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# Finite Verb Fronting in Main and Subordinate Clauses in English and Norwegian

Bachelor's project in Language Studies with Teacher Education  
Supervisor: Christopher Wilder

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Norwegian University of Science and Technology  
Faculty of Humanities  
Department of Language and Literature

 **NTNU**  
Norwegian University of  
Science and Technology



## Sammendrag

**Hensikt:** Hensikten med oppgaven var å utforske og analysere verbfronting i hoved- og leddsetninger i engelsk og norsk.

**Metode:** Oppgavens analysemetode er CP-IP-VP-modellen, en utvikling av X'-teorien. Det teoretiske rammeverket i oppgaven omhandler verbfronting og CP-IP-VP-modellen med et særlig fokus på verb og verbflytting. De fleste setninger analysert i oppgaven ble enten hentet direkte fra eller inspirert av Haegeman (2000), Weiner (2000), Bentzen et al. (2007) eller Åfarli & Eide (2003).

**Resultater:** Resultater fra analysene identifiserer flere hoved- og leddsetninger i engelsk og norsk hvor fenomenet verbfronting skjer. I norske hovedsetninger blir dette tatt for å være et resultat av V2-fenomenet. Analysen av hovedsetninger inkluderte spørrende hovedsetninger og hovedsetninger med fronting av et ikke-subjekt eller adverbial. Noen forskjeller ble identifisert mellom norsk og engelsk, som i tilfellet med fronting av et direkte objekt, en preposisjon eller et adverb, hvor de norske hovedsetningene viste verbfronting imens de engelske ikke gjorde det. Fronting av negative preposisjonsfraser identifiserte en bestemt egenskap for engelsk, hvor det utløste verbfronting. I leddsetninger ble betingede leddsetninger og leddsetninger med fronting av en negative preposisjonsfrase vist å utløse verbfronting i både norsk og engelsk. I leddsetninger hvor et ikke-subjekt, i dette tilfellet et direkte objekt, ble frontet utløste dette verbfronting i norsk, men ikke i engelsk.

## **Abstract**

**Aim:** The aim of this paper was to explore and analyse verb fronting in main and subordinate clauses in English and Norwegian.

**Method:** The method of analysis is the CP-IP-VP model, a development of the X'-theory. The theoretical framework of the paper outlines verb fronting and the CP-IP-VP model with a particular focus on verbs and verb movement. Most of the clauses analysed were either taken from or inspired by Haegeman (2000), Weiner (2000), Bentzen et al. (2007) or Åfarli & Eide (2003).

**Results:** The results of the analysis identifies several main and subordinate clauses in English and Norwegian where the phenomenon of verb fronting occurs. In Norwegian main clauses, this is taken to be a result of the V2 phenomenon. The main clauses analysed are interrogative clauses and main clauses exhibiting topicalization of a non-subject or adverbials. Some differences were identified between Norwegian and English, such as in the case of direct object fronting, preposition fronting and adverb fronting, where Norwegian clauses displayed verb fronting while the equivalent English clauses did not. Fronting of a negative prepositional phrase identified a distinct feature in English as fronting where it triggered a subject-auxiliary inversion. In subordinate clauses, conditional clauses and clauses containing topicalization of a negative prepositional phrase displayed verb fronting in both Norwegian and English. A subordinate clause where a non-subject, in this case a direct object, was fronted identified a difference, where the Norwegian clause displayed verb fronting while the English clause did not.

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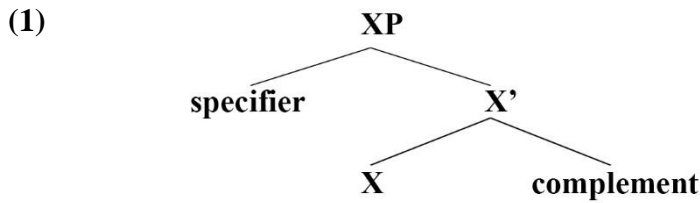
## **1. Introduction**

This paper presents an analysis of finite verb fronting in English and Norwegian clauses. Norwegian is a V2 language since “the finite verb is obligatorily the second constituent” (Holmberg, 2015) of a clause, with Norwegian having the rule account for main clauses specifically. Holmberg further states that Norwegian is a strict V2 language, with few exceptions to the rule of V2 within the constraint that it only applies to main clauses, most of them realized in non-standard dialects. Verb fronting in Norwegian clauses will be understood as a V2-related phenomenon, as any main or subordinate clause where the finite verb precedes the subject. English on the other hand is not a V2 language and the phenomenon of verb fronting will therefore not be a result of it. Rather, verb fronting in English is often termed subject-auxiliary inversion or subject-operator inversion, as in Weiner (2000). The model for analysis will be the CP-IP-VP structure, a development of the X'-theory. This method of analysis will be detailed in the theoretical framework of the paper. Verb fronting will be analysed in terms of I, the inflectional node, raising to C, the complementizer position and the head of the complementizer phrase (CP). These terms and abbreviations will all be explained, along with other relevant elements of the CP-IP-VP structure and theories relevant to the paper's main topic. The aim of the paper will be to explore and compare constructions in English and Norwegian where patterns of verb fronting are found. It is not intended to be a full overview of the phenomenon in either language; nor is it a guide to the CP-IP-VP structure.

## **2. Method of analysis**

The method of analysis in this paper will be based on the CP-IP-VP model, a development of the X'-theory. According to Åfarli & Eide (2003) there are several variants of the X'-theory. What all these variants have in common is the proposition that all phrases have a head which projects up to the phrasal level (Åfarli & Eide, 2003, p. 27). The head of a phrase will determine what sort of phrase it is. Haegeman & Guéron presents the following schema as “the blueprint for all structures in English (and in other languages)” (1999, p. 78):



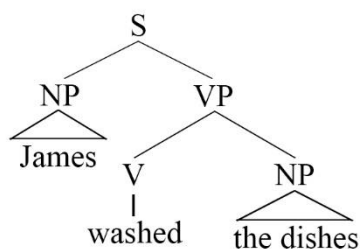


For the CP-IP-VP model, the head of the CP is a complementizer, the head of the IP an inflectional element and the head of the VP a verb. In this paper, as mentioned, verb fronting will be analyzed in terms of I movement to C. Complete CP-IP-VP diagrams can be seen from page 7, in (8) onwards. Verb fronting will be shown in clause structure diagrams, often referred to as trees. (1) is an example of such a diagram. The following theory will include verb fronting and detail the CP-IP-VP model and how it is used in clause structure analysis, particularly with regards to verbs and verb movement. This will in turn add to the method of analysis.

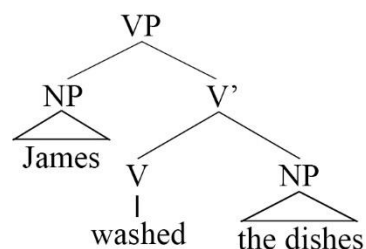
### 3. Theoretical framework

Åfarli & Eide (2003) describe the VP layer as a “basal layer”. The head of the VP layer is a verb, the main verb of the clause. A sentence is structurally a VP where the subject is in the specifier position of the phrase. The argument for the VP as the basal layer of a clause comes from the fact that the main verb is in part dictating the structure of the clause it is in (Åfarli & Eide, 2003, p. 41). The sentence is no longer headed by an S-marker, but by the verb, which according to the X'-theory would project a VP, as seen in (2b). However, this basic level of sentence structure analysis is by Åfarli & Eide deemed insufficient as a universal structure for Norwegian sentences, and the same is true for English, which will be shown. Åfarli & Eide, as well as others, propose two additional layers, the IP and the CP, which will come together with the VP to make the CP-IP-VP structure.

(2a) “James washed the dishes.”



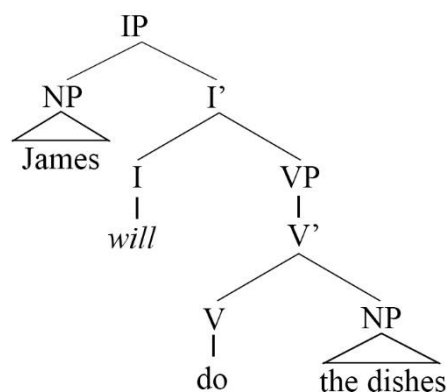
(2b) “James washed the dishes.”



Åfarli & Eide (2003) argue that inflection requires or at the very least makes way for the IP layer in phrase structure. It is identified that a Norwegian main clause will always contain only one inflectional element or inflectional affix, and that there is no link between inflection and types of verbs; the inflectional affix will always join with the first verb in the verb sequence. They also state that the inflectional element which is formed by the first verb in the sequence is itself the first element in the verb sequence, giving us the structure: "...inflection + verb + verb..." (Åfarli & Eide, 2003, p. 58). The existence of an IP separate from the VP (verb phrase) is argued thusly: By analyzing inflection as an element generated at the sentence level rather than at the verb phrase level, it is no stranger that a sentence only contains one inflectional element than it is that it contains only one main verb or only one subject (Åfarli & Eide, 2003, p. 58). When sentences are formed according to the X'-schema, as the phrase structure "grows up" from the head of each phrase, the inflectional element is separate to the verb(s) and other elements the verb phrase might contain. Haegeman & Guéron (1999) echoes Åfarli & Eide's sentiment and argues that S (2a) is a projection of the inflectional node that all sentences contain. The inflectional node houses the sentence's tense properties, i.e. whether the sentence is finite or non-finite, and is therefore stated as the head of the sentence itself. Haegeman & Guéron uses the finite modal auxiliary *will* and the non-finite *to* in subordinate clauses to illustrate this (1999, p. 94). A similar demonstration is done in (3a) and (3b). Note how the inflectional element determines the tense of the entire clause (only the bracketed parts of the sentences are analyzed):

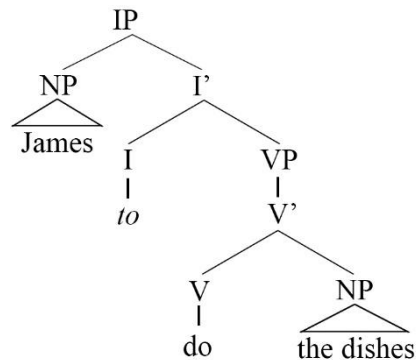
**(3a) Finite: Determined by the finite *will***

"I hope that [James *will* do the dishes]"



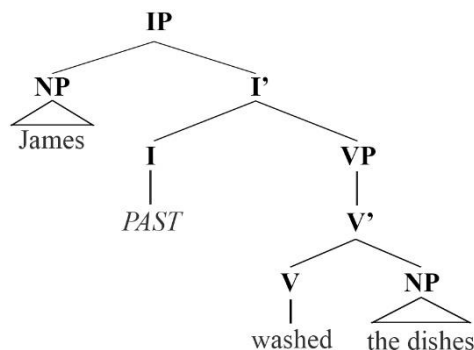
**(3b)** Non-finite: Determined by the non-finite *to*

*“I hope for [James to do the dishes]”*



In English, the inflectional node selects for the form of the finite verb in its sentence. Lexical verbs do not raise to I and the inflectional element rather moves down to V (Åfarli & Eide, 2003). This phenomenon is known as affix hopping (Hagstrom, 2000; Åfarli & Eide, 2003) because tense as the inflectional element “hops” down to the verb and provides the appropriate affix for conjugation, such as *-ed* for the past tense (4). Why the expression of “moving down” probably should be avoided will be discussed in the next paragraph. One exception to the theory of affix hopping in English clauses is modal auxiliary verbs (Hagstrom, 2000) such as *will* in (3a), which as shown occupies the I position while the verb in V stays put. The auxiliaries *have* and *be* are unique cases, as they obligatorily raise to I instead of affix hopping (Hagstrom, 2000, p. 11).

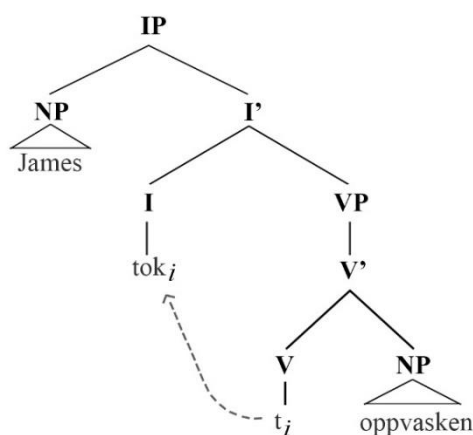
**(4)** *“James washed the dishes.”*



For Norwegian however, the matter is different. Åfarli & Eide (2003) stress that movement

*always* occurs upwards in the tree structure, *never* downwards (Åfarli & Eide, 2003, p. 61) and that in Norwegian, the verb which is the head of the VP moves up into the position of I, as in (5). An arrow is included in (5) to illustrate how V has raised to I, but the analysis in this paper will simply use trace-markers *t* and trace-identifiers, which in the case of (5) is *i*. Åfarli & Eide also explain that although movement downwards in the tree structure cannot occur, there is a different way of understanding affix hopping, what they term *steering* (Norwegian noun: *Styring*); Inflection is transferred from I to V without the occurrence of movement. This theory is applied when analyzing languages where V-movement to I does not occur, such as English (Åfarli & Eide, 2003, p. 82), and justifies the idea of affix hopping.

(5) “James tok oppvasken.”



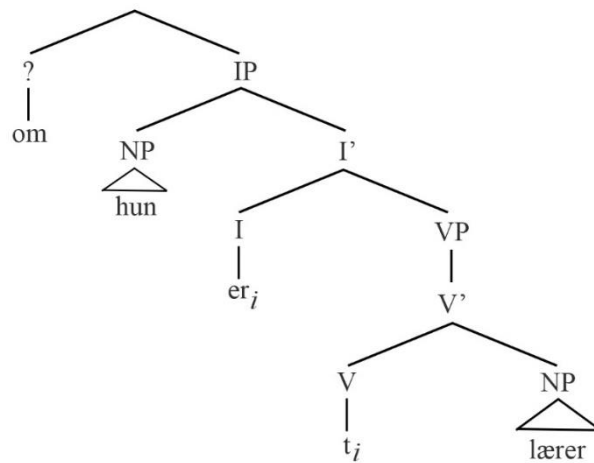
This IP-VP structure seems a good starting point for sentence structure analysis, but Åfarli & Eide (2003) are quick to point out that it falls short when analyzing e.g. subordinate clauses in Norwegian. Hagstrom (2000) states that in English, it is fairly clear that a complementizer (C) must be the head of the S' growing up to the S (sentence). Thereby, sticking to the X'-schema, this head C would project a CP. This is eventually the same conclusion Åfarli & Eide arrive at, but a brief discussion of their 'evidence' for this claim is warranted. First, they look at a set of subordinate clauses, such as the one in (6):

(6) (Han vil finne ut) **om** hun er lærer.

The main clause “Han vil finne ut” is put in parentheses and the subordinating conjunction “om” is in bold. Åfarli & Eide’s claim is this: Since subordinate clauses contain a finite verb, the theory of V raising to I must apply to them as well, and the subject must therefore also have moved from the specifier of VP, SpecVP, to the specifier of IP, SpecIP (Åfarli & Eide, 2003, p. 66). Subsequently, the subordinating conjunction “om” must be outside of the IP. This construction is shown in (7).

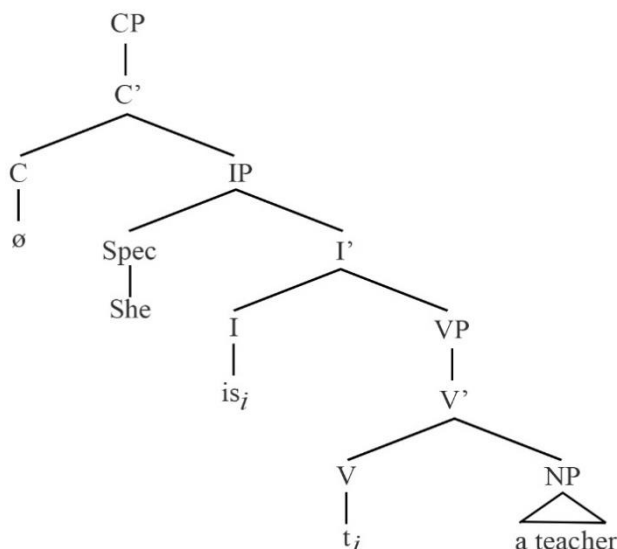
(7) “*Han vil finne ut [om hun er lærer].*”

(Han vil finne ut)



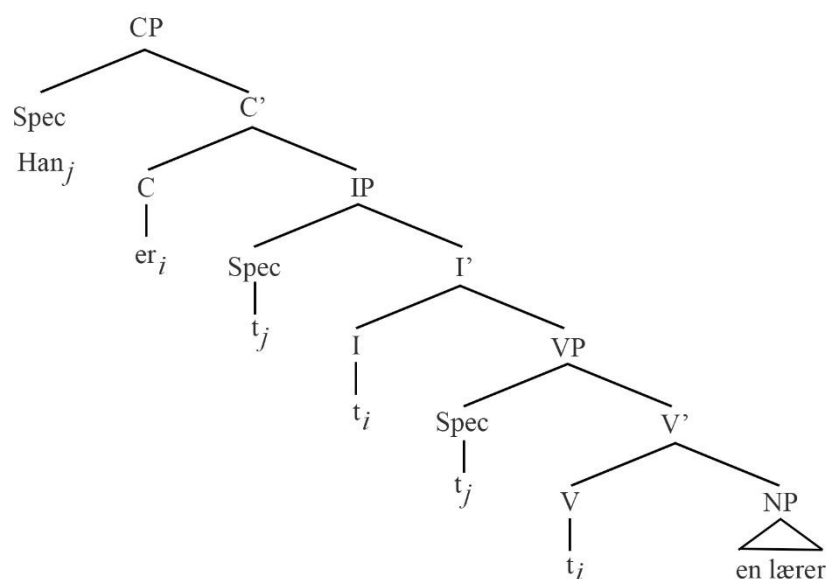
The resulting structure shows that the subordinating conjunction “om” is itself a head projecting a phrase, but what sort of phrase? Åfarli & Eide (2003) suggest that it is a CP, a complementizer phrase. They also suggest that this new CP-IP-VP structure should apply to main clauses as well as subordinate clauses. A new question then arises: What occupies the position of C when it is not a complementizer, such as in a main clause? Van Gelderen states the following: “If the CP is a main clause, its C indicates the mood (indicative, interrogative, imperative, etc) ... If the CP is an embedded clause, it links itself to another clause by means of a complementizer and hence the name Complementizer Phrase.” (2013, p. 189). So the position of C plays a role, but is sometimes not realized. Åfarli & Eide term it an abstract operator. The C is null and unpronounced. In English, this would give us a sentence structure such as in (8); unpronounced C is indicated by  $\emptyset$ .

(8) “*She is a teacher.*”



Åfarli & Eide (2003) claim that the C position in Norwegian main clauses is obligatorily occupied by the finite verb, and this creates the phenomenon of V2. The verb first raises to I to receive tense and then to C, obligatorily. This would give a structure such as in (8), showing how the verb raises from V to I to C and how the subject moves from SpecVP to SpecIP to SpecCP. The subject will from now on be understood as existing in SpecIP in both Norwegian and English. Its movement from SpecVP to SpecIP will not be included in analysis. There have been several cases made for a split CP or an expanded CP (Van Gelderen, 2004; Haegeman, 2000). This would involve expanding the CP into several projections, typically involving Force, Topic, Foci and Finiteness, but with a multitude of different variants. An expanded CP will not be included in the analysis in this paper, and in any structure where this would apply the constituents will be understood as being adjoined at the ' -level, with C representing the internal features which, as discussed, may give rise to several other projections.

(9) “*Han er en lærer.*”



Now that the relevant parts of the CP-IP-VP structure have been presented, this model will be used in an analysis of verb fronting in main and subordinate clauses in English and Norwegian. For English, this phenomenon is often termed subject-operator inversion or subject-auxiliary inversion (Weiner, 2000). This paper will analyze verb fronting in English in terms of I moving to C in the phrase structure. Weiner (2000) details the types of English clauses where this inversion occurs, such as when forming questions and when fronting a

negative expression. These examples will be further discussed later in the paper along with Norwegian equivalents. In Norwegian, verb fronting is down to the phenomenon of V2. As mentioned, Norwegian is a V2 language and according to Holmberg (2015), the V2 rule in Norwegian states that the verb must be the second constituent of a sentence in all main clauses. As mentioned, the V2 rule does not apply to subordinate clauses in Norwegian. For this paper's analysis, this means that the verb raises to the position of C and for the case of verb fronting, that the subject does not raise to SpecCP, so that the finite verb precedes the subject.

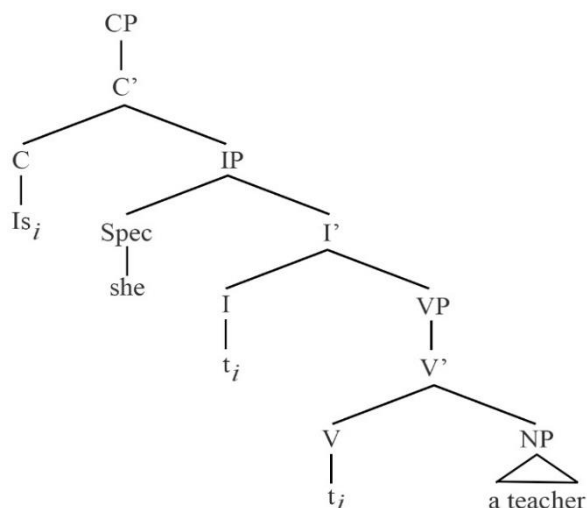
### 3. Analysis of verb fronting in English and Norwegian

#### 3.1 Main clauses

##### 3.1.1 Interrogative main clauses

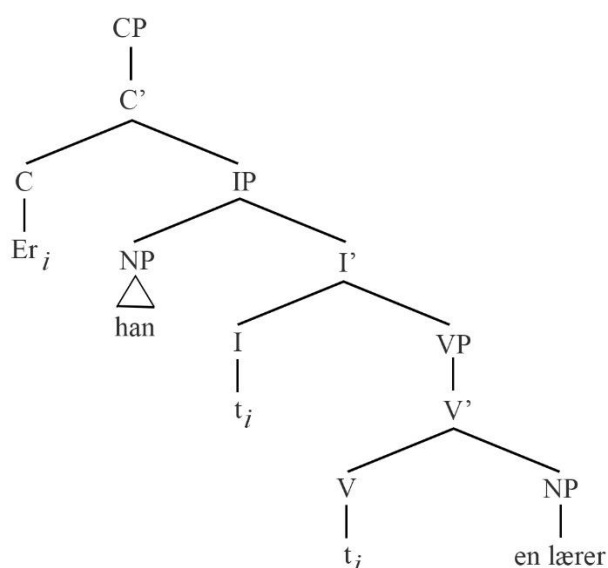
Weiner (2000) gives an overview of verb fronting in English. First, it is stated that “subject-operator inversion is common in questions” (Weiner, 2000, p. 62), i.e. when forming interrogative sentences, and that there are two types of interrogatives: yes-no questions and *wh*-phrases. When forming interrogative sentences, “the operator is placed before the subject (subject-operator inversion)” (Weiner, 2000, p. 242). The only interrogative sentences this does not apply to is *wh*-questions where the *wh*-item is the subject, such as “Who is eating cake?”. This analysis will look at two yes-no questions in (10), (11), (12) and (13). (14) and (15) are *wh*-questions. The analysis will focus on verb fronting and any other cases of movement will either be omitted or not analysed in full detail. These cases are not the focus of this paper.

(10) "Is she a teacher?"



This analysis can be understood by comparing the interrogative “Is she a teacher?” with the declarative “She is a teacher”, which is shown in (8). In the interrogative, the present form of the auxiliary *be* first raises to I as it would in a declarative clause, but then subsequently raises to C to form the interrogative. This places the auxiliary in front of the subject in the clause, a subject-auxiliary inversion. The next analysis in (11) shows an equivalent yes-no question in Norwegian:

(11) “*Er han en lærer?*”



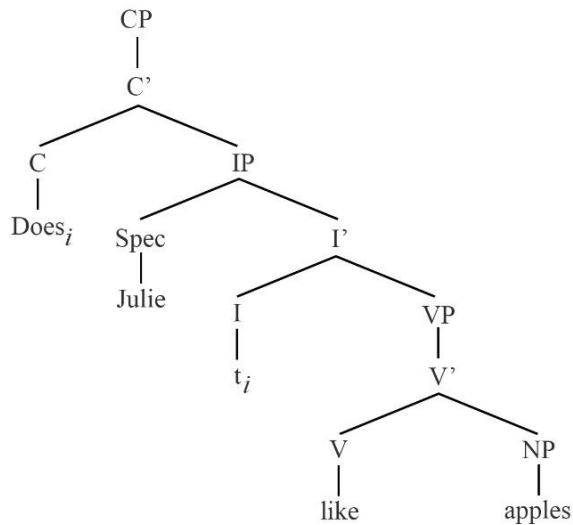
Again, the finite auxiliary is now placed before the subject in the clause. As seen earlier, forming declarative main clauses in Norwegian often involves raising the subject to the specifier position of the CP, because the finite verb must raise to C. This V to I to C movement is not exclusive to declarative sentences however (Åfarli & Eide, 2003; NTNU undervisning, 2012). This type of interrogative in Norwegian seems to be formed by not raising the subject to specifier of CP and thereby leaving that specifier position ‘empty’.

While raising I to C is often applicable when forming interrogatives in English, there are several instances where it is not. If the finite verb is not an auxiliary and is rather a main verb located in the position of V, it cannot raise to I and rather receives its inflection through affix-hopping (Hagstrom, 2000) and the principle of steering (Åfarli & Eide, 2003) in declarative sentences. Attempting to apply the same idea as in (10) to a sentence like “Julie likes apples.” would result in a grammatical error: “Likes Julie apples?”. Forming a grammatically correct interrogative here would require *do-support*. Do-support is described as “a last-resort mechanism that applies to save a stranded tense/agreement affix” (Bruening, 2010, p. 44).



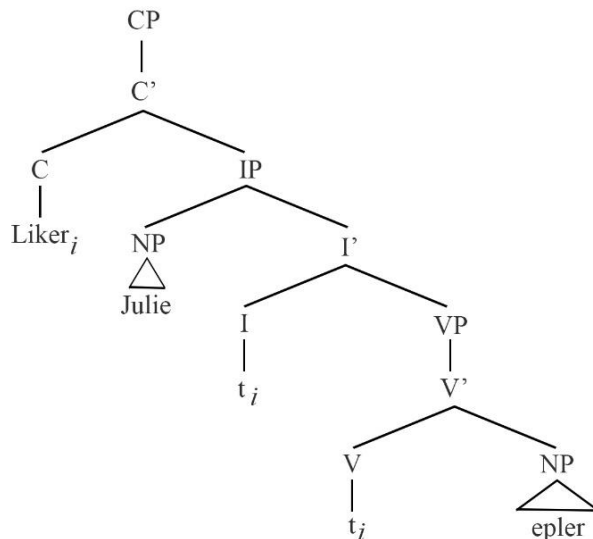
Hagstrom (2000) provides a similar explanation, describing how do-support is only applied when tense is unsupported:

(12) “Does Julie like apples?”



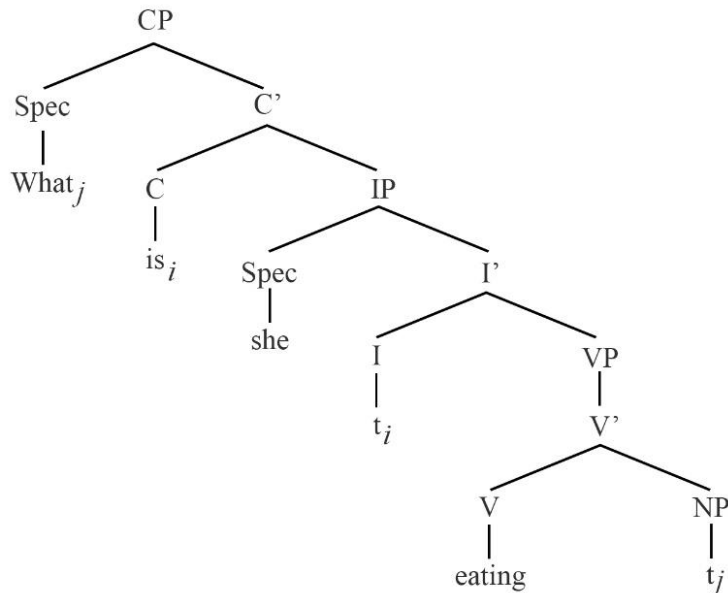
This analysis shows that tense is supported by the insertion of *do* in I, which then subsequently raises to C to form the interrogative, a subject-auxiliary inversion. Equivalent Norwegian interrogatives do not require do-support since, in all Norwegian main clauses, V raises to I and then to C, receiving tense in I and moving up into the V2 position. Therefore, forming an interrogative of the Norwegian “Julie liker epler.” applies the same movement as in (11) by not raising the subject “Julie” to SpecCP:

(13) “Liker Julie epler?”



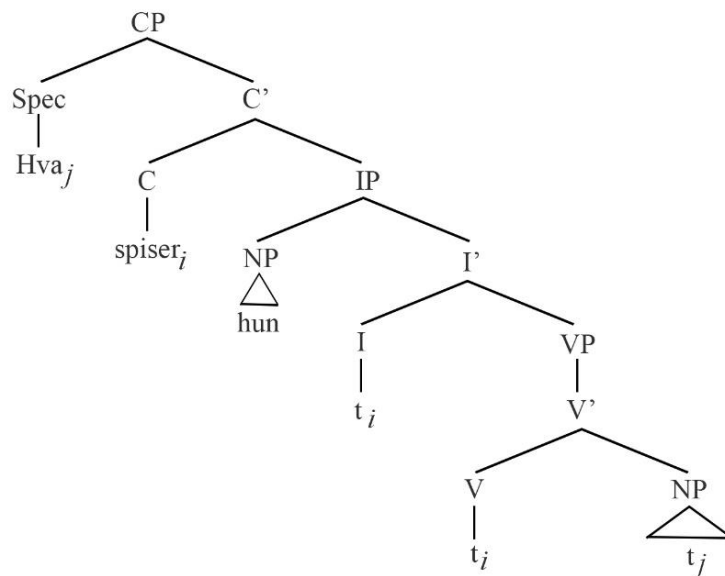
The next analysis is of *wh*-questions. While *wh*-questions in English are formed not just by fronting the verb, verb fronting does occur:

(14) “*What is she eating?*”



The auxiliary *is* which, as discussed, obligatorily raises to I in English sentences, subsequently raises further up the structure to C. Another case of movement in yes-no questions seems to be that the direct object raises to specifier of CP, which is shown by the trace *t<sub>j</sub>* in (14). This object-movement will not be discussed further. The raising of I to C and the NP to specifier of CP puts the finite verb in the second position in the clause structure, but it is still fronted relative to the subject *she*. Norwegian does not have present progressive forms such as English does, so a translation of a declarative present progressive sentence such as “She is eating cake.” would translate to “Hun spiser kake.”. When forming the *wh*- or *hv*-interrogative, a Norwegian *hv*-item is inserted in the specifier position of the CP and the subject is left in the specifier position of the IP. With the *hv*-item in SpecCP, the subject cannot raise any further and is left in SpecIP, situated after the finite verb in the sentence:

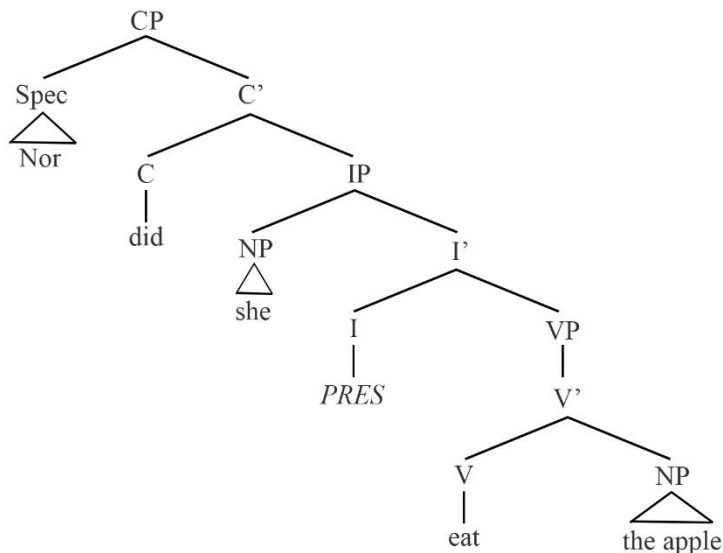
(15) “Hva spiser hun?”



### 3.1.2 Topicalization and adverbials

Another example of English main clauses where the verb can be fronted is clauses containing *nor* (Weiner, 2000, p. 322). :

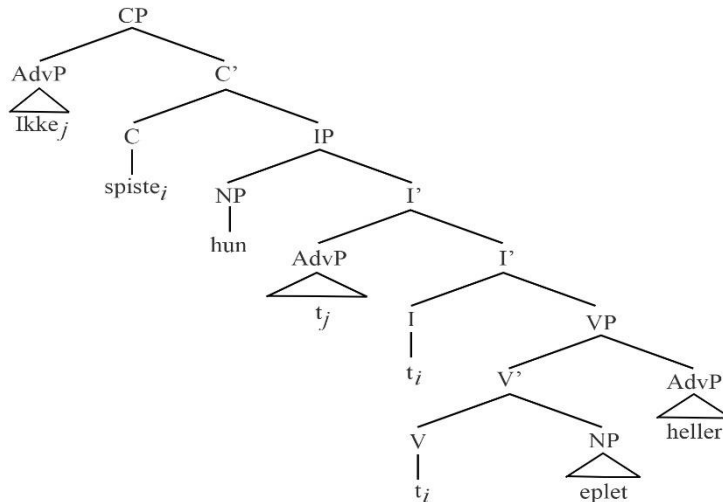
(16) “Nor did she eat the apple.”



According to Weiner, *nor* and *yet* are best regarded as conjunctive adverbs. Their affect on the inversion of the subject and the auxiliary differ from adverbs, as will be shown later. Again, the construction in (16) is an example of do-support, as *do* is inserted in I to receive tense and then raises to C. An equivalent Norwegian sentence to (16) could be “Ikke spiste hun eplet

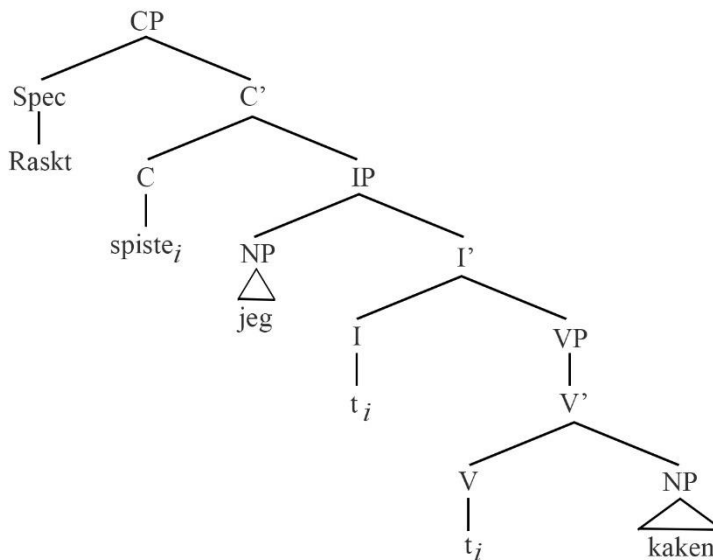
heller.”, since Norwegian has no direct single word equivalent to *nor*. When fronting the negative expression, the finite verb comes before the subject in the sentence, just as it does in the English example.

(17) “Ikke spiste hun eplet heller.”



In clauses containing *yet*, as Weiner (2000) brings up, the verb is not fronted. In Norwegian however, when an adverb or conjunctive adverb is fronted to SpecCP in Norwegian, the finite verb will still be in the V2 position. This results in it coming before the subject in the clause:

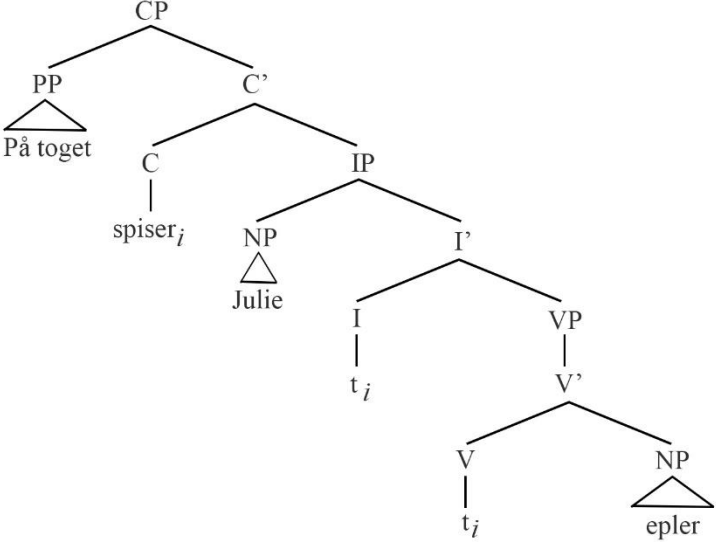
(18) “Raskt spiste jeg kaken.”



The same is true for fronting of prepositional phrases, and in fact, most if not all occurrences of topicalization to SpecCP in Norwegian declarative main clauses seem to initiate verb fronting. In (19a) and (19b), a prepositional phrase is fronted (\* marks a grammatically incorrect sentence and is here the result of direct translation). Note how the verb precedes the

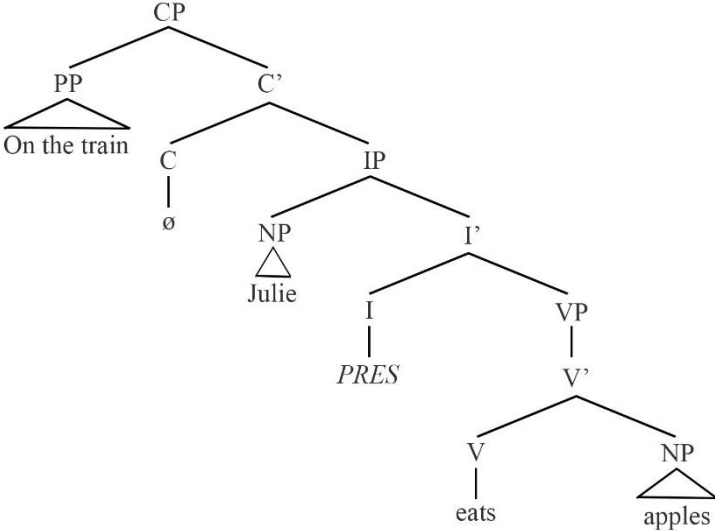
subject in all the Norwegian sentences while the English sentences keep the subject before the verb, even when another phrase is fronted to the specifier of CP, except in (20).

(19a) “På toget spiser Julie epler.”



(19b) \*“On the train eats Julie apples.”

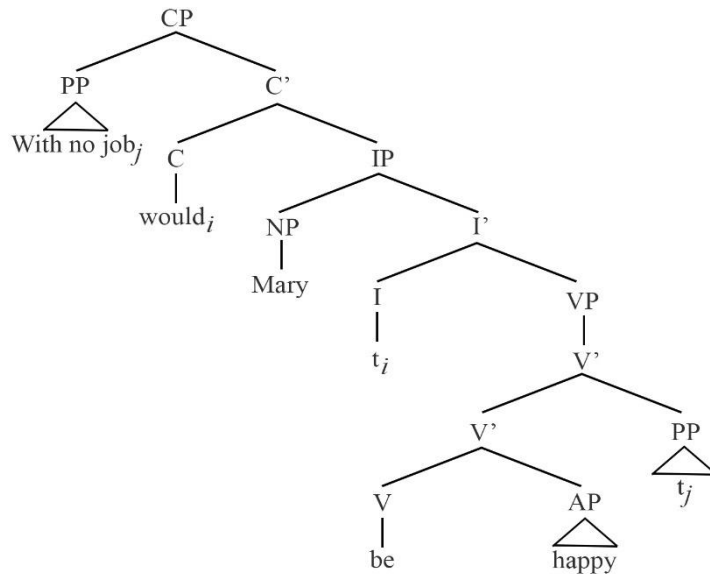
“On the train, Julie eats apples.”



There are English main clauses where a prepositional phrase (PP) is fronted and subject-auxiliary inversion occurs. Haegeman (2000) examines the differences between (20) and the sentence: “With no job, Mary would be happy.”. (20) shows the construction where the fronted negative PP “With no job” triggers a subject-auxiliary inversion. Haegeman argues that this is partly due to the fact that the negative quantifier *no* in the fronted PP in (20) “takes

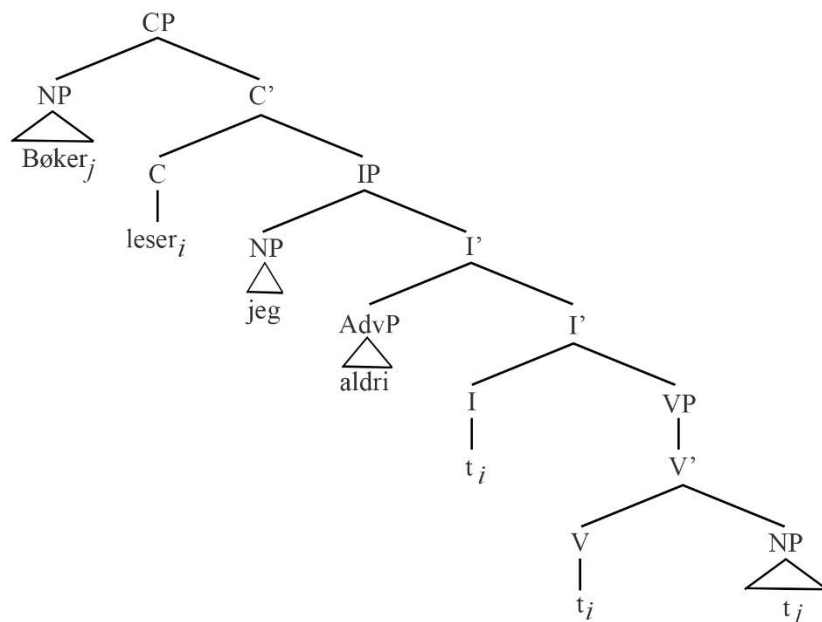
scope over the dominating clause” (2000, p. 57). She also argues that the fronted PP in (20) functions as a negative operator while it does not do so in “With no job, Mary would be happy”.

(20) “With no job would Mary be happy.” (Haegeman, 2000, p. 21)



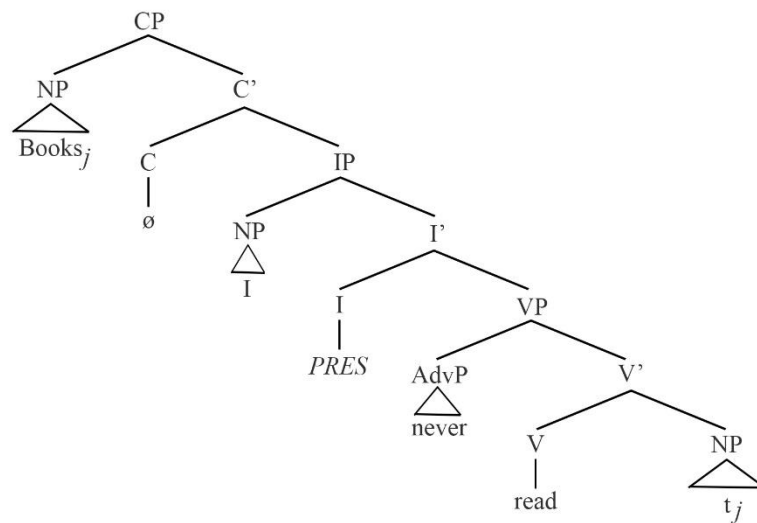
In (21a) and (21b) the direct object is fronted. The finite verb in (21a) raises to C as it must in Norwegian, but the subject raises no further than to the specifier position of the IP. The verb is fronted. In the English (21b) however, the finite verb does not raise to C because it cannot in the first place raise to I. It is given tense by the phenomenon of affix hopping. The verb is not fronted.

(21a) “Bøker leser jeg aldri.”



(21b) \**“Books read I never.”*

*“Books, I never read.”*



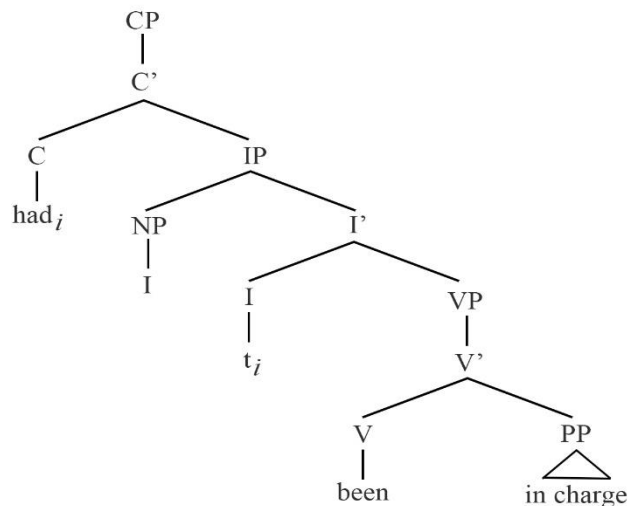
Topicalization of an element that is not the subject, such as an adverbial or the direct object, to SpecCP in Norwegian seems to block the subject from raising any further than SpecIP, leaving it after the verb in the sentence.

## 3.2 Subordinate clauses

### 3.2.1 Conditional clauses

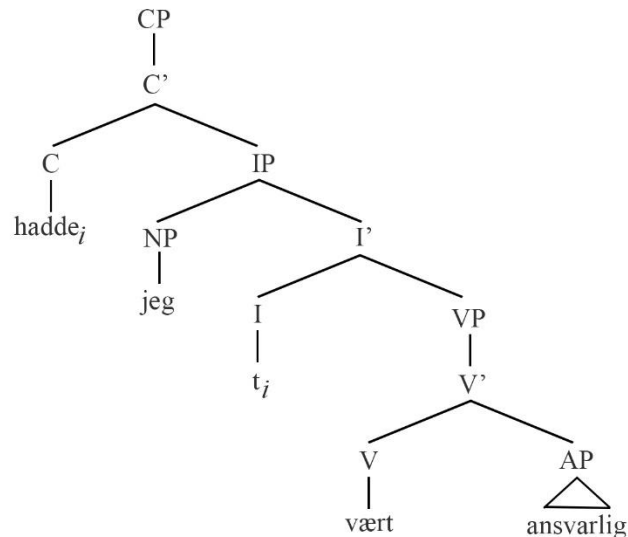
Weiner (2000) provides some overview for the occurrence of verb fronting in subordinate clauses in English. One example is the conditional clause, such as in (22). Only the bracketed elements of the sentence are analysed in the clause structure tree:

(22) *“[Had I been in charge] we wouldn’t be in this mess.”*



Conditional clauses are traditionally headed by a complementizer such as *if* or *whether* (Weiner, 2000), but in the absence of such a subordinator, the auxiliary raises to C and forms a subject-auxiliary inversion use. In Norwegian, the same structure occurs in (23). Note that Norwegian has no direct translation of the concept “in charge”, so the approximate “ansvarlig” is chosen for its typical use in similar situations:

(23) “[*Hadde jeg vært ansvarlig*] ville vi ikke vært i denne knipen.”

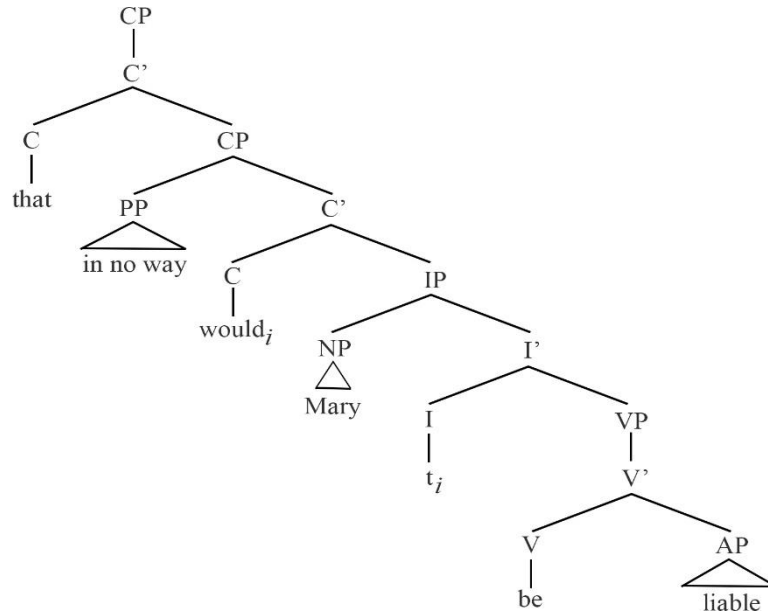


### 3.2.3 Topicalization of a negative prepositional phrase

Haegeman (2000) illustrates a subject-auxiliary inversion in embedded clauses with a fronted negative PP. Similarly to the inversion in (20), the inversion in (24) is triggered by a fronted negative PP, but in a subordinate clause, introduced by “that”. The analysis in (24) follows Haegeman & Guéron’s (1999) suggestion that some preposed PPs can be argued to be adjoined to the CP and the remarks on expanded CP made earlier. Since the idea that verb fronting or subject-auxiliary inversion is understood in terms of I raising to C, the PP is adjoined to CP to retain this theory. Again, only the bracketed string of words is analyzed.

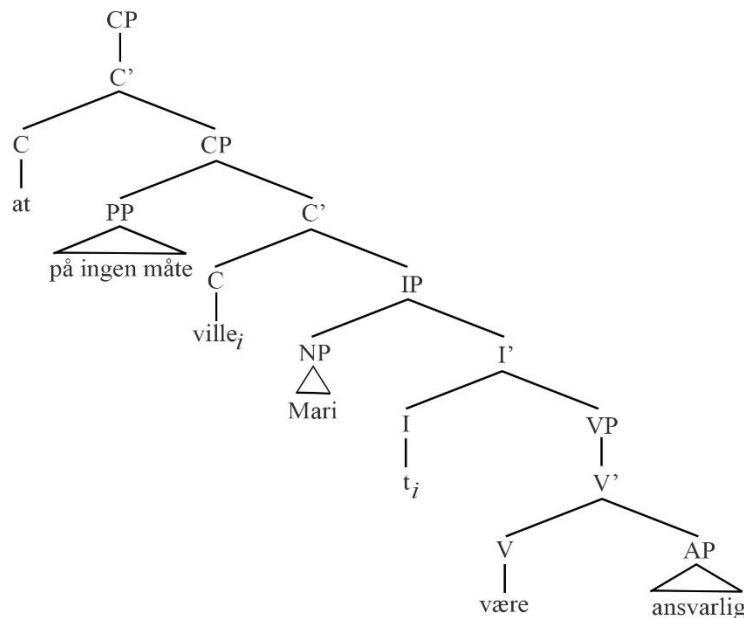


(24) “The policeman told us [that in no way would Mary be liable.]”



As the analysis shows, the modal auxiliary *would* raises from I to C and therefore comes before the subject *Mary*, a subject-auxiliary inversion. The same construction where the negative PP is topicalized is possible in Norwegian, although rare; the same could be stated for English.

(25) “Politimannen fortalte oss [at på ingen måte ville Mary være ansvarlig].»

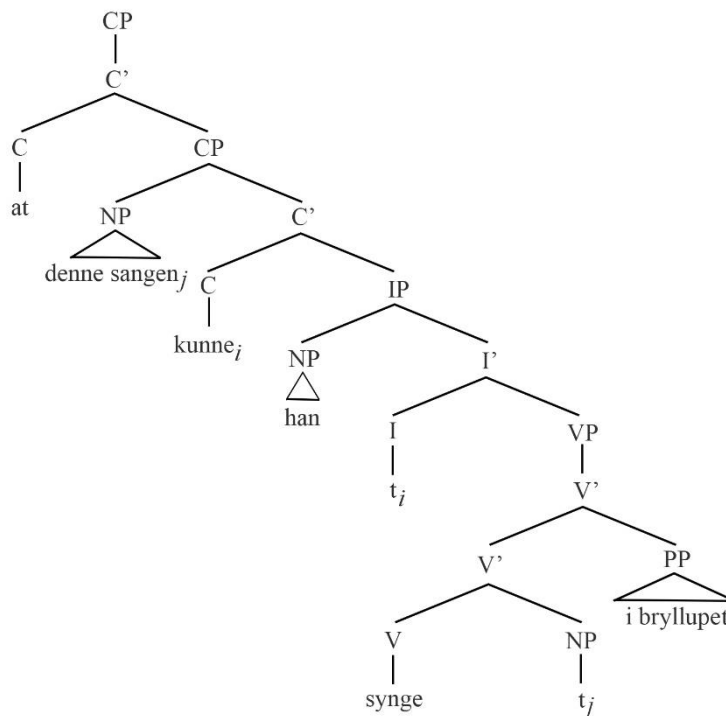


### 3.2.4 Non-subject topicalization in Norwegian subordinate clauses

As explained, the V2 phenomenon in Norwegian applies to main clauses specifically and does not include subordinate clauses. As seen in e.g. (23) and (25) however, this does not inhibit the possibility of verb fronting in Norwegian subordinate clauses. Bentzen, Hrafnjagarson, Hróarsdóttir & Wiklund (2007) provide an example of such a subordinate clause where a direct object is fronted within the clause:

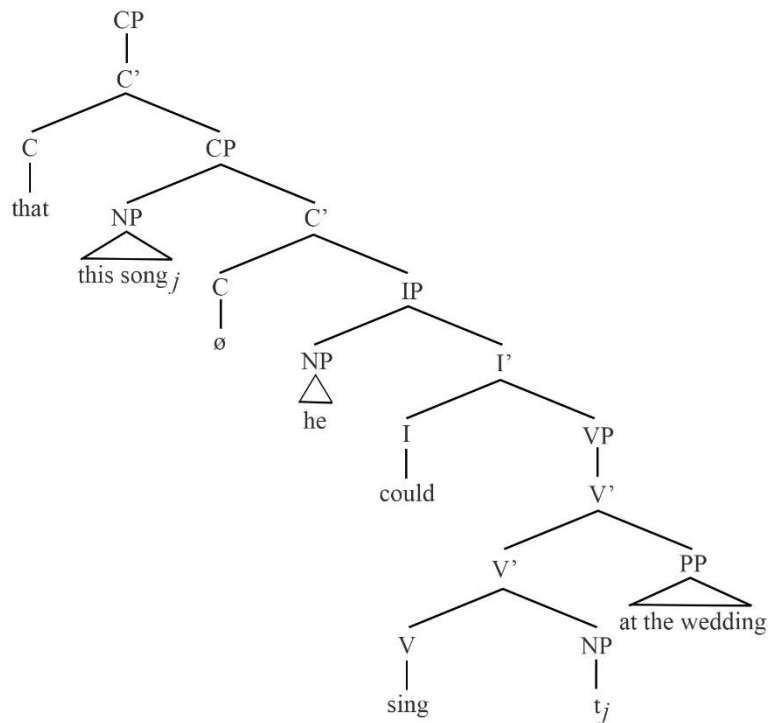
(26) “*Han sa [at denne sangen kunne han synge i bryllupet.]*”

(Bentzen et al., 2007, p. 98)



In (27), the topicalization of “denne sangen” results in I raising to C. In English, this same construction does not result in the verb being fronted. As shown in (27), topicalization of the non-subject “this song” does not trigger a subject-auxiliary inversion.

(27) “He said [that this song, he could sing at the wedding].”



#### 4. Summary

This paper has explored the phenomenon of verb fronting in main and subordinate clauses in English and Norwegian. As stated in the introduction, the paper is not intended as a complete overview of the occurrence of verb fronting in either English or Norwegian. Nor is it a guide to the CP-IP-VP model. Theories of generative grammar and the phenomenon of verb fronting have served as a foundation for the analysis in the paper, with a particular focus on verb movement. The V2 phenomenon, which applies to Norwegian main clauses, has been shown to form constructions containing verb fronting in Norwegian which are not possible in English. As an example, topicalization or fronting of a direct object in a main clause in English does not trigger subject-auxiliary inversion, but in Norwegian, the V2 rule stands firm and the verb is fronted, preceding the subject. No case of English subject-auxiliary inversion has been analysed where the equivalent Norwegian translation did not or could not contain a similar inversion. This is not an indication that such a construction does not exist, but can illustrate some of the scope of the V2 phenomenon in Norwegian main clauses. The V2 rule does not apply to subordinate clauses in Norwegian, but several cases of V2 word order in such clauses have been analysed, such as conditional clauses, where an inversion of the subject and the finite verb can substitute for the conditional subordinator.

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