

# Is late insertion necessary? If so, why?

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Linguistic Flashmob  
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# Outline

▶ Yes...

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- ▶ Yes...
  - ▶ modularity

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- ▶ Yes...
  - ▶ modularity
  - ▶ lexical items (words, morphemes) have the wrong size to be the input of syntax

## Modularity

Lexical items have the wrong size

Conclusions

# modularity

- ▶ Miller et al. (1997: 68), Marantz (1996), cf. Zwicky (1969); Zwicky & Pullum (1986)

- (1) *Principle of Phonology Free Syntax*  
Rules of syntax make no reference to phonology.

# modularity

- ▶ Miller et al. (1997: 68), Marantz (1996), cf. Zwicky (1969); Zwicky & Pullum (1986)

- (1) *Principle of Phonology Free Syntax*  
Rules of syntax make no reference to phonology.
- (2) *Principle of Concept Free Syntax*  
Rules of syntax make no reference to concepts.

## A late-insertion model

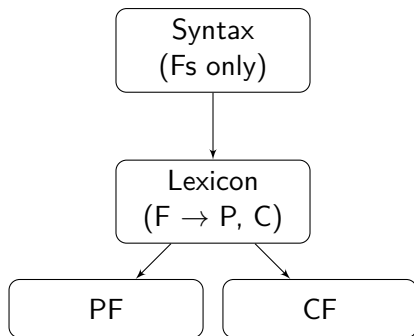
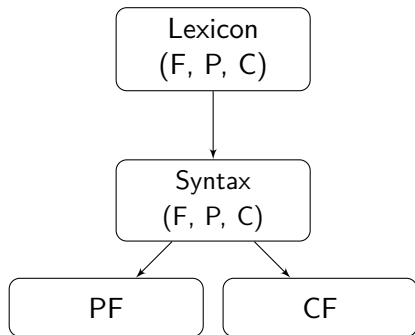


Figure 1: A late-insertion model of grammar (Nanosyntax)



## An early-insertion model



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## Case and number

- (3) Greenberg's Universal 39 (Greenberg 1963: 75)  
Where morphemes of both number and case are present and both follow or both precede the noun base, the expression of number almost always comes between the noun base and the expression of case.

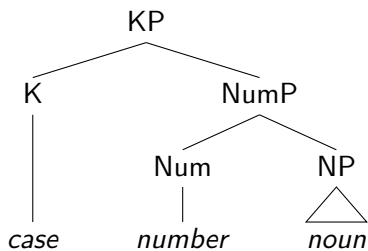
# Turkish

- (4) a. **el -de**  
hand-LOC
- b. **el-ler-de**  
hand-PL-LOC

# Tagalog

- (5) a. **sa**        **=bata**  
      DAT        =child
- b. **sa=mga=bata**  
          DAT=PL=child

## Case and number



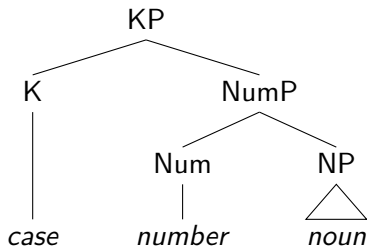
# Classical Armenian

- (6) a. **azg-aw**  
nation-INS
- b. **azg-aw-k'**  
nation-INS-PL

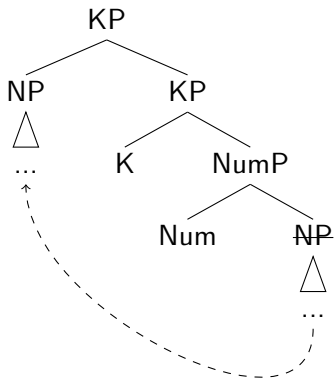
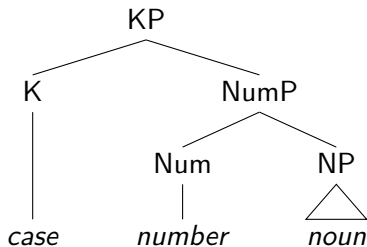
- (7) *The updated U39 (Kloudová 2020)*  
Counterexample are only found after the noun.



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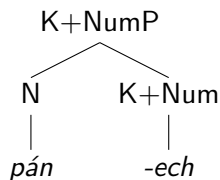
# Colloquial Czech

	SG	PL
NOM	pán	pán-ové
ACC	pán	pán-y
GEN	pán-a	pán-ů
LOC	pán-ovi	pán-ech
DAT	pán-ovi	pán-ům
INS	pán-em	pán-ama

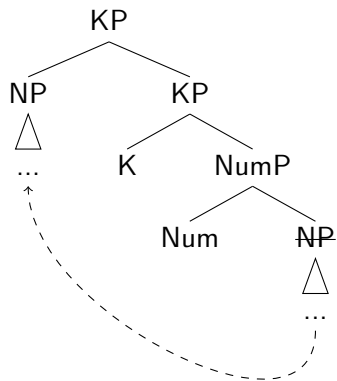
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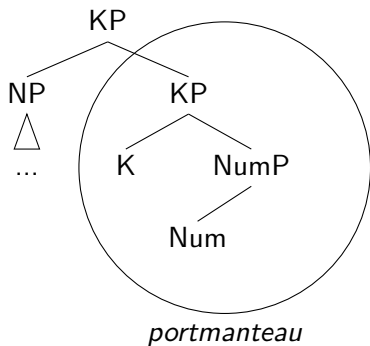
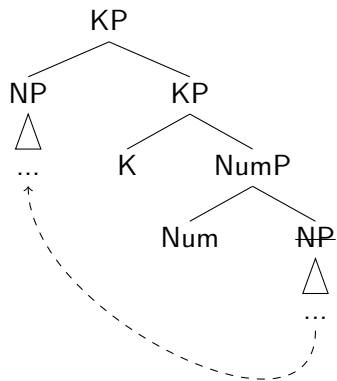
(8)



## A late insertion scenario



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Conclusions

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- ▶ Late insertion explains why syntax is not sensitive to phonology and concepts



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- ▶ Late insertion explains why syntax is not sensitive to phonology and concepts
- ▶ It can also explain mismatches between the granularity of syntax and of lexical items (via phrasal spellout)

## References I

- Kloudová, Veronika. 2020. *The interaction of functional morphemes inside the nominal phrase*. München: Lincom.
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