

February 24, 2009

## CLASS 13–20: CLAUSE STRUCTURE AND HOW TO GET THERE

### SENTENCE(S)

- auxiliary acts as a kind of link between the event the VP describes and the subject
- it indicates where the event is placed in *time*, gives information about *modality* etc.

- (1) a. The student has (easily) mastered the material.  
b. The student will (easily) master the material.  
c. The student –ed (easily) master the material.  
d. The student –s (easily) master the material.

How should we analyze sentences without auxiliaries? Enter: *Infl(ection)* — or just: *I*.

- (i) sentences are centered around I: I is the head of the clause (I – I' – IP)
- (ii) I is a linker: it links a VP and a subject (both components are obligatory)
- (iii) the content of I qualifies the linking: location in time (and /or modal relation)

### THE ROLE OF INFL(ECTION)

Remember some constituency tests we used to identify VPs:

- (2) The customer in the corner can order drinks...  
... and [order the drinks] she will \_\_\_\_ . *movement*
- (3) A: What will the customer do?  
B: [Order the drinks] *constituent question*
- (4) I thought that the customer in the corner would order drinks...  
... and she will [<sub>VP</sub> Ø]. *ellipsis*
- (5) The customer in the corner will order drinks...  
... and her friend will do so, too. *substitution*
- (6) What the customer will do is [order the drinks] *pseudo-cleft*
- apply these tests to sentences without auxiliaries in the past and in the present:  
What happens? What do the tests show?

Let us call the inflection of the verb *INFL* or *I*:

- let's revise the structure of sentences without auxiliaries now
- we can unify the two structures considering that auxiliaries are inflected for tense
- remember: all sentences contain some sort of inflection, even without an auxiliary
- so: sentences are projections of ... *I* or *Infl* — and this *I* links subject and VP (= IP)

#### INSERTING *DO* IN *INFL*

- (7) a. ... and [order the drinks] she did \_\_\_\_  
 b. \* ... and [order the drinks] she \_\_\_\_

- (8) a. ... and she did [order the drinks]  
 b. ... and she *INFL* [order~~ed~~ the drinks]

- we can say that *do*-insertion sort of highlights the link that *Infl* expresses
- but how are the verb *V* and the inflection *Infl*/*I* associated with each other?

- (9) a. She later changed her order.  
 b. She will later change her order.  
 c. She has later changed her order.

- How many ways of associating *V* and *Infl* can you think of?
- Which is compatible with the evidence?  
 (After answering these questions, consider (7) again.)

- relation between *I* and *V* (movement: *lowering* or *raising*)

- (10) a. And (fully) research the assignment, all students will (\*fully).  
 b. And (fully) researched the assignment, all students have (\*fully).

- (11) a. \*And (fully) researched the assignment, all students (\*fully).  
 b. And (fully) research the assignment, all students did (\*fully).

#### (NON-)FINITENESS

Let's turn to non-finite clauses like the following:

- (12) a. I hope that most students will master the material.  
 b. I expect most students to master the material.

- (13) a. But Vita could not write the last act, because she did not know how to.  
 b. He never asked for his attorneys. If he'd wanted to, he could have.

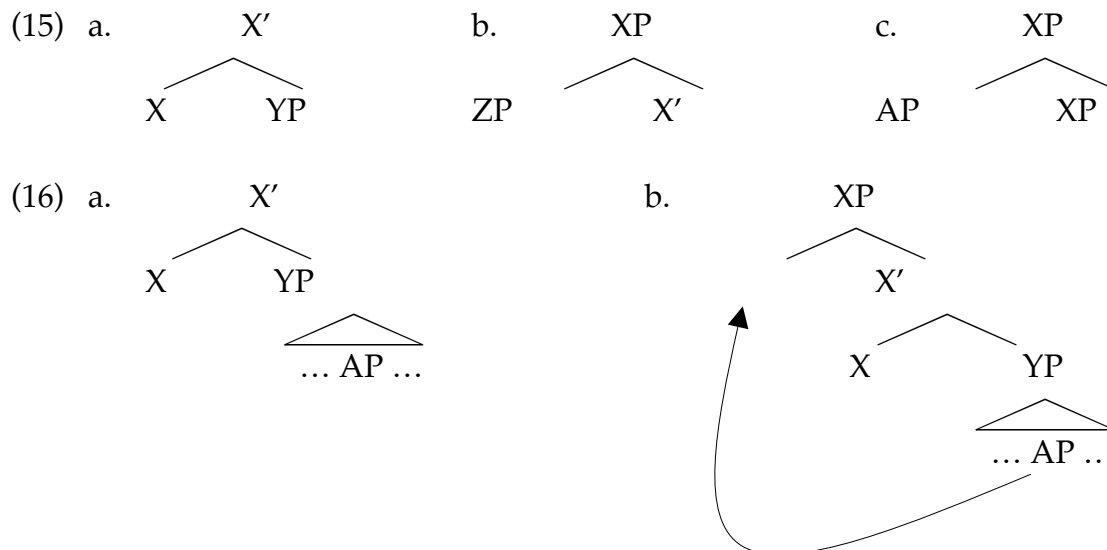
- (14) I expected [the customers in the corner to order the drinks].

- this is a constituent: I expected *that*.
  - *to* is not like a bound morpheme (like *-ed*)
  - look also at example (30) on p. 183.
- Based on the above, is *to* part of the VP?
- maybe *to* is an Infl element like *should* — it certainly behaves like one
  - let's make sentences with pronominal subjects but different Infl heads: *should* & *to*  
(The resulting *Case* on the different subjects is something we will return to.)

Finally, consider why 'split infinitives' are possible.

### MERGE AND MOVE

- two fundamental operations to build phrase structure: *Merge* and *Move*



### THEMATIC ROLES

- the *predicate* and its *argument(s)*

- (17) a. Thelma ate the apple.  
 b. Thelma handed Louise the text.  
 c. Thelma liked the text.  
 d. The wind broke the fence.

- (18) a. AGENT / ACTOR  
 b. THEME (1)  
 c. PATIENT  
 d. EXPERIENCER  
 e. BENEFACTIVE / BENEFICIARY  
 f. GOAL  
 g. SOURCE  
 h. LOCATION  
 i. CAUSE  
 j. INSTRUMENT  
 k. POSSESSOR  
 l. THEME (2)

- (19) a. \*<sub>[NP Thelma]</sub> examined <sub>[NP the project]</sub> <sub>[NP the book]</sub>.  
 b. Thelma invites \*(Louise / herself).

- only *lexical heads* assign thematic roles — *functional heads* don't

### MULTIPLE AUXILIARIES

Identify which one the finite auxiliary is when there is more than one of them.

- (20) a. I will have finished the book by Monday.  
 b. They will be writing new songs soon.  
 c. You could have asked me about it.  
 d. She might have been working towards this already.
- (21) a. The inspector will be staying at the pub.  
 b. The press have been writing terrible things about him.  
 c. Without this concession, he would have pulled the trigger.  
 d. He could have been staying at the pub.  
 e. He never asked for his attorneys. If he'd wanted to, he could have.

- a way to decide is to replace it with a different tensed form and see what happens

➤ Also, observe which of the above undergoes SAI (remember it?)

Now, let's think about how we draw the tree structure for the examples above:

➤ Should we put all auxiliaries under Infl or Aux?

- let's now carefully study examples (59) and (60) on pp. 200–201 and (67) on p. 205

There are two generalizations to be made here:

- (22) a. When there are multiple auxiliaries, the \_\_\_\_\_ auxiliary can form a constituent with the VP.  
 b. The \_\_\_\_\_ auxiliary (which can form a constituent with the VP) is either \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_.

### THE AUXILIARIES HAVE AND BE

- (23) Bob has lately quit smoking.

Remember where we position modal auxiliaries in the clause.

➤ What happens when there is *be* or *have* but no modal auxiliary?

- as we said, *have* and *be* can also act as main verbs in a sentence

➤ How can we explain this dual behaviour of *be* and *have*?