

Ling 120B: Syntax I

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Raising Verbs

Raising verbs like *seem* can take CP or TP complements:

→ When it takes a tensed CP complement, raising cannot take place:

(1) *John seems that ~~John~~ left

and a expletive 'it' is inserted to satisfy EPP:

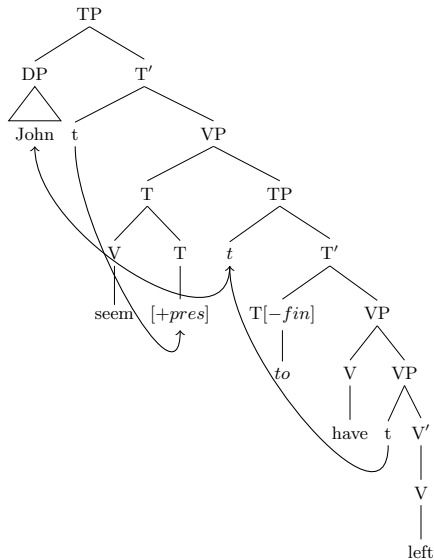
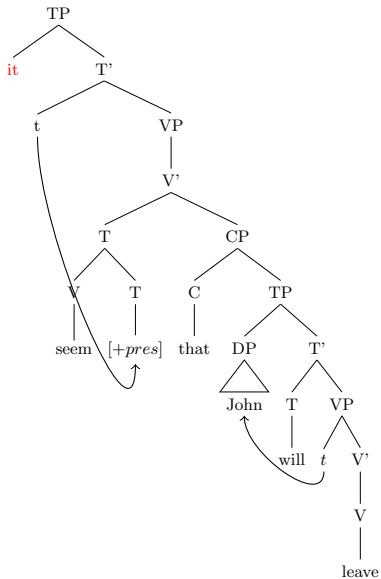
(2) It seems that John left.

→ When it takes a -finite TP complement, the subject is taken from the complement of 'seem'

The movement of 'John' to [Spec, TP] is called **raising to Subject**. Verbs like *seem*, whose superficial subject comes from their complements are called **raising verbs**.

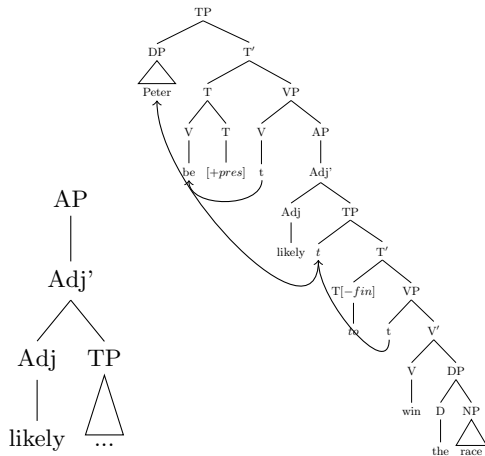
Other examples of raising verbs are: *appear* and *happen*.

Examples of raising adjectives are: *likely* and *liable*.



Here is an example of a raising adjective.

(3) Peter is *likely* to win the race.



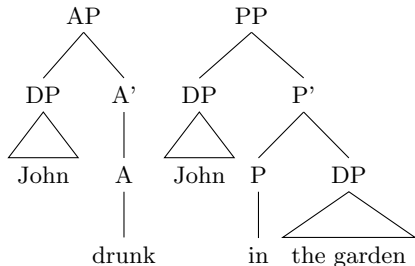
Copular Sentences

→ Copular sentences are sentences in which the predicate is not a verb and the two phrases (subject and non-verbal predicate) are linked by a copula, such as the verb *be* in English:

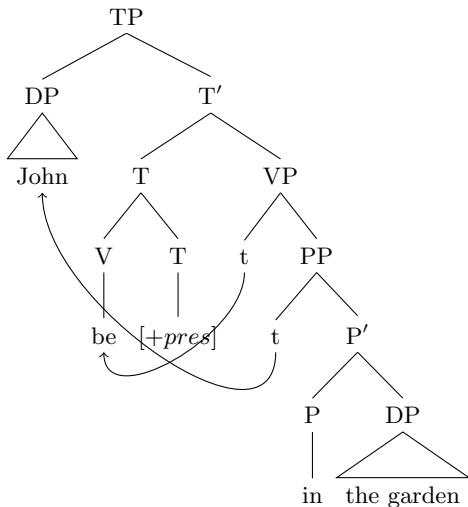
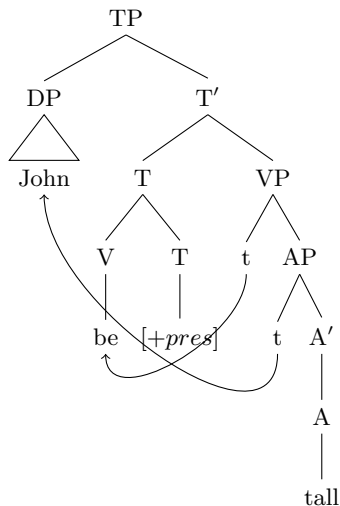
- (4) a. [John] is [tall]
b. [John] is [in the garden]

→ The verb (or copula) *be* in the examples above acts as a raising verb.

- It does not select any external arguments
- It c-selects a small clause complement (AP and PP in the examples above)

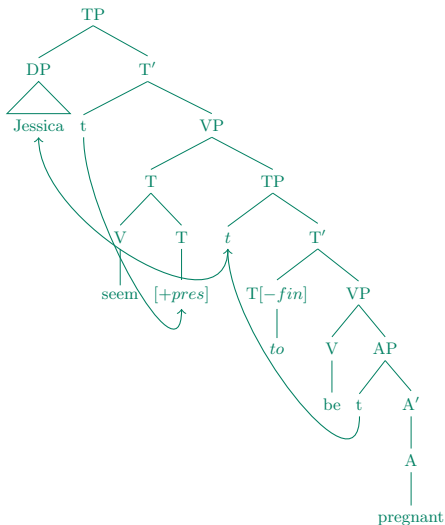


- the subject of the small clause selected by the copula raises to [Spec, TP]



Practice Draw the tree for the following sentence:

(5) Jessica seems to be pregnant



Control Verbs

→ The following two sentences look very similar:

- (6) a. John seems to leave.
b. John hopes to leave.

→ But these sentences are structurally very different:

- (6-a) is a raising sentence.
- (6-b) is something different that does not involve any DP movement. That is what we call a **control sentence**

→ *John* is not selected by *seem* in (6-a) ‘seem’ does not assign a theta role to its subjct.

→ *hope* is different: it takes two arguments: the person who hopes something and what is hoped by that person:

hope **V** DP_{exp} CP_{theme}

For this reason, the expletive construction is not possible with *hope*:

- (7) *It hopes that John left.

- There seems to be a problem in (6-b): both *leave* and *hope* need an external argument: *leave* needs an *agent* and *hope* needs an *experiencer*.
- In (6-b), John is understood to be both the agent of *leave* and the ‘experiencer’ of *hope*
 - In fact, we can provide a very close paraphrase of (6-b) with a tensed clause complement instead of an infinitive.

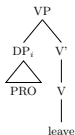
(8) John_i hopes that he_i will leave

- **Proposal** In (6-b) there is no movement and we need a silent anaphoric subject that is bound by the subject of the matrix verb.
- We’ll call it **PRO**. The value of **PRO** is determined by the subject of the main clause: we say that PRO is controlled by the subject of ‘hope’.
 - Then, (6-b) would have the following structure:

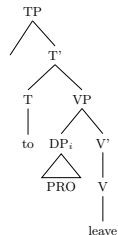
(9) John_i hope [PRO_i to leave]

Let's diagram!

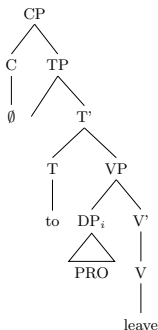
Step 1 The VP headed by the lexical verb. In this case the external argument will be PRO carrying the same index than the subject of the matrix clause



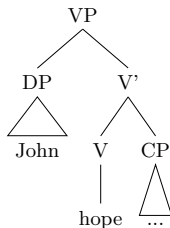
Step 2 The lower TP



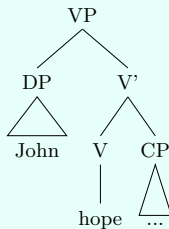
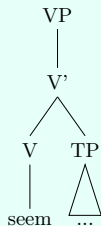
Step 3 The CP: unlike (6-a), in this case the verb *want* is selecting a CP-complement. We could say: 'John_i hopes that he_i will leave'



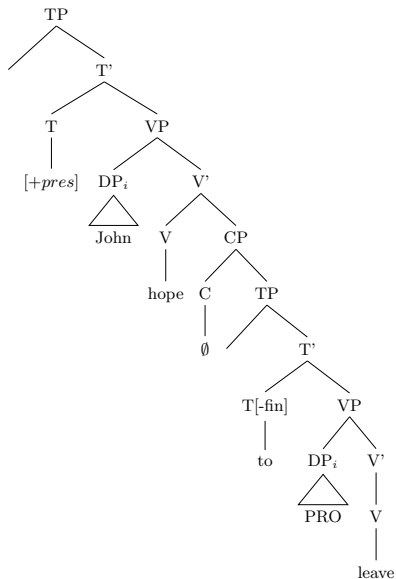
Step 4 The VP headed by the matrix verb *hope*. Unlike raising verbs, control verbs select subjects. So we expect to have the experiencer in [Spec, VP]



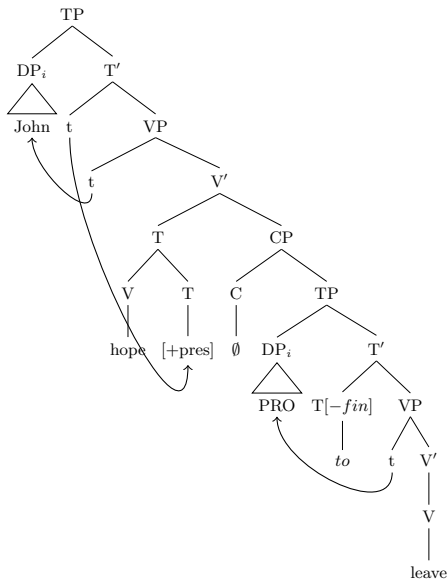
Note the difference between the phrase headed by 'seem' in (6-a) and the one headed by 'hope' in (6-b)



Step 5 The DP structure tree



Step 6 The surface structure tree



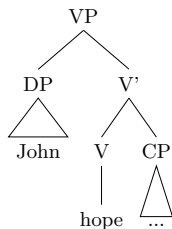
Practice Draw the tree for the following sentence:

(10) Penelope refused to perform at the party

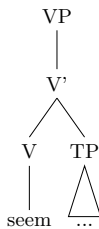
Raising to Subject vs. Control verbs I

hope **V**
seem **V**

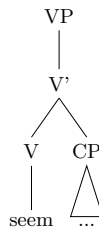
DP_{exp} CP_{theme}
 TP_{theme} / CP_{theme}



a.



b.



c.

- a. John hopes { [CP to sleep] / [CP that he will win] }
- b. John seems [TP to have left]
- c. It seems that [CP John left]

Raising to Subject vs. Control verbs II

Properties that only belong to some *Raising Verbs*:

→ allow weather ‘it’

(11) It seems to be raining

cf. *It hopes to be raining

→ may allow expletive ‘it’

(12) It seems that John left

cf. *It hopes that John left

→ allow existential ‘there’

(13) There seems to be a problem.

cf. *There wants to be a problem.

→ allow idiom chunks.

(14) The cat seems to be out of the bag.

cf. The cat hopes to be out of the bag (no idiomatic reading)

Raising to Subject vs. Control verbs III

Properties that only belong to some *Control Verbs*:

They can take a CP complement in addition to a non-expletive subject:

(15) Mary hopes that she will win. cf. *Mary seems that she will win.

Therefore, using only positive evidence:

If allow weather 'it'	→ RAISING
If allow expletive 'it'	→ RAISING
If allow existential 'there'	→ RAISING
If allow idiom chunk as subject	→ RAISING
If can take CP complement and non-expletive subject	→ CONTROL

Raising to Subject vs. Control verbs IV

Not all raising verbs have all the properties above:

- (16) a. John seemed to be tired.
b. It seems to be raining.
c. It seemed that John was tired.
- (17) a. John began to be tired.
b. It began to rain.
c.*It began that John was tired.
- (18) a. John tends to be tired around this time.
b. It tends to rain in Seattle.
c.*It tends that John is tired.

Raising to Subject vs. Control verbs V

Not all control verbs can be paraphrased replacing the infinite clause with a tensed clause.

- (19) a. John hopes to sleep
b. John hopes that he will sleep
- (20) a. John tried to sleep
b.*John tried that he sleeps/slept

Want/hope-type subject control verbs can also take *for*- infinitives. Try-type subject control verbs cannot:

- (21) a. John hopes for Bill to sleep.
b.*John tried for Bill to sleep.

More generally, control verbs come in at least two kinds (see ISAT, §9.3).

These are good reasons to use **positive evidence** whenever possible!

Practice

Draw a surface structure for the following sentence:

(22) What does John seem to want to eat?

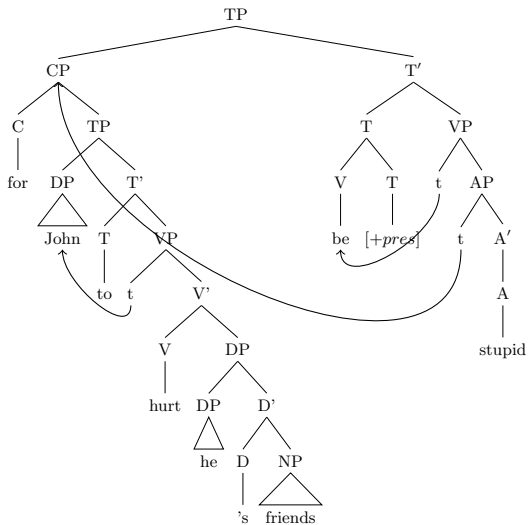
PRO in subject infinitives I

→ PRO can lack an antecedent (i.e. be uncontrolled)

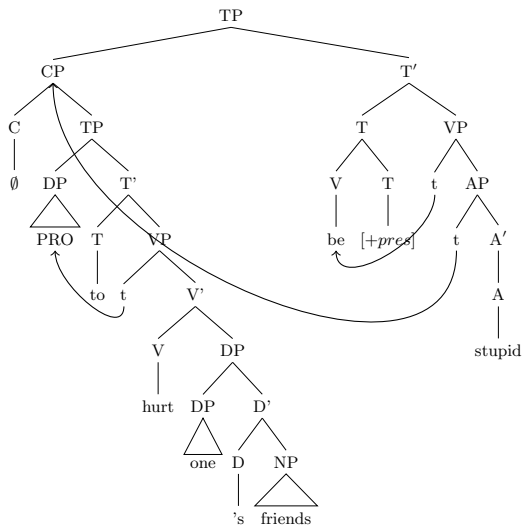
- (23) a. [For John to hurt his friends] is stupid
b. [To hurt one's friends] is stupid

§ISAT 9.2.1

PRO in subject infinitives II



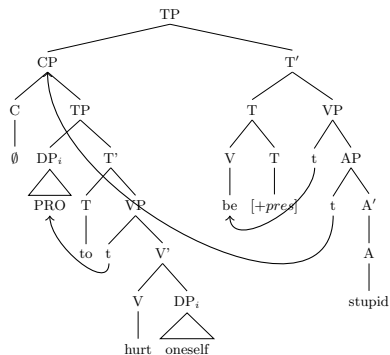
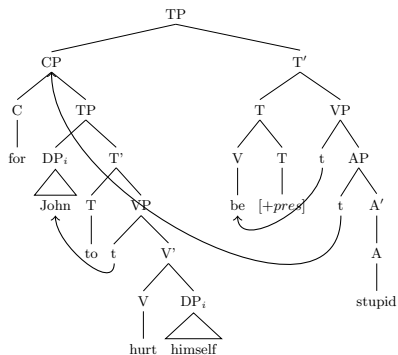
PRO in subject infinitives III



PRO in subject infinitives IV

→ Some of the evidence come from Binding Theory. PRO is needed in order to satisfy principle A!

- (24) a. [For John to hurt himself] is stupid
 b. [To hurt oneself] is stupid



Practice Draw the tree for the following sentence:

(25) Melissa asked who Carol wants to date.

(26) When did Peter try to leave?

(27) What do you happen to have noticed?

Practice: Tree drawing and BT

Draw the tree for the following sentences and explain how BT predicts their grammaticality status.

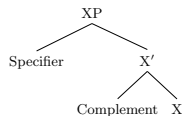
- (28) a. Alec promised Nico_i to help her_i/*herself_i.
b. Alec_i promised Nico to control himself_i/*him_i.

Control structures in foreign languages

Draw a tree structure for the following Japanese sentence involving a control structure.

- (29) Ken-ga [kawa-o booto-de water -oo] -to shi-ta
Ken-NOM [river-ACC boat-INST cross -VOL] -comp try-pst
'Ken tried to cross the river on a boat'

Nakau 1973



- (a) Assume the following X-bar schema for Japanese:
- (b) Adjuncts can both precede and follow the phrase they modify.
- (c) -oo is a volitional marker that you can ignore and analyze as part of the verb.
- (d) -ga, -o and -de are case markers that you can also ignore. You can use triangles for those DPs.

Any evidence for V to T or tense lowering?

Thank you all!