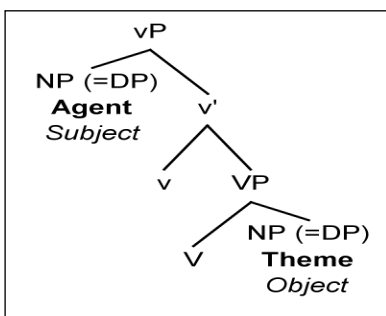


**Session Notes 9 (02.06.2008)**

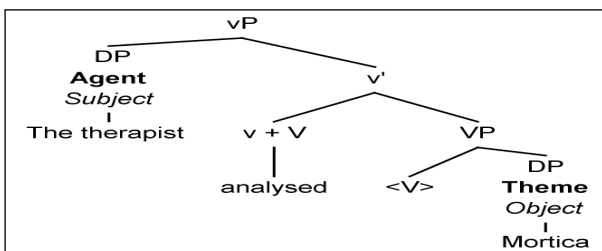
We started the session with some residual problems. It is sometimes a bit of a chore to try to connect all the loose ends that are present in the course of the SCIMS debates and it is, from time to time, quite difficult to keep track of the different lines of argumentation, I will just look ahead into chapter seven, where we have Adger introduce the Determiner Phrase (DP).

Speaking in very broad terms, I think it best to see DPs as conceptually developed NPs. I also think it convenient to keep in mind the close *analogy* to vPs as conceptually amended VPs. Just as the vP is enriched with a functional projection (little v), so can an NP be functionally enriched, too – making it into a nP and latter into a fully-fledged DP (note that Adger starts with the DP first and then legitimizes the nP). In order to make this a kind of deductive Session Note, let me just sketch the vP again and then nP – actually Adger’s finishing point: For the moment let’s not assume a ditransitive V with a V’ in big VP.



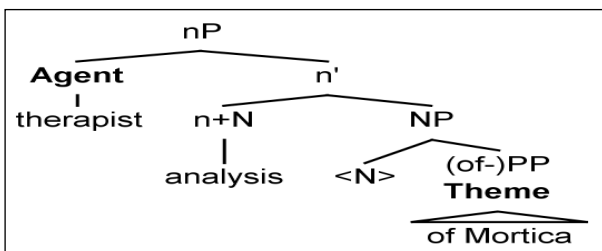
Now on to the nP. On page 263 in CoSyn, Adger says the following: “*In this section we will focus on how arguments of Ns distribute within the DP, trying to tease out similarities with vP, and noting any differences.*” I found that a bit suggestive – perhaps I am so used to associating argument structure with the verbal complex that I for the moment find it highly constructed to deal with the noun complex in

an argument structure fashion. Maybe I just need to change my notion of *argument*. His idea is to liken the  $\theta$ -roles of (1) and (2):



- (1) The therapist analysed Mortica.
- (2) The therapist’s analysis of Mortica

Adger holds that in (2), basically the same  $\theta$ -assignments are going on, and just as with vP he assumes there to be a nP in the low structure of DP. For (2), the tree would look like this: Of course, this is not a fully-fledged DP. What is striking is that, as Adger assumes,



UTAH “generalizes to the nominal domain” (267). He goes on: “*We can say that arguments which are Merged as daughters of NP are interpreted as Themes, and that arguments which are Merged as specifiers of a little n projection are interpreted as Agents.*” Thus the rules

- would be: (i) PP daughter of NP → **Theme**
- (ii) Specifier of nP → **Agent**

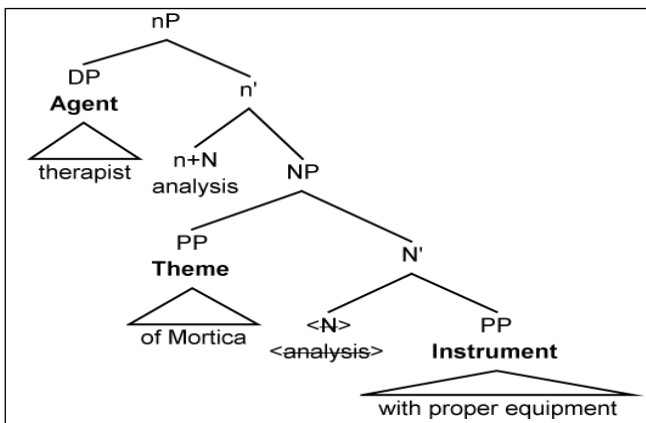
If I remember correctly, though, we introduced the vP in order to be able to deal with ditransitive constructions. But are there also a kind of “nominal ditransitives”? As I write this, one of the prototypical thematic roles comes to my mind: **Instrument**. I think Adger leaves out the consideration of Instrument being a semantic role proper, but let me just think about it in (3):

- (3) The therapist's (**Agent**) analysis (content N) of Mortica (**Theme**)  
with proper equipment (**Instrument**)

As of yet, I would not know how to deal with this structure. Surely, the Instrument would have to be conceptualized as some sort of Adjunct. Still, as the argument “bonds” in DP are not supposed to be as tight as verbal argument structure, perhaps room is opened for regarding some structures as non-Adjuncts that, in a verbal domain, would be proper Adjuncts. In (4), the (*with-*)PP is clearly an Adjunct.

- (4) The therapist (**Agent**) analysed Mortica (**Theme**) with proper equipment (**Instrument**).

It's just a transitive V and the arguments satisfy its “demands” and that's it. But we surely would not speak of a “transitive N”, would we? Is there a general descriptive machinery to describe the pseudo-transitivity of Ns? On page 268, *gift* seems to exhibit exactly such a pseudo-ditransitive structure. This is solved via an N' projection that opens space for a **Goal**. Why not open space for an **Instrument**? A kind of NP-shell analysis. As with *gift* and probably *donation*, maybe also instruments could be included in



this shown way. As I see it, the right surface word order is yielded by the structure. But there is one big problem with this analyses: The question is whether the featural specification of *analysis* is enough to justify such a tree representation. It would have to look something like this: *analysis* [N, uP, uP]. Is this a reasonable assumption?

One more remark on the overall presence of little n: It is believed to **be there all the time**, through all the constructions where Ds and Ns are involved. So even in very simple DPs such as in *The cat sat on the mat.*, *cat* is Agent daughter of nP. This is made explicit in (121) on page 269. For convenience, the bar level projection of n' is left out, since no specifier is present.

The final DP layer is, of course the DP – what a tautology! Now again to come with an analogy: Where the TP layer is said to anchor the verbal complex in time, maybe it could be argued that the DP layer anchors the nominal complex in space. Leaving out problems of reference for the moment, it seems to delineate some of the nominal properties. Be these **definiteness, indefiniteness, proper names, mass and count phenomena**. Whereas the verbal complex is expanded furthermore, the nominal complex appears to be at an end with the DP layer.

Note that as of yet I have not taken account of the particular feature checking and valuation processes that are going on in the DP. I hope to be able to do so after the next SCIMS session.