

March 31, 2009

CLASS 21–22: SUBJECT POSITIONS

VP-INTERNAL SUBJECT HYPOTHESIS

One question we're still chasing is: does VP (ever) have a specifier?

- suggestion: the subject *originates* in SpecVP!

- (1) a. Will the student (easily) master the material?
b. *Will easily the student master the material?

FLOATING QUANTIFIERS

- (2) a. *All astronauts* don't speak the same language.
b. *Astronauts* don't *all* speak the same language.
- (3) a. [_{NP} all [_{NP} astronauts]]
b. [_{IP} ___ [_{I'} don't [_{VP} [_{NP} all [_{NP} astronauts]] speak [_{NP} the same language]]]]

EXISTENTIAL CONSTRUCTIONS

- (4) a. Three students are now working on the project.
b. *Are now three students working on the project?
c. There are now three students working on the project.

- *there*-insertion

SUBJECTS AND AUXILIARIES

- (5) a. These students would have considered other universities.
b. We had been talking about this problem.

- subject moves from SpecVP to SpecIP *via all intermediate specifier positions*

- (6) a. All the students must all have been sleeping.
b. *The students all must have been sleeping.
c. The students must all have been sleeping.
d. The students must have all been sleeping.
e. The students must have been all sleeping.