



# On the Structure of Constituent Negation in Czech

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ICCG VI, September 3-5, 2010, Prague



## Traditional approach

- syntactic negation: a) sentential  
b) constituent
- lexical negation (**ne**-plavec = non-swimmer)



## Traditional approach

Sentential negation (SN):

Petr                    včera                    **ne-**přišel.

Peter NOM    yesterday    NEG came.

‘Yesterday, Peter didn’t come .’



## Traditional approach

Constituent negation (CN):

Petr            přišel    **ne**        včera,        ale    v neděli.

Peter NOM    came    NEG    yesterday    but    on Sunday.

‘Peter came not yesterday, but on Sunday.’



## Traditional approach

Constituent negation (CN):

Petr            přišel    **ne**        včera,        ale    v neděli.

Peter NOM    came    NEG    yesterday    but    on Sunday.

‘Peter came not yesterday, but on Sunday.’

\*Petr            přišel    ne        včera.



## Contrastive negation (CONTRN)

Petr                **ne**-pije pivo,                **ale** kolu.

Peter NOM    NEG drink beer    but coke.

‘What Peter drinks is not beer, but coke.’



## Constituent negation (CN)

- defined syntactically and pragmatically
- immediately precedes the negated constituent/phrase
- does not negate the whole proposition
- demands adversative paratactic structure



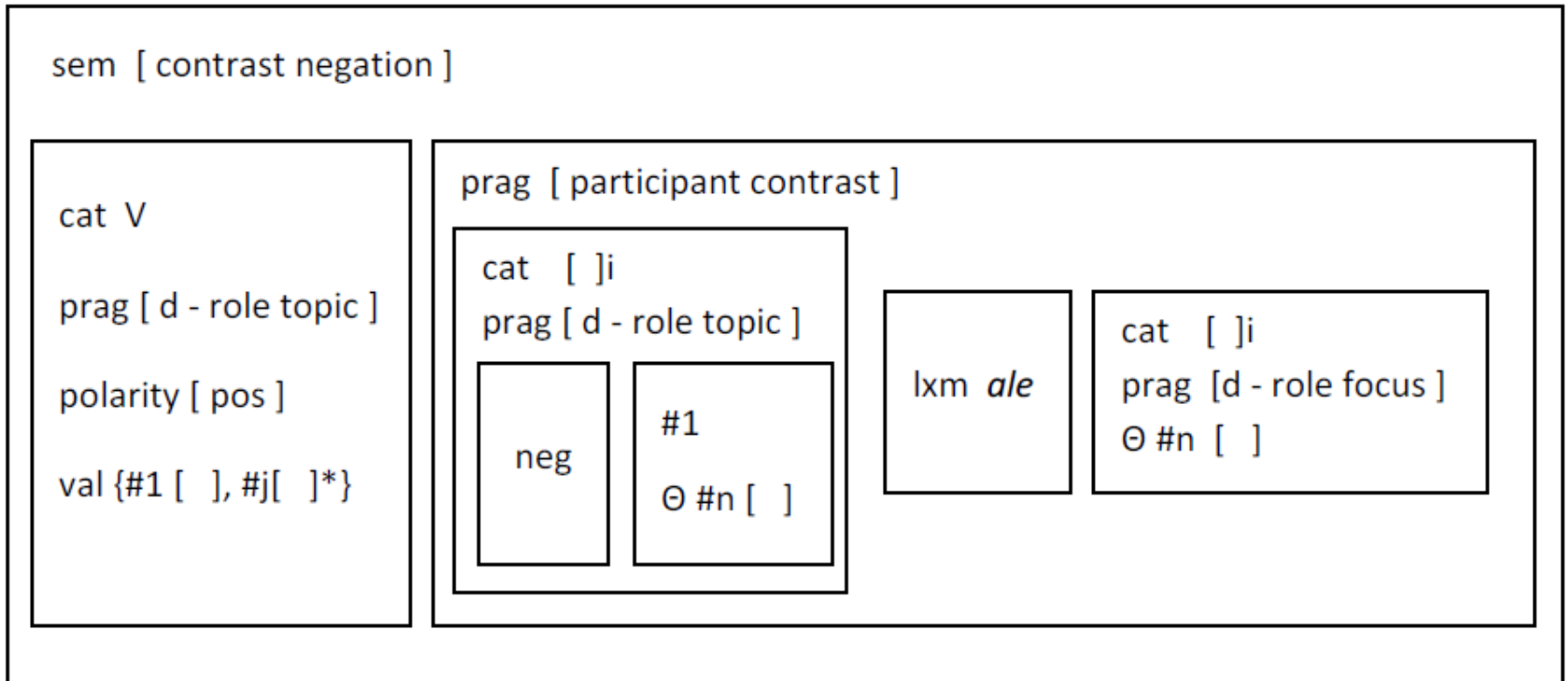
## Contrastive negation (CONTRN)

- defined semantically and pragmatically
- marked on predicate
- does not negate the whole proposition
- demands adversative paratactic structure





## Constituent negation – variant I

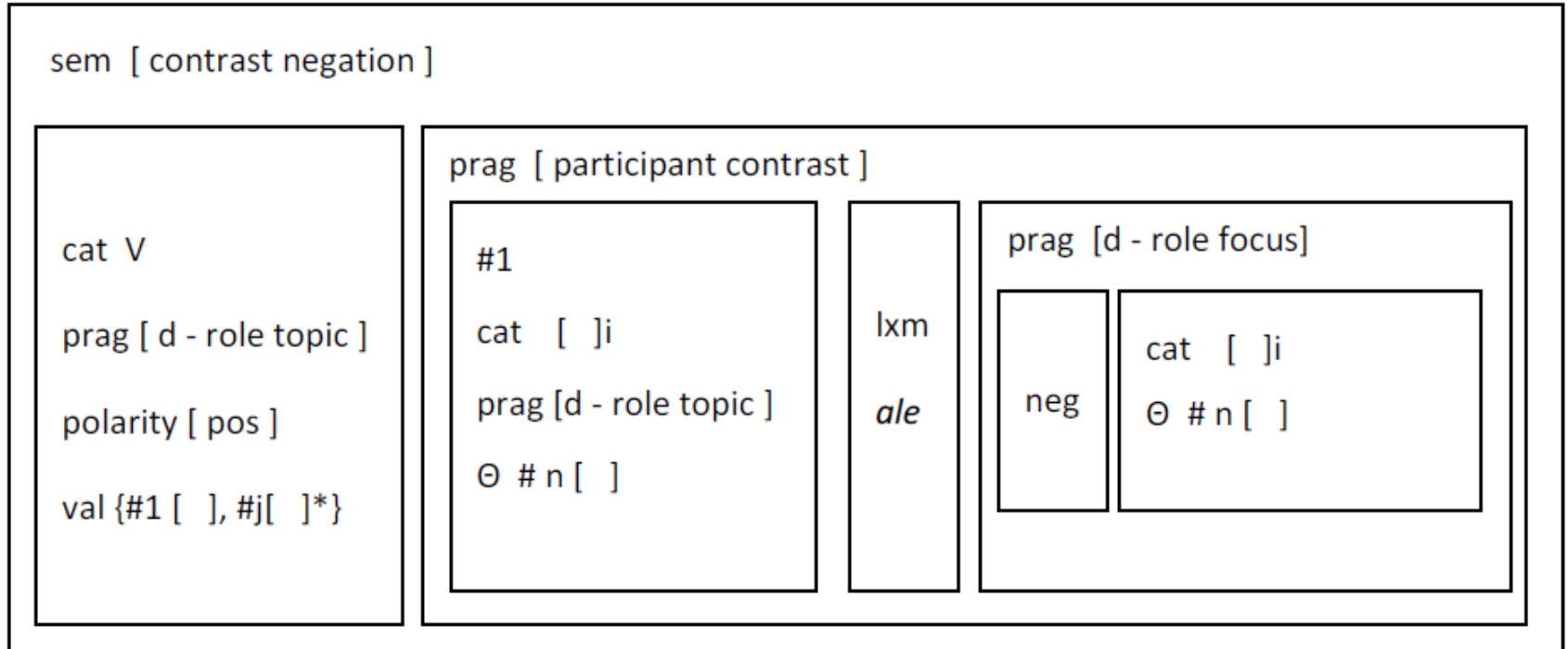


Přišel ne Petr, ale Pavel.

Came NEG Peter, but Paul.



## Constituent negation – variant II

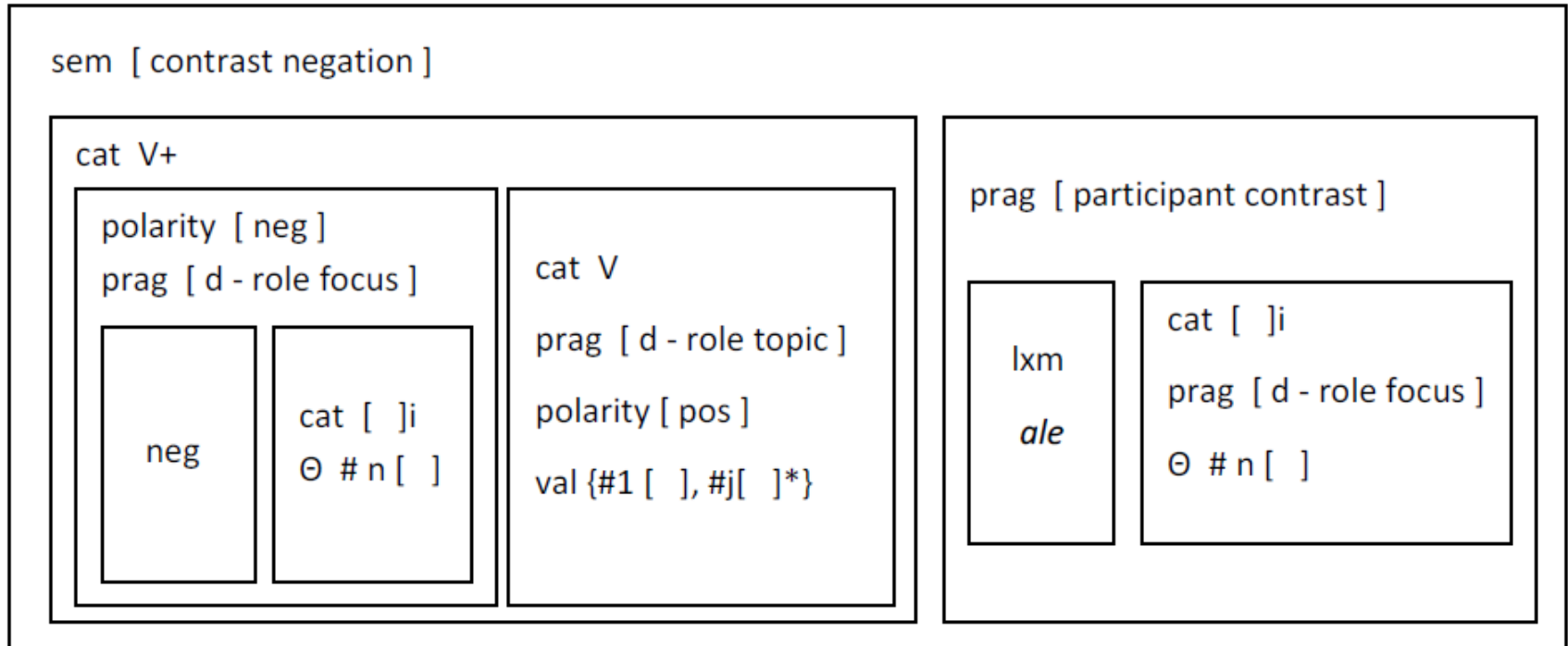


Přišel Petr, ale ne Pavel.

Came Peter, but NOT Paul.



## Constituent negation – variant III



Ne Petr přišel, ale Pavel.

NEG Peter came, but Paul.



## Contrastive negation

sem [ contrast negation ]

cat V

prag [ d - role topic ]

polarity [ neg ]

val {#1 [ ], #j[ ]\*}

lxm [ ]g

prag [ participant contrast ]

#1

cat [ ]i

prag [ d - role topic ]

Θ # n [ ]

lxm *ale*

cat [ ]i

prag [ d - role focus ]

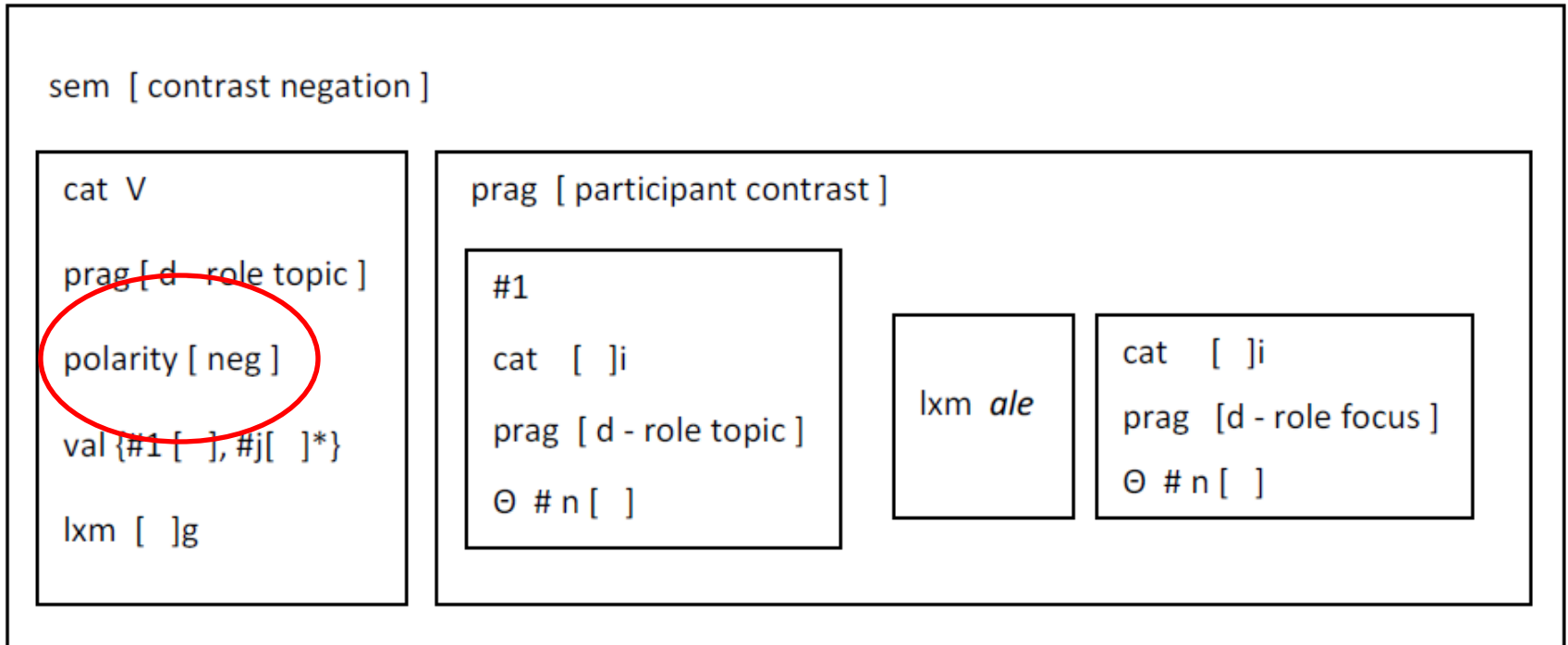
Θ # n [ ]

Nepřišel Petr, ale Pavel.

NEG came Peter, but Paul.



## Contrastive negation

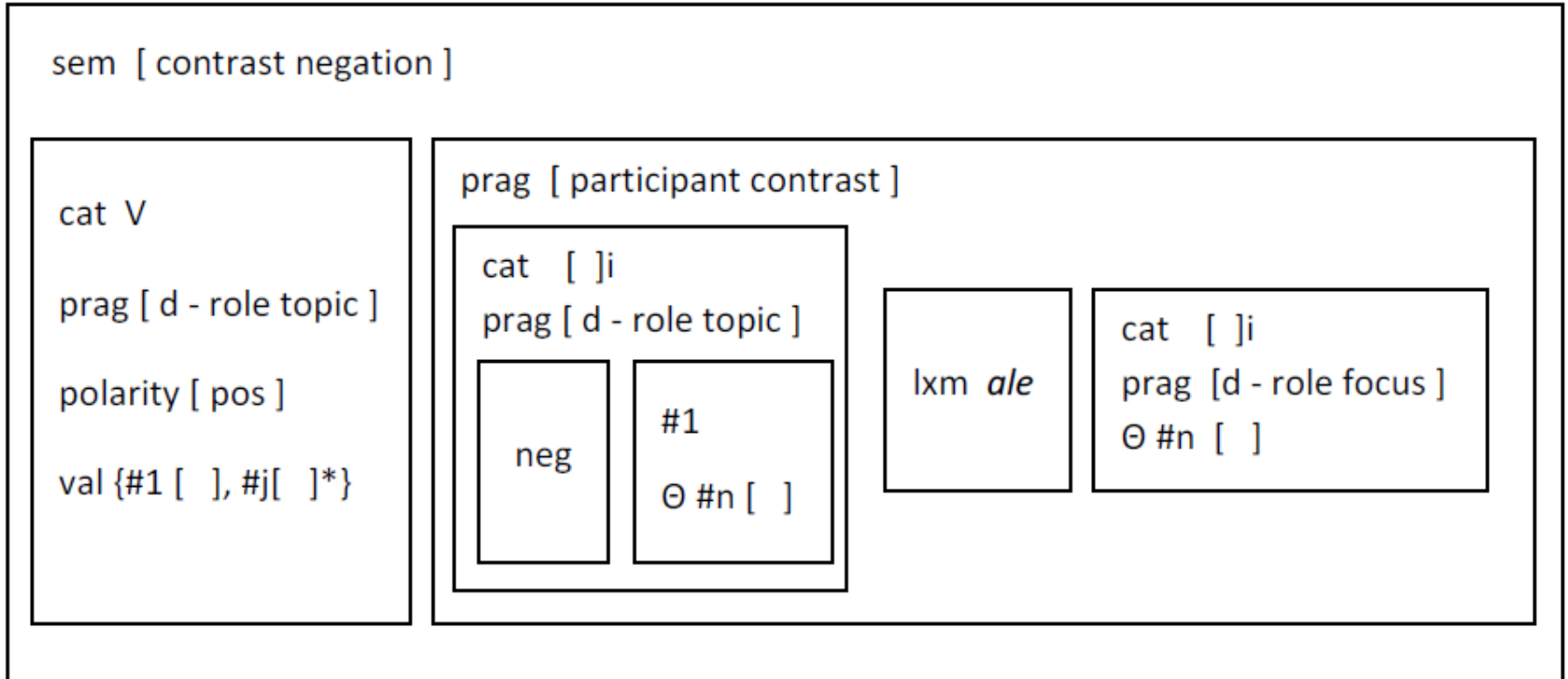


Nepřišel Petr, ale Pavel.

NEG came Peter, but Paul.



## Constituent negation – variant I

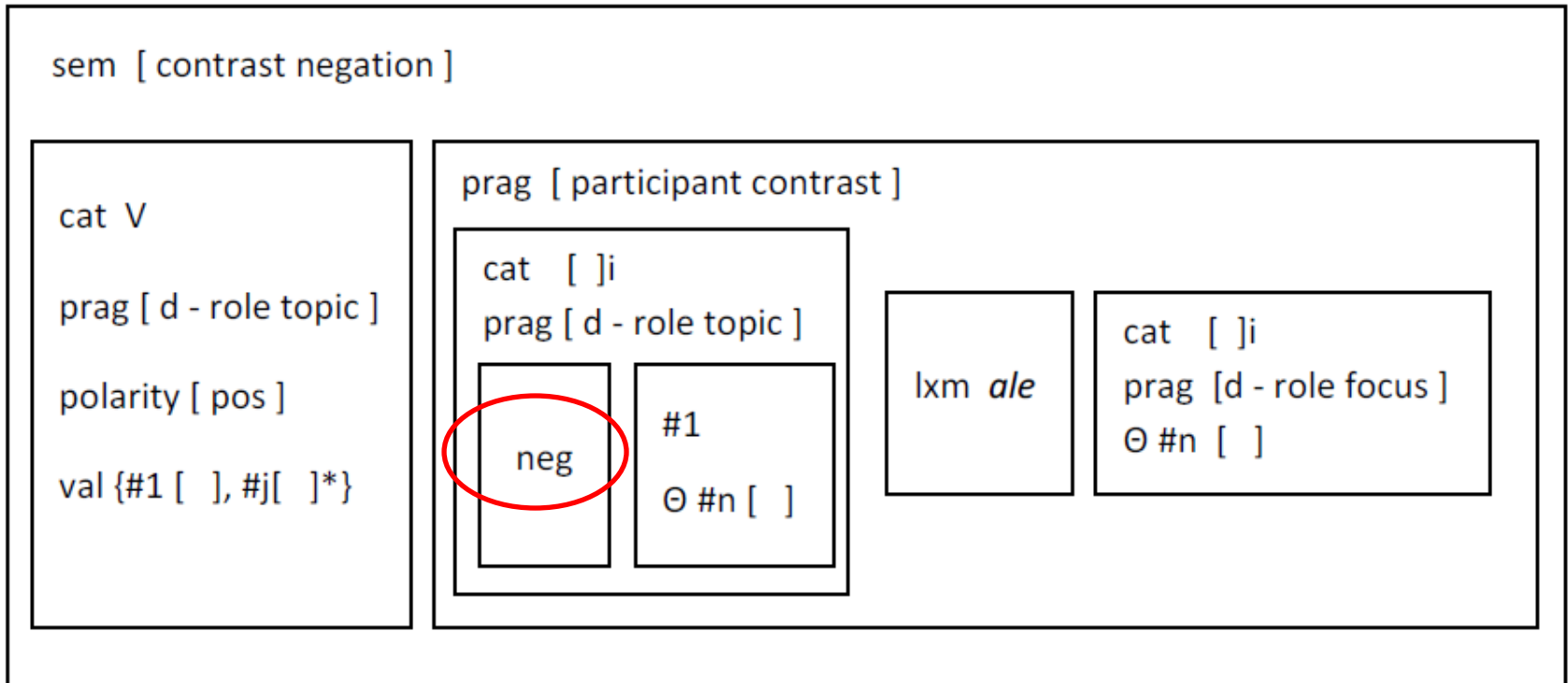


Přišel ne Petr, ale Pavel.

Came NEG Peter, but Paul.



## Constituent negation – variant I

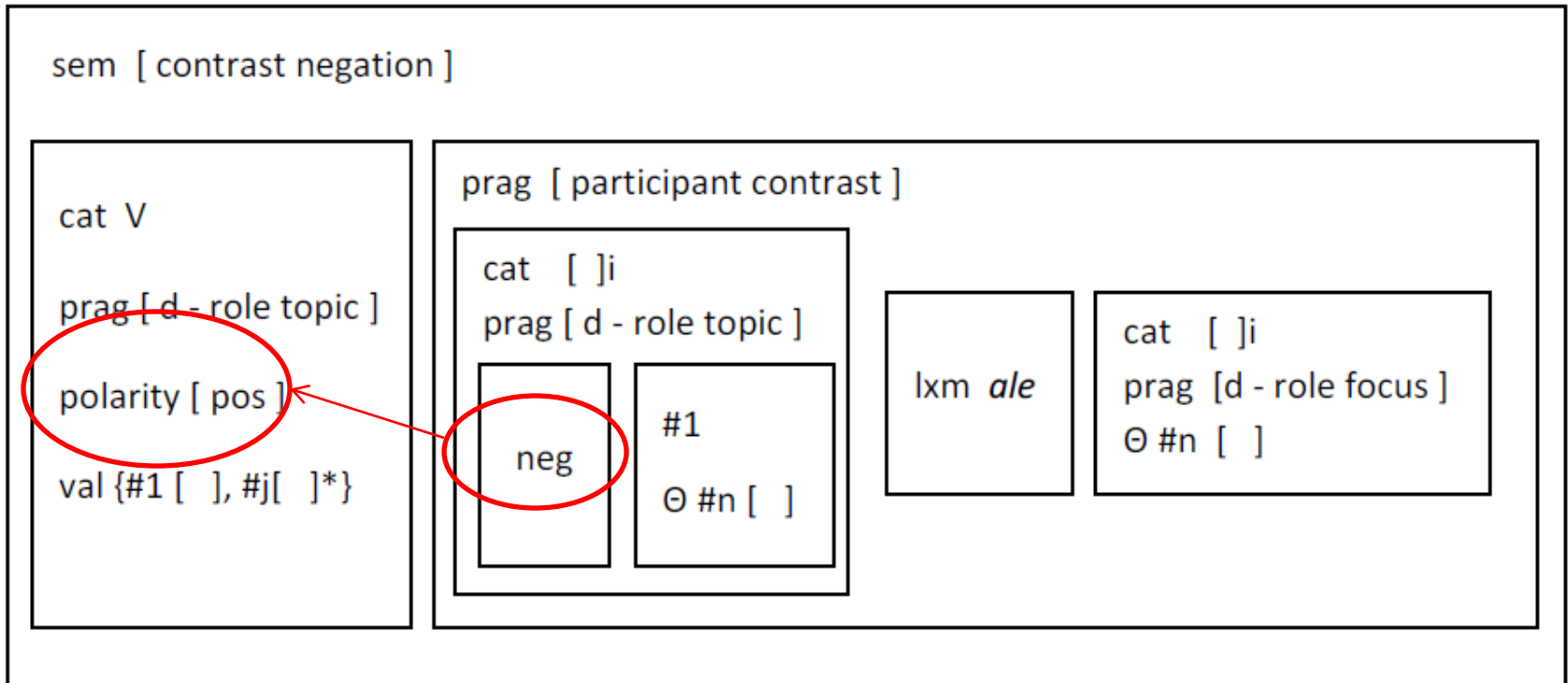


Přišel ne Petr, ale Pavel.

Came NEG Peter, but Paul.



## Constituent negation – variant I



Přišel ne Petr, ale Pavel.

Came NEG Peter, but Paul.





## Contrastive negation

SN features: marked on predicate



## Contrastive negation

SN features: marked on predicate

CN features: informational structure influence

adversative paratactic structure

does not negate the whole proposition



## Acknowledgements

This work has been supported by grant GAUK 19008/2008 of the Grant Agency of Charles University in Prague.



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This work has been supported by grant GAUK 19008/2008 of the Grant Agency of Charles University in Prague.

Thank you for your attention.



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