Chapter 2

1. Estimating your vocabulary. Answers to this question will vary depending on student, dictionary, and so on. One example:

a. Count the number of entries on a typical page. They are usually boldfaced.

63 entries per page

b. Multiply the number of words per page by the number of pages in the dictionary.

63 entries × 1330 pages = approximately 83,790 main entries

c. Pick four pages in the dictionary at random. Count the number of words on these pages.

61 entries + 62 entries + 68 entries + 61 entries = 252 total

d. How many of these words do you know?

183 words known

e. What percentage of the total words on the four pages do you know?

approximately 73%

f. Multiply the words in the dictionary by the percent you arrived at in (e).

I know approximately 61,000 English words.

2. English morphemes.

a. retro + act + ive

b. be + friend + ed

c. tele + vise

d. margin

e. en + dear + ment

f. psych + ology or psych + o + logy

g. un + palat + able

h. holi + day

i. grand + mother

j. morph + em + ic

k. mis + treat + ment

l. de + act + iv + at + tion

m. salt + peter

n. air + sick + ness

o. bureau + crat

p. demo + crat

q. aristo + crat

r. pluto + crat

s. demo + crac + y (Note that in this analysis, -crat becomes -crac before -y.)

t. demo + crat + ic

u. demo + crat + ic + al + ly

v. demo + crat + iz + ation

w. demo + crat + ize

x. demo+ crat + iz + er

y. demo + crat + iz + ing

z. demo + crat + iz + ed

3. Identify morphological sequences.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| A | B |
| a. noisy crow | (3) phrase consisting of adjective plus noun |
| b. scarecrow | (1) compound noun |
| c. the crow | (6) grammatical morpheme followed by lexical morpheme |
| d. crowlike | (5) root morpheme plus derivational suffix |
| e. crows | (4) root morpheme plus inflectional suffix |

4. Identify morphological elements.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| A | B |
| a. terroriz*ed* | (3) inflectional suffix |
| b. un*civil*ized | (1) free root |
| c. terror*ize* | (4) derivational suffix |
| d. *luke*warm | (2) bound root |
| e. *im*possible | (6) derivational prefix |

5. Zulu morphology.

Part One

a. The morpheme meaning “singular” is *um-.*

b. The morpheme meaning “plural” is aba-.

c.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Zulu | English |
| -*fazi* | “married woman” |
| -*fani* | “boy” |
| -*zali* | “parent” |
| *-fundisi* | “teacher” |
| *-bazi* | “carver” |
| *-limi* | “farmer” |
| *-dlali* | “player” |
| *-fundi* | “reader” |

Part Two

d. The verbal suffix morpheme is -a.

e. The nominal suffix morpheme is -i.

f. A noun is formed in Zulu by suffixing the nominal morpheme and prefixing a singular or plural morpheme to the root. Schematically, this is:

noun = number prefix + root + nominal suffix

g. The root morpheme meaning “read” is -fund-.

h. The root morpheme meaning “carve” is -baz-.

6. Swedish morphology.

a. en

b. -or and -ar. If the basic noun ends in a vowel (or perhaps more specifically an a, we would need more data to differentiate), use -or for plurals, for example, lampa / lampor, soffa / soffor. If the basic noun ends in a consonant, use -ar for plurals, for example, bil / bilar, stol / stolar, tratt / trattar.

c. -n and -en. If the singular noun ends in a vowel (or perhaps more specifically an a, we would need more data to differentiate), use -n for the definite, for example, lampa / lampan, soffa / soffan. If the singular noun ends in a consonant, use -en for the definite, for example, bil / bilen, stol / stolen, tratt / trattar.

d. -na

e. The plural suffix comes before the definite suffix, for example, bil-ar-na “the cars.”

f. flickor “girls”; flickan “the girl”; flickorna “the girls”

g. bussar “buses”; bussen “the bus”

7. Cebuano morphology.

a. The morpheme -in- is used to derive a language name from the word for a person from a certain country. Insert the morpheme -in- before the first vowel of the word. This has the effect that if the word begins with a consonant, -in- will be infixed after the first consonant of the word and if the word begins with a vowel, in- will be prefixed before the first vowel of the word.

b. In the case of vowel-initial words, prefixation. In the case of consonant-initial words, infixation.

c. sinuwid “the Swedish language”; initalo “the Italian language”

d. furanso “a Frenchman”; unagari “a Hungarian”

8. Dutch morphology.

a. To form an infinitive, add the suffix -en to the root. Schematically, this is:

Infinitive = Root + -en

b. To form a past participle, circumfix the discontinuous morpheme ge- . . . -d around the root. Schematically, this is:

Past Participle = ge- + Root + -d

9. Swahili morphology.

a. m- prefix attached to singular nouns of Class I

wa- prefix attached to plural nouns of Class I

a- prefix attached to verbs when the subject is a singular noun of Class I

wa- prefix attached to verbs when the subject is a plural noun of Class I

ki- prefix attached to singular nouns of Class II

vi- prefix attached to plural nouns of Class II

ki- prefix attached to verbs when the subject is a singular noun of Class II

vi- prefix attached to verbs when the subject is a plural noun of Class II

-toto “child”

-tu “person”

-su “knife”

-kapu “basket”

-fika “arrive”

-lala “sleep”

-anguka “fall”

-me- present perfect tense

-na- present progressive tense

-ta- future tense

b. The verb is constructed by stringing together from left to right (1) the verbal prefix indicating the noun class and the number of the subject, (2) the tense, and (3) the verbal stem. Schematically, this is:

Verb = Class prefix + Tense prefix + Verbal stem

c. (1) “The child is falling.” = Mtoto anaanguka.

(2) “The baskets have arrived.” = Vikapu vimefika.

(3) “The person will fall.” = Mtu ataanguka.

10. Reduplication in Samoan.

Part One

a. (1) “they weave” = lalaga

(2) “they travel” = savavali

(3) “he sings” = pese

b. To form a plural verb form, reduplicate (copy) the penultimate (next to the last) consonant-vowel (CV) syllable and insert it before (or after) that syllable. Schematically, this is:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Singular verb form: | | | | | Plural verb form: | | | | | | |
|  | C1 | V1 | C2 | V2 |  | C1 | V1 | C1 | V1 | C2 | V2 |
|  | l | a | g | a |  | l | a | l | a | g | a |

Part Two

1. partial reduplication (with some morpho-phonological changes)

2. “kind of light” = tho thong

3. “a little shifty” = khoʔ khul

4. “fat” = luq

5. “crazy” = khot

6. To form weakened adjectives of this type, reduplicate (copy) the first vowel of the base form and all the consonants before that vowel, then insert this copy before the first consonant of the base. Schematically, this is:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| base adjective form: | | | | | weakened adjective form: | | | | | | |
|  | C1 | V1 | C2 | C3 |  | C1 | V1 | C1 | V1 | C2 | C3 |
|  | d | a | n | g |  | d | a | d | a | n | g |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| base adjective form: | | | | | weakened adjective form: | | | | | | |
|  | C1 | V1 | C2 | C3 |  | C1 | V1 | C1 | V1 | C2 | C3 |
|  | d | a | n | g |  | d | a | d | a | n | g |

However, when the first vowel of the base form is u, then the copied form of the vowel will be an o and a glottal stop will be added after the copied—and changed—vowel. (Note that this gives us evidence that the copy is in fact the prefixed form, whereas with the Samoan example in Part A we had no such evidence). Schematically, this is:

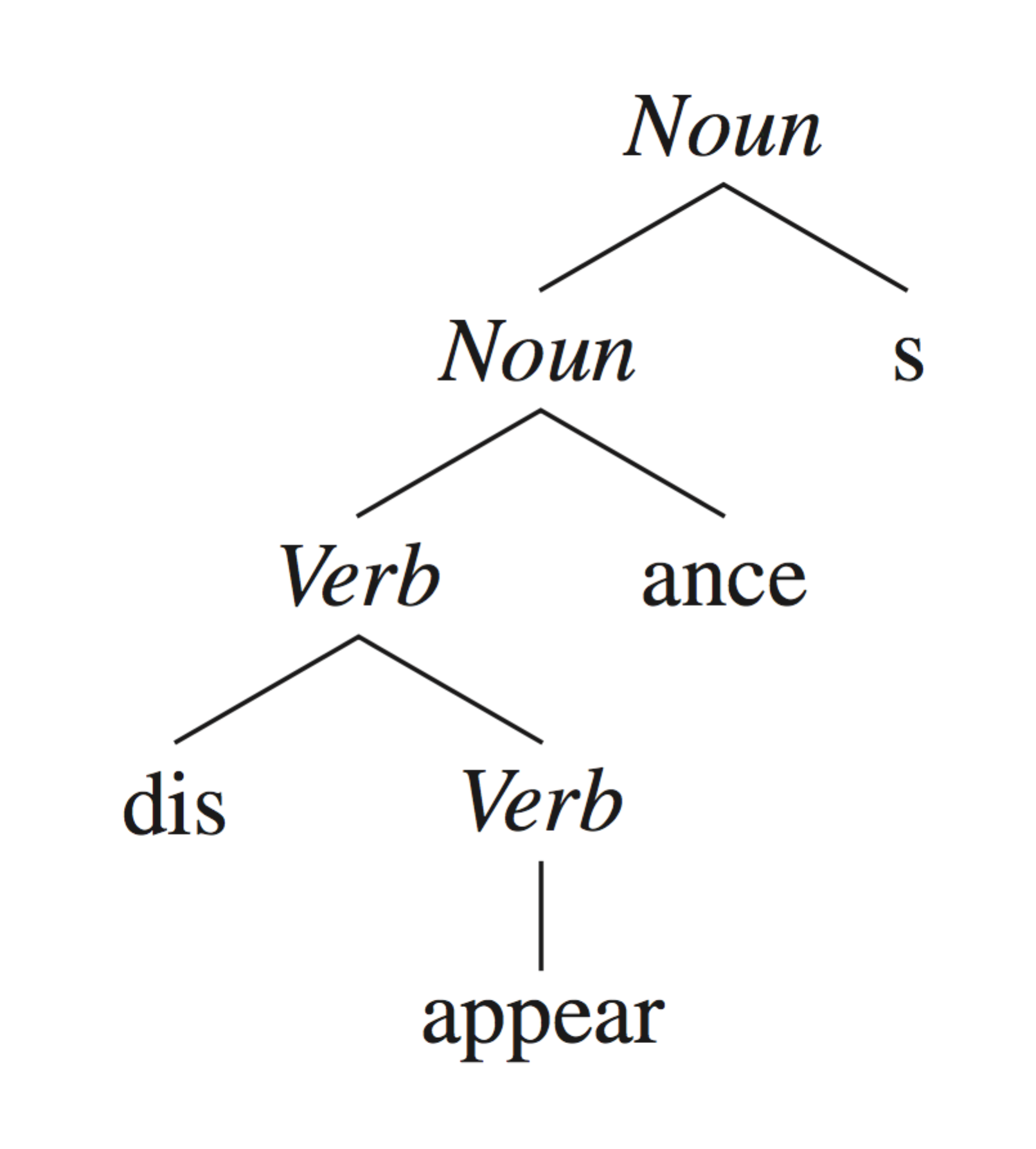
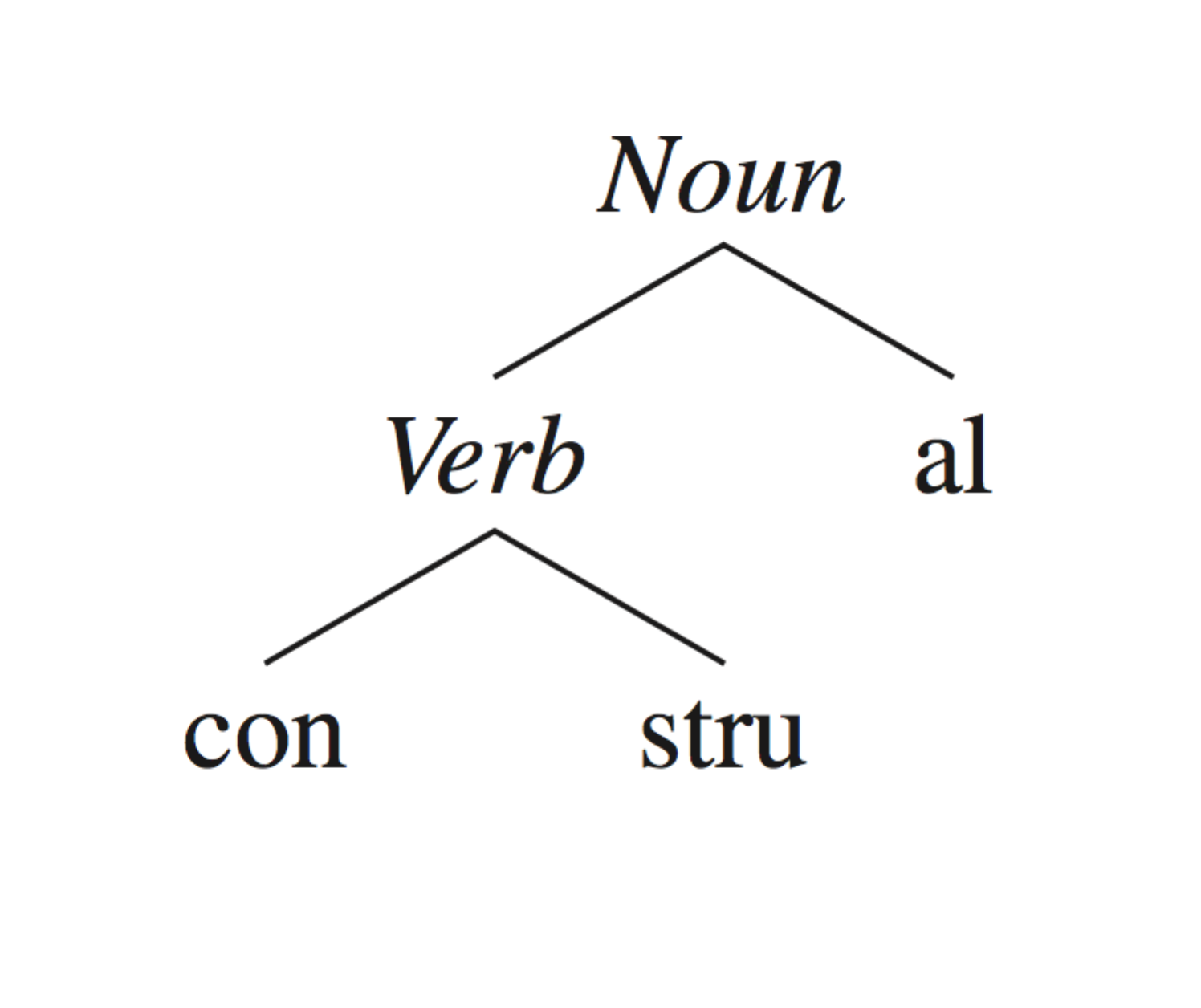
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| base adjective form: | | | | weakened adjective form: | | | | | | |
|  | C1 | V1 | C2 |  | C1 | V1  u🡪 o | ʔ | C1 | V1 | C3 |
|  | g | u | h |  | g | o | ʔ | g | u | h |

11. Humorous definitions. Sample answers:

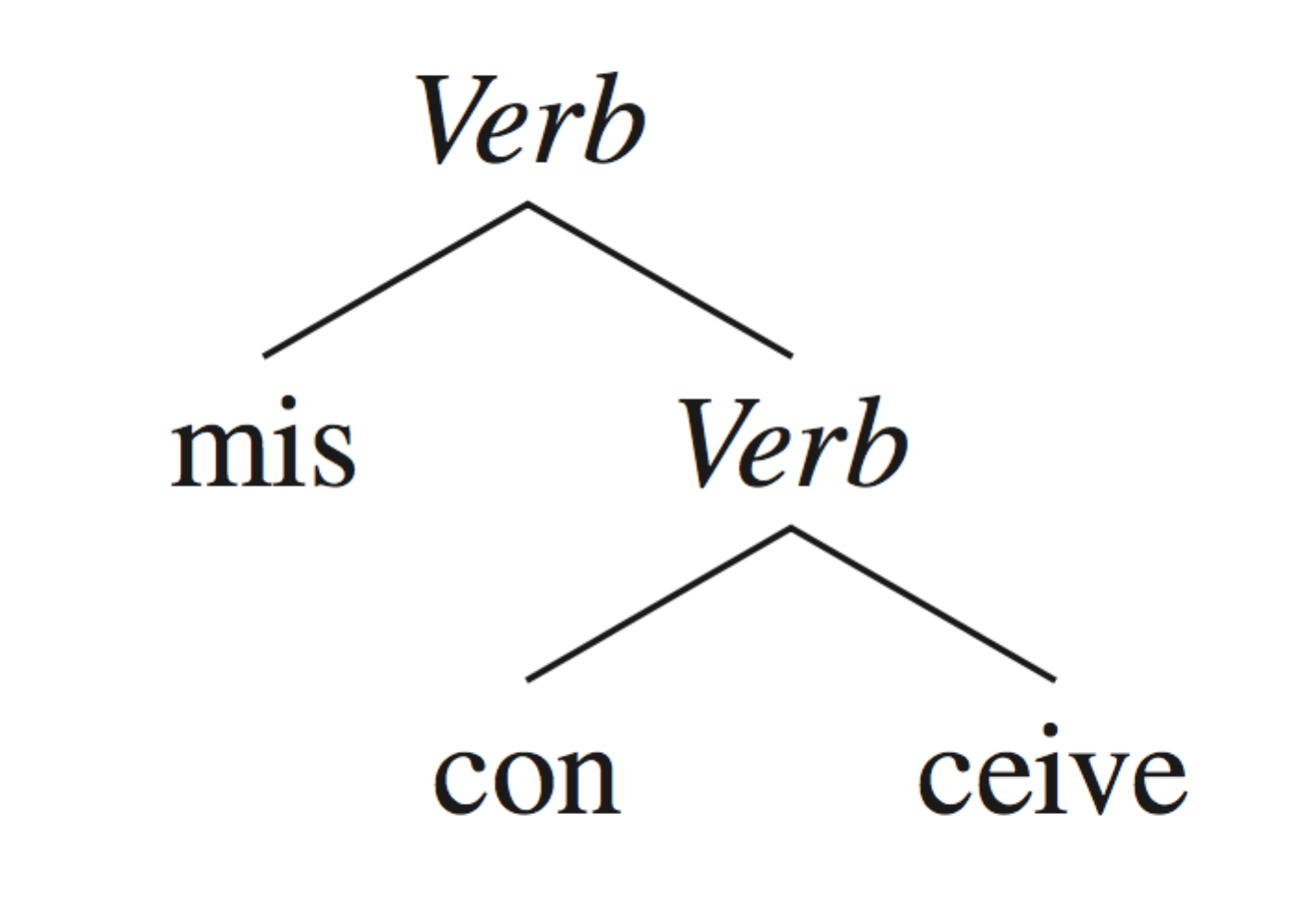
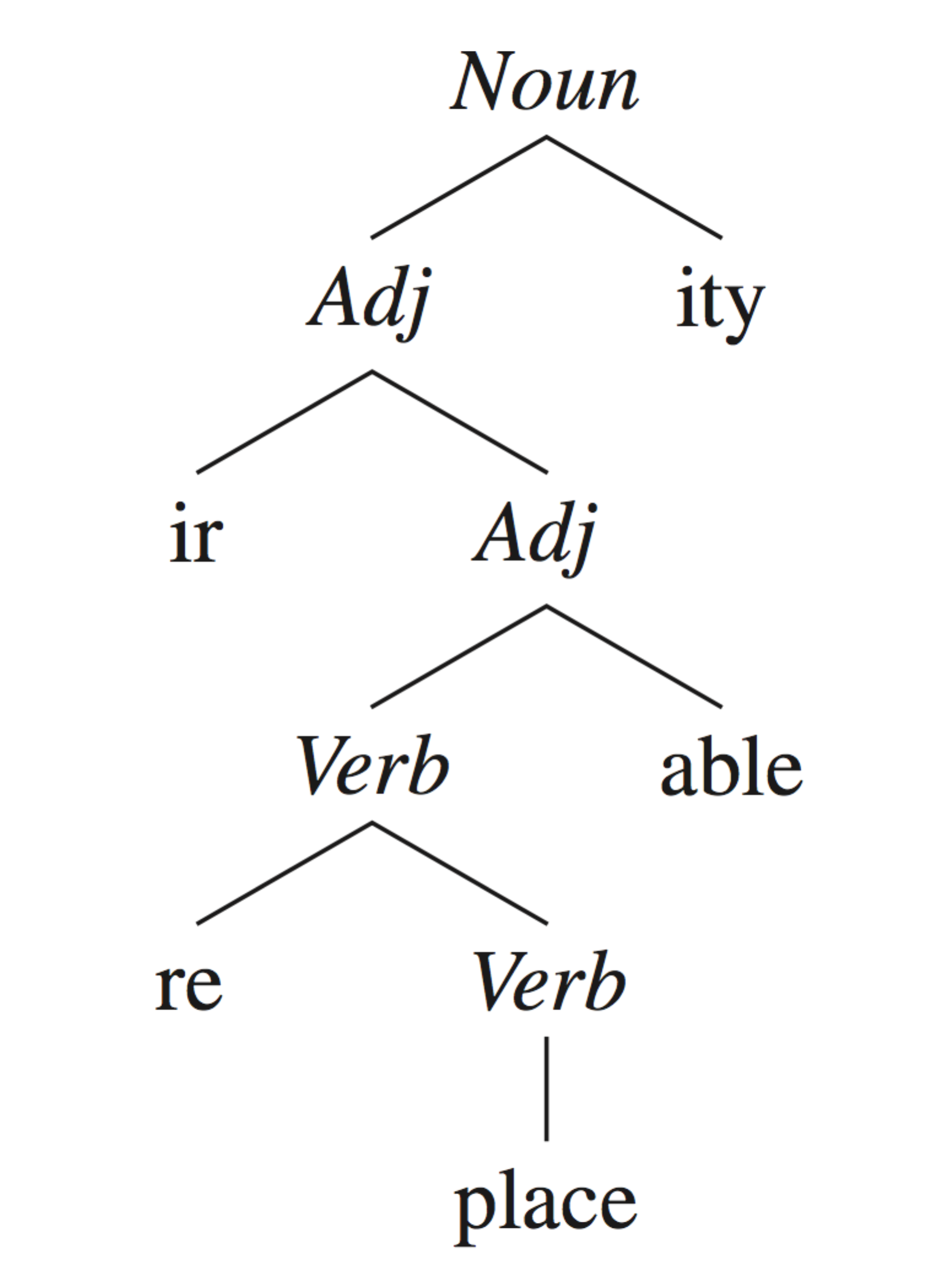
|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| stalemate: | “husband or wife no longer interested”  The definition results from incorrectly interpreting this word as a compound of stale and mate, where stale means “no longer fresh” and mate is “a husband or wife.” |
| effusive: | “able to be merged”  This word appears to be related to the stem fuse, meaning “merge” and the suffix -ive, meaning “having a tendency, character, or quality” such as “creative” or “explosive.” |
| tenet: | “a group of ten singers”  This word has been interpreted as a combination of the number ten and the suffix -et, such as found in words relating to music, for example, quartet and duet. |
| dermatology: | “a study of derms”  The word ending -ology as in biology, meaning “study of,” has been recognized, but the definer clearly has no idea what derm means. |
| ingenious: | “not very smart”  Here, the bound morpheme -genious has been mistaken for genius, meaning “very smart” and ­interpreted as meaning “not very smart” when the negative morpheme in- is prefixed. |
| finesse: | “a female fish”  The word was interpreted as the noun fin “fish ­appendage” plus the suffix -ess(e) “female” as in words such as lioness or actress. |
| amphibious: | “able to lie on both sea and land”  Amphibious has been correctly used, but the phib part of it is humorously interpreted as fib, to tell  a lie. |
| deceptionist: | “secretary who covers up for his boss”  This is a blend of the words deception and receptionist. |
| mathemagician: | “Bernie Madoff’s accountant”  A blend of mathematician and magician, implying that the person in question is good at manipulating numbers to create a false impression. |
| sexcedrin: | “medicine for mate who says, ‘sorry, I have a headache.’”  A blend of the word sex with the headache medicine Excedrin. |
| testosteroni: | “hormonal supplement administered as pasta”  A blend of testosterone and any one of the pasta words ending in -roni such as macaroni. |
| aesthetominophen: | “medicine to make you look beautiful”  A blend of aesthetics—having to do with beauty—and acetaminophen, the analgesic medicine. |
| histalavista: | “say goodbye to those allergies”  The Spanish expression hasta la vista “see you later” is influenced by the allergy medicines called antihistamines. |
| aquapella: | “singing in the shower”  The “a ca” of a cappella, “singing without instrumental accompaniment,” is taken to be aqua meaning “water.” |
| melancholy: | “dog that guards the cantaloupe patch”  -choly is pronounced “collie” like the breed of dog that guards sheep, and melan- is pronounced “melon” of which a cantaloupe is a type, so a “melon-collie” is a guard dog for a type of melon. |
| plutocrat: | “a dog that rules”  -crat is correctly interpreted as dealing with rule or governance, as in democrat and aristocrat. However, pluto- here has been misinterpreted as the dog, Pluto, from the Disney cartoons. |

12. Structure of English words.

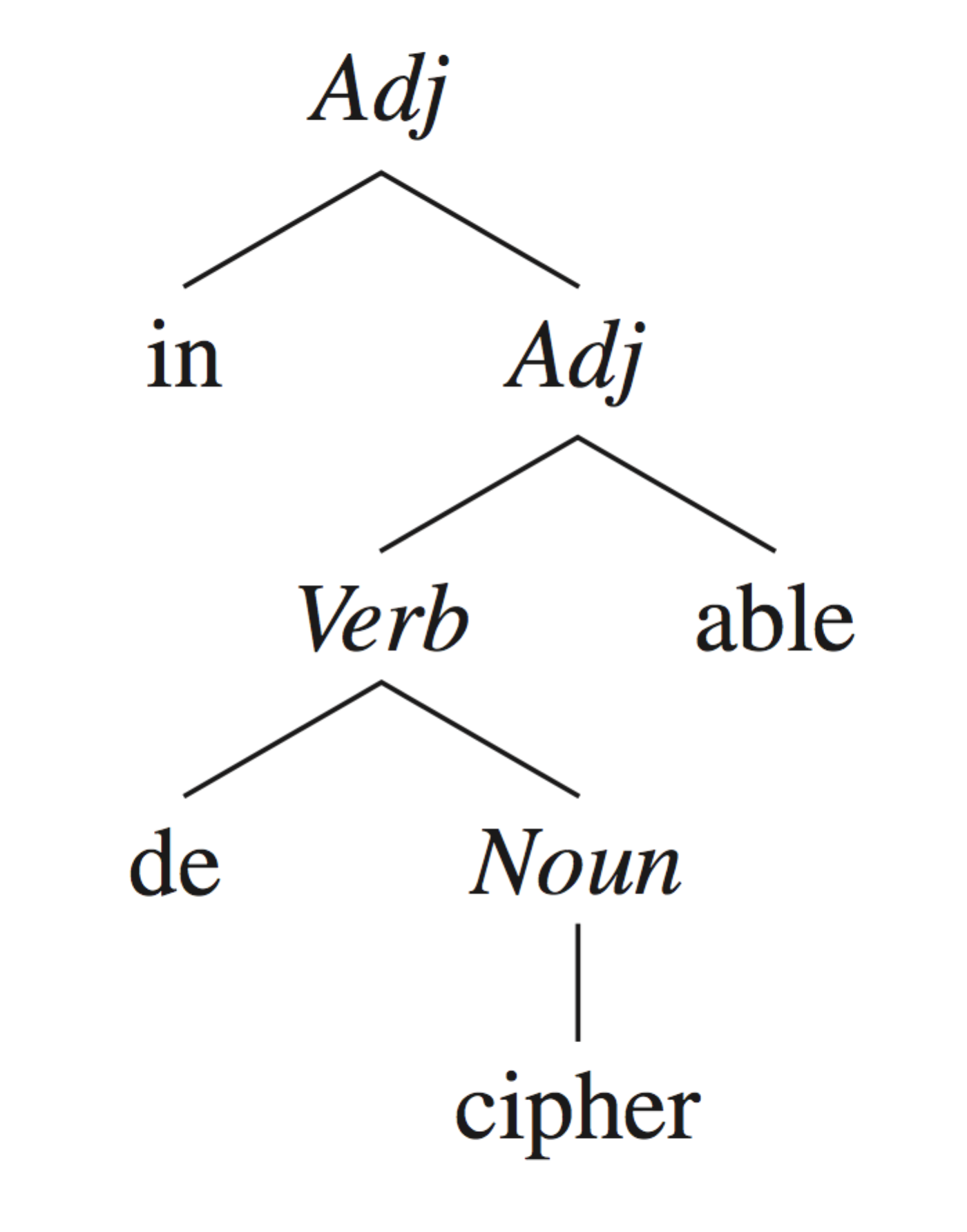
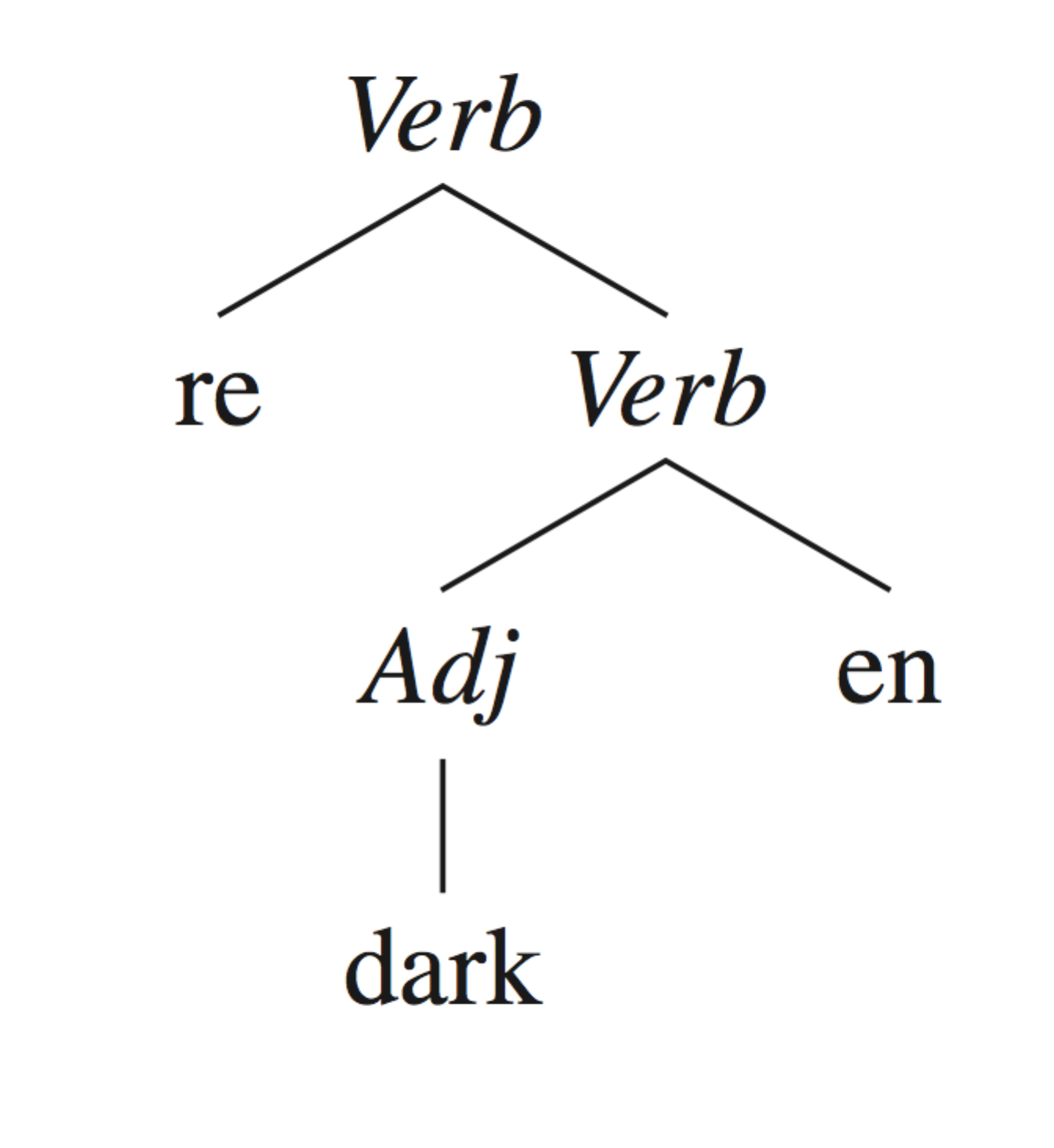
a. construal disappearances

irreplaceability misconceive

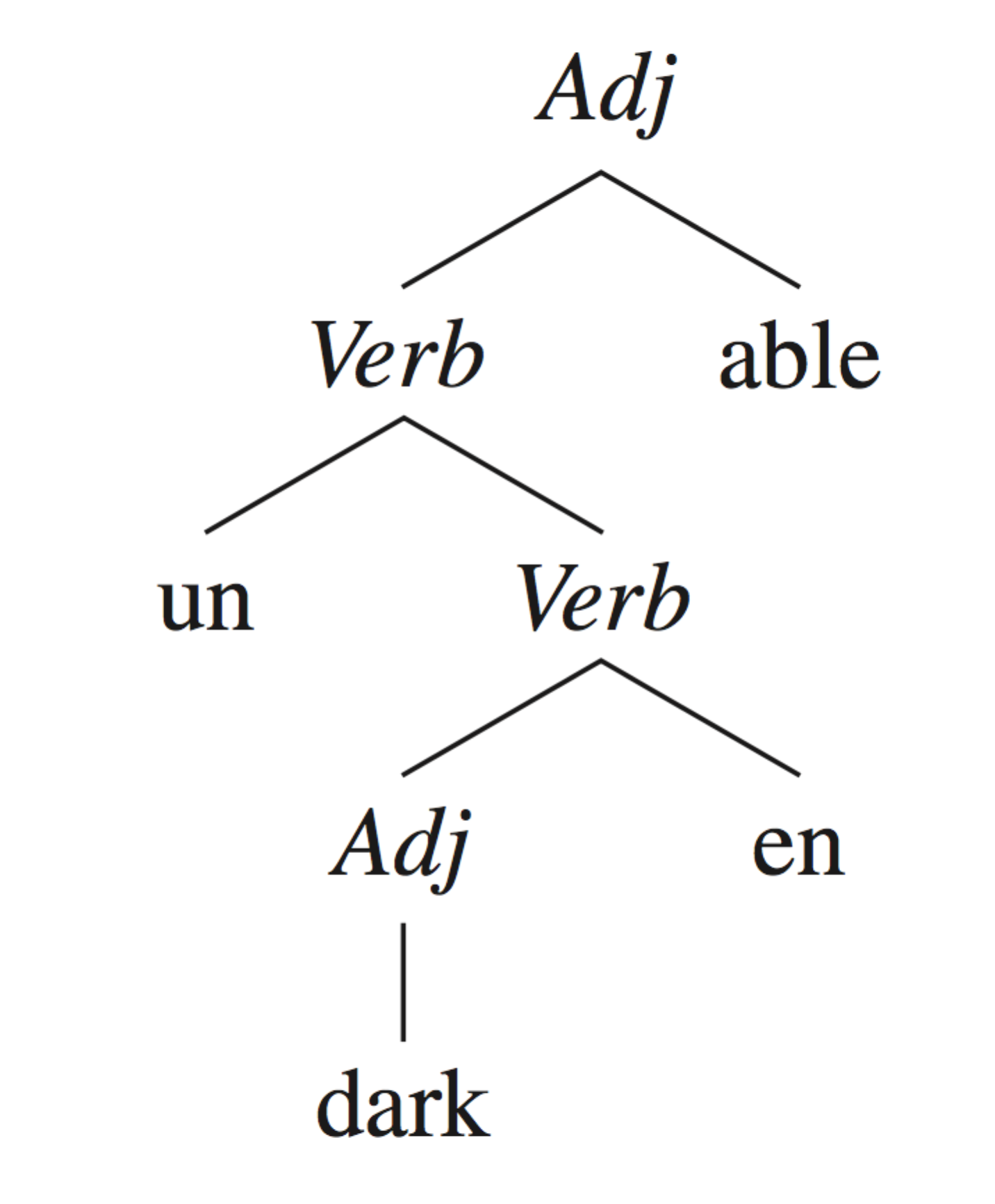
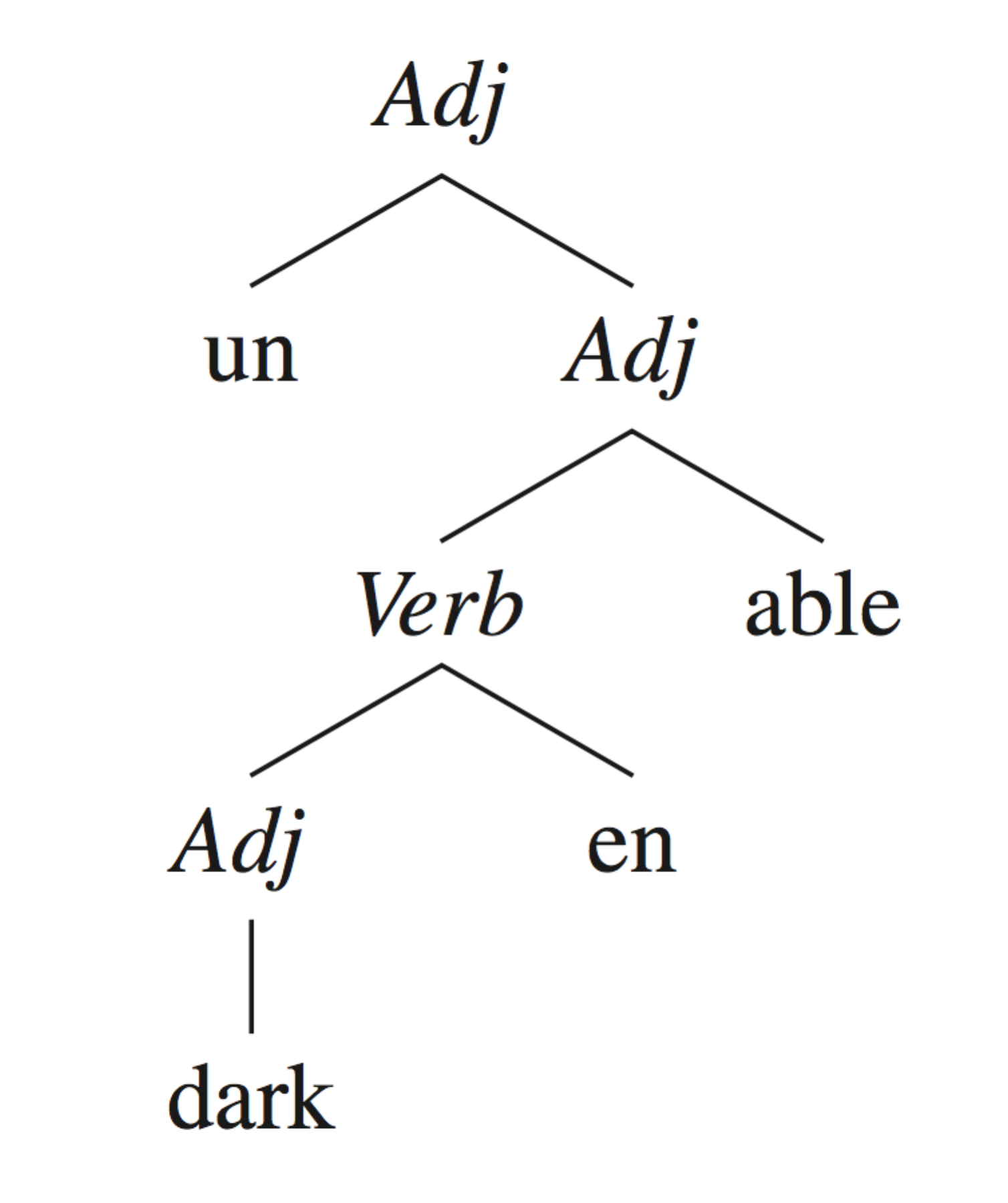
 

indecipherable redarken



b. undarkenable “able to undarkenable “unable to

 be less dark” make dark”



13. Asymmetries.

a. **Words Nonwords**

nondescript \*descript

incognito \*cognito

unbeknownst \*beknownst

impeccable \*peccable

impromptu \*promptu

nonplussed \*plussed

indomitable \*domitable

misnomer \*nomer

democrat \*crat

b. Answers will vary; examples include overwhelm (\*whelm), cranberry (\*cran), inept (\*ept), antebellum (\*bellum), misgivings (\*givings), snowmageddon (\*mageddon).

14. *Composite words*.

a. Star Trek

b. barnstorm

c. bathrobe

d. ballpoint

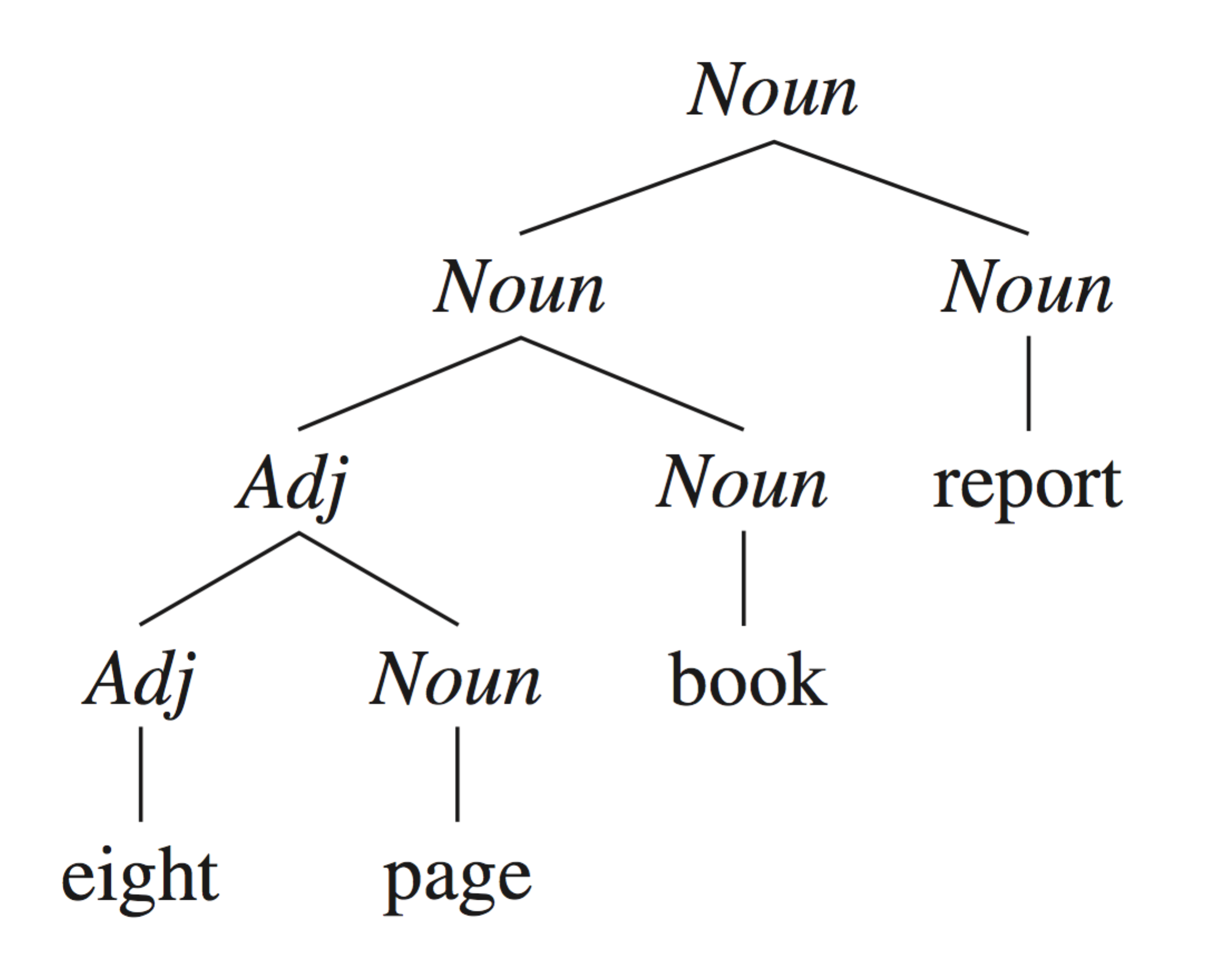
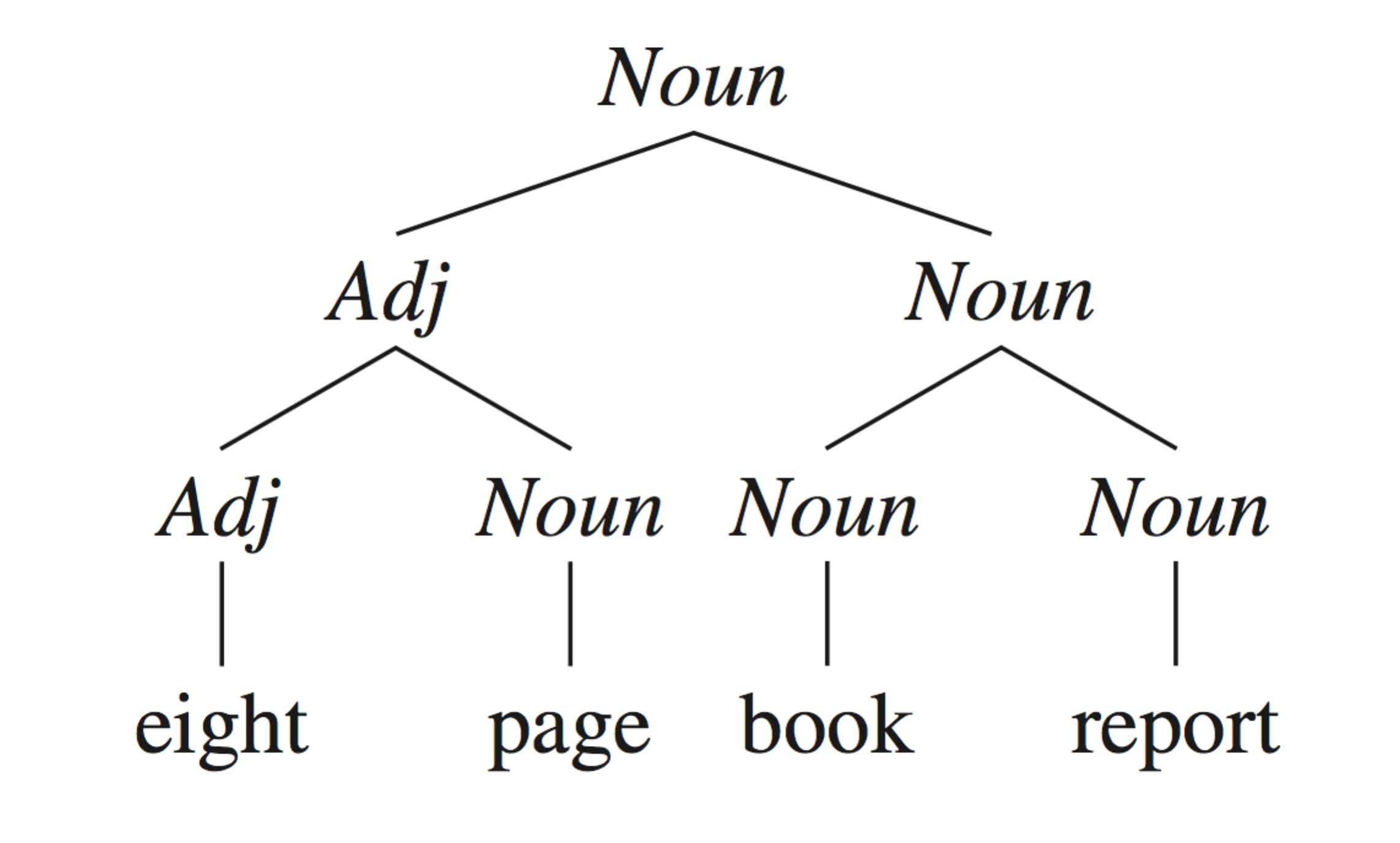
e. right-wing

15. Eight-page book report.

A report of unspecifiedA report that is eight pages long

length on a book that ison a book of unspecified

eight pages longlength

** **

16. Italian morphology.

a. The root morpheme meaning “robust” is robust.

b. The morpheme meaning “very” is -issimo.

c. (1) “a robust wine” = un vino robusto

(2) “a very red face” = una faccia rossissima

(3) “a very dry wine” = un vino seccissimo

17. Turkish morphology.

a. -*e*

b. suffixes

c. “from an ocean” = denizden

d. three (deniz-im-de)

18. Chickasaw morphology.

a. (1) “to be tall” = chaaha

(2) “to be hungry” = hopoba

b. (1) past tense = -tok

(2) “I” = sa-

(3) “you” = chi-

(4) “he/she” = Ø- (i.e., nothing)

c. (1) “you are old” = chisipokni

(2). “he was old” = sipoknitok

(3) “they are old” = hoosipokni

19. Little-End Egglish

a. The possessive morpheme is the prefix z-. The first person singular morpheme is the suffix -ego. The second person morpheme is suffix -ivo.

b. “my egg white” = zvelego

c. “hard-boiled egg” = pe

d. “our” = -gogo

e. “for” = bo-

20. Zoque.

a. -u

b. -pa

c. <UL>sohs- / sos- “cook”

wiht- / wit- “walk”

sihk- / sik- “laugh”

kaʔ- “die”

ken- “look”

cihc- / cic- “tear”

d. If the verb stem ends with two consonants, the first of those consonants (in this data that is always h-; more information would be needed to see whether this is limited to h or whether it is true of all consonant clusters in this position), is deleted if the following tense suffix begins with a consonant (in this case, the present tense suffix -pa; again, more information would be needed to see whether this applied to other consonant-initial tense suffixes, if there are any). This process seems to function to avoid a sequence of three consonants.

21. Research exercise. Answers will vary. A sample answer follows.

Wictionary.com (accessed in June 2009) lists four English interfixes: i, k, n, and o and defines interfix as “a vowel inserted interconsonantally betwixt morphemes of Latinate origin in order to ease pronunciation.” Note, however, that this definition doesn’t work for k and n, which are not vowels. These four interfixes have three major functions, all of which seem to be different from that of the example given in the book. The i and o in Wictionary do seem to be used to ease pronunciation, with the i being used for words of Latinate origin and the o being used for words of Greek origin. The k seems to be a purely orthographic “interfix” with examples like panic/panicky and politic/politicking given. The n seems to have yet another use, and is said to be “frequently used with certain suffixes, such as -ian and -ese, when the base word ends in a vowel that is not readily elided,” as in Javanese or Kafkanesque as opposed to Kafkaesque meaning “resembling the literary work of Franz Kafka.” All of these uses seem true additions of a meaningless morpheme, whereas jack-i-box and man-o-war seem as though the vowels are potentially reduced forms of a once meaningful word, (i being reduced from in and o being reduced from of). Wictionary.com reports that Norwegian also has an interfix, -e-.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Base adjective form: | | | | | Weakened adjective form: | | | | | | |
|  | C1 | V1 | C2 | C3 |  | C1 | V1 | C1 | V1 | C2 | C3 |
|  | d | a | n | g |  | d | a | d | a | n | g |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Base adjective form: | | | | | Weakened adjective form: | | | | | | | |
|  | C1 | C2 | V1 | C3 |  | C1 | C2 | V1 | C1 | C2 | V1 | C3 |
|  | k | l | o | h |  | k | l | o | k | l | o | h |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Singular verb form: | | | | | Plural verb form: | | | | | | |
|  | C1 | V1 | C2 | V2 |  | C1 | V1 | C1 | V1 | C2 | V2 |
|  | l | a | g | a |  | l | a | l | a | g | a |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Base adjective form: | | | | Weakened adjective form: | | | | | |  |
|  | C1 | V2 5u | C2 |  | C1 | V1 ‡ o |  | C1 | V1 | C2 |
|  | g | u | h |  | g | o |  | g | u | h |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Base adjective form: | | | | Weakened adjective form: | | | | | |  |
|  | C1 | V1 5u | C2 |  | C1 | V1 ‡ o | ʔ | C1 | V1 | C2 |
|  | g | u | h |  | g | o | ʔ | g | u | h |