

Linguistics 322

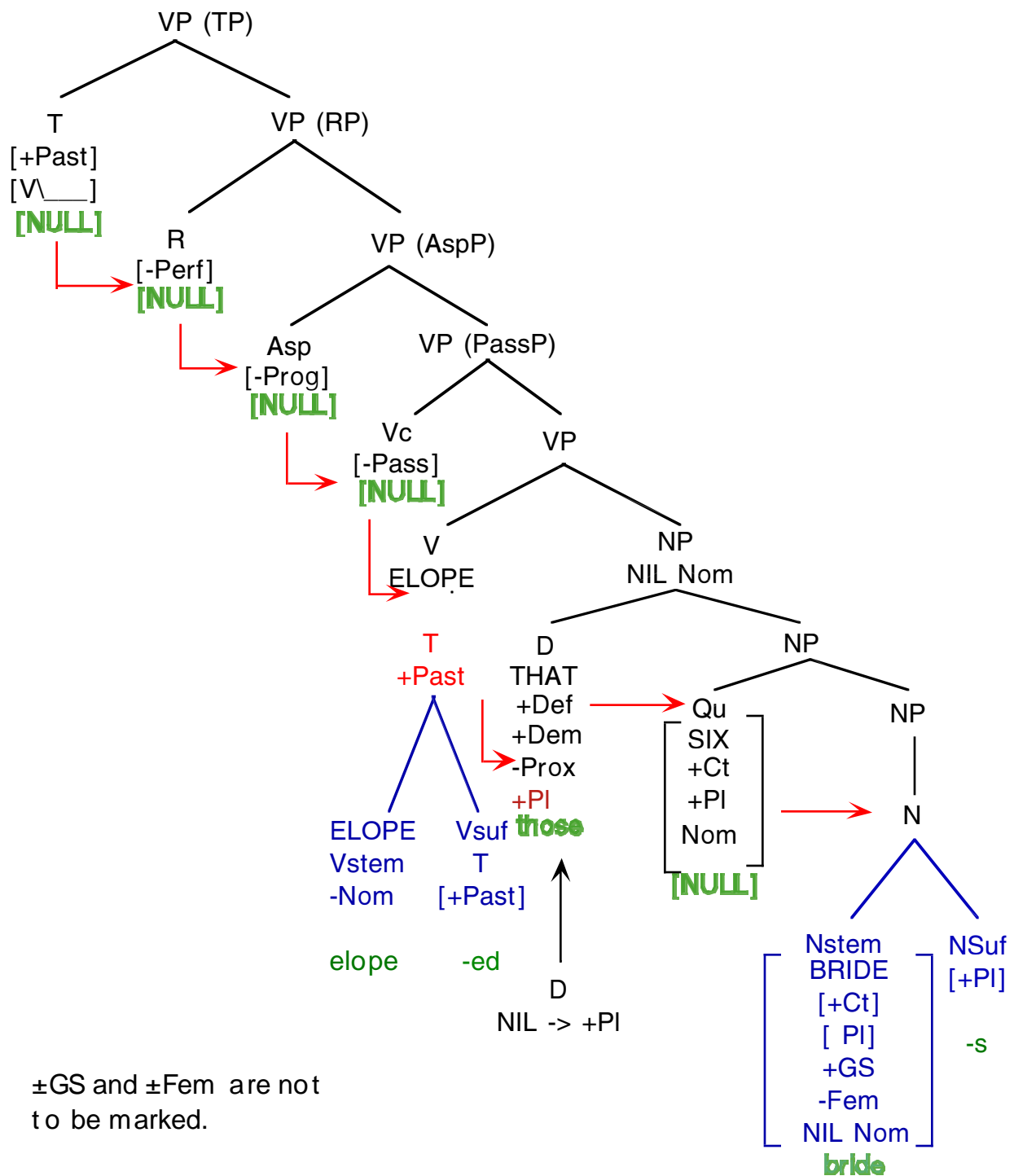
Midterm Exam

Answer Sheet

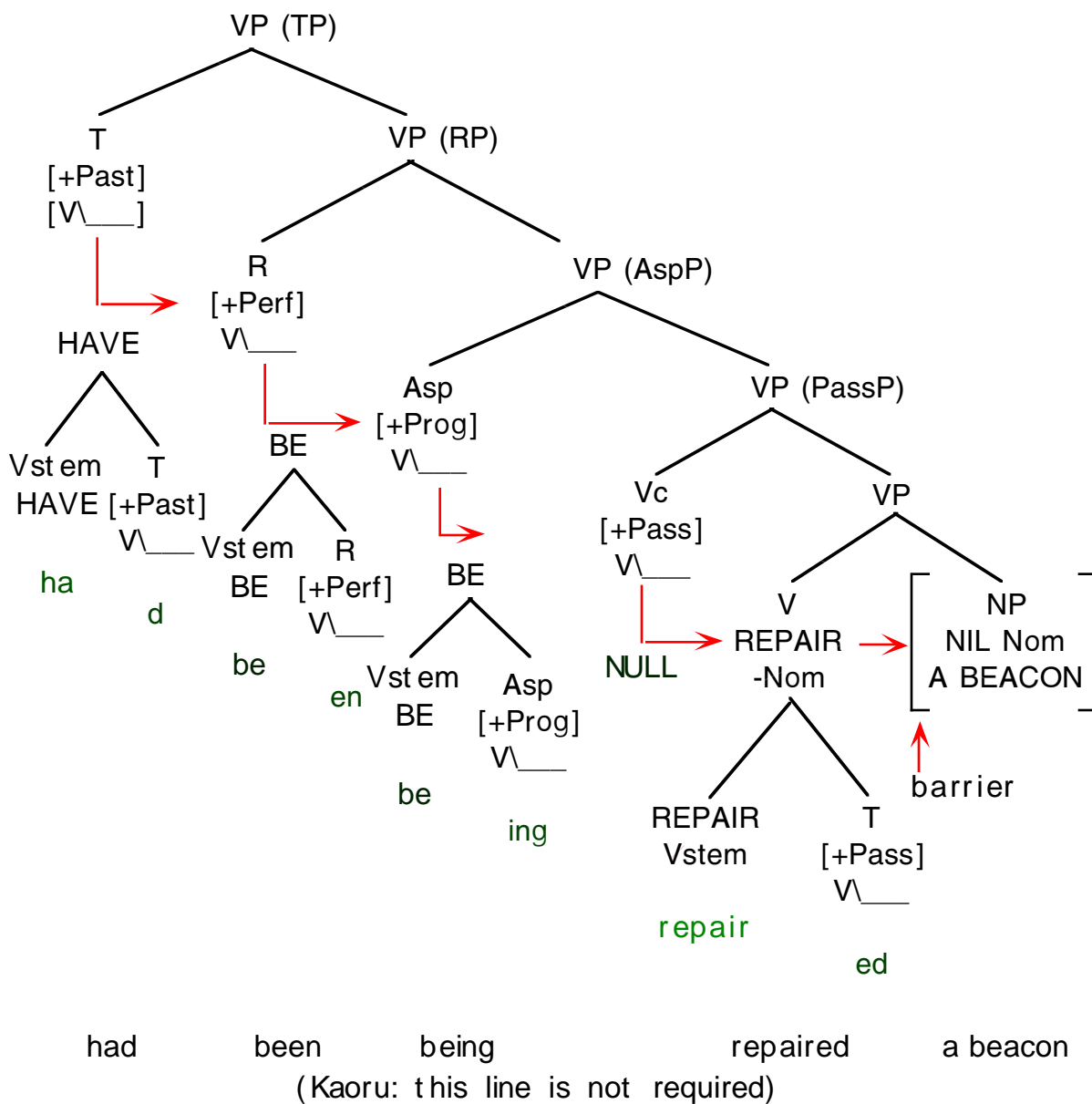
Spring 2000

- I. Determine the full logical (argument) structure for the following sentence, derive its surface structure (short of moving the argument to the subject position): (35)

(1)            Those six brides eloped.



- II. Determine the logical structure of the following sentence and derive their surface structures (short of moving the argument to the subject position). You may use a short form by listing NPs without expanding them. Explain each step in the drawn structure (you may omit NP): (35)



(2) A beacon had been being repaired.

[+Pass] is behind the establishment of the barrier to A Beacon which blocks the assignment of Case (-Nom) to it.

Starting at the top, T needs a verbal host. It is blocked at V which already has an operator in its suffix position. To satisfy the need for a V host, the dummy verb HAVE is inserted--T governs [+Pass], which conditions the choice of HAVE.

The same, except BE is selected since R governs [+Prog].

The same, except BE is selected since Asp governs [+Pass].

[+Pass] needs a host; the features associated with [+Pass] are copied down to V. Since the verb ELOPE is not irregular, [+Pass] is to be assigned to a suffix of the verb. Hence, the verb splits into a stem and an inflectional suffix. In the last stage, all the morphemes are spelled out (green on the colourized tree).

- III. What motivates the insertion of dummy verbs and how is each dummy verb selected? Given an example in your explanation. You may use either I or II to explain or your answer. (10)

If an operator is marked for requiring a verbal host, a verb host must be found for it. The operator must govern the potential landing site. If an operator has already been copied to the verbal head position, this site is closed (in English) to any more operator features. To fulfill the host requirement, a second strategy is required: insert a dummy verb. (first question).

The choice of a dummy verb includes head (or chain) government. If the operator requiring a host (head)-governs a [+Perf], HAVE is inserted. If the operator (head)-governs either [+Prog] or [+Pass], the dummy verb BE is inserted.

- IV. What principle(s) do the following structures violate? Explain with the correct form of the sentence (a derivation is not required here): (20)

- (3) a. \*This students ed ing buy a car.  
b. \*A jackal ated a rabbit.

The intended sentences are:

- (4) a. These students were buying a car.  
b. A jackal had eaten a rabbit.

'This students': these two words fail to agree for the feature Plural.

'-ed': it requires a host. (3a)

'ing': it requires a host. (3a)

'ated': The feature [+Past] is assigned to EAT deriving ated. [+Perf] governs this position as the feature is assigned to EAT, which derives 'eaten'. The feature [+Perf] must be assigned to this position first as it is closer. (3b)

Two operators are not permitted to be assigned to the suffix feature of an English verb. [+Past] is excluded from this position; a dummy verb must be inserted to function as the host for [+Perf]. The dummy verb must be HAVE, since [+Past] (head-)governs [+Perf].