

# VP-internal Subject Hypothesis

*Based on Koenenman & Zeiljstra (2017)*

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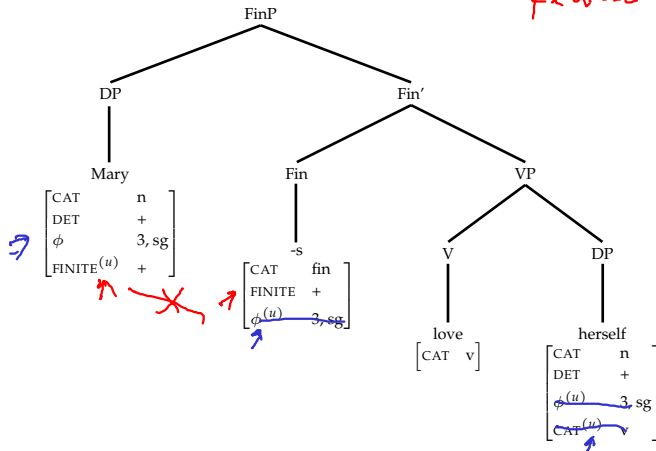
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COGS 532: Theoretical Linguistics  
METU, Informatics

## Agreement

⇒ An uninterpretable feature  $[F^{(u)}]$  must be **c-commanded** by a matching  $[F]$  in the same finite clause; otherwise the sentence is ungrammatical.

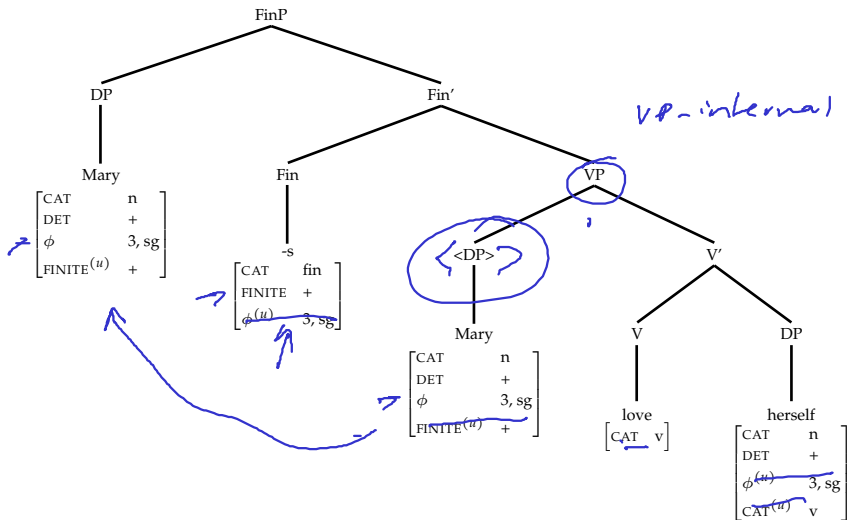
(1) Mary loves herself.



"feature checking"

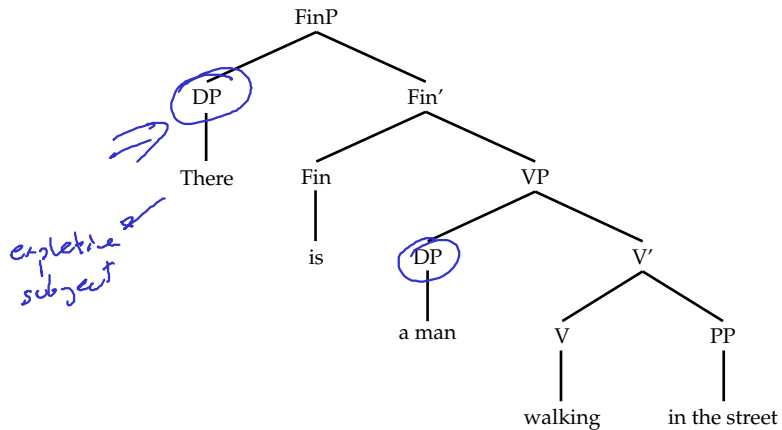
# VP-internal Subject Hypothesis

(2) Mary loves herself.



## Argument 1: *There*-constructions

- (3) a. There is a man walking in the street. → non-specific man  
b. A man is walking in the street. → specific man.



## Argument 2: Floating quantifiers

"all" is not an adverbial.

- (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.

all

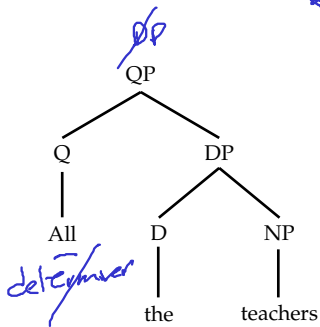
- (5) a. ?Wildly the teachers are dancing on the table.  
b. The teachers are wildly dancing on the table.  
c. The teachers are dancing wildly on the table.

- (6) a. Who was dancing on the table? (All the teachers.)  
b. Who was dancing on the table? \*Wildly the teachers.

is a constituent.

## Argument 2: Floating quantifiers (cont.)

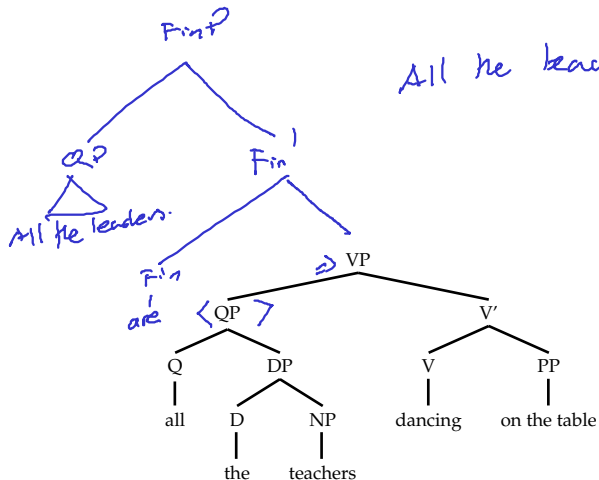
(7) All the teachers.



\* a the teacher

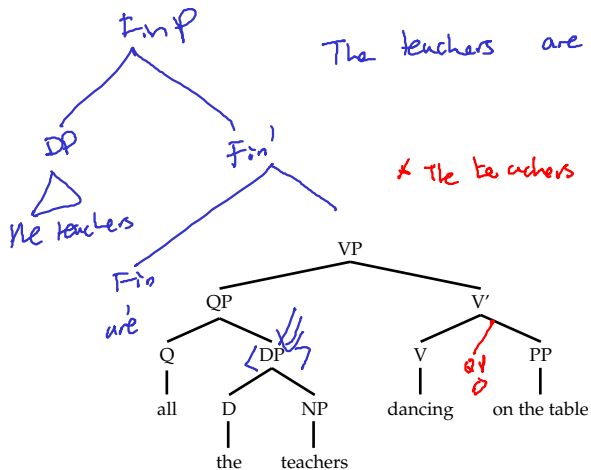
~~determiner~~

## Argument 2: Floating quantifiers (cont.)



All the teachers are dancing  
on the table.

## Argument 2: Floating quantifiers (cont.)



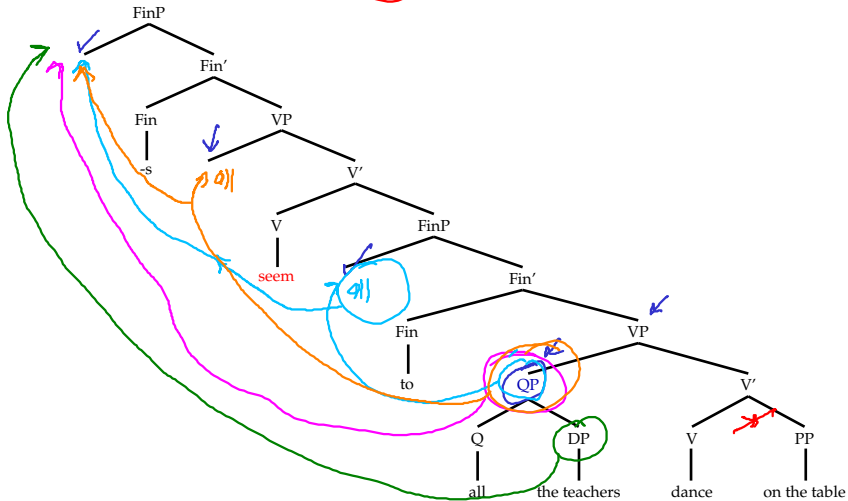
The teachers are all dancing on the table

\* The teachers are dancing all on the table.



## Argument 2: Floating quantifiers (cont.)

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



## Argument 3: Idioms

(9)

- a. { John  
The baker  
Three of his uncles } kicked the bucket.
- b. { John  
The baker  
Three of his uncles } hit the nail on the head.
- c. { John  
The baker  
Three of his uncles } had cold feet.

"to die"

"identify the right thing"

"lack courage to do sth"

- (10) [The shadow hit] DP. = DP died



## Argument 3: Idioms (cont.)

### Idiom principle:

Only fixed constituents can receive an idiomatic interpretation.

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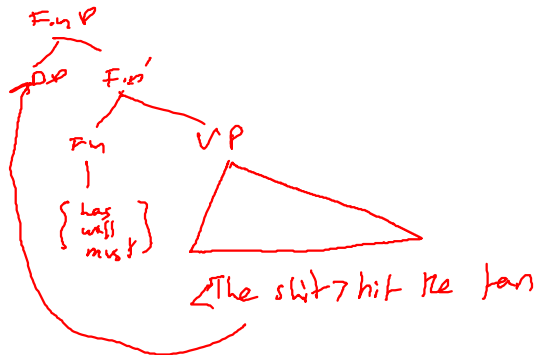
### Argument 3: Idioms (cont.)

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

"trouble started"

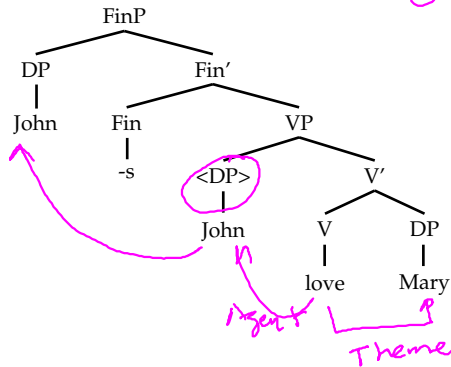
"kick the bucket"  
VP idioms

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



- (13) a.  $\left[ \text{Curiosity killed the cat.} \right]$   
b. Elvis has left the building.

## Argument 4: $\Theta$ -role assignment



④ ide as a local  
process to VP,

Categorical grammars.