

Problem set due today! (by midnight).

review BPS; TP now has a T', appropriately split.

also note: **binary branching**

Okay, so now a lot of the specificity has been bleached out of our phrase structure rules; we're trusting to other modules to force the results that were once stipulated in the PS rules. Let's have a look at those modules.

back to selection.

c-selection (NP, PP), s-selection (location, etc.)

put selects for a **location** (semantic notion, s-selection). Do we also need to say that it selects for a PP? well, maybe not.

similarly, *devour*, by virtue of its meaning, requires an **agent** and a **patient**, and maybe these can only be NPs (you can't eat an adjective, or a prepositional phrase, no matter how hungry you are).

theta-roles (thematic roles)

So we could hope to get a lot of selection out of s-selection. But there do seem to be some leftovers:

ask what time it is, ask the time
inquire what time it is, *inquire the time

hard to see how to get that to be semantic (though people try!). So there's something else going on, which we'll return to.

formalizing what we've got:

theta criterion:

1. every theta-role must be assigned to exactly one XP (an **argument**)
2. an argument must have exactly one theta-role

Projection Principle (first pass)

Theta-roles are assigned under sisterhood. (guarantees that complements will be sisters)

Several problems having to do with subjects (and with nouns, more generally).

For one thing, the subject is in the wrong place; clearly not a sister of the verb.

For another, we've now got a setup where things only appear when the verb wants them to. And for objects, that's true. (give exx.). But for subjects, it's wrong. we don't find verbs without subjects, and some subjects are pretty pitiful excuses for subjects:

It squeezed John
It seems that John has died.

expletives

new kind of thing: **specifier** (not a complement of anything, not an adjunct either since it's required. what's requiring it?)

Extended Projection Principle

theta-roles are assigned under sisterhood, oh, and also, Spec TP must be filled.

(very sneaky). Might take us a ways toward understanding the first subject problem...

but actually, we have more problems, having to do with nouns more generally.

our constraints on objects aren't specific enough; objects actually have to appear closer to the verb than other complements.

Also, we're talking as though anything can be a complement of anything. Not quite true:

the army destroyed the city
the army's destruction of the city

why not "the army's destruction the city"?

fond (of Mary)
certain (that Syntax is lucrative)
*fond (Mary)

Vergnaud's suggestion: another thing about nouns is that they sometimes bear Case morphology, and the morphology seems to tell you something about where the nouns are. Proposal: nouns need Case, and only certain places in the clause are places where they can get it. This will allow us to impose tight restrictions on nouns.

case filter: *NP without Case

Spec TP: it's a Case position (nominative). And some position near the verb's another one (accusative); we'll come back to defining 'near the verb'.

selection starts NPs out, sometimes (always?) in places where they don't have Case. Sometimes this means they are doomed (N, Adj compl.). Other times, they have to travel elsewhere in search of Case: **movement**. (this type is **A-movement**)

it's obvious [that Syntax is fun]
[that Syntax is fun] is obvious
(two ways to satisfy EPP: expletive, or moving the clause)

*it's obvious [Norvin's beard]
Norvin's beard is obvious

NP doesn't have Case as the complement of *obvious*, so it has to move to Spec TP: an expletive won't do.

why isn't the subject in the right place? because of EPP and Case: start subject in Spec VP (evidence coming up)

Okay, why should you believe this?

1. idioms

kick the bucket, buy the farm, yawn in Technicolor...
but no S-V idioms (go ahead, try to think of one).
→ idioms must be constituents.

They can be smaller constituents than this: white elephant, the big Apple
or bigger ones: the cat is out of the bag, the shit hit the fan, nun haben wir den Salat

and raising! the cat seems to be out of the bag
and lo, *seem* seems not to assign a theta-role to its subject: it seems [that the world is flat]

[go through the reasoning carefully; there's an expletive here, so there must not be a theta-role being assigned. So how does *the cat* get there? here's how...]

[NB T isn't part of the idiom: VP-internal subject]