

January 30, 2003

CLASS 13: Subjects and Θ -Roles

Predicate-Internal Subject Hypothesis

We've seen first evidence that **the subject originates in a lower position** — not SpecIP, but **SpecVP**, from where it subsequently moves to SpecIP. This **PISH** buys us quite a few things.

For one, it solves the **puzzle with *wanna*-contraction** in control structures:

In other words, a floating quantifier is the **result of being left behind** after its complement has moved. It **accounts for why we have the possibilities** in (3a-c) and it **rules out the illegitimate cases** (3d-e). In the latter cases, the position of *all* is not a possible subject base position, hence it could not have moved from or through that spot. In the former cases, this is the case (assuming, for example, that *really* may be adjoined above or below the subject base position).

Another interesting structure to look at concerns **idioms**. Arguably, idiomatic expressions are **assembled in one piece** in our lexicon, rather than being built up by merging operations. This gives us, for example, the fact that **only constituents can form an idiomatic expression**, such as *verb + complement (V')* or *subject + verb + complement (VP)*. The latter only follows if the subject really comes from within VP. But if we assume that, **we get the following facts for free**: