

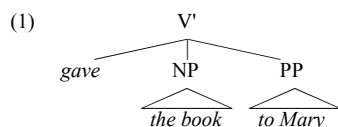
October 15/19, 2004

CLASS 10-11: TOWARDS BINARY DITRANSITIVES

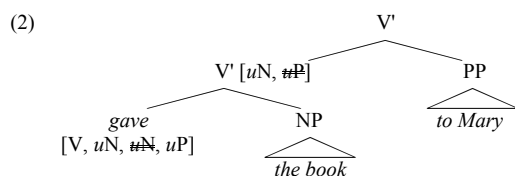
THREE ARGUMENTS — WHAT TO DO?

Ditransitive verbs have three arguments: usually, an **NP-subject** (AGENT, should be in Spec), an **NP-object** (THEME, should be the verb's complement), and a **PP-(indirect) object** — but where does that go (GOAL, BENEFICIARY, SOURCE, etc.)??? It should also be a *complement*...

Let's focus on the position of the **two objects**, the intermediate projection called V':



But the structure in (1) is **ternary branching**, which isn't possible with Merge as defined.



An **intermediate projection** arises if the head still has unchecked (c-selectional) features — so there shouldn't be anything wrong with having an additional intermediate projection: V'.

However, the only instance we've seen such **recursion** so far was with adjuncts, which don't get a θ -role, so this might be conceptually worrying nevertheless. Moreover, what determines the **ordering of complements**: why couldn't PP merged first, checking [uP], and then NP?

SOME ARGUMENTS FOR BINARITY WITH THREE ARGUMENTS

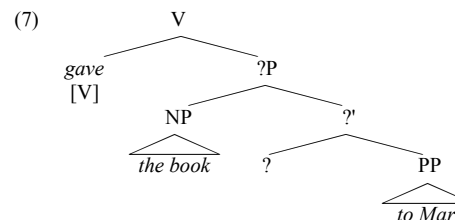
But the big question is: apart from **conceptual considerations** (binarity), are there **empirical reasons** to favour a binary-branching analysis over a ternary-branching one for ditransitives?

- (3) a. John said he would **give the book to Mary** and [**give the book to Mary**] he did.
 b. *John said he would **give the book** to Mary and [**give the book**] he did to Mary.
- (4) A: Who gave the book to Mary? — B: * John { \emptyset / **did** } to Mary.
- (5) a. John [gave the book] and [sent the paper] to Mary. *PAUSE, INTONATION* \Rightarrow
 b. John [gave the book \emptyset] and [sent the paper to Mary]. \boxtimes

We have to look for alternatives. Let's **play with the pause/intonational funniness** point:

- (6) a. John [gave the book to Mary] and [\emptyset the paper to Jane] *NO SUCH PATTERN* \Rightarrow
 b. John gave [the book to Mary] and [the paper to Jane] \boxtimes

NP- & PP-objects seem to form **one constituent** (say ?P), with the **verb somewhere higher**:



(8)

The so-called **double-object construction** gives us further support for something like (7):

- (9) a. John gave the book **to Mary**. (9') a. John gave **Mary** the book.
 b. Mary sent some flowers **to Peter**. b. Mary sent **Peter** some flowers.
 c. Peter showed a picture **to Jane**. c. Peter showed **Jane** the picture.

Above tests work here too; an interesting test for constituency comes from **reflexive binding**.

- (10) a. John showed Mary **herself** in the mirror.
 b. *John showed **herself** Mary in the mirror
- (11) *Mary showed **herself** to John.

All this suggests that **either the ternary or the '?P'-analysis are consistent with the facts**. Since ternarity would require a reformulation of Merge, let's try and **find evidence for '?P'**.

The trick will be **'little v'** for '?': consider evidence from **causatives** and **verb movement**.

We thus assume the following **structure with a 'little v'**, which we'll elaborate on next class:

