

## INTRODUCTION

In Modern Standard Arabic (MSA), the head of genitive phrases has traditionally been analyzed as a nominative case marking in the construct state. Beina (2013), however, analyzes it as a determiner in possessive constructions. Based on Alburarabi's (2015) hypothesis of the placement of a negated verb in a functional projection located below CP and above IP, along with Beina's (2013) hypothesis of *-u* as a possessive determiner, I posit how they work together in negated possessive constructions (*laysa + li-*).

## BACKGROUND

**The Functional Projection Hypothesis:** Due to MSA having multiple negation particles, Aoun, Benmamoun, and Choueiri (2009) note that “the fact that negation can carry temporal information and agreement morphology argues for its head status and also, possibly, for locating it between the tense projection and the verbal projection” (p. 6). Alburarabi, however, notes that this produces ungrammatical results, since V cannot raise to C. She instead favors Soltan's (2007) argument that negation should be located higher than IP but lower than CP and postulates a functional projection hypothesis (FPH) as evidence for this structure.

***-u* as a Possessive Determiner:** Beina (2013) argues that the genitive phrase head/nominative case marker *-u* on the first noun in *iDaafa* constructions is a determiner because it is in complementary distribution with determiners and is always present in genitive constructions. Additionally, it must function as the possessive determiner because additional determiners cannot be added to a word that already has this marker. When *-u* is being used as a possessive determiner, it makes the noun definite, and the determiner *al-* cannot be present. Beina's positioning of *-u* as a possessive determiner has not previously been argued for, so this research is groundbreaking and imperative to our understanding of DPs in MSA. Due to the novelty of this hypothesis, he presents us with a projection above DP – XP.

## EXPLANATION & SIGNIFICANCE

As per Al-Khawalda (2012), I treat *laysa* as an auxiliary verb and extend Alburarabi's FPH to it, proposing the maintenance of the FP between NegP, and, with *laysa* having both negation and verbal properties, that it raises from AgrP to FP and finally to NegP. Following Beina's proposition, I explore its differences in *iDaafa* constructions and possessive constructions using the preposition *li-*. The genitive phrase heading in (1) maintains the correct surface order and allows for *laysa* to occur as an adjunct to XP. In (2), I place *la-hu* in an XP, as prepositions set the genitive case. Therefore, in addition to *-u* heading these phrases, so can the preposition *li-*, when joined by a suffixed possessive pronoun (*-hu*). This example additionally touches on indefinite nouns' acquisition of case and nunation. Lastly, in (3), I introduce a second XP *iDaafa* construction as a complement to the genitive phrase *lihu*, showing the ability for expansion of XPs and providing a contrast to the indefinite *sayaaratuun* in (2).

## REMAINING QUESTIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

- 1) The expansion of this syntactic focus into colloquial Arabic dialects
- 2) What other case markings might act as fusional morphemes and under what conditions?
- 3) [*Laysa + li-*]'s syntactic flexibility – what do the structures and movement look like for phrases such as:  

al-kitaab-u laysa li-l-Taalib-ee	‘the book is not the student’s’	الكتاب ليس للطالب
hadha al-kitaab-u laysa kitaab-hu	‘that book is not his book’	هذا الكتاب ليس كتاب
- 4) The interfacing of *li-* and definiteness markers *al-* and *tanween* (nunation).

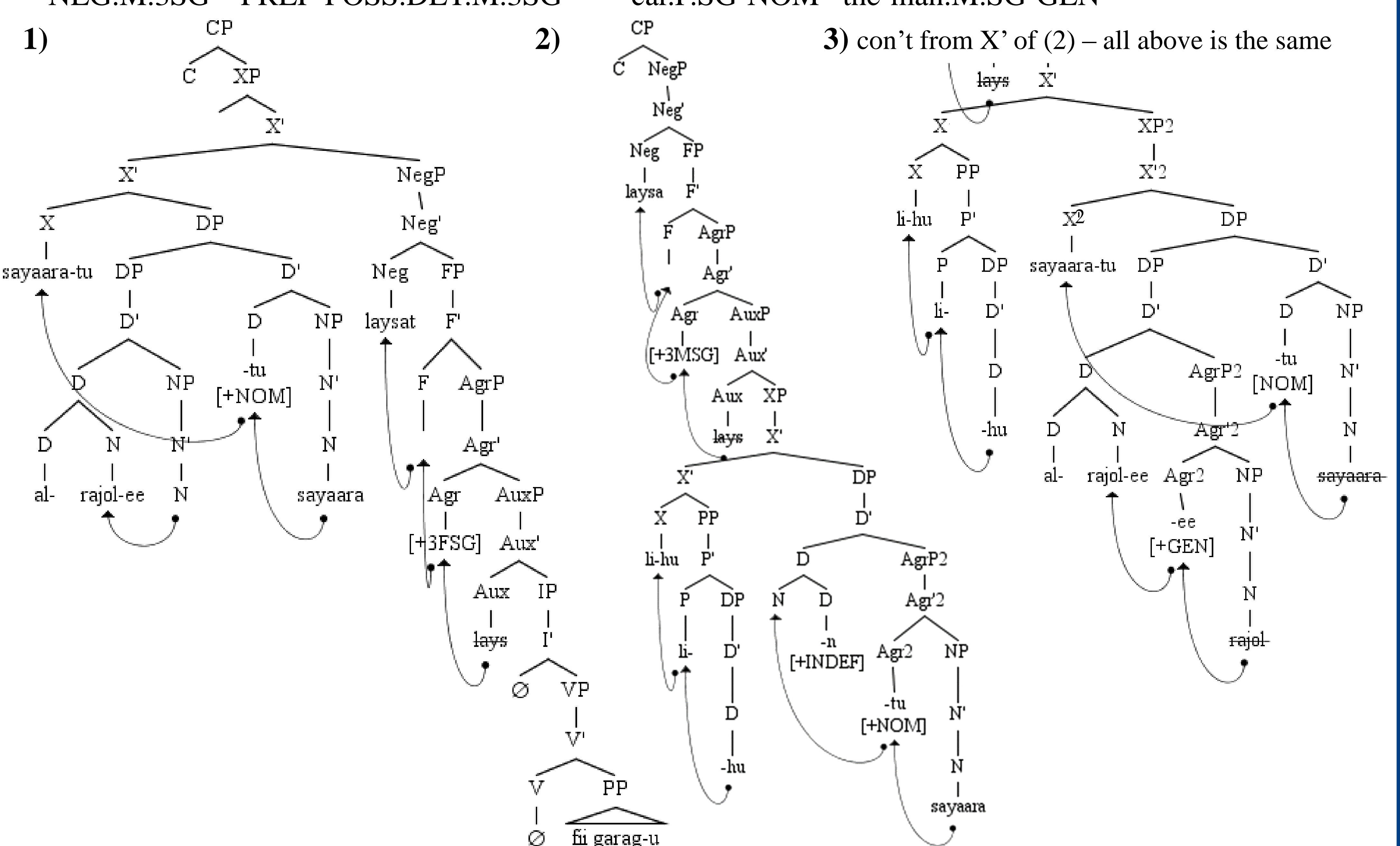
## DIAGRAMMING

**Example 1:**  
 sayaara-tu al-rajol-ee laysa-t fii garaag-hu  
 car.F.SG-NOM the-man.M.SG-GEN NEG-F.3SG in garage.M.SG-POSS.M.3SG  
 ‘the man’s car is not in his garage’

**Example 2:**  
 laysa la-hu sayaara-tuu-n  
 NEG.M.3SG PREP-POSS.DET.M.3SG car.F.SG-NOM-INDEF  
 ليس له سيارة

**Example 3:**  
 laysa la-hu sayaara-tu al-rajol-ee  
 NEG.M.3SG PREP-POSS.DET.M.3SG car.F.SG-NOM the-man.M.SG-GEN  
 ليس له سيارة الرجل

1) 2) 3) con't from X' of (2) – all above is the same



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