Phrase structure
Review: features

- Which ones are we assuming?
- What are uninterpretable features?
- Two types:
  - c-selectional
  - s-selectional
- What is feature checking?
- What do features do?
Review: thematic roles

- What are thematic roles?
- What are the typical thematic roles?
  How do they differ?
- What is the Unique Theta Generalization?
Review: predicates

- What are predicates?
- What types of predicates are there?
- What are arguments? adjuncts?
Merge

- **Merge**: c-selecting head + constituent that satisfies its feature
  - e.g. *letters to vs. letters to Peter

- **Projection levels**
  - Maximal: project no further, have no c-selectional features left to be checked
  - Minimal: lexical item
  - Intermediate: later...
First Merge

- Creates structure by matching head with compatible constituent
- C-selection is often what licenses (permits, drives) the operation
- Directionality varies crosslinguistically
Second Merge

- Creates structure by matching head with unsatisfied constituent
- Again, directionality varies crosslinguistically
- Feature projection: if can’t be satisfied in place, percolate up one node
  - Then sisterhood might allow for feature checking.
- Call the erstwhile unsatisfied constituent the bar-level constituent
Adjunction

- No theta-role assignment
- Like (but different than) Merge, a basic operation
- Stretches topmost layer of structure by adding a new constituent
- English: free order, categories
Full X-bar vs. Adger's system

- **Full X-bar**
  - More uniform, more complete, more complex

- **Adger**: Don’t need to depict ALL levels
  - X-bar node only when specifier is present
  - Head w/out comp, spec: automatically maximal
C-command

- A c-commands B iff A’s sister is B or contains (dominates) B.
- Applications:
  - Binding reflexive pronouns
  - Licensing NPI’s
Involve 3-place predicates

English: alternate between double-object and prepositional forms

Discussion: ternary or binary branching?

Result: neither works, for now, but stay tuned...
Reading for next class (126-149)

- How are causatives like ditransitives?
- What is UTAH?
- What is Numeration? Derivation?
- What is the Hierarchy of Projections?