# Syntax II HO: Verb Movement and Word Order

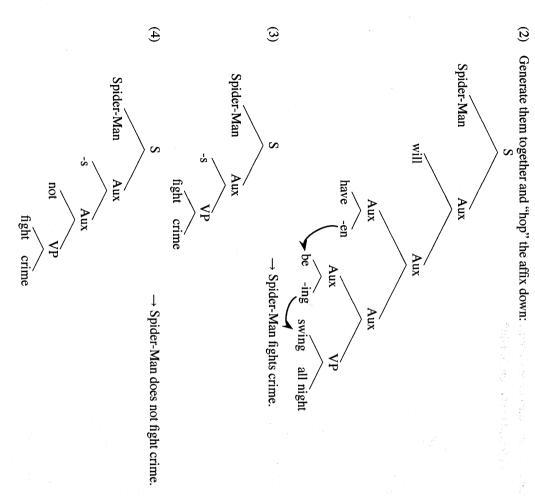
### Benjamin Bruening

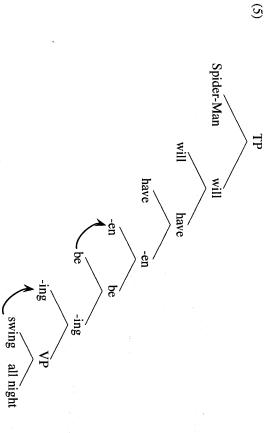
April 2, 2004

# 1 Verb Movement and Affix Hopping

Original Affix Hopping (Chomsky 1957):

- (1) Dependency between have and -en, be and -ing:
- . Mary Jane has never seen Spider-Man without his mask.
- b. The Green Goblin is always flying on that mechanical bat.
- c. Spider-Man will have been swinging all night.

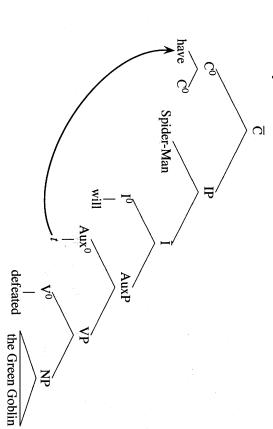




# 1.1 Verb Movement

- (6) a. Spider-Man will have defeated the Green Goblin.
- Will Spider-Man t have defeated the Green Goblin?
- c. \* Have Spider-Man will t defeated the Green Goblin?

Э



- (8) French
- a. Vous aim-ez Marie.y'all love-2Pl Marie.''Y'all love Marie.'b. Aimez-vous t Marie?
- b. Aimez-vous t Marie? love.2Pl-y'all Marie?
- c. Vous av-ez lu beaucoup de livres.
  y'all have-2Pl read many of books
  d. Avez-vous t lu beaucoup de livres?
- e. \*Lu-vous avez t beaucoup de livres? read-y'all have.2Pl many of books?

have.2Pl-y'all read many

of books?

### 1.2 Movement is Upward

- <u>@</u> Proper Government
- Government by a lexical category; or
- Antecedent-government

## Pollock 1989

# **Old Observations**

- $\overline{0}$ Negation:
- \* John likes not Mary.
- Jean (n')aime pas Marie.
- (11)V-to-I-to-C:
- \* Likes he Mary?
- Aime-t-il Marie?
- (12)Adverbs:
- \* John kisses often Mary
- Jean embrasse souvent Marie.
- John often kisses Mary.
- \* Jean souvent embrasse Marie.
- (13)Floated Qs:
- \* My friends love all Mary
- Mes amis aiment tous Marie.
- My friends all love Mary.
- \* Mes amis tous aiment Marie.
- (<del>1</del>4) John is not dating Mary.
- Is John dating Mary?
- John is often accompanying Mary.
- My friends are all dating Mary.
- (15)John did not date Mary.
- Did John date Mary?
- John doesn't often accompany Mary
- My friends didn't all date Mary.
- (16) $\left[_{\rm IP} \ NP \ I^0 \left(\left[_{\rm Neg} \ not\prime pas\right]\right) \left[_{\rm VP} \ (Adv) \ V^0 \dots \right] \right]$

#### 2.2 Questions

- (A) Why is Verb Movement to INFL lexically restricted in Modern English?
- (A') Why can't Affix Movement apply in French tensed clauses?
- (B) Why does UG allow for Affix Movement, a lowering rule?
- (C) Why does the negative particle not block Affix Movement whereas other (negative) adverbs do not?
- (D) Why is verb movement obligatory whenever it can apply?

### The answers he gives:

(A) "Transparency" of Agr: English Agr is not transparent enough, blocks theta-role transmission via trace of verb; auxiliaries do not assign theta roles, hence transmission being blocked is not a problem.

adverbs

- (A') French Agr is transparent enough; and [+Finite] Tense has to have the trace of verb movement to bind as a variable.
- (B) Not answered; several possibilities suggested (on p.394).
- 0 Negation and adverbs never block Affix Movement; not heads a NegP, which forms a barrier only to movement of a null counterpart of do; the overt version has to be used instead.
- (D) [+Finite] Tense needs the trace of the verb to bind as a variable.

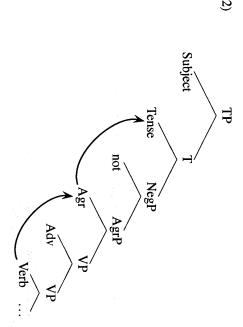
# 2.3 New Observations on Infinitives

- (17) Auxiliaries optionally move (P15,21):
- Ne pas être heureux est une condition pour écrire des romans. 'Ne to not be happy is a prerequisite for writing novels.'
- b. N'être pas heureux est une condition pour écrire des romans. 'Ne to be not happy is a prerequisite for writing novels.'
- c. Not to be happy is a prerequisite for writing novels
- ď ? To be not happy is a prerequisite for writing novels. (terrible in my judgement; best is *To not be happy...*)
- (18) Lexical verbs may not move (P16,22):
- a. Ne pas sembler heureux est une condition pour écrire des romans. 'Ne not to seem happy is a prerequisite for writing novels.'
- b. \* Ne sembler pas heureux est une condition pour écrire des romans. 'Ne to seem not happy is a prerequisite for writing novels.'
- c. Not to seem happy is a prerequisite for writing novels.
- d. \*To seem not happy is a prerequisite for writing novels.

### (19) (P27-28)

- a. Oublier presque son nom, ça n'arrive pas fréquemment 'To forget almost one's name...'
- b. J'ai entendu mes enfants raconter chacun une histoire différente
   'I have heard my kids tell each...'
- (20) but not in English (P38-39):
- a. \* To look often sad during one's honeymoon is rare.
- b. I believe John to often be sarcastic.
- c. (?) I believe John to be often sarcastic.
- 1. \* I believe John to sound often sarcastic.
- (21)  $\left[ \underset{\text{IP}}{\text{IP}} \text{ NP} \left[ \underset{\text{I}}{\text{V}_1} \right] \left( \text{pas/not} \right) \underset{\text{f}}{\text{e}_1} \left[ \underset{\text{VP}}{\text{VP}} \left( \text{Adv} \right) \underset{\text{f}}{\text{t}_1} \dots \right] \right]$

## 2.4 Exploded INFL



### 2.5 Theta-Role Assignment

(23)Verb movement to Affix:

**2**4 Affix lowering:

$$[_{
m V}~{
m V}~{
m Aff}]$$

$$V^0$$
Agr $^0$ 
 $^+$ 
 $^-$ 
like  $^-$ s

25) Verb movement to Tense:

$$[_{\mathrm{T}} [_{\mathrm{Agr}} \mathrm{VAgr}] \mathrm{T}]$$



# 2.6 Why Must Verb Movement Take Place?

- (26) [ +Finite] Tense (that is, [  $\pm$ Past] ) is an operator. (P59)
- (27) John did not go. =

$$\left[ _{\mathrm{TP}} \; \mathrm{John} \left[ _{\mathrm{T}_{I}} \; \left[ _{\mathrm{Agr}_{I}} \; \left[ _{\mathrm{V}_{I}} \; \mathrm{do} \right] \; \mathrm{Agr} \right] \; \mathrm{T} \right] \left[ _{\mathrm{NegP}} \; \mathrm{not} \right] \left[ _{\mathrm{AgrP}} \; \left[ _{\mathrm{P}} \; \mathrm{go} \right] \; \right] \; \right]$$

(28) John leaves. =

$$\left[_{\text{TP}} \text{ John} \left[_{\text{T}_{I}} \left[_{\text{Agr}_{I}} \left[_{\text{V}_{I}} \not Q \right] \text{ Agr} \right] \text{ T} \right] \left[_{\text{AgrP}} e_{1} \left[_{\text{VP}} \text{ leave} \right] \right] \right]$$

# 2.7 **Summary: Driving Force for V-Movement**

Typological predictions:

- 1. No language should have V-movement to T in infinitives
- ы V-movement applies when it can; therefore if a language lacks V-movement to Agr in any context, it should never allow V-movement. (Instead there will have to be a null or overt auxiliary.)

#### w German and V2

For a good overview, see Chapter 3 of Vikner 1995

# **Further Readings (Possible Squib Topics)**

Affix-Hopping and Do-Support Lasnik 1995, Lasnik 2000, Embick and Noyer 2001, Bobaljik 2002

AgrP and TP Iatridou 1990, Jonas and Bobaljik 1993, Bobaljik and Thráinsson 1998

### References

Bobaljik, Jonathan David (2002), "A-Chains at the PF Interface: Copies and "Covert" Movement." Natural Language and Linguistic

Bobaljik, Jonathan David, and Höskuldur Thráinsson (1998), "Two Heads Aren't Always Better Than One." Syntax 1: 37-71

Chomsky, Noam (1957), Syntactic Structures. The Hague: Mouton.

Chomsky, Noam (1981), Lectures on Government and Binding. Dordrecht: Foris.

Embick, David, and Rolf Noyer (2001), "Movement Operations after Syntax." Linguistic Inquiry 32: 555-595

Emonds, Joseph (1976), A Transformational Approach to English Syntax. New York: Academic Press

Emonds, Joseph (1978), "The Verbal Complex V'-V in French." Linguistic Inquiry 9: 151-175.

Fiengo, Robert (1977), "On Trace Theory." Linguistic Inquiry 8: 35-61.

Freeze, Ray (1992), "Existentials and Other Locatives." Language 68: 553-595.

Iatridou, Sabine (1990), "About Agr(P)." Linguistic Inquiry 21: 551-577.

Jonas, Dianne, and Jonathan David Bobaljik (1993), "Specs for Subjects: The Role of TP in Icelandic." In Jonathan David Bobaljik and Colin Phillips, eds., Papers on Case and Agreement I, Cambridge, MA: MITWPL, vol. 18 of MIT Working Papers in Linguistics,

Lasnik, Howard (1995), "Verbal Morphology: Syntactic Structures Meets the Minimalist Program." In Héctor Campos and Paula Kem-University Press, pp. 251-275. Reprinted in Howard Lasnik (1999), Minimalist Analysis, 97-119, Oxford: Blackwell. pchinsky, eds., Evolution and Revolution in Linguistic Theory: Essays in Honor of Carlos Otero, Washington, D.C.: Georgetown

Lasnik, Howard (2000), Syntactic Structures Revisited: Contemporary Lectures on Classic Transformational Theory. Cambridge

Pollock, Jean-Yves (1989), "Verb Movement, Universal Grammar, and the Structure of IP." Linguistic Inquiry 20: 365-424

Travis, Lisa (1984), Parameters and Effects of Word Order Variation. Ph.D. thesis, Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Distributed by MIT Working Papers in Linguistics, Cambridge, Mass.

Vikner, Sten (1995), Verb Movement and Expletive Subjects in the Germanic Languages. Oxford: Oxford University Press.