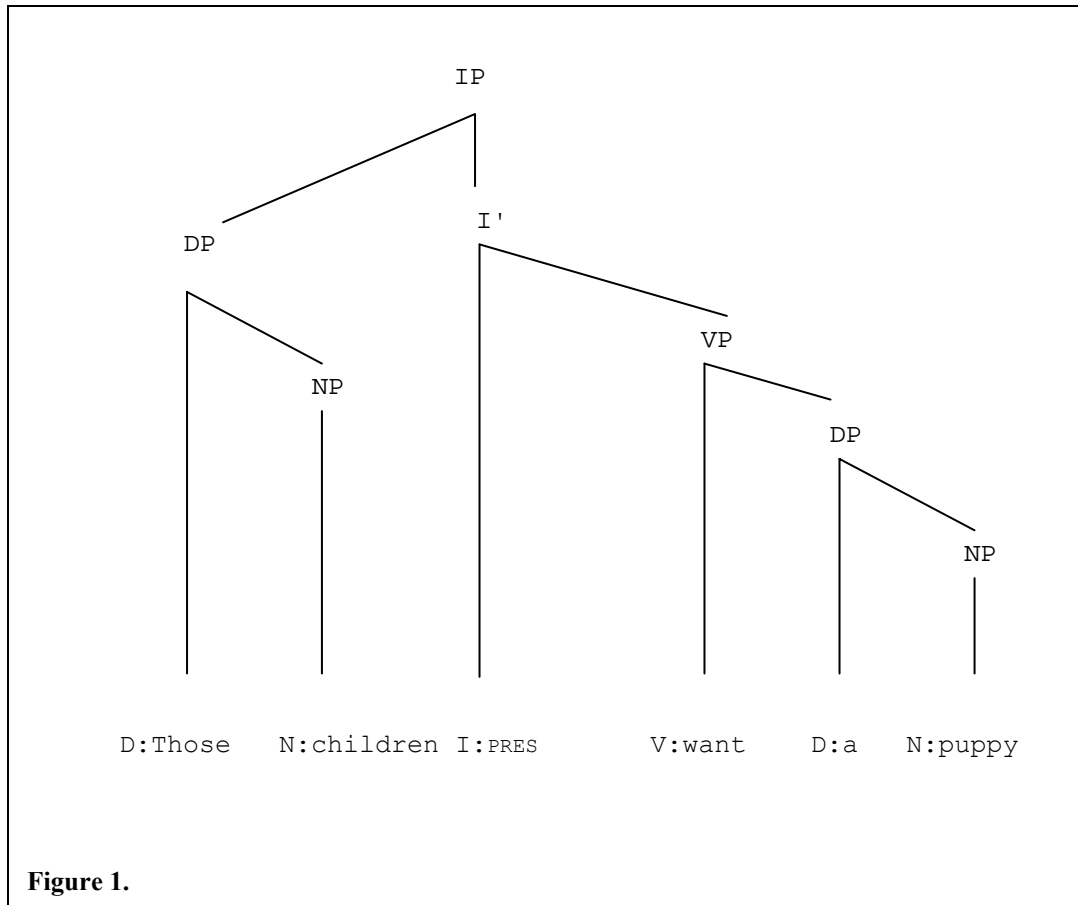


## How to Convert Trees to Labeled Brackets

Converting tree structures to labeled brackets seems complicated, but it is actually quite straightforward. To do a complete conversion, each node becomes a label and everything below and attached to that node goes within brackets with that node label. We will use Figure 1, a replication of Figure 3.7 on p. 104 of the text, to show how *Those children want a puppy* would be converted to a complete labeled bracketed display.



First, each of the head nodes at the bottom of the tree becomes a label and brackets go around each head.

[**D** Those][**N** children][**I** PRES][**V** want][**D** a][**N** puppy]

Next, we would move up to the next lowest nodes, here the two NPs, and create labeled brackets for everything they contain. In our example, the NPs contain only their heads.

[**D** Those][**NP**[**N** children]][**I** PRES][**V** want][**D** a][**NP**[**N** puppy]]

We can now move up and create labeled brackets for the lowest branching nodes, the DP complement of *want* and the subject DP in the specifier of IP.

[**DP**[**D** Those][**NP**[**N** children]]][**I** PRES][**V** want][**DP**[**D** a][**NP**[**N** puppy]]]

At the next level, we bracket the VP.

[DP[D Those][NP[N children]]][I PRES][VP[V want][DP[D a][NP[N puppy]]]]

Now, we're ready for I'.

[DP[D Those][NP[N children]]][I' I PRES][VP[V want][DP[D a][NP[N puppy]]]]

Finally, we create the bracket for the entire IP.

[IP[DP[D Those][NP[N children]]][I' I PRES][VP[V want][DP[D a][NP[N puppy]]]]]

Of course, this result is almost impossible to read and is far less clear than the tree in Figure 1. In practice, labeled bracketings never display the brackets for head nodes, so we can remove them and simplify the result to look like:

[IP[DP Those][NP children]][I' PRES][VP want[DP a[NP puppy]]]]

It is seldom necessary to label the structure of X' levels like I', and here there is no real need to show the abstract element PRES. This allows us to simplify the labeled bracket display to:

[IP[DP Those][NP children]][VP want[DP a[NP puppy]]]

Unless we are particularly interested in the internal structure of DPs, we would assume that their complement is an NP, so the labeled brackets for NP complements of DPs would not be shown. This gives us a typical labeled bracketed display for Figure 1:

[IP[DP Those children][VP want[DP a puppy]]]