

October 16, 2003

## CLASS 24: SPECIAL SENTENCES

### INTERROGATIVES

Regardless of the finer differences among the types of sentences we have looked at so far (such as finiteness), they all shared one property; they were **declarative clauses**, (very roughly) expressing a *statement* of sorts. The “opposite” of a declarative is an **interrogative clause** aka a *question*. We basically distinguish **yes/no-questions** (which ask for an answer “Yes” or “No”) from **wh-questions** (which ask for identification of a *wh*-interrogative or question word). Only the latter may occur as an **embedded question** and (consequently) **across clause boundaries**. A prime characteristic is **subject-auxiliary inversion** (or insertion of a dummy auxiliary *do*, respectively) which can understand as an instance of displacement or **movement**, indicated by a **trace *t*** left behind in this movement (though maybe not with subjects and *do*-forms) — **coindex!**

- (1) a. **Will** you **t** party all weekend?  
b. **Does** everyone (**t**) like syntax?  
c. \***Will** John said (that) you **t** party all weekend?  
d. \*John wondered (whether) **will** you **t** party all weekend.
- (2) a. **What** *have* you *t* read **t** since last night?  
b. **Who** will (**t**) (*t*) continue with syntax?  
c. **What** *did* John (*t*) say (that) you have read **t** since last night?  
d. John wondered **which book** you *have* read **t** since last night.

### OTHER CLAUSE OR SENTENCE TYPES

We can also characterize **exclamations** as well as some of the structures we have used for tests so far without any analysis, such as **topicalization** (preposing), **passivization**, or **clfting**.

- (3) (Syntax? Phew...) **What a great subject** poetry is **t!**
- (4) a. **The poetry class**, all students really enjoy **t**.  
b. **Poetry** has been written **t** for a long time (by many people).  
c. It was **about the study of poetry** that the students got very excited **t**.

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**Readings for next class:**

**NB:** Next class will be the final exam in the first, then *MASOE* in the second slot.

📖 Carstairs-McCarthy 2002: Chs. 1-2 (pp. 1-15)