



WH-MOVEMENT

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Reporter

Wh-Expression

- It is an expression containing an interrogative word with wh-like what, when, where, why, who, which and how.

Wh-Movement

- It is by which a wh- expression like who or what languages moves into the specifier position within CP.

Wh- Questions

- CP comprises a head (C) constituent (which can be filled by a complementiser or a preposed auxiliary and a TP complement.

What position is occupied by the bold printed constituent which precedes the italicized auxiliary?

Each of the wh-expressions on the right functions as the complement of the verb at the end of the sentence

1. **What languages** *can* you speak?
2. **Who** *was* she dating?
3. **Which one** would you like?
4. **Where** *are* you going?

Wh-in-situ Questions

1. You can speak **what languages?**
2. She was dating **who?**
3. Would you like **which one?**
4. Are you going **where?**

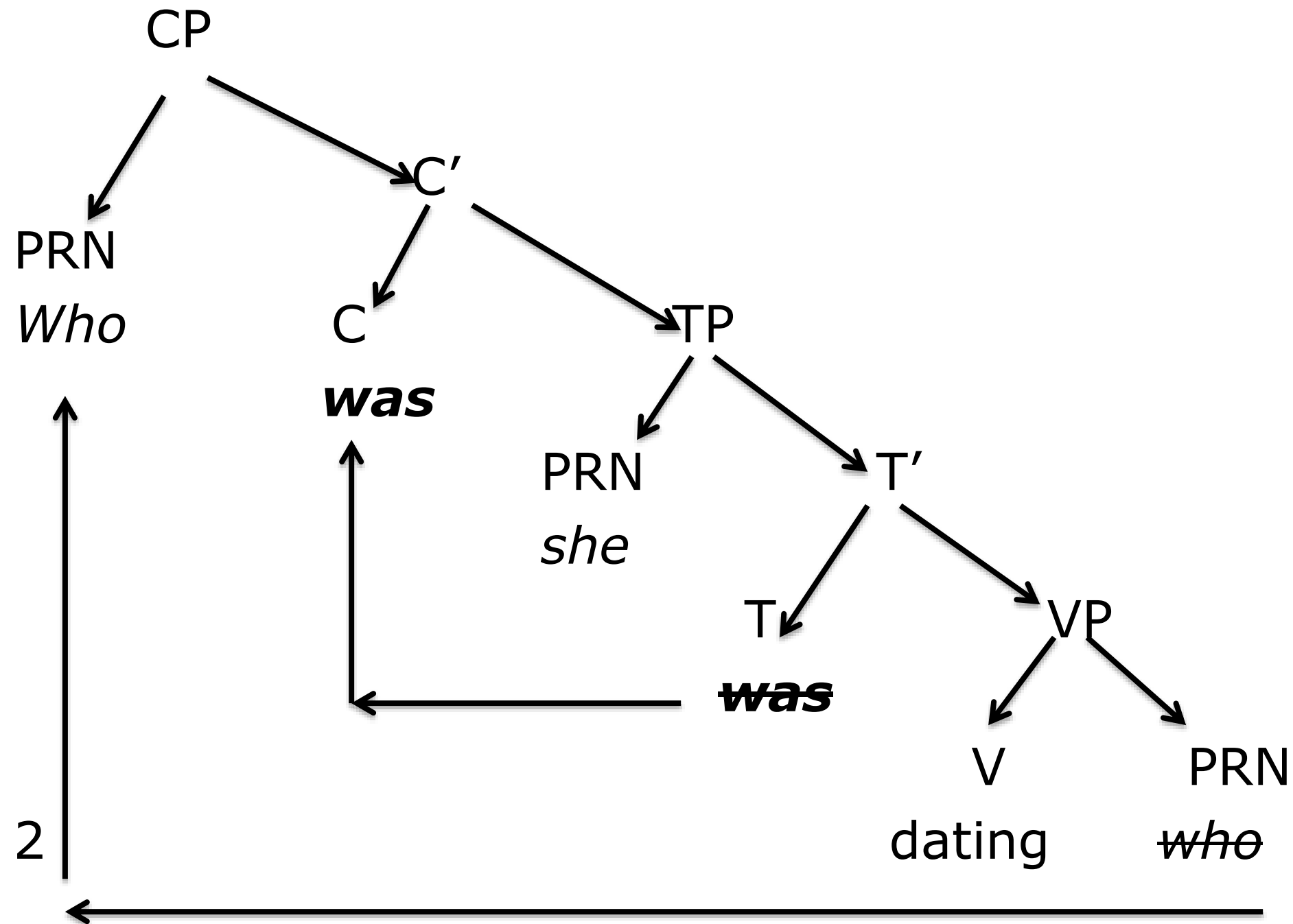
The wh-expression is not preposed, but rather remains in-situ (in-place) in canonical position associated with its grammatical function which is a complement that is normally positioned after the verb

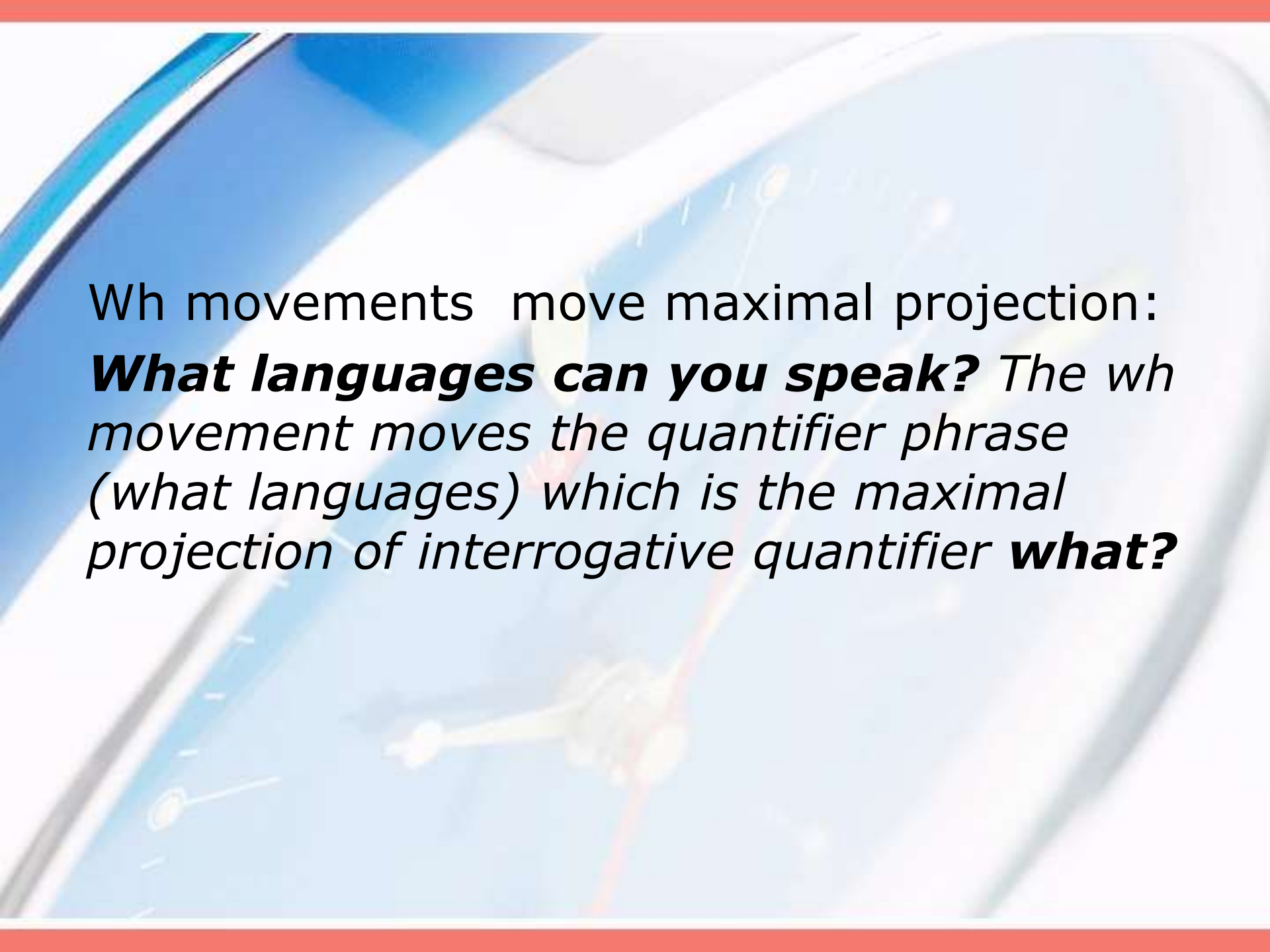
Echo Questions

Speaker A. I just met Lord Randall.

Speaker B. You just met **who**?

The echo question suggests that wh-expression originate as complements of the relevant verbs and move to the front of over all clause. They moved into the position preceding the inverted auxiliary.





Wh movements move maximal projection:
What languages can you speak? The *wh* movement moves the quantifier phrase (*what languages*) which is the maximal projection of interrogative quantifier ***what?***

Wh- movement as copying and deletion

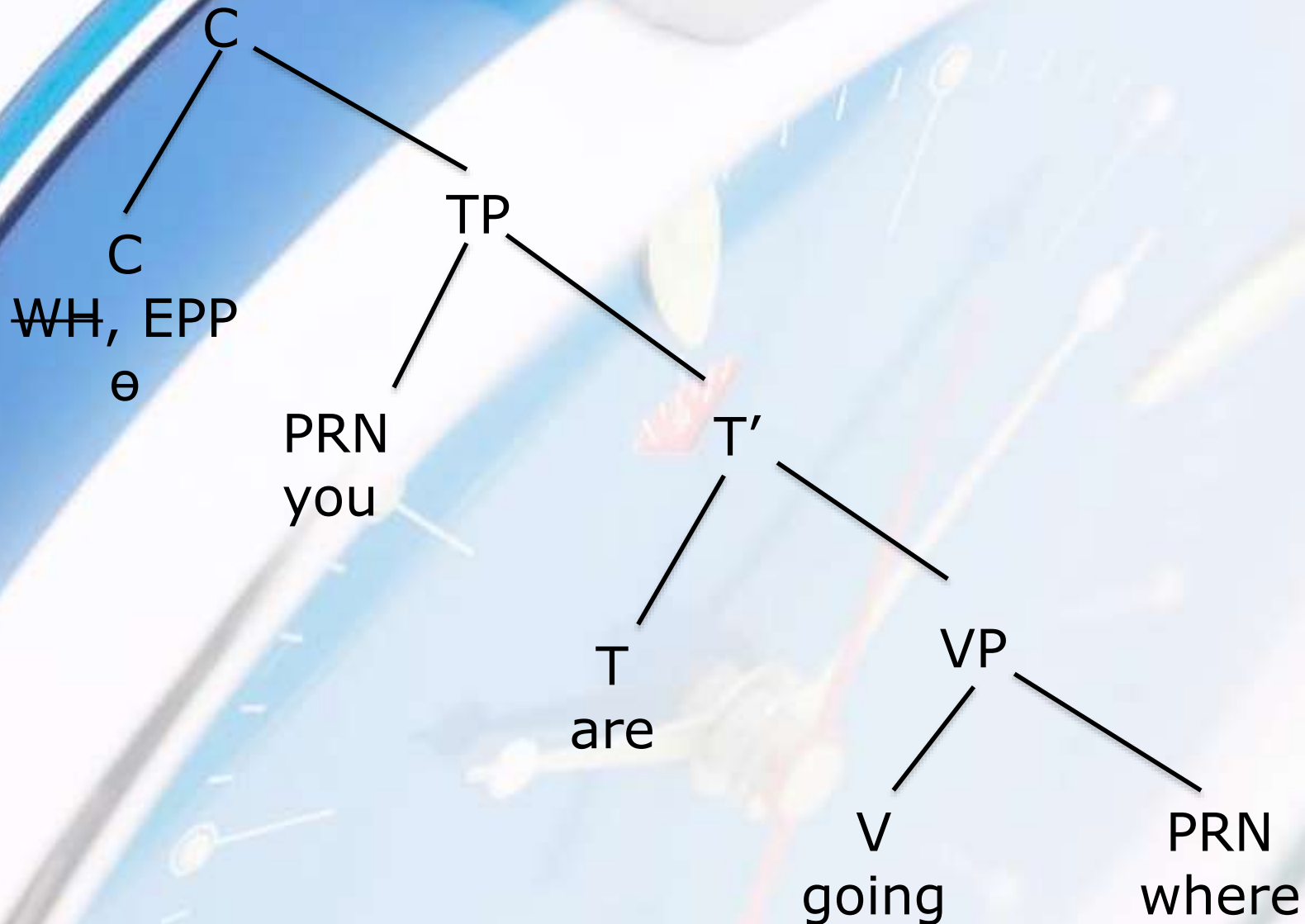
1. What hope **of finding survivors** could there be?
2. What hope could there be **of finding survivors?**

Wh- movement and EPP Features

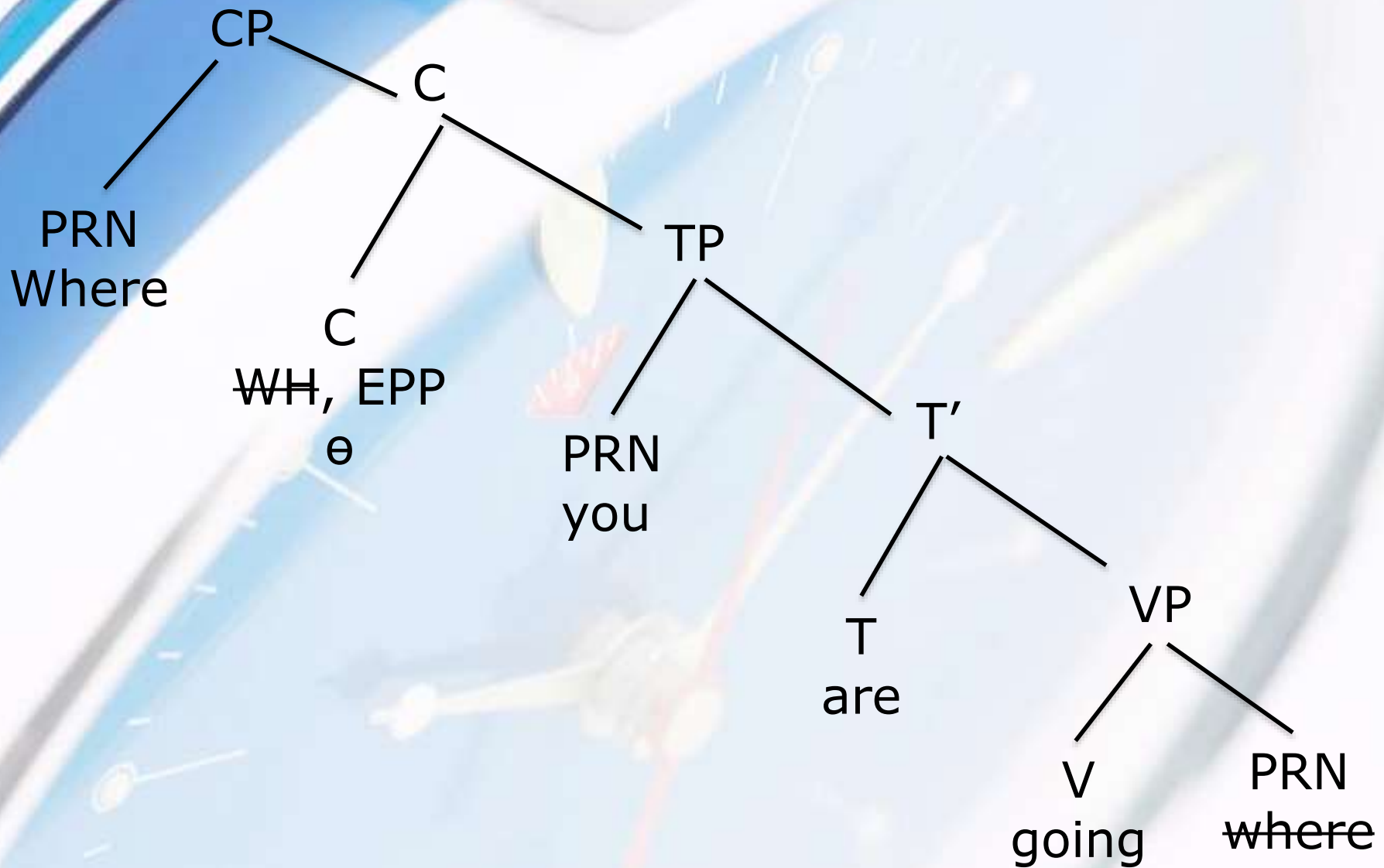
EPP is the mechanism which drives movement of wh-expression to spec-CP (Chomsky).

- T also carries EPP requiring it to be extended to TP containing subject as specifier.
- C too in wh-questions carries an EPP requiring it to be extended into CP containing wh-expression as specifier.

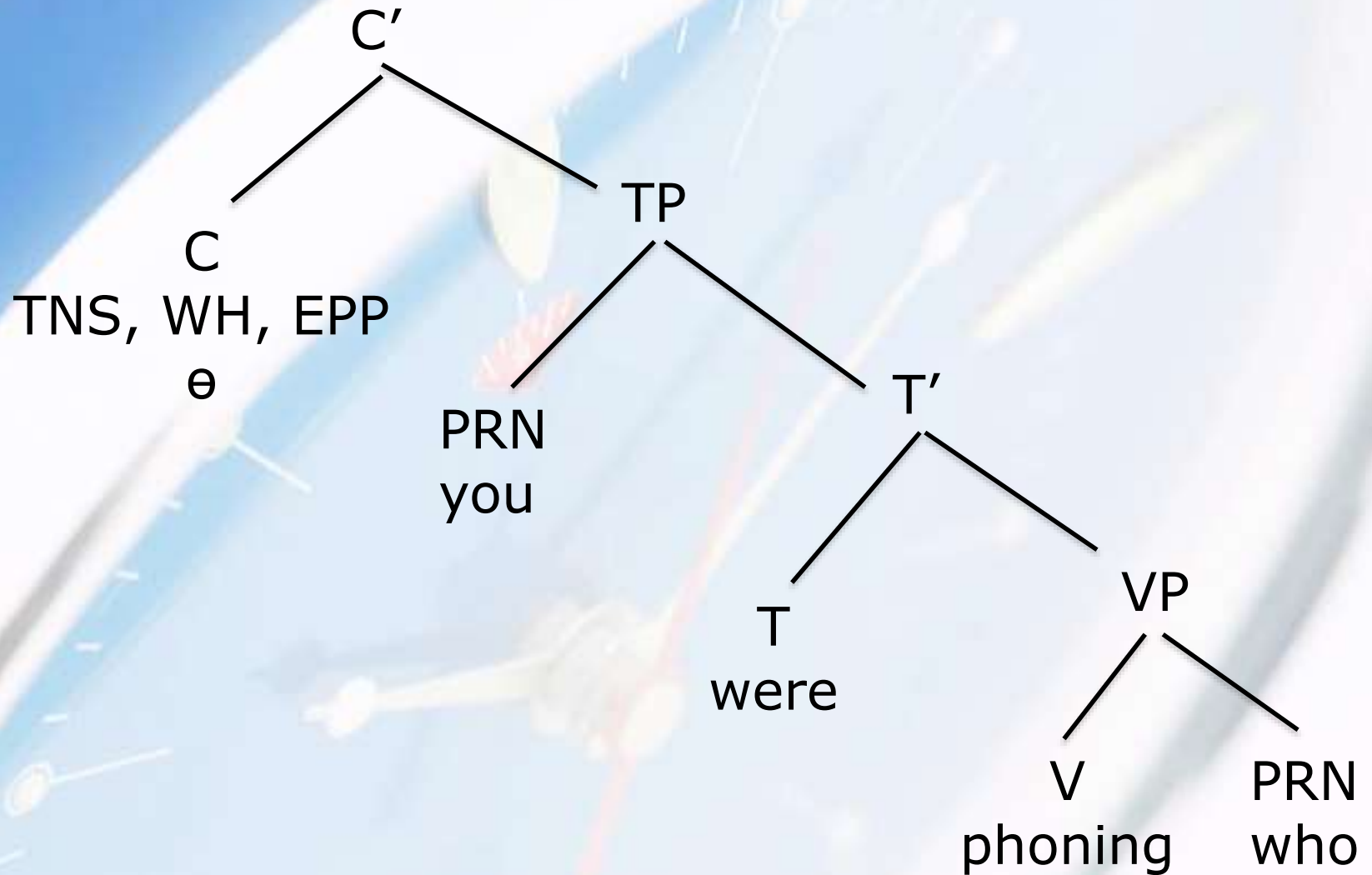
He wants to know [where you are going].

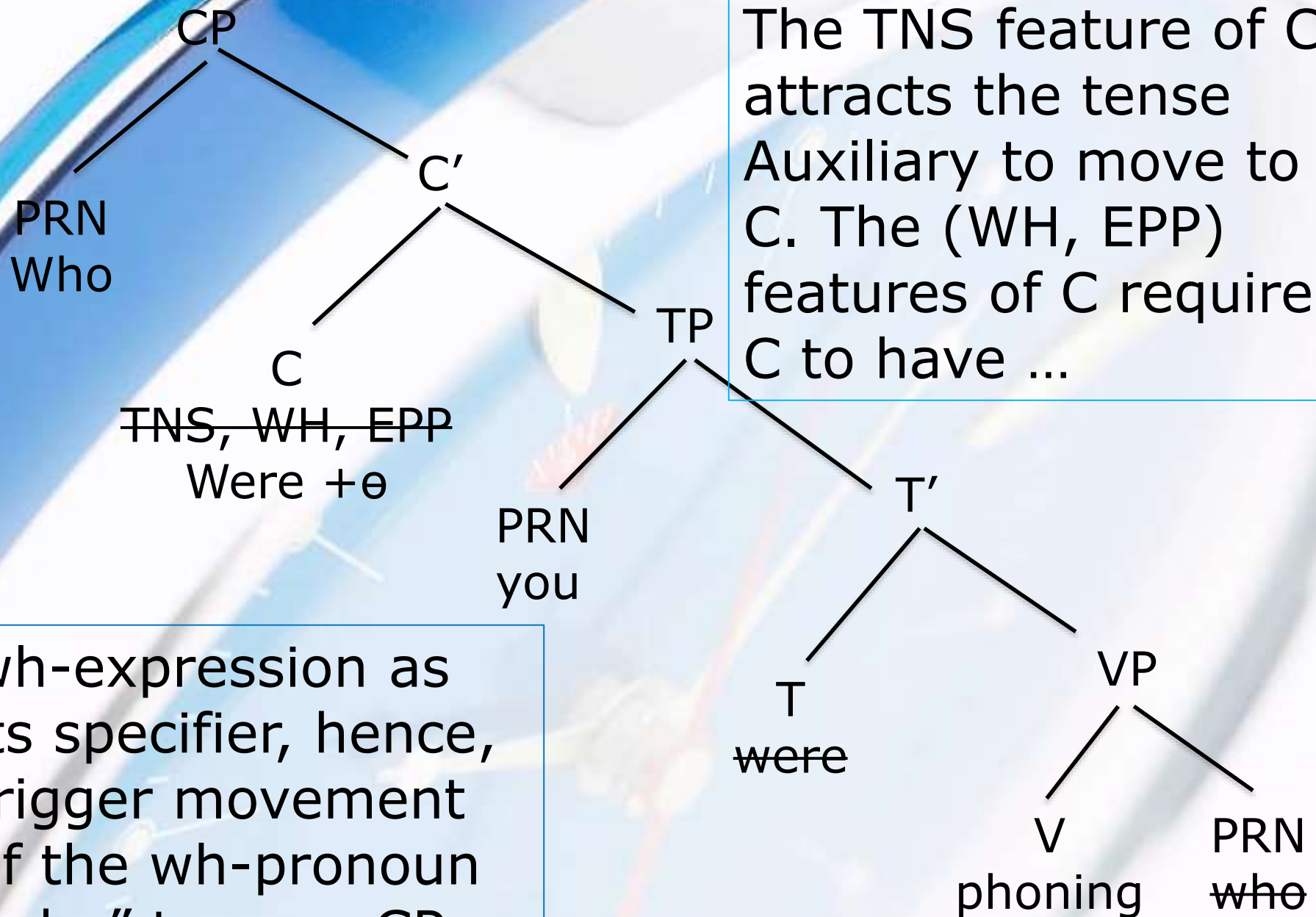


He wants to know [where you are going].



Wh -questions involving auxiliary inversion as well as wh-movement





The TNS feature of C attracts the tense Auxiliary to move to C. The (WH, EPP) features of C require C to have ...

wh-expression as its specifier, hence, trigger movement of the wh-pronoun "who" to spec-CP

Attract Closest Principle

- The EPP analysis has interesting implications for the syntax of multiple wh-questions which contain two or more separate wh-expressions.
- A salient syntactic property of such questions in English is that the only *one* of the wh expressions can be preposed.
- *He might think who has done **what**?*

He might think **who** has done **what**?

✓ *Who* might he think has done **what**?

X *Who* **what** might he think has done?

X **What** might he think *who* has done?

X **What** *who* might think has done?

If we try to prepose the highlighted words wh-word in the above sentence, we find that we can only prepose one not both of them. Moreover, the prepose must be *who* not *what*.

