# Raising vs. Control

Or don't judge a book by its cover
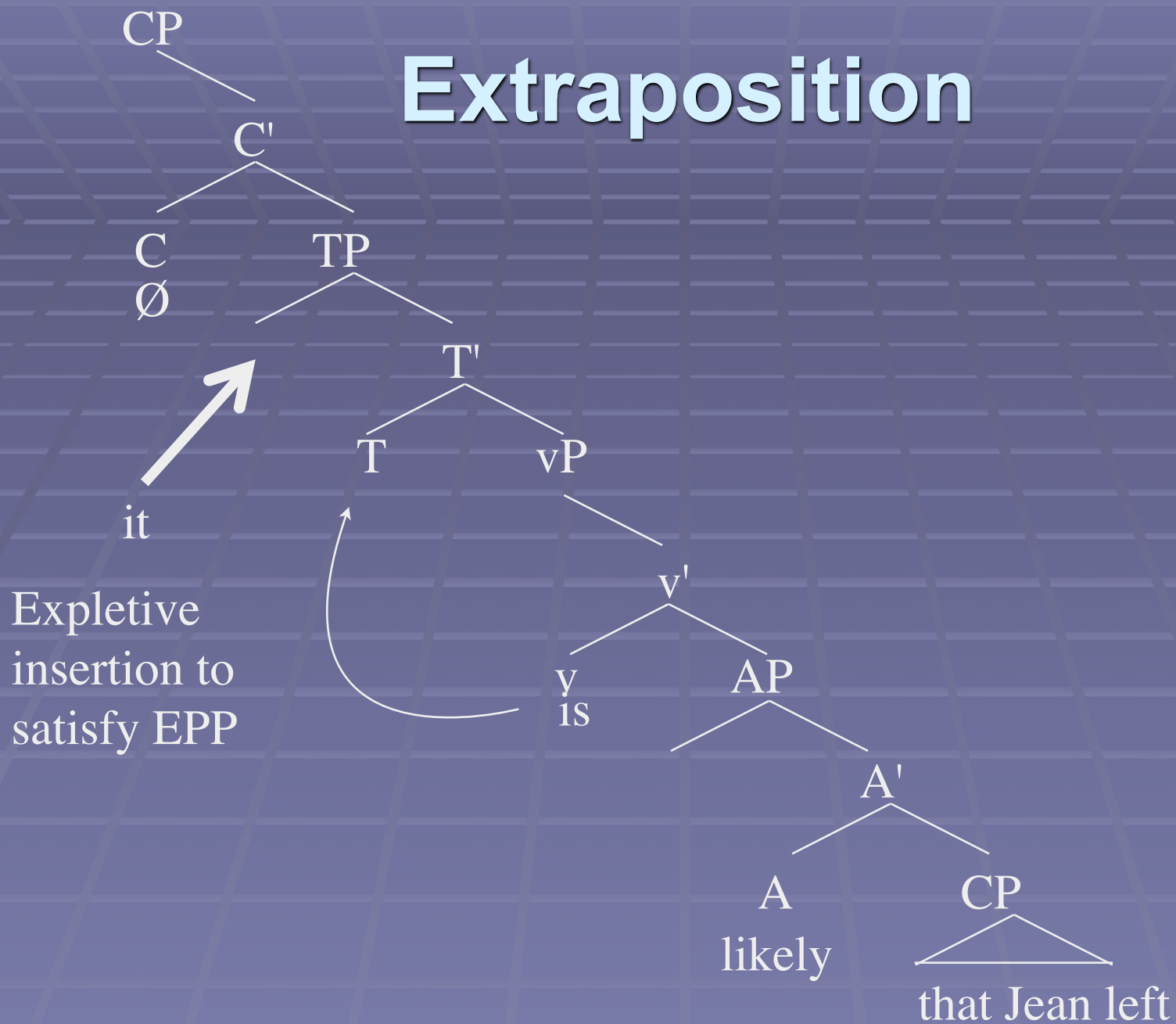
# Some surprising parallels

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


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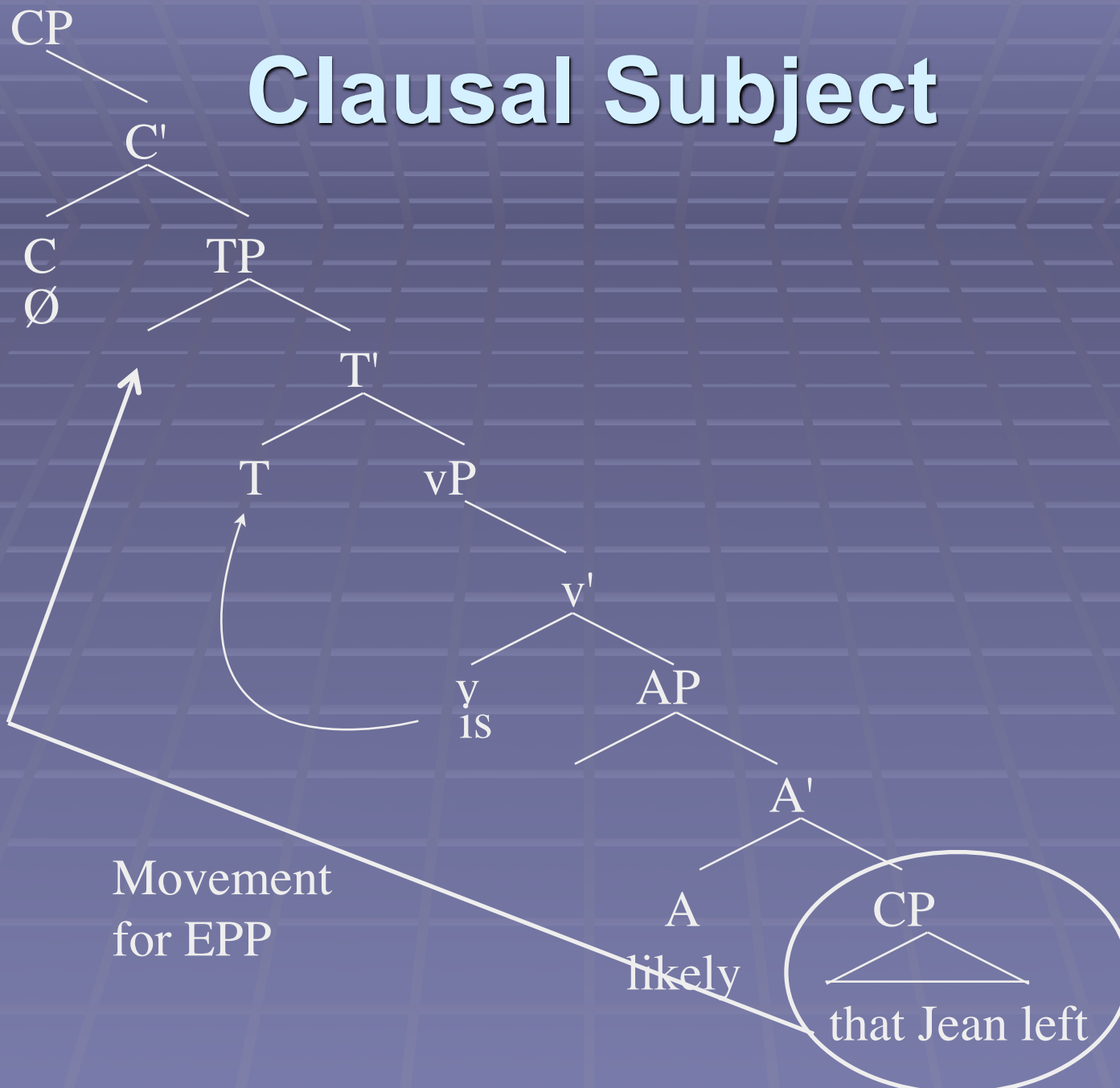- Jean persuaded Brian to leave          *Control*

# Raising Predicate

- *Is likely*
  - proposition

- *extraposition*
  - It is likely [ that John will leave]$_i$

- *clausal subject*
  - [that John will leave]$_i$ is likely.

- *subject to subject raising*
  - John$_j$ is likely [ t$_j$ to leave]$_i$

# **Extraposition**

CP
  C'
    C
    Ø
    TP
      T'
        T
        vP
          v'
            v
            1S
            AP
              A'
                A
                likely
                CP
                  that Jean left

it

Expletive
insertion to
satisfy EPP

# Clausal Subject

CP
 C'
  C TP
  Ø
     T'
      T vP
       v'
       v AP
       1S
         A'
         A CP
        likely
         that Jean left

Movement
for EPP

# Raising vs. Control

- *Is likely*
  - proposition

    | proposition |
    | --- |
    |  |

- *Is reluctant*

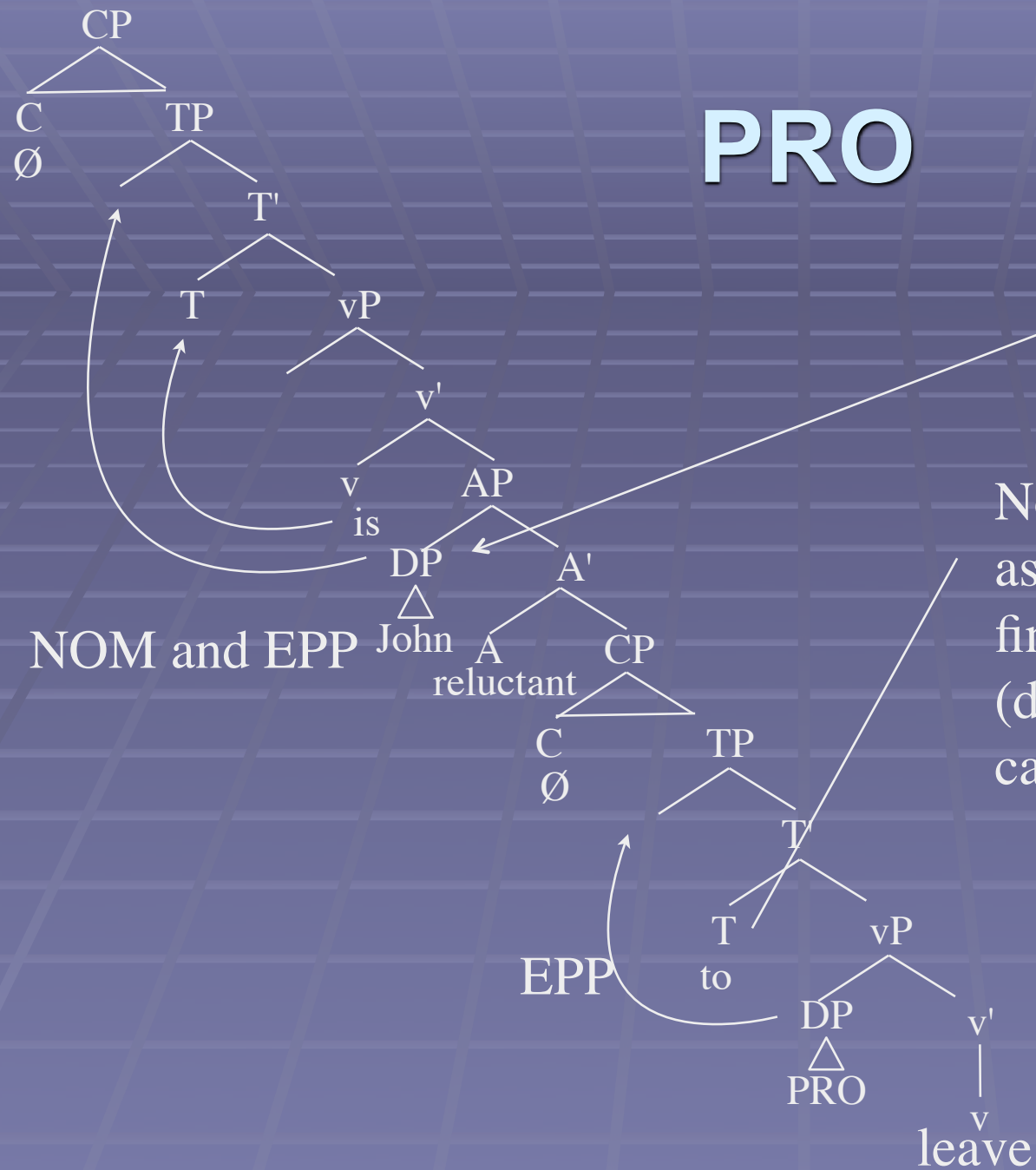    | Experiencer | Proposition |
    | --- | --- |
    |  |  |

# 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

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

NOM and EPP

EPP

Gets experiencer role from reluctant, gets nom case from T

Not a case assigner: non-finite, so PRO (doesn't need case)
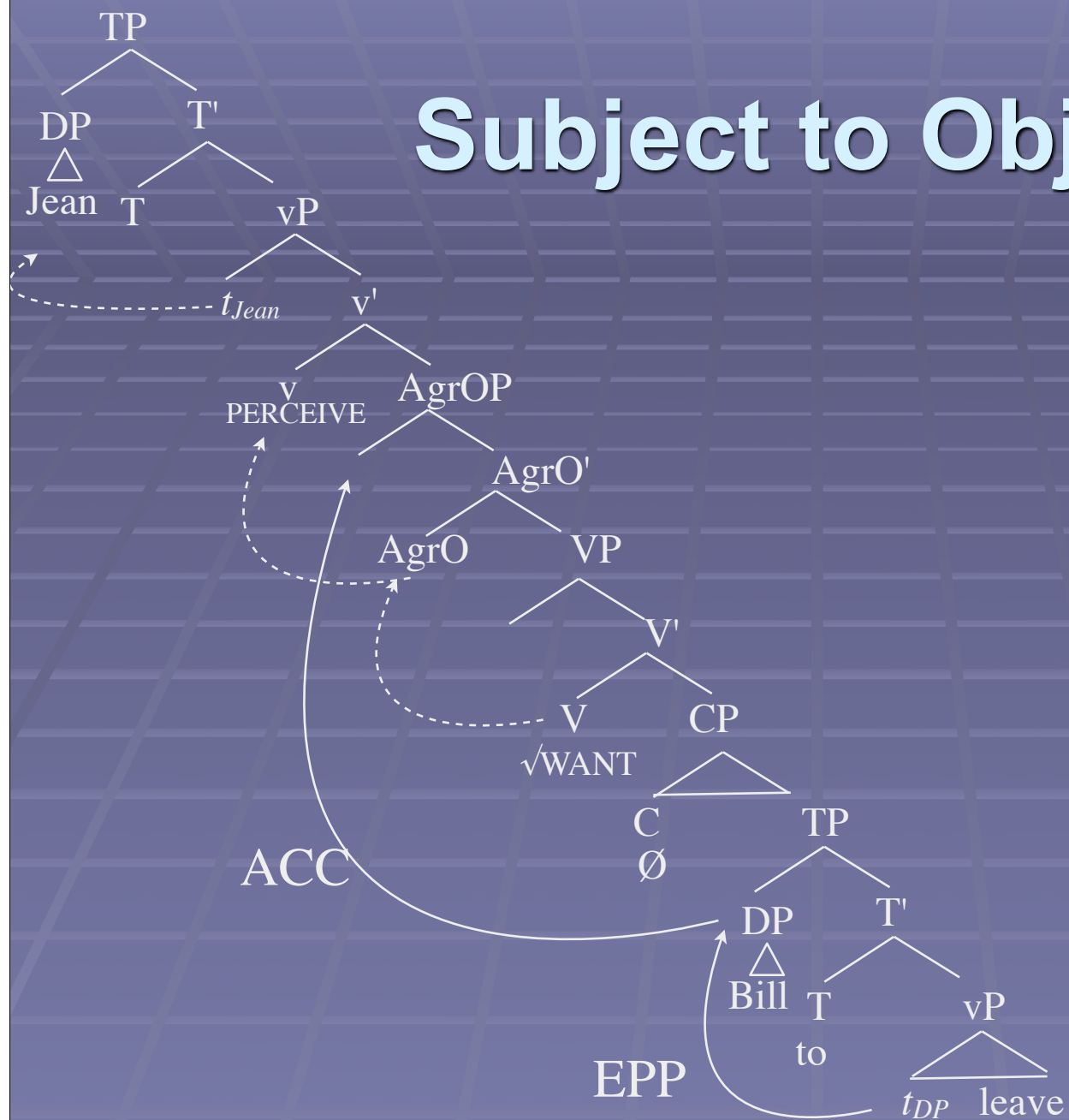
# Another Kind of Raising

- 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

# 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$_{i/j}$ 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:
  - | Agent | Theme | Proposition |
    |-------|-------|-------------|
    |       |       |             |

# Theta grids for object control

- ## Persuade:

  | Agent | Theme | Proposition |
  |-------|-------|-------------|
  | i | j | m |

- ## Leave:

  | Agent |
  |-------|
  | k |

  $Jean_i$ persuaded $Robert_j$ $[PRO_k$ 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 $PRO_{i/*j}$ to behave
  - *Non-Obligatory Control*
    - $Robert_i$ knows that it is essential [$PRO_{i/j}$ 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$_{i/j}$ to be well behaved
  - Robert$_i$ knows it is essential that he$_{i/j}$ is well behaved.
- Problem: sometimes it is obligatorily bound, like an anaphor:
  - Jean$_i$ tried PRO$_{i/*j}$ 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 $Robert_k$ $PRO_{k/*i}$ 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:

| Agent | Theme<br>*controller* | Proposition |
|-------|-----------------------|-------------|
|       |                       |             |

- Promise:

| Agent<br>*controller* | Theme | Proposition |
|-----------------------|-------|-------------|
|                       |       |             |

# But that can't be right either:

- Louis$_i$ begged Kate$_k$ [PRO$_k$ to leave her job]
- Louis$_i$ begged Kate$_k$ [PRO$_i$ 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 <u>CASED</u> 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*.