HPSG FOR SINGLISH

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HELLO

- I am an MA student at NTU working on adding an analysis of Singlish with the ERG,

- I have done a theoretical analysis of *one* for my undergraduate thesis, and I am now trying to extend it computationally

- I want computers to work with Singlish!

SINGLISH

- Uses mainly English lexicon
- Influenced by languages in the region like Malay and Hokkien
- Mainly spoken or written in texting or as direct speech
- Syllable-timed with a bit of lexical tone
- Inflections are optional in many cases

ONE

- "One" can act as a relative pronoun
- 1. a) *The man talk very loud one got married.*

    "the man who talks very loud got married."

    b) *The computer I buy one very expensive.*

    "The computer that I bought is very expensive."

Overall sentence structure resembles English but relative clause structure similar to Chinese

我	买	的	电脑	很	贵
Wo	mai	de	dian nao	hen	gui
1SG	buy	RelP	computer	very	expensive
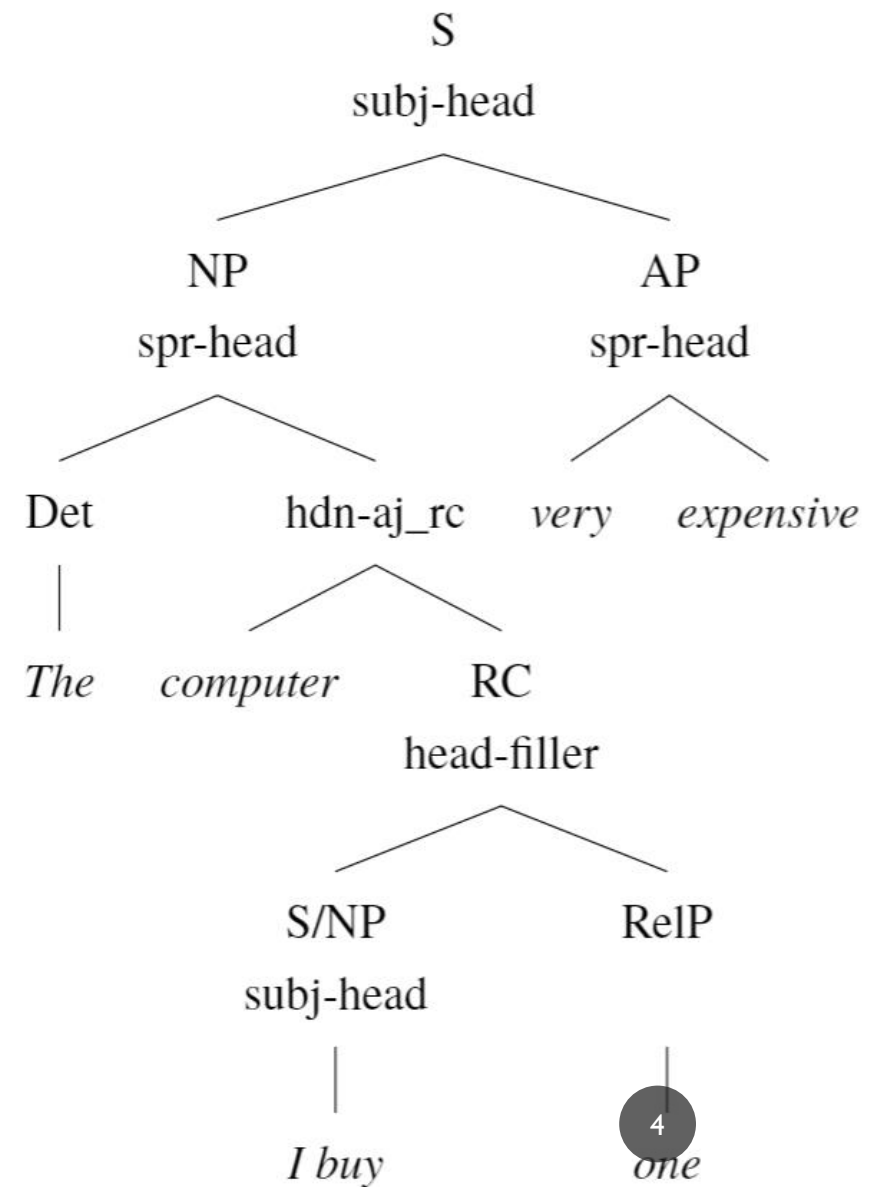
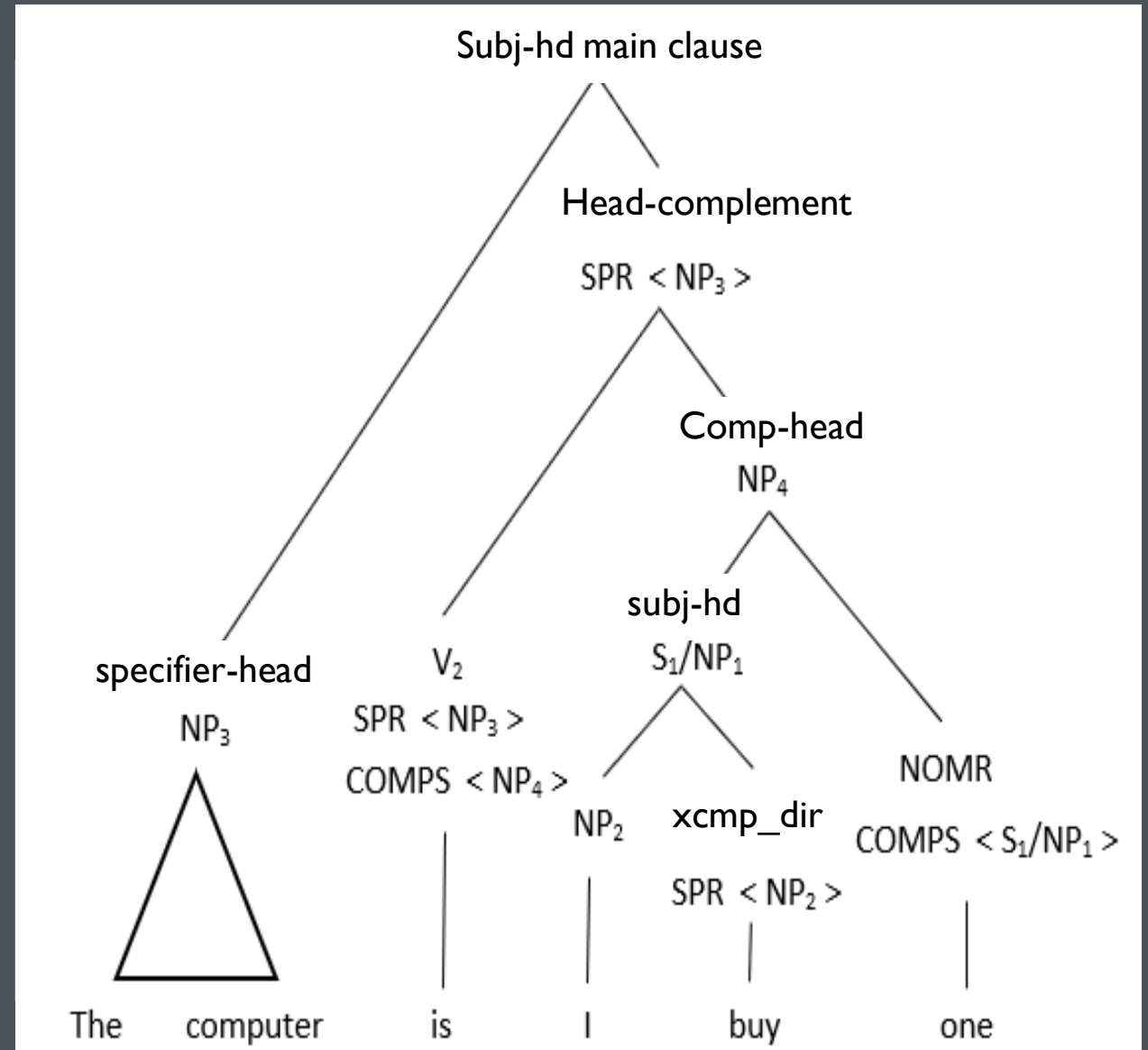# ONE

- "One" also functions as a nominalizer
- 2. a) *The computer is I buy one.*

    "the computer is the one I bought."

    b) *The computer is (I) buy for him one.*

    "the computer is the one (I) bought for him."
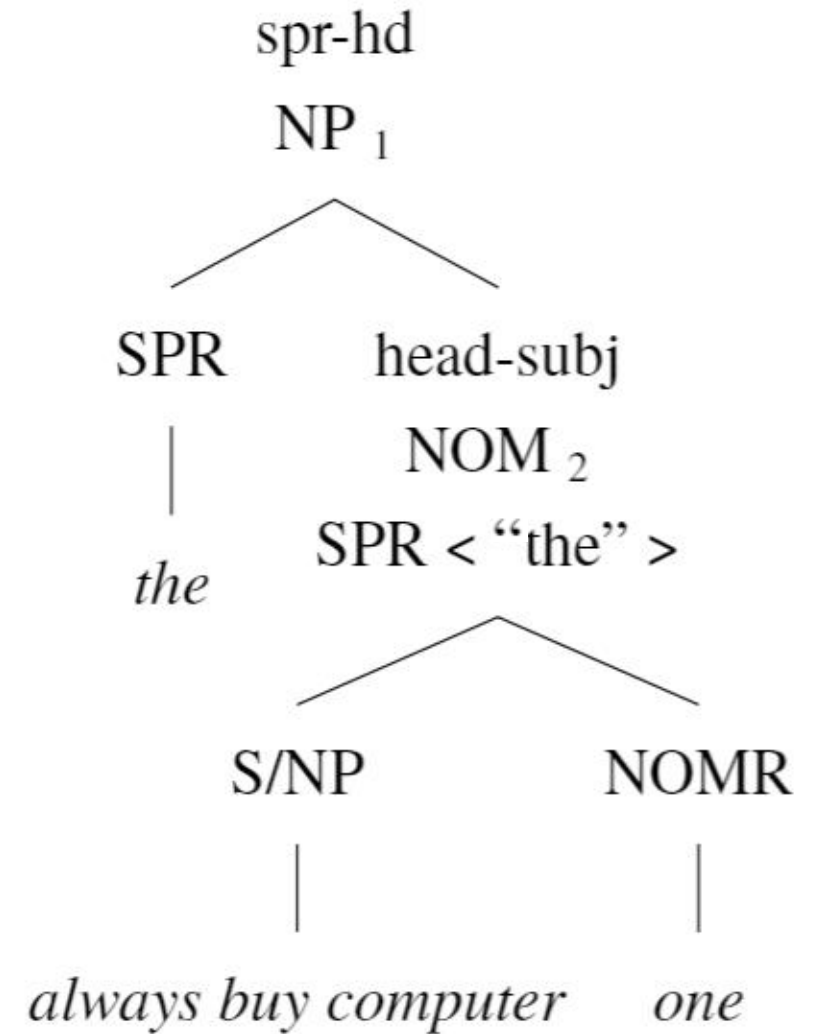
    c) *He is I buy the computer for one.*

ONE

- Nominalizer: gapped subject
- 3. a) *the computer is always spoil one.*
  b) *The computer is the always spoil one.*
    "The computer is the one that always spoils"
  c) *He is the always buy computer one.*
    "He is the one who always buy computers."

(must have a definite article)

spr-hd
NP $_1$

SPR   head-subj
| NOM $_2$
the   SPR < "the" >

        S/NP   NOMR
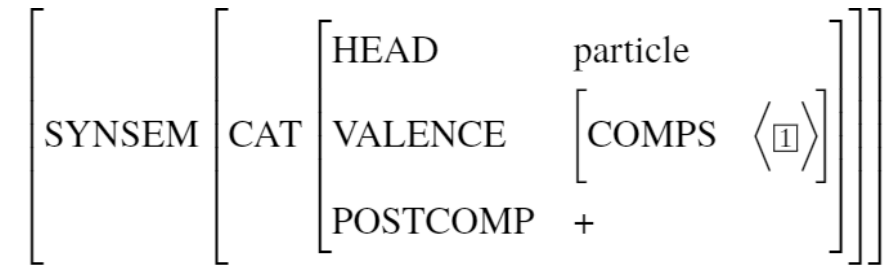 | |
always buy computer   one

PARTICLES

Sentence-final: *lah, lor, leh, ah, hah, leh, what, meh, sia, hor*

Have different functions ranging from conveying objection to changing the sentence force

Sentence final particles (SFP) take sentences as their complement and they unify with the complement-head rule.

$$
\left[\text{SYNSEM}\ \left[\text{CAT}\ \begin{bmatrix} \text{HEAD} & \text{particle} \\ \text{VALENCE} & \left[\text{COMPS}\ \langle \boxed{1} \rangle\right] \\ \text{POSTCOMP} & + \end{bmatrix}\right]\right]
$$

PARTICLES: EXAMPLE

$$\left[\text{SYNSEM} \left[\text{CAT} \left[\begin{array}{ll} \text{HEAD} & \text{particle} \\ \text{VALENCE} & \left[\text{COMPS} \; < \boxed{1} \left[\begin{array}{l} \text{SYN} \left[\text{CAT .VAL} \; \langle \rangle \right] \\ \text{SEM} \left[\text{SF} \; \text{proposition} \right] \end{array} \right] > \right] \\ \text{POSTCOMP} & + \end{array} \right] \right. \\ \left. \text{CONT.HOOK.INDEX.SF question} \right] \right]$$

ă (with a low tone)

4. a) *They going ă?*

   "Are they going?"

   b) **Are they going ă?*

   c) **Where are they going ă?*

   d) *Go there ă?*

   "Do I/we go there?"

S$_{part}$
comp-head

S   SFP
subj-head

| | ă

They going
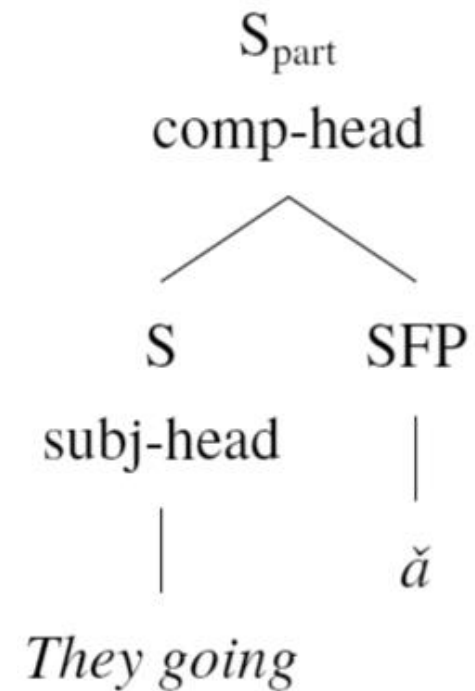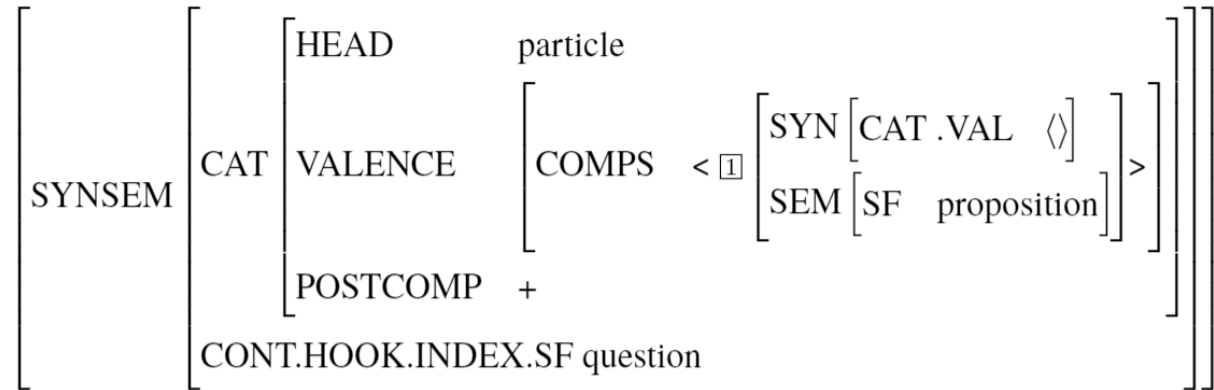
IMPERATIVE OR QUESTION

- 4. d) *Go there ă?*

- "go there" can be an S/NP or an imp_phrase

- But the imperative SF is incompatible with ă which produces a question

- Need to create a type of phrase (similar to imp_phrase)
  - but with HD-DTR SUB < PNG.PN 1 >
  - Cannot exist on its own (how?)

PARTICLES: EXAMPLE
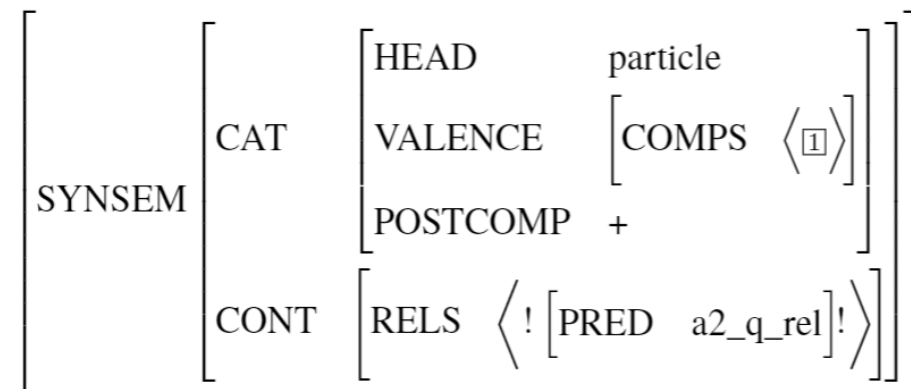
á (with a rising tone)

SEM: urging the other person to respond (what's the best way to represent this?)

5. a) *Are they going á?*

   b) *Where are they going á?*

   c) *Go there á.*

   d) *I want to go there á.*

$$\left[\text{SYNSEM} \left[\text{CAT} \left[\begin{array}{ll} \text{HEAD} & \text{particle} \\ \text{VALENCE} & [\text{COMPS} \quad \langle \boxed{1} \rangle] \\ \text{POSTCOMP} & + \end{array} \right] \right. \right.$$

$$\left. \left. \text{CONT} \left[\text{RELS} \quad \langle ! \, [\text{PRED} \quad \text{a2\_q\_rel}] ! \rangle \right] \right] \right]$$

$$\boxed{1} \left[\text{SYN} \left[\text{CAT} \left[\text{VAL} \quad \langle \rangle \right] \right] \right]$$

ORDER OF PARTICLES

- Sentences can have multiple particles but only in certain combinations and orders

- 6. a) *It's not like that one á*

    b) **It's not like that á one*

    c) *It's not like that one lah háh*

ORDER OF PARTICLES

- 3 categories of particles were made based on which positions they can take

- A phrase headed by particle_type1 would be labelled S_{part1} which has S as its non-head daughter

- S_{part2} would have S_1 (which could be a bare sentence S or S_{part1}) as a its non-head daughter…

Sentence

S_{part3} S_2

S_{part2} S_1
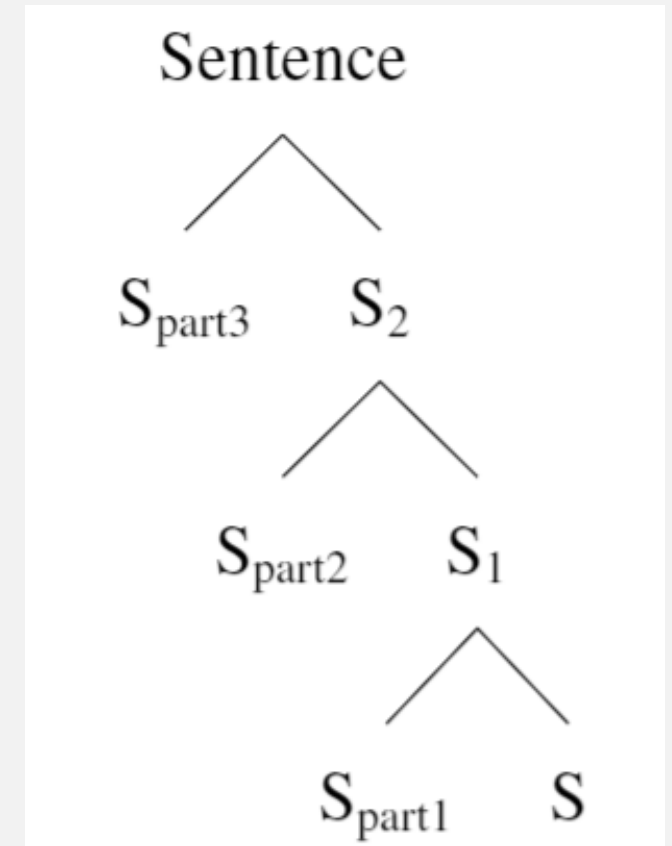
S_{part1} S

ORDER OF PARTICLES

The particles would then inherit from their types as well to determine their order

Particle_type1: *one*

Particle_type2: *what, sia, lah, lor, lè, ǎ, meh, hòr*

Particle_type3: *háh, hór, á, láh*

$$\begin{bmatrix} S_{part1} \\ \text{SYN} \begin{bmatrix} \text{HEAD} & particle\_type1 \\ \text{VAL} & [\text{COMPS} \quad \langle\rangle] \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix} \implies \boxed{1}\begin{bmatrix} \text{SYN} \begin{bmatrix} \text{HEAD} & verb\ or\ adj \\ \text{VAL} & \begin{bmatrix} \text{COMPS} & \langle\rangle \\ \text{SUBJ} & \langle\rangle \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix} \mathbf{H} \begin{bmatrix} particle\_type1 \\ \text{COMPS} \langle \boxed{1} \rangle \end{bmatrix}$$

OTHER FEATURES

- Copula/auxiliary omission
- 7. a) *I (am) tired already.*

ASP marker

b) *They (are) very pretty.*

c) *(?) They pretty.*

d) *They pretty sia.*

OTHER FEATURES

- Solution:

  - to have two types of each particle: one to take S as COMPS and one to act as a SPR of AP

    - The particle would act like the adverb "*so*" or "*very*"

  - The AP would have to have a SPR before being able to head a sentence

OTHER FEATURES

- Different order affects use of particles (work in progress)
- 8. a) *Tired that girl*

  b) *Tired sia that girl*

  c) *Very tired that girl*

  d) *Tired already that girl sia*

  e) *Tired already sia that girl*

- Re-ordering can only take place when there is a POSTHD specifier for AP

CONCLUSION

"one"

ReIP: using head-filler rule and POSTCOMP +

Nominalizer:

Obj using head-filler and introducing generic noun

Subj using head-subj **(is this a good method?)**

Particles

Form Spart with sentences using comp-head rule

Three groups to determine order

Other features

Copula omission (only possible when AP is specified)

Sentence order (SFP only able to take S in regular order)

THANK
YOU

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