



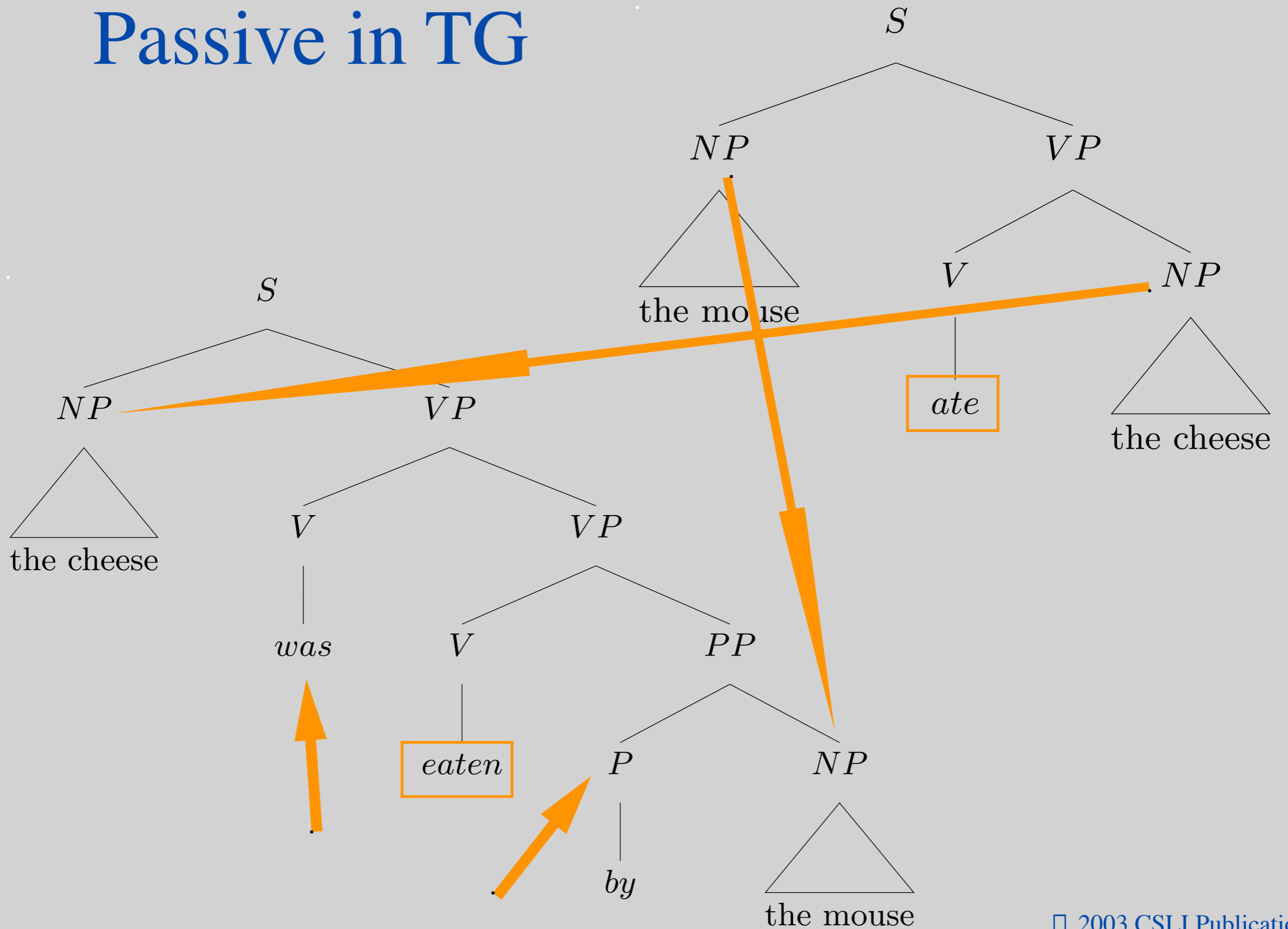
## Chapter 10

# The Passive Construction

# The Passive in Transformational Grammar

- Passive was the paradigmatic transformation in early TG.
- Motivations
  - Near paraphrase of active/passive pairs.
  - Simplified statement of cooccurrence restrictions.
    - E.g. *devour* must be followed by an NP, *put* by NP-PP
    - Such restrictions refer to pre-transformational (“deep”) structure.
  - Intuition that active forms were more basic, in some sense.
- Its formulation was complex:
  - Promote object
  - Demote subject, inserting *by*
  - Insert appropriate form of *be*, changing main verb to a participle.

# Passive in TG



# But transforming whole sentences is overkill

- Passive sentences look an awful lot like some actives:

*The cat was chased by the dog*

VS

*The cat was lying by the door*

- Passives occur without *be* and without the *by* phrase:

*Cats chased by dogs usually get away.*

*My cat was attacked.*

# So a lexical analysis seems called for

- What really changes are the verb's form and its cooccurrence restrictions (that is, its valence).
- There are lexical exceptions
  - Negative:  
*Pat resembles Bo* but *\*Bo is resembled by Pat*  
*That look suits you* but *\*You are suited by that look*
  - Positive  
*Chris is rumored to be a spy* but  
*\*They rumor Chris to be a spy*

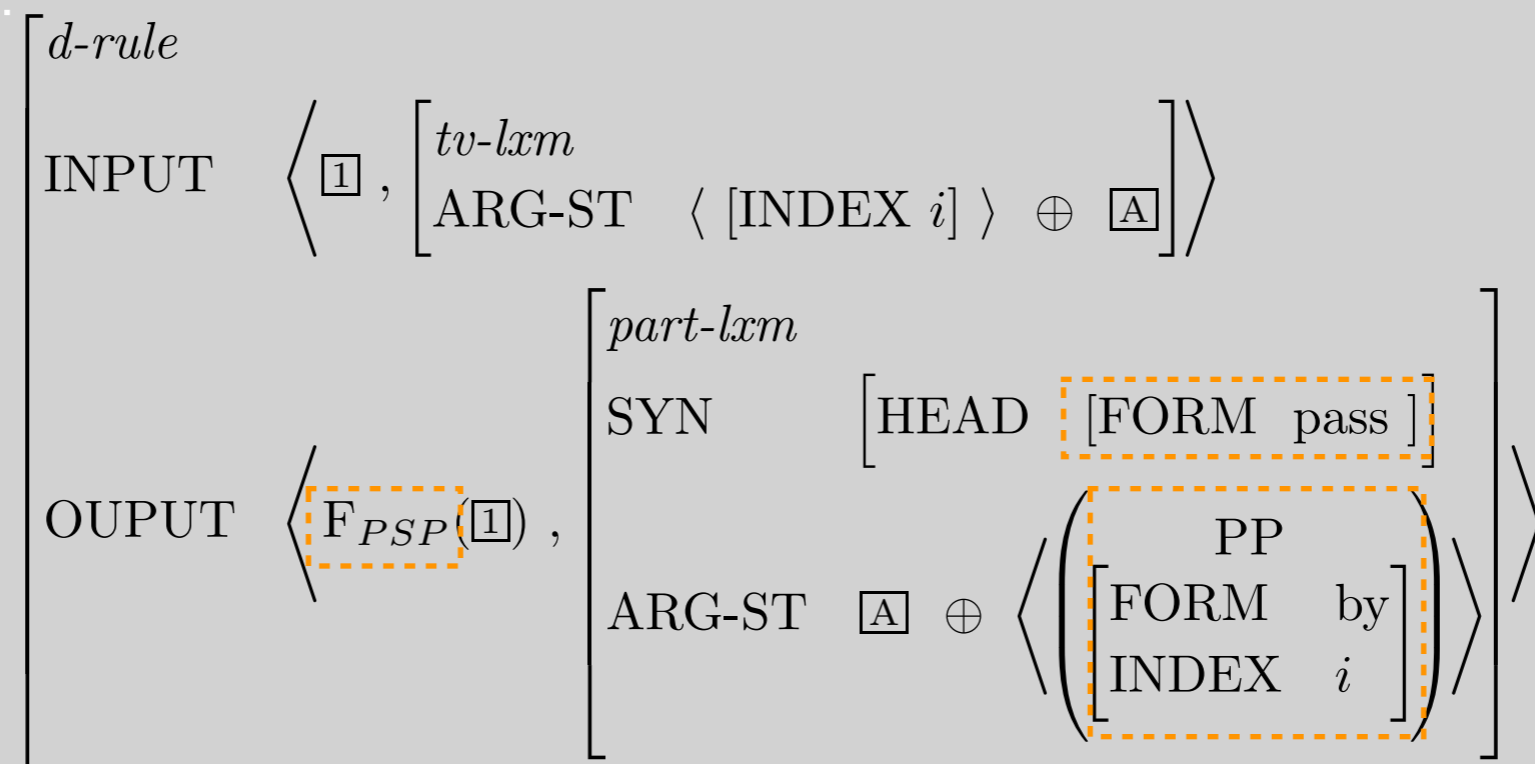
## We posit a lexical rule

- Why not just list passive participles individually?
  - To avoid redundancy
  - To capture productivity (for example?)
- We make it a derivational (lexeme-to-lexeme) rule.  
Why?
  - Our constraints on lexeme-to-word rules wouldn't allow us to make Passive one.
  - In some languages, further inflections can be added to passive verb forms.

# The Passive Lexical Rule

$$\left[ \begin{array}{l}
 \text{INPUT} \\
 \text{OUTPUT}
 \end{array} \right.
 \begin{array}{l}
 \left\langle \boxed{1}, \left[ \begin{array}{l}
 \text{tv-lxm} \\
 \text{ARG-ST} \langle [\text{INDEX } i] \rangle \oplus \boxed{A}
 \end{array} \right] \right\rangle \\
 \left\langle F_{PSP}(\boxed{1}), \left[ \begin{array}{l}
 \text{part-lxm} \\
 \text{SYN} \quad \left[ \text{HEAD} \quad [\text{FORM } \text{pass}] \right] \\
 \text{ARG-ST} \quad \boxed{A} \oplus \left\langle \left( \begin{array}{l}
 \text{PP} \\
 \left[ \begin{array}{l}
 \text{FORM} \quad \text{by} \\
 \text{INDEX} \quad i
 \end{array} \right] \right) \right\rangle
 \end{array} \right] \right\rangle
 \end{array} \right.
 \end{array}
 \left. \right]$$

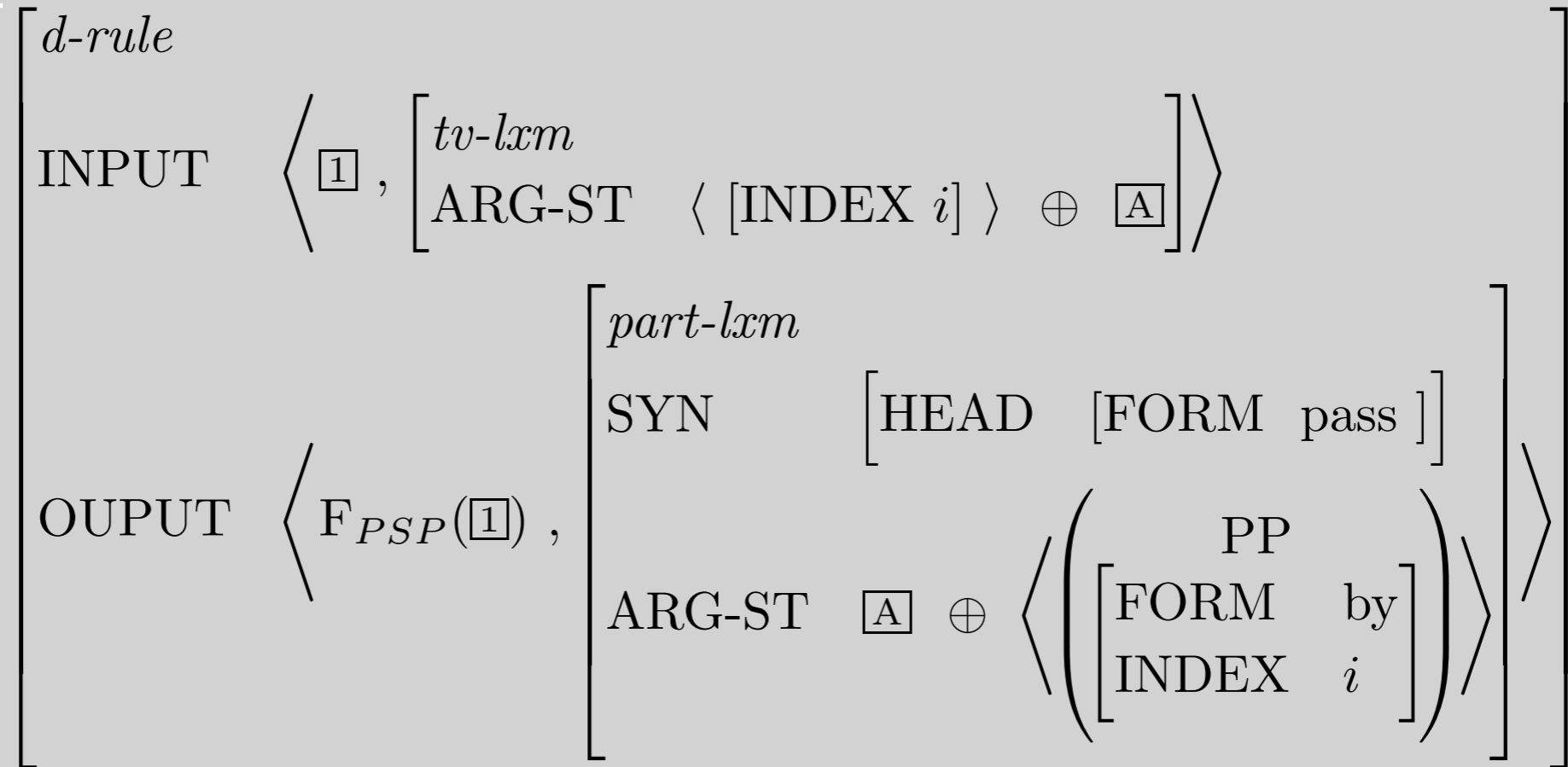
# Questions About the Passive Rule



- Why is the morphological function  $F_{PSP}$ ?
- Why do we have a separate FORM value pass? Why not say the output is [FORM psp]?
- What kind of a PP is the *by*-phrase (that is, argument-marking or predicational)?



# More Questions



- What makes the object turn into the subject?
- Why is the type of the output *part-lxm*?
- Why is the type of the input *tv-lxm*?
- What would happen if the input were just *verb-lxm*?

# Intransitives have passives in German

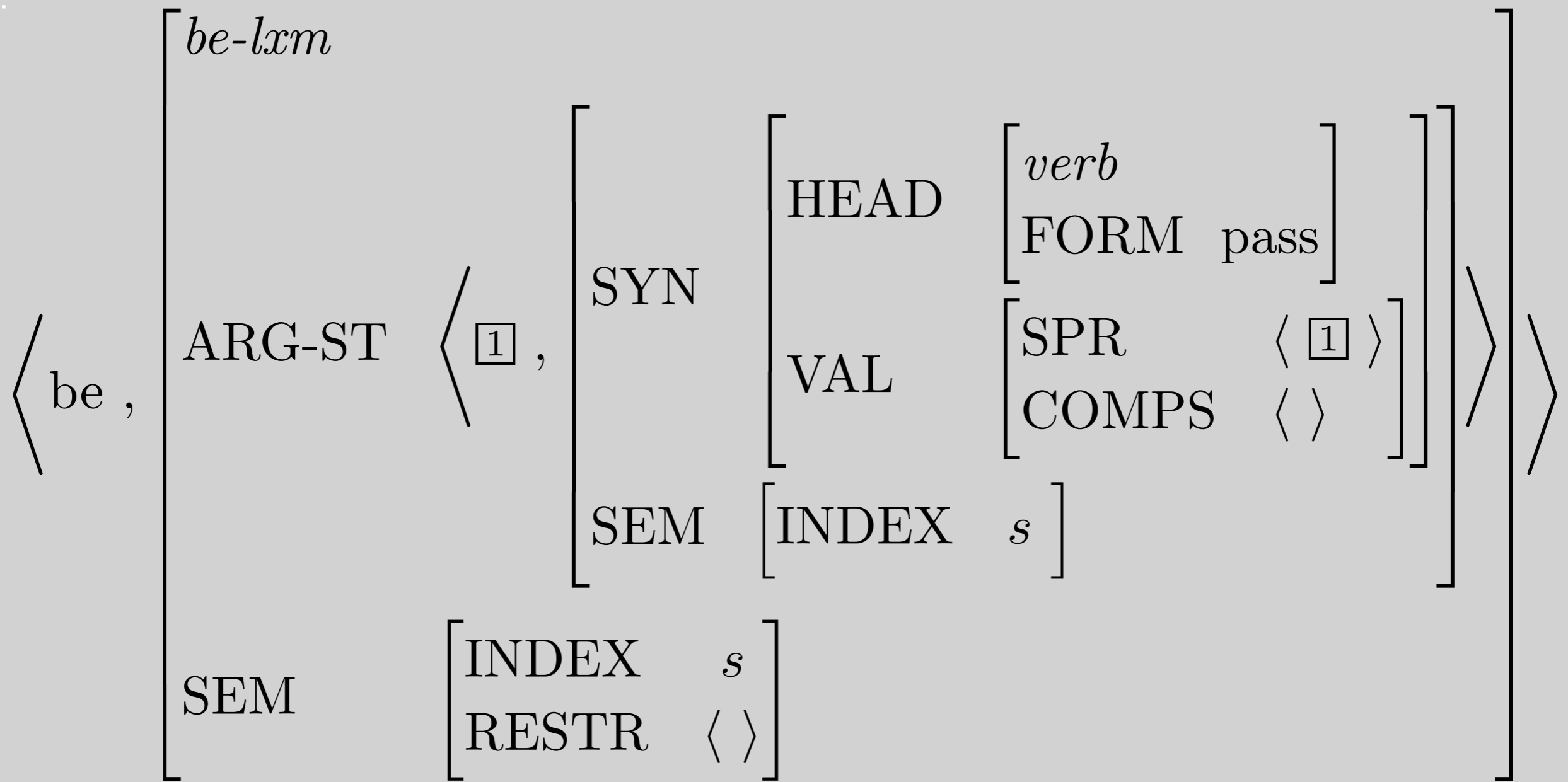
*In der Küche wird nicht getanzt.*

in the kitchen is not danced

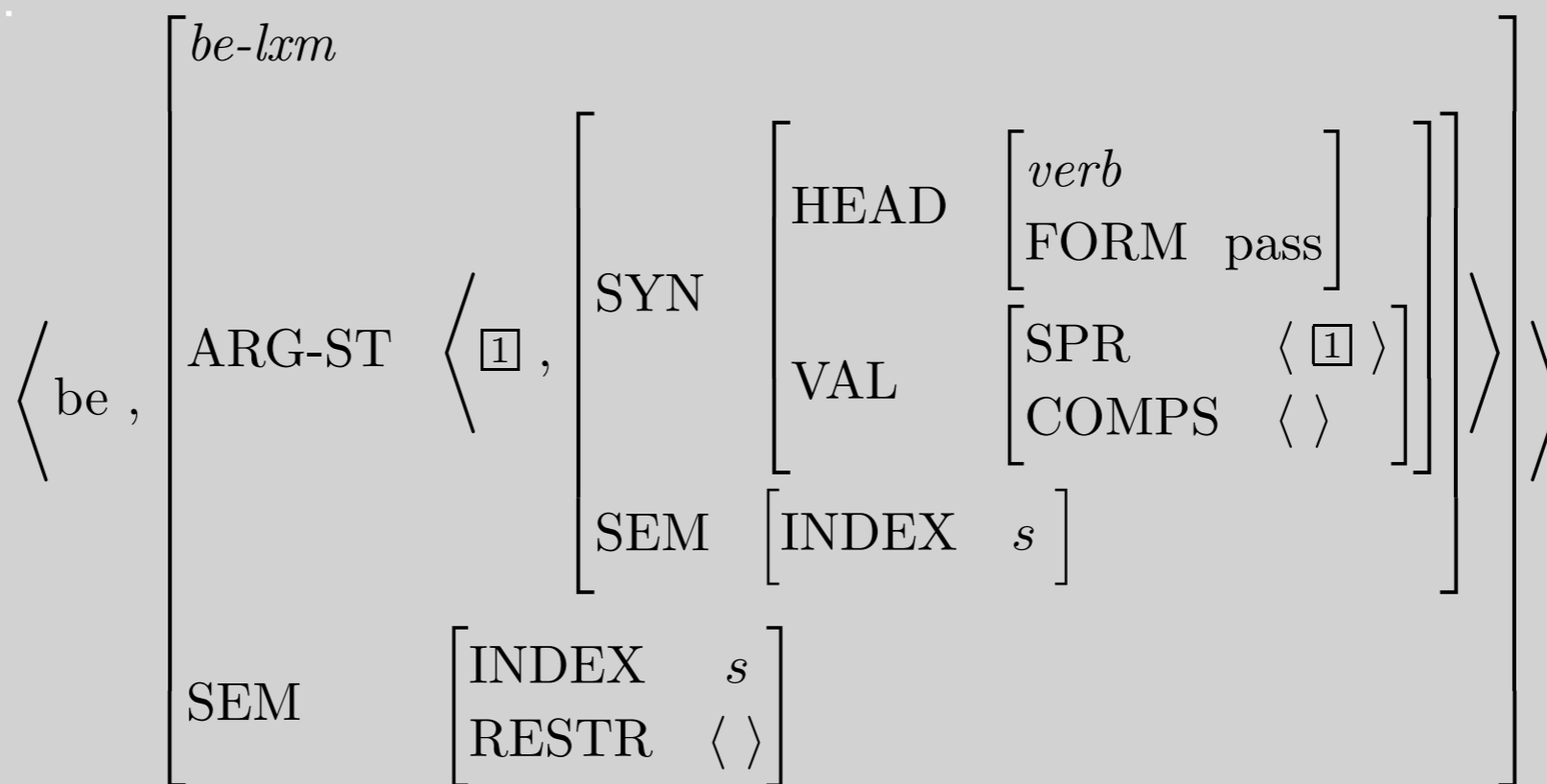
‘There is no dancing in the kitchen.’

NB: The exact analysis for such examples is debatable, but German, like many other languages, allows passives of intransitives, as would be allowed by our analysis if the input type in the Passive LR is *verb-lxm*.

# The *be* that Occurs with Most Passives



# Questions About the Entry for *be*



- Why doesn't it include valence features?
- What is the category of its complement (i.e. its 2<sup>nd</sup> argument)?
- What is its contribution to the semantics of the sentences it appears in?
- Why is the first argument tagged as identical to the second argument's SPR value?

# More Questions

- Why do we get  
*They are noticed by everyone*  
and not  
*\*Them are noticed by everyone?*
- Why don't we get  
*\*They is noticed by everyone?*
- What would facts like these entail for a transformational analysis?