

What explains lexical impenetrability?

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The lexicalist hypothesis

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Bruening (2018): Lexicalist hypothesis: both wrong and superfluous

RSG as a potential case of lexical impenetrability

Is a more substantive theory possible?

Conclusions

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Root suppletion is limited to synthetic (i.e., morphological) comparatives.

Bobaljik (2012: 67)

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 - a. GOOD \Leftrightarrow *good*
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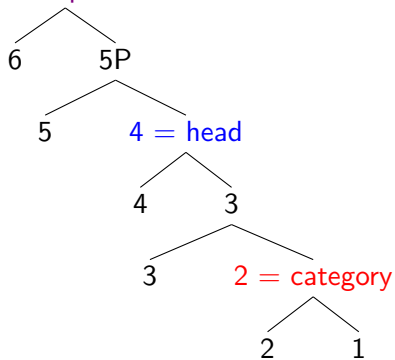
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- (4) a. α ...]X⁰ ... β
b. * α ...]XP ... β

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Moskal (2013)

- (5) With respect to nouns, languages can display suppletion for number (#). [...] Curiously, though, root suppletion of nouns in the context of case (K) seems to be largely unattested.
- (6) [C]ertain nodes in the structure function as domain delimiters and morphological processes are confined to operate within domains. In syntax, cyclic domains are implemented as phases [...] In morphology, domain delimiters are category heads [i.e., little *n*]

6P = phase



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(7) Czech

a. slab-ý — slab -š -í
weak-AGR weak -CMPR -AGR

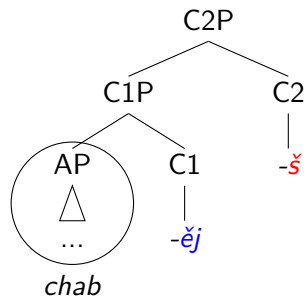
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- a. slab-ý — slab -š -í
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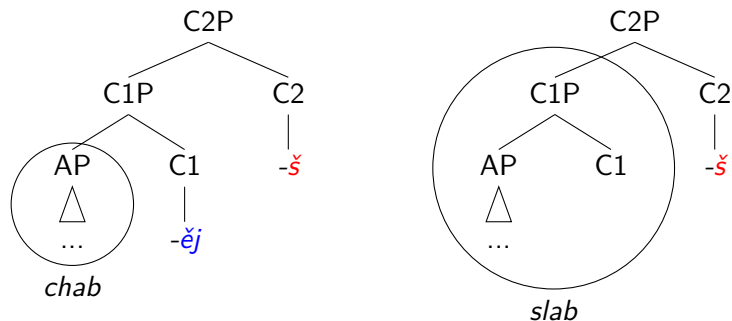
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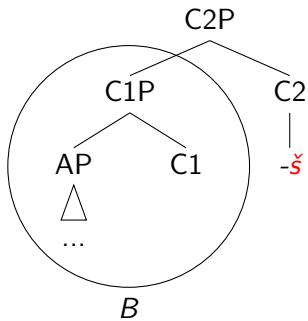
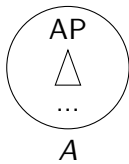


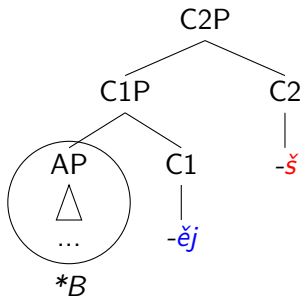
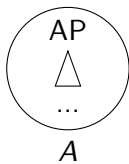
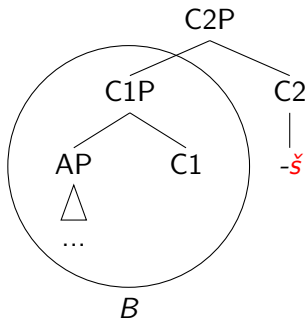
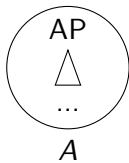
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POS	CMPR	
dobr-ý	lep-š-í	'good'
špatn-ý	hor-š-í	'bad'
mal-ý	men-š-í	'small'
velk-ý	vět-š-í	'big'
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- (8)
- a. dobr -ý
good -AGR
- b. *lep -ěj-š -í
bett -CMPR -AGR

(9) a. good — bett-er

- (9)
- a. good — bett-er
 - b. intelligent — mo-re intelligent

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▶ One can capture the lack of suppletion in (9c) without smuggling 'words' via back door.

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- ▶ ... ideally something that does not amount to drawing a red circle around a particular constituent.

References I

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