Split VPs

Resolving some problems with X-bar theory using movement

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The Problem of Ditransitive verbs

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The Problem of Ditransitive verbs

- *Josh gave Clay carefully a book
- Josh gave Clay a book carefully

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The Problem of Ditransitive verbs

- *Josh gave Clay carefully a book
- Josh gave Clay a book carefully

- The 2nd DP behaves as if it is a complement.

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The Problem of Ditransitive verbs

- *Josh gave Clay carefully a book
- Josh gave Clay a book carefully

- The 2nd DP behaves as if it is a complement.
- Two complements???

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Puzzle # 1

Ditransitives

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Two complements

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Two complements

YUCK

-- ternary branching!

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Two complements

YUCK

-- ternary branching!

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Two complements

YUCK

-- ternary branching!

predicts that you should be able to have an anaphor in either spot bound by the other

Symmetric c-command

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Barss & Lasnik (1986)

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Barss & Lasnik (1986)

- Briana showed Justin$_i$ himself$_i$ in the mirror.
- *Briana showed himself$_i$ Justin$_i$ in the mirror

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Barss & Lasnik (1986)

- Briana showed Justin$_i$ himself$_i$ in the mirror.
- *Briana showed himself$_i$ Justin$_i$ in the mirror

- This shows that the first DP c-commands the second.

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Back to Binarity!

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Back to Binarity!

What is X? That's the question of the day!

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A Tangent on Light Verbs

Are most verbal roots really monomorphemic?

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Complex Verbs

Japanese

a) Keiko-wa pizza-o ag-e-ta
Keiko-top pizza-acc rise-v-past
"Keiko raised the pizza"

Hiaki

b) Huan u'usit-ta ee-tua-k.
Juan child-acc feel-v-past
"Juan teased the child."

Malagasy

c) M-an-sasa ny lambaamin ny savony Rasoa.
past-v-wash the clothes with the soap Rasoa
"Rasoa washes the clothes with the soap."

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Proposal

- Most verbs in English are made up of a light verb (usually CAUSE but others exist) and a verb root (√):
  - CAUSE + √CLEAN ⇒ clean
- The function of CAUSE is to introduce the external (agent) argument

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Proposal

CAUSE

Agent DP	Predicate VP
i	j

√CLEAN

Theme DP
k

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Evidence for light verbs

- *Plenty of V + O idioms*
  - kill a bug
  - kill a conversation
  - kill an evening
  - kill a bottle
  - kill an audience
- *No [S +V] (excluding object) idioms*
  - John laughed
  - The audience laughed
  - The bug laughed.

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A Ditransitive (Partly solving the mystery of the XP)

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A Ditransitive (Partly solving the mystery of the XP)

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A Ditransitive (Partly solving the mystery of the XP)

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Object Shift

Another Problem

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Irish

a) Ba mhaith liom [$_{CP}$ Seán ***an abairt*** a^{L} scríobh.]
C good with.1.s John the sentence.acc tran write
'I want John to write the sentence'

b) Ba mhaith liom [$_{CP}$ Seán a^{L} scríobh ***na habairte.***]
C good with.1.s John tran write the sentence.gen
'I want John to write the sentence'

c) Tá Seán tar eis ***an abairt*** a^{L} scríobh.
be.pres John perf the sentence tran write
"John has just written the sentence."

d) Tá Seán ag scíobh ***na habairte***.
be.pres John prog write the sentence
"John is writing the sentence."

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German & English

a) … weil ich *nicht* [$_{DP}$ eine einzige Katze] gestreichelt habe
since I not a single cat petted have
"…since I have not petted a single cat"

b) … weil ich [$_{DP}$ die Katze] *nicht* streichle
since I the cat not pet
"… since I did not pet the cat."

c) I blew up the building
d) I blew the building up

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Where is the object moving to?

- Scots Gaelic:

		v	Asp		AgrO	√V
Bu toigh leam	[$_{CP}$ sibh a^{L}	bhith	air	*an doras*	a^{L}	dhúnadh.]
be like with me	you agr	v	perf	the door	AgrO	close

"I'd like you to have shut the door."

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Where is the shifted object moving to?

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More evidence: Ellipsis and Pseudogapping

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Darin will eat a squid sandwich but Raiza won't ~~eat a squid sandwich~~

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More evidence: Ellipsis and Pseudogapping

Darin will eat a squid sandwich but Raiza won't ~~eat a squid sandwich~~
Darin will eat a squid sandwich, and Raiza will ~~eat~~ *a peanut butter one*.

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More evidence: Ellipsis and Pseudogapping

Darin will eat a squid sandwich but Raiza won't ~~eat a squid sandwich~~
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The DA proved Jones guilty and the assistant DA will ~~prove~~ *Smith* ~~guilty.~~

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- In Pseudogapping you delete everything BUT the accusative object under identity with the conjoined VP

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Object moves outside of ellipted material

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Object moves outside of ellipted material

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Object moves outside of ellipted material

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Antecedent Contained Deletion

Brandon [$_{VP}$ read every book that Megan did [$_{vp}$ …]].

[$_{VP}$ … [$_{DP}$ … [$_{CP}$ … [$\cancel{_{VP}}$ …]$_i$ …]]]$_i$

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Antecedent Contained Deletion

Brandon [$_{VP}$ read every book that Megan did [$_{vp}$ …]].

[$_{VP}$ … [$_{DP}$ … [$_{CP}$ … [~~$_{VP}$ … ~~]$_i$ …]]]$_i$

What's the antecedent for the elided VP?

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[$_{VP}$ … [$_{DP}$ … [$_{CP}$ … ~~[$_{VP}$ …]~~$_i$ …]]]$_i$

What's the antecedent for the elided VP?

It's the VP dominating the DP that dominates the elided VP
That means the antecedent contains the element it antecedes

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Antecedent Contained Deletion

Brandon [$_{VP}$ read every book that Megan did [$_{vp}$ …]].

[$_{VP}$ … [$_{DP}$ … [$_{CP}$ … ~~[$_{VP}$ …]~~$_i$ …]]]$_i$

What's the antecedent for the elided VP?

It's the VP dominating the DP that dominates the elided VP
That means the antecedent contains the element it antecedes

Circularity? Where does the gap ever get resolved?

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Object moves outside of ellipted material

Can only find a non-circular antecedent until the DP has moved out of the VP that serves as the antecedent.

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Can only find a non-circular antecedent until the DP has moved out of the VP that serves as the antecedent.

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Ditransitives again

- The last section of chapter 13 contains trees with Ditransitives and AgrPs. Read through this section and if you don't understand it; let me know.

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