Valuation in a feature-geometric world

- The second consequence I want to note concerns the nature of 'valuation' —
  - that thing that happens when a probe <u>does</u> find a goal bearing the kind of feature(s) it was looking for

- Earlier in the course, we discussed two possible models for this:
  - **(i)** copy-and-(over)write *(the traditional model)*
  - **(ii)** feature-sharing *(recall the example of case-concord in Ancient Greek)*

- Now notice that <u>both</u> of these models still assumed that the nature of individual features (or perhaps: feature classes, e.g., PERSON) was **flat**
  - essentially, an attribute-value pair of the following sort:

(33) $f : \boxed{}$, or $f : val$ *case:* (DAT)
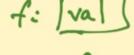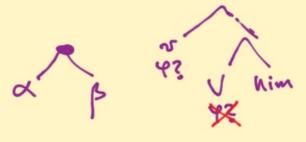
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Valuation in a feature-geometric world

- In Preminger 2017, I argued against several putative solutions to this quandary:
  - comparing the two pre-existing feature-structures/geometries, and choosing the more marked one as the to-be-shared one
  - c-command: since probes always have to c-command their goals, we could always choose the feature-structure/geometry borne by the lower of the two operands as the to-be-shared one

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  - a diacritic (e.g., $Infl^0$ borne with an "I'm a probe" diacritic, thus doesn't get its pre-existing feature-structure/geometry shared)

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- The output of this operation is guaranteed to be a well-formed feature geometry

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