

Subjects

Partly based on Koenenman & Zeiljstra (2017)

Umut Özge

COGS 532: Theoretical Linguistics
METU, Informatics

Agent \leftrightarrow Subjects

The glass broke.
patient

Extended Projection Principle Chomsky (1981)

EPP: Every sentence has a subject.

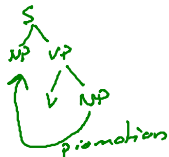
sentence vs. clause
can stand on its own headed by a verbal head.

[_S John believes [_{CP} that he is a genius].]

Passive

"promoted"

- (1) John killed Bill.
(2) Bill was killed (by John).
(3) They were killed (by John).



verb \rightarrow BE participial (verb)
go \rightarrow gone

killed x Bill (by John).

The expletive *it*

(4) It rains/snows. → weather verbs.

↓
no semantic content.

It seems John is crazy.

↓
no semantics

no semantics → no Q-role

rain : \emptyset

kill : $\langle \text{Agent}, \text{Patient} \rangle$

\ominus -criterion } rain doesn't assign
EPP any \ominus -role

⇒ "theta grid"

Back to Passive

give

▶ Which argument to drop when passivizing?

▶ Which argument to “promote” to SUBJ?

Back to Passive

► Which argument to drop when passivizing?

► Which argument to “promote” to SUBJ?

► Θ -hierarchy: AGENT > RECIPIENT > THEME/PATIENT > GOAL

- (5) a. John gave Mary the book.
b. Mary was given the book.
c. *The book was given Mary.
- (6) a. John gave the book to Mary.
b. The book was given to Mary.
c. *Mary was given the book to.

Unexpressed subjects

- (7) [s John seems [e to win the race.]]
- (8) [s John hopes [e to win the race.]]

Unexpressed subjects

(7) John seems to win the race.

(8) John hopes to win the race.

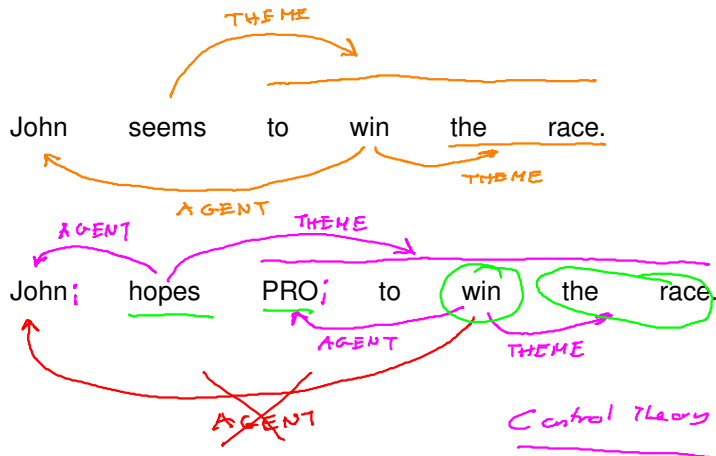
~~Don't~~ Agenthood test: -er test.
THEME

(9) It seems that John wins the race.

(10) *It hopes that John wins the race.

seems : Theme

Unexpressed subjects



hope : A, T
win : A, T

