Semantic (non-)compositionality and (re-)categorization in flexible languages

Eva van Lier & Jan Don

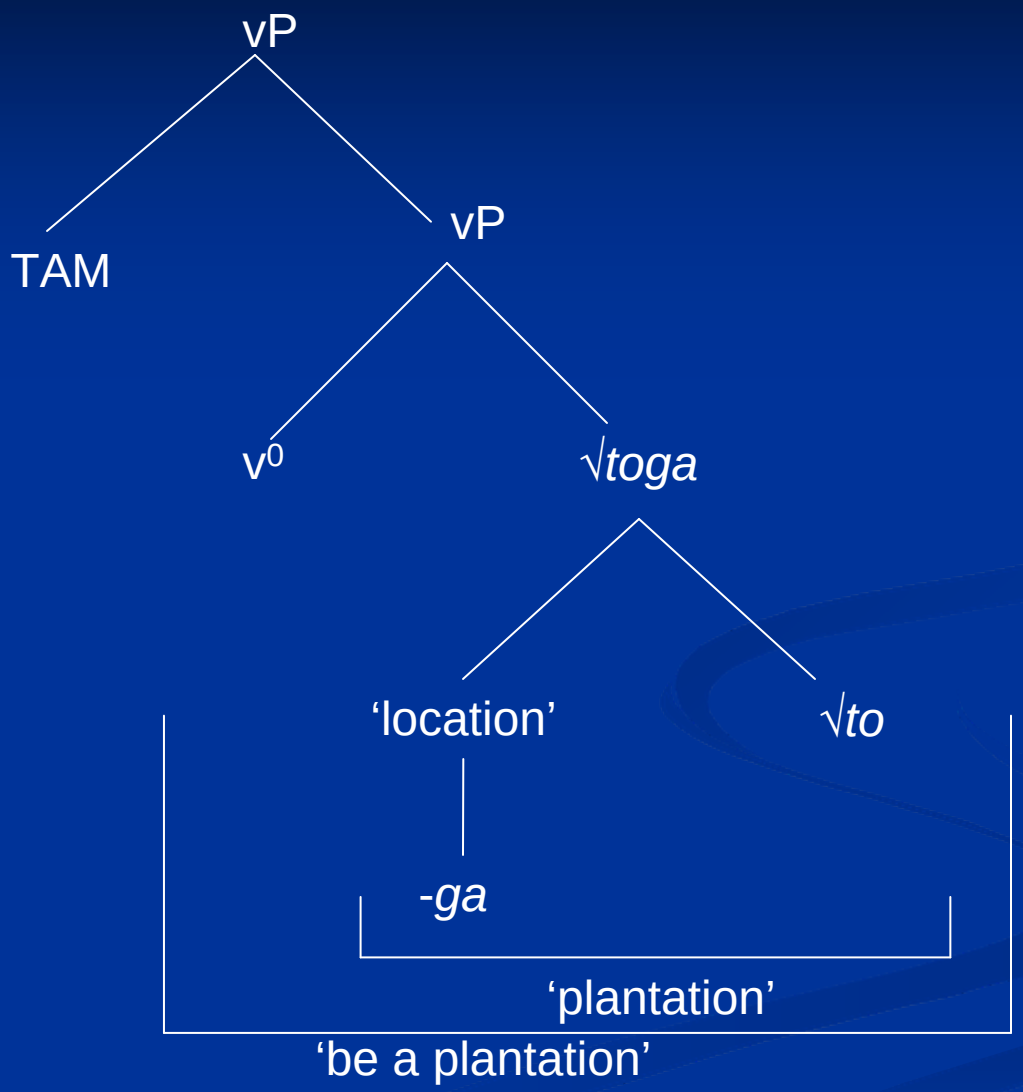
University of Amsterdam

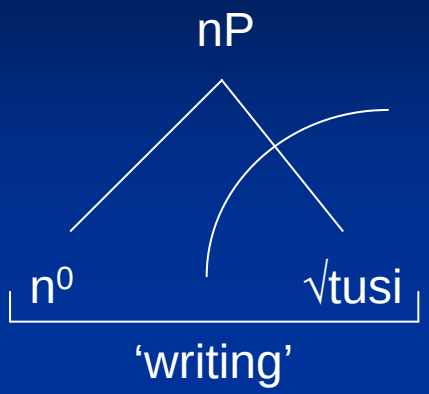
Outline of data presentation

- Flexibility: Semantically compositional syntactic categorization

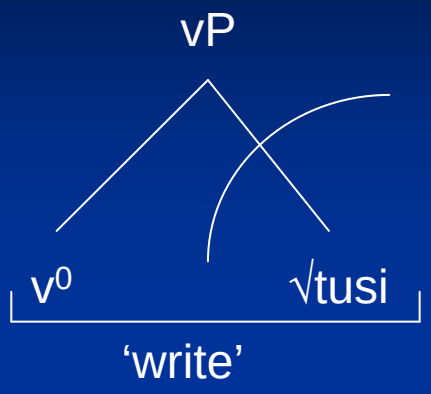
  → Phrase-level flexibility
- Derivation: overtly marked, semantically non-compositional lexical derivation
- Conversion: zero-marked, semantically non-compositional lexical derivation

  → Flexibility of (zero-)derived lexical items?

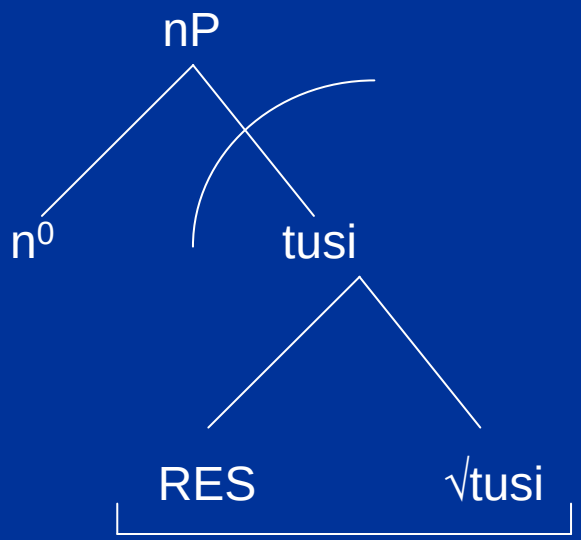

vP
TAM
vP
v0
√toga
‘location’
√to
-ga
‘plantation’
‘be a plantation’



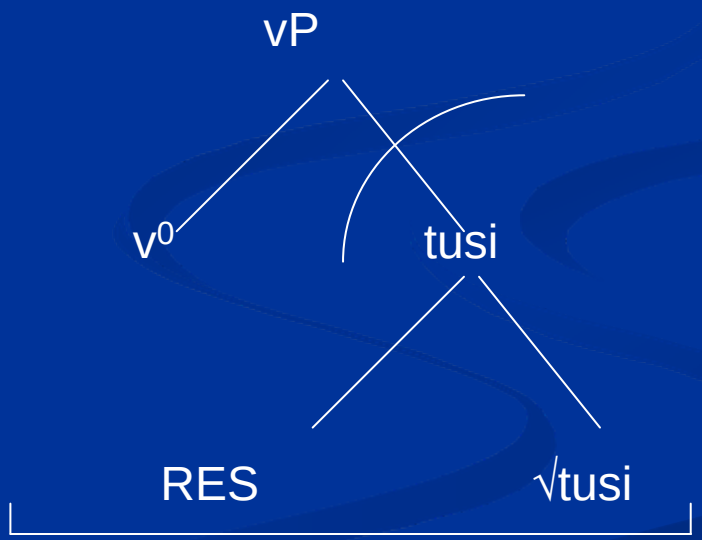
‘writing’



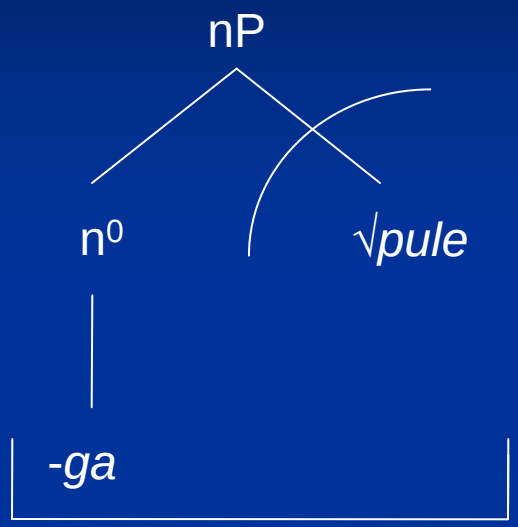
‘write’



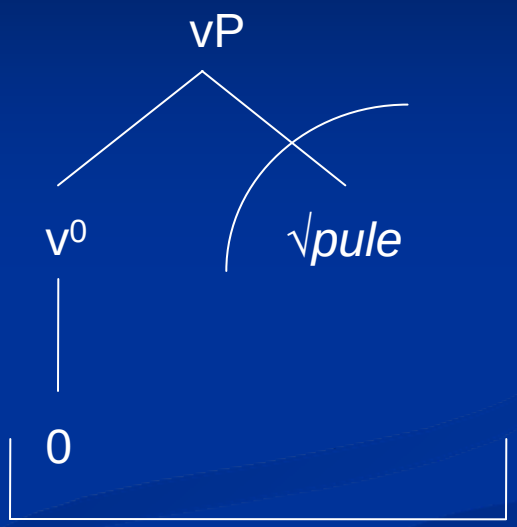
‘letter’



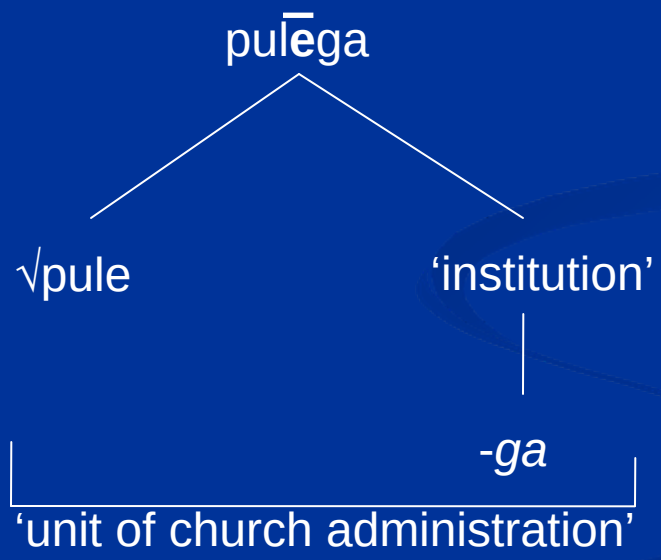
‘be a letter’

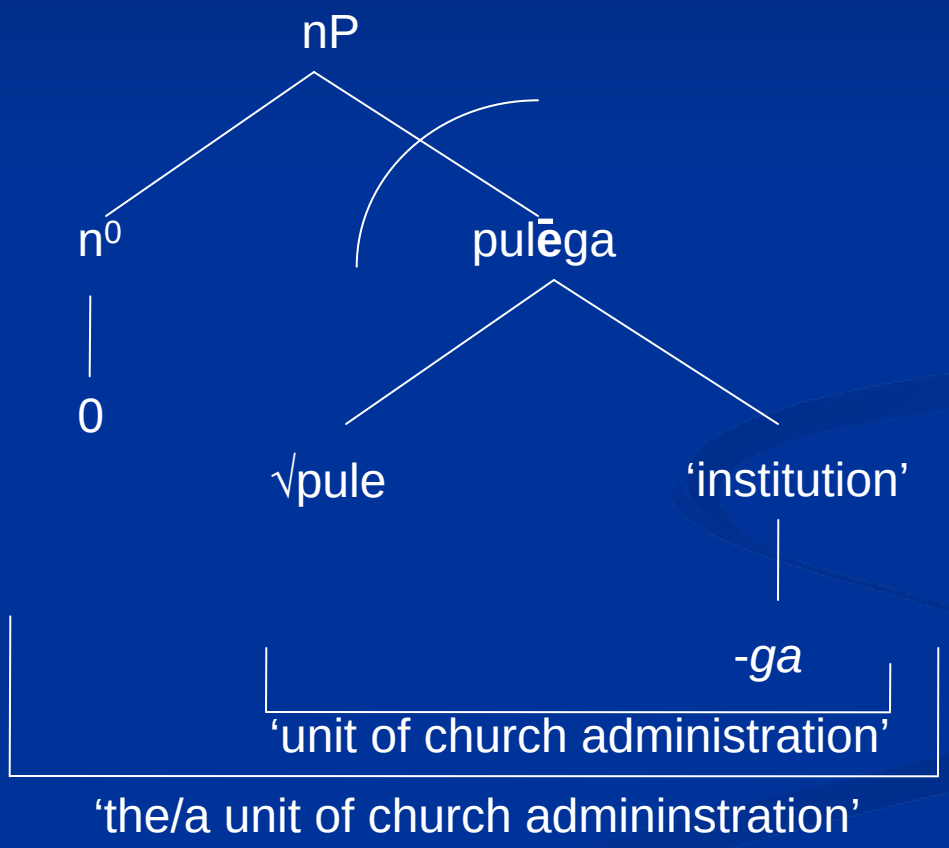


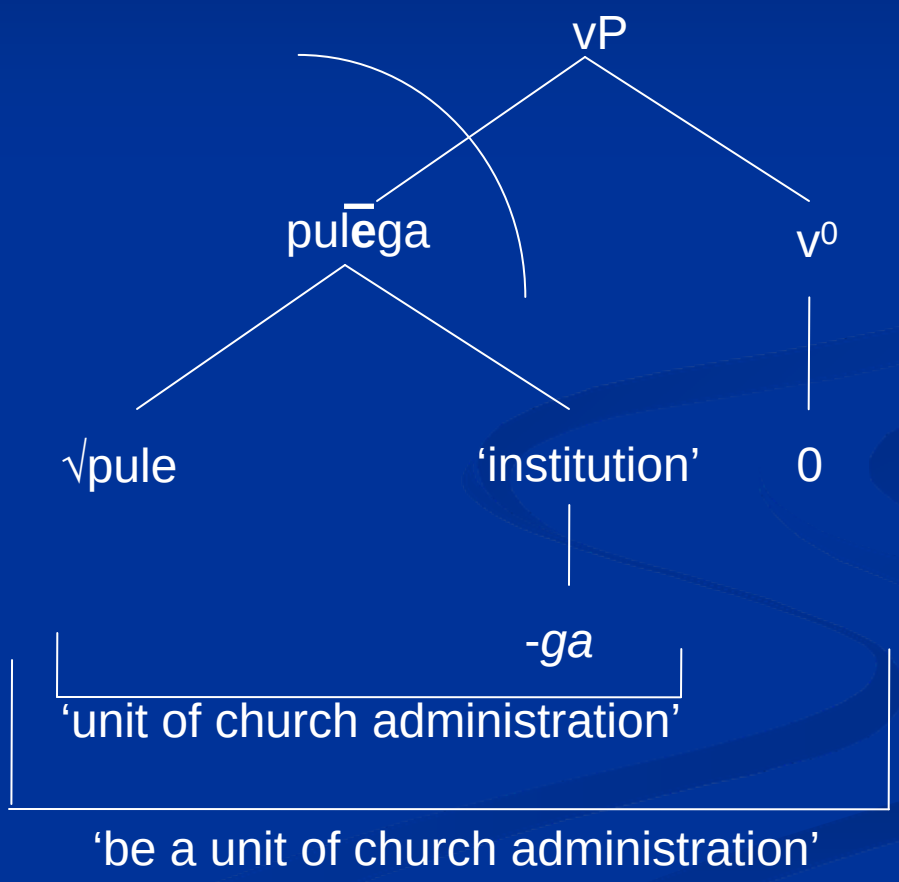
‘controlling’



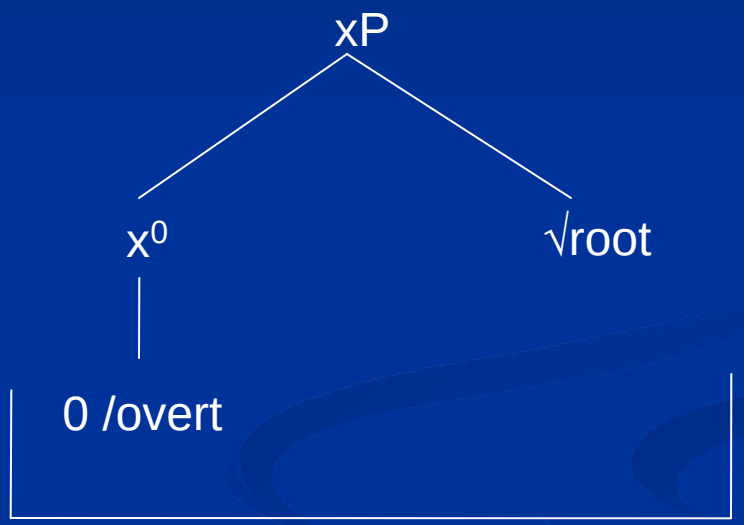
‘to control’


pulēga
√pule
‘institution’
-ga
‘unit of church administration’


nP
n0
pulēga
0
√pule
‘institution’
-ga
‘unit of church administration’
‘the/a unit of church admininstration’

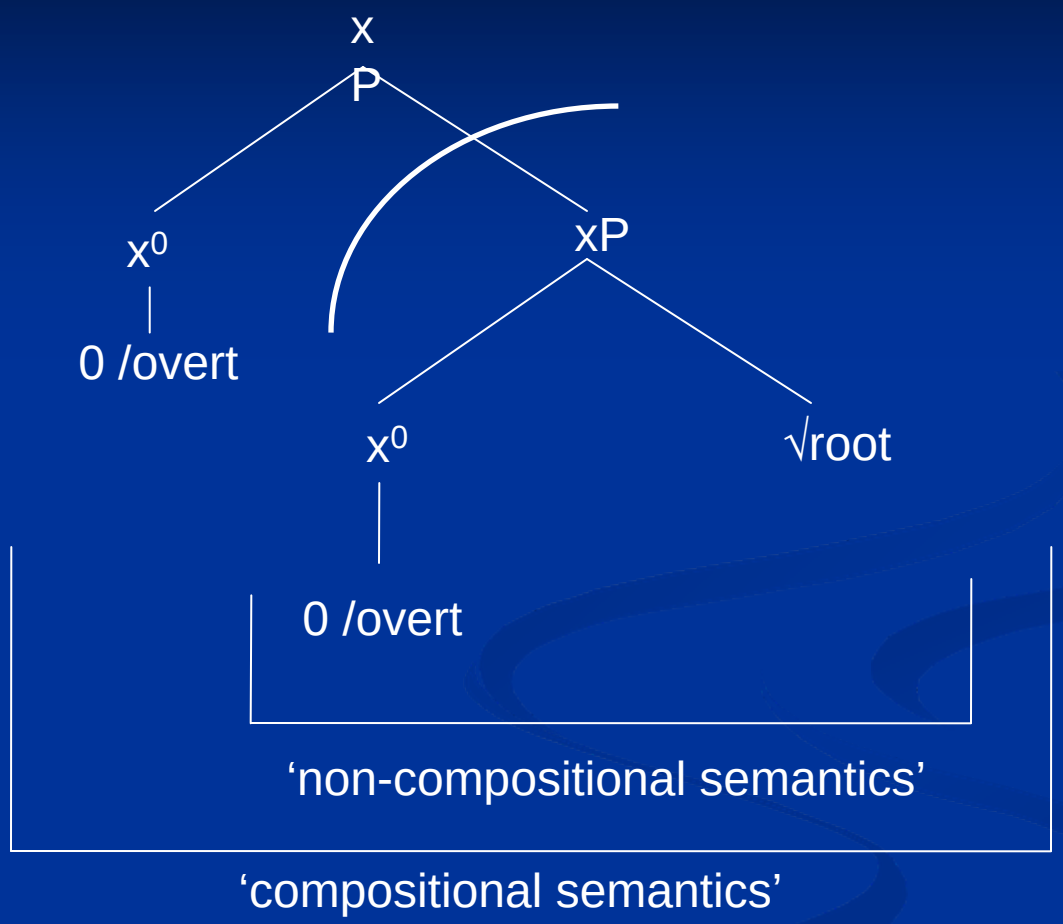

vP
pulēga
v0
√pule
‘institution’
0
-ga
‘unit of church administration’
‘be a unit of church administration’

Distributed Morphology (1)

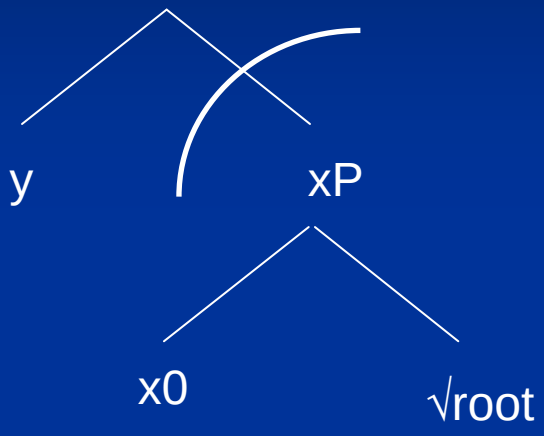
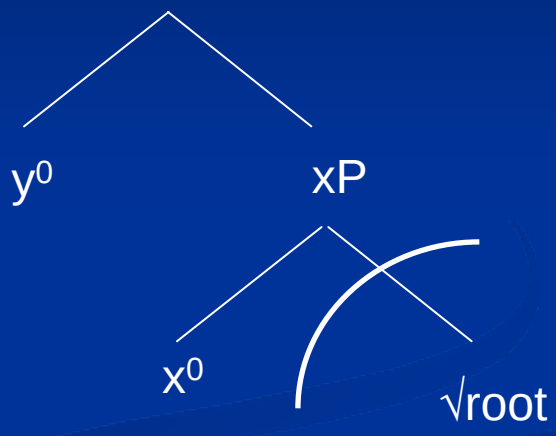


‘non-compositional semantics’

Distributed Morphology (2)



Differentiated languages



Flexible languages