Tree-local MCTAG with Shared Nodes:
An Analysis of Word Order Variation in German and Korean

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Résumé - Abstract

Les Grammaires d'Arbres Adjoints (TAG) sont connues pour ne pas être assez puissantes pour traiter le brouillage d'arguments dans des langues à ordre des mots libre. Les variantes TAG proposées jusqu'à maintenant pour expliquer le brouillage ne sont pas entièrement satisfaisantes. Nous présentons ici une extension alternative de TAG, basée sur la notion du partage de noeuds. En considerant des données de l'allemand et du coréen, on montre que cette extension de TAG peut en juste proportion analyser des données de brouillage d'arguments, également en combinaison avec l'extraposition et la topicalisation.

Tree Adjoining Grammars (TAG) are known not to be powerful enough to deal with scrambling in free word order languages. The TAG-variants proposed so far in order to account for scrambling are not entirely satisfying. Therefore, an alternative extension of TAG is introduced based on the notion of node sharing. Considering data from German and Korean, it is shown that this TAG-extension can adequately analyse scrambling data, also in combination with extraposition and topicalization.

1 LTAG and scrambling

Lexicalized Tree Adjoining Grammars (LTAG, (Joshi & Schabes, 1997)) is a tree-rewriting formalism. An LTAG consists of a finite set of trees (elementary trees) associated with lexical items. Larger trees are derived by substitution (replacing a leaf with a new tree) and adjunction (replacing an internal node with a new tree). In case of an adjunction, the new elementary tree has a special leaf node, the *foot node* (marked with an asterisk). When adjoining such a tree (a so-called *auxiliary* tree) to a node μ, in the resulting tree, the subtree with root node μ from the old tree is put below the foot node of the new auxiliary tree. Non-auxiliary elementary trees are called *initial* trees. LTAG elementary trees represent extended projections of lexical items and encapsulate all syntactic arguments of the lexical anchor. They are minimal in the sense that only the arguments of the anchor are encapsulated, all recursion is factored away.

Roughly, *scrambling* is the permutation of elements (arguments and adjuncts) of a sentence (we use the term *scrambling* in a purely descriptive sense without implying any theory of movement). A special case is *long-distance* scrambling where arguments or adjuncts of an embedded infinitive are 'moved' out of the embedded VP. This occurs for instance in languages such as German, Hindi, Japanese and Korean. These languages are therefore often said to have a free word order. Consider for example the German sentence (1). In (1), the accusative NP *es* is an argument of the embedded infinitive *zu reparieren* but it precedes *der Mechaniker*, the subject of the main verb *verspricht* and it is not part of the embedded VP. In German there is no bound on the number of scrambled elements and no bound on the depth of scrambling (i.e., in terms of movement, the number of VP borders crossed by the moved element). (See for example (Rambow, 1994; Meurers, 2000; Müller, 2002) for descriptions of scrambling data.)

(1) ... dass $[es]_1$ der Mechaniker $[t_1$ zu reparieren] verspricht
     ... that it   the mechanic   to repair   promises
     '... that the mechanic promises to repair it'

As shown in (Becker *et al.*, 1991), TAG are not powerful enough to describe scrambling in German in an adequate way. By this we mean that a TAG analysis of scrambling with the correct predicate-argument structure is not possible, i.e., an analysis with each argument attaching to the verb it depends on.

Let us consider the analysis of (1) in order to get an idea of why scrambling poses a problem for TAG. If we leave aside the complementizer *dass*, elementary trees for *verspricht* and *reparieren* might look as shown in Fig. 1. In the derivation, the *verspricht*-tree adjoins to the root of the *reparieren*-tree and the NP *der Mechaniker* is substituted for the subject node of *verspricht*.[1] This leads to the third tree in Fig. 1. When adding *es*, there is a problem: it should be added to *reparieren* since it is one of its arguments. But at the same time, it should precede *Mechaniker*, i.e., it must be adjoined either to the root or to the NP_{nom} node in the derived tree. The root node belongs to *verspricht* and the NP_{nom} node belongs to *Mechaniker*. Consequently, an adjunction to one of them would not give the desired predicate-argument structure. If it was only for (1), one could add a tree to the grammar for *reparieren* with a scrambled NP that allows adjunction of *verspricht* between the NP and the verb. But as soon as there are several scrambled elements that are arguments of different verbs, this does not work any longer. In general, it has been shown (Joshi *et al.*, 2000) that adopting specific elementary trees it is possible to deal with a

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[1]The fact that *der Mechaniker* is at the same time logical subject of *reparieren* is accounted for in the semantics, see for example (Gardent & Kallmeyer, 2003).

derived tree:

$$NP_{nom} \qquad VP \cdots\cdots\cdots\cdots\cdots\to VP \qquad\qquad\qquad VP$$

der M. $\qquad NP_{nom}$ VP* verspricht NP_{acc} zu_reparieren $\qquad NP_{nom}$ VP verspricht

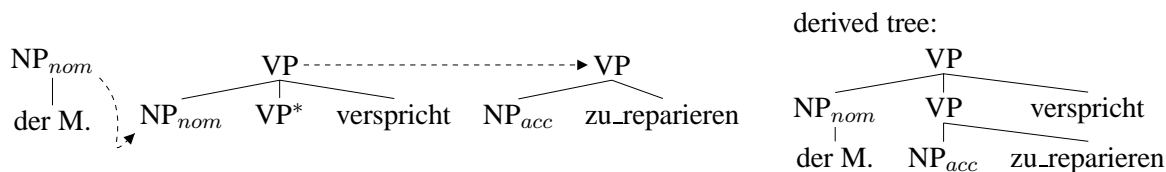der M. $\qquad NP_{acc}$ zu_reparieren

Figure 1: TAG analysis of (1)

part of the difficult data: TAG can describe scrambling up to depth 2 (two crossed VP borders). But this is not sufficient. Even though examples of scrambling of depth > 2 are rare, they can occur (see Kulick, 2000).

Several TAG variants have been proposed for scrambling: Becker *et al.* (1991) propose non-local MCTAG with additional dominance constraints. However, non-local MCTAG are too powerful since it is generally assumed that they are not polynomially parsable. Another alternative is V-TAG (Rambow, 1994), a formalism with nicer formal properties. The problem of V-TAG is that the expressive power of the formalism is probably too limited to deal with all natural language phenomena, since the formalism apparently cannot generate the copy language (see Rambow, 1994, Conjecture 7, p. 78) and therefore seems not to be able to describe cross-serial dependencies in Swiss German. D-tree substitution grammars (Rambow *et al.*, 2001), another TAG-variant one could use for scrambling, pose the same problem as V-TAG. Kulick (2000) proposes Segmented Tree Adjoining Grammars for scrambling. This formalism uses a rather complex operation on trees, segmented adjunction, that consists partly of a standard TAG adjunction and partly of a kind of tree merging or tree unification. In this operation, two different things get mixed up, the resource-sensitive adjoining operation of standard TAG where subtrees cannot be identified, and the completely different unification operation. Another formalism related to TAG that has been claimed to be able to deal with scrambling is Range Concatenation Grammar (RCG, (Boullier, 2000)). But the RCG scrambling analysis in (Boullier, 1999) assumes predicate-argument dependencies between nouns and verbs to be already known before parsing. However, these dependencies are exactly what one wants to find out when doing the analysis. With this information already given in advance, the analysis is of course easier. So Boullier (1999) does not present a general anaysis of scrambling.

None of the above-mentioned formalisms is entirely satisfying for scrambling, and therefore the question of how to extend TAG in order to deal with scrambling, is still an open problem. In this paper we propose a TAG-variant that a) can deal with scrambling and other word order variations, b) extends the generative capacity of TAG, i.e., the set of tree adjoining languages (containing the copy language) is a subset of the languages it generates, and c) is polynomially parsable if one imposes some additional restriction.

In section 2, tree-local MC-TAG with shared nodes (SN-MCTAG) and in particular restricted SN-MCTAG (RSN-MCTAG) are introduced. Section 3 to 5 show the analyses of different word order variations using this formalism, namely scrambling, extraposition and topicalization, considering data from German and Korean.

2   Tree-local MCTAG with shared nodes (SN-MCTAG)

To illustrate the idea of shared nodes, consider again example (1). In standard TAG, nodes to which new elementary trees are adjoined or substituted disappear, i.e., they are replaced by
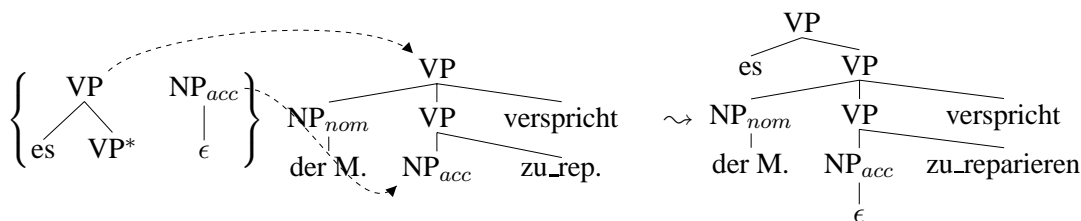
Figure 2: Derivation of (1) using shared nodes

the new elementary tree. E.g., after the derivation steps shown in Fig. 1, the root node of the *reparieren* tree does not exist any longer. It is replaced by the *verspricht* tree and its daughters have become daughters of the foot node of the *verspricht* tree. I.e., the root node of the derived tree is considered being part of only the *verspricht* tree. Therefore, an adjunction at that node is an adjunction at the *verspricht* tree. However, this standard TAG view is not completely justified: in the derived tree, the root node and the lower VP node might as well be considered as belonging to *reparieren* since they are results of identifying the root node of *reparieren* with the root and the foot node of *verspricht*.[2] Therefore, we propose that the two nodes in question belong to both, *verspricht* and *reparieren*. In other words, these nodes are shared by the two elementary trees. Consequently, they can be used to add new elementary trees to *verspricht* and (in contrast to standard TAG) also to *reparieren*.

We use a multicomponent TAG (MCTAG, Joshi, 1987; Weir, 1988). This means that the elements of the grammar are sets of elementary trees. In each derivation step, one of these sets is chosen and the trees in this set are added simultaneously (by adjunction or substitution) to different nodes in the already derived tree. We assume tree-locality, i.e., the nodes to which the trees of such a set are added must all belong to the same elementary tree. Standard tree-local MCTAGs are strongly equivalent to TAG but they allow to generate a richer set of derivation structures. In combination with shared nodes, tree-local multicomponent derivation extends the weak generative power of the grammar.

Let us go back to (1). Assume the tree set on the left of Fig. 2 for *es*. Adopting the idea of shared nodes, this tree set can be added to *reparieren* using the root of the already derived tree for adjunction of the first tree and the NP_{acc} node for substitution of the second tree. The operation is tree-local since both nodes are part of the *reparieren* tree.

In general, the notion of shared nodes means the following: When substituting an elementary tree α into an elementary tree γ, in the resulting tree, the root node of the subtree α is considered being part of α and of γ. When adjoining an elementary β at a node that is part of the elementary trees $\gamma_1, \ldots, \gamma_n$, then in the resulting tree, the root and foot node of β are both considered being part of $\gamma_1, \ldots, \gamma_n$ and β. Consequently, if an elementary γ' is added to an elementary γ and if there is then a sequence of adjunctions at root or foot nodes starting from γ', then each of these adjunctions can be considered as an adjunction at γ since it takes place at a node shared by γ, γ' and all the subsequently adjoined trees. In Fig. 2 for example the *es*-tree is adjoined to the root of a tree that was adjoined to *reparieren*. Therefore this adjunction can be considered being an adjunction at *reparieren*. An adjunction at a node where other trees already have been added

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[2]Actually, in a Feature-Structure Based TAG (FTAG, (Vijay-Shanker & Joshi, 1988)), the top feature structure of the root of the derived tree is the unification of the top of the root of *verspricht* and the top of the root of *reparieren*. The bottom feature structure of the lower VP node is the unification of the bottom of the foot of *verspricht* and the bottom of the root of *reparieren*. In this sense, the root of the *reparieren* tree gets split into two parts. The upper part merges with the root node of the *verspricht* tree and the lower part merges with the foot node of the *verspricht* tree.
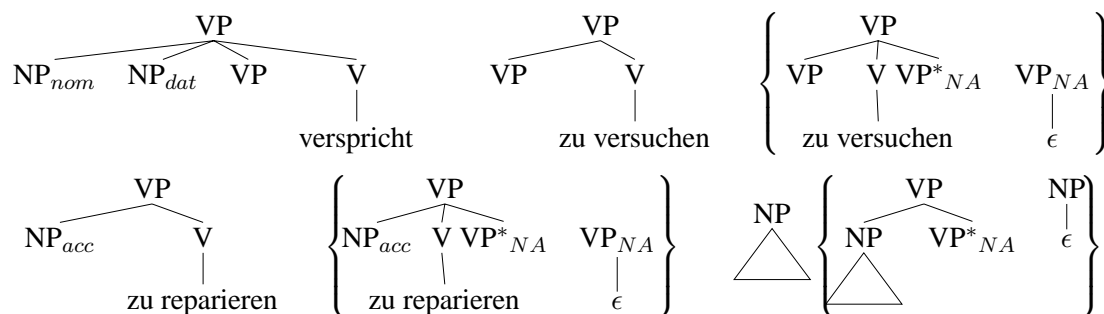
Figure 3: Elementary trees for word order variations of (3)

(e.g., this adjunction of *es* to the root of *reparieren*) is called a *secondary* adjunction while a first adjunction at a node is called a *primary* adjunction.

Concerning formal properties, SN-MCTAG is hard to compare to other local TAG-related formalisms since arbitrarily many trees can be added by secondary adjunction to a single elementary tree. Therefore, we define a restricted version, *restricted SN-MCTAG (RSN-MCTAG)* that limits the number of secondary adjunctions to an elementary tree by allowing secondary adjunction only in combination with at least one simultaneous primary adjunction or substitution. E.g., in Fig. 2, *es* is secondarily adjoined to *reparieren* while the second element of the tree set is primarily added (substituted) to *reparieren*.

Obviously, all tree adjoining languages can be generated by RSN-MCTAGs since a TAG is an MCTAG with unary multicomponent sets. It can be shown (see Kallmeyer, 2003) that fo each RSN-MCTAGs of a specific type, equivalent LCFRSs (linear context-free rewriting systems, (Weir, 1988)) can be constructed. LCFRSs are mildly context-sensitive and in particular polynomially parsable and therefore, this also holds for these specific RSN-MCTAGs. These RSN-MCTAG perhaps cannot analyze all scrambling phenomena but, if the type is appropriately chosen, they can analyze a sufficiently large set.

3 Scrambling

In many SOV languages, such as German, Hindi, Japanese and Korean, constituents (argument or adjunct) display a larger freedom in term of ordering in clauses. This phenomenon is called *scrambling*. (See (Uszkoreit, 1987) for a description of word order in German and (Lee, 1993) for Korean.) The constituents of the lower clause can even occur in the upper clause, (so-called *long distance* scrambling). E.g., the arguments *es* and *jatongcha-lul* of the embedded verb move into the upper clause in German (1), repeated as (2)a., and in the Korean sentence (2)b.

(2) a. ... dass es$_1$ der Mechaniker [t_1 zu reparieren] verspricht
    b. jatongcha-lul$_1$ keu-ka [t_1 surihakess-tako] yaksokhaessta
      the car$_{acc}$ he$_{nom}$ [t_1 repair-to]   promises
      'He promises to repair the car'

Generally, in both languages, there is no bound on the number of elements that can scramble in one sentence, and there is no bound on the distance over which each element can scramble. In the following we will show how RSN-MCTAG allows to deal with long distance scrambling. Elementary trees for word order variations of (3) are shown in Fig. 3. We propose single trees for non-scrambled elements, and tree sets for scrambled elements.
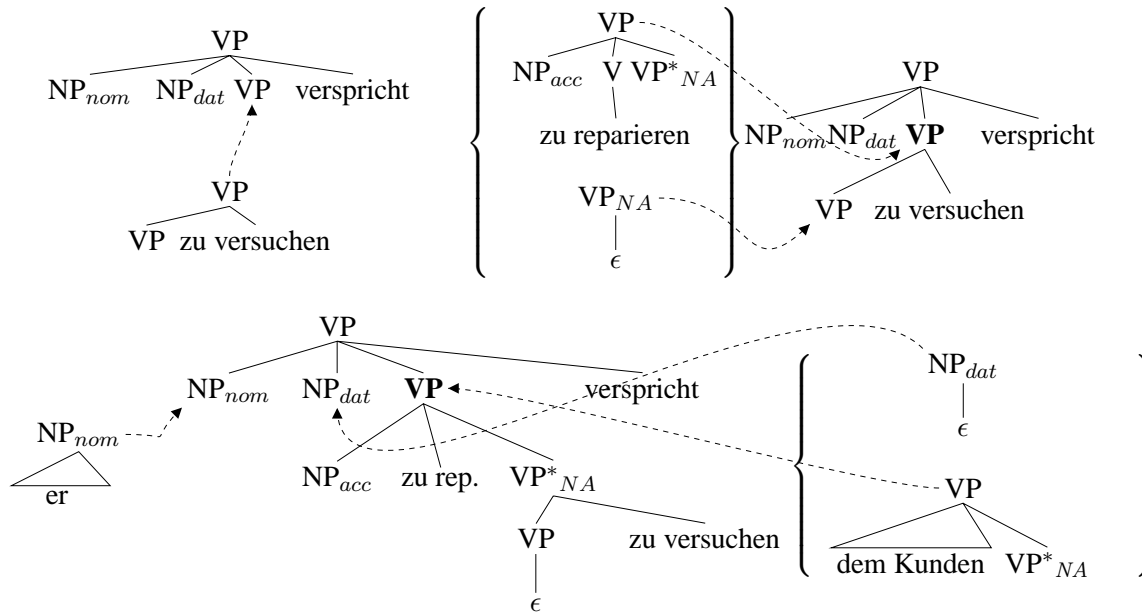
Figure 4: Derivation for (4)

(3)   ... dass er   dem Kunden   [[das Auto zu reparieren] zu versuchen] verspricht
      ... that he$_{nom}$ the customer$_{dat}$ the car$_{acc}$ to repair   to try   promises
      '... that he promises the customer to try to repair the car'

(4)   ... dass er das Auto$_1$ dem Kunden [[t_1 zu reparieren] zu versuchen] verspricht

Consider (4) where the most deeply embedded NP$_{acc}$ *das Auto* is scrambled into the upper clause. For *das Auto*, the tree set is used. Further, we also use tree sets for the NP$_{dat}$ *dem Kunden* which intervenes between the scrambled argument and its clause, and for the VP clause *reparieren* of witch argument is scrambled out over a clause of depth ≥ 2. For the non-scrambled NP$_{nom}$ *er*, and for the non-scrambled VP *versuchen*, single trees are used. Fig. 4 shows the different derivation steps for (4). First, *verspricht* and *versuchen* are combined by substitution. In the resulting derived tree (on the right on top of the figure), the bold VP node is now shared by *verspricht* and *versuchen*. Then the auxiliary tree in the tree set for *reparieren* adjoins to the shared node. This is a primary adjunction at *versuchen*. The initial tree is substituted for the VP leaf of *versuchen*. The former root node of the *reparieren* auxiliary tree, i.e., the bold VP node in the tree in the middle of the bottom of the figure, is now shared by *verspricht*, *versuchen* and *reparieren*. The next *secondary* adjunctions can occur at this new shared node: *dem Kunden* is added as sketched in the figure, and then *das Auto* is added in the same way. The tree for *er* is added into the substitution slot in the *verspricht* tree.

In German, scrambling can never proceed out of tensed clauses. However in Korean, scrambling out of a tensed clause is possible, e.g., in (5) the argument *jatongcha-lul* is scrambled out of a tensed clause. This difference can be captured by using in Korean the node label S instead of VP for the root and the foot node in the auxiliary trees for scrambling.[3]

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[3]One aspect we did not consider in this paper but that definitely needs to be spelled out is the fact that in both languages, German and Korean, not all verbs allow scrambling to the same degree. In German, this is related to the difference between obligatory and optionally coherent verbs (see (Meurers, 2000; Müller, 2002)). These facts probably can be modelled using specific features that control the scrambling possibilities of a verb.
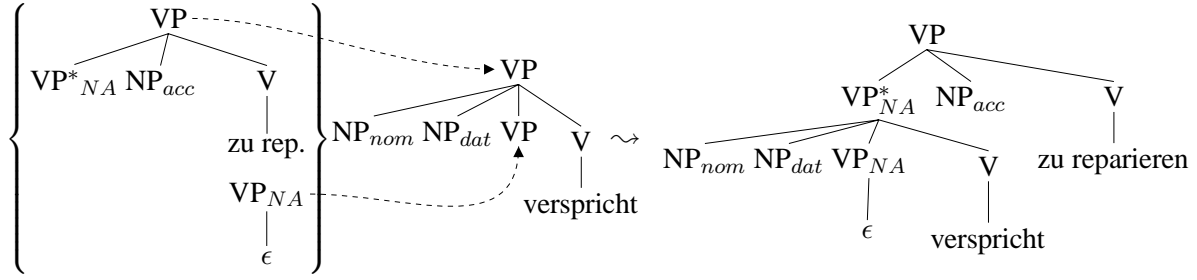
Figure 5: Derivation for (6)

(5) jatongcha-lul$_1$ keu-ka [kokaek-i t_1 kuiphaess-tako] malhaessta.
the car$_{acc}$ he$_{nom}$ [the customer$_{nom}$ t_1 buy-that]   said
'He said that the customer bought the car'

4   Extraposition

In German and Korean, clausal arguments can optionally appear behind the finite verb. This is called *extraposition*. E.g., in (6), the *reparieren* VP occurs behind the finite verb *verspricht*. The same goes for the Korean extraposition (7).

(6) ... dass er$_{nom}$ dem Kunden$_{dat}$ t_1 verspricht, [das Auto$_{acc}$ zu reparieren]$_1$
'... that he promises the customer to repair the car'

(7) keu-ka$_{nom}$ kokaek-ekey$_{dat}$ t_1 yaksokhassta, [jatongcha-lul$_{acc}$ surihakess -tako]$_1$
'He promises the customer to repair the car'

Extraposition is doubly unbounded, as it is the case for *scrambling*. In order to analyze *extraposition*, we propose tree sets as the one for *reparieren* in Fig. 5. They resemble to those for *scrambling* except that the foot node is on the left because the extraposed material goes to the right of the finite verb. For the NP arguments in (6), we use the single trees shown in Fig. 3. The derivation for (6) is as sketched in Fig. 5.

The following differences between German and Korean are observed: both languages allow extraposition of complete VPs. Furthermore, in German, infinitives without their arguments can be extraposed (so-called *third construction*, see (8)a), which is not possible in Korean (see (9)a). In Korean however, arguments of embedded verbs can be extraposed while leaving their verb behind (see (9)b), which is not possible in German (see (8)b).[4]

(8) a. ... dass er   es t_1 verspricht, [zu reparieren]$_1$
    b. *... dass er   [t_1 zu reparieren] verspricht,   [es]$_1$

(9) a. *keu-ka$_{nom}$ jatongcha-lul$_{acc}$ t_1 yaksokhassta, [surihakess-tako]$_1$ b. keu-ka$_{nom}$ [t_1
    surihakess-tako] yaksokhassta, [jatongcha-lul$_{acc}$]$_1$

To account for the difference between (8a) and (9a), we disallow the adjunction of scrambled elements at the root nodes of Korean auxiliary extraposition trees.[5] For (9b), in Korean, we propose additional tree sets for extraposed NPs. They are similar to the tree sets for scrambled NPs in Fig. 3, except that the foot node is on the left. Such tree sets do not exist in German.

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[4]For this reason, Korean extraposition is often called *right-forward scrambling*.

[5]In German, even arguments of embedded VPs can be left behind as in *... dass er [es]$_1$ verspricht, [[t_1 zu reparieren] zu versuchen].* For such cases, we propose an additional VP node on the spine of extraposed infinitives where deeper embedded infinitives can be added. For reason of space, we will not go into the details here.

5   Topicalization

Korean *topicalization* is realized with the topic marker *-nun(-un)*. The topicalized constituent has to appear in the beginning of clauses, e.g., *jatongcha-nun* in (10a.): an element marked by *-nun(-un)* can also appear in sentence medial position e.g., *jatongcha-nun* in (10b.). It is perceived, in Korean, that an element with *-nun(-un)* in sentence initial position receives the theme reading, i.e., *topicalization*, and the counterpart in sentence medial position the contrastive reading. To describe *topicalization* movement, a topic argument may be inserted into the verbal projection tree at [Spec, CP] (see for example (Suh, 2002)).

(10) a. jatongcha-nun$_1$ keu-ka [t_1 kuiphakess-tako] yaksokhassta.
      the car$_{top}$ he$_{nom}$ [t_1 buy-to]   promises
      'As for the car, he promises to buy (it)'

    b. keu-ka jatongcha-nun   kuiphakess-tako yaksokhassta.
      'He promises to buy the car'

German *topicalization* is more strict. German exhibits the verb second effect (V2), i.e., the finite verb (main verb or auxiliary) occupies the second position in the clause. This divides the clause into two parts: the part before the finite verb, the *Vorfeld* (VF), and the part between the finite verb and non-finite verb, the *Mittlefeld* (MF). The VF must contain exactly one constituent. This constituent is considered having moved into the VF. This movement is called *topicalization*. E.g., in (11) the auxiliary verb *hat* appears in second position, the NP$_{acc}$ *das Buch* that moved from the MF into the first position is topicalized.

(11) das Buch$_2$ hat ihm$_1$ niemand [t_1 t_2 zu geben] versucht.
     the book$_{acc}$ has him$_{dat}$ nobody [t_1 t_2 to give]   tried.
     'Nobody has tried to give him the book.'

In both languages, *topicalization* concerns exactly one element, and the element has to appear in the beginning of the clause, while scrambling and extraposition can occur for more than one element. I.e., no operation to add constituents in front of topicalized element is accepted. Furthermore, in German matrix clauses, topicalization is obligatory. We capture these restrictions by certain features. The last step in a derivation for a sentence exhibiting *topicalization* is the adjunction of the topicalized constituent. The feature of the final derived root node becomes $\left[\begin{smallmatrix} CP \\ CP \end{smallmatrix}\right]$. It prevents adding other constituents at the root.[6]

Topicalization and *scrambling* can occur simultaneously as in (11) where *ihm* is long-distance scrambled and *das Buch* is long-distance topicalized. Fig. 6 shows the derivation for (11): Starting with the initial tree for *versucht*, the auxiliary tree for *geben* is adjoined at the root node with top category CP and bottom category VP (we assume here feature structures as labels with different top and bottom features), and simultaneously the initial VP tree is added into the lower VP. After this, the $\left[\begin{smallmatrix} CP \\ VP \end{smallmatrix}\right]$ root node is shared by *versucht* and *geben*. Then, *niemand* and *ihm* are subsequently added. This gives the tree on the left of the bottom of the figure. Next, *hat* is adjoined at the root which leads to a $\left[\begin{smallmatrix} CP \\ C' \end{smallmatrix}\right]$ root node shared (among others) by *geben* and *versucht*. Finally, the topicalized element is adjoined to the root node.

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[6]We also pursued an alternative analysis, namely putting the slot for the topicalized element (a substitution node) and the verb it depends on in the same initial tree. I.e., the topicalized element is added by substitution while scrambled or extraposed elements are added by adjunction. This is a more obvious way to capture the restrictions for *topicalization*. Unfortunately, this approach does not work with some combinations of topicalization and scrambling as for example *[es]$_1$ hat er [t_1 zu reparieren]$_2$ dem Kunden [t_2 zu versuchen] versprochen.*
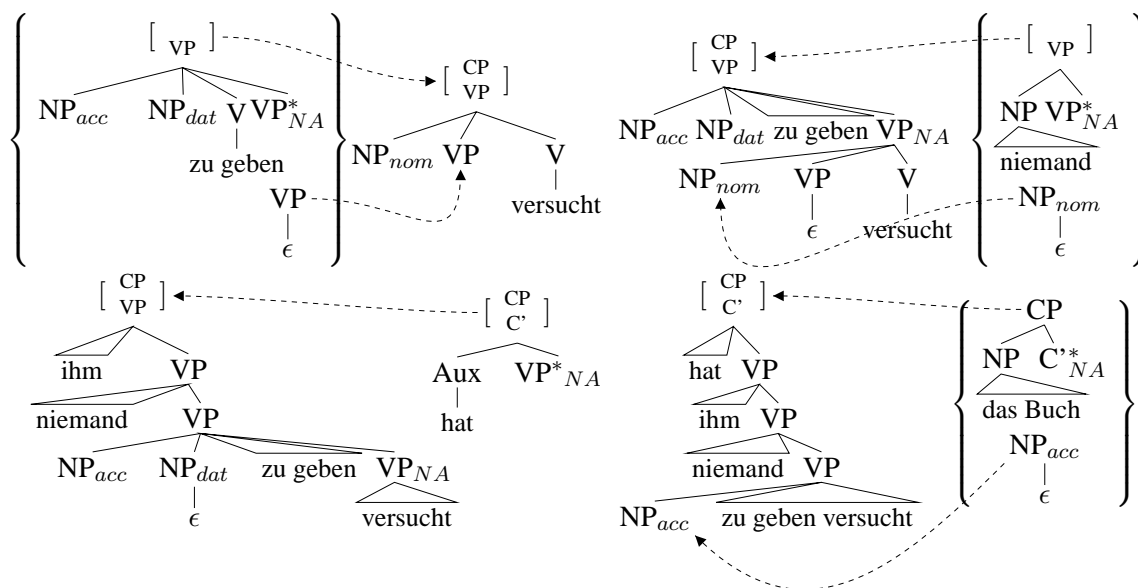
Figure 6: Derivation for (11)

For topicalized elements in Korean, we propose the same kind of tree set as for German topicalized elements, except that the category of the foot node is unspecified. This does not fix the position of the top element between CP and C'(as in German).

6   Conclusion

Since TAG are not powerful enough to describe scrambling data in free word order languages, alternative formalisms are needed. The proposals made so far in the litereature are not entirely satisfying. Therefore, we developed a new TAG extension, restricted MCTAG with shared nodes (RSN-MCTAG). The basic idea is that, after having performed an adjunction or substitution at some node, this node does not disappear (as in standard TAG) but instead, in the resulting derived tree, the node is shared between the old tree and the newly added tree. Consequently, further adjunctions at that node can be considered being adjunctions at either of the trees. In combination with tree-local multicomponent derivation, this modification of the TAG derivation gives sufficient additional power to analyse the difficult scrambling data.

Considering data from German and Korean, we showed that RSN-MCTAG can adequately analyse scrambling data, also in combination with extraposition and topicalization. The analyses proposed in the paper treat long-distance scrambling, long-distance extraposition and long-distance topicalization and they take into account the differences German and Korean exhibit with respect to these phenomena.

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