

Chapter 12, Problem 5: Raising/Control in Icelandic

- A. The verb *vonast* requires nominative case of its subject. This is true regardless of which verb heads its complement. By contrast, *virðist* is transparent to the case requirements of the verb in its complement. That is, if the verb in its complement requires an accusative case subject, *virðist* will require an accusative case subject, etc.
- B. The contrast noted in (A) suggests that *vonast* is a control verb while *virðist* is a raising verb. This is because *vonast* places constraints on the type of its subject while *virðist* simply passes on or ‘raises’ whatever constraints its complement had.
- C. The data in (i)–(iv) show that the alternative analysis would not work for Icelandic control verbs. If control verbs, like raising verbs, identified the whole *synsem* of their first argument with the subject of the infinitival complement, we would expect (iv) and (v) to be ungrammatical. Similarly, (iv′) and (v′) would be incorrectly predicted to be grammatical:

(iv′) **Hana vonast til að vanta ekki peninga*
She-ACC hope for to lack not money

(v′) **Henni vonast til að batnað veikin*
She-DAT hope for to recover-from the-disease

The analysis of control verbs presented in the text correctly predicts that (iv) and (v) should be grammatical and (iv′) and (v′) ungrammatical. This is because the only information shared between the first argument of the control verb and the subject of the infinitival complement is the INDEX value. CASE is not identified.