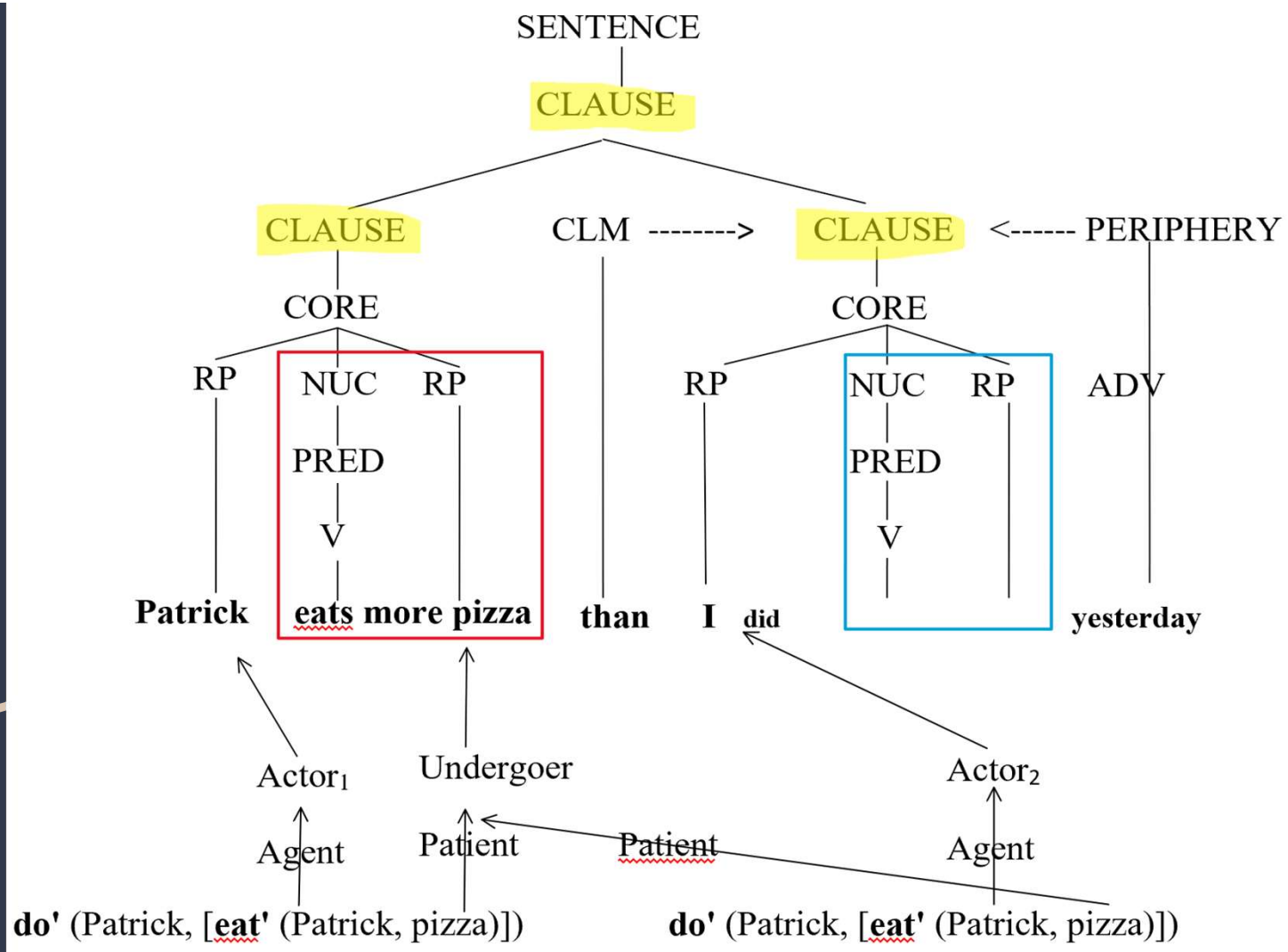
1. VP ellipsis

I haven't done the homework but I will [ ].



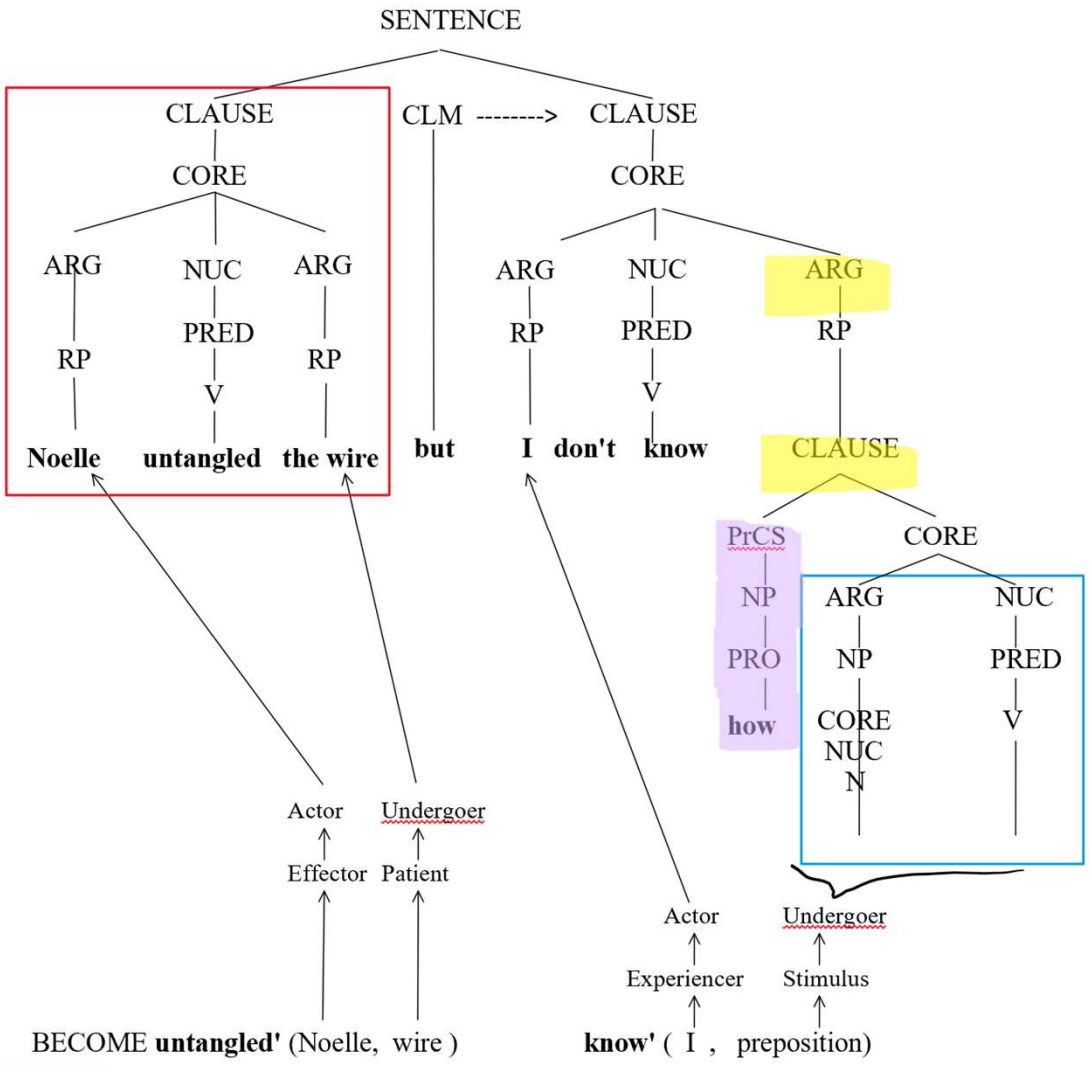
2. Pseudo-gapping

Problem : linking
can't present
the shared predicate

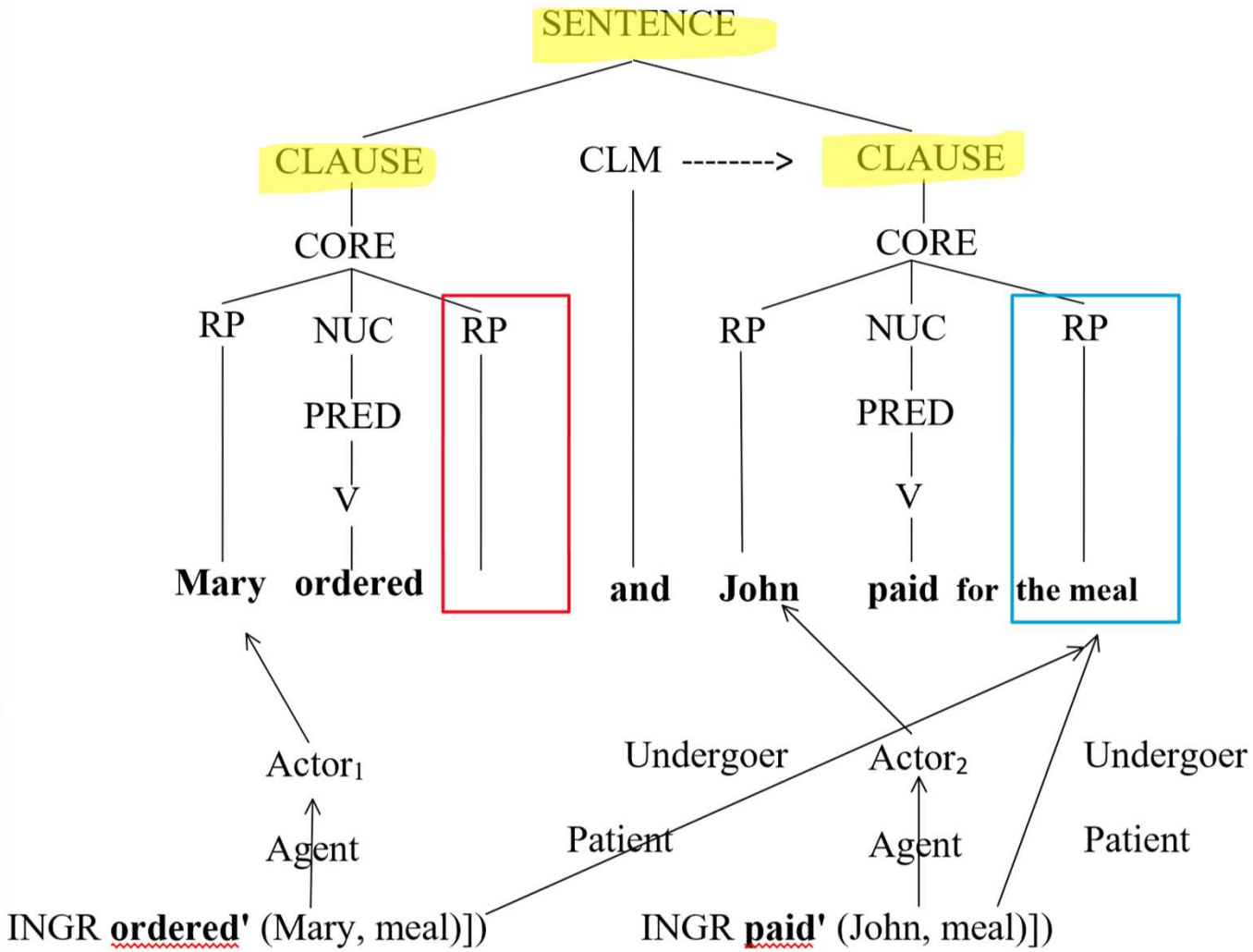


3. sluicing

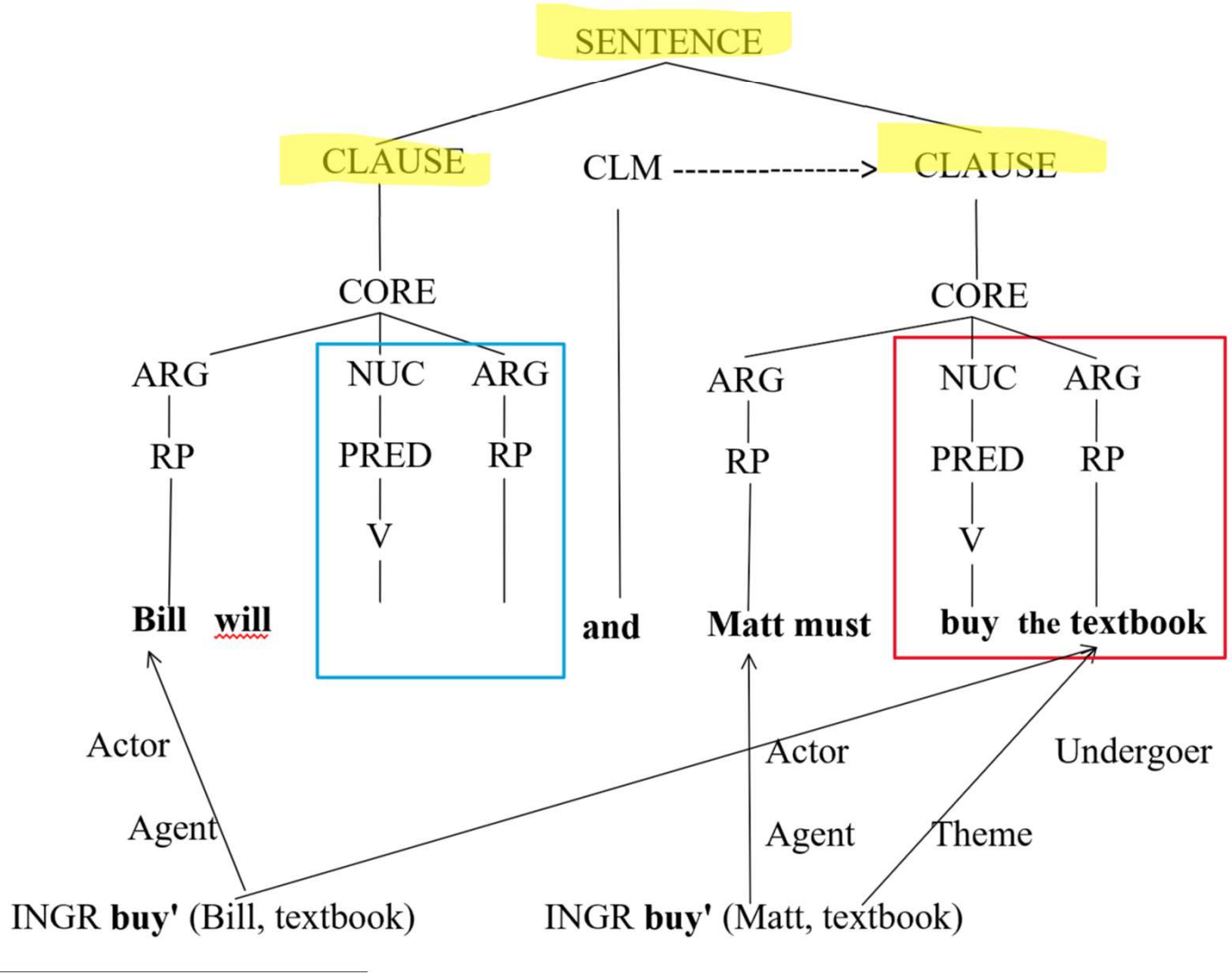
Noelle untangled the wire
but I don't know how [ ].



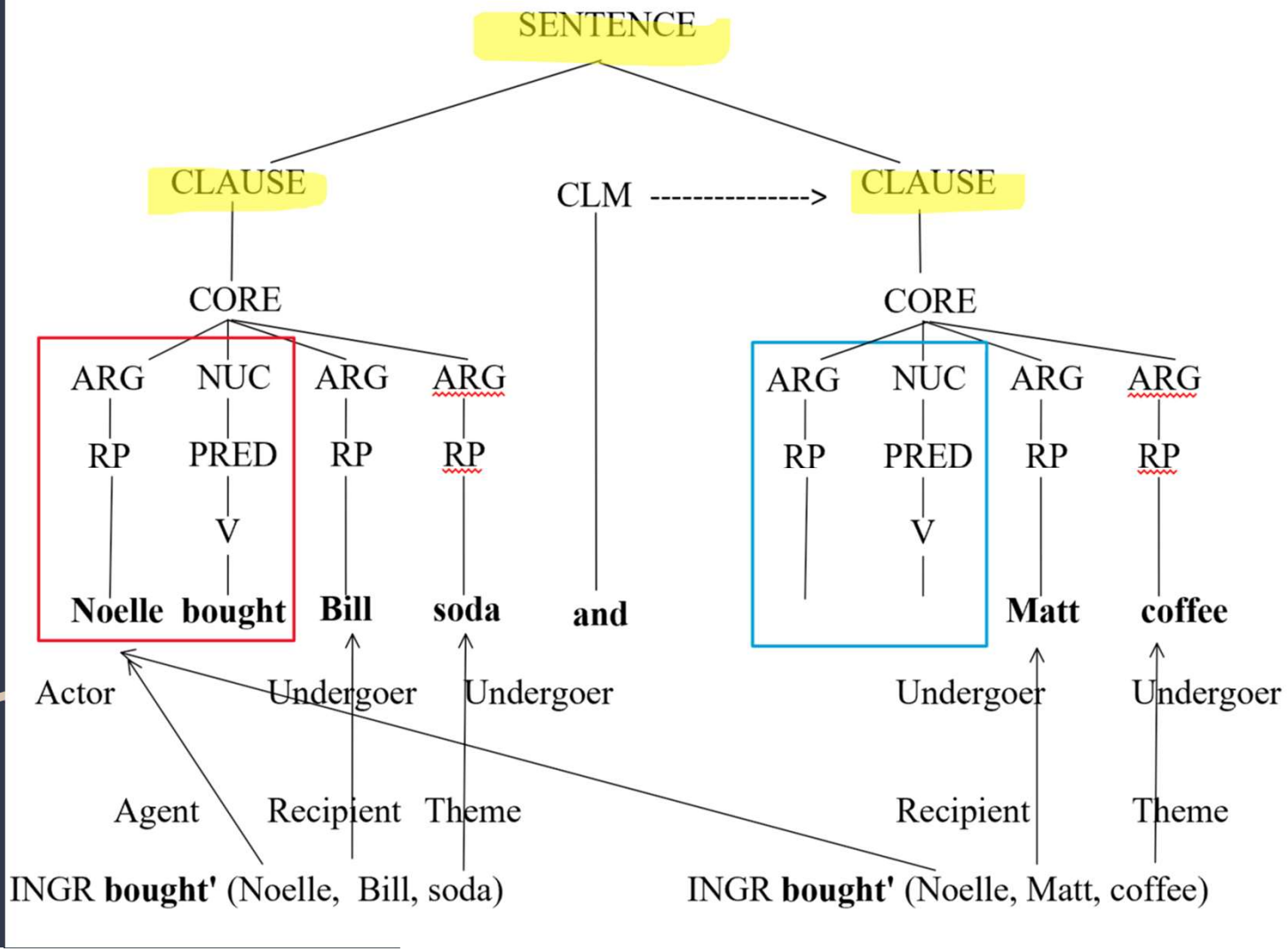
4. right-node raising



4-2. RNR


SENTENCE
CLAUSE
CLM ---------->
CLAUSE
CORE
CORE
ARG
NUC
ARG
ARG
NUC
ARG
RP
PRED
RP
RP
PRED
RP
V
V
Bill will
and
Matt must
buy the textbook
Actor
Actor
Undergoer
Agent
Agent
Theme
INGR buy' (Bill, textbook)
INGR buy' (Matt, textbook)

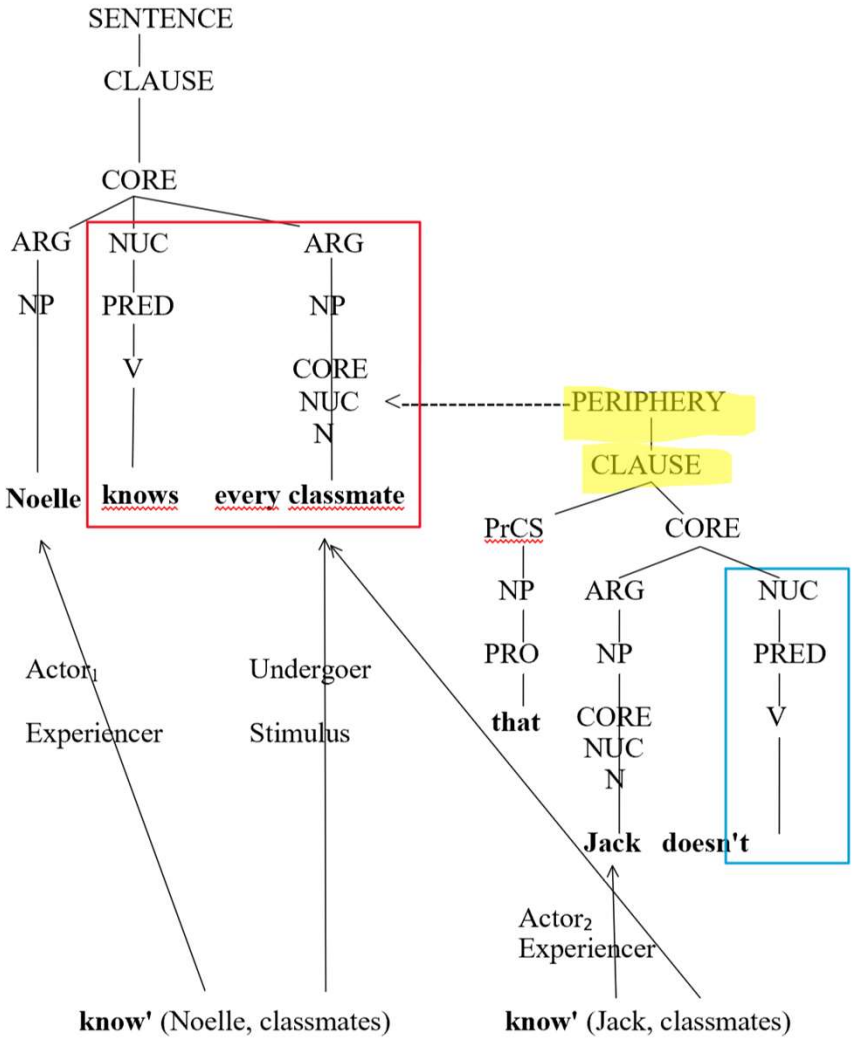
4-3 left-node raising



5. Antecedent-contained deletion

Noelle knows every classmate $_i$

[that Jack doesn't [~~know t$_i$~~].



problems

The syntactic-semantic **linking only assigns arguments**.

Shared predicates, clauses, or other combination

cannot be represented in the original design.

contributions

- offers an alternative to the issue of ellipsis
- enriches the RRG framework
- studies various types of ellipsis

Future research

- Fix the previously-mentioned problems
- Expand to ellipsis in other languages

References

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Wilder, C. (1997). Some properties of ellipsis in coordination. In A. Alexiadou & T. Hall (Eds.), *Studies on universal grammar and typological variation*, p. 59-107. John Benjamins Publishing. Amsterdam/Philadelphia.

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