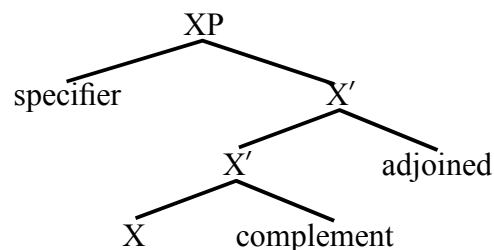# Structure-Function Mapping

Looking at structure and function in languages like English, we can arrive at a set of principles relating structure and function.

Some basic structural and functional concepts

categories
Lexical categories (N, V, A, P) vs. functional categories (I, C, D, …)

structural positions

grammatical functions

TOPIC, FOCUS	overlay* functions, non-argument functions (=discourse functions)
SUBJ, POSS	overlay functions, argument functions (=subject functions)
OBJ, OBL_θ, COMP, …	non-overlay functions, argument functions (=complement functions)
ADJ	non-overlay function, non-argument function (=adjuncts)

*The term "overlay" is borrowed from the literature of Relational Grammar, and is intended to capture the idea that these are secondary functions which are "overlaid" on the main grammatical function. In the case of the subject functions, the situation is a little more complicated—these functions have a dual identity which we will not be discussing in this class. On SUBJ, see Yehuda N. Falk (2006) *Subjects and Universal Grammar: An Explanatory Theory*. Cambridge University Press. In a lot of the LFG literature, the term "discourse function" is used to mean "overlay function."

Mapping principles
based on Joan Bresnan (2001) *Lexical-Functional Syntax*. Oxford: Blackwell.

Complements of lexical categories bear complement functions.
Complements of functional categories are "co-heads".
Adjoined elements are adjuncts.
Specifiers of functional categories* bear overlay functions.

This set of structure-function mapping principles is essentially the same as what is assumed in constituent-structure–only theories like GB. (Often, a distinction is made between discourse functions in [SPEC, CP] and subject functions in lower specifiers.) They perhaps need to be expanded somewhat to allow for items with non-argument discourse functions to be adjoined to IP.

*This conforms to traditional views, but runs afoul of the VP-internal subject hypothesis, under which subjects {can|must} occupy the specifier position of a lexical category. We will discuss the VP-internal subject hypothesis later in the course; for now, we will assume it is incorrect.