



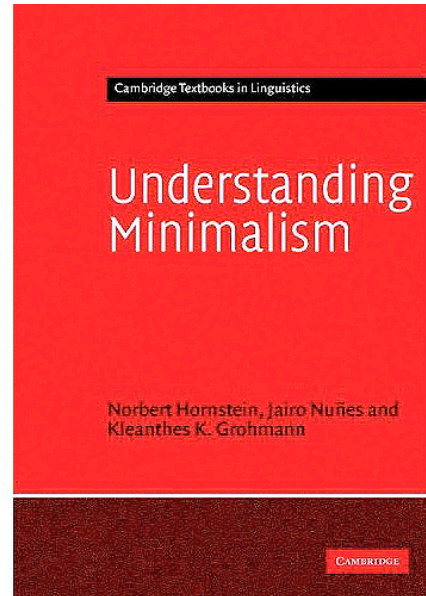
University of Cyprus

ENG 235: MASOE

Kleanthes K. Grohmann

University of Cyprus

kleanthi@ucy.ac.cy



BLOCK 3

UNDERSTANDING MINIMALISM

BLOCK 3: THETA

This block's menu:

[from HNG: chap. 3]

- PISH and more
- VP-shells
- “little” *v*

ARGUMENT STRUCTURE I

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.



ARGUMENT STRUCTURE I

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

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



COMMAND RELATIONS I

- o **Government** (*revised version*)

An element α governs an element β iff

- (i) α c-commands β and also
- (ii) β c-commands α , and.
- (iii) α is a governor.

- o **C-Command** (*popular version*)

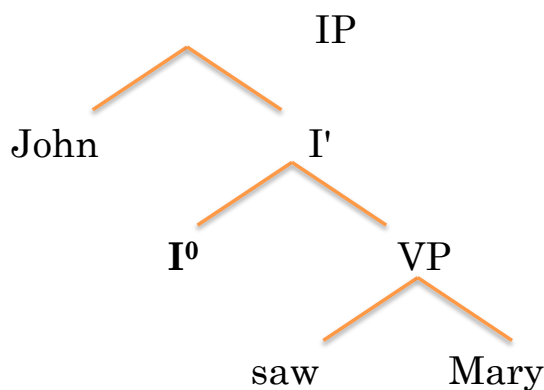
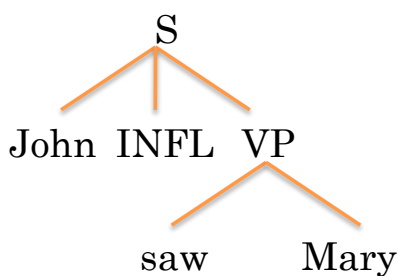
An element α c-commands an element β iff

- (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 .



COMMAND RELATIONS II

- (3) a. [S John INFL [VP saw Mary]]
- b. [IP [I I⁰ [VP saw Mary]]]



COMMAND RELATIONS II

- (3) a. [S John INFL [VP saw Mary]]
 b. [IP [I' I⁰ [VP saw Mary]]]

○ *c-command* >> *m-command* (“first maximal projection”)

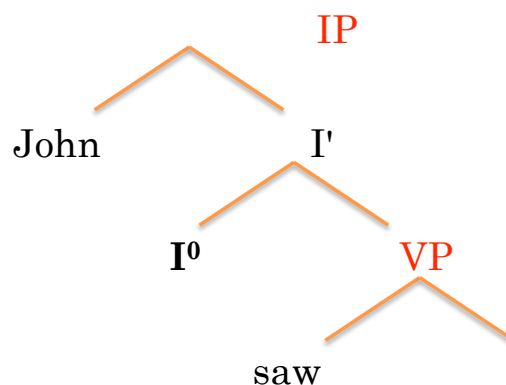
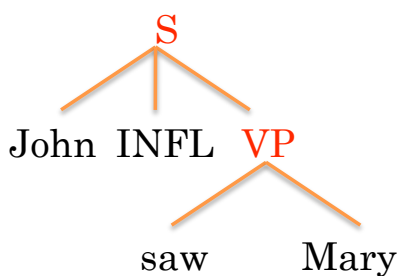
○ *M-Command* (popular version)

An element α m-commands an element β iff

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

COMMAND RELATIONS II

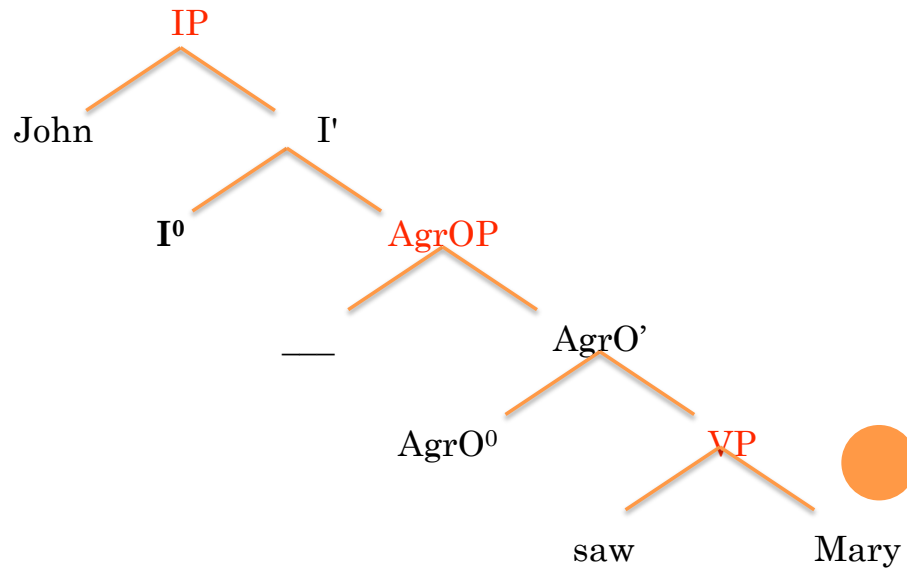
- (3) a. [S John INFL [VP saw Mary]]
 b. [IP [I' I⁰ [VP saw Mary]]]



Mary

COMMAND RELATIONS II

(3) c. $[_{IP} \quad [_I \ I^0 \ [_{AgrOP} \text{ — } [_{AgrO'} \ AgrO^0 \ [_{VP} \text{ saw Mary}]]]]]$



PREDICATE-INTERNAL SUBJECT

- Solution to the problem:

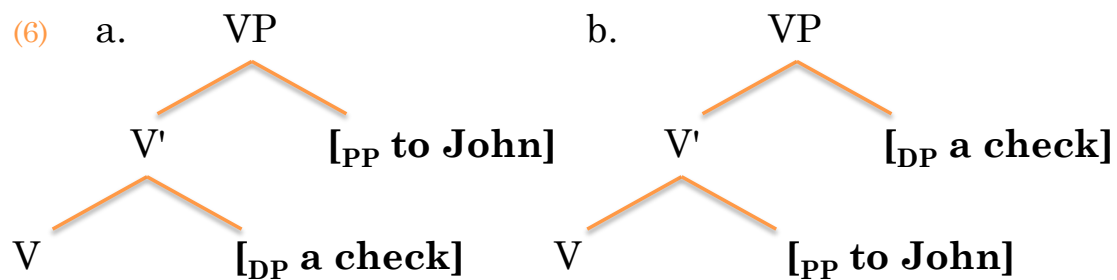
Predicate-Internal Subject Hypothesis (PISH)

(4) $[_{IP} \text{ John } [_I \ I^0 \ [_{VP} \ t_{\text{John}} \ [_V \text{ saw Mary}]]]]]$

- (5) 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 Q*
- e. **Ain't** nothin' happenin'. *VSO order*

DITRANSITIVE VERBS

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



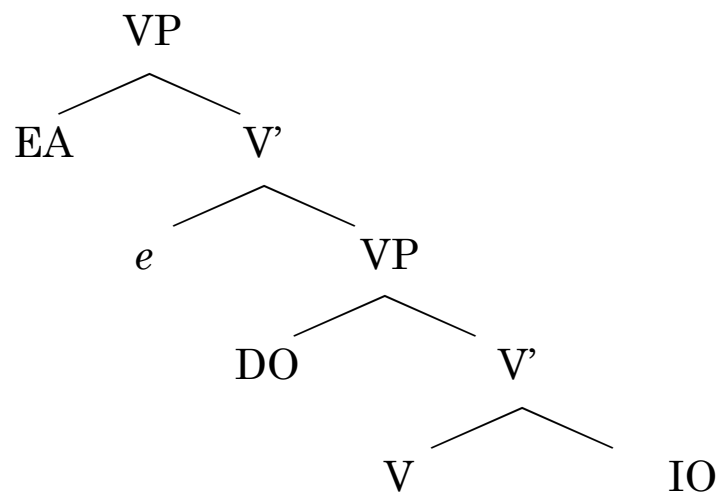
VP-SHELLS I

○ Evidence for such a VP-shell (see Larson 1988):

- (7) a. I presented/showed **Mary** to *herself*.
b. * I presented/showed *herself* to **Mary**.
- (8) a. I gave/sent [**every** check] to *its*_i owner.
b. ?? I gave/sent *his*_i paycheck to [**every** worker]_i.
- (9) a. I sent **no** presents to *any* of the children.
b. * I sent *any* of the pack's to **none** of the children.
- (10) a. **Which** check did you send to *whom*?
b. * *Whom* did you send **which** check to?

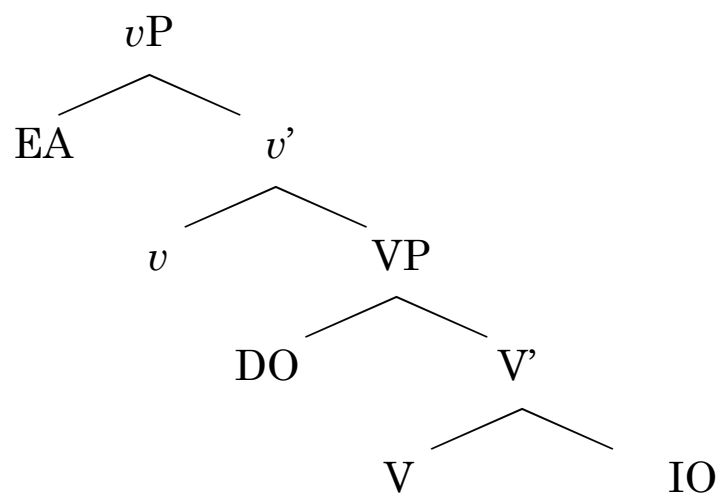
VP-SHELLS II

- Larsonian VP-shell



VP-SHELLS III

- Little *v* (Hale & Keyser 1993)



THE LIGHT VERB V

- *Fongbè*

Kòkú só flāsé hélé Àsíbá.
Koku take French teach Asiba
'Koku teaches French to Asiba.'

- *Mandarin Chinese*

Zhangsan **ba** shu gei wo.
Zhangsan take book give me
'Zhangsan gave the book to me.'

PISH REVISITED I

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

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

PISH REVISITED I

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

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

PISH REVISITED I

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

- (11) a. TV violence **harms** children.
b. [_{vP} [TV violence] [_{v'} v [_{VP} harms [children]]]]
- (12) a. TV violence **does harm to** children.
b. [_{vP} [TV violence] [_{v'} **does** [_{NP} harm [_{PP} to children]]]]
- (13) a. John **threw** the ball to Mary.
b. John **threw** the ball.

PISH REVISITED I

- Let's now apply the more complex structure to simple **transitive verbs**.
- (11) a. TV violence **harms** children.
b. [_{vP} [TV violence] [_{v'} v [_{VP} harms [children]]]]
- (12) a. TV violence **does harm** to children.
b. [_{vP} [TV violence] [_{v'} **does** [_{NP} harm [_{PP} to children]]]]
- (13) a. John **threw** the ball to Mary.
b. John **threw** the ball.
- (14) a. The army **sank** the ship.
b. The ship **sank**.

PISH REVISITED II

○ *Kannada*

- (15) 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.'

PISH REVISITED III

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

Basque

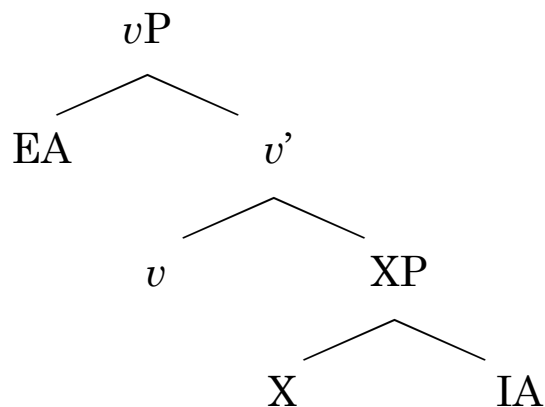
- (17) Jonek Aitorri min **egin** dio.
Jon.ERG Aitor.DAT hurt do AUX
'Jon hurt Aitor.'

Tibetan

- (18) Thubten-gyis Lobsang-la kha **byskal**-song.
Thubten-ERG Lobsang-LOC mouth delivered-PERF
'Thubten kissed Lobsang.'

THE LIGHT VERB PROJECTION

- *v* as transitivizer/predicator



UNACCUSATIVES & UNERGATIVES I

- o Lastly, **unaccusative verbs** and **unergative verbs**.

Italian

- (19) 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.'

UNACCUSATIVES & UNERGATIVES II

Portuguese

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

UNACCUSATIVES & UNERGATIVES IV

Basque

- (21) 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.'

NEXT BLOCK

We'll deal with **Case Theory**:

- the **Case module** and its properties (GB)
- **alternative conceptions** of Case-licensing (MP)

Specifically, we will look at the properties of control and raising structures, what the interplay of Merge and TRAP gives us, and what the PISH tells us about the finer structure of the verb phrase.