

CAS LX 522

Syntax I

Week 11b.
Raising, etc.
(8.2.6-8.4)

Sentences inside sentences

- Last time we began looking at **embedded sentences**.
- Embedded sentences can be finite:
 - 1) Shannon claimed [that she could catch a fish].
- Or nonfinite:
 - 2) Michael wants [PRO to leave].
 - 3) Jin wants [Michael to return the watch].
 - 4) Sun arranged [for him to return the watch].

Embedded clauses

- Embedded finite clauses are CPs, with a complementizer (*that* or \emptyset).
 - 1) Shannon claimed [_{CP} *that* she could catch a fish].
 - 2) Shannon claimed [_{CP} \emptyset she could catch a fish].
- Embedded nonfinite clauses have *to* as T, and can be CPs or bare TPs— the distinction is determined by case properties of the verb.
 - 3) Michael wants [_{CP} \emptyset _{NULL} PRO _{NULL} to leave]
 - 4) Jin wants _{ACC} [_{TP} Michael _{ACC} to return the watch].
 - 5) Sun arranged [_{CP} *for* _{ACC} him _{ACC} to return the watch].
- Nonfinite T does not assign case, so the subject must get case (have its [**case**] feature checked) in some other way.

Seems

- Now, we'll turn to another kind of embedded nonfinite clause.
 - Charlie seems [to dislike bees].
- This looks a little bit like:
 - Charlie tried [to sneak away].
- Which is really:
 - Charlie tried [PRO to sneak away].
 - *Charlie* is the Agent of *try*.
 - PRO (=Charlie) is the Agent of *sneak*.
- So, what about *Charlie seems to dislike bees*? What θ -roles go to *Charlie*?

Charlie seems to receive (just) one θ -role

- Seems can also embed a finite clause, so consider the pair:
 - 1) Charlie seems to dislike bees.
 - 2) It seems that Charlie dislikes bees.
- The *it* in the second sentence is the same *it* we find in *It rained*. *It* does not get a θ -role, because *rain* doesn't have any θ -roles. We only have *it* there because sentences need subjects (EPP:T has a [**uD***] feature).
- So what θ -roles does *seem* assign?

Seem seems to assign (just) one θ -role.

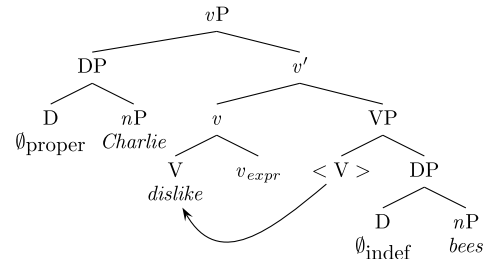
- What *seem* (and *appear*) mean when paired with an embedded sentence is that the proposition expressed by the embedded sentence appears true.
- There's only one participant in a seeming, the Proposition.
 - 1) It seems [that *seem* assigns one θ -role].
- So, *seem* assigns a Proposition θ -role (structurally, to its sister, the CP daughter of V'), and nothing else (hence, *it* is needed to check the EPP feature).

Back to Charlie

- 1) It seems [that Charlie dislikes bees].
 - 2) Charlie seems [to dislike bees].
- These two sentences mean basically the same thing.
 - *Dislike* assigns two θ -roles, we might say Experiencer and Theme.
 - It's the same verb *dislike* in both sentences. So, we presume that the bottom of both trees will look the same...

Disliking bees

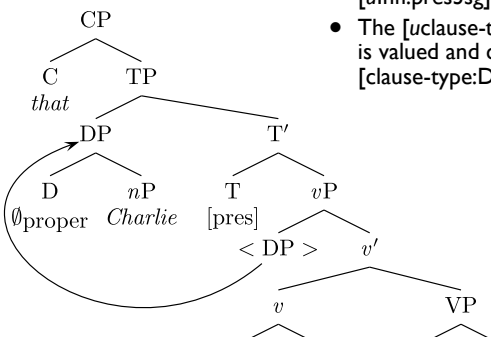
- Starting with *It seems that Charlie dislikes bees*, we would build a vP that looks like this:
- V (*dislike*) assigns a Theme θ -role to the DP *bees*.
- **V_{Experiencer}** assigns an Experiencer θ -role to the DP *Charlie*.



Disliking bees

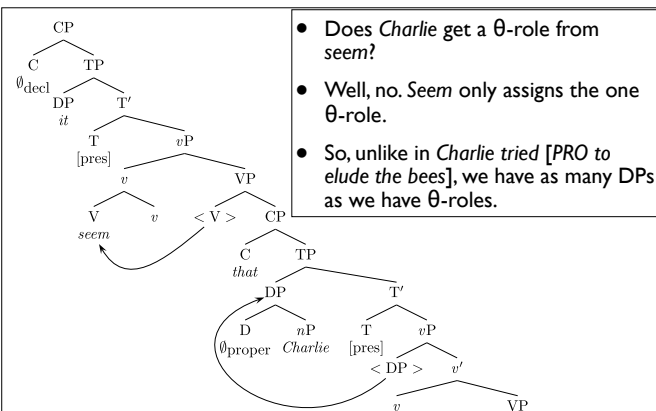
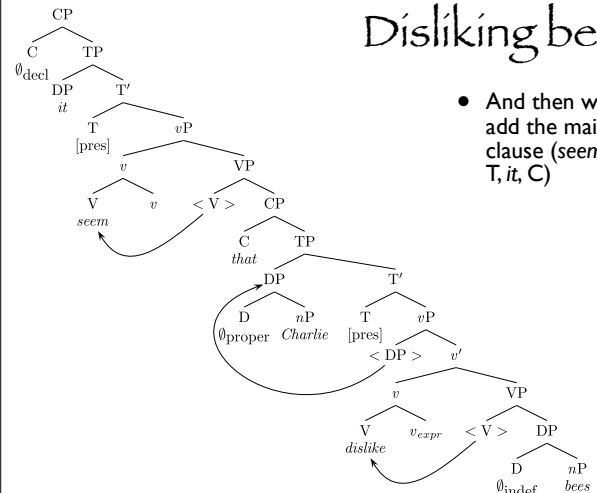
- And then we add T and C to get *that Charlie dislikes bees*...

- The [case] feature of *Charlie* is valued and checked by the [nom] feature of T.
- The [uInfl:] feature of *v* is valued and checked by T: [uInfl:pres3sg].
- The [clause-type:] feature of T is valued and checked by the [clause-type:Decl] feature of C.



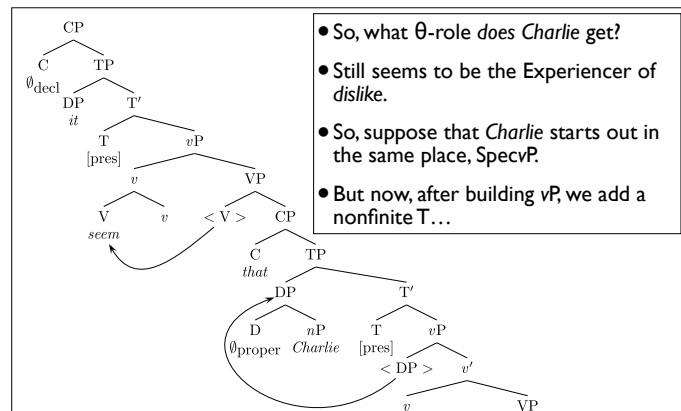
Disliking bees

- And then we add the main clause (*seem, v, T, it, C*)



- Does *Charlie* get a θ -role from *seem*?
- Well, no. *Seem* only assigns the one θ -role.
- So, unlike in *Charlie tried [PRO to elude the bees]*, we have as many DPs as we have θ -roles.

Disliking bees



- So, what θ -role does *Charlie* get?
- Still seems to be the Experiencer of *dislike*.
- So, suppose that *Charlie* starts out in the same place, SpecvP.
- But now, after building vP, we add a nonfinite T...

Disliking bees

- The [uInfl:] feature of *v* is valued and checked by T: [uInfl:none].
- **Nonfinite T has no [uclause-type:] feature.**
- The [case] feature of *Charlie* is **still unchecked**, since nonfinite T has no case feature.

Disliking bees

- Can we add a C to this?
- Let's assume **not**, by the following reasoning:
- The only C that is compatible with a nonfinite T is \emptyset_{NULL} , that assigns null case to PRO. *Charlie* is not PRO, so it can't get null case. So, this is just a TP, not a CP.

Disliking bees

- So, we add *seem*, taking our TP (*Charlie to dislike bees*) as its Proposition complement.

Disliking bees

- We add T...
- *Charlie* has [case] to check.
- Checked ([nom]) by T
- T has [nom], [uD*], and [uΦ:] features to check.
- [nom] checked valuing case on *Charlie*. [uΦ:3sg] matches [Φ:3sg] feature on *Charlie*. [uD*] remains.
- *seem* (*v*) has [uInfl:] to check
- [uInfl:pres3sg], valued by [tense:pres] and [uΦ:3sg] on T.

Disliking bees

Disliking bees

Finally, we move *Charlie* up to check the EPP ([uD*]) feature of T: **(Subject (-to-subject)) Raising**

Idioms

- Recall our idea about idioms: For something to have an idiomatic interpretation (an interpretation not literally derivable from its component words), the pieces need to be very close together when initially Merged.

- 1) Ortega took a dive.
- 2) It seems that the jig is up.
- 3) It seems that the cat is out of the bag.
- 4) It seems that the cat has your tongue.

Idioms

- If pieces of the idiom move away after the original Merge, we can still get the idiomatic interpretation:
 - 1) [The cat]_i seems _{t_i} to have your tongue.
 - 2) [The cat]_i seems _{t_i} to be out of the bag.
 - 3) [The jig]_i seems _{t_i} to be up.
- The important thing is that they be originally Merged together (the θ -role needs to be assigned by the predicate to the noun). Compare:
 - 4) [The cat] tried to have your tongue.
 - 5) [The cat] arranged to be out of the bag.
- (What's different? Why no idiomatic meaning?)

Other raising verbs

- So far, we've only talked about *seem*, but there are a couple of other raising verbs as well.
 - [The cat]_i is likely [_{TP} _{t_i} to be out of the bag].
 - [The cat]_i appears [_{TP} _{t_i} to have his tongue].
 - [The jig]_i proved [_{TP} _{t_i} to be up].
 - [The cat]_i began [_{TP} _{t_i} to get his tongue].
- What these verbs (in this use, anyway) have in common is that they have no external θ -role and an internal Proposition θ -role.

There seems...

- We also find *seem* with *there*.
 - 1) Vincent seems to be lost.
 - 2) It seems that Vincent is lost.
 - 3) There seems to be a dog in the woods.
- *It* is an expletive subject that checks both the EPP and case features of T. *There* checks only the EPP feature of T (*a dog* checks T's case feature).

*There seems a man to be in the garden.

- 1) There seems to be a man in the garden.
- *There* appears in SpecTP, satisfying the EPP feature.
 - There are two TPs here, and each TP has/had an EPP feature.
 - [_{TP} There seems [_{TP} to be a man in...]]
 - So, *there* must have first Merged into the lower SpecTP and then moved to the upper SpecTP.
 - [_{TP} There seems [_{TP} <there> to be a man in...]]

*There seems a man to be in the garden

- [_{TP} There seems [_{TP} <there> to be a man in...]]
 - This makes sense, both EPP features are satisfied, *a man* gets case from (the higher, finite) T.
 - But think back to when we were building the structure and had reached this point:
- [_T to be a man in the garden]
 - We now have to satisfy the [_{uD}*] feature of T. We have *there* lying around in our numeration. But if we didn't, we could have just moved *a man* to SpecTP to satisfy the EPP.
- [_{TP} a man to be <a man> in the garden]

*There seems a man to be in the garden

- [_{TP} a man to be <a man> in the garden]
- After doing this, we can continue to add on *seem*, *v*, T, and then insert *there* into the higher SpecTP, yielding:
- [_{TP} there seems [_{TP} a man to be <a man> in...]]
- But this is ungrammatical. So what goes wrong?
 - The difference between *There seems a man to be in the garden* and *There seems to be a man in the garden* is at the point where we've got [_T to be a man in the garden]. Here there's a choice: Move *a man* or Merge *there*.
- The usual approach here is to say **Merge is preferred to Move**, so if you have the choice, you always Merge (it's "easier").

Object control

- One last type of nonfinite complement, those that appear with verbs like *persuade*.
 - 1) Sayid persuaded Kate to stay.
- Once again, we think through the “participants” to get a handle on whether we have enough DPs for the θ -roles.
 - *Stay* has only one participant, *Kate*.
 - *Persuade* has three—the one doing the persuading (*Sayid*), the one being persuaded (*Kate*), and the proposition in question ([_{TP} Kate to stay]).
 - So we *don't* have enough DPs for the job— *Kate* appears to be playing two roles (one from *stay*, one from *persuade*). This sounds like a job for PRO.

Object control

- Sayid persuaded Kate to stay.
- Sayid persuaded Kate [_{CP} \emptyset_{NULL} PRO_{NULL} to stay]
- Again we have PRO, as we do in
 - Kate tried [_{CP} \emptyset_{NULL} PRO_{NULL} to see]
- But in *Sayid persuaded Kate to stay*, what “controls” PRO?

Classes

- So, we have the following classes:
- ECM verbs, e.g., *believe*
 - I believe [_{TP} him to have told the truth].
- Subject control verbs, e.g., *attempt*
 - I_k attempted [_{CP} \emptyset_{NULL} PRO_k to drive to work].
- Object control verbs, e.g., *convince*
 - I convinced her_k [_{CP} \emptyset_{NULL} PRO_k to drive to work].
- Raising verbs, e.g., *appear*
 - I_k appear [_{TP} t_k to be low on time].