

# On Late Adjunction in Minimalist Grammars

Greg Kobele\*

Computation Institute  
and Department of Linguistics  
University of Chicago

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\*Based on joint work with Jens Michaelis



# The Big Picture

## The Question:

What happens when late adjunction is added to Minimalist Grammars?

## The (Short) Answer:

Not sure, but:

- still semi-linear
- describable by 3rd order ACGs
- tree relation definable in MSO, with some extra information



# Outline

- 1 On Late Operations
  - Montague Grammar
  - TAGs
- 2 Minimalist Grammars
  - Basic Definitions and Properties
  - Late Adjunction
- 3 Representing Late Adjunction in MGs
  - Via 3<sup>rd</sup> Order ACGs
  - Via MSOTT With One Free Relation Variable
- 4 Conclusion



# The idea behind 'late' operations

## The problem:

Sometimes we have semantic ambiguity without any obvious corresponding difference in the derivation tree.

## The idea:

Enrich the derivation tree with information about order.  
(not only did I apply this rule, but I applied this rule *before that one*)



# Frameworks which have 'late' operations

- Montague Grammar

(Montague)

- 'Cosubstitution' in TAGs

(Barker)

- Minimalist Grammars

(Gärtner & Michaelis;Kobebe)



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# Syntax

## *Rules of quantification*

- S14. If  $\alpha \in P_T$  and  $\phi \in P_t$ , then  $F_{10,n}(\alpha, \phi) \in P_t$ , where either (i)  $\alpha$  does not have the form  $\mathbf{he}_k$ , and  $F_{10,n}(\alpha, \phi)$  comes from  $\phi$  by replacing the first occurrence of  $\mathbf{he}_n$  or  $\mathbf{him}_n$  by  $\alpha$  and all other occurrences of  $\mathbf{he}_n$  or

$\mathbf{him}_n$  by  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \mathbf{he} \\ \mathbf{she} \\ \mathbf{it} \end{array} \right\}$  or  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \mathbf{him} \\ \mathbf{her} \\ \mathbf{it} \end{array} \right\}$  respectively, according as the gender of the

first  $B_{CN}$  or  $B_T$  in  $\alpha$  is  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{masc.} \\ \text{fem.} \\ \text{neuter} \end{array} \right\}$ , or

(ii)  $\alpha = \mathbf{he}_k$ , and  $F_{10,n}(\alpha, \phi)$  comes from  $\phi$  by replacing all occurrences of  $\mathbf{he}_n$  or  $\mathbf{him}_n$  by  $\mathbf{he}_k$  or  $\mathbf{him}_k$  respectively.

- S15. If  $\alpha \in P_T$  and  $\zeta \in P_{CN}$ , then  $F_{10,n}(\alpha, \zeta) \in P_{CN}$ .  
 S16. If  $\alpha \in P_T$  and  $\delta \in P_{IV}$ , then  $F_{10,n}(\alpha, \delta) \in P_{IV}$ .







# An Example - *De Re* vs *De Dicto* Readings

- John seeks a unicorn.

## De Re

There is a particular unicorn that John is looking for.

$$\exists y[\text{UNICORN}(y) \ \& \ \text{TRY}(\text{FIND}(y))(\text{J})]$$

## De Dicto

John will be satisfied with any unicorn.

$$\text{TRY}(\exists y[\text{UNICORN}(y) \ \& \ \text{FIND}(y)])(\text{J})$$

- Can be represented in terms of operator scope:

*x* seeks *y*

$$\text{TRY}(\text{FIND}(y))(x)$$




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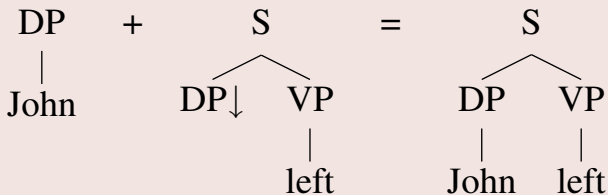
# Tree Adjoining Grammars

- A TAG consists of
  - initial trees** a finite set of trees with leaves labelled with either terminals or with  $X\downarrow$ , where  $X$  is a non-terminal symbol
  - auxiliary trees** as before, but with exactly one leaf node labelled with  $X^*$ , where  $X$  is the label of the root



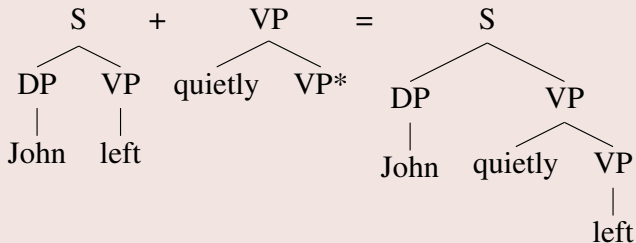
# Tree Adjoining Grammars - Substitution

## Substitute (1st Order Substitution)



# Tree Adjoining Grammars - Adjunction

## Adjoin (2nd Order Substitution)









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# Minimalist Grammars

- A minimalist grammar is given by a 4-tuple  $\langle V, Cat, Lex, \mathcal{F} \rangle$  where
  - $V$  is a finite set of vocabulary items
  - $Cat$  is a finite set of *features* which have the following forms:
    - $x$  is a *selectee* (or categorial) feature
    - $=x$  is a *selector* feature
    - $-x$  is a *licensee* (or movement) feature
    - $+x$  is an *movement triggering* feature
  - $Lex \subset V^* \times Cat^*$  is a finite set of lexical items  $\ell = \langle v, \delta \rangle$ , which are pairs of sequences of vocabulary items  $v$ , and sequences of features  $\delta$
  - $\mathcal{F} = \{\mathbf{move}, \mathbf{merge}\}$  is the set of generating functions
    - **move** is a unary operation, which takes a single expression and rearranges its parts
    - **merge** is a binary operation, which takes two expressions and puts them together



# Trees

- The domains of our generating functions will be trees where
  - internal nodes are binary branching and labelled with either  $<$  or  $>$ , and whose
  - leaves are labelled with pairs  $\langle \sigma, \delta \rangle$  of vocabulary item sequences  $\sigma$  and feature sequences  $\delta$



# Notation and Definitions

- The head of an expression  $t$  is
  - $t$  itself, if it is a leaf
  - the head of  $t_1$ , if  $t = \langle t_1, t_2 \rangle$
  - the head of  $t_2$ , if  $t = \rangle(t_1, t_2)$



# Feature Checking

- The leaves of our trees contain sequences of features. These features determine which operations can apply.
- Once an operation applies, the features which allowed it are deleted.
- We can think of the grammatical operations as ‘trying’ to remove features from trees – well-formed expressions of a particular category  $x$  will be those without any remaining features except that the head has the single feature  $x$



# More Notation and Definitions

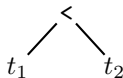
- Given  $t$ , we write  $t^f$  to denote the result of adding  $f$  as the first feature on the head of  $t$ :
  - if the head of  $t$  is  $\langle \sigma, \delta \rangle$ , then  $t^f$  is the tree just like  $t$  except that its head is  $\langle \sigma, f\delta \rangle$
- $t$  displays feature  $f$ , if the head of  $t$  is  $\langle \sigma, f\delta \rangle$ 
  - $t^f$  displays feature  $f$
- Deleting the first feature of  $t^f$  gives us  $t$



# Merge

- $\langle t, t' \rangle \in \text{dom}(\text{merge})$  iff
  - $t = t_1^{-x}$  and  $t' = t_2^x$

$\text{merge}(t_1^{-x}, t_2^x) =$





# Some More Notation and Definitions

- A subtree  $t'$  of a tree  $t$  is a maximal projection iff  $t'$  does not project over its sister (if it has one)
- A particular occurrence of a subtree  $r$  in tree  $t$  is written  $t = t'[r]$ 
  - The result of replacing a particular occurrence of subtree  $r$  with  $s$  in  $t[r]$  is written  $t[s]$
- I write  $\epsilon$  for the empty leaf  $\langle \epsilon, \epsilon \rangle$











## move

$$\text{move}(t_1[t_2^{-x}]^{+x}) = \begin{array}{c} \diagup \quad \diagdown \\ t_2 \quad t_1[\epsilon] \end{array}$$

(i)  $\langle a, =x +y z \rangle$

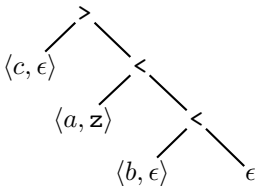
(ii)  $\langle b, =w x \rangle$

(iii)  $\langle c, w -y \rangle$

1 merge(ii,iii)

2 merge(i,1)

3 move(2)



# The SMC

- Having the **SMC** puts an upper bound on the number of moving pieces that an expression that could possibly converge can have:
  - if there are  $k$  licensee feature types, and you cannot have two expressions displaying the same feature at once, then at any given time you can have at most  $k$  moving pieces (one displaying each feature type)
- This allows us to represent a minimalist expression as a  $(k+1)$ -tuple of trees.
  - each of these trees only has features at its head
  - we can describe **move** and **merge** in these terms:

$$\frac{t^{+x}, t_1, \dots, t_n^{-x}, \dots}{\rangle (t_n, t), t_1, \dots} \quad \text{moveA}$$

$$\frac{t^{+x}, t_1, \dots, t_n^{-xf}, \dots}{\rangle (\epsilon, t), t_1, \dots, t_n^f, \dots} \quad \text{moveB}$$



# Factoring apart categories and strings

- Our current data structure is a sequence  $\phi_0, \dots, \phi_n$  of length up to  $k + 1$  of pairs  $\langle w, \delta \rangle$  that has the following property:

*for  $i \neq j$  the first feature of  $\delta_i$  is different from the first feature of  $\delta_j$*

- Let's factor out the syntactic information in such a sequence, and call this a *category*:

$$\langle \delta_0, \dots, \delta_n \rangle$$

- There are only a finite number of relevant categories!  
(Michaelis)
- They are (a subset of) the  $k+1$ -tuples of suffixes of lexical feature sequences:

$$\text{suf}(Cat) := \{ \delta : \langle \sigma, \gamma\delta \rangle \in \mathbf{Lex} \}$$







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# Adjuncts

- An adjunct is typically:
  - an optional element
  - iterable

## Example

Modifying PPs:

- John hit the wall.
- John hit the wall *with a hammer*.
- John hit the wall *in anger*.
- John hit the wall *with a hammer in anger*.
- John hit the wall *in anger with a hammer*.
- 



## Analyzing Adjuncts

(Frey &amp; Gärtner)

- introduce a new feature type:  $\approx_x$

$$\mathbf{adjoin}(t_1^x, t_2^{\approx_x}) = \begin{array}{c} & < & \\ & / \quad \backslash & \\ t_1^x & & t_2 \end{array}$$

- algebraically, we add a new family of operators

$$\mathbf{adjoin}_{s,s'}$$

of type  $s \rightarrow s' \rightarrow s \oplus s'^{\checkmark}$ , where  $s_0 = x\delta_0$ , and  $s'_0 = \approx_x\delta'_0$



# Motivating Late Adjunction

## Condition C

A pronoun cannot c-command its antecedent.

- John<sub>i</sub> thinks that Mary likes him<sub>i</sub>.
- \*He<sub>i</sub> thinks that Mary likes John<sub>i</sub>.

## Condition C must hold at every level of representation

- \*He<sub>i</sub> denied the rumor that John<sub>i</sub> had cheated.
- \*Which rumor that John<sub>i</sub> had cheated did he<sub>i</sub> deny?

## A puzzle

- \*He<sub>i</sub> denied the rumor that John<sub>i</sub> started.
- Which rumor that John<sub>i</sub> started did he<sub>i</sub> deny?



# A Solution: Late Adjunction

## Example

- \*Which rumor that John<sub>i</sub> had cheated did he<sub>i</sub> deny?
- Which rumor that John<sub>i</sub> started did he<sub>i</sub> deny?

## A difference

- rumor [that John had cheated]  $\rightsquigarrow$  *that John had cheated* is the content of the rumor (an essential property)  
(An **argument** of the noun)
- rumor [that John started]  $\rightsquigarrow$  *that John started* is an accidental property of the rumor  
(An **adjunct** to the noun)

## Lebeaux's proposal

Adjuncts can be inserted at any time.





# Late Adjunction, Formally

- We want to generalize the adjoin operation such that, if it could have applied to a term  $t$ , then it can (now) apply to any term  $t' = C[t]$  containing  $t$  as a part.
- Note that, if it could have applied to  $t$  and to  $s$ , and  $t' = D[t, s]$ , then the result of adjoining to  $t'$  is nondeterministic.
- To indicate that adjunction *could* have applied to a phrase (and thus that it still can, retroactively), we extend the label set of internal nodes to include  $\langle_x$ , and  $\rangle_x$ , for each category feature  $x$ .





# Defining Late Adjunction

- We redefine merge so as to allow us to keep track of what category features were used.

$$\text{merge}(t_1^{\bar{x}}, t_2^x) = \begin{array}{c} <_x \\ / \quad \backslash \\ t_1 \quad t_2 \end{array}$$

- Then adjoin inserts the adjunct inside a structure at an appropriate maximal projection.

$$\text{adjoin}(C[<_x(t, t_1)], t_2^{\approx x}) \rightarrow \begin{array}{c} <_x \\ / \quad \backslash \\ C[t \quad < \quad ] \\ / \quad \backslash \\ t_1 \quad t_2 \end{array}$$



# The Late Adjunction Algebra

- We take as sorts  $\mathcal{S} := \{ \langle \langle \delta_0, \delta_1, \dots, \delta_k \rangle, C \rangle : \delta_i \in \text{suf}(\text{Cat}) \ \& \ \delta_i = \epsilon \vee -x_i \delta'_i \ \& \ C \subseteq \text{Cat} \}$
- Taking as operators
  - $\text{move}_s$ , of type  $s \rightarrow s^\vee$
  - $\text{merge}_{s,s'}$ , of type  $s \rightarrow s' \rightarrow s^\vee \oplus_x s'^\vee$
  - $\text{adjoin}_{s,s'}$  of type  $s \rightarrow s' \rightarrow s \oplus s'^\vee$
  - $l = \langle w, \delta \rangle$  of sort  $\langle \langle \delta, \epsilon, \dots, \epsilon \rangle, \emptyset \rangle$  for each  $l \in \text{Lex}$
- where  $\langle s, C \rangle \oplus_x \langle s', C' \rangle = \langle s \oplus s', C \cup C' \cup \{x\} \rangle$

Note that this is semi-linear; these operators have the same interpretation in the Parikh domain as the previous ones.



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# Abstract Categorical Grammars – Vocabulary

- A **Vocabulary** is a triple  $\Sigma = \langle A, C, \tau \rangle$ , where
  - $A$  is a finite set of **types**
  - $C$  is a finite set of **constants**
  - $\tau : C \rightarrow \mathcal{T}(A)$  maps each constant to its type (built up over  $A$  in the standard way)

## Example

Let  $\Sigma_1 = \langle A_1, C_1, \tau_1 \rangle$ , where  $A_1 = \{z\}$ ,  $C_1 = \{a, b, f\}$ , such that  $\tau_1(f) = z \rightarrow z \rightarrow z$ , and  $\tau_1(a) = \tau_1(b) = z$ . Then all linear lambda terms of type  $z$  are trees over  $\{f^{(2)}, a^{(0)}, b^{(0)}\}$ .

## Example

Let  $\Sigma_2 = \langle A_2, C_2, \tau_2 \rangle$ , where  $A_2 = \{\star\}$ , and  $C_2 = \{a, b\}$ , where  $\tau_2(c) = \star \rightarrow \star$  for all  $c \in C$ . Then the set of linear terms over  $\Sigma_2$  are 'strings' of the form

$$\lambda x. w(x)$$





# MGs in ACGs

- We take as atomic types  $A_G := \mathcal{S}$
- the constants are as before
- The linear lambda terms of atomic type are just the derivation trees of expressions of that type.

## Note:

We want to take as our object vocabulary something with *tuples* (of trees or strings).

- $\langle \epsilon, \epsilon \rangle :$

$$\lambda w. w(\lambda x. x)(\lambda x. x)$$

- $\langle x, y \rangle \mapsto \langle ay, bx \rangle :$

$$\lambda f. \lambda w. f(\lambda xy. w(\lambda z. ayz)(\lambda z. bxz))$$

I will ignore this here.





# Adding Late Adjunction

- This doesn't work for adjuncts with moving pieces; the moving pieces must be added to the type of the resulting expression. A general solution assigns a fourth order type to adjuncts (here  $s = \langle \approx \times \delta_0, \delta_1, \dots, \delta_k \rangle$  is the syntactic category of the adjunct)

$$((a \rightarrow a) \rightarrow a) \rightarrow a \oplus s^\vee$$

- then we would have terms like

yesterday( $\lambda Y$ .merge( $Y$ (merge(kiss)(Mary)))(John))

- We could interpret an adjunct  $\alpha$  as the following string operation of type  $((\star^2 \rightarrow \star^2) \rightarrow \star^2) \rightarrow \star^2$ :

$$\lambda P_{(\star^2 \star^2) \star^2} . P(\lambda y_{\star^2} . y^\wedge / \alpha /)$$





# From 4<sup>th</sup> order to 3<sup>rd</sup> order

- the type  $((aa)a)a'$  is of order 4
- What we are doing is allowing the ‘adjunct’ to be a context
- But the adjunct only ever is pronounced on one side of its argument
- Thus we should be able to treat ‘adjuncts’ as terms
- we take a new set of types  $(v_a)_{a \in A}$  (for ‘variables’ of type  $a$ )
- and the new family of constants **adj** :  $v_a \rightarrow a \rightarrow a$
- Then we have terms like:

$$\lambda x.\text{merge}(\text{adj}(x)((\text{merge}(\text{kiss})(\text{Mary}))) (\text{John})))$$

of type  $v_a \rightarrow b$

- an adjunct can then have the third-order type  $(v_a \rightarrow b) \rightarrow b \oplus s^\vee$ , and the interpretation:

$$\lambda P_{\star 2 \star 2}.P(/ \alpha /)$$


# Problem

- Knowing that MGs with Late Adjunction can be represented in ACG(3) doesn't help us much:
  - ACG(3) contains NP-complete as well as non-semilinear string languages

(Yoshinaka & Kanazawa)



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# MSO Logic

- Quantification over nodes ( $x$ ) and sets of nodes ( $X$ )
- atomic statements:
  - $x = y$
  - $x \in X$
  - $\text{lab}_\alpha(x)$  (the label of node  $x$  is  $\alpha$ )
  - $\text{edge}_i(x, y)$  ( $y$  is the  $i^{\text{th}}$  daughter of  $x$ )



# MSO-definable Transduction

## The idea:

You make  $k$  copies of the original nodes, decide which ones you will keep (by giving them labels), and which edges to draw between the nodes you kept.

## Definition:

A MSO graph transducer is a triple  $\langle k, \Psi, X \rangle$ , where

- $k \in \mathbb{N}$  is the number of copies of each node,
- $\Psi = \{\psi_\sigma^i(x) : \sigma \in \Sigma, i \leq k\}$  is the set of node formulae  
 $\psi_\sigma^i(x)$  iff the  $i^{\text{th}}$  copy of  $x$  exists and has label  $\sigma$
- $X = \{\chi_n^{i,j}(x, y) : n \leq \max(\{\text{rank}(\sigma) : \sigma \in \Sigma\}), i, j \leq k\}$  is the set of edge formulae  
 $\chi_n^{i,j}(x, y)$  iff the  $j^{\text{th}}$  copy of  $y$  is the  $n^{\text{th}}$  daughter of the  $i^{\text{th}}$  copy of  $x$



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# MSO-definable Transduction

The function induced by a MSO transducer  $\langle k, \Psi, X \rangle$

Given input  $g_1 = \langle V_1, E_1, \text{lab}_1 \rangle$ , the output is the graph  $\langle V, E, \text{lab} \rangle$  such that:

- $V := \{u_i : u \in V_1, \exists! \alpha. g_1, u \models \psi_\alpha^i(x)\}$
- $\text{lab}(u_i)$  is the unique  $\alpha$  such that  $g_1, u \models \psi_\alpha^i(x)$
- $E := \{\langle u_i, n, v_j \rangle : u_i, v_j \in V, \wedge g_1, u, v \models \chi_n^{i,j}(x, y)\}$
- $\langle u_i, n, v_j \rangle$  is the edge from  $u_i$  to  $v_j$  labelled  $n$





# A simple example – the yield of a tree

- We only need one copy of each node (i.e. we can interpret the yield of a tree inside the tree itself)
- We interpret the root as the leaf:

$$\psi_e^1(x) = \text{root}(x)$$

- Leaves keep their labels:

$$\psi_\alpha^1(x) = \text{leaf}(x) \wedge \text{lab}_\alpha(x)$$

- Edges are drawn from one leaf to the next, and from the last leaf to the root:

$$\chi_1^{1,1}(x, y) = (\text{rightmost-leaf}(y, x) \wedge \text{root}(y)) \\ \vee \text{adjacent-leaves}(x, y)$$



# MSOTT and Minimalist Grammars

- $MSOTT(REGT) = Tr(HR)$
- $MSOTT_{dir}(REGT) \subset MSOTT(REGT)$
- $T_{fc}(REGT) = MSOTT_{dir}(REGT)$
- $MG \subset T_{fc}(REGT)$
- Therefore, we have that for every MG  $G$ , there is a (direction preserving) MSO transducer  $T_G$  such that on every term  $t$  over  $G$ ,  $val_G(t) = T_G(t)$



# Transducing Late Adjunction

- Two main problems:
  - ① choosing one of the possible adjunction sites
  - ② putting the late adjoined material there
- Clearly:

if no phonological material is ever adjoined, the mapping from MG derivation trees with late adjunction to the derived string is  $MSOTT_{dir}$ .

This can happen if, for every derivable expression of the form  $t \approx_x$ ,

- either  $t = s^{-Y}$
- or  $t = C[t_1^{-Y_1}, \dots, t_k^{-Y_k}]$ , and  $yield(C[e, \dots, e]) = e$

In this case we can simply avoid solving these problems!

- For the general case, let's look at each of these separately, beginning with the second one.



# Moving subtrees 'down'

- Consider trees over the signature  $\{\bullet^{(2)}, \circ^{(2)}, \oplus^{(2)}, a^{(0)}\}$  such that
  - each tree has exactly one node with label  $\oplus$
  - each tree has exactly one node with label  $\circ$
  - the node labelled  $\oplus$  is contained within the first daughter of the node labelled  $\circ$
- Given a tree  $C[\circ(D[\oplus(t_1, t_2)], t')]$ , we want to transduce it into the tree  $C[D[\bullet(t_1, \bullet(t_2, t'))]]$
- This is like putting a late adjunct into its chosen position.
- Clearly, this is not realizable by a direction preserving MSO transduction.



# A MSO transduction for moving subtrees down

## Keep the original nodes

- $\psi_{\bullet}^0(x) = \neg \text{leaf}(x)$

Internal nodes are labelled with ' $\bullet$ '

- $\psi_a^0(x) = \text{leaf}(x)$

Leaves are labelled ' $a$ '



# A MSO transduction for moving subtrees down

$$C[\circ_1(D[\oplus_2(q, r)], s)] \rightsquigarrow C[D[\bullet_2(q, \bullet_1(r, s))]]$$

## Positioning $\circ$

- The parent of  $\circ$  should instead be connected to its left daughter.
- The node  $\circ$  should be the second daughter of the node labelled  $\oplus$
- The node  $\circ$  should have as its first daughter the second daughter of the node labelled  $\oplus$
- All other edges are the same



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- $\chi_0^{0,0}(x, y) = y, x \neq \circ \wedge \text{edge}_0(x, y)$   
 $\vee \text{edge}(x, \circ) \wedge \text{edge}_0(\circ, y)$   
 $\vee x = \circ \wedge \text{edge}_2(\oplus, y)$



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- All other edges are the same
- $\chi_1^{0,0}(x, y) = x, y \neq \circ, \oplus \wedge \text{edge}_1(x, y)$   
 $\vee x = \oplus \wedge y = \circ$   
 $\vee \text{edge}(x, \circ) \wedge \text{edge}_0(\circ, y)$





# Generalizing to arbitrarily many subtrees

- Assume that we know which subtree should be adjoined where ( $R$ )
  - This relation should respect dominance (if  $xRy$  then  $x$  should dominate  $y$ )
  - This relation should be defined only on nodes labelled  $\circ$
  - This relation should be an injective function!  
(multiple adjunction to the same XP is treated instead as adjunction to the unique adjunct (to the unique adjunct . . . ) adjoining to XP)
- Then we can simply replace talk of  $\circ$  and  $\oplus$  with talk of  $x$  and  $y$  such that  $xRy$
- Adding  $R$  to our trees essentially gives us a DAG where nodes have at most two parents.





# Taking Stock

- The substitution required by late adjunction is easy to do. . .
- *if* we know where to do it!
- Naively encoding this information into the tree is not MSO-usable,. . .
- and one logic that can deal with it seems like it would be beyond the IO-hierarchy!



# Conclusion

- Late operations are formally natural
- ... and linguists like them
- Adding late adjunction to MGs, we see that the relation between parse trees and derived tree is not an MSOTT.
- But if we include information about where each late adjoined element is supposed to appear, we have an MSO definable graph to tree transduction.
- Courcelle has shown that every MSO transduction on a graph of bounded treewidth results in a language of some hyperedge replacement grammar. Do the graphs we are using here have bounded treewidth? If yes, then
  - as our transduction gives trees,
  - and the sets of yields of CFHG definable sets of trees are always MCFLs
  - MGs with late adjunction would be MCFL



Thank you!

