Movement preliminaries

Adam Szczegielniak
Introduction to Syntax

What syntax encodes

- Syntactic relationships
  - Constituent structure
  - Head-Phrase category relationships
  - Subject/object relationships
  - C-selection
- Semantic relationships
  - Compositionality
  - Arguments
  - Theta roles
  - Binding
- Morphological relationships
  - Case
  - Agreement

Locality of relationships

- Syntax encodes relationships *locally*
- How do we define locality
  - Very close
    - Sisterhood
  - Close
    - Specifier
  - Not close or far
    - C-command
  - Far
    - Adjunct
- You can see that locality is not defined same way as proximity of nodes although there is overlap

Locality of case

- A DP has to get case locally

- *Susan went under yesterday the bridge

- P assigns case to DP, but not theta role so adjunct intervention is because sisterhood between P and DP broken

- thus no case.

Locality of theta roles

- John showed Mary that Simon hit Susan
  - Cannot swap John-Simon
  - Cannot swap Susan-Mary
- Cannot swap it and John
  - It seems that John went home
  - *John seems that it went home
- Why?
- Theta roles are assigned locally
- How locally
- Inner argument under sisterhood with V
- Outer argument, Spec-TP?
  - Not very local with V

Inner argument Theta Role

- The inner argument receives a theta role via sisterhood with V
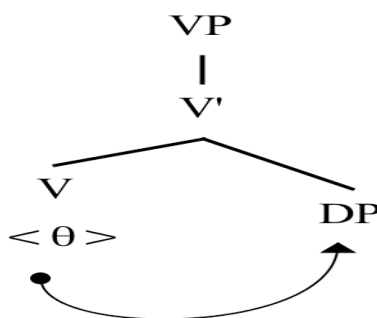
Why sisterhood

- Inner arguments are adjacent to verb in many languages
  - English is VO
  - Turkish is OV
- Closer relationship between Verb and inner argument compared to Verb and external argument
- Verbs differ as to
  - how many inner arguments they need
  - What category of inner arguments they can take
- External arguments: always one

Predicate

- The notion of a predicate is important
  - Predicate
    - Property of the external argument/subject (classical)
    - A function relating its arguments (Frege)
- Both definitions assume the external argument is composed with the verb phrase or verb
- However, if all relationships are local then we should not have the external arguments (EA) in Spec-T
- But word order facts show EA's have to be (they precede Modals)

Quantifier float

1. All the boys must have gone home
2. The boys must have all gone home
3. The boys must be all going home

- 'All' is allowed to to be below T and v(perf) and v(prog)
- But the meanings of (1-3) are the same!
  - All modifies [the boys]

Quantifiers

- All the men
- Suggests that quantifiers are not Determiners, something we assumed in Chapter 3, but modify determiner phrases
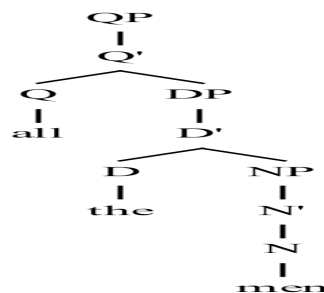
Consequences

- Qantifier float suggests that
  - DP complement of Q can be generated separately from Q
    - This would mean compositionality is independent of syntax
  - DP complement of Q is generated as sister of Q but is also generated in Spec-TP (subject position)
    - This would mean that word order does not reflect all the configurations lexical items occupy
- Option 1 means meaning and form are unrelated
- Option 2 means word order does not reflect all the structural relationships
  - We already assume that because of structural ambiguity

Word order vs. structural relationships

- Hypothesis
  - Word order reflects only a subset of existing structural relationships
- Lexical Items are subject to a variety of requirements:
  - EPP: subject in Spec-T
  - Theta role:
    - Every DP needs to have one and only one theta role,
    - Each theta role assigner needs to discharge all its theta roles.
  - Case:
    - Every DP needs to be assigned case
    - Every case assigner needs to assign a case to a DP
  - C-selection has to be satisfied
  - S-selection has to be satisfied
- Requirements are satisfied locally (Spec - Head, Complement - Head)

How do we resolve the conflict

- What do we do If a given XP/X is subject to more than one requirement that requires a local relationship with different heads?
- For example Theta role (v) and EPP/CASE (T)
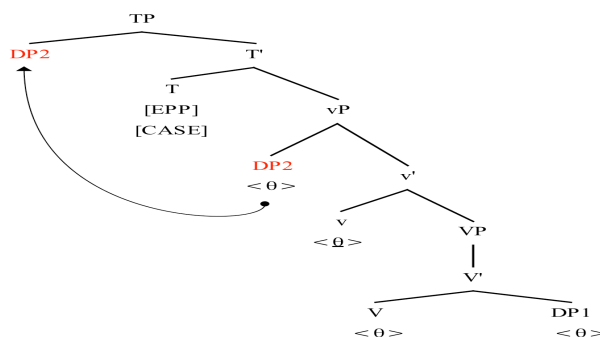
EPP

- T has EPP
  - It will seem that John likes Mary
  - It will rain
  - It will appear that Josh is happy
- It is in Spec-T but there no reason for it to be there because of theta roles, why?
- Because it does not have one.
- The verbs seem, appear or rain do not assign theta roles.
- There must be another reason why examples without 'it' are bad.
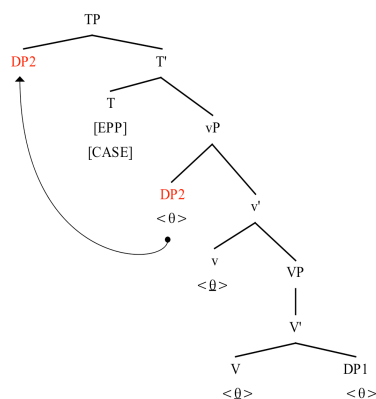- Extended Projection Principle: Every TP has to have an XP in Spec-T

Case

- Subjects receive nominative case regardless of theta role:
  - She $_{NOM}$ photographed him$_{ACC}$
  - Agent   theme
  - He $_{NOM}$ was photographed
  - Theme
- Subjects receive Nominative case with most verbs
  - He likes/goes/swims/dies/gives/
- It appears Nominative case is not very dependent on the verb
- It is dependent on Tense finiteness
  - It is important for him to swim a lot

Case

- This in in contrast to Objects whose case depends on the verb (not in English since we have two cases)
- Polish
  - Jola kupiła książkę (acc)
  - Jola bought book
  - Jola nie kupiła książki (gen)
  - Jola not bought book
  - Jola przyglądała sie książce (dat)
  - Jola looked   refl book

Subject gets case in Spec-TP and theta role in Spec-v

TP
DP2   T'
         T   vP
      [EPP]
      [CASE]
         DP2   v'
         <θ>
               v   VP
               <θ>
                      V'
                   V   DP1
                   <θ>   <θ>

- Why not theta role in Spec-V?
  - v has active/passive
    - Passive involves no theta role of Agent
  - Spec-V is maybe used for second object in double object constructions
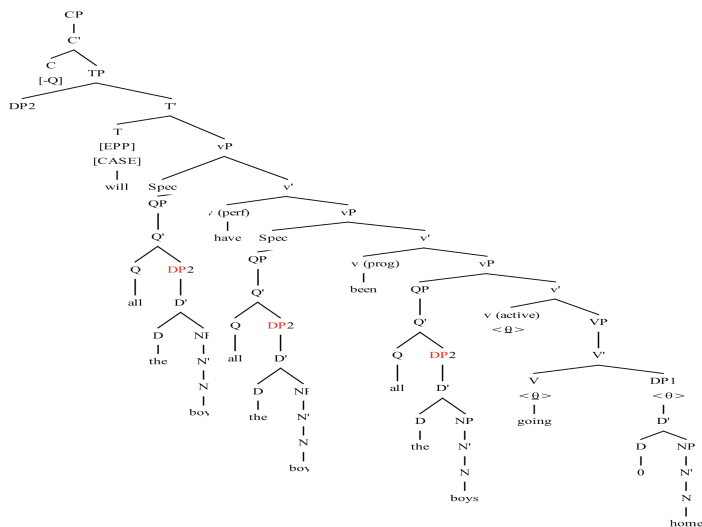
Movement

- To reconcile Case locality with Theta role locality the subject DP has to be in two configurations, Spec-v and Spec-TP
- This is movement
- Movement is driven by semantic, syntactic and morphological processes like case assignment, EPP and others that we will talk about.
- Movement is not driven by the need to have certain word order, but
- Movement can, but not must, change word order
- The topmost position of the moved element is pronounced.

Floating quantifiers
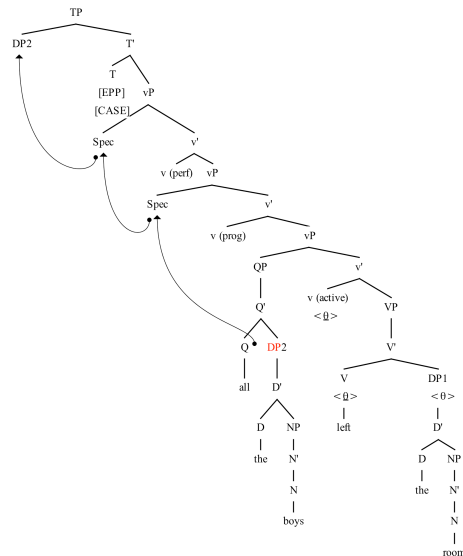
- Movement of DP leaves QP
  - The boys will be all leaving
- QP can move to Spec-v(prog) or Spec-v(perf) and the DP move
  - The boys will all have left
  - The boys will all be leaving
- What does this show:
- Movement proceeds through every possible landing site.
- In the case of XP movement
- Ever possible Specifier position
- SO we assume DP 'the boys' in:
- The boys will be all going
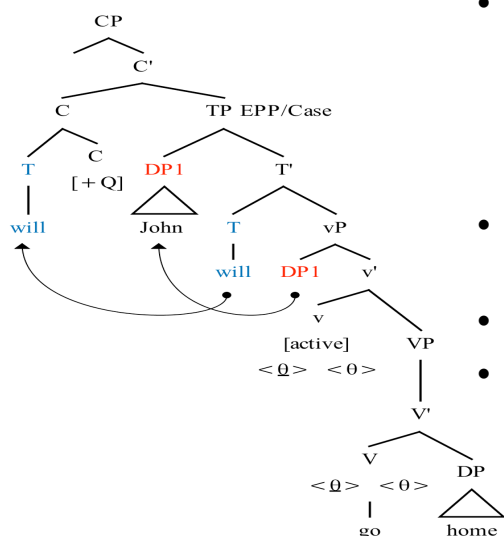- moves through every Spec-v

QP movement then DP

3/9/15

What can move

- We saw that DP's and QP's can move
- meaning whole XP can
- How about X, can head move
- Movement is a transformation of a given structure to satisfy contradictory requirements of theta role assignment and case, and EPP and for example Question formation

Yes/NO

- John will go home
- Will John go home
- Two possibilities, subject remained in Spec-v or will moves to C
- Assumption
  - Head move to head position
  - XP's move to Specifier position
  - Why?
- Remember an XP can only have one head!

Head movement

CP
C'
C
TP EPP/Case
T
C
[+Q]
DP1
T'
will
John
T
vP
will
DP1
v'
v
[active]
VP
<θ> <θ>
V'
V
DP
<θ> <θ>
go
home

- Movement of will adjoins to head C creating C
  - like morphological composition
- Why no just leave DP1 in Spec-v
- English has EPP
- Also C is locus of question features
  - Question complementizers

Head movement

- Why are Yes/No questions related to their answers
  - Transformation preserves theta roles
- Assumption
- Deep-Structure of a sentence is where all theta roles are assigned

A Will John go home

B John will go home

- Example B is semantically related to A by
  - being its answer
  - Sharing same theta role configuration
- We assume that A and B have the same Deep structure

Movement first sketch

- We can move
  - X
  - XP
- Movement is triggered by Morphology Syntax semantics
  - Case (Morphology)
  - EPP (Syntax)
  - +Q (Semantics)
- Deep structure is the level of representation where theta role assignment is carried out – semantic encoding of arguments
- Surface structure is where all movement operations have applied – all morphological, semantic and syntactic requirements are satisfied