Raising vs. Control

Or don't judge a book by its cover

Some surprising parallels

- Jean is likely to leave   *Raising*
- Jean is reluctant to leave   *Control*

- Jean wants Brian to leave   *Raising*
- Jean persuaded Brian to leave *Control*

Raising Predicate

- *Is likely*
  - ⬚
- *extraposition*
  - It is likely [that John will leave]
- *clausal subject*
  - [that John will leave]$_i$ is likely.
- *subject to subject raising*
  - John$_i$ is likely [t$_i$ to leave]$_i$

Extraposition

CP
C
C Ø   TP
   T
   T   vP
      v'
   v   AP
   is
      A'
   A   CP
   likely
      that Jean left

it

Expletive
insertion to
satisfy EPP

Clausal Subject

CP
C
C Ø   TP
   T
   T   vP
      v'
   v   AP
   is
      A'
   A   CP
   likely   that Jean left

Movement
for EPP

Raising

CP
C Ø   TP
   T
   T   vP
      v'
   v   AP
   is
      A
      likely   CP
         C Ø   TP
            T
            to   vP
            DP   v'
            John
               v
               leave

Not a case
assigner: non-
finite

NOM and EPP

EPP & MLC
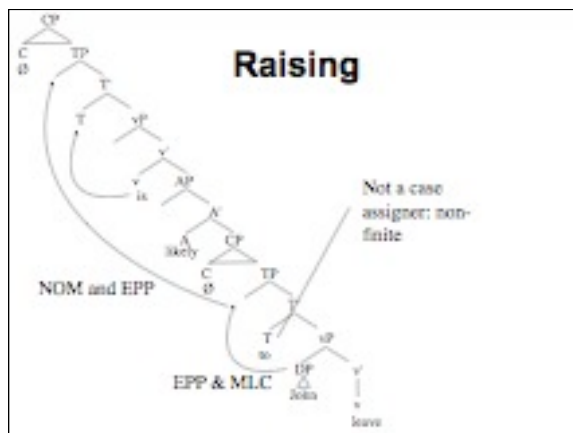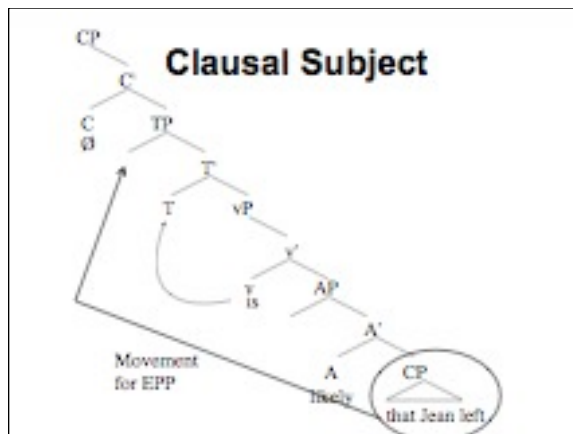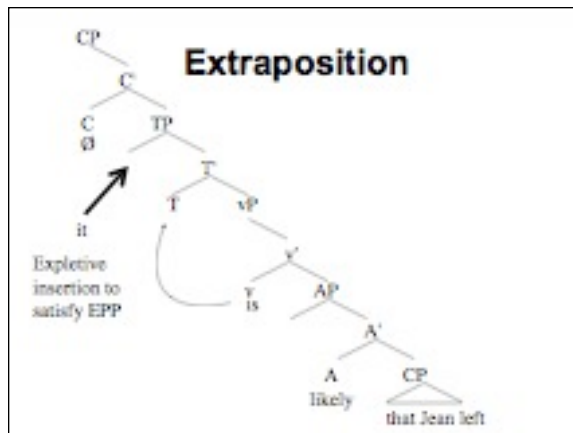
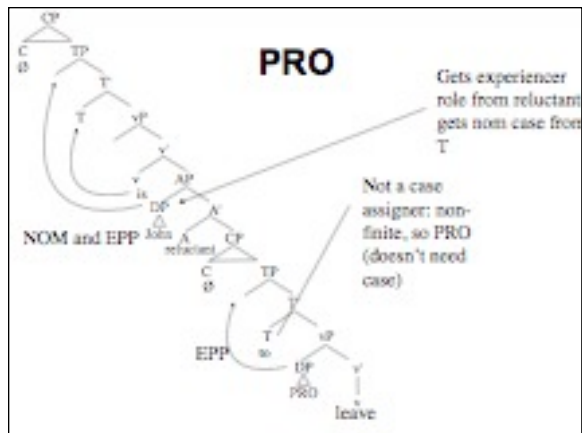## Raising vs. Control

- *Is likely*
  -
- *Is reluctant*
  -

Distinguishing Raising from Control

1. Work out theta grids
2. Control disallows expletive subject:
   - § *It is reluctant [that John will leave].
3. Control disallows clausal subject:
   - § *[That John will leave] is reluctant.
4. Idiom test:
   - § The shit hit the fan
   - § The shit is likely to hit the fan (retains idiomatic meaning)
   - § #The shit is reluctant to hit the fan (loses idiomatic meaning)


Where's the missing subject?

- John is reluctant to leave
- Where is the agent of *leave*?
- John already gets theta role from *is reluctant*. So by the theta criterion it can't get one from *leave*.
- Solution: PRO
- PRO is a null, CASELESS subject. Notice that PRO is a DP in a position without case (explaining why it is null).

PRO

Gets experiencer role from reluctant gets nom case from T

Not a case assigner: non-finite, so PRO (doesn't need case)

NOM and EPP

Another Kind of Raising

- Subject to Subject raising
  - John is likely to leave
- Subject to Object Raising (ECM):
  - John wants Bill to leave
  - Bill wants him to leave
- In order to get accusative case on the subject of the embedded clause you have to raise the subject to be the sister of V.

Subject to Object

ACC

EPP
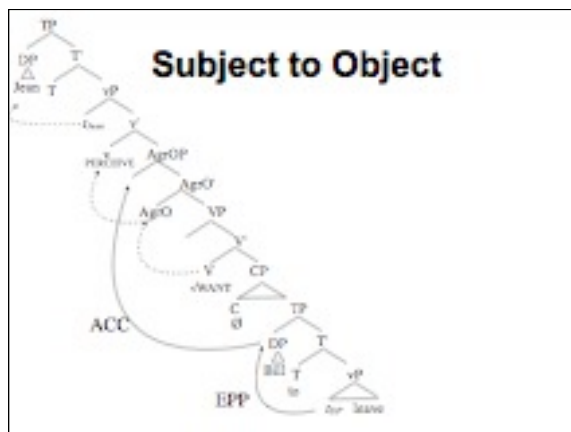
Object Position?

- Accusative Case:
  - I want him to leave
- Binding theory:
  - John$_i$ wants himself$_i$ to leave.
  - John$_i$ wants him$_j$ to leave.
  - *John$_i$ wants him$_i$ to leave.
  - (cf. John$_i$ thinks that he$_{ij}$ should leave)

Another kind of control

- Subject Control:
  - Jean is reluctant PRO to leave
- Object Control:
  - Jean persuaded Robert PRO to leave
- Think about the theta grid for persuade:

Theta grids for object control

- Persuade:

- Leave:

  Jean$_i$ persuaded Robert$_j$ [PRO$_x$ to leave]$_m$

Distinguishing SOR from OC

- SOR
  - John wants the shit to hit the fan
- OC
  - #John persuaded the shit to hit the fan

Control Theory

Determining the meaning of PRO
Or the least well worked out area
of generative grammar.

Types of PRO

- Note, the indices here are the indices of binding theory, not the indices of theta grids.
- PRO_{arb}:
  - PRO to find a mate, go to a dating service
- Non-arbitrary PRO
  - Jean$_i$ tried PRO$_i$ to behave.
  - *Obligatory Control:*
    - Jean$_i$ tried PRO$_i$ to behave
  - *Non-Obligatory Control*
    - Robert$_i$ knows that it is essential [PRO$_i$ to be well behaved]

Is PRO an R-expression, Pronoun or Anaphor?

- Well it can be bound, so it isn't an R-expression.
- It isn't bound within it's clause, so it isn't an anaphor.
- Could it be a pronoun?
  - Robert$_i$ knows it is essential PRO$_{i}$ to be well behaved
  - Robert$_i$ knows it is essential that he$_{i}$ is well behaved.
- Problem: sometimes it is obligatorily bound, like an anaphor:
  - Jean$_i$ tried PRO$_{i}$ to behave.
- Solution: It is neither a pronoun nor an anaphor. It does not fall within the domain of binding theory. So how do we deal with it?

Control

- Conclusion 1:
  - The controller (loosely the antecedent) must c-command PRO:
    - [Jean$_i$'s father]$_k$ is reluctant PRO$_{k/i}$ to leave.

Control

- Observation:
  - In some sentences, the controller is the NP closest to the PRO
    - Jean$_i$ persuaded Robert$_k$ PRO$_{k}$ to leave.
  - But in others it is not:
    - Jean$_i$ promised Susan$_k$ PRO$_{i/k}$ to leave.
- These sentences are identical in structure, and differ only in the verb. So the difference in controller might be specified in the lexicon.

Control as part of the lexicon

- Persuade:
  -

- Promise:
  -

But that can't be right either:

- Louis₁ begged Kate₂ [PRO₂ to leave her job]
- Louis₁ begged Kate₂ [PRO₁ to be allowed to quit his job]

- ACK! Here it is the embedded clause, not the main clause that is determining who the controller is…
  - Perhaps Control isn't syntactic, but pragmatic (comes from real world knowledge).
  - Or perhaps we just haven't figured it out yet!

PRO vs. *pro*

- PRO is the caseless form found in infinitivals in English.
- *pro* is the null subject found in CASED positions in languages like Spanish and Italian:
  - *pro parlo*   "I speak"
  - *pro parli*   "you speak"
- In many languages *pro* is licensed by rich agreement morphology.
- Null subject parameter:
  - Language allows null subject pronouns. Yes or No.
    - English, French: NO
    - Spanish, Italian, Irish: YES

Summary

- Distinguished SSR from SC
  - Expletive insertion
  - Clausal Subject
  - Idiom test
- Distinguished SOR from OC
  - Idiom test
- Difference lies in the number of theta roles.
- Discussed the structural, lexical and pragmatic factors underlying Control.
- Distinguished PRO from *pro*.