# Split VPs

*Resolving some problems with X-bar theory using movement*

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# The Problem of Ditransitive verbs

- *Josh gave Clay carefully a book
- Josh gave Clay a book carefully

- The 2nd DP behaves as if it is a complement.
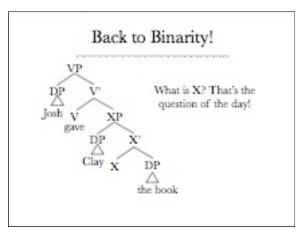
- Two complements???

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# Puzzle # 1

*Ditransitives*

## Two complements



VP
DP — Josh
V'
V — gave
DP — Clay
DP — the book

YUCK
-- ternary branching!

predicts that you should be able to have an anaphor in either spot bound by the other

Symmetric c-command

## Barss & Lasnik (1986)

- Briana showed Justin$_i$ himself$_i$ in the mirror.
- *Briana showed himself$_i$ Justin$_i$ in the mirror

- This shows that the first DP c-commands the second.

## Back to Binarity!



VP
DP — Josh
V'
V — gave
XP
DP — Clay
X'
X
DP — the book

What is X? That's the question of the day!

# A Tangent on Light Verbs

*Are most verbal roots really monomorphemic?*

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# Complex Verbs

Japanese
a)  Keiko-wa   pizza-o      ag-e-ta
    Keiko-top  pizza-acc    rise-v-past
    "Keiko raised the pizza"

Hiaki
b)  Huan u'usit-ta  ee-tua-k.
    Juan  child-acc feel-v-past
    "Juan teased the child."

Malagasy
c)  M-an-sasa   ny lambaamin ny savony   Rasoa.
    past-v-wash the clothes  with the soap   Rasoa
    "Rasoa washes the clothes with the soap."

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# Proposal

- Most verbs in English are made up of a light verb (usually CAUSE but others exist) and a verb root (√):

  - CAUSE + √CLEAN ⇒ clean

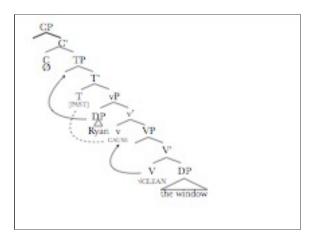- The function of CAUSE is to introduce the external (agent) argument
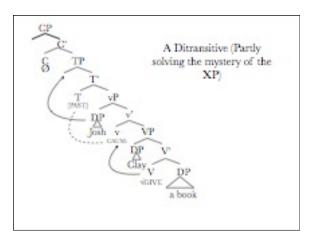
# Proposal

CAUSE

| Agent<br>DP | Predicate<br>VP |
|---|---|
| i | j |

√CLEAN

| Theme<br>DP |
|---|
| k |

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CP
C'
C Ø  TP
T'
T [PAST]  vP
DP  v'
Ryan  v  VP
CAUSE  V'
V  DP
√CLEAN  the window

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# Evidence for light verbs

- *Plenty of V + O idioms*
  - kill a bug
  - kill a conversation
  - kill an evening
  - kill a bottle
  - kill an audience

- *No [S + V] (excluding object) idioms*
  - John laughed
  - The audience laughed
  - The bug laughed.

## Slide 1



CP

C'

C   TP
Ø

T'

T      vP
[PAST]

DP      v'
Josh

v      VP
CAUSE

DP      V'
Clay

V      DP
vGIVE

a book

**A Ditransitive (Partly solving the mystery of the XP)**

## Slide 2

# Object Shift

*Another Problem*

## Slide 3

# Irish

a) Ba mhaith liom  [cp Seán  **as abairt**      aˡ    scríobh. ]
   C  good with.1s   John      the sentence.acc tran write
   'I want John to write the sentence'

b) Ba mhaith liom  [cp Seán     aˡ    scríobh na habairte.]
   C  good with.1s   John       tran   write  the sentence.gen
   'I want John to write the sentence'

c) Tá  Seán tar éis **an abairt**     aˡ scríobh.
   be.pres John  perf   the sentence tran write
   "John has just written the sentence."

d) Tá  Seán ag   scríobh na habairte.
   be.pres John prog write  the sentence
   "John is writing the sentence."

## German & English

a) ... weil ich nicht [DP eine einzige Katze] gestreichelt habe
       since I   not    a   single  cat    petted     have
     "...since I have not petted a single cat"

b) ... weil ich [DP die Katze] nicht streichle
     since I     the cat    not  pet
     "...since I did not pet the cat."

c) I blew up the building
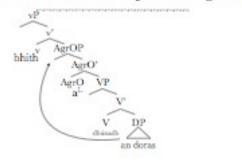d) I blew the building up

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## Where is the object moving to?



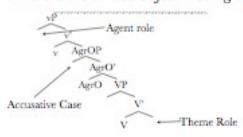* Scots Gaelic:

                         v    Asp     AgrO    √V

Bu toigh leam   [CP sibh a  bhith air   an doras a    dhùnadh.]
be like with me      you agr  v     perf the door AgrO close
"I'd like you to have shut the door."

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## Where is the shifted object moving to?
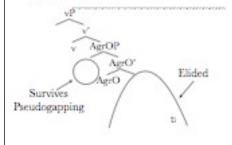
## Where is the shifted object moving to?

vP
- Agent role
v
v    AgrOP
AgrO'
AgrO    VP
Accusative Case
V'
V  ← Theme Role

## More evidence: Ellipsis and Pseudogapping

Darin will eat a squid sandwich but Raiza won't ~~eat a squid sandwich~~
Darin will eat a squid sandwich, and Raiza will ~~eat~~ a peanut butter one.
The DA proved Jones guilty and the assistant DA will ~~prove Smith guilty.~~

◇ In Pseudogapping you delete everything BUT the accusative object under identity with the conjoined VP

## Object moves outside of ellipted material

vP
V'
v    AgrOP
AgrO'
AgrO
Survives Pseudogapping
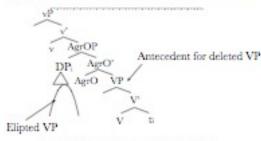Elided
ti

## Antecedent Contained Deletion

Brandon [VP read every book that Megan did [VP ....]].

[CP ... [IP ... [CP ... [VP----|-- ...] ] ]].

What's the antecedent for the elided VP?

It's the VP dominating the DP that
dominates the elided VP
That means the antecedent contains
the element it antecedes

Circularity? Where does the gap ever get resolved?

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## Object moves outside of ellipted material



Antecedent for deleted VP

Elipted VP

Can only find a non-circular antecedent until the DP has
moved out of the VP that serves as the antecedent.

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## Ditransitives again

- The last section of chapter 13 contains trees with
  Ditransitives and AgrPs. Read through this section
  and if you don't understand it; let me know.