

# A DM approach to historical difference in the sequence of Korean subjective honorific suffix -si

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## Introduction

### Korean Subjective Honorifics (SH)

#### Modern Korean (K)

- (1) wang-kkeyse o-si-n-ta.  
king-NOM.HON come-SH-PRS-DECL  
'The king is coming.'

#### Middle Korean (MK)

- (2) syeywon-i ... twolwo wo-si-ni-la.  
Buddha-NOM ... again come-SH-DUR-DECL  
'Buddha came back again.'

(Wörin sōkpo (1459)4:62a)

### Puzzle: Difference in predicate morphology

- (3) a. Middle Korean  
pwuzin-i ... ho-te-si-ta.  
lady-NOM ... say-IPFV-SH-DECL  
'The lady was saying ...' (Wörin sōkpo (1459)22:62 a-b)
- b. Modern Korean  
pwuin-i ... ha-si-te-la.  
lady-NOM ... say-SH-EVID-DECL  
  
\* pwuin-i ... ha-te-si-ta.  
lady-NOM ... say-EVID-SH-DECL  
'The lady was saying ...'

### What is -te?

Modern Korean: Past Sensory Evidentiality (Song 2002)

Middle Korean: Imperfective (Choe 2015; a.o.)

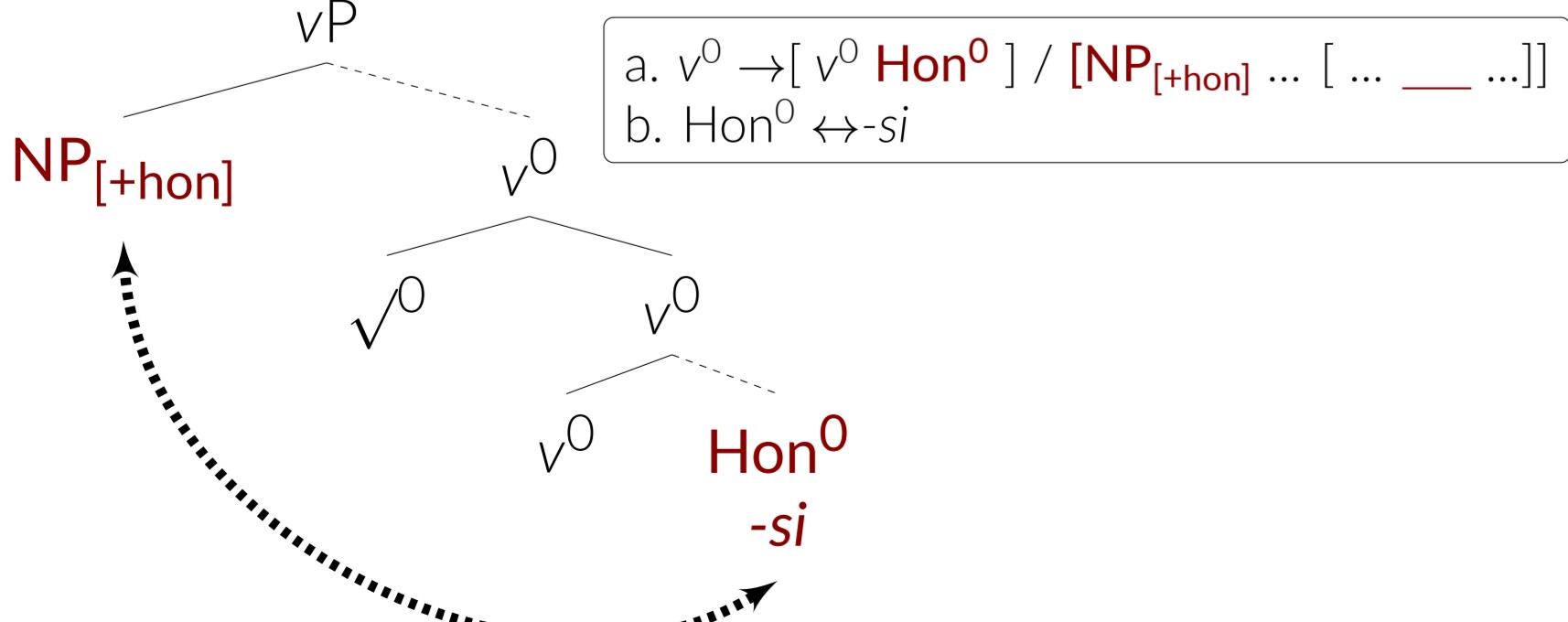
### Proposal in a nutshell

1. Different TA system
2. Different morphosyntactic rules  
→ Difference in morpheme order between K and MK

## DM account for Korean SH

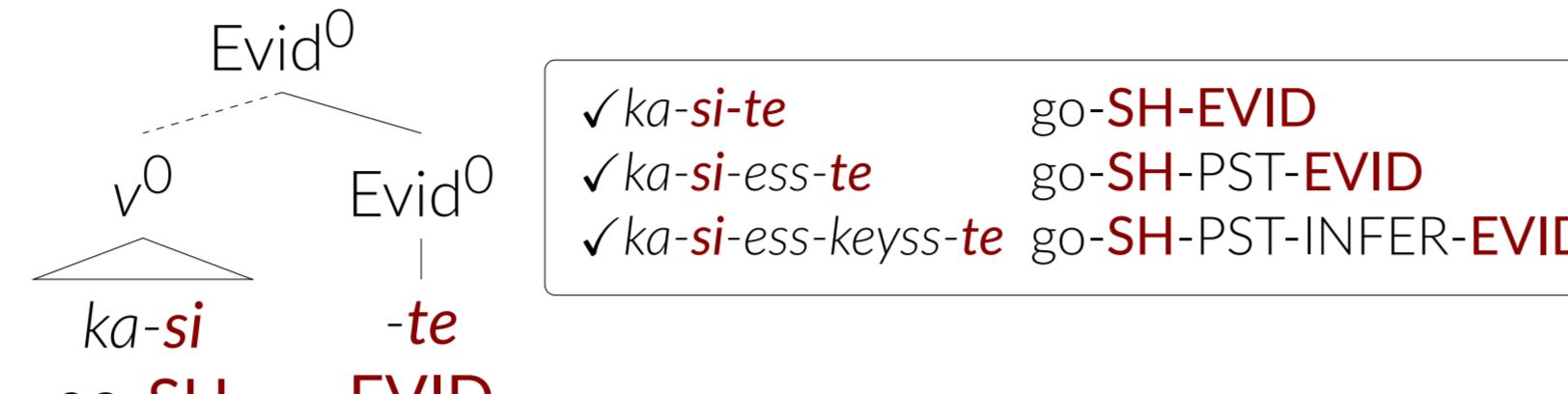
### Agreement marker as a dissociated morpheme

- (4) Node-sprouting rule (Choi & Harley 2019; a.o.)

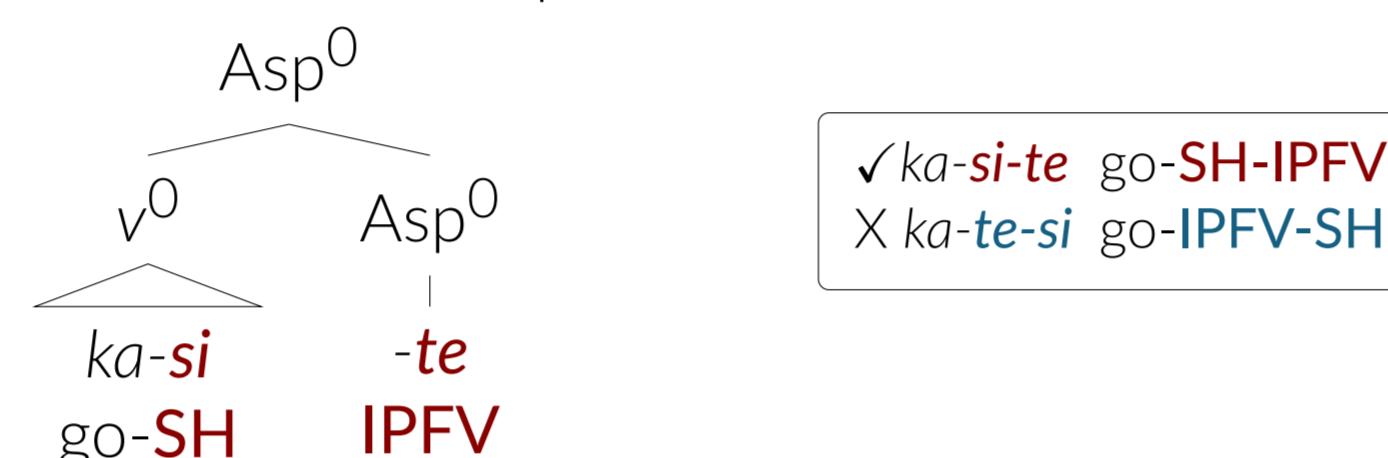


## Applying to problematic data

- (5) Modern Korean evidential -te

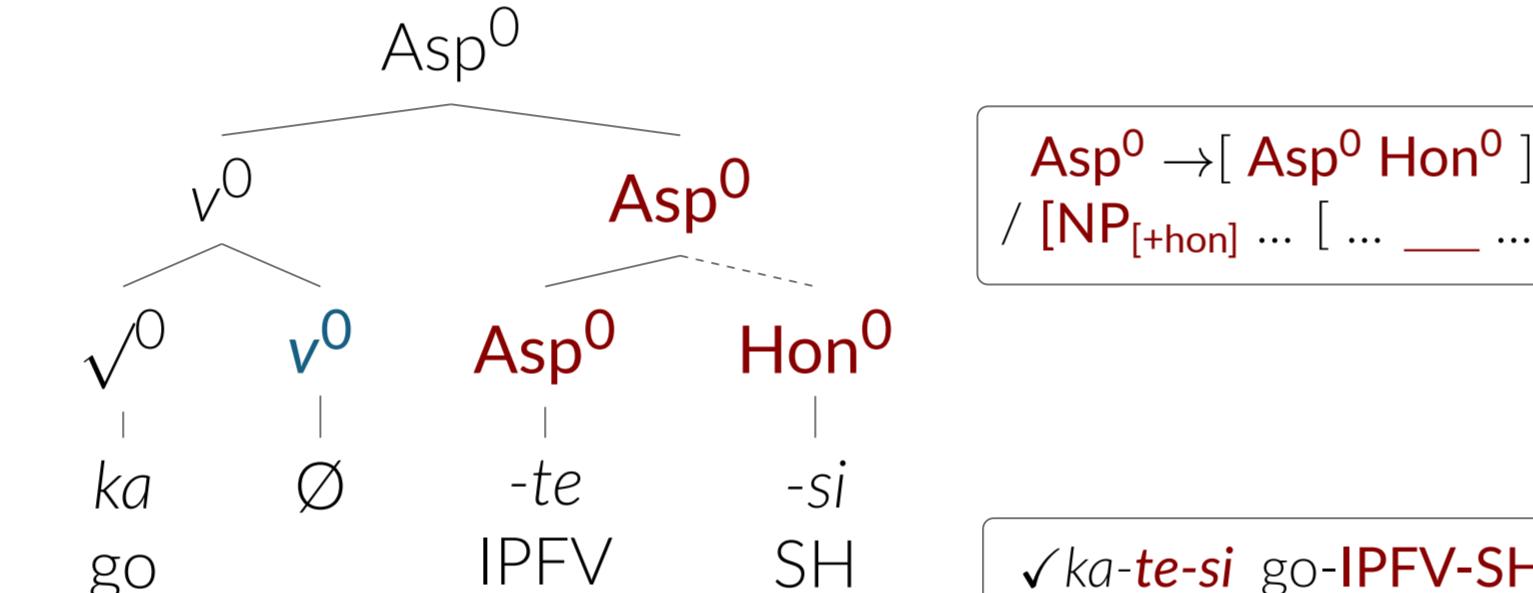


- (6) Middle Korean imperfective -te



### Account for MK pattern

- (7) Middle Korean Hon0-sprouting rule



### Two predictions

1. No multiple exponence in Long Form Negation (LFN)
2. Different suppletion pattern of √EXIST

## Prediction 1: No multiple exponence in LFN

### LFN in Modern Korean

- (8) Long Form Negation → infinite root-verb + finite negation with dummy ha- 'do'

Chelwu-ka o-ci ani-hay-ess-ta.  
C.-NOM come-Cl not-do-PST-DECL

'Cheolsu did not come.'

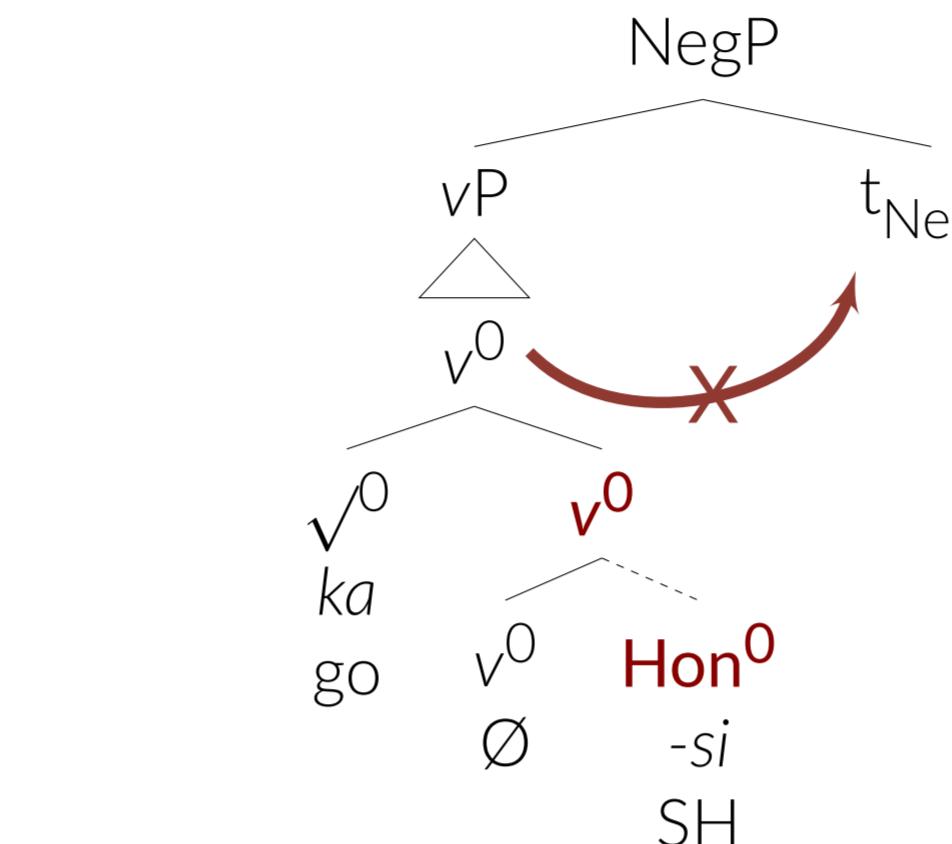
- (9) Optional multiple SH in LFN (Yi 1994)

wang-kkeyse o-(si)-ci ani-ha-si-ess-ta.  
king-HON.NOM come-SH-Cl not-do-SH-PST-DECL

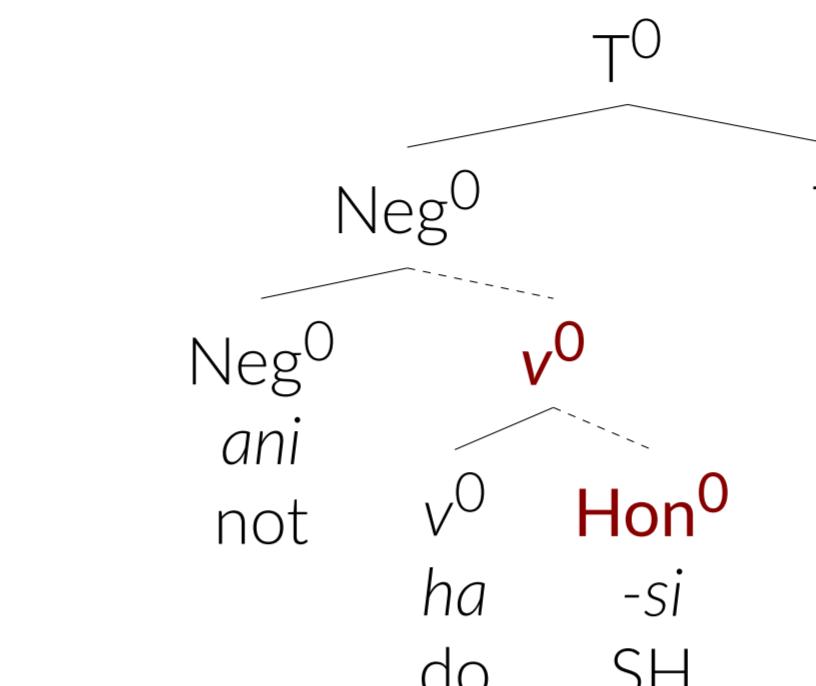
'The king did not come.'

- (10) do-insertion rule in LFN (Choi & Harley 2019)  
Neg → [ Neg0 v0 ] / [ \_ T0 ] T0

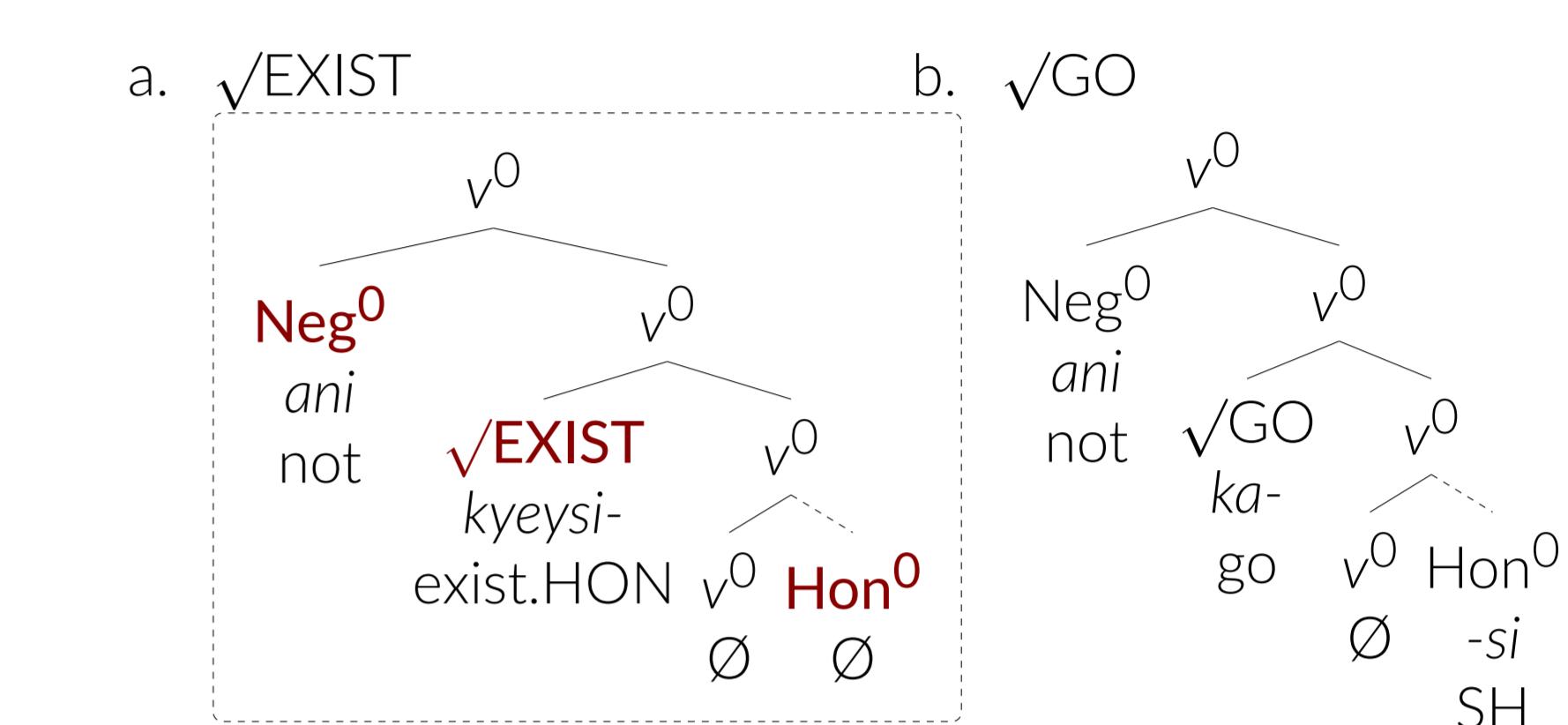
- (11) a. Stranded complex v0



- b. Neg0 raised to T0

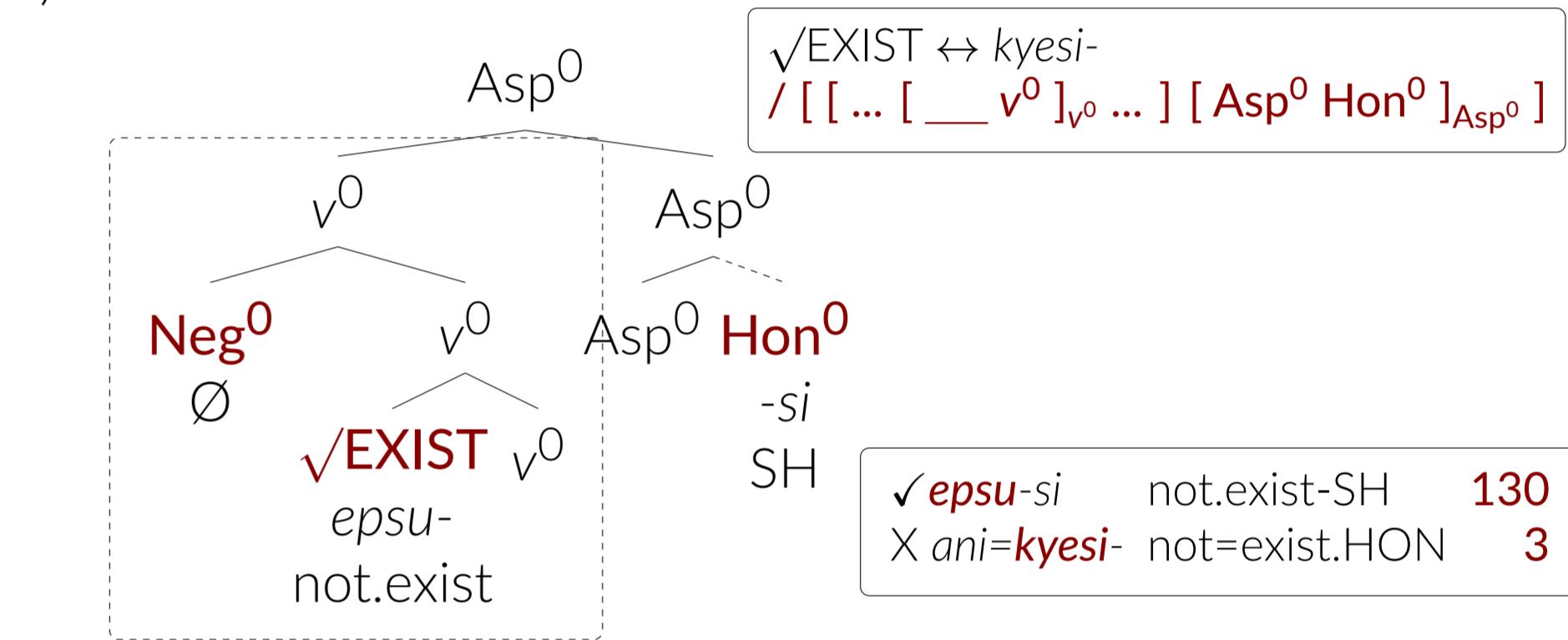


- (15) Modern Korean pattern



### Accounting for Middle Korean pattern

- (16)



## Conclusion

### Take-away

Difference in TA system & Dissociated morpheme insertion  
→ SH's different place in predicate morphology

### Remaining issues

Optionality in order of SH in MK

Account for Objective Honorifics (OH) -sop

## Abbreviations

DECL Declarative HON Honorific DUR Durative EVID Evidential INFER Inferential IPFV Imperfective  
K Modern Korean LFN Long form negation MK Middle Korean NOM Nominative PST Past PRS Present  
SH Subjective honorifics

## Selected references

- Choe, Dong-Ju. 2015. Kweke sisangcheykueyy thongsicek pyenhwā [Diachronic changes in Korean tense-aspect system]. Choi, Jaehoon & Heidi Harley. 2019. Locality domains and morphological rules: phases, heads, node-sprouting and suppletion in Korean honorification. Song, Jae-mog. 2002. A typological analysis of the Korean evidential marker '-te'. Yi, Eun-Young. 1994. NegP in Korean. Material  
Ko, Sung-Ik & Takayoshi Ito. 2014. Historical corpus of the Korean language I - 15-16th century (ver.1.0.). Sejo, King of Korea (1417-1468). 1992. Yekcwu Welinsekpo [Translation and annotation of Wörin sōkpo].