

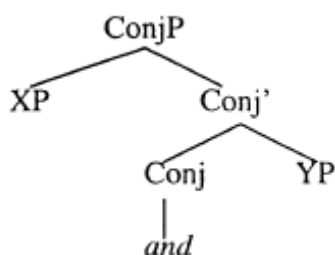
Coordination

Lingua #115 Editorial (2005:353f.): “[W]ith regard to syntax, it is quite consistent to claim that while there is an asymmetry in the phrasal structure of coordination, the conjuncts are symmetrical inasmuch as they are of the same syntactic category, or at least have the same ‘syntactic status’, and have a range of features in common. Similarly, it is consistent to claim that while the semantics of the word and itself results in a proposition P&Q that is symmetrical (in the sense that it is truth-conditionally equivalent to Q&P), the interpretation that results from online pragmatic processing may be asymmetric (e.g. P & then Q). And it cannot be supposed, without argument, that formal symmetry or asymmetry necessarily results in the corresponding property either in the bare semantics or in the final full interpretation.

Early syntactic treatments of coordination assumed a flat structure along the following lines, a structure which is taken to be either multi-headed or non-headed: As syntactic frameworks developed which aimed to reflect general properties of natural language phrase structure, in particular, its hierarchical and endocentric nature, it was mostly assumed that coordinate structures lay outside these generalisations and required special treatment. For instance, within early X-bar syntax, coordination was taken to be an [...].

However, more recent treatments of coordination within Chomskyan grammar (Principles and Parameters theory and Minimalism) have argued for its analysis as a Conjunction Phrase with the familiar asymmetric, single-headed structure of the X-bar schema (Johannessen, 1993, 1998; Kayne, 1994; Radford, 1993). The conjunction (and) is the head of the phrase and the conjuncts occupy the specifier and complement positions:

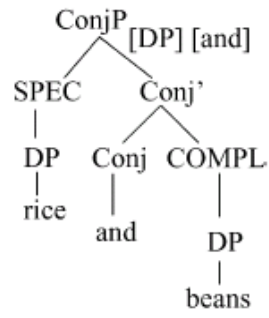
(1)



This sort of analysis seems to be supported by certain cases of ‘unbalanced’ coordination where the conjuncts (XP, YP) differ in some of their grammatical properties, for instance, in agreement, case, and/or binding properties. In this volume, the ConjP analysis is assumed by Johannessen, in line with her earlier work, though her primary concern here is to argue for a particular analysis of correlative adverbs (e.g. *either*, *both*), which captures both their displacement properties and their fixed correlation with one particular conjunction (*or*, *and*). Rebuschi also supports the ConjP analysis. He argues for its extension to nominal modification (e.g. *the man who is asleep*), with a linking morpheme (conjoining *man* and *who is asleep*) functioning as the head of the phrase; the morpheme is phonologically realised in some languages, though not in English. This analysis has the advantage of transparently reflecting the semantics of the phrase (the intersection of the set of men and the set of sleepers)”.

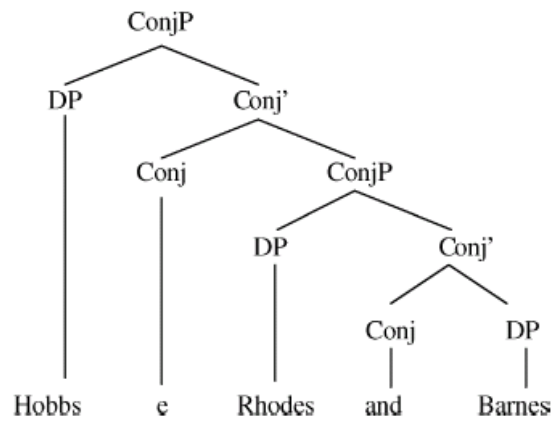
Johannessen (2005:420): “Following the analysis of Johannessen (1998), I shall take the conjunction to be the head of a ConjP, which has the conjuncts in the specifier and complement positions, respectively.¹ The relevant information from the conjuncts (such as part of speech and grammatical features, as well as information about which conjunction is a head) is inherited to the top projection via spec-head agreement (unification):”

(2)



Structures involving multiple coordinated constituents contain one or more null coordinators (this example is from Borsley's 2005 critical discussion of the antisymmetric ConjP analysis).

(3)



(Borsley 2005:467)