VP-internal Subject Hypothesis

Based on Koeneman & Zeiljstra (2017)
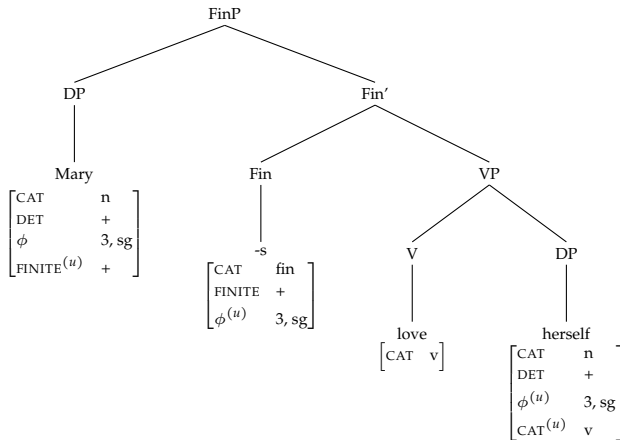
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COGS 532: Theoretical Linguistics
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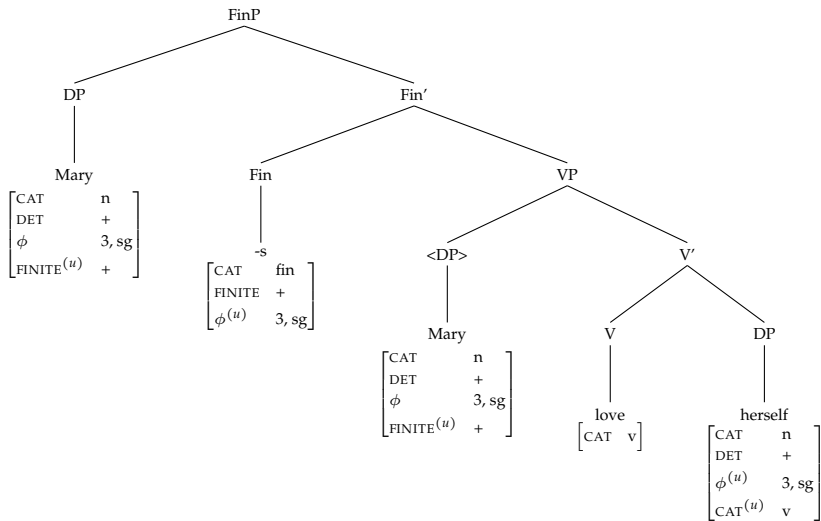## Agreement

An uninterpretable feature $\left[\text{F}^{(u)} \right]$ must be c-commanded by a matching $\left[\text{F} \right]$ in the same finite clause; otherwise the sentence is ungrammatical.
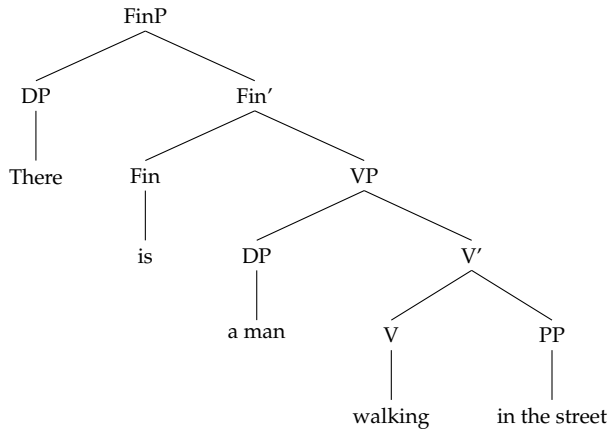
(1) Mary loves herself.

VP-internal Subject Hypothesis

(2) Mary loves herself.

Argument 1: *There*-constructions

(3) a. There is a man walking in the street.

   b. A man is walking in the street.

```
                            FinP
                          /      \
                        DP        Fin'
                        |        /    \
                     There    Fin      VP
                               |      /   \
                              is    DP     V'
                                    |     /   \
                                 a man   V     PP
                                         |      |
                                     walking  in the street
```
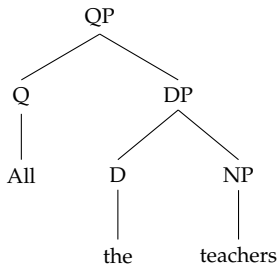
Argument 2: Floating quantifiers

(4) a. All the teachers are dancing on the table.
    b. The teachers are all dancing on the table.
    c. *The teachers are all dancing on the table.

(5) a. ?Wildly the teachers are dancing on the table.
    b. The teachers are wildly dancing on the table.
    c. The teachers are dancing wildly on the table.
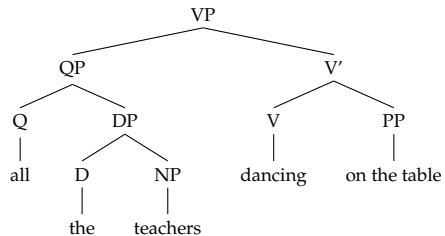
(6) a. Who was dancing on the table? All the teachers.
    b. Who was dancing on the table? *Wildly the teachers.

(7)   All the teachers.

```
                    QP
            ┌───────┴───────┐
            Q               DP
            │          ┌────┴────┐
           All         D         NP
                       │         │
                      the     teachers
```

Argument 2: Floating quantifiers (cont.)

```
                        VP
              _____/    _____
            QP                      V'
          /    \                  /    \
        Q        DP             V        PP
        |       /  \            |         |
       all    D     NP       dancing  on the table
              |      |
             the  teachers
```

Argument 2: Floating quantifiers (cont.)


```
                           VP
              ┌────────────┴───────────┐
             QP                        V'
          ┌───┴───┐               ┌────┴────┐
          Q       DP              V         PP
          │     ┌──┴──┐           │         │
         all    D     NP       dancing   on the table
                │     │
               the  teachers
```
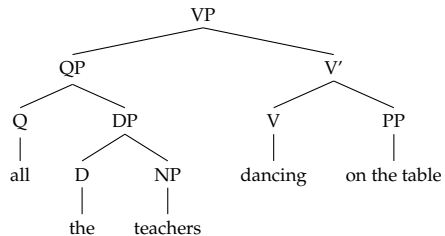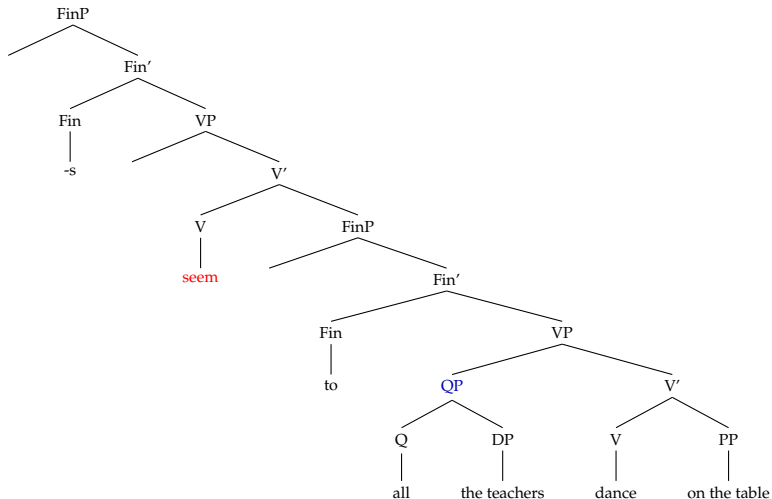
Argument 2: Floating quantifiers (cont.)

(8) (All) the teachers (all) seem (all) to (all) dance (*all) on the table.

Argument 3: Idioms

(9) a. $\left\{\begin{array}{l} \text{John} \\ \text{The baker} \\ \text{Three of his uncles} \end{array}\right\}$ kicked the bucket.

b. $\left\{\begin{array}{l} \text{John} \\ \text{The baker} \\ \text{Three of his uncles} \end{array}\right\}$ hit the nail on the head.

c. $\left\{\begin{array}{l} \text{John} \\ \text{The baker} \\ \text{Three of his uncles} \end{array}\right\}$ had cold feet.

(10) The shadow hit DP.

Argument 3: Idioms (cont.)

Idiom principle:
Only fixed constituents can receive an idiomatic interpretation.

(11) a. The shit hit the fan.
　　 b. All hell broke loose.

(12)　The shit $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{has} \\ \text{will} \\ \text{must} \end{array} \right\}$ hit the fan.

(13) a. Curiosity killed the cat.
　　 b. Elvis has left the building.

Argument 4: Θ-role assignment

```
                        FinP
                  ┌──────┴──────┐
                 DP            Fin′
                  │        ┌─────┴─────┐
                John      Fin          VP
                  │        │      ┌─────┴─────┐
                 -s      <DP>          V′
                           │        ┌───┴───┐
                         John       V       DP
                                    │        │
                                  love     Mary
```