Raising & subject control verbs

Raising verbs

Raising verbs, such as *seem* and *appear*,...
   1) Don't assign a theta role to the matrix subject
   2) Select a CP complement – tensed or infinitive

The subject of the matrix clause raises out of the embedded clause (sometimes).

1. [$_{TP}$ Shrek seems [$_{CP}$ ø [$_{TP}$ *t* to [$_{VP}$ hate donkey]]].
2. [$_{TP}$ It seems [$_{CP}$ that [$_{TP}$ Shrek [$_{VP}$ hates donkey]]].

How do we know the raising verb doesn't assign a theta role to the matrix subject?

Seems is not sensitive to changes in the animacy of the subject.

3. The man in black wants to leave the island.
4. Time passes slowly on the island.
5. #Time wants to leave the island.
6. #The man in black passes slowly on the island.

7. The man in black seems to want to leave the island.
8. Time seems to pass slowly on the island.
9. *Time seems to want to leave the island.

How do we know the raising verb doesn't assign a theta role to the matrix subject?

10. That man appears to be falling.
11. My whiteboard appears to be falling.
12. *My whiteboard appears to be writing a novel.

Hate & theta roles

What theta role does *Shrek* get?

26. [$_{TP}$ Shrek seems [$_{TP}$ to hate donkey]].
27. *[$_{TP}$ It seems [$_{TP}$ Shrek to hate donkey]].
28. [$_{TP}$ It seems [$_{CP}$ that [$_{TP}$ Shrek hates donkey]].
29. *[$_{TP}$ Shrek seems [$_{CP}$ that [$_{TP}$ hates donkey]].

- Experiencer of *hate*.

Why do subjects move?

Hate & theta roles

What theta role does *Shrek* get?

Why do subjects move from the nonfinite embedded clause?

To check nominative case!

- Experiencer of *hate*.

Why do subjects move?

Hate & theta roles

Where is *Shrek* merged?

- Spec TP of embedded clause

26. [$_{TP}$ Shrek seems [$_{TP}$ t$_{DP}$ to [$_{VP}$ hate donkey]]].
28. [$_{TP}$ It seems [$_{CP}$ that [$_{TP}$ Shrek [$_{VP}$ hates donkey]]].

Why do subjects move?

Seem & theta roles

What theta role does *it* get?

28. [$_{TP}$ It [$_{VP}$ seems [$_{CP}$ that [$_{TP}$ Shrek [$_{VP}$ hates donkey]].

- None
- *It* is a dummy subject & doesn't require a theta role.

Seem is a raising verb, & doesn't assign a theta role to the subject (but it does assign one to the CP).

Why do subjects move?

More on these sentences

What is the difference between these two pairs (26 & 27 vs. 28 & 29)?

26. [TP Shrek seems [CP [TP to hate donkey]].
    [+T]   [-T]

27. *[TP It seems [CP [TP Shrek to hate donkey]].
    [+T]   [-T]

28. [TP It seems [CP that [TP Shrek hates donkey]].
    [+T]   [+T]

29. *[TP Shrek seems [CP that [TP hates donkey]].
    [+T]   [+T]

The lower TP is [-T] in 26-27. It is [+T] in 28-29.

Why do subjects move

Subject position and [+T]

Describe the distribution of *Shrek*.

26. [$_{TP}$ Shrek seems [$_{CP}$ [$_{TP}$ to hate donkey]].
    [+T]   [-T]

27. *[$_{TP}$ It seems [$_{CP}$ [$_{TP}$ Shrek to hate donkey]].
    [+T]   [-T]

28. [$_{TP}$ It seems [$_{CP}$ that [$_{TP}$ Shrek hates donkey]].
    [+T]   [+T]

29. [$_{TP}$ *Shrek seems [$_{CP}$ that [$_{TP}$ hates donkey]].
    [+T]   [+T]

Shrek can only appear in the lower TP when it's [+T].

Summary

- *Hate* assigns the experiencer theta role to *Shrek*.

- *Seems* does not have a theta role to assign (to the subject).

- *Shrek* starts in the embedded spec VP and moves to spec TP.

- *Shrek* moves to spec TP of the embedded clause when it's [+T].

- *Shrek* moves to spec TP of the main clause when the embedded TP is [-T].

Why do subjects move

Why do the features of T determine the position of the subject & how does that relate to why the subject moves to spec TP?

- The finite T head ([+T]) is [+nom] and checks the nominative case of the subject.
- The nonfinite T head *to* ([-T]) is [-nom] and cannot check the nominative case of the subject.
- The subject (which is [+nom]) must move to the specifier of a tense phrase that has a [+T] ([+nom]) head to check case.

Nonfinite embedded TP

26. [$_{TP}$ Shrek T [seems [$_{TP}$ t$_{DP}$ to [$_{VP}$ hate donkey]].

[+T]   [-T]

exp   theme

[+nom] [+nom]   [-nom]   [+acc]   [+acc]

27. *[$_{TP}$ It   T [seems [$_{TP}$ Shrek   to [$_{VP}$ hate donkey]].

[+T]   [-T]

exp   theme

[+nom]   [+nom]   [+nom] [-nom]   [+acc] [+acc]

The [+nom] feature of *Shrek* is not checked, so the sentence is ungrammatical.

28. [TP It   T [seems [CP that [TP Shrek   T [VP hates donkey]].
         [+T]   [+T]
                                                    exp   theme
    [+nom]   [+nom]   [+nom][+nom] [+acc][+acc]

29.*[TP Shrek T   [seems [CP that [TP tDP T [VP hates donkey.
         [+T]   [+T]
                                                    exp   theme
         [+nom]   [+nom][+nom] [+acc][+acc]

The [+nom] feature of the main T is not checked, so the sentence is ungrammatical.

Why subjects move

26. [TP Shrek seems [CP [TP to hate donkey]].
27. *[TP It seems [CP [TP Shrek to hate donkey]].
28. [TP It seems [CP that [TP Shrek hates donkey]].
29. *[TP Shrek seems [CP that [TP hates donkey]].

What theta role(s) does *seems* assign?
What theta role does *it* get?
What theta role does *Shrek* get & where is it merged?
In each sentence, where does *Shrek* move?

Why subjects move

26. [TP Shrek seems [CP [TP to hate donkey]].
27. *[TP It seems [CP [TP Shrek to hate donkey]].
28. [TP It seems [CP that [TP Shrek hates donkey]].
29. *[TP Shrek seems [CP that [TP hates donkey]].

- *Seems* assigns the proposition theta role to the CP.
- *It* does not receive a theta role.
- *Hate* assigns the experiencer theta role to *Shrek*.
- *Shrek* stays in spec TP of the embedded clause when it's [+T].
- *Shrek* moves to spec TP of the main clause when the embedded TP is [-T].

Review

Review

	is checked/assigned by	DP must occupy
Nominative case…		
Agent/ experiencer…		
Accusative case…		
Theme…		

Control verbs

Control verbs…
   1) assign a theta role to the matrix subject
   2) select a CP complement – tensed or infinitive

There are 2 types of control verbs:

1. Subject control verbs (*hope, wish, long, desire, need, try, attempt, endeavor, aim, dare, promised, etc.*)

13. The man in black hopes [$_{CP}$ [$_{TP}$ to [$_{VP}$ leave the island]]].

2. Object control verbs (*convince, persuade, order, etc.*)

14. John convinced Mary [$_{CP}$ [$_{TP}$ to [$_{VP}$ mow the lawn]]].

Subject control verbs

How do we know that subject control verbs assign a theta role to the matrix subject?

A. Look at the sentence when it has a [+T] embedded TP.

13. The man in black hopes [$_{CP}$ [$_{TP}$ to [$_{VP}$ leave the island]]].

13. [$_{TP}$ [$_{DP}$The man in black] hopes [$_{CP}$ that [$_{TP}$ he will [$_{VP}$ leave the island.

experiencer   agent

In 2, the main clause has a DP in spec TP, and the embedded clause does as well. Both of these DPs must receive a theta role. Therefore, both the main & the embedded verb have a theta role to assign.

Subject control verbs

B. Both the matrix and embedded verbs show selectional restrictions regarding animacy.

15. The man in black left the island.
16. The ship left the island.
17. #Eternity left the island.
18. The man in black hopes to leave the island.
19. #That ship hopes to leave the island.

The verb *hope* requires a subject that capable of hoping.

Subject control verbs

C. You can't have a dummy *it* subject.

20. *It hopes the man in black to leave the island.
21. *It hopes that the man in black will leave the island.

Why? *Hopes* is trying to assign a theta role to the dummy subject, and a dummy subject can't receive the theta role. Therefore, the experiencer theta role is not assigned.

Control verbs and the theta criterion

Q: What does the theta criterion state?

[$_{TP}$ [$_{DP}$ Shrek seems [$_{CP}$ ø [$_{TP}$ t_{DP} to [$_{VP}$ t_{DP} hate donkey]].

experiencer

13. [$_{DP}$ The man in black] hopes [$_{TP}$ t_{DP} to [$_{VP}$ t_{DP} leave the island]].

experiencer   agent

Subject control verbs appear to violate the theta criterion.

PRO (big PRO)

PRO is a null pronoun.

13. [The man in black] hopes [$_{TP}$ PRO to [$_{VP}$ t$_{PRO}$ leave the island]]].

experiencer　　　　　　　　　agent

a. PRO only appears in spec TP of non-finite clauses.

b. It doesn't have a [+nom] feature, but may move to spec TP to check a special case

c. Its interpretation is controlled by the matrix subject (or object).

Tree practice

- The man hopes to leave the island.

- The brown dog tried to steal the hamburger from the boy.

```
                              TP
                  ┌───────────┴───────────┐
                 DP                        T'
                  │                 ┌───────┴───────┐
                 D'                 t               VP
            ┌─────┴─────┐           •        ┌───────┴───────┐
            D           NP                   t               V'
            │           │                          ┌─────────┴─────────┐
           the          N'                         V                   CP
                        │                     ┌─────┴─────┐             │
                        N                     V           T            C'
                        │                     │           │       ┌────┴────┐
                       man                  hope          -s      C         TP
                                                                  │    ┌─────┴─────┐
                                                                  ø   PRO          T'
                                                                           ┌───────┴───────┐
                                                                           T               VP
                                                                           │         ┌─────┴─────┐
                                                                          to         t          V'
                                                                                          ┌──────┴──────┐
                                                                                          V            DP
                                                                                          │             │
                                                                                        leave          D'
                                                                                                  ┌─────┴─────┐
                                                                                                  D           NP
                                                                                                  │           │
                                                                                                 the          N'
                                                                                                             │
                                                                                                             N
                                                                                                             │
                                                                                                          island
```
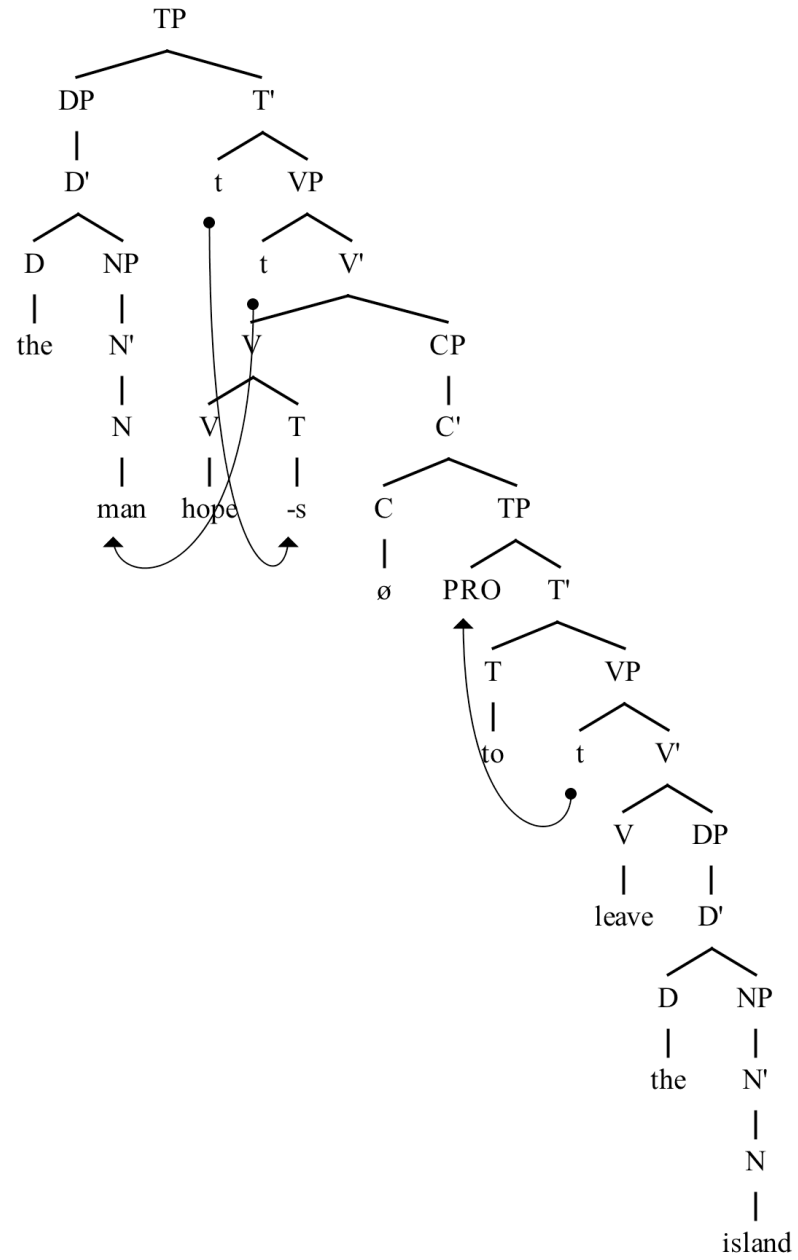
Review

- In each sentence, where does the matrix subject starts out and how are the theta roles assigned in each sentence?
- Which sentence(s) (if any) include PRO?
- Which one is a control verb? Which one is a raising verb?

22. John tried to leave the island.

23. John appeared to leave the island.
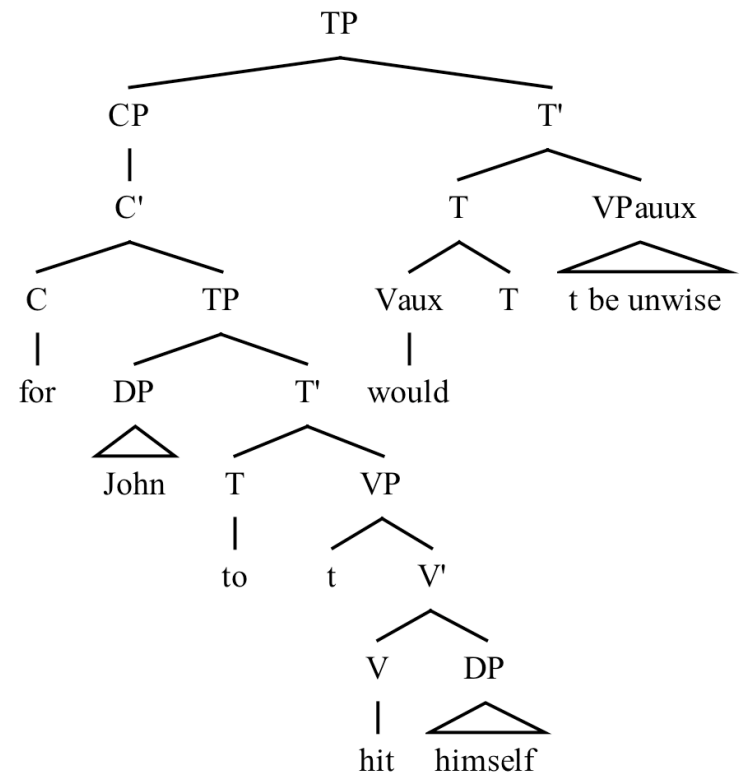
Evidence for PRO

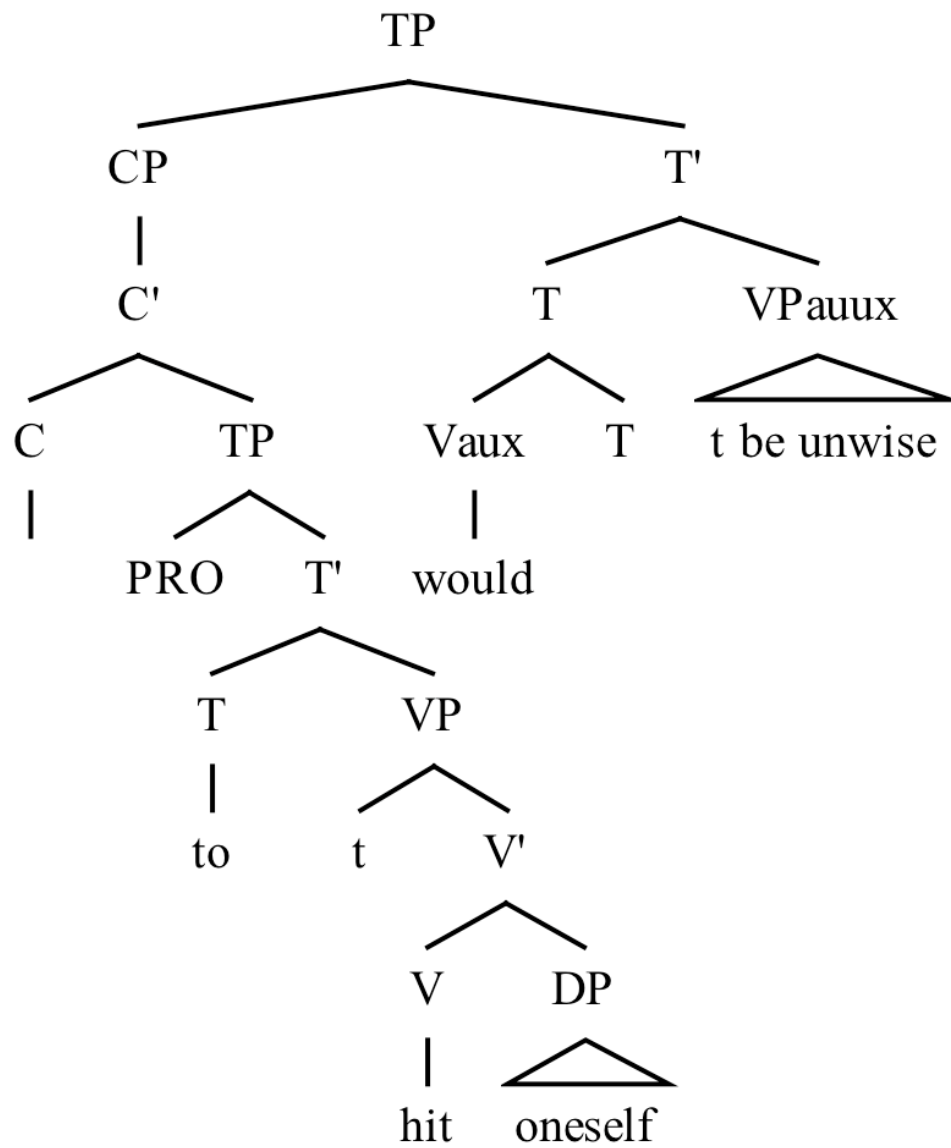A. Binding of reflexives in subject CPs

24. It would be unwise [$_{CP}$ for John to hit himself].
25. [$_{CP}$ For John to hit himself] would be unwise.
26. [$_{CP}$ To hit oneself] would be
27. [$_{CP}$ PRO$_i$ to hit oneself$_i$] wou

```
                          TP
              ┌───────────┴──────────┐
             CP                      T'
              │              ┌───────┴────────┐
             C'              T              VPauux
        ┌─────┴─────┐    ┌───┴───┐        ┌────┴────┐
        C          TP   Vaux    T       t be unwise
        │       ┌───┴──┐  │
       for     DP     T' would
              ┌─┴─┐  ┌─┴──┐
             John  T    VP
                   │  ┌──┴──┐
                   to t     V'
                        ┌────┴────┐
                        V        DP
                        │      ┌──┴──┐
                       hit    himself
```

```
                                    TP
                          ┌──────────┴──────────┐
                         CP                      T'
                          │                 ┌────┴────┐
                         C'                 T        VPauux
                    ┌─────┴─────┐        ┌──┴──┐      ╱──────╲
                    C          TP      Vaux    T    t be unwise
                    │        ╱──┴──╲     │
                   PRO      T'    would
                         ┌───┴───┐
                         T       VP
                         │     ╱──┴──╲
                         to   t       V'
                                  ┌───┴───┐
                                  V       DP
                                  │      ╱──╲
                                 hit    oneself
```

Evidence for PRO

Other principles of binding theory are obeyed:

Principle C

28. [For her$_{*i/j}$ to hit Jane$_i$] would be unwise.
29. [To PRO$_{*i/j}$ hit Jane$_i$] would be unwise.

Neither (16) nor (17) can mean *for Jane to hit herself…*

Principle B

30. [For John$_{*i/j}$ to hit him$_i$] would be unwise.
31. [To PRO$_{*i/j}$ hit him$_i$] would be unwise.
Neither (18) nor (19) can mean *for John to hit himself…*

Evidence for PRO

B. Binding of reflexives in an embedded CP.

Q: Who will cut the grass?
32. John$_i$ promised Mary [$_{CP}$ [$_{TP}$ to cut the grass]].

Q: Is (21) grammatical? If so, does Principle A appear to be violated?
33. John$_i$ promised Mary [$_{CP}$ [$_{TP}$ PRO$_i$ to behave himself$_i$]].

34. *John$_i$ promised Mary$_j$ [$_{CP}$ [$_{TP}$ PRO$_i$ to behave herself$_j$]].

Mary can't bind the anaphor, which tells you that *Mary* is not in the domain of the anaphor.

Properties of raising and subject control verbs

verb	PRO	theta role assignment	case checking
raising *seems, appears*	No	proposition to the CP	none
subject control *try, hope*	Yes	proposition to the CP experiencer/agent to spec VP	none

Control verbs