DP Movement

Passives, Raising: When DPs are not in their theta positions.

A Terminological Point

- You'll see this operation called NP movement or DP movement. It's the same thing. It is sometimes also called A-movement (for "argument" movement).

Locality restriction on theta roles

- Leave

agent DP
1

  - Adrian left
  - *it left (where IT is an expletive)

- Must be in same clause

  - *[I want Bradley₁ [that left]]
  - *John₁ thinks [that left]

Locality Condition on Theta Roles

Theta roles are assigned within the projection of the head that assigns them (usually the VP)

A Problem

[John_i is likely [to leave]].

- John is the subject of is likely.

- Is it theta marked by is likely????
  - NO!   (cf. it is likely that John left)

- It is theta marked by leave!

- But it isn't in the same clause! Yikes!

IS LIKELY

- [[That John will leave]$_J$ is likely]
- It is likely [that John will leave]$_J$

Proposition DP
J

No theta role on the subject of 'is likely'

θ

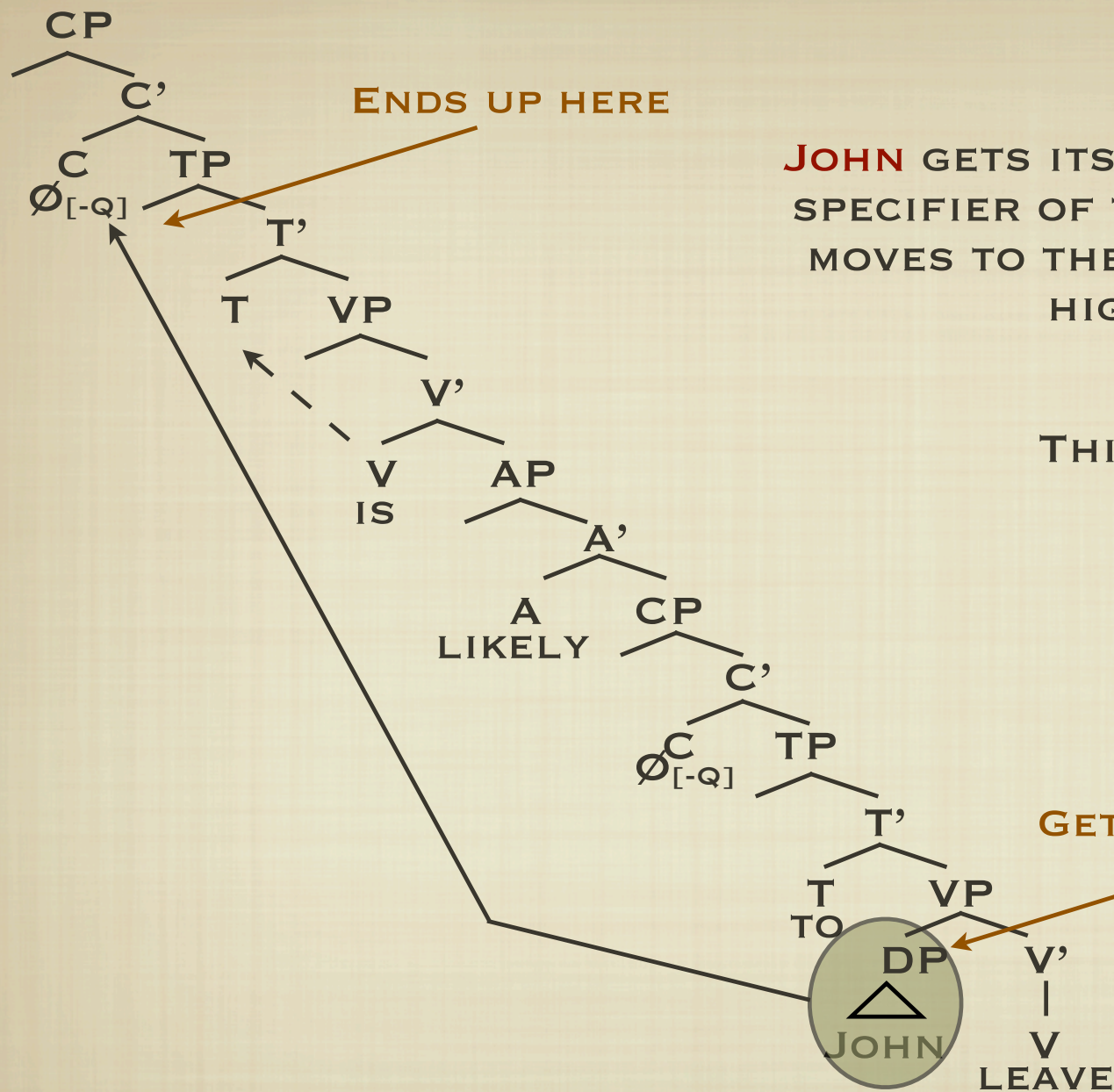- it is likely [$_{CP}$ that john will leave]

θ

In the wrong place!

- John is likely to leave

- **John** is theta marked by **leave**, but appears in the subject position of **is likely**, in violation of the locality constraint.

- The DP [John] is displaced from its theta position.

Ends up here

John gets its theta role in the specifier of the lower VP, but moves to the specifier of the higher TP.

This is called Raising

Gets Theta role here

WHY???

- Well one thing we can observe, is the EPP holds. (the requirement that every sentence have a subject). The DP John could move to satisfy this requirement.

- This doesn't account for examples such as:

  - *John is likely [that left].
 - *It is likely John to leave.

  - Why are these bad?

Case Theory

- Case is a licensor. In order for the sentence to be grammatical, an DP must get case

    - **Nominative case** is assigned in the specifier of finite TP (note: FINITE)
    - **Accusative case** is assigned as the complement to the verb.
    - **Prepositional Case** is assigned to the sister of a Preposition.

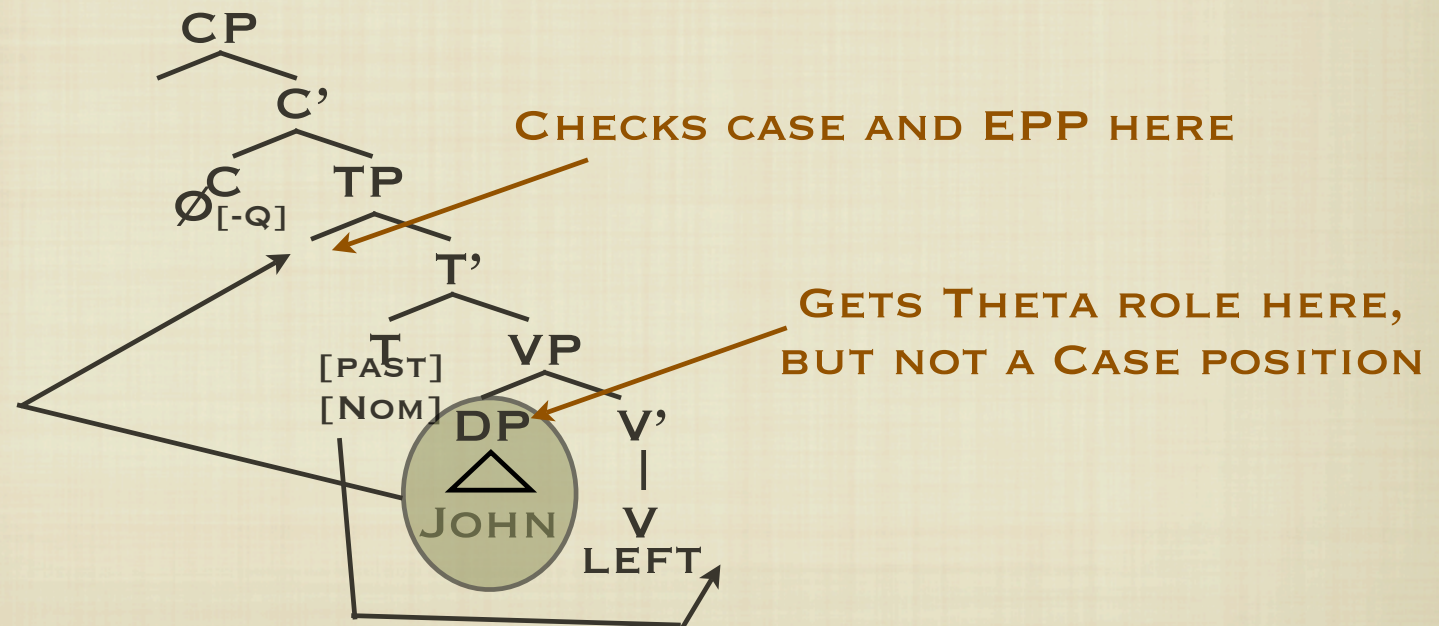- These are the only Three places you can get case

The Case Filter

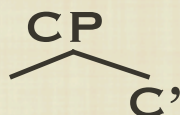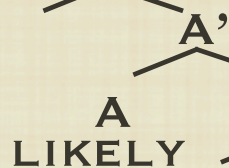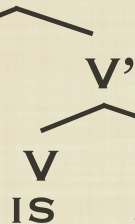- All DPs must have case

Case Checking
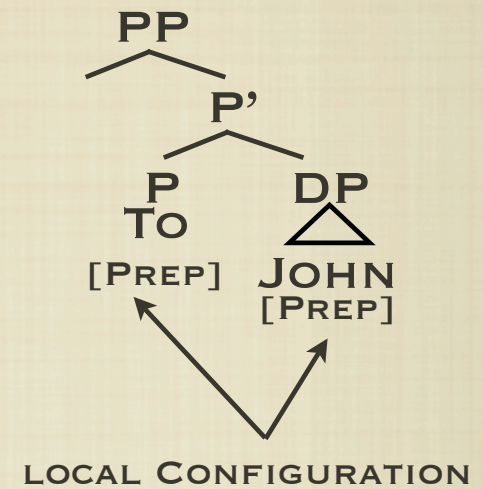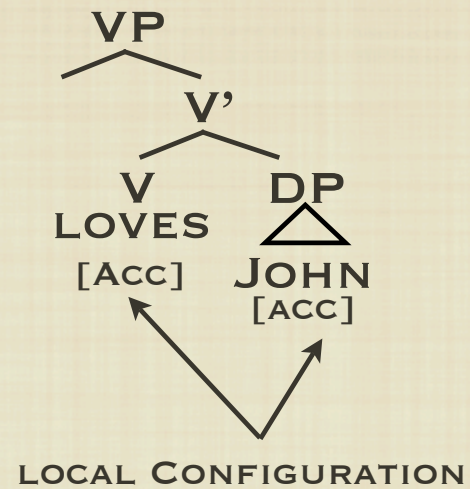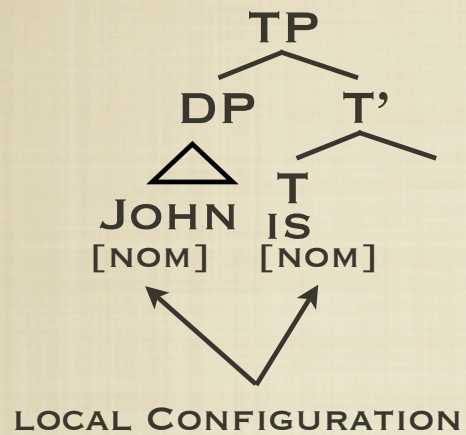
A quick detour

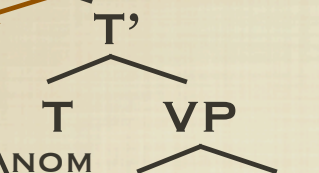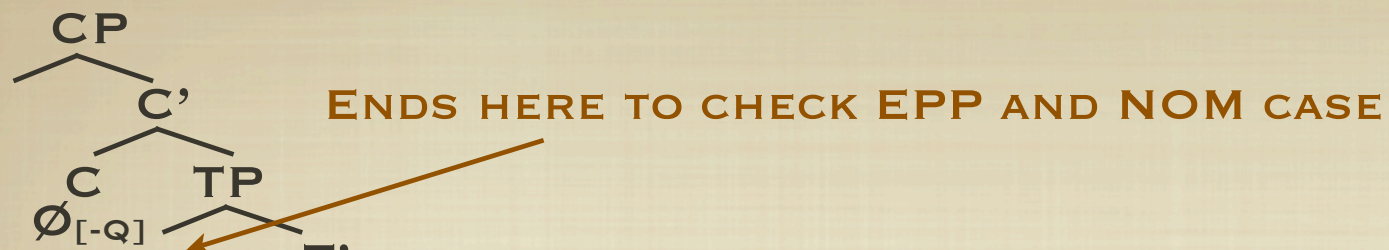- Remember VP internal subjects? How do English Subjects get before the T? Epp is part of the motivation, but case also plays a role here

CP
C'
C
Ø[-Q]
TP
Checks case and EPP here
T'
T
[PAST]
[NOM]
VP
DP
John
V'
V
LEFT

Gets Theta role here, but not a Case position

For you technical sticklers, it's of course the trace of T that checks the case here; but we aren't going to worry too much about that detail

CP
　C'
C　　TP
∅[-Q]
　　　T'
　　T　VP
　NOM　　V'
　　　V　AP
　　　IS　　A'
　　　　A　　CP
　　LIKELY　　C'
　　　　　C　TP
　　　　∅[-Q]　T'
　　　　　T　VP
　　　　　TO　DP　V'
　　　　　　John　V
　　　　　NOM　LEAVE

Ends here to check EPP and NOM case

Raising again

Stops here to satisfy EPP

Gets Theta role here, but not a case position
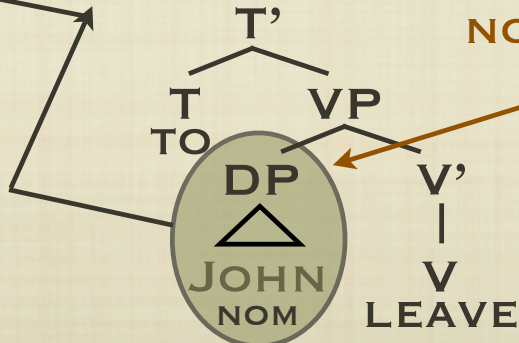
Raising vs. Control(PRO)

More on this in chapter 14

- John is likely to leave
- John is eager to leave

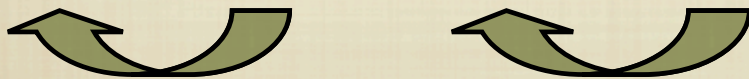- John gets a theta role from leave
- John also gets a theta role from is eager! (agent)
- Violation of Theta Criterion???

- John is eager [PRO to leave]

Summary of Raising

- Some DPs appear to be displaced from their theta assigners.

- This is caused by raising.

- Motivated by Case

  - non-finite T can't assign case
  - NP moves to specifier of finite T

- Not all DP V [___ to leave] constructions are raising. Some involve PRO. It depends upon the theta properties of the main verb.

Passives

- Active
  [The linguist] kissed [the kitten]
  Agent   theme

- Passive
  The kitten was kissed (by the linguist)
  Theme   (agent)

  - Active has agent and patient.
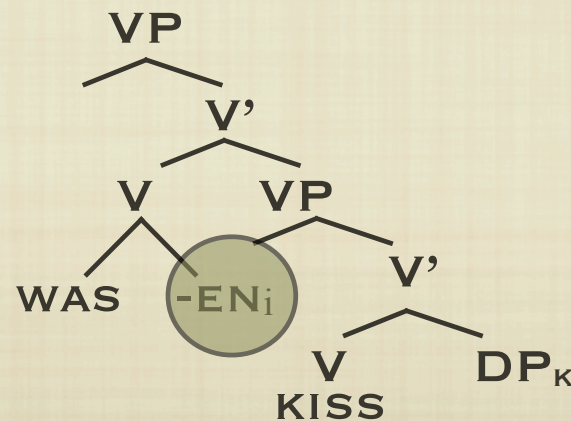 - Passive requires only a theme which is the subject

Passive Morphology

- With the passive morphology, the Agent theta role is not obligatory One way of encoding this is by claiming that the -en suffix is assigned the agent role.

- kiss

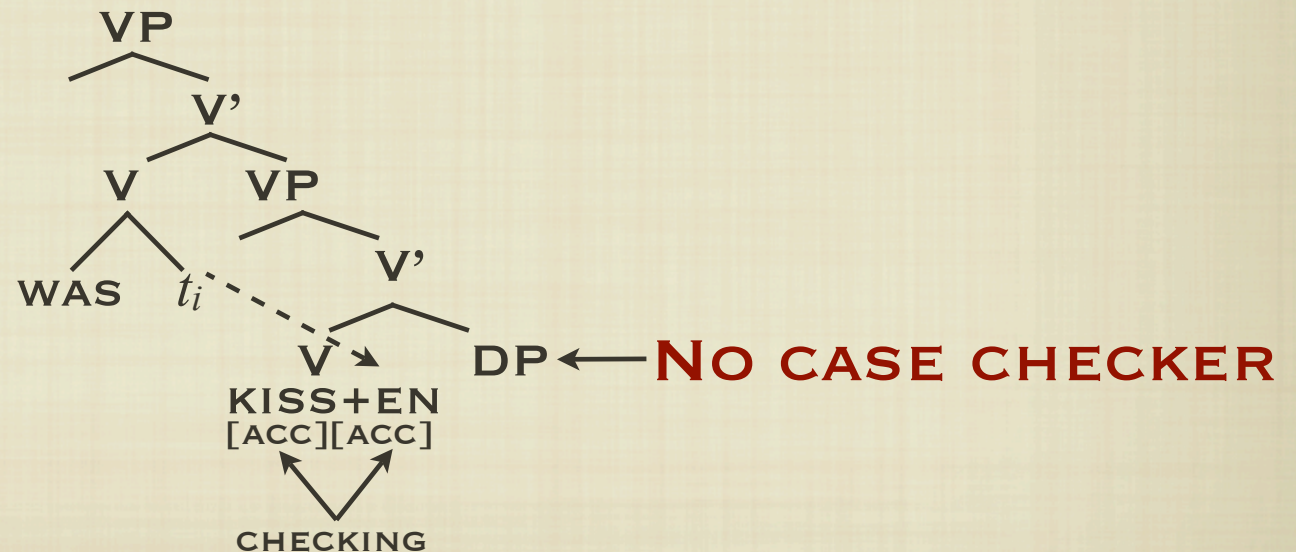| AGENT	THEME
i	k

AHEM, THIS VERY SLIGHTLY VIOLATES OUR LOCALITY CONDITION, BUT LET'S PRETEND ALL THE VPs IN A CLAUSE COUNT FOR NOW

Passive Morphology

- The other thing the passive morphology does is absorb the check the accusative Case feature on the verb. So the DP cannot check case with its sister V.

VP
V'
V   VP
WAS t_i V'
V → DP ← **No case checker**
KISS+EN
[ACC][ACC]

CHECKING

A Passive

CP
C'
C TP
Ø[-Q]
T'
T VP
[NOM]
V'
V VP
WAS t_i V'
V DP
KISS+EN
[ACC][ACC]
CHECKING

THIS POSITION IS EMPTY BECAUSE +EN TOOK THE AGENT ROLE, SO DP CAN MOVE HERE TO CHECK CASE (AND THE EPP

NO CASE CHECKER
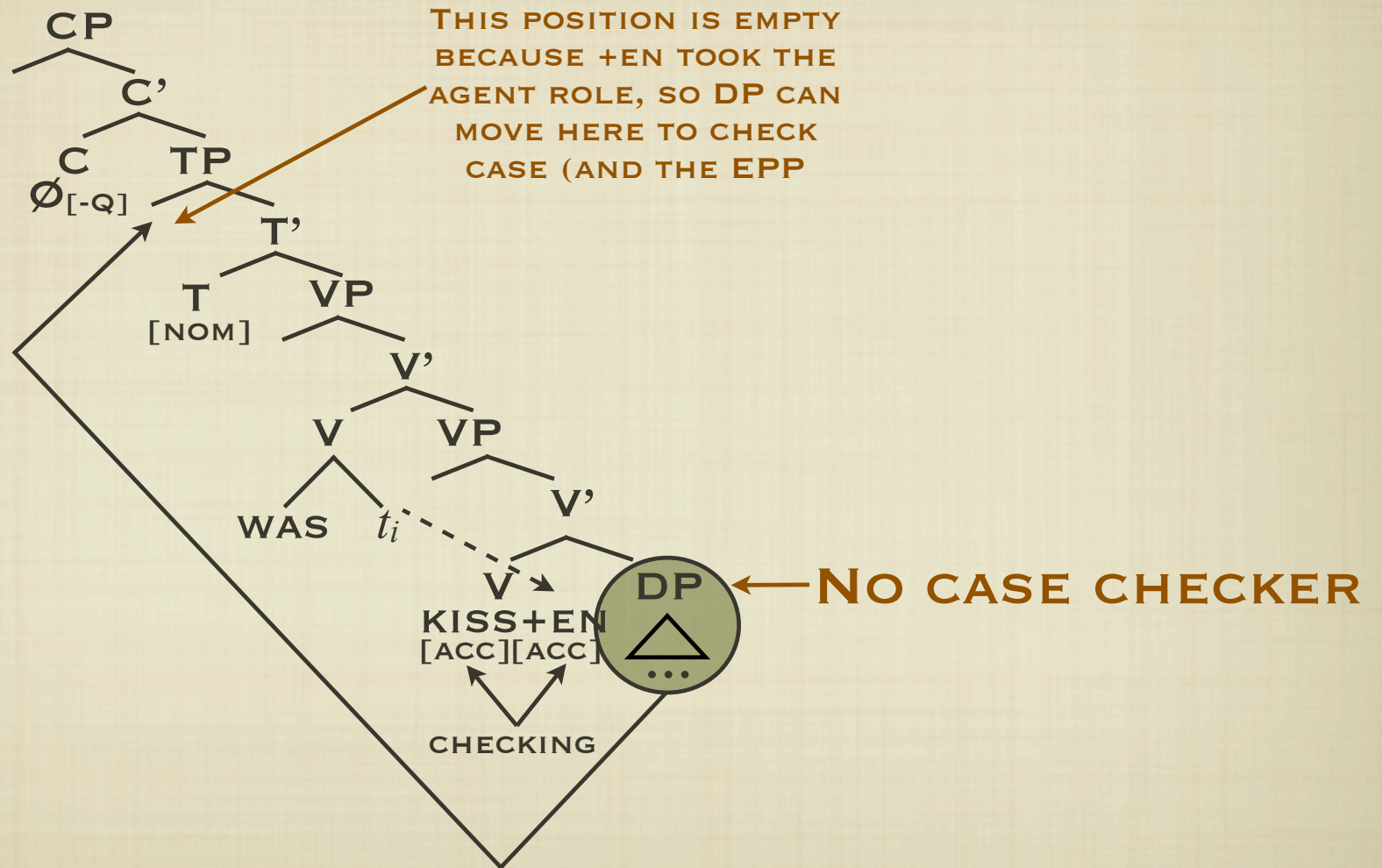
Why Movement and not simply change in theta grid?

- An alternative possibility:

- Why not simply have the -en suffix change the theme into an external argument:

  - KISS   KISS+EN (=KISSED)

AGENT	THEME		THEME

- Note the underlining in the passive. This would just put the theme in the subject position to start with.

- So why start it in object position and then move it? Why not just put it in the subject position to start with (by the underlining)?

Why movement and not simply change in theta grid?

- "Consider"

Exper	Prop

  - Wilma considers Fred to be foolish

- Note that Fred does NOT get a theta role from considers. It gets it's theta role from to be foolish. But if you passivize consider, Fred moves to the subject position:
  - Fred is considered to be foolish.

- Since Fred doesn't get it's theta role from consider. Having the passive morpheme underline the theme won't work. Fred here comes from a totally different theta grid.

Passives: A summary

- The passive morpheme

    - Suppresses agent theta role
    - Delete's V's accusative case feature

- The theme DP can't get case from the passive verb, so it moves (to the specifier of TP, where it can get nominative case.)

DP Movement

- With both raising and passives, you are moving DPs, and in both situations you do this to get case on a caseless DP.

- This transformation is called "DP movement"

- The constraint that forces DP movement is the case filter.