

## Homework 8

LIN 311: Syntax, Fall 2018

### Problem 1. Impersonal Constructions in Ukrainian and Kannada.

(Based on *Carnie, Ch. 11, GPS5*)

Many languages contain a construction similar to the passive called the **impersonal passive**. Consider the following data from Ukrainian and Kannada. Pay careful attention to the Case marking on the various nouns.

- (1) Cerkvu bulo zbudovano v 1640 roc'i. (Ukrainian)  
Church-ACC was built in 1640 year  
"The Church was built in the year 1640."
- (2) Rama-nannu kollalayitu. (Kannada)  
Ramma-ACC kill.PASSIVE  
"Rama was killed."

What is the difference between these impersonal passive constructions and the more traditional passives of English? Suggest a parameter that will account for the difference between languages like Ukrainian and Kannada on one hand and languages like English on the other. (Hint: the parameter will have to do with the way the passive morphology works.) One-two sentence answer should do it — no need to draw trees!

### Problem 2. English Predicates.

(Based on *Carnie, Ch. 15, GPS4*)

Using your knowledge of  $\theta$ -theory and the tests, such as availability of idioms, determine if the predicates listed below are Raising predicates, ECM Predicates, Subject control, Object control, or For-Infinitives. Some predicates fit into more than one category. Provide sentences for each case and show with arrows where the arguments get their  $\theta$ -roles and where the case is assigned. You do not need to draw trees.

1. *expect*
2. *ask*
3. *is likely*

### Problem 3. Trees and Derivations

(Based on *Carnie, Ch. 15, GPS5*)

Draw trees for the following sentences. Annotate your trees with arrows so that they show all the movements, and write in all PROs with appropriate coindexing indicating control. Indicate where  $\theta$ -role assignments and Case-assignments take place (similar to the trees in the lecture slides). You may use triangles to abbreviate NPs and PPs.

- a) Rosemary tried to get a new car.
- b) Jean seems to be in a good mood.
- c) Sally begged Bill to cook pasta.
- d) Donny is likely to be fired. (you can treat *likely* as an Adv taking the embedded clause as its complement. AdvP headed by *likely* is a complement to V *is*; *is* is a special verb in English, and it raises to T)
- e) Susan begged to be allowed to sing in the concert.

## Problem 4.\* PP-Resultatives.

(Based on Carnie, Ch. 11, CPS5)

Consider the following sentences:

- (3)
- a. Daniel laughed.
  - b. \*Daniel laughed his boss.
  - c. Daniel laughed his boss out of the room.
  - d. We shouted.
  - e. \*We shouted the actors.
  - f. We shouted the actors off the stage.

### Part 1:

Why are sentences (3-a), (3-c), (3-d), and (3-f) grammatical, while sentences (3-b) and (3-e) are ungrammatical? Propose an analysis of the construction illustrated in (3-c) and (3-f) which accounts for this, using trees to illustrate your analysis. From which elements do NPs in (3-c) and (3-f) get their  $\theta$ -roles? Could it be PP (*out of the room* and *off the stage*, respectively)? Where do they get case? Assume the only position available for accusative case is the complement position to the V.

### Part 2:

Recall that the  $\theta$ -criterion enforces a one-to-one relationship between  $\theta$ -roles and referential (i.e., non-expletive) NPs:

**$\theta$ -Criterion:** Every referential NP must have a unique  $\theta$ -role, and every  $\theta$ -role must be assigned to a unique referential NP.

The Case filter is similar to the  $\theta$ -criterion, inasmuch as both conditions talk about the distribution of NPs. However, the Case filter was not stated as a one-to-one condition; it merely requires that every overt NP be assigned abstract Case. It does not require that every case be assigned.

**Question:** Should we leave the Case filter as it is, or should we rephrase it as a condition like the  $\theta$ -criterion — something like: “*Every overt NP must receive abstract Case, and every abstract Case must be assigned to an overt NP*”? Refer to the sentences in (3-a)-(3-f) above in arguing for your answer. Ask yourself if the verb *laugh* must always (or never) assign accusative case in every situation.

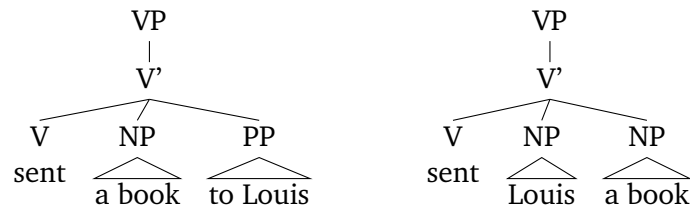
## Problem 5.\* Passives and Double Objects.

(Based on Carnie, Ch. 11, CPS3)

English has two constructions that surface with ditransitive verbs. One is called the **prepositional construction**, the other — **the double object construction**:

- (4)
- a. I sent a book to Louis. *Prepositional Construction*
  - b. I sent Louis a book. *Double Object Construction*

We did not talk about the structure of such constructions yet (we will soon!), and for us they are still the instances of ternary branching, since both RECIPIENT and THEME are verb complements/arguments, and not adjuncts:



It is possible to make passives out of these constructions, but there are some restrictions. Consider the following data and posit a restriction on DP movement in passives to account for the ill-formedness of the ungrammatical sentences. Which modules of grammar would you have to revise? How should the case assignment work? See what you can come up with. . . [**Reminder:** *We discussed that passivized verbs usually lose their ability to assign accusative case, and lose their AGENT argument.*]

- (5) *Prepositional Construction*
  - a. A book was sent to Louis.
  - b. \*Louis was sent a book to.
  - c. \*To Louis was sent a book.
  
- (6) *Double Object Construction*
  - a. Louis was sent a book.
  - b. \*A book was sent Louis.