

November 10, 2004

CLASS 17: UNACCUSATIVES, PASSIVES, ADVERBS

UNACCUSATIVES

We saw already that the subject of an unaccusative (EXPERIENCER) is **Merged with V**:

- (1) **John** arrived <**John**>.

So here the **movement to the subject position** [Spec,TP] takes place from that position. **John** bears a **case-feature** (either [CASE] or [NOM]) which is **checked by Agree**; movement is triggered as usual: by the EPP, i.e. [**uN***] on T.

PASSIVES

In passives, the **thematic object is promoted to grammatical subject**.

- (2) a. John kissed **Mary / her**.
b. **Mary /She** was kissed <Mary / she> (by John).

Two things are to note: **the thematic object (theme) has nominative case** (either from the beginning with [NOM] or, more likely, after being valued by T[NOM] from original [CASE]). Second, passive is introduced by **passive *be*, which heads its own PassP**.

ADVERBS

There are several types of adverbs. Most interestingly for us are **manner adverbs adjoined to vP** and **propositional adverbs adjoined to TP**. Since manner adverbs in particular seem to enjoy relative freedom in their placement, they may **optionally adjoin to ProgP or PerfP**.

- (3) a. John (**slowly**) kissed (***slowly**) Mary.
b. John (***slowly**) might (***slowly**) not (**slowly**) have (**slowly**) been (**slowly**) ...

- (4) (**Fortunately**) John kissed Mary (**forunately**).

VARIATION

Once the structure of TP is on the table and the details of the derivation up to this point made clear, we can look across languages to observe quite some **variation in terms of word order** between the major players (verbs, auxiliaries, negation, subjects, and so on). The easiest way (though not so easy) would be to **parameterize feature strength** (which drives movement).