

September 19, 2006

CLASS 3: THETA DOMAINS

EXTERNAL ARGUMENTS

It is obvious that a **thematic** “object” can become a **grammatical** “subject”:

- (1) a. This man / these men **kisses** / **kiss** that woman.
 b. That woman **was** kissed by this man / by these men.
 c. Those women **were** kissed by this man / by these men.

• *dissociate grammatical function from thematic role — same for thematic subjects?*

- (2) a. She **took** the book. e. She **took** offence.
 b. She **took** a rest. f. She **took** office.
 c. She **took** a bus. g. She **took** her medicine.
 d. She **took** a nap. h. She **took** her time.

(3) **Government**

α governs β iff

- (i) α c-commands β and
 (ii) β c-commands α .

(4) **C-Command**

α c-commands β iff

- (i) α does not dominate β ;
 (ii) β does not dominate α ;
 (iii) the first branching node dominating α also dominates β ; and
 (iv) α does not equal β .

- (5) a. [_S John **INFL** [_{VP} saw Mary]]
 b. [_{IP} John [_{I'} **I**⁰ [_{VP} saw Mary]]]

• *replace c-command by m-command (defined over “the first maximal projection”)*

- (6) [_{IP} John [_{I'} **I**⁰ [_{AgrOP} ___ [_{AgrO'} **AgrO**⁰ [_{VP} saw Mary]]]]]

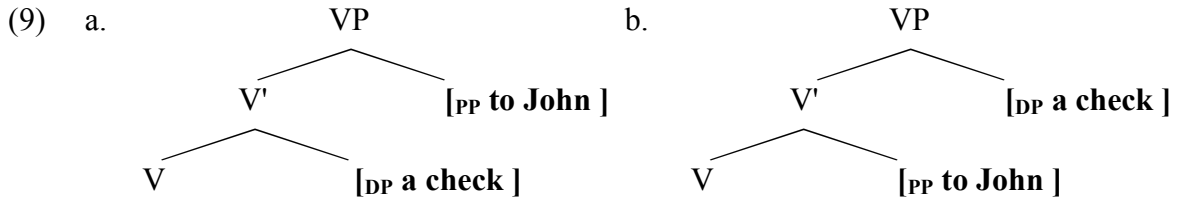
Solution: Predicate-Internal Subject Hypothesis (PISH)

- (7) [_{IP} John [_{I'} **I**⁰ [_{VP} **t**_{John} [_{V'} saw Mary]]]]

- (8) a. **The shit hit the fan.** *idioms and raising*
 b. The girls will **write** a book and be **awarded** a prize for it. *coordinate structures*
 c. Which stories about **each other** did they say the kids liked? *binding effects*
 d. **All** the men have left the party. *floating quantifiers*
 e. **Ain't** nothin' happenin'. *VSO order*

DITRANSITIVE VERBS

Another relevant issue in the thematic domain concerns the **structure of ditransitive verbs**.

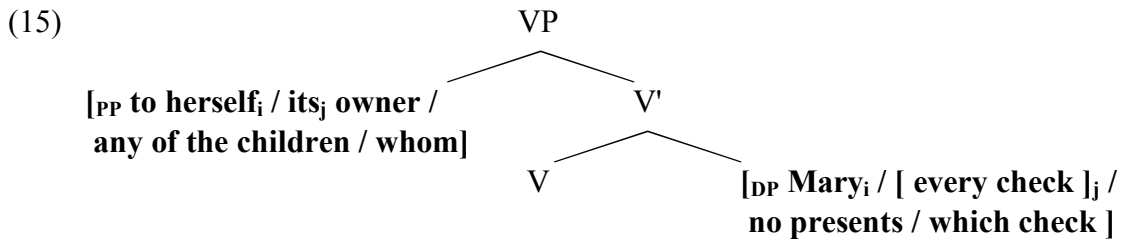
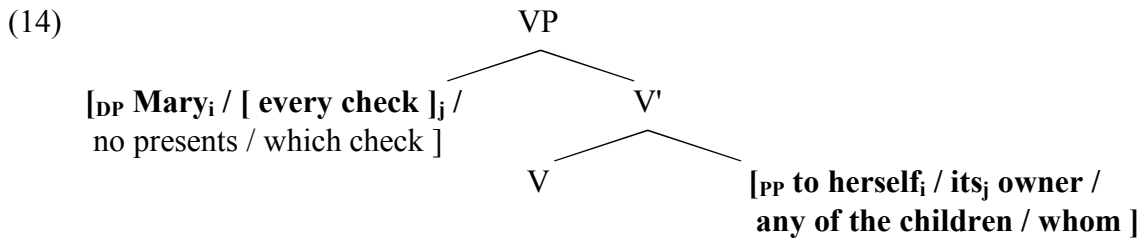


- (10) a. I presented/showed **Mary** to *herself*. *reflexive*
 b. *I presented/showed *herself* to **Mary**.

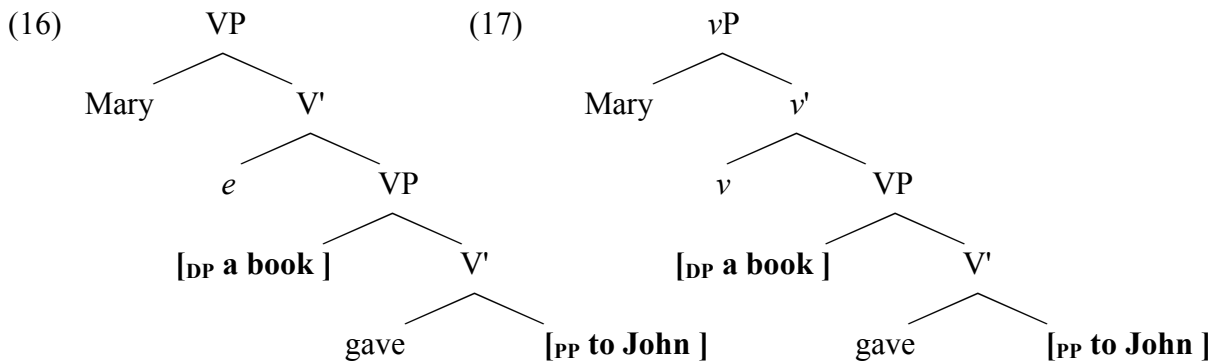
- (11) a. I gave/sent [**every check**]_i to *its*_i owner. *bound variable*
 b. ??I gave/sent *his*_i paycheck to [**every worker**]_i.

- (12) a. I sent **no** presents to *any* of the children. *negative polarity*
 b. *I sent *any* of the packages to **none** of the children.

- (13) a. **Which check** did you send to *whom*? *superiority*
 b. **Whom* did you send **which check** to?



• where to put the **external argument**, and what to do with the **verb position** (word order)?



PISH REVISITED

Let's now apply the more complex structure to simple **transitive verbs**.

- (18) a. TV violence **harms** children.
 b. [_{VP} [TV violence] [_{v'} v [_{VP} harms [children]]]]

- (19) a. TV violence **does harm to** children.
 b. [_{VP} [TV violence] [_{v'} **does** [_{NP} harm [_{PP} to children]]]]

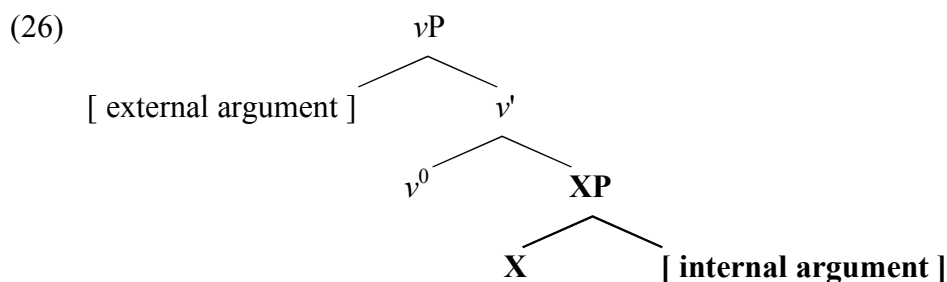
- (20) a. John **threw** the ball to Mary. (21) a. The army **sank** the ship.
 b. John **threw** the ball. b. The ship **sank**.

- (22) **Kannada**
 a. Neer **kud-i-tu**.
 water.ACC *boil-PAST-1.S.NEUT*
 ‘The water boiled.’
 b. *Naan-u neer-annu **kud-id-e**.
 I-NOM *water-ACC* *boil-PAST-1.S*
 ‘I boiled the water.’
 c. Naan-u neer-annu **kud-is-id-e**.
 I-NOM *water-ACC* *boil-CAUS-PAST-1.S*
 ‘I boiled the water.’

- (23) a. **John** built that house last year.
 b. That house was built (**by John**) last year.

- (24) **Basque**
 Jonek Aitorri min **egin** dio.
Jon.ERG *Aitor.DAT* *hurt* *do* *AUX*
 ‘Jon hurt Aitor.’

- (25) **Tibetan**
 Thubten-gyis Lobsang-la kha **byskal-song**.
Thubten-ERG *Lobsang-LOC* *mouth* *delivered-PERF*
 ‘Thubten kissed Lobsang.’



Lastly, we should discuss intransitives, namely **unaccusative verbs** and **unergative verbs**.

(27) **Italian**

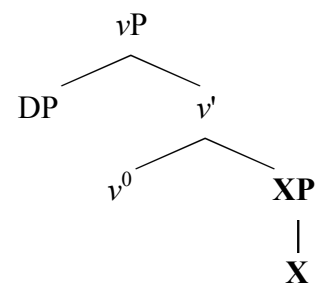
- a. Giovanni ha / *è **comprato** un libro. *transitive*
Giovanni has/is bought a book
 ‘Giovanni bought a book.’
- b. Giovanni ha / *è **telefonato**. *unergative*
Giovanni has/is called
 ‘Giovanni called.’
- c. Giovanni è / *ha **arrivato**. *unaccusative*
Giovanni is/has arrived
 ‘Giovanni arrived.’

(28) **Portuguese**

- a. A Maria **comprou** os livros.
the Maria bought the books
 ‘Maria bought the books.’
- b. **Comprados** os livros, ... d. **Chegada** a Maria, ...
buy.PART.MASC.PL the books arrive.PART.FEM.SG the Maria
 ‘After the books were bought, ...’ ‘After Maria arrived, ...’
- c. ***Comprada** a Maria, ... e. ***Espirrada** a Maria, ...
buy.PART.FEM.SG the Maria sneeze.PART.FEM.SG the Maria
 ‘After Maria bought (something), ...’ ‘After Maria sneezed, ...’

- (29) a. John **smiled** (a beautiful smile).
 b. John **arrived** (*an unexpected arrival).

- (30) a. Unergative verbs: [VP DP [v' V]] (31)
 b. Unaccusative verbs: [VP V DP]



• *light verb paraphrase of unergative*:

- (32) a. John **sighed**.
 b. John **gave a sigh**.

(33) **Basque**

- a. Jonek Mireni **min egin** dio. *transitive*
Jon.ERG Miren.DAT hurt do AUX
 ‘Jon hurt Miren.’
- b. Emakumeak **barre egin** du. *unergative*
woman.DEF.ERG laugh do AUX
 ‘The woman has laughed.’
- c. Kamioiak **etorri** dira. *unaccusative*
truck.DET.PL arrived AUX
 ‘The trucks have arrived.’