

Assignment: Passive

Ling 610: Syntax II (Bruening)

Due Feb. 23, 2006

1 The 1AEX Versus the Thematic Hierarchy Condition

Discuss two different types of examples where the 1AEX of Perlmutter and Postal (1984) and the Thematic Hierarchy Condition of Jackendoff (1972) (from last week's homework) make different predictions. Which theory is superior?

2 The 1AEX Versus GB Passive

Chomsky (1981, p.124) notes that the passive has two crucial properties:

1. The external argument does not receive a theta role;
2. The internal argument does not receive Case within VP.

Chomsky's theory of the passive (adopted in some form by most working in GB) is basically just this observation: the passive suppresses the external theta role and prevents Case from being assigned. You are probably already familiar with this theory; since Case cannot be assigned, the object must move into the now-empty subject position.

How would you express the 1AEX of Perlmutter and Postal 1984 in this theory? Can either of these two parts, or both in conjunction, do the work of the 1AEX? If not, suggest a way to formulate a condition in this theory to account for the 1AEX facts.

References

- Chomsky, Noam (1981), *Lectures on Government and Binding*. Dordrecht: Foris.
- Jackendoff, Ray S. (1972), *Semantic Interpretation in Generative Grammar*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.
- Perlmutter, David, and Paul M. Postal (1984), "The 1-Advancement Exclusiveness Law." In David M. Perlmutter and Carol Rosen, eds., *Studies in Relational Grammar 2*, Chicago: University of Chicago Press, pp. 81–125.