

April 7, 2006

CLASS 23: NON-FINITE CLAUSES

FOUR KINDS

Traditional approaches might argue for *four kinds of infinitival clauses*.

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|-------|------------------------|--|
| (i) | <i>to</i> -infinitival | Liz wants <i>to write a novel</i> . |
| (ii) | bare infinitival | Liz might <i>write a novel</i> . |
| (iii) | gerund-participial | Liz dreams of <i>writing a novel</i> . |
| (iv) | part-participial | Liz has <i>written a novel</i> . |

Judging from what we have done so far, *what do you think?*

THE SUBJECT

- (1)
 - a. Ed wants [to resign from the board].
 - b. Ed promised [to resign from the board].
 - c. Ed promised John [to resign from the board].
- (2)
 - a. Ed asked [to resign from the board].
 - b. Ed asked John [to resign from the board].
- (3)
 - a. It is unwise [to resign from the board].
 - b. It is unwise [to go swimming straight after a meal].
- (4)
 - a. Ed hopes [to resign from the board].
 - b. Ed seems [to resign from the board].
- (5)
 - a. [For them to refuse you a visa] was quite outrageous.
 - b. All I want is [for us to be reunited].
- (6) She insisted on...
 - a. ... [Ø being present throughout the interview].
 - b. ... [my being present throughout the interview].
 - c. ... [me being present throughout the interview].
 - d. ... [her father's being present throughout the interview].
 - e. ... [her father being present throughout the interview].
 - f. ... [there being a counsellor present throughout the interview].

FUNCTIONS

to-infinitivals (which we will concentrate on) can serve as:

- subject (also extraposed)
- internal complement (of verb)
- object (direct or indirect, also extraposed)
- object (of verb, preposition, adjective)
- adjunct (clausal or nominal)

Note that when used as interrogatives, the modal interpretation is *deontic*.

THE PERIPHERY

- (7) a. You realize he hates [for you to call him “Ollie”], don’t you?
 b. He did intend [for Endrina to join him as a runner].
- (8) a. He hates it [that you call him Ollie].
 b. He did intend [that Endrina should join him as a runner].
- (9) [_{CP} Spec *for*-C [_{IP} subject *to*-I [_{VP} predicate]]]

INTERROGATIVES

- (10) a. The politicians are deciding [whether they should sever their ties ...]
 b. Some politicians have to decide [whether to sever their ties ...]
- (11) a. They don’t know [who they should rely on].
 b. They don’t know [who to rely on].

- interrogative infinitivals can also serve as complements of V, A, P, N

VERBLESS CLAUSES

- (12) a. He’d been on the beach [without anyone noticing him].
 b. He’d been on the beach [without any sunscreen on].
- (13) a. [While I was working in Boston] I lived with my aunt.
 b. [While working in Boston] I lived with my aunt.
 c. [While in Boston] I lived with my aunt.
- (14) a. [The meeting finally over], they all adjourned to the local café.
 b. The passengers, [many of them quite elderly], were forced to line up.

NB: You may ignore the section on the catenative construction.