

LIN 311 Syntax Recitation

Apr. 12, 2019

CP

C: that, whether, if....

Draw the tree for (1)

(1) Mary knows that John will not play soccer.

$C_{[+Q]}$ v.s. $C_{[-Q]}$

Question: why (2) is ungrammatical?

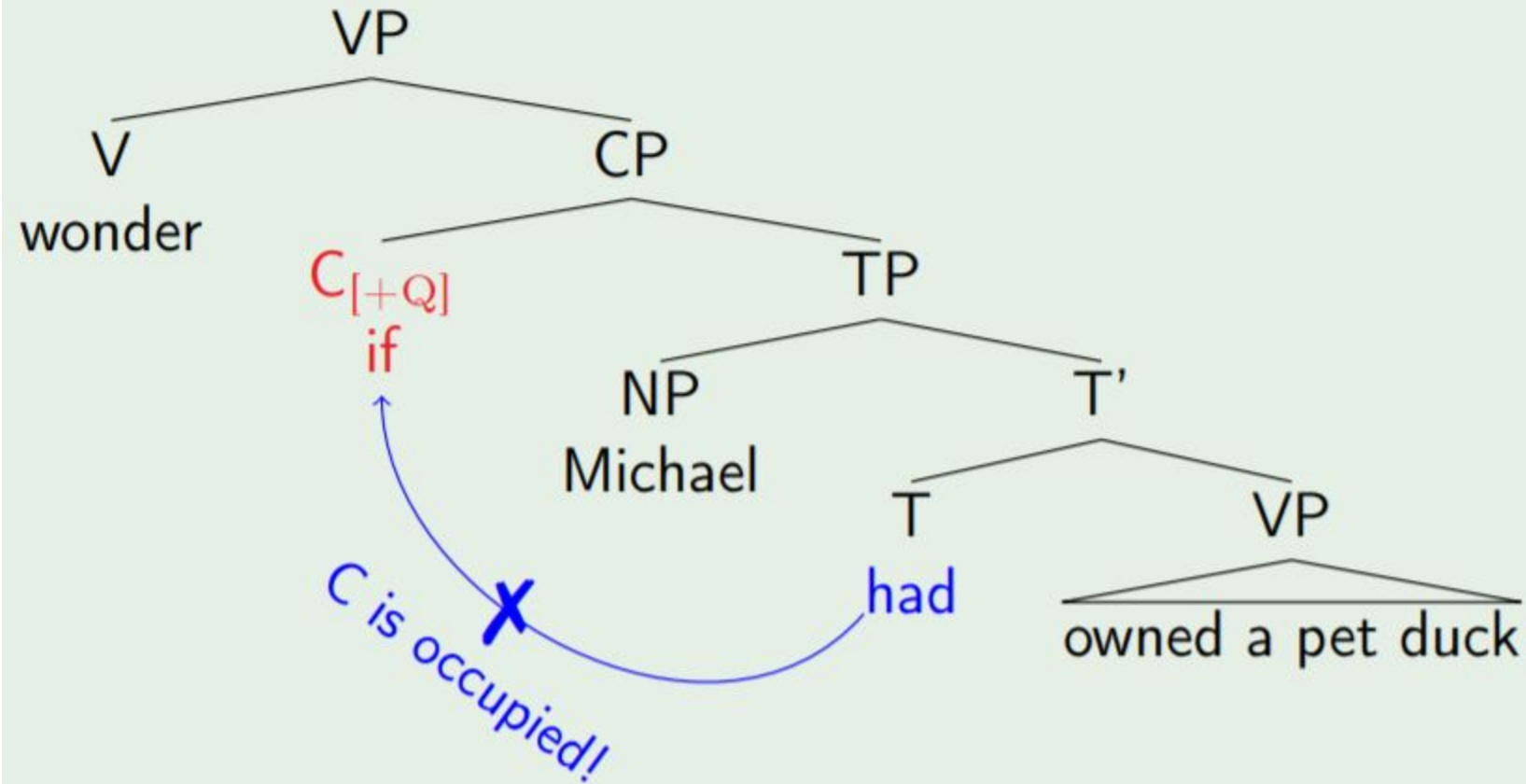
- (1) I had believed **that she would go to Mars**
- (2) * I had believed **if she would go to Mars**

$C_{[+Q]}$ v.s. $C_{[-Q]}$

Question: why (2) and (3) are ungrammatical?

- (1) I wonder **if Michael had owned a pet duck.**
- (2) *I wonder **that Michael had owned a pet duck.**
- (3) *I wonder **if had Michael owned a pet duck.**

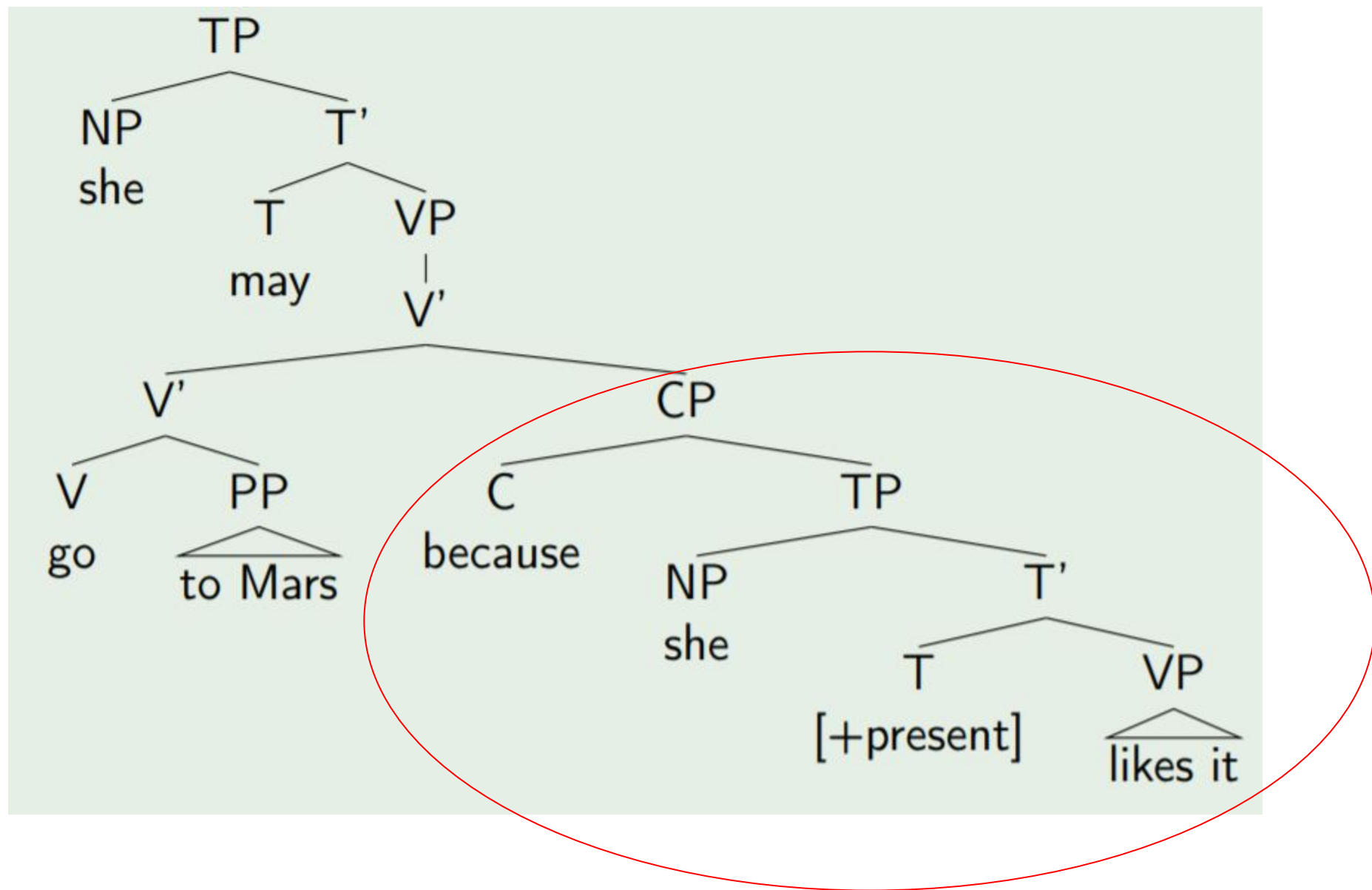
I wonder $\text{if}_{C[+Q]}$ Michael had owned a pet duck.



CP as a subject/ an adjunct

(2) **That she could go to Mars** surprised John

(3) She may go to Mars **because she likes it.**



Case

A few important cases

| Case | Usage |
|------------|-----------------------------------|
| Nominative | Subjects of <i>finite</i> clauses |
| Accusative | Direct objects |
| Dative | Indirect objects |
| Genitive | Possessor (like 's in English) |

Note: there are many more cases in world languages: *instrumental*, *ablative*, *allative*, etc.

What assigns accusative case?

a. Mary [loves him].

b. [to him]

Q: Why (c) is ungrammatical?

*c. Mary loves she.

What assigns nominative case?

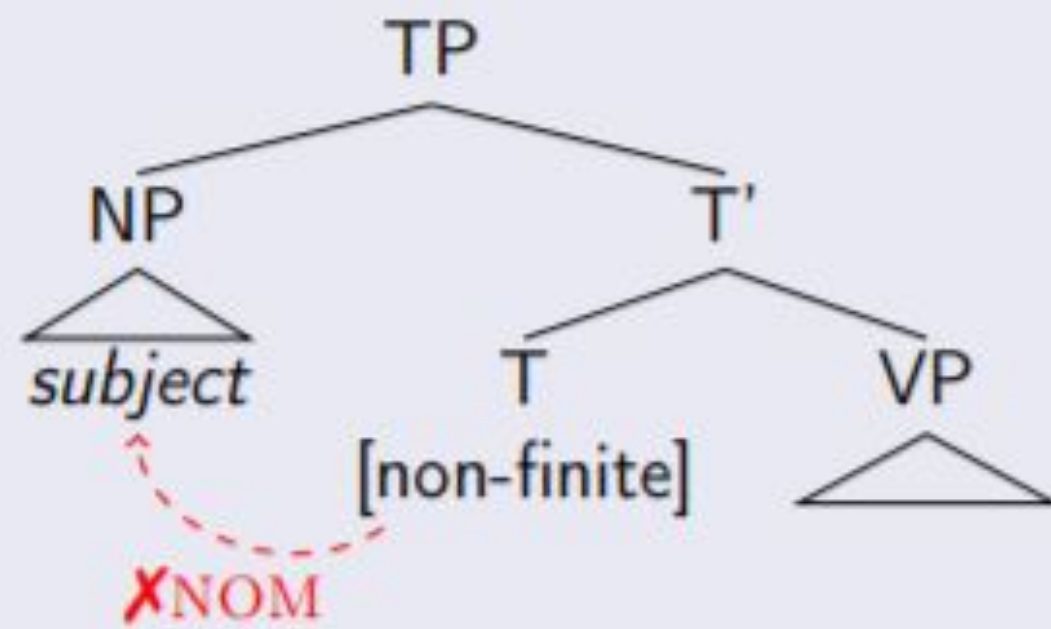
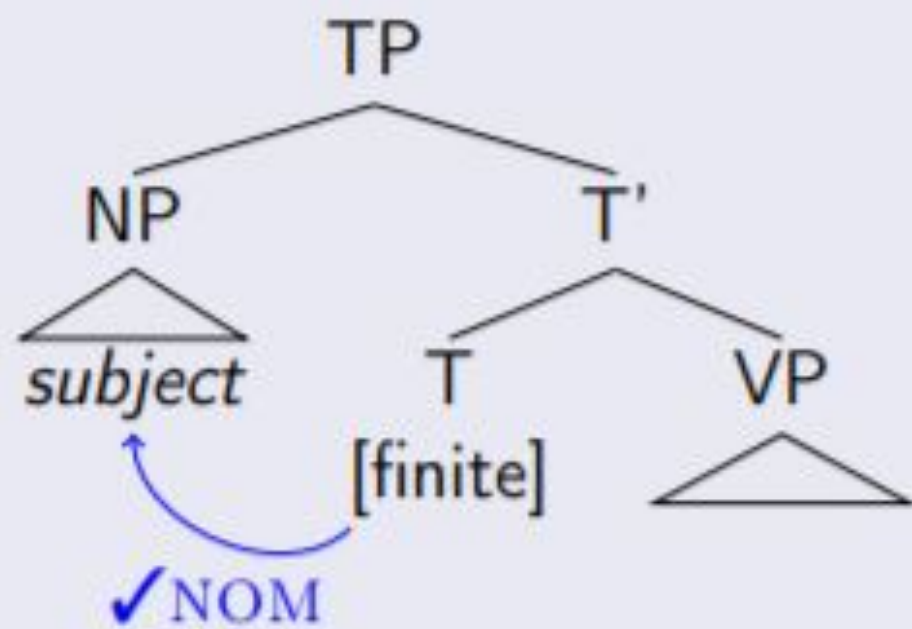
Q: why (a)/ (a') is ungrammatical?

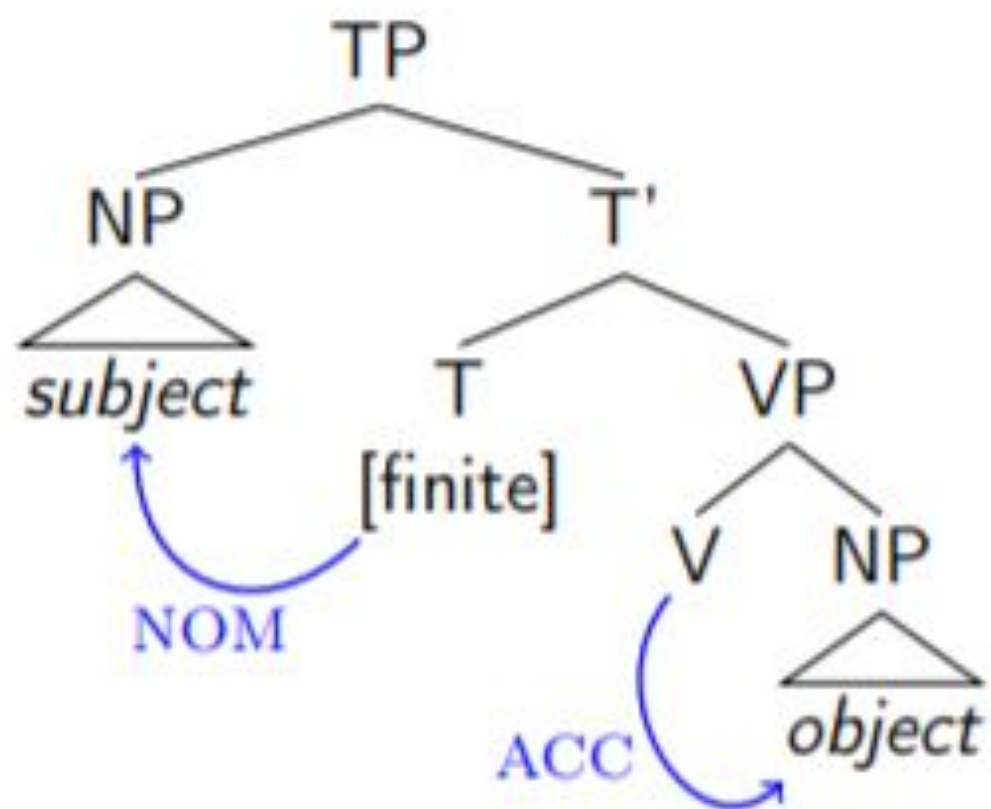
a. *I saw [*she* reading Chomsky].

b. I saw [that *she* was reading Chomsky].

a'. *I believe [*she* to be smart].

b'. I believe [that *she* is stupid].





Raising

Q: does “it” have any θ -role?

- a. It rains.
- b. It is likely that Josh is an alcoholic.
- c. It is certain that he likes pizza.
- d. It seems that Sue wins the race.
- e. It appears that Bill doesn't understand syntax.

Q: any expletives that you think of?

Q: does an expletive receive any θ -roles from a verb?

Q: does an expletive receive any Case assignment?

Q: why does an expletive subject need to appear in the sentence and often occupy the Spec, TP position?

Q: Spec, TP position must be occupied? Is it true for all languages?

- a. It seems [that Sue wins the race].
- b. *It seems [Sue to win the race].

Q: why (b) is ungrammatical? (*Hint: Case theory!*)

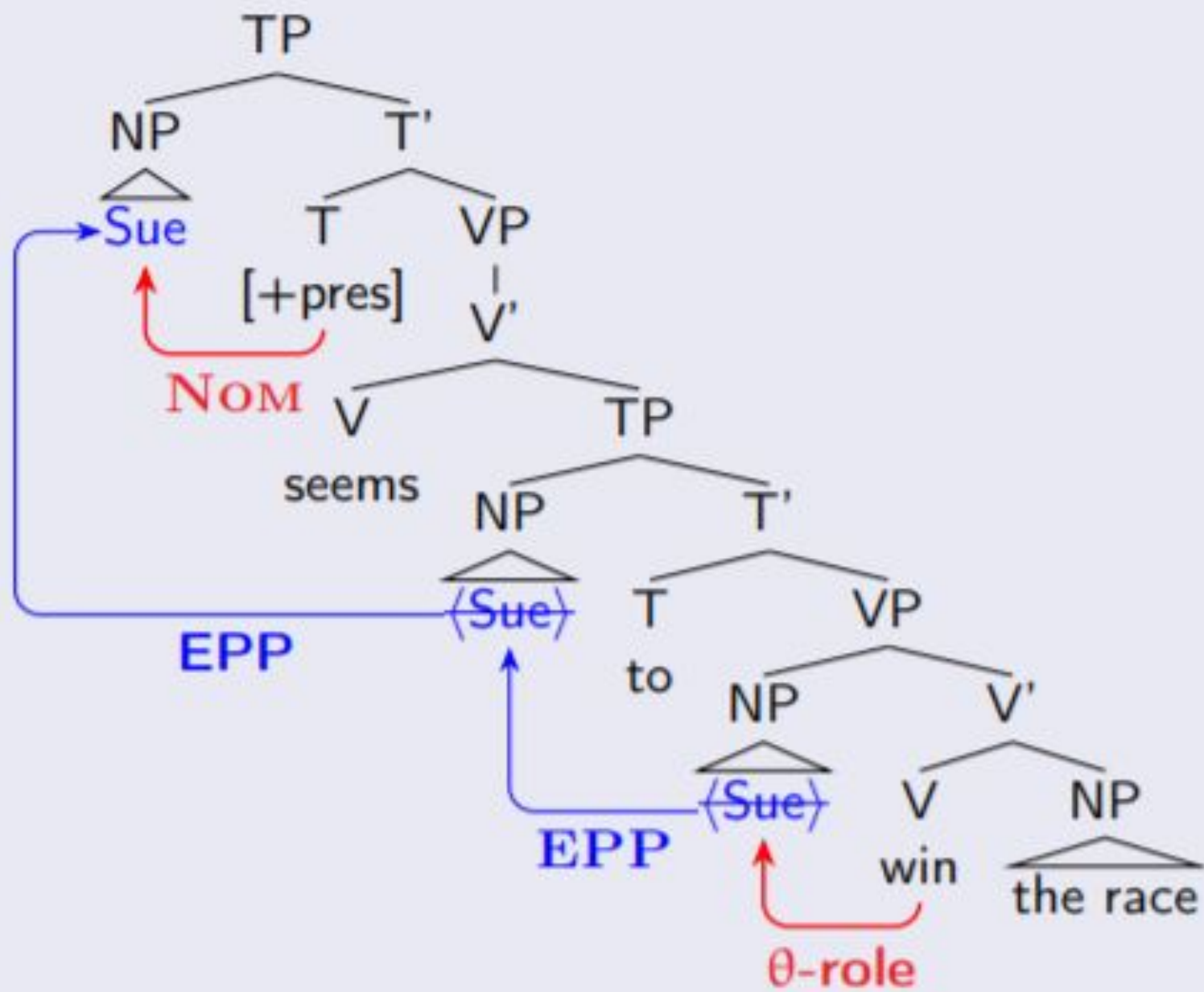
Q: How can we make (b) grammatical?

Try to draw a tree for a raising construction:

(1) Sue seems to win the race.

Hint: what kind of movements involved here?

where does the subject/object get θ -roles/ Case?



In idioms, such as *the shit hit the fan* or *the cat is out of the bag*.
the subjects can only be interpreted in the presence of their verb.

However, in raising constructions, idioms are possible:

- (1) a. The cat *seems to* be out of the bag.
b. The shit *is likely to* hit the fan.

Q: Does (1) suggest anything on the raising structure?

What's wrong with this sentence?

(1) * **Sue**_i seems that _____i wins the race.

Hint: θ -Theory, Case Theory!

Raising verbs

- Verbs such as *to seem, to be likely*, etc.
- They **do not assign θ -roles** to their subjects .
- They **do not assign accusative case** to their objects.
- Their subject is either
 - • an expletive *it/ there*; OR
 - • it must have raised from a position that is (i) No Case, and (ii) but with θ -role.

- It** seems that Sue has won the race.
- Sue seems to have won the race.

Control

- a. Bill **is likely** [to win the game].
- b. Bill **hopes** [to win the game]

Q: From which verb does *Bill* get the θ -role?

Q: Is the matrix verb in (a) assigning any θ -role?

Q: Why can't we assume that (a) and (b) are the same constructions?

c. Bill hopes that he wins the game.

d. Bill hopes to win the game.

Q: What is the term for the unpronounced argument in the embedded clause?

