# The Component Unit Introducing a Novel Unit of Syntactic Unit

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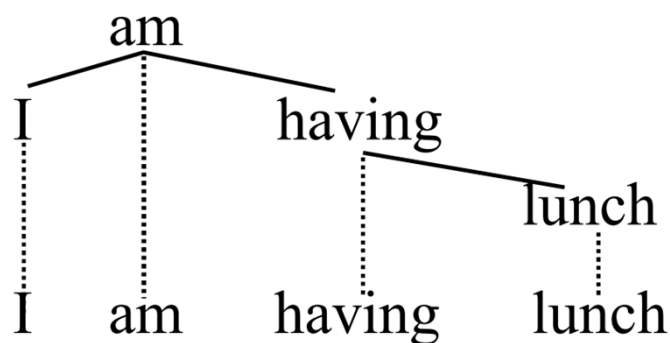
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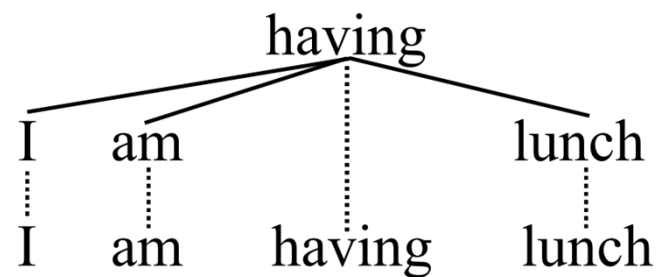
- **Helpful in resolving controversial structural issues**

  e.g. I am having lunch.



(a) Traditional DG Analysis          or          (b) UD Annotation Scheme

# Claims

- How speakers organize words into sentences can be determined from **chunking data** collected from informants.

- There is a novel unit of DG that helps to **predic**t how informants will chunk sentences. This unit is the ***component***.

- One can use the component unit as a basis for motivating analyses of sentence structure, and thus **resolve debatable structural issues**.
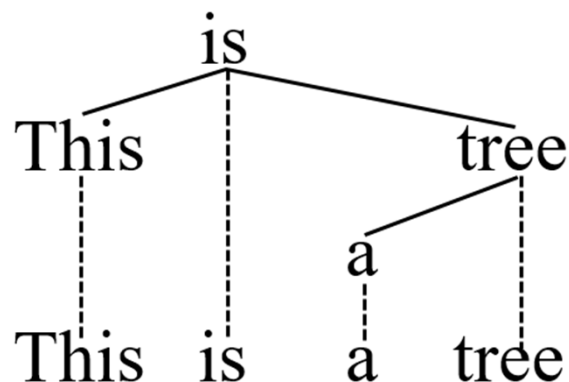
**The component:**

- continuous in both **precedence and dominance**.

- (= String of words **linked by dependencies**)

e.g.



8 components: ☺

[This], [is], [a], [tree];

[This is], [a tree];

[is a tree]; and [This is a tree]

2 non-components: ☹

[is a] and [this is a]

**Controversial issues:**

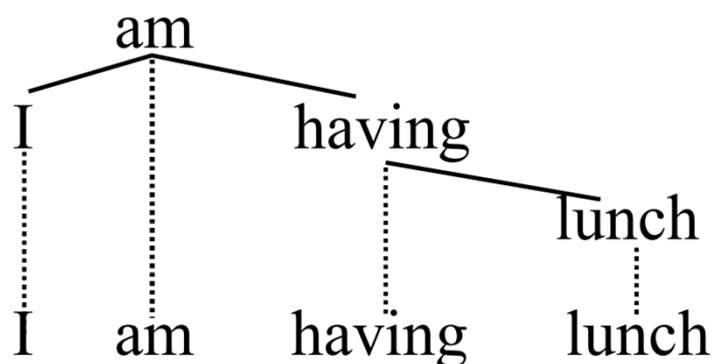- the status of **auxiliary verbs, prepositions, determiners**, and **object predicatives**

  e.g. I am having lunch.

  a. I am | having lunch.  – 26 responses
  b. I | am having lunch.  – 10 responses
  c. I am having | lunch.  – 7 responses
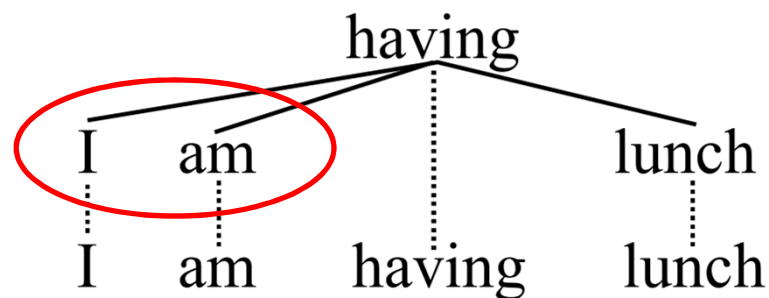
- **The status of auxiliary verbs**



Traditional DG Analysis                    UD Annotation Scheme

- *I am* is not a component in the UD analysis

- **All resulting chunks** are components in the traditional analysis

**Auxiliary verb > Content verb**

# Summary

- the component unit
- chunking experiments

  resolve debatable issues

- easily extendable to other languages

# Acknowledgement

# Thanks for your attention!

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