

The background is a blurred image of a library with bookshelves. In the foreground, there is a stack of books, with the top one being an open book. Floating in the air are various white and yellow symbols, including mathematical signs like plus (+), minus (-), multiplication (x), and division (÷), as well as linguistic symbols like the Greek letter sigma (Σ), the Greek letter lambda (λ), and the letter X. There are also question marks and some abstract shapes.

# What if my topic is controversial?

A dissertation on complex predicates  
in Australian and Oceanic languages

*Daniel Krauße*

*General Linguistics Colloquium, 10 Nov 2021*

# What is a PhD thesis?

- a book-length text that demonstrates that you can do your own research
- focus on a single topic for several years
- many people will read your final dissertation, but nearly no one will read it completely
- should answer a couple of interesting research questions
- won't solve all problems

# How do I determine my topic?

- you have your own funding: decide on a topic you want to investigate
- you have a contract within a larger project: work on the designated topic
- you have received a scholarship: work on the designated topic as closely as possible
- find and talk to your supervisors

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# A contract within a larger project

- very little freedom in choosing the topic
- there is a guideline / job description / initial proposal of your project
- there might be several PhD students / postdocs working on a similar topic
- supervisors are already familiar with your topic
- an outcome is expected within a given timeframe



My case: Application and Topic



Required Language(s): [Namakura \(nmk\)](#)  
[Wageman \(waq\)](#)

#### Description:

The University of Newcastle (Australia) is offering a PhD scholarship for a student to investigate complex predicates in Australian and Oceanic languages.

Applications and enquiries are invited from qualified and motivated students wishing to pursue a PhD degree in the cross-linguistic comparative morpho-syntax of complex predicates.

The project is based at the University of Newcastle, within our Endangered Languages Documentation, Theory and Application Research Program (ELDTA). The successful candidate will join an energetic team with expertise in this research area, and who can offer you training to boost your current levels of knowledge in the relevant research areas. Your participation in the project will proceed under the supervision of Assoc Prof Mark Harvey (specialising in Australian languages, phonology, historical linguistics) and Dr Bill Palmer (specialising in Austronesian languages, syntax, typology).

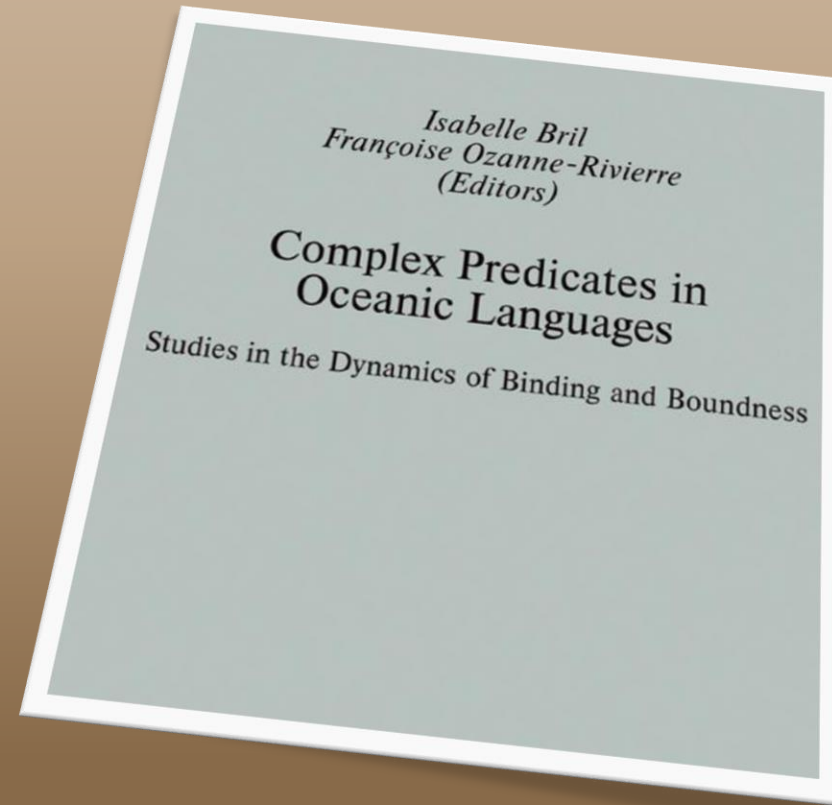
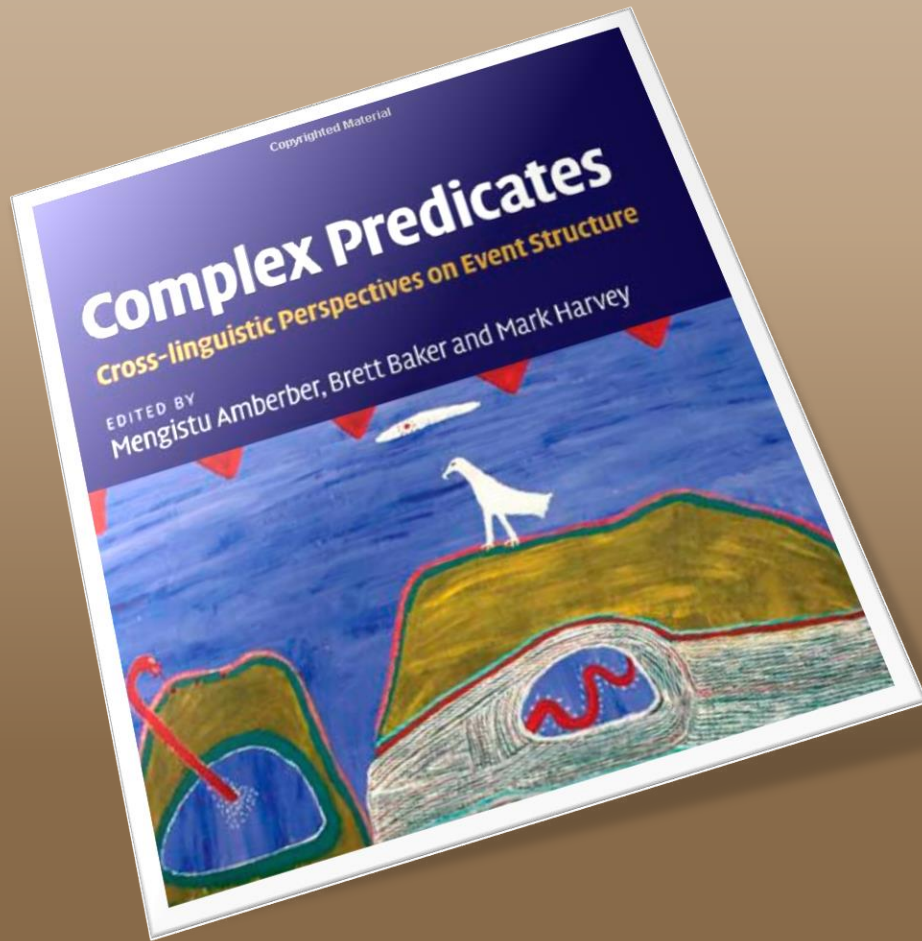
The project will involve **analysis of complex predicate structures Wagiman, a language of northern Australia, and Namakir, a language of Central Vanuatu.** The successful applicant will contribute to all aspects of the project, including: (i) annotation of existing data; (ii) collection of primary material in the field in Australia and/or Vanuatu; (iii) preparation of descriptive material; (iv) theoretical analyses based on descriptive materials.

Do you have an interest in evaluating and developing hypotheses on the interface between morphology and syntax? Do you have an interest in language documentation and description? This PhD scholarship offers an opportunity to develop your interests in these areas.

#### Scholarship details:

The scholarship is offered for three years, and provides a tax-free living allowance of \$26,682 p.a. in 2017 (indexed annually). In addition to meeting standard resource requirements, such as desk space in our ELDTA project room, internet access and research resources, the University of Newcastle also provides a new laptop and funds for travel to conferences to commencing research higher degree students. International students will also be awarded a tuition fee scholarship which meets the tuition fee costs and provides Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) for the tenure of the award.

# My case: What is a complex predicate?





# My case: What is a complex predicate?

- the literature says:
  - serial verb constructions
  - coverb constructions
  - phrasal verbs
  - converbs
  - auxiliaries
  - V+N combinations
  - ...

# My case: What is a complex predicate?

- Example of a serial verb construction (SVC)

(1) *Hem i kat-em brek-em wud ia.*  
3SG COP **cut-TR** **break-TR** wood DEM

(Bislama)

‘He is **cutting** the wood **apart**.’ (Crowley 2003:60)

# My case: What is a complex predicate?

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(1) *Hem i kat-em ~~brek-em~~ wud ia.*  
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'He is **cutting** the wood **apart**.' (Crowley 2003:60)

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(a) *Hem i kat-em wud ia.*  
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'He is **cutting** the wood.'

# My case: What is a complex predicate?

- Example of a serial verb construction (SVC)

(1) *Hem i kat-em brek-em wud ia.*  
3SG COP ~~cut-TR~~ break-TR wood DEM  
'He is **cutting** the wood **apart**.' (Crowley 2003:60)

(Bislama)

(b) *Hem i brek-em wud ia.*  
3SG COP break-TR wood DEM  
'He is **breaking** the wood.'

# My case: What is a complex predicate?

- Example of a serial verb construction (SVC)

(2) *Na=tēv*                *m̄öt*                *o*        *striñ*        *ine.*  
1SG.GNO=**cutbreak**<sub>intr</sub>    ART        string    DEM  
'I **cut apart** the string.' (Malau 2016:563)

(Vurës)

# My case: What is a complex predicate?

- Example of a serial verb construction (SVC)

(2) *Na=tēv                  m̄öt                  o        striñ        ine.* (Vurës)  
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'I **cut apart** the string.' (Malau 2016:563)

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- Example of a serial verb construction (SVC)

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'I **cut apart** the string.' (Malau 2016:563)

(a) *Na=tēv            o    striñ    ine.*  
1SG.GNO=**cut**ART    string    DEM  
'I **cut** the string.'

(b) *O            striñ            mö=m̄öt.*  
ART    string    PRF=**break**<sub>intr</sub>  
'The string **broke** / is **broken**.'

# My case: What is a complex predicate?

- Example of a coverb construction (CVC)

(3) *Den-na ng-i-Ø-bu-ni-guju garra-garang jimirndirr.* (Wagiman)  
**cut**-NPFV PST-1NSG-3P-**hit**-PRS-DU stone-INST knife  
'The two of us **cut** it **up** with a stone knife.' (Wilson 1999:22)



# My case: What is a complex predicate?

- Example of a coverb construction (CVC)

(3) *Den-na ng-i-Ø-bu-ni-guju garra-garang jimirndirr.* (Wagiman)  
**cut**-NPFV PST-1NSG-3P-**hit**-PRS-DU stone-INST knife  
'The two of us **cut** it **up** with a stone knife.' (Wilson 1999:22)

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PST-1NSG-3P-**hit**-PRS-DU stone-INST knife  
'The two of us **hit** it with a stone knife.'

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- Example of a coverb construction (CVC)

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**cut**-NPFV PST-1NSG-3P-**hit**-PRS-DU stone-INST knife  
'The two of us **cut** it **up** with a stone knife.' (Wilson 1999:22)

(a) *Ng-i-Ø-bu-ni-guju garra-garang jimirdirr.*  
PST-1NSG-3P-**hit**-PRS-DU stone-INST knife  
'The two of us **hit** it with a stone knife.'

(b) *den-na garra-garang jimirdirr.*  
**cut**-NPFV stone-INST knife  
'**cutting up** with a stone knife.'

# My case: What is a complex predicate?

- Example of a coverb construction (CVC)

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PST-1NSG-3P-**hit**-PRS-DU stone-INST knife  
'The two of us **hit** it with a stone knife.'

(c) \**Ng-i-Ø-den-ni-guju garra-garang jimirdirr.*  
PST-1NSG-3P-**cut**-PRS-DU stone-INST knife  
(intended: 'The two of us **cut** it with a stone knife.')

# My case: What is a complex predicate?

- What does the literature say?
  - *The term “complex predicate” may be used as **an umbrella term** to designate a variety of forms/expressions. The core notion is exemplified by the merger of two or more morphological entities to form an expression with **a single complex argument structure**. (Verma 1993:1)*
  - *The argument structure is complex (**two or more** semantic **heads** contribute arguments) / The grammatical functional structure is that of a simple predicate. It is **flat**: there is only **a single predicate** [...] and a single subject.” (Butt 1995:2)*
  - *Complex predicates can be defined as predicates which are **multi-headed**; they are composed of more than one grammatical element, each of which contributes part of the information ordinarily associated with a **head**. (Alsina et al. 1997:1)*

# My case: What is a complex predicate?

- What does the literature say?
  - “Serial verbs” or “complex predicates” are **broad terms** which cover a great variety of structural types. [...] In dealing with the Polynesian languages [...], the inadequacy of the “serial verb” label soon became apparent, as the noun/verb distinction is highly elusive in these languages. This prompted the choice of the term “complex predicate/nucleus” to **bypass this categorial hurdle**. (Bril & Ozanne-Rivierre 2004:x)
  - What is a complex predicate? There is currently no widely accepted answer to this question, **no agreed set of criteria** which allow an analyst to classify Construction A as a ‘complex predicate’, and Construction B as ‘not a complex predicate’. (Amberber et al. 2010:1)

# My case: What is a complex predicate?

- What does the literature say?
  - *In the broadest possible descriptive sense, **any predicate that consists of more than one piece is complex**, and if we include pieces which are not phonologically overt, then possibly all predicates are complex. Even when the notion is reined in to refer only to such things as most people agree are complex predicates (e.g. serial verb constructions and light verb constructions), either **the boundaries are unclear** or some of the definitional criteria are selected **for convenience rather than on the basis of sound theoretical criteria**. (Svenonius 2008:47)*

# My case: What is a complex predicate?

- What did my supervisors say?
  - *None of them could tell me right away what a complex predicate was.*
  - *I had several discussions with them about the term itself, about serial verbs, coverbs, syntactic representations etc., but after all the discussions, it wasn't much clearer.*
  - *They advised me to start drawing syntax trees and designing schemas about the functions of a complex predicates*
  - *They sent me to conferences, summer schools, and introduced me to some experts in syntax*

# My case: What is a serial verb?

- What does the literature say?
  - *Serial verb constructions always contain **two or more predicates**. Furthermore, [...] while they may require the same actor for both predicates [...], each verb in the series **may have arguments not shared by other verbs**. (Foley & Olson 1985:18)*
  - *A serial verb construction is a sequence of verbs which act together **as a single predicate**, without any overt marker of coordination, subordination, or syntactic dependency of any other sort. Serial verb constructions describe what is conceptualized as **a single event**. [...] SVCs **may also share core and other arguments**. (Aikhenvald 2006:1)*
  - *Type (d) is a **multi-predicational**, but monoclausal construction, as in the classic serial verb construction. In this case, we regard the conceptual structure as one in which there are **multiple events**. (Baker & Harvey 2010:34)*



# My case: What is a coverb?

- What does the literature say?
    - *Languages of Southeast Asia [...] show a range of **serial constructions** and verbs with **prepositional functions**. The prepositional homophone is called a coverb. (Lord 1993:147)*
    - ***Serial verbs** which develop into **adpositions** are called ‘coverbs’ in the literature. (Lehmann 2002:30)*
- 
- *[coverbs] are an **open word class** carrying a wide range of **verbal, adjectival** and other meanings. (Wilson 1999:45)*
  - *There is an **open class** of uninflecting lexemes which translate into languages like English or German as either **verbs** or **adverbs** and also have properties which are intermediate between members of these two classes in other languages. Members of this class will be termed ‘coverbs’ here. (Schultze-Berndt 2000:69)*

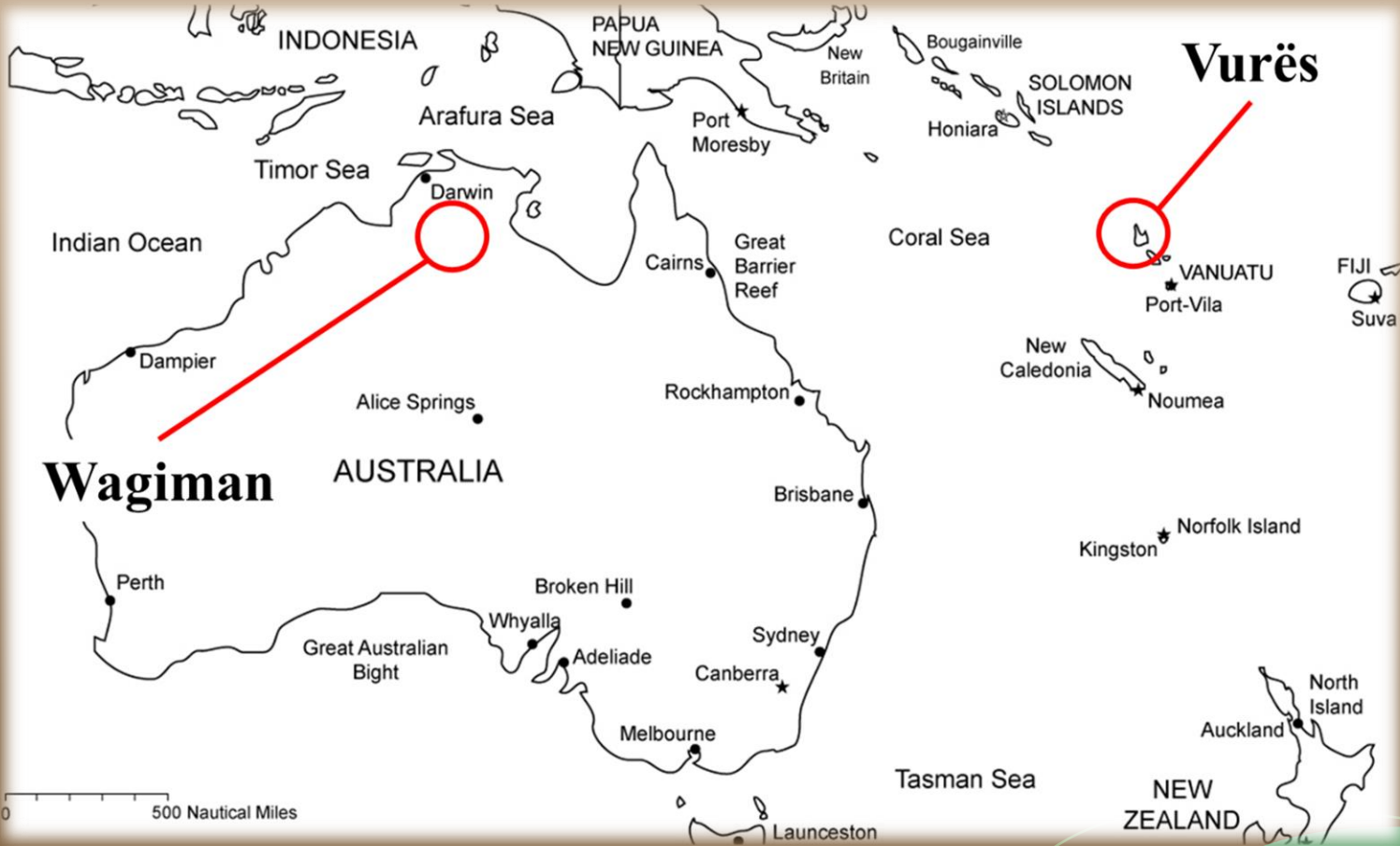
# My case: What is a serial coverb?

- What does the literature say?
  - *While complex predicate and compound coverb constructions always constitute single constituents, **serial coverbs** may form separate ones.* (Hoffmann 2016:8)
  - *It is important to note that ‘coverb serialization’ **differs** significantly **from** ‘**verb serialization**’. [...] Therefore, we understand coverb serialization as a monoclausal syntactic phenomenon of **predicate-chaining**, all of which are non-finite and require a verb or auxiliary to host TAM and person information in a finite declarative clause.* (Krauß & Harvey 2021:123)

# A short break: Fieldwork

- Three fieldwork trips:
  - *Vanuatu to investigate Vurës, a language with serial verbs, twice for about 5 weeks each*
  - *Northern Australia to investigate Wagiman, a language with coverbs, for about 2 weeks*
- Fieldwork preparation:
  - *Ethics approval, consent forms, etc.*
  - *Recording equipment, enough money to pay the speakers/consultants*
  - *Questionnaires about different situations*
  - *A general idea about “complex predicate events”*

# A short break: Fieldwork



# A short break: Fieldwork in Vanuatu



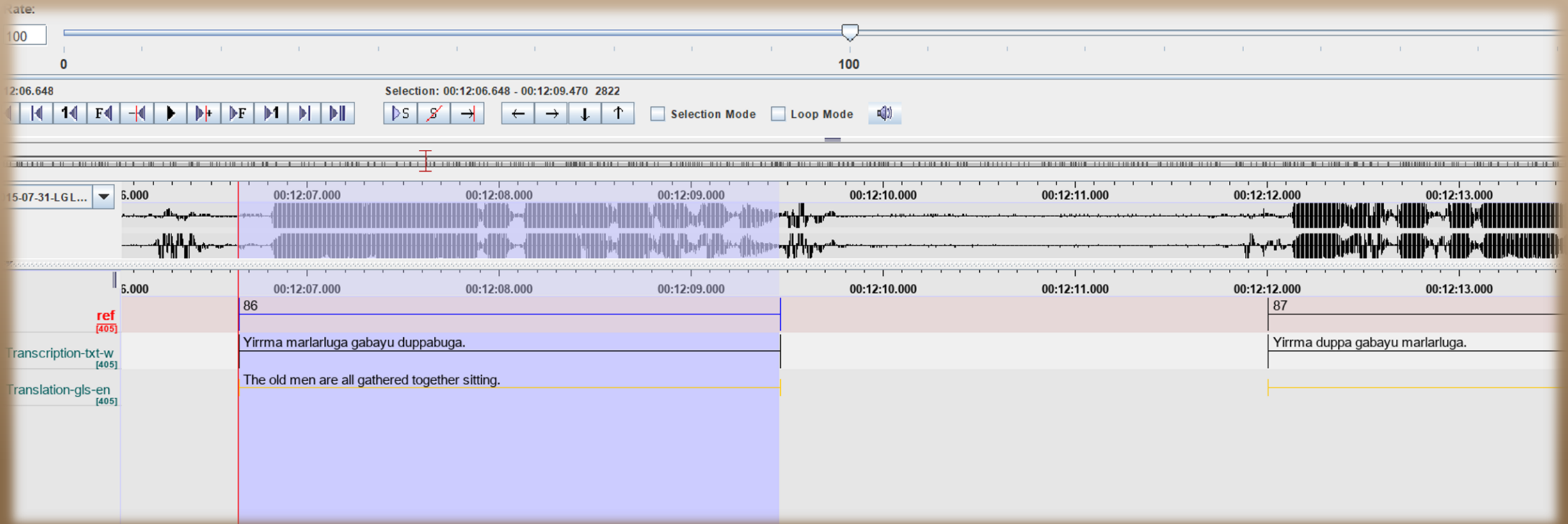
# A short break: Fieldwork in Australia



# Analyzing the data

- Three-step process:
  1. *Import the sound files into ELAN to time-align text and speech*
  2. *Export the ELAN files and import them into FLEx to analyze the data*
  3. *Export the FLEx files and import them back into ELAN to have the interlinearised text-to-speech*
- Doing a corpus search
  - *In FLEx, one can find simple words and complex structures (e.g. all combinations with hit + break, all occurrences with the suffix -min)*
  - *In ELAN, one can do a more detailed corpus search with regular expressions (e.g. find all occurrences with the suffix -min only on 3<sup>rd</sup> singular verbs and before a comma), combined with the relevant audio*

# Analyzing the data: Wagiman in ELAN(1)





# Analyzing the data: Wagiman in FLEx

**Text**

Title waq 2015-07-31-LGL  
en Elicitation

Info Baseline Gloss Analyze Tagging Print View Text Chart

Lex. Gram. Info. Attaches to any category CV (tr.) CV:(aspect) Inflects any category v (intr.):intr. v (intr.) nom (interr.) nom:(Case1)  
Word Gloss waving at he is why  
Word Cat. CV (tr.) v (intr.) nom (interr.)

Free Why is he waving?

**85 Word**

**Morphemes**  Yirrna

**Lex. Entries**  yirr -ma

**Lex. Gloss**  yirr  -ma<sub>1</sub>

**Lex. Gram. Info.** come together IPFV  
CV (intr.) CV:(aspect)

**Word Gloss** coming together

**Word Cat.** v (intr.)

marlarluga gabayu  
marlarluga g- a- ba- yu  
marlarluga g-<sub>1</sub> a-<sub>2</sub> ba- yu  
old man.PL PRS 3 PL be  
n Inflects any category v (intr.):intr. Inflects any category v (intr.)  
old men they are  
n v (intr.)

duppabuga

dup -pa -buga  
dup -ma<sub>1</sub> -buga  
stay IPFV COLL  
CV (intr.) CV:(aspect) CV:(number)  
sitting together  
CV (intr.)

Free The old men are all gathered together sitting.

**86 Word** Yirrna duppa gabayu marlarluga

**Morphemes** yirr -ma dup -pa g- a- ba- yu marlarluga

**Lex. Entries** yirr -ma<sub>1</sub> dup -ma<sub>1</sub> g-<sub>1</sub> a-<sub>2</sub> ba- yu marlarluga

**Lex. Gloss** come together IPFV sit IPFV PRS 3 PL be old man.PL

**Lex. Gram. Info.** CV (intr.) CV:(aspect) CV (intr.) CV:(aspect) Inflects any category v (intr.):intr. Inflects any category v (intr.)

**Word Gloss** coming together sitting they are old men

**Word Cat.** v (intr.) CV (intr.) v (intr.) n

Free The old men are all gathered together sitting.

# Analyzing the data: Wagiman in ELAN(2)

Volume: 100

0 50

0:42:11.375 Selection: 00:00:00.000 - 00:00:00.000 0

2015-07-31-LGL...

00:12:07.000 00:12:08.000 00:12:09.000 00:12:10.000 00:12:11.000 00:12:12.000 00:12:13.000 00:12:14.000

00:12:07.000 00:12:08.000 00:12:09.000 00:12:10.000 00:12:11.000 00:12:12.000 00:12:13.000 00:12:14.000

A_phrase-segnu [397]	85	86
A_phrase-gls [395]	The old men are all gathered together sitting.	The old men are all gathered together sitting.
A_phrase-gls [2]		
A_word-txt-wa [1959]	Yirma marlarluga gabayu duppabuga .	Yirma duppa gabayu marlarluga .
A_morph-txt [1952]	yirr -ma marlarluga g- a- ba- yu dup -pa -bug	yirr -ma dup -pa g- a- ba yu marlarluga
A_morph- [1789]	yirr -ma marlarluga g- a- ba- yu dup -ma -bug	yirr -ma dup -ma g- a- ba yu marlarluga
A_morph-g [1787]	come t IPFV old man.PL PR 3 PL be stay IPF COL	come IPFV sit IPFV P 3 P be old man.PL
A_morph-h [536]	1 1 2 1	1 1 1 2
A_morph- [1787]	CV (int CV:(as n Infl v (i Infl v (i CV ( CV:( CV:(	CV (i CV:(a CV (i CV:(a Inf v ( Inf v ( n
A_morph-t [1789]	stem suffix stem pre pr pre ste ste suffi suffi	stem suffix stem suffix pr pr pr st stem
A_morph-v [27]		
A_word-gls [853]	coming togeth old men they are sitting together	coming toge sitting they are old men
A_word-pos [847]	v (intr.) n v (intr.) CV (intr.)	v (intr.) CV (intr.) v (intr.) n



# Analyzing the data: Vurës in ELAN(1)

Rate: 100

00:01:39.592 Selection: 00:01:39.592 - 00:01:43.816 4224

2018-09-03-KAL... 00:01:39.000 00:01:40.000 00:01:41.000 00:01:42.000 00:01:43.000 00:01:44.000 00:01:45.000 00:01:46.000

ref [25]

Transcription-t [25]  
Words-txt-ms [01]  
Translation- [25]  
Translation- [21]

Ga van kël van timiak o gersele māt, ga van timiak o gersele māt. Van ren ti timiak o gersele māt van wōl, kël me.

He walks zigzag backwards, he walks zigzag. Walks zigzag seawards, comes back.

# Analyzing the data: Vurës in FLEx

**Text**

Title msn 2018-09-03-KAL-Lalnevut  
en

Info Baseline Gloss Analyze Tagging Print View Text Chart

Free en He comes walking backwards, trips, and falls over backwards.  
bi

14	<b>Word</b>	Ga	van	kēl	van	timiak	o	gersele	m̄at	,	ga	van	timiak	o	gersele	m̄at
	<b>Morphemes</b>	ga	van	kēl	van	timiak	o	gersele	m̄at	ga	van	timiak	o	gersele	m̄at	
	<b>Lex. Entries</b>	go <sub>2</sub>	van <sub>1</sub>	kēl	van <sub>1</sub>	timiak <sub>1</sub>	o	gersal	m̄at <sub>1</sub>	go <sub>2</sub>	van <sub>1</sub>	timiak <sub>1</sub>	o	gersal	m̄at <sub>1</sub>	
	<b>Lex. Gloss</b>	IMPV	go	return	go	like	COM.ART	way	snake	IMPV	go	like	COM.ART	way	snake	
	<b>Lex. Gram. Info.</b>	v.part.	vi.	vi.	vi.	prep.	art.	n.com.	n.com.	v.part.	vi.	prep.	art.	n.com.	n.com.	
	<b>Word Gloss</b>	IMPV	go	return	go	like	COM.ART	way	snake	IMPV	go	like	COM.ART	way	snake	
	<b>Word Cat.</b>	v.part.	vi.	vi.	vi.	prep.	art.	n.com.	n.com.	v.part.	vi.	prep.	art.	n.com.	n.com.	

Free en He walks zigzag backwards, he walks zigzag.  
bi

15	<b>Word</b>	Van	ren	ti	timiak	o	gersele	m̄at	van	wōl	,	kēl	me	.
	<b>Morphemes</b>	van	ren	ti	timiak	o	gersele	m̄at	van	wōl	kēl	me		
	<b>Lex. Entries</b>	van <sub>1</sub>	ren	ti <sub>1</sub>	timiak <sub>1</sub>	o	gersal	m̄at <sub>1</sub>	van <sub>1</sub>	wōl <sub>2</sub>	kēl	me <sub>1</sub>		
	<b>Lex. Gloss</b>	go	EMPH	EVENT	like	COM.ART	way	snake	go	L.sea	return	HITH		
	<b>Lex. Gram. Info.</b>	vi.	part.	v.part.	prep.	art.	n.com.	n.com.	vi.	loc.	vi.	dir.		
	<b>Word Gloss</b>	go	EMPH	EVENT	like	COM.ART	way	snake	go	L.sea	return	hither		
	<b>Word Cat.</b>	vi.	v.part.	v.part.	prep.	art.	n.com.	n.com.	vi.	loc.	vi.	dir.		

Free en Walks zigzag seaward, comes back.  
bi

# Analyzing the data: Vurës in ELAN(2)



Volume: 100  
 01:39.592 Selection: 00:01:39.592 - 00:01:43.816 4224

18-09-03-KAL... 00:01:39.000 00:01:40.000 00:01:41.000 00:01:42.000 00:01:43.000 00:01:44.000 00:01:45.000

A\_phrase-segnu [25] 14 15

A\_phrase-gls- [25] He walks zigzag backwards, he walks zigzag. Walks zigzag seawards.

A\_phrase-gls- [25]

A\_word-txt-ms [297] Ga van kël van timiak o gersele māt , ga van timiak o gersele māt . Van ren ti ti

A\_morph-txt- [257] ga van kël van timiak o gersele māt ga van timiak o gersele māt van ren ti ti

A\_morph- [257] go van kël van timiak o gersal māt go van timiak o gersal māt van ren ti ti

A\_morph-g [4] IMPV go return go like COM.AR way snake IMPV go like COM.A way snake go EMPH EVEN

A\_morph-g [251] 2 1 1 1 1 2 1 1 1 1 1 1

A\_morph-h [104] v.part. vi. vi. vi. prep. art. n.com. n.com. v.part. vi. prep. art. n.com. n.com. vi. part. v.part. p

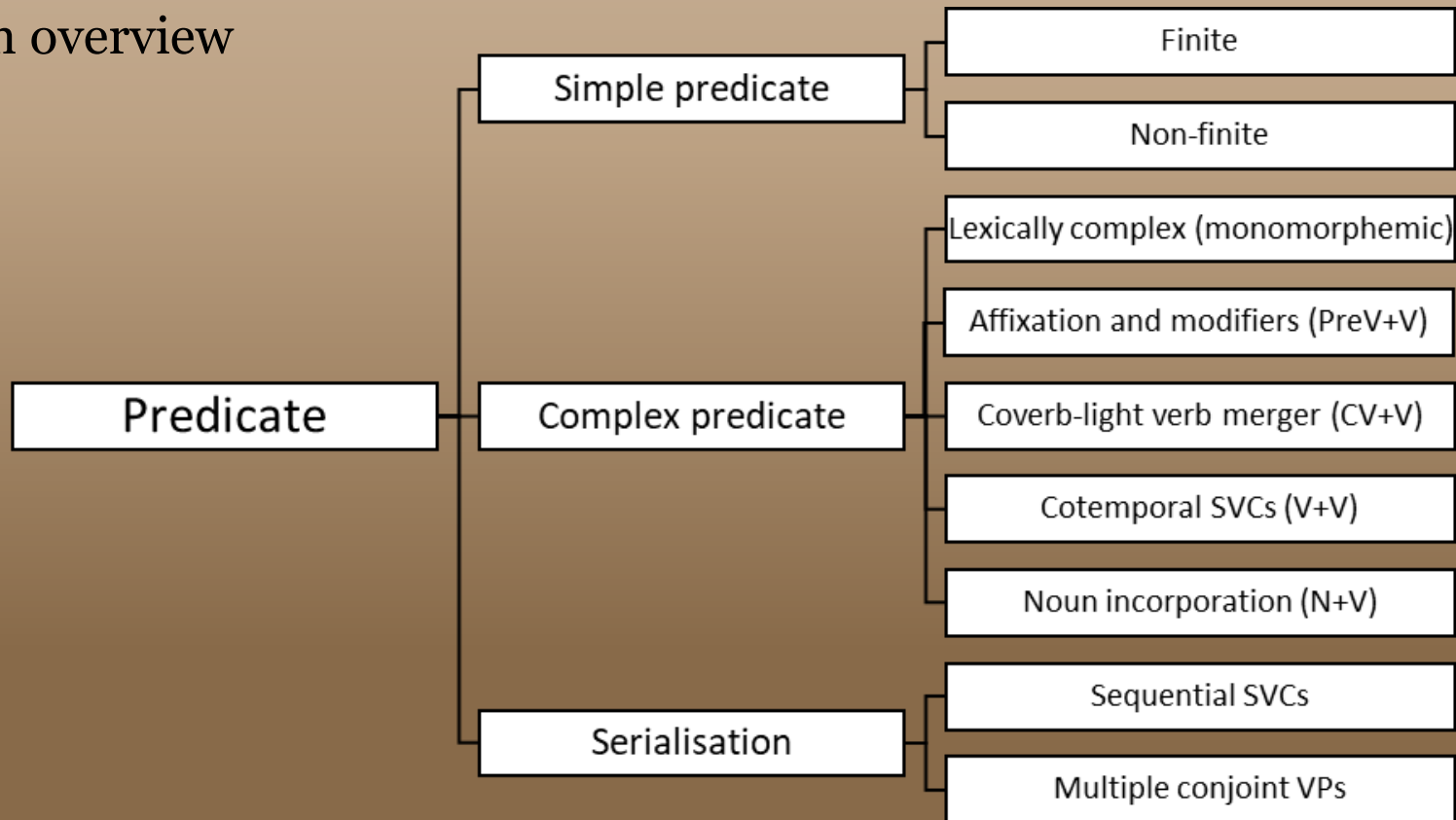
A\_morph- [257] stem

A\_morph-t [257] IMPV go return go like COM.AR way snake IMPV go like COM.A way snake go EMPH EVEN

A\_word-gls- [224] TAM vi. vi. vi. prep. art. n.com. n.com. TAM vi. prep. art. n.com. n.com. vi. v.part. v.part. t

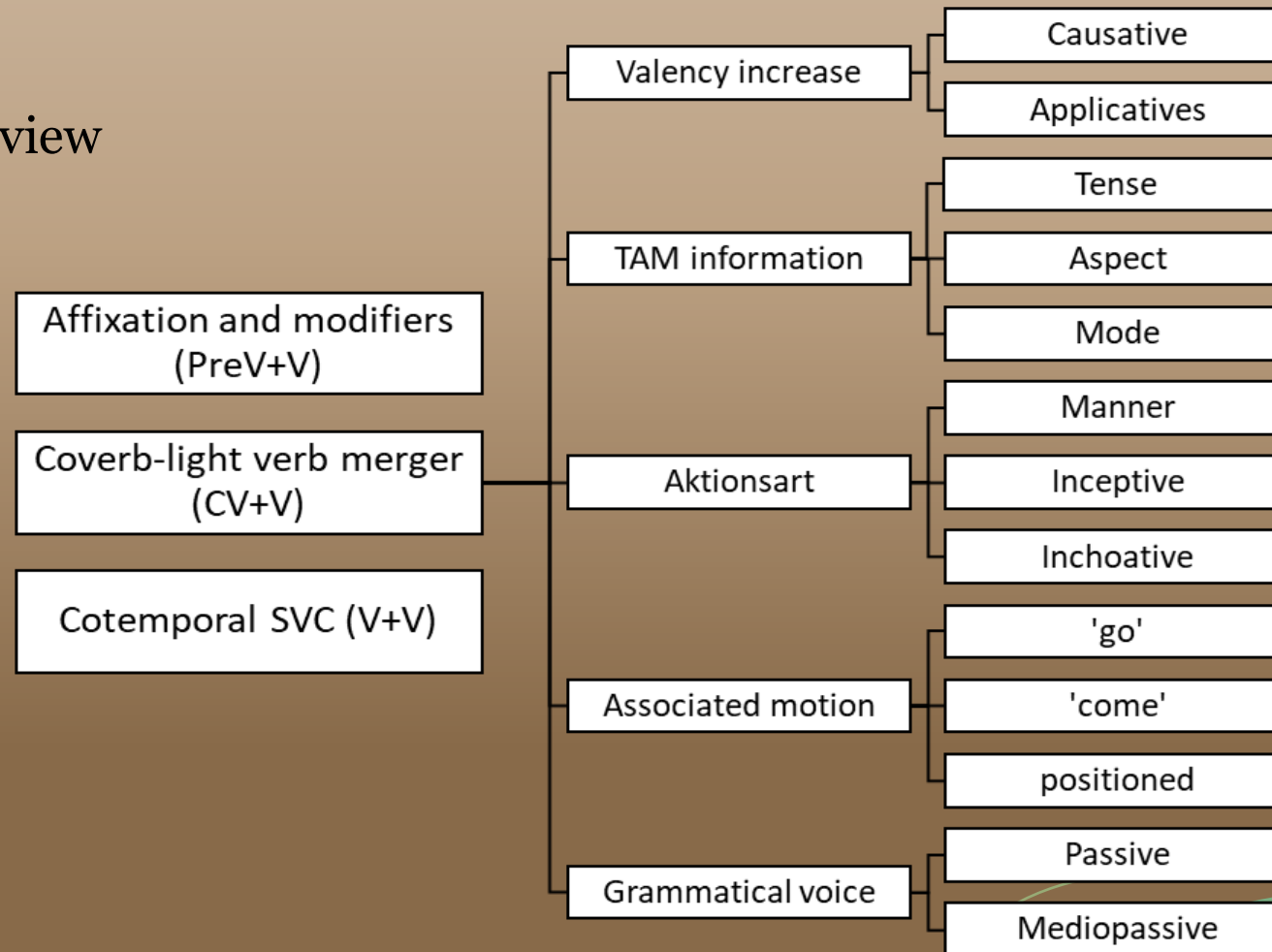
# Developing a theory

- Idea 1: An overview



# Developing a theory

- Idea 1: An overview



# Developing a theory

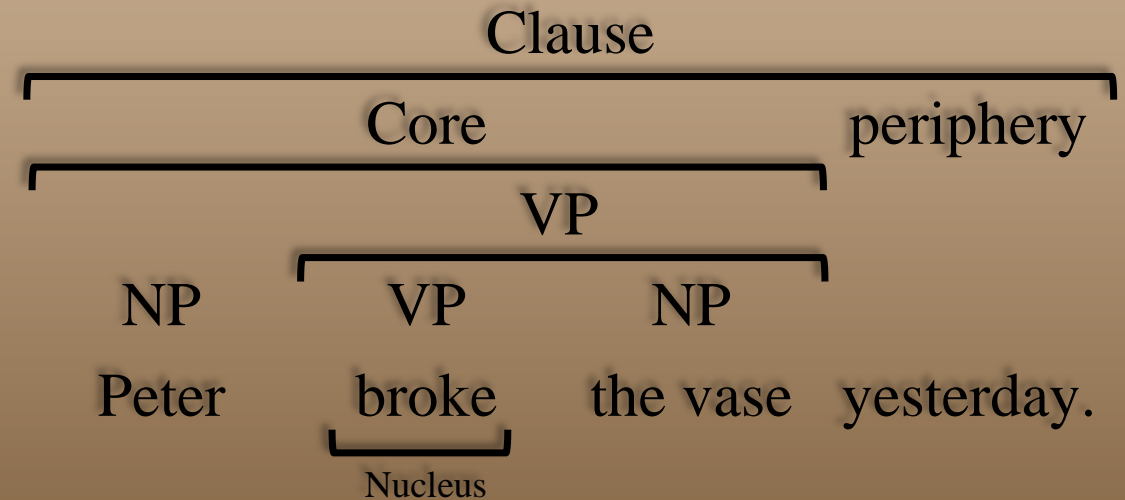
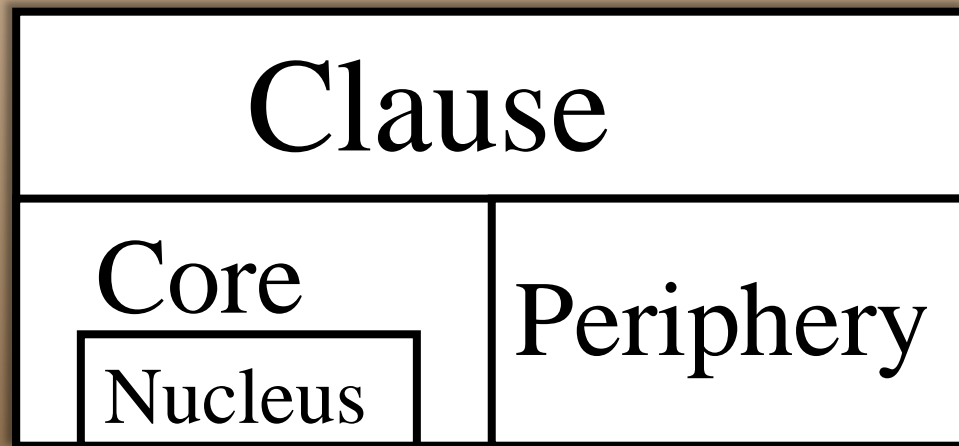
- Idea 1: An overview

Subgroup	English gloss	Scheme
Simple predicate:	I run. / I saw you	S {V (O)}
Lexically complex (monomorphemic)	I clean (= make clean).	S {V O <sub>STATE</sub> }
Affixation (valency increase):	I out-run him.	S {PreV-V <sub>intr</sub> -PostV O}
Affixation (TAM information):	I walk-ed / I did walk.	S {TAM-V-TAM}
Affixation (aktionsart):	I be-come	S {pref-V-suf [> CHANGE]}
Coverb-light verb merger (valency increase):	I running-make him	S {CV V O}
Coverb-light verb merger (TAM information):	I running-am	S {CV V-TAM}
Coverb-light verb merger (aktionsart):	I eating-finished	S {CV V [> CHANGE]}
Cotemporal SVCs (argument promotion):	I make-run him	S {V <sub>1(tr)</sub> V <sub>2(intr)</sub> O} / S {V <sub>1(intr)</sub> V <sub>2(tr)</sub> O}
?Cotemporal SVCs (TAM information):	I am running	S {V <sub>1</sub> V <sub>2</sub> -TAM}
Cotemporal SVCs (aktionsart):	I finished eating	S {V <sub>1</sub> V <sub>2</sub> [> CHANGE]}
Noun incorporation:	I baby-sat	S {N-V <sub>intr</sub> -TAM} / S {N-V <sub>tr</sub> -TAM O}
Sequential SVCs:	I go (and) help him find.	S {V <sub>1</sub> {V <sub>2</sub> }-TAM {O (V <sub>3</sub> )}}
Multiple conjoint VPS:	I want (to) go.	S {V <sub>1</sub> -TAM} {V <sub>2</sub> -TAM}



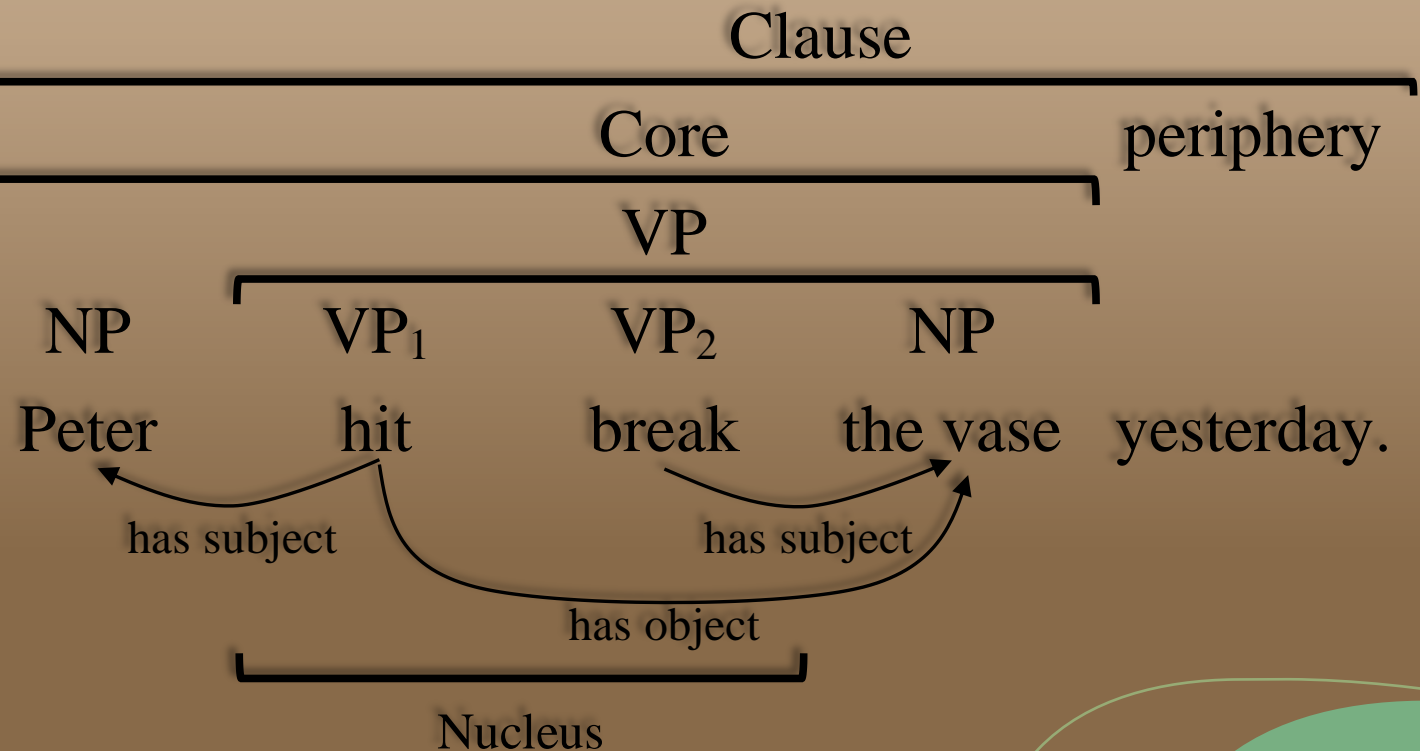
# Developing a theory

- Idea 2: Using Role & Reference Grammar



# Developing a theory

- Idea 2: Using Role & Reference Grammar



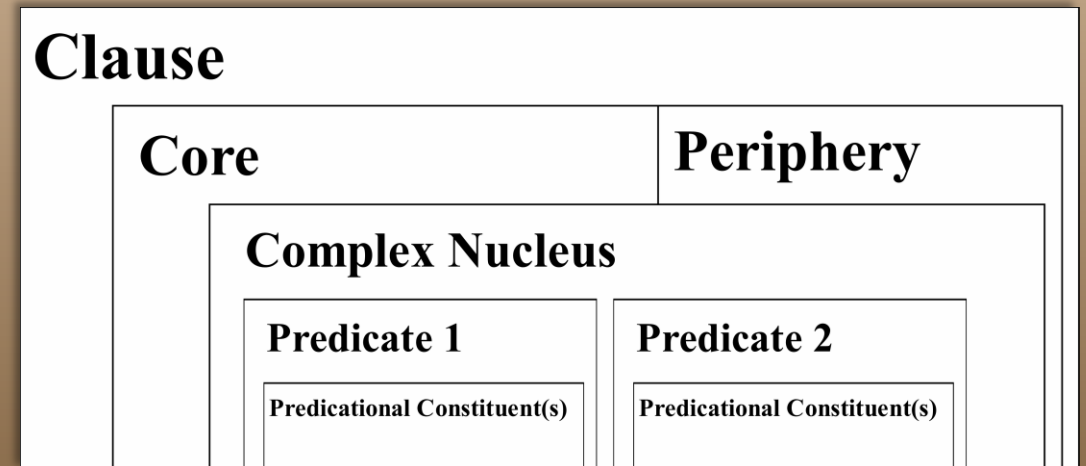
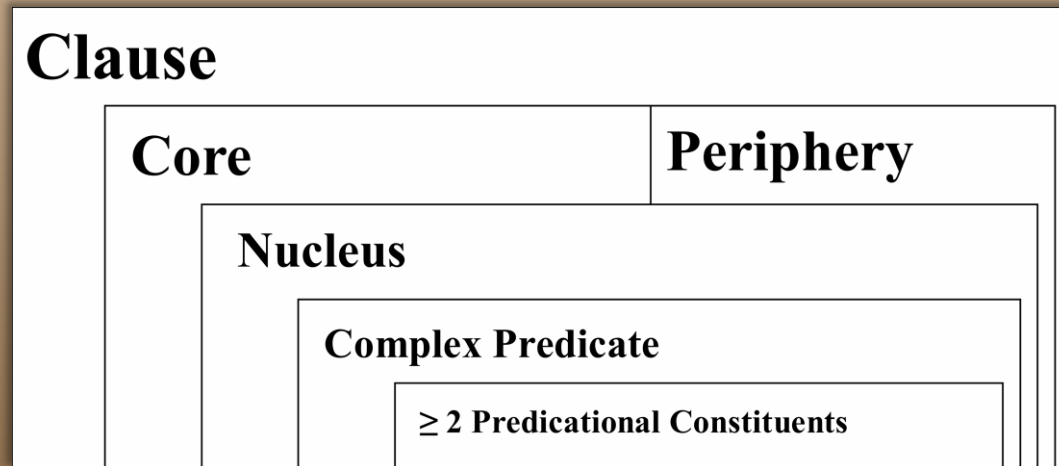
# Developing a theory

- Idea 3: Making use of a previous merger approach with Lexical Conceptual Structure

(1) [State BE ([Thing], [Place])]	‘be wet’
(2) [Event MOVE ([Thing])]	‘tremble’
(3) [Event MOVE ([Thing], [Path])]	‘walk’
(4) [Event BECOME ([Thing], [State BE ([Thing], [Place])])]	‘sink <sub>INTR</sub> ’
(5) [Event CAUSE ([Thing], [Event MOVE ([Thing])])]	‘shake <sub>TR</sub> ’
(6) [Event CAUSE ([Thing], [Event MOVE ([Thing], [Path])])]	‘walk <sub>TR</sub> ’
(7) [Event CAUSE ([Thing], [Event BECOME ([Thing], [State BE ([Thing], [Place])])])]	‘build’

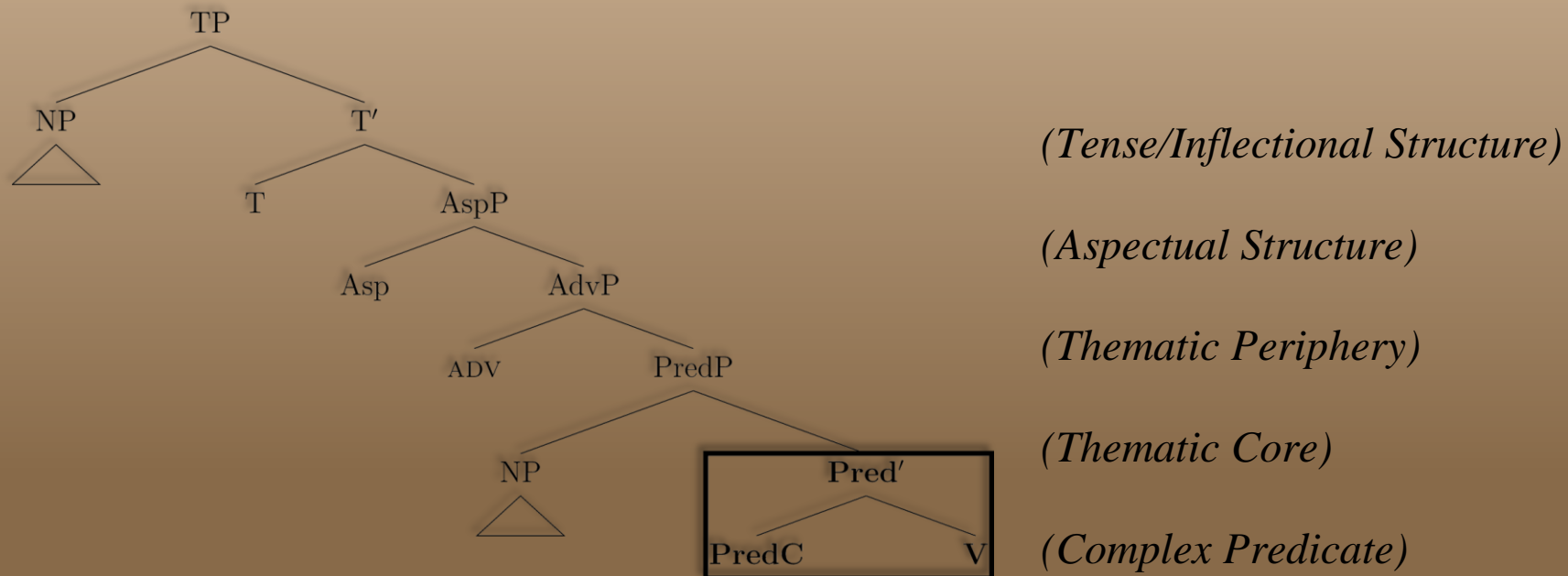
# Developing a theory

- Idea 4: Developing Role & Reference Grammar



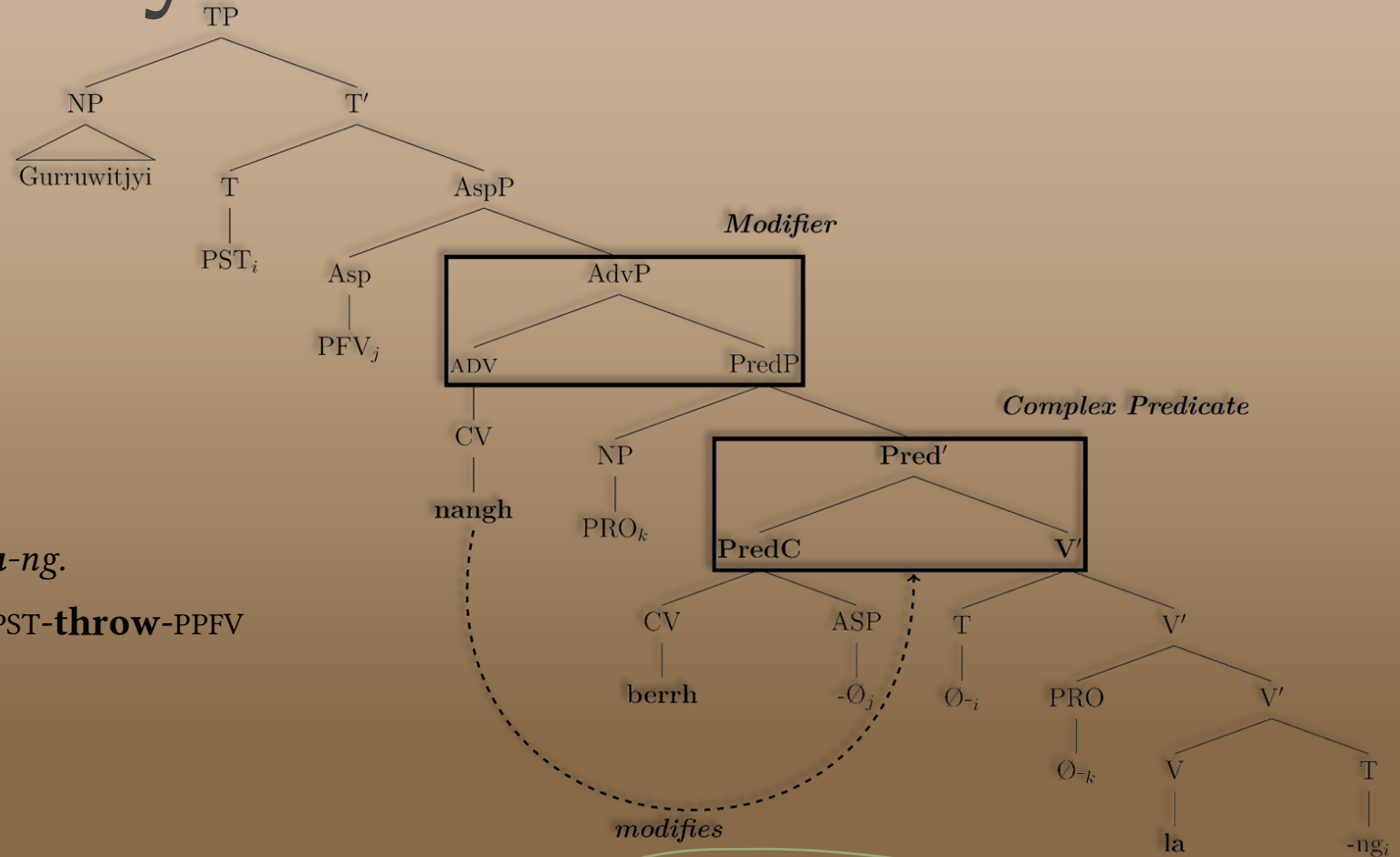
# Developing a theory

- Idea 5: Combining Role & Reference Grammar with Minimalism



# Developing a theory

- Idea 6: Integrating adverbials into the minimalist structure



Wagiman

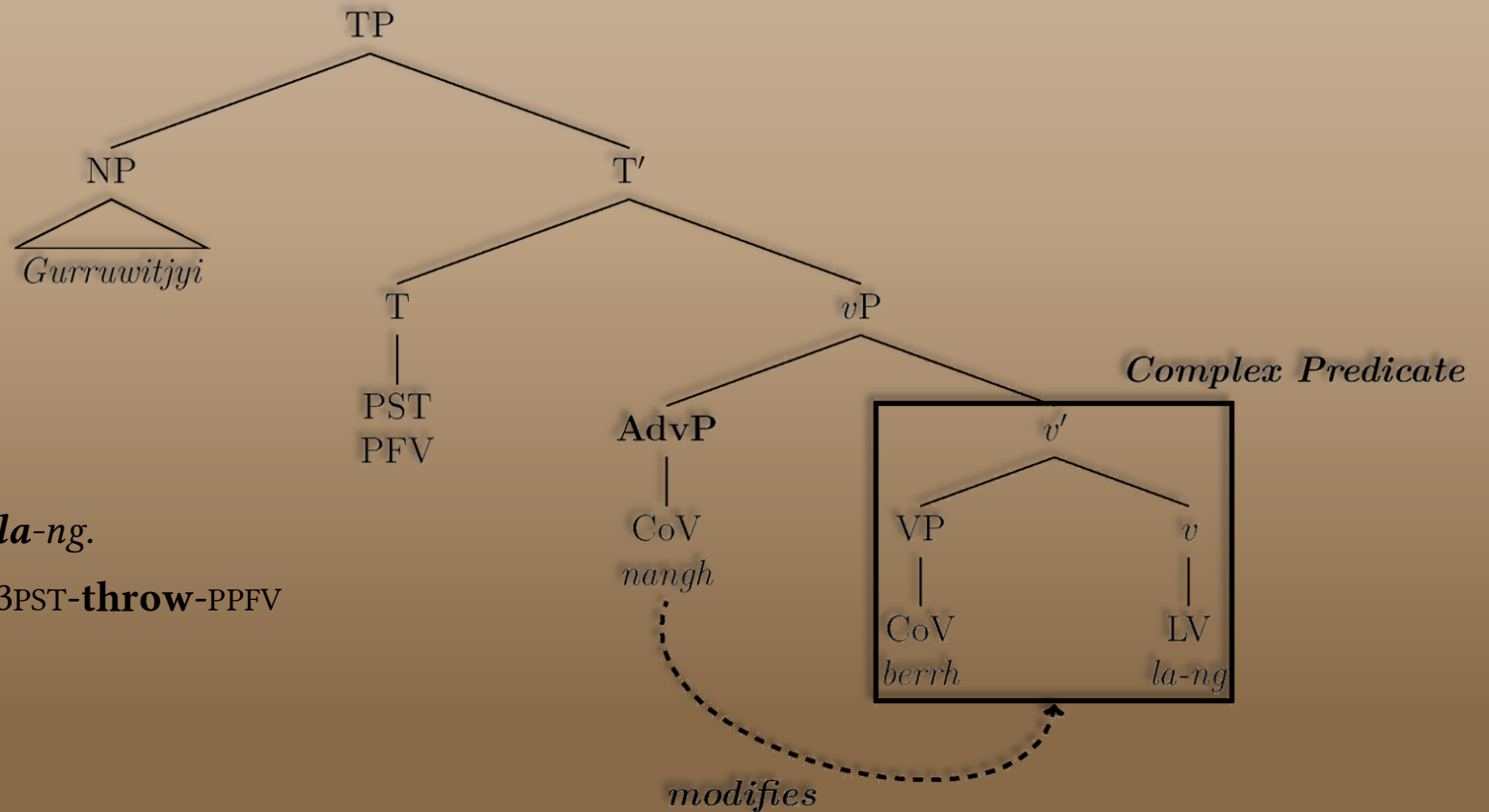
(4) *Gurruwitj-yi nangh-Ø berrh-Ø Ø-la-ng.*

car-ERG      **bash**-PFV    **fling**-PFV    3>3PST-**throw**-PPFV

'The car **flung** him **bashingly**.'

# Developing a theory

- Idea 7: Making use of the VP-shell in minimalism



Wagiman

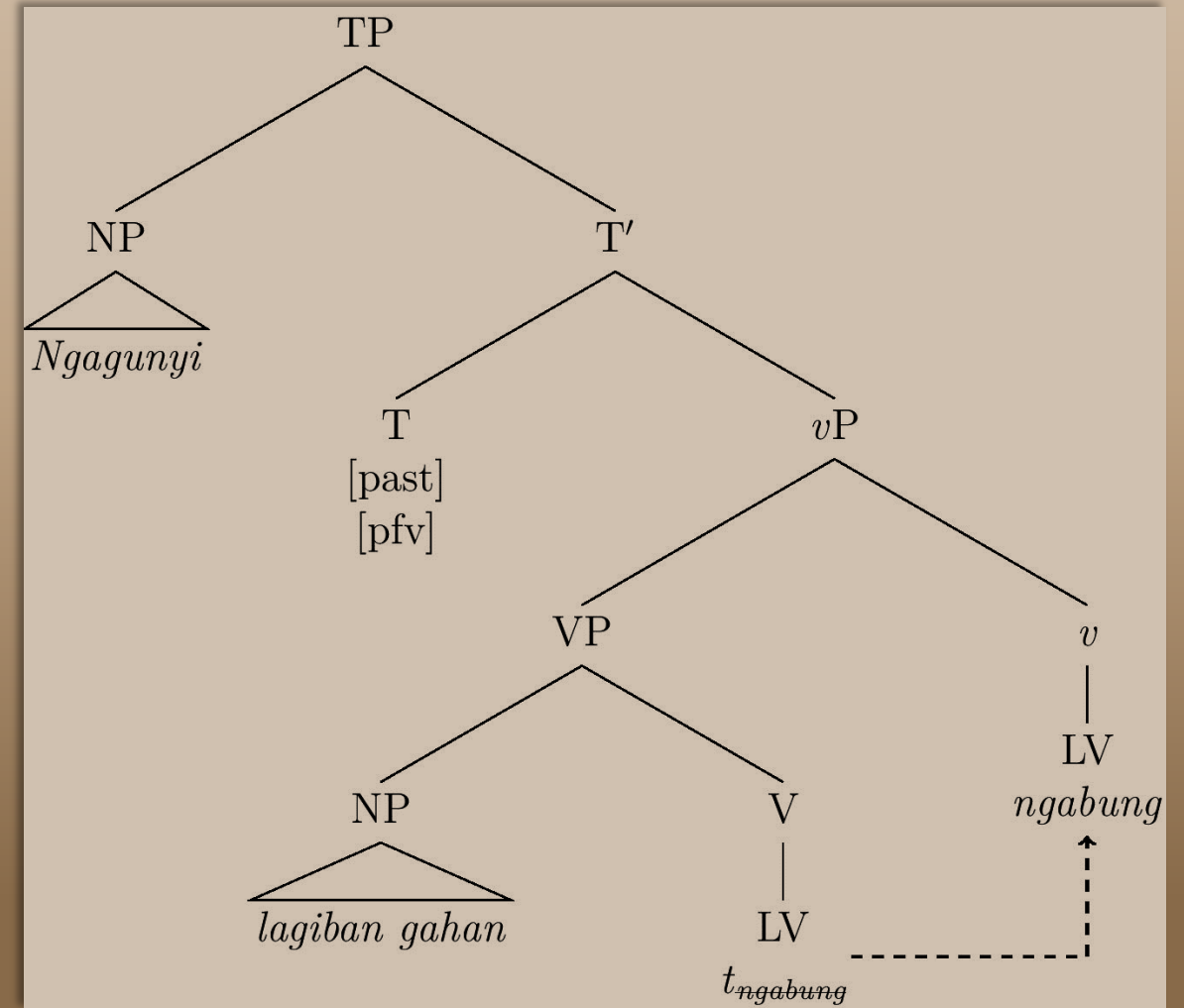
(4) *Gurruwitj-yi nangh-Ø berrh-Ø Ø-la-ng.*  
 car-ERG      **bash**-PFV    **fling**-PFV    3>3PST-**throw**-PPFV  
 'The car **flung** him **bashingly**.'

# Developing a theory

- Final Proposal

Wagiman

(5) *Ngagun-yi lagiban gahan ng-a-bu-ng.*  
 1SG-ERG man that PST-1SG>3-**hit**-PPFV  
 'I **hit** the man.'





# Developing a theory

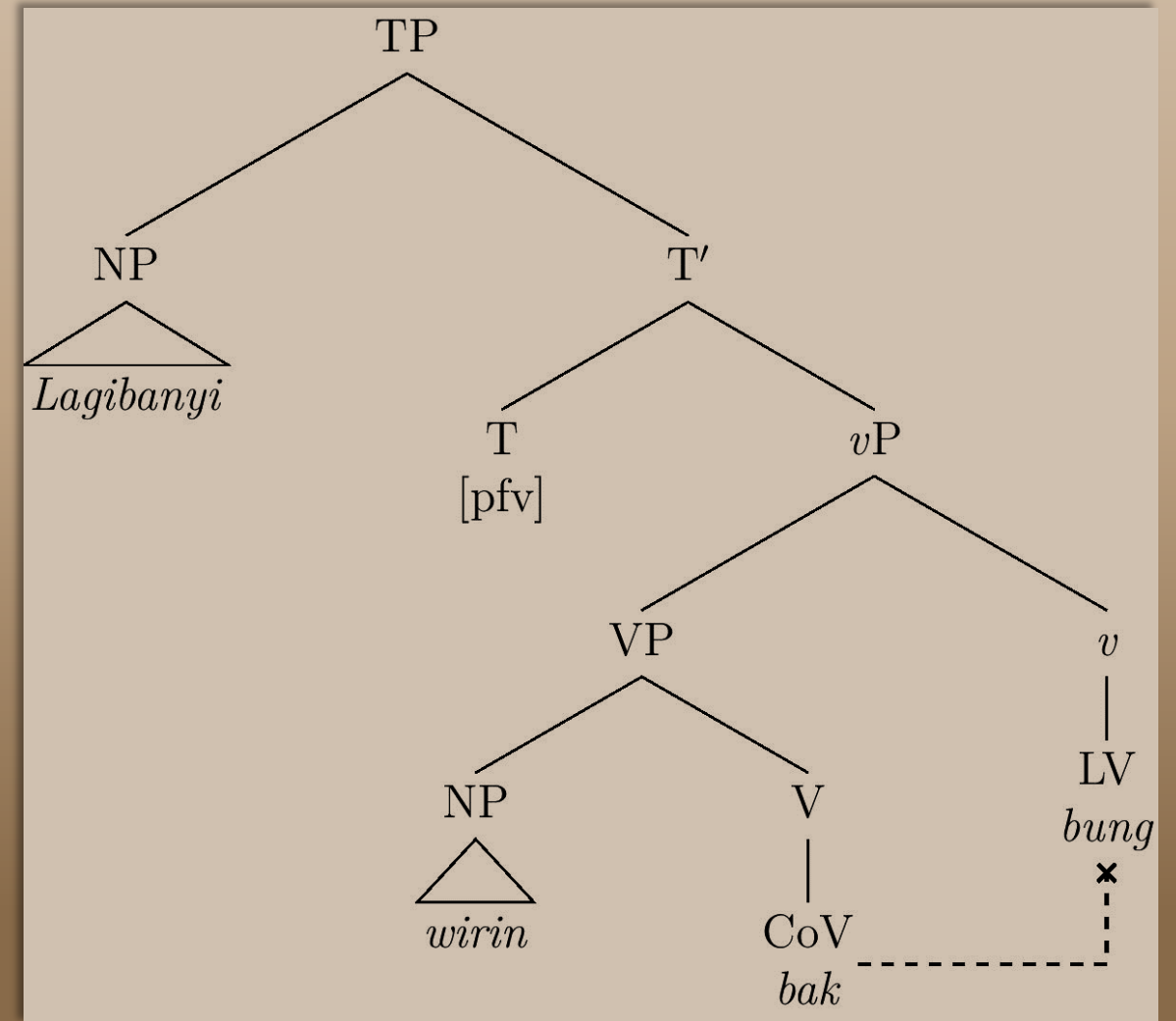
- Final Proposal

Wagiman

(6) *Lagiban-yi wirin bak Ø-bu-ng.*

man-ERG stick break 3>3PST-hit-PPFV

'The man **broke** the stick.'



# Developing a theory

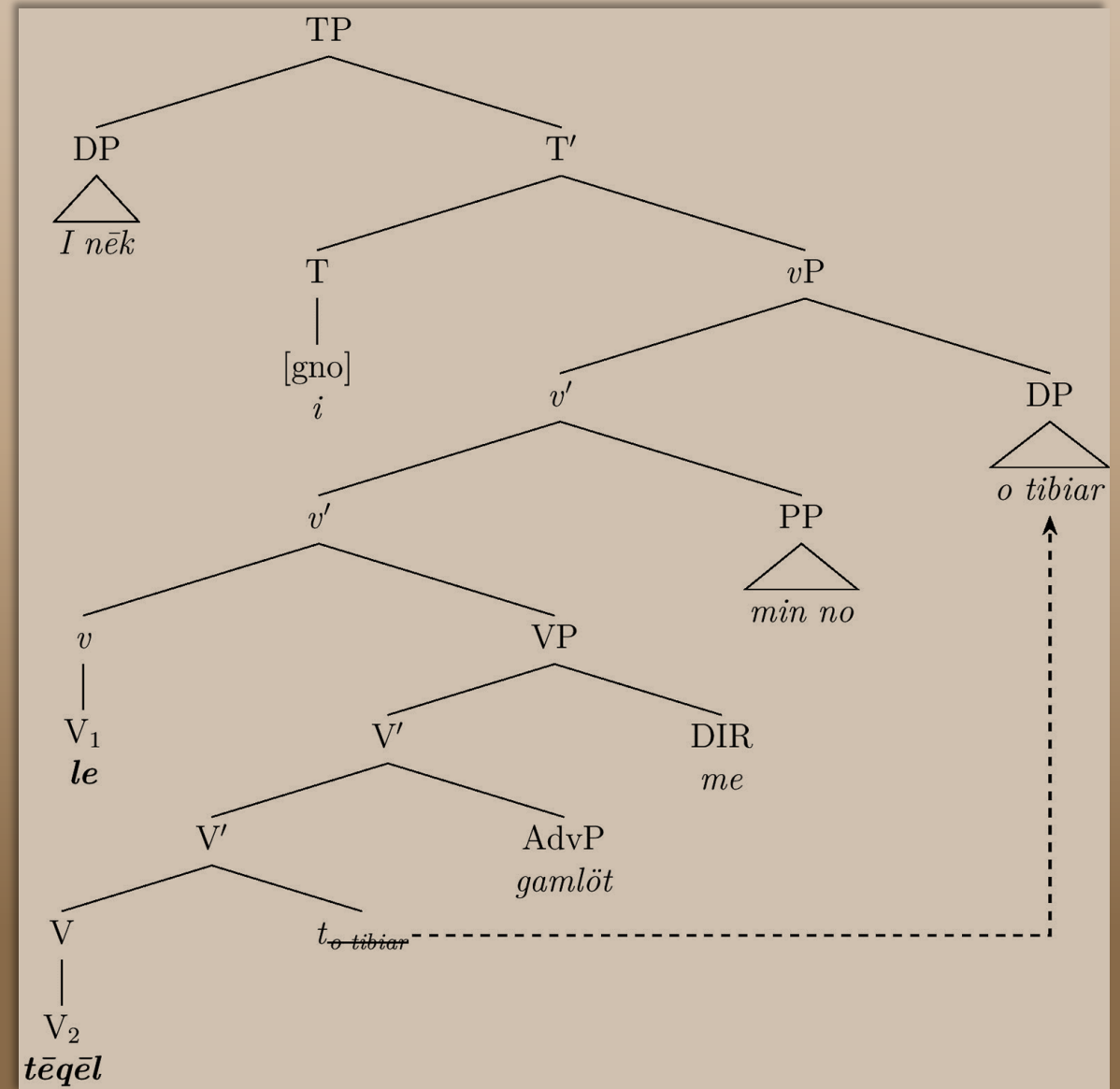
- Final Proposal

Vurës

(7) *I nēk i=le tēqēl gamlöt me min no o tibir.*

2SG GNO=**take descend be.quick**DIR DAT 1SG ART basket

‘Please **pass** me **down quickly** the basket.’



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