

DP Movement

Norberto Moreno Quibén

English Syntax (UNED)

<nmoreno@madrid.uned.es>

<http://www.quiben.org/>

The agent role must be assigned to an argument within the clause that contains the verb in question.

- (1) a. *[I want Bradley_i [that left]]
b. *John_i thinks [that left]

(2) *The Locality Constraint on Theta Role Assignment*

Theta roles are assigned within the projection of the head that assigns them (i.e., the VP or other predicate).

- (3) [John_i is likely [to leave]]

John here is the agent of *leaving*, but the DP *John* appears in the main clause, far away from its predicate. Even more surprising is the fact that there seems to be no subject of the embedded clause.

- (4) a. [[That John will leave]_j is likely]
b. It is likely [that John will leave]_j
c. is likely <Proposition, CP_j >

A new transformation that affects DPs (and CPs? cf. (4a))

(5) *DP movement*

Move a DP to a specifier position.

This particular instance of DP movement is frequently called **raising**, because you are raising the DP from the lower clause to the higher. Why movement? The DP moves to the TP to satisfy the *Extended Projection Principle* (EPP), a property of T.

- (6) [CP [TP John T+is [VP is [AP likely [CP [TP John to [VP John leave]]]]]]]]

(7) *The Case Filter*: Every DP must be marked by Case.

- a. NOMinative Case :: Specifier of finite T
- b. ACCusative Case :: Sister to transitive V
- c. PREPositional Case :: Assigned by P

(8) a. It is likely that Patrick left.

b. That Patrick left is likely.

c. *Patrick is likely that t_i left. (\checkmark EPP; \checkmark Case Filter (NOM by embedded T):: No need for movement)

d. *It is likely Patrick to leave. (\checkmark EPP; * Case Filter (-finite T does not assign case))

e. *Patrick to leave is likely. (\checkmark EPP; * Case Filter (-finite T does not assign case))

f. Patrick is likely t_i to leave. (\checkmark EPP main and embedded; \checkmark Case Filter (NOM by main T))

(9) a. The policeman kissed the puppy. (Active)

b. The puppy was kissed by the policeman. (Passive)

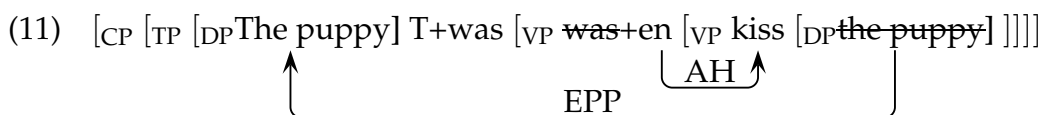
(10) Passive Redux

a. Passive morphology *-en* absorbs agent role.

b. Passive morphology *-en* absorbs ACC case from transitive V.

c. DP object raises to satisfy EPP.

d. DP object raises to get Case.



(12) Simple Sentence: Subject DPs move to get Case

a. The policeman kissed the puppy

