Lecture 18: Infinitives — Summary.

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Outline

1 Non-finite Complementation: Summary

2 Strange Case of *want*

3 Verb Lists

Non-finite Complementation: Summary

Constructions

(1) Sally$_i$ is likely [$_{TP}$ ___$_i$ to win the game].   (Raising)

Nom

T$_H$ Agent   T$_H$

Move (EPP)

(2) Sally$_i$ T hopes [$_{CP}$ PRO$_i$ to win the game]. (Subject Control)

Nom

Exp   T$_H$ Agent   T$_H$

(3) Bill T believes [$_{TP}$ Sally to have won the game].   (ECM)

Nom   Acc

Agent   T$_H$ Agent   T$_H$

(4) John T convinced Bill$_i$ [$_{CP}$ PRO$_i$ to sleep]. (Object Control)

Nom   Acc

Agent   Pat   Agent

T$_H$

Determining the type of construction

1. Does the verb in the main clause have external θ-role/thematic subject?
   - Can use idioms or dummy *it/there* to test it!
   - **NO**: Raising construction
   - **YES**: Keep going. . .

2. Does the thematic subject of the embedded clause refer to the same individual as the subject of the matrix clause?
   - **YES**: Subject control
   - **NO**: Keep going. . .

3. Is the NP after the main clause verb a thematic argument of this verb?
   - Can embed idioms or dummy *it/there* to test it!
   - **YES**: Object control
   - **NO**: ECM

Example 1

(5)   A riot is about to start in London.

❶ Does the verb in the main clause have external θ-role/thematic subject?
Let us check it with idioms and dummy subjects:

(6)   a.   It is about to rain.
       b.   The shit is about to hit the fan.
       c.   There is about to be a riot.

NO THEMATIC SUBJECT: **Raising Construction**

Example 2

(7)   Sally abandoned Bill to move to England.

1. Does the verb in the main clause have external θ-role/thematic subject?
   Let us check it with idioms and dummy subjects:

   (8)   a. *There abandoned Bill . . .
           b. *The shit abandoned Bill to hit the fan.

   THEMATIC SUBJECT PRESENT

2. Does the thematic subject of the embedded clause refer to the same individual as the subject of the matrix clause?
   The embedded subject is empty, and refers to *Sally*, who is *moving to England*.

   YES: **Subject Control**

Example 3

(9)   The general ordered the soldier to clean the stables.

❶ Does the verb in the main clause have external θ-role?

(10)   *There ordered the soldier . . .

THEMATIC SUBJECT PRESENT: Moving on. . .

❷ Does the thematic subject of the embedded clause refer to the same individual as the subject of the matrix clause?
The embedded subject is empty, but doesn't refer *the general*.

NO: Moving on. . .

❸ Is the NP after the main clause verb a θ-argument of this verb?

(11)   *The general ordered the shit to hit the fan.

YES: *The soldier* is an argument of *ordered* — **Object control**

Example 4

(12)   John found Bill to be talented.

❶ Does the verb in the main clause have external θ-role?

    (13)   *There found Bill . . .

    THEMATIC SUBJECT PRESENT: Moving on. . .

❷ Does the thematic subject of the embedded clause refer to the same individual as the subject of the matrix clause?
The subject of the embedded clause does not refer to *John*.

    NO: Moving on. . .

❸ Is the NP after the main clause verb a θ-argument of this verb?

    (14)   John found the shit to have hit the fan.

    NO: John found something about Bill, not *Bill* himself — **ECM**

Strange Case of *want*

What type of verb is *want*?

(15)   John wants Bill to sleep.

- This looks like an ECM verb: *Bill* is not thematically related to *want*, but it seems like it gets case from the verb *wants*.
- Very similar to *believe*:

(16)   John believes Bill to be talented.

Passivization

However, there is an interesting difference with respect to passivization:

(17)   a.   *Bill is wanted to sleep.
       b.   Bill is believed to be talented.

What type of verb is *want*?

(18)   a.   John wants Bill to sleep.
       b.   John believes Bill to be talented.

There is a way to explain this difference by postulating different structure for *believe* and *want*:

- believe is an ECM verb:
  - Embedded subject receives θ-role from the embedded verb.
  - There is no CP layer.
  - Embedded subject receives accusative case from the verb believe.
- want is usually a control verb, but can also be a *for*-infinitive:
  - Embedded subject receives θ-role from the embedded verb.
  - There is a CP layer.
  - Empty C or *for*-C assign accusative case to the embedded subject.

What type of verb is *want*?

(19)   a.   John wants [$_{CP}$ for/∅ Bill to sleep].
       b.   John believes [$_{TP}$ Bill to be talented].

(20)   a.   *Bill is wanted to sleep.
       b.   Bill is believed to be talented.

Difference is passivization can be explained if we assume that only NPs that are close to the verb and receive Case from the verb can be passivized:

- There is no CP-layer with believe, it assigns accusative case to NP, so this NP can be passivized.
- There is a CP-layer with want, and accusative case is assigned by the empty C. So passivization is impossible: it is blocked by the C.

Verb Lists

Verb lists

Raising predicates

- *appear, begin, continue, end up, fail, figure, happen, keep, need, ought, prove, quit, remain, say, seem, start, stop, tend, wind up, apt, certain, due, likely, sure, unlikely, be about to, be bound to, be going to, be set to, be supposed to, have to, have got to, turn out to, used to,* and passives of ECM verbs.

Verb lists

Subject control predicates

- *admit, afford, agree, aim, apply, arrange, ask, attempt, avoid, be willing, bother, come, care, choose, claim, clamor, concede, conspire, decide, decline, delay, deny, deserve, determine, disclaim, discuss, enjoy, elect, expect, favor, figure, flock, force, forget, get, go to show, hate, hesitate, hope, intend, jump, know, learn, like, look, love, manage, mean, mind, miss, move, negotiate, offer, opt, plan, pledge, plot, pose, ponder, prefer, prepare, press, proceed, profess, promise, propose, push, quite, race, recall, refuse, report, resolve, risk, rule out, rush, scramble, seek, serve, set out, sign, sound, stand, strive, struggle, suffice, threaten, try, undertake, vote, vow, wait, want, wish*

Verb lists

Object control predicates

- *ask, admonish, authorize, bribe, catch, caution, choose, commission, compel, convince, designate, devise, direct, dispatch, empower, enable, encourage, entice, expand, force, hire, impel, induce, influence, inspire, invite, lead, leave, license, motivate, move, name, oblige, order, permit, press, prod, program, prompt, push, require, retain, schedule, select, sensitize, slate, spur, teach, tell, trust, urge, warn*

Verb lists

ECM predicates

- *allow, assume, believe, cause(?), consider, declare, deem, estimate, expect, find, get, hold, imagine, intend, judge, know, make, mean, need, perceive, project, repute, rumor, report, say, see, show, suppose, think, want(?), wish(?)*