

Grammar 32: Preposing

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Examples of Preposing

- (1) a. Kim likes Robin.
b. Robin, Kim likes ___.
- (2) a. Kim depends on Robin.
b. Robin, Kim depends on ___.
- (3) a. Kim depends on Robin.
b. On Robin, Kim depends ___.
- (4) a. Kim is fond of Robin.
b. Robin, Kim is fond of ___.
- (5) a. Kim showed me a picture of Robin.
b. Robin, Kim showed me a picture of ___.

Examples of Preposing

- (6) a. Kim said I like Robin.
b. Robin, Kim said I like ___.
- (7) a. Kim said I claimed she likes Robin.
b. Robin, Kim said I claimed she likes ___.

Because preposing can in principle span arbitrarily many clauses, it is one example of a **long distance dependency**!

But not everything is possible!

(8) a. * Robin, Kim smokes ___.

(9) a. * To Robin, Kim likes ___.

(10) a. * She, Kim likes ___.

(11) a. * To Robin, Kim depends ___.

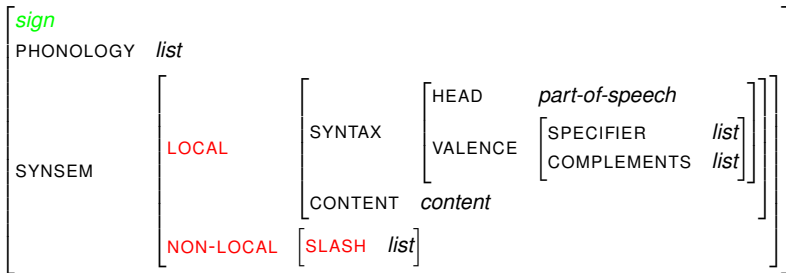
(12) a. * Robin, Kim claims ___ am sad.

Generalization:

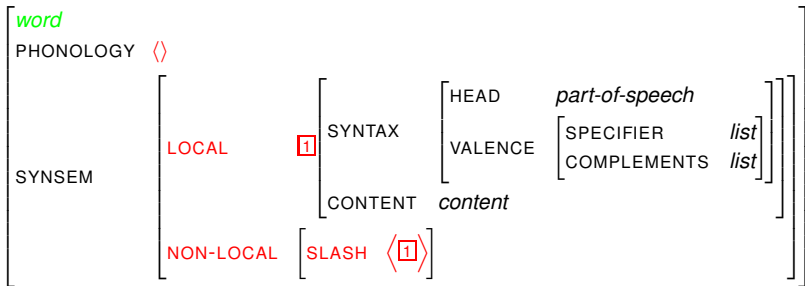
An expression can be preposed from a position P if and only if it can also occur in position P itself!

New organization of the sign

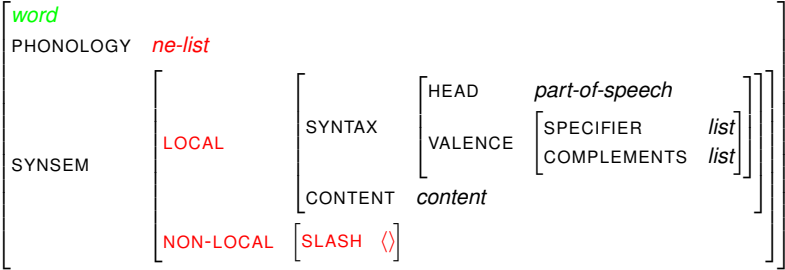
- 1 In order to deal with long distance dependencies, we need to divide the information expressed by a sign into its **local** and its **non-local** properties.
- 2 For preposing, we need one non-local feature: **SLASH**.



The gap



All other words

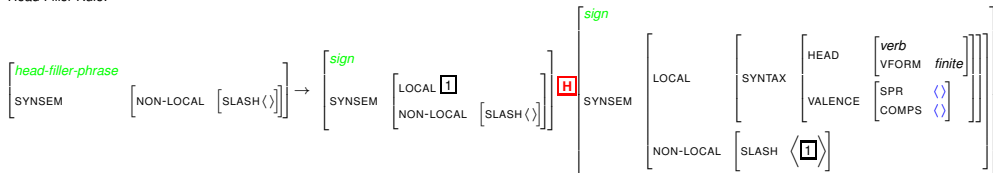


The Slash Principle

The SLASH value of a phrase is the sum (= append) of the SLASH values of the phrase's daughter.

A new grammar rule

Head-Filler Rule:



The Head-Filler Rule licenses a number of different phrases, among them *top(icalization)-phrase*.