

HG4041 Theories of Grammar

Raising and Control

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Lecture 10

Location: LHN-TR+36

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Overview

- Intro to topic
- Infinitival *to*
- (Subject) raising verbs
- (Subject) control verbs
- Raising/control in Transformational Grammar
- Object raising and object control

Where We Are & Where We're Going

- Revision
 - In the last two lectures, we have seen a kind of **subject sharing** – that is, cases where one NP served as the SPR for two different verbs. Examples?
 - Last time, we looked at **dummy** NPs – that is, non-referential NPs. Examples?
- Today, we're going to look at the kind of subject sharing we saw with **be** in more detail.
- Then we'll look at another kind of subject sharing, using dummy NPs in differentiating the two kinds.

What Makes This Topic Different

- The phenomena we have looked at so far (**agreement**, **binding**, **imperatives**, **passives**, **existentials**, **extraposition**) are easy to pick out on the basis of their form alone.
- In this chapter, we look at constructions with the general form NP-V-(NP)-*to*-VP. It turns out that they divide into two kinds, differing in both syntactic and semantic properties.

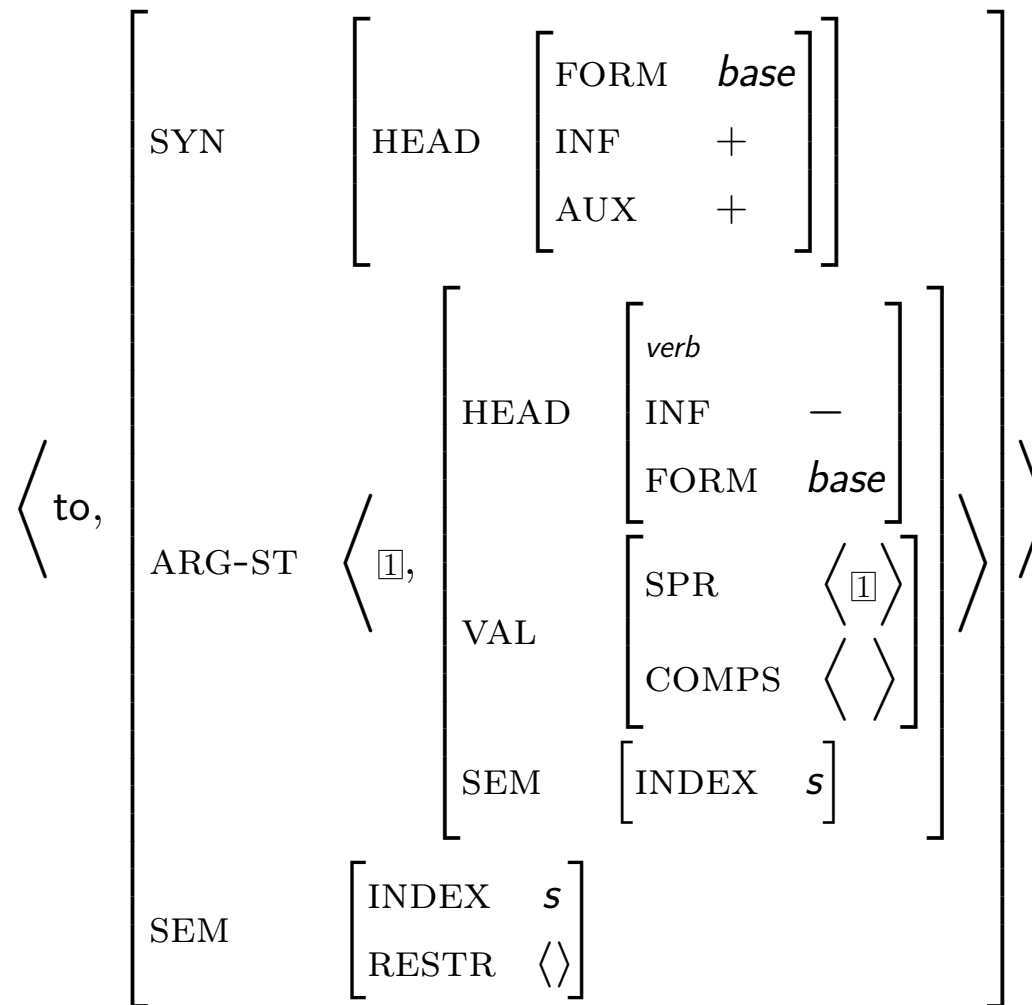
The Central Idea

- *Pat continues to avoid conflict* and *Pat tries to avoid conflict* both have the form NP-V-**to**-VP
- But **continue** is semantically a one-place predicate, expressing a property of a situation (namely, that it continues to be the case)
continue(avoid(Pat, conflict))
- Whereas **try** is semantically a two-place predicate, expressing a relation between someone who tries and a situation s/he tries to bring about.
try(Pat, avoid(Pat, conflict))
- This semantic difference has syntactic effects.

The Status of Infinitival *to*

- It's not obvious what part of speech to assign to *to*.
- It's not the same as the preposition *to*:
 - (1) *Pat aspires to stardom*
 - (2) *Pat aspires to be a good actor*
 - (3) **?Pat aspires to stardom and to be a good actor*
 - (4) **Pat aspires to stardom and be a good actor*
- We call it an **auxiliary verb**, because this will make our analysis of auxiliaries a little simpler.

The Lexical Entry for Infinitival *to*

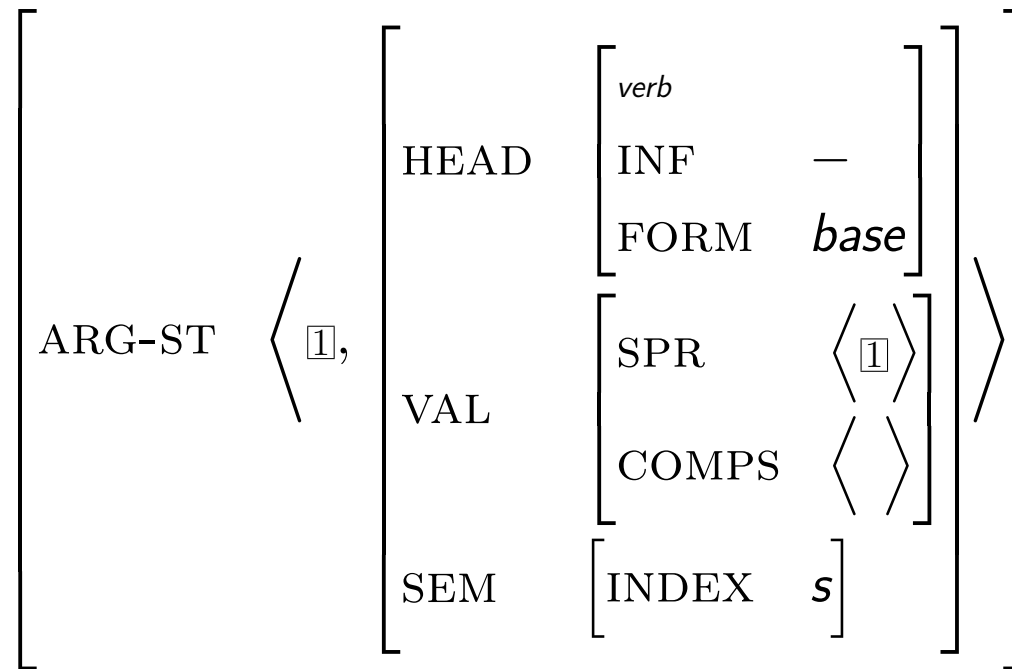


The Syntax of Infinitival *to*

[[[FORM	<i>base</i>]]]
			INF	+			
			AUX	+			

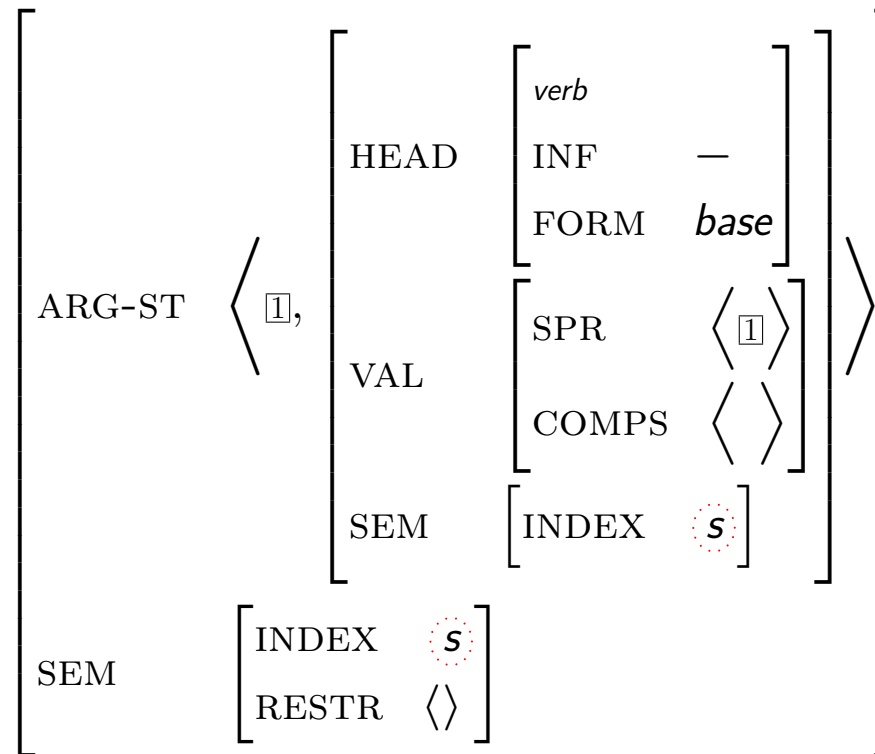
- This makes it a verb, because *AUX* is declared on verb
- [*INF* +] uniquely identifies the infinitival *to*
- Verbs select complements with different combinations of *FORM* and *INF* values, e.g.
 - complements of *condescend* are [*FORM* *base*] and [*INF* +]
 - complements of *should* are [*FORM* *base*] and [*INF* −]
 - complements of *help* are [*FORM* *base*]
- The meaning of [*AUX* +] becomes clear in Chapter 13.

The Argument Structure



- What kind of constituent is the second argument?
- The tagging of the first argument and the SPR of the second argument is exactly like *be*.

The Semantics of Infinitival *to*



- The INDEX value is taken from the SEM of the second argument.
- What is the semantic contribution of *to*?

Dummies and *continue*

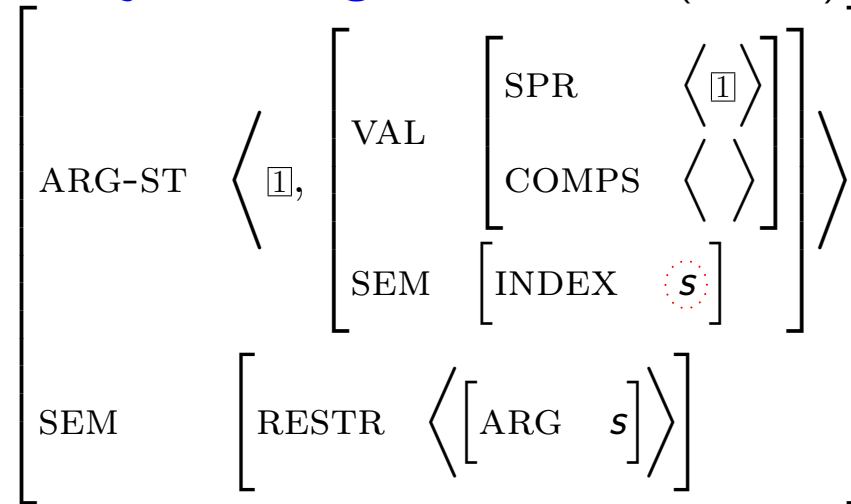
➤ Some examples:

- (5) *There continue to be seats available.*
- (6) *It continues to matter that we lost.*
- (7) *Advantage continues to be taken of the innocent.*
- (8) **It continues to be seats available.*
- (9) **There continues to matter that we lost.*
- (10) **Advantage continues to be kept of the innocent.*

➤ Generalization: Non-referential NPs can appear as the subject of *continue* just in case they could be the subject of the complement of *continue*.

A New Type, for Verbs like *continue*

Subject-Raising Verb Lexeme (*srv-lxm*)

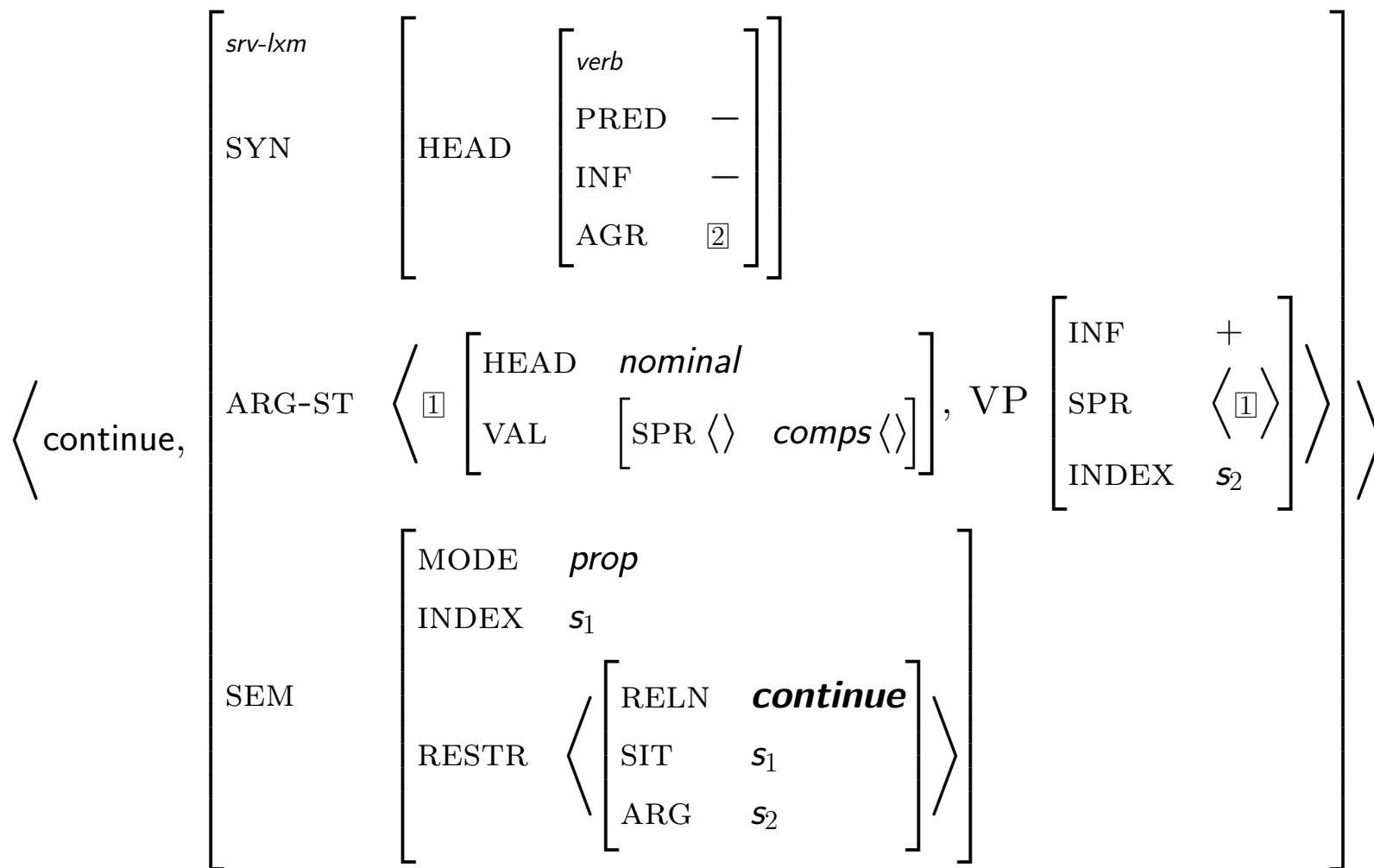


- The subject sharing is just like for *be* and *to*: the subject of *continue* is also the subject of its complement
- *continue* imposes no other constraints on its subject
- The index of the complement must be an argument of the predication introduced by the verb

The Lexical Entry for *continue*

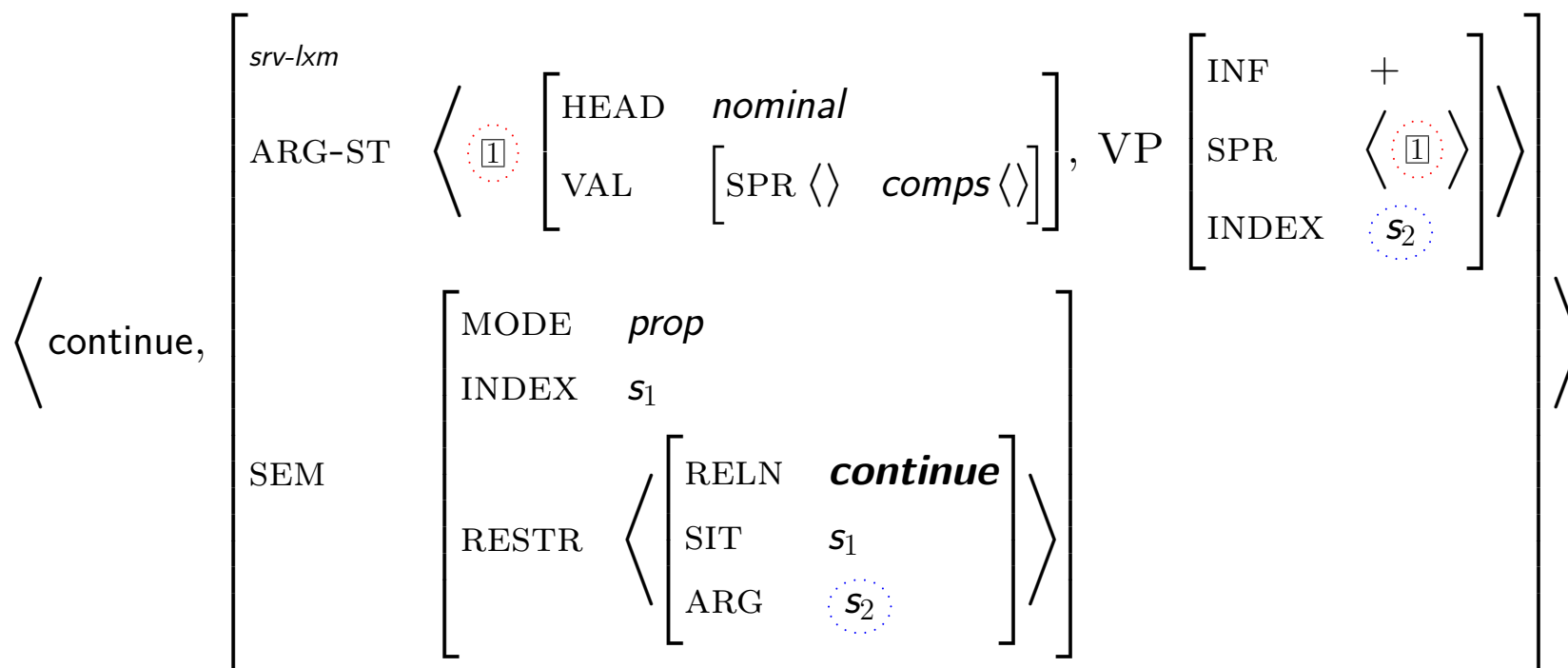
$$\left\langle \text{continue}, \left[\begin{array}{l} \text{SYN} \left[\begin{array}{l} \text{ARG-ST} \left\langle \text{X}, \text{VP} \left[\text{INF} \quad + \right] \right\rangle \right. \\ \text{INDEX} \quad s_1 \\ \text{RESTR} \left\langle \left[\begin{array}{l} \text{RELN} \quad \textit{continue} \\ \text{SIT} \quad s_1 \end{array} \right] \right\rangle \end{array} \right] \right] \right\rangle$$

continue with Inherited Information



Key Property of Subject-Raising Verbs

The subject plays no semantic role in the predication introduced by the **SRV** itself. Its semantic role (if any) is only in the predication introduced in the complement.



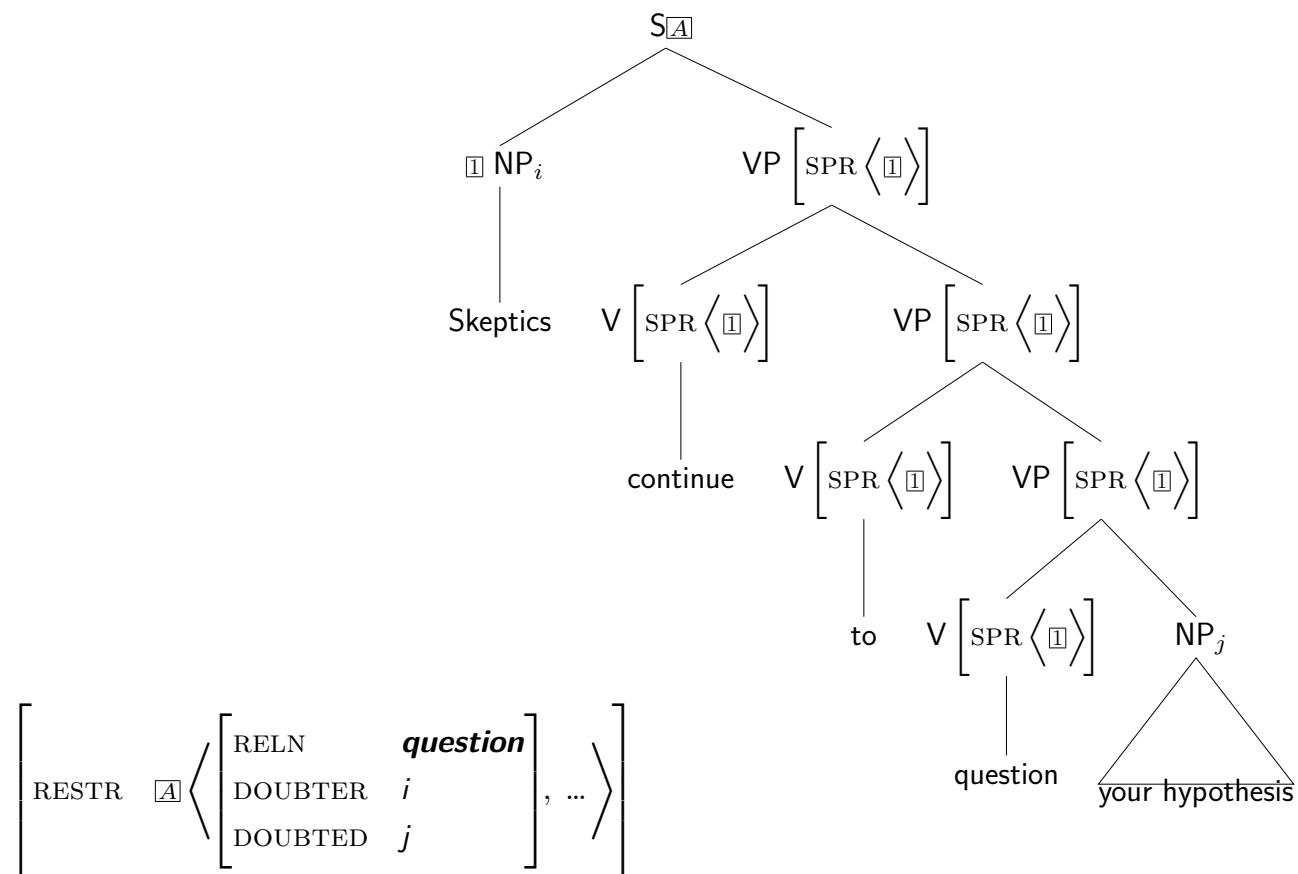
Constraints on SRV's subjects are from their complements

- SRVs take dummy subjects when and only when their complements do.
- SRVs take idiom chunk subjects when and only when their complements do.
- Passivizing the complement of an SRV doesn't change the truth conditions of the whole sentence:

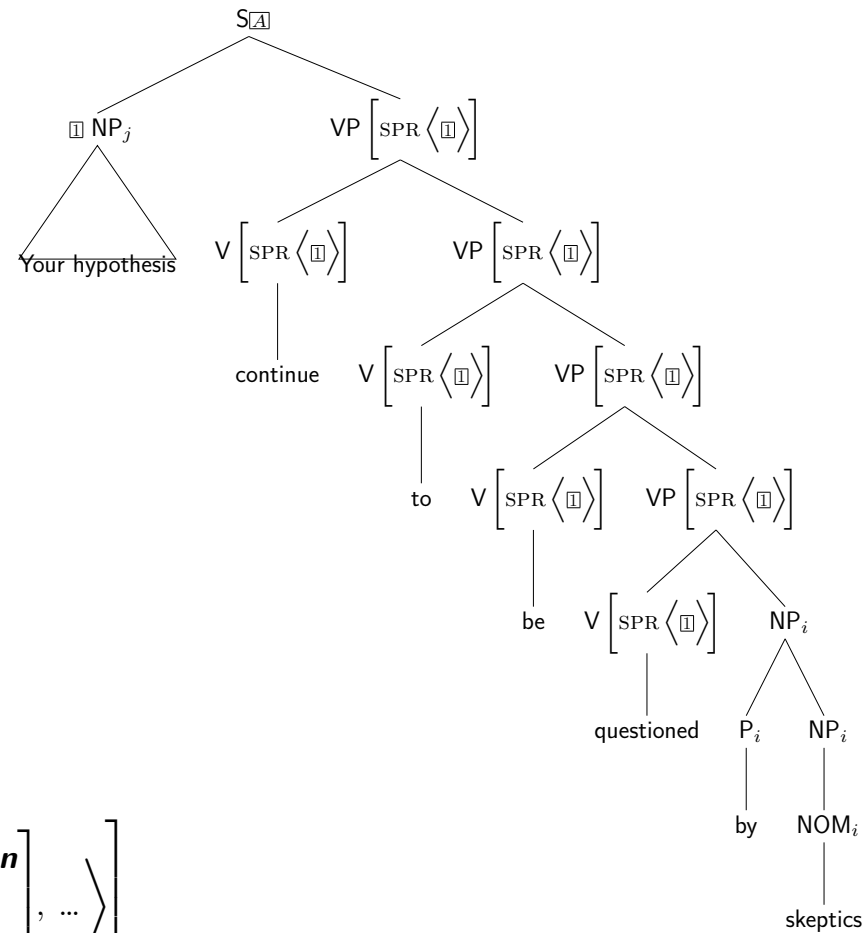
(11) *Skeptics continue to question your hypothesis*

(12) *Your hypothesis continues to be questioned by skeptics*

continue with active complement



continue with passive complement



$$\left[\text{RESTR } A \left\langle \begin{array}{ll} \text{RELN} & \text{question} \\ \text{DOUBTER} & i \\ \text{DOUBTED} & j \end{array} \right\rangle, \dots \right]$$

Control Verbs

- Control verbs, like *try*, appear in contexts that look just like the contexts for raising verbs:
 - i. *Pat tried to stay calm*
looks superficially like
 - ii. *Pat continued to stay calm*
- Control verbs also share their subjects with their complements, but in a different way.
- A control verb expresses a relation between the referent of its subject and the situation denoted by its complement.

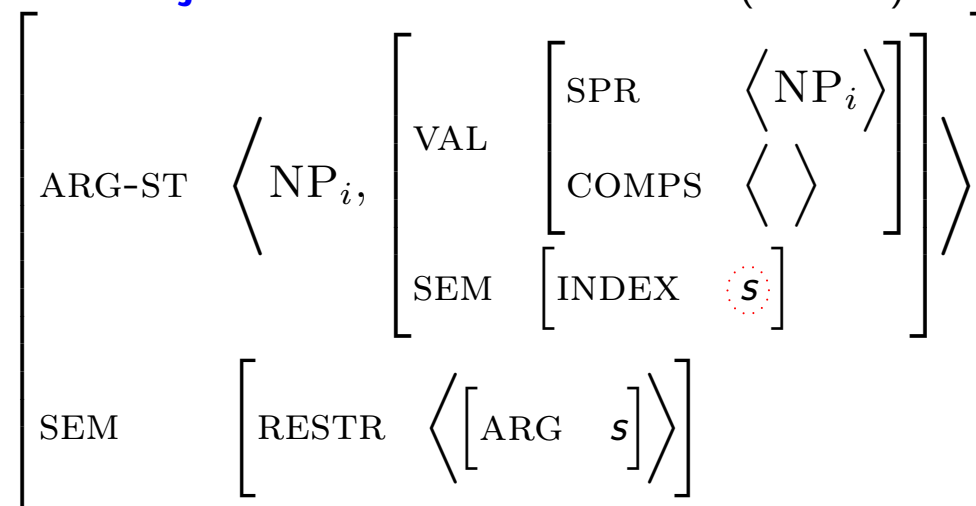
Control Verbs Are Not Transparent

- They never take dummies or idiom chunks as subjects.
 - i. **There try to be bugs in my program*
 - ii. **It tries to upset me that the Giants lost*
 - iii. **Advantage tries to be taken of tourists*

- Passivizing the complement's verb changes the truth conditions.
 - i. *The police tried to arrest disruptive demonstrators*
 - ≠
 - ii. *Disruptive demonstrators tried to be arrested by the police*

A New Type

Subject-Control Verb Lexeme (*scv-lxm*)



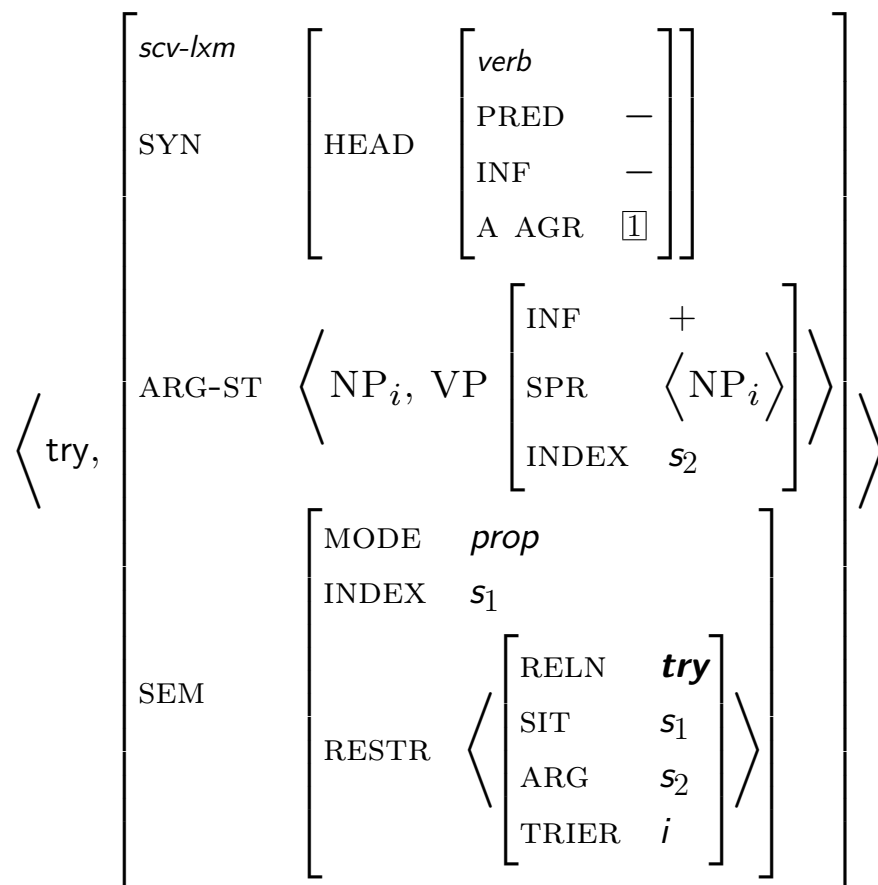
- This differs from *srv-lxm* in that the first argument and the SPR of the second argument are coindexed, not tagged (re-entrant).
- This means that they only need to share INDEX values, but may differ on other features
- And the first argument – the subject – must have an INDEX value, so it cannot be non-referential

The lexical entry for *try*

$$\left\langle \text{try}, \left[\begin{array}{l} \text{scv-lxm} \\ \text{SYN} \left[\text{ARG-ST} \left\langle \text{NP}_i, \text{VP} \left[\text{INF} \quad + \right] \right\rangle \right] \\ \text{SEM} \left[\begin{array}{l} \text{INDEX} \quad s_1 \\ \text{RESTR} \left\langle \begin{array}{l} \text{RELN} \quad \textit{try} \\ \text{SIT} \quad s_1 \\ \text{TRIER} \quad i \end{array} \right\rangle \end{array} \right] \end{array} \right] \right\rangle$$

Note that the subject (NP_i) plays a semantic role with respect to the verb, namely the TRIER.

try with Inherited Information



Things to Note:

- The first argument has an index
- The first argument is coindexed with SPR of the second argument
- Both the first and second arguments play semantic roles in the **try** relation
- Very little had to be stipulated in the entry

Questions

- What rules out dummies and idiom chunks as subjects of *try*?
- What accounts for the semantic non-equivalence of pairs like the following?
 - i. *Reporters tried to interview the candidate*
 - ii. *The candidate tried to be interviewed by reporters*
- Why does *continue* behave differently in these respects?

try with an active complement
