

# NP-Movement

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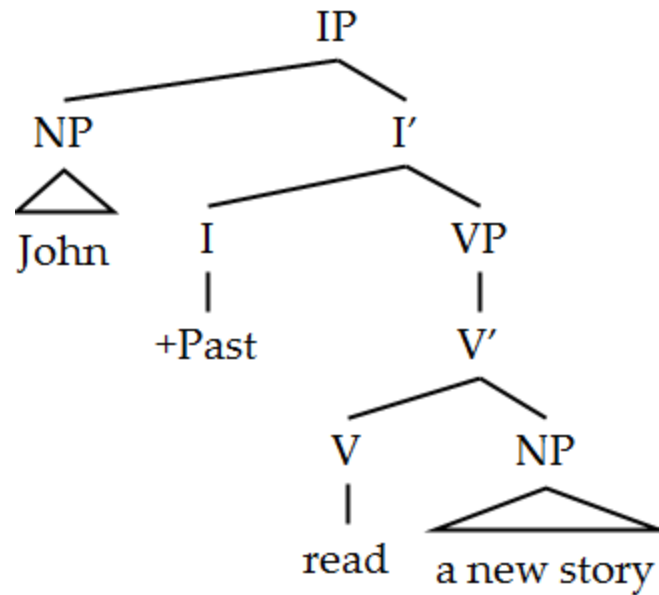
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(For MA Sem-II, Paper II)

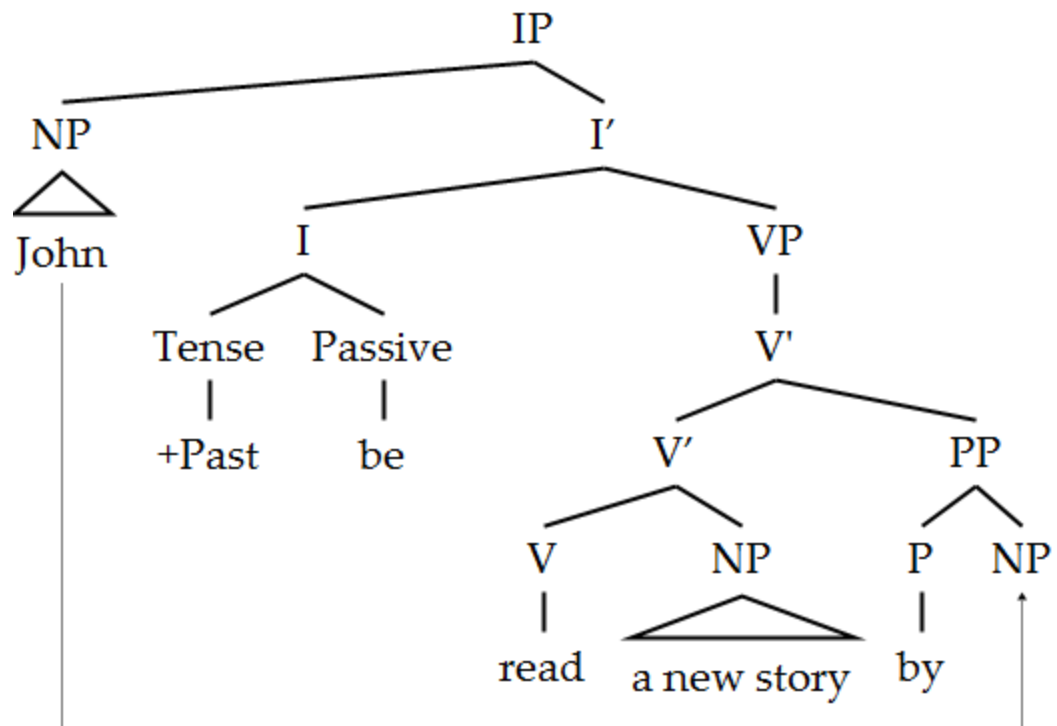
# Passives

- 1. Active -John read a new story
- 2. Passive -A new story was read by John
- Passivization Applies to transitive verbs.
- All passives have an active corresponding sentence.

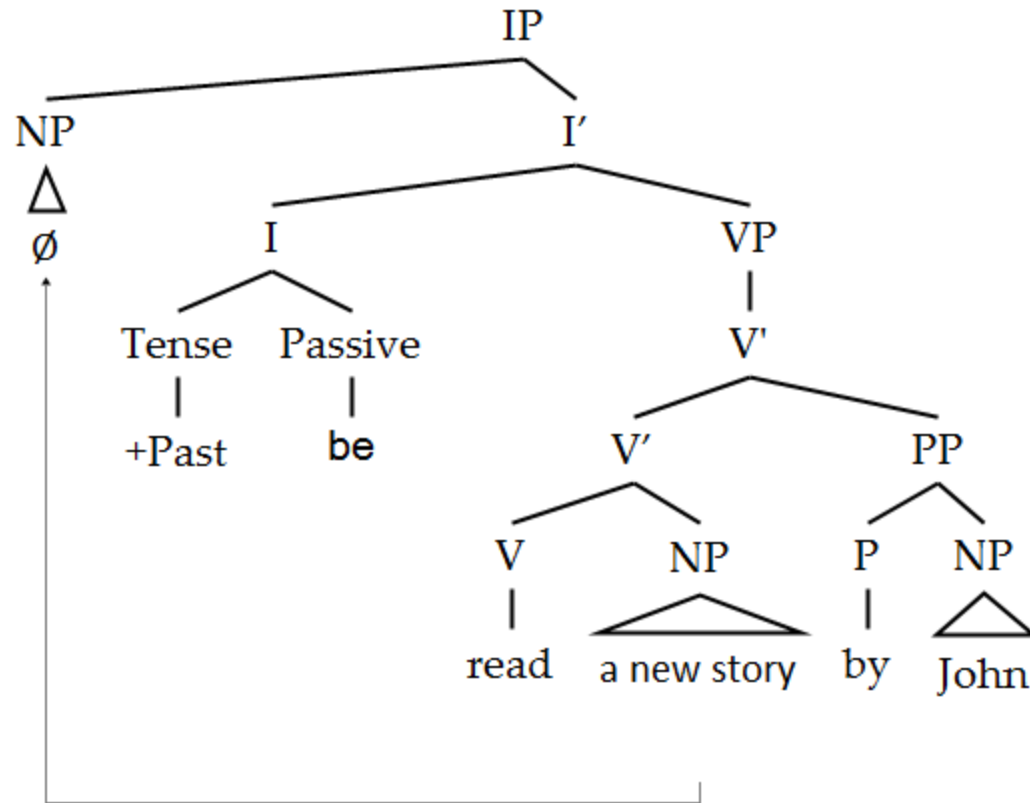
# Structure of Active



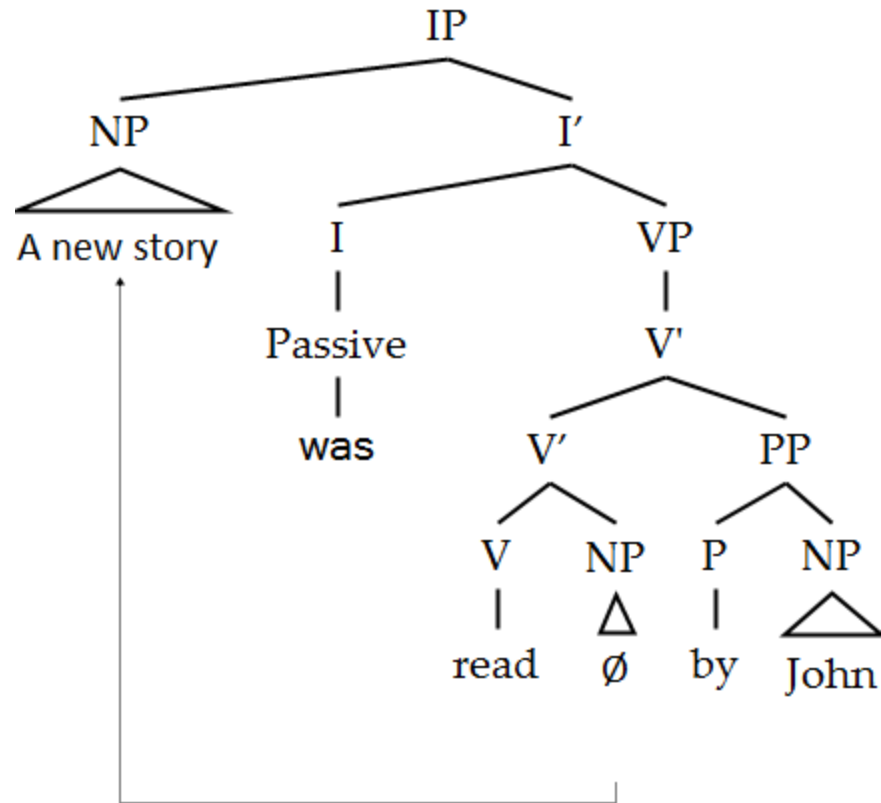
# D-S for Passive: Subject Displacement



# Object to Subject Displacement



# Surface Structure



# Cont...

- The above NP-movement story is no longer plausible under the P&P assumptions.
- It results in Violation of Theta criterion
- $\Theta$ -Criterion
- Each  $\Theta$ -role must be assigned to one and only one argument and each argument must be assigned one and only one  $\Theta$ -role.

(Chomsky, 1981)

# Passive Subject, a Non-Theta position

- Look at the following passive:
- 1. It is believed [that the Antarctica is uninhabitable]
- The pronoun **it** occupying the subject position of the passive verb **believed** is non-referential. It does not refer to any thing and is unlike the referential pronoun **it** found in the object position of the verb in:
- **John believes it** (where the pronoun **it** refers to something in particular)



# Object of the Active

- The Object of the active verb and the subject of its passive correspondent share the same theta role i.e. theme or patient.
- This intuition is captured by base generating this argument as the complement of the Verb in both the active and its corresponding passive verbal form.

# Passive participle

- The passive participle form of the verb is however adjectival in character.
- See the verbal forms in expressions like **defeated** enemy, **considered** opinion, **given** thing, **broken** promise
- Just like adjectives in general in English they are assumed not to be able to assign case to their complement NPs.

# Cont..

- But, given case filter, overtly realized NPs cannot remain caseless.
- **Case Filter**
- \*A phonetically realized NP without case
- Hence the complement of the passive verb must move out to a position where it can receive case and escape case filter violation

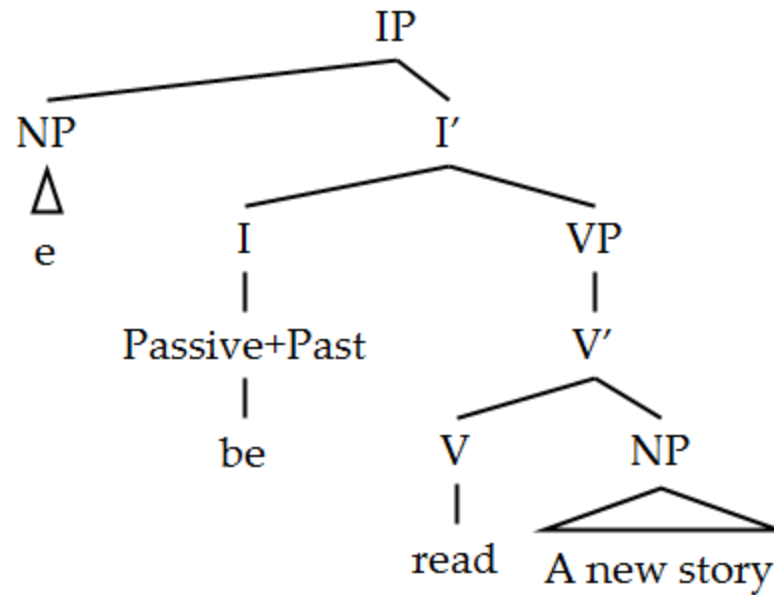
# Contd..

- The subject position of the passive sentence provides a position for the Complement NP of the passive verb to move in where it can be Governed and assigned Nominative case by the finite INFL.
- This movement story can go through only if the passive subject position is not a theta position.
- For otherwise, the moved NP would end up receiving two theta roles in violation of theta criterion: one, by virtue of its D-S position and the other, due to the Subject position.

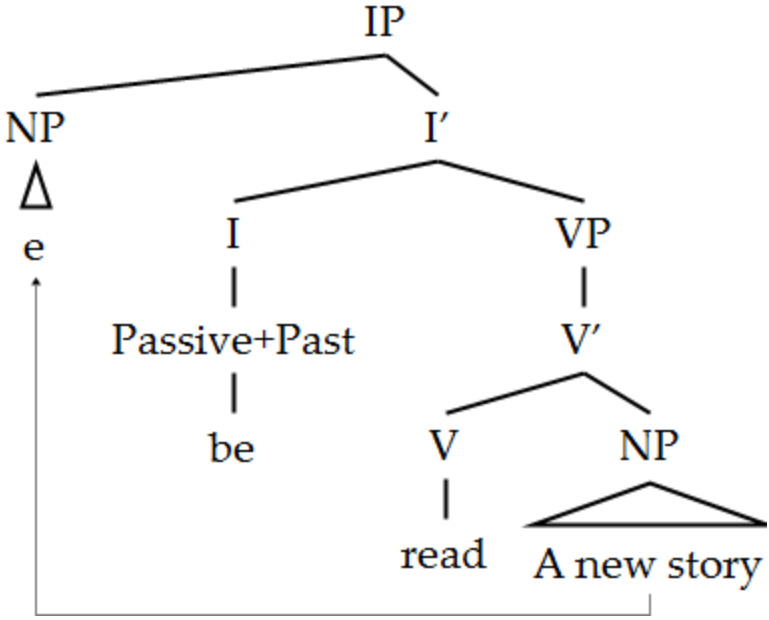
# Passive-derivation

- Passive involves movement of an NP from the object position of the verb, a theta position.
- The object moves into the Subject position of the passive verb, a non-theta position.
- This movement is necessitated by the Case requirement of the moving NP, which otherwise invites violation of Case Filter.

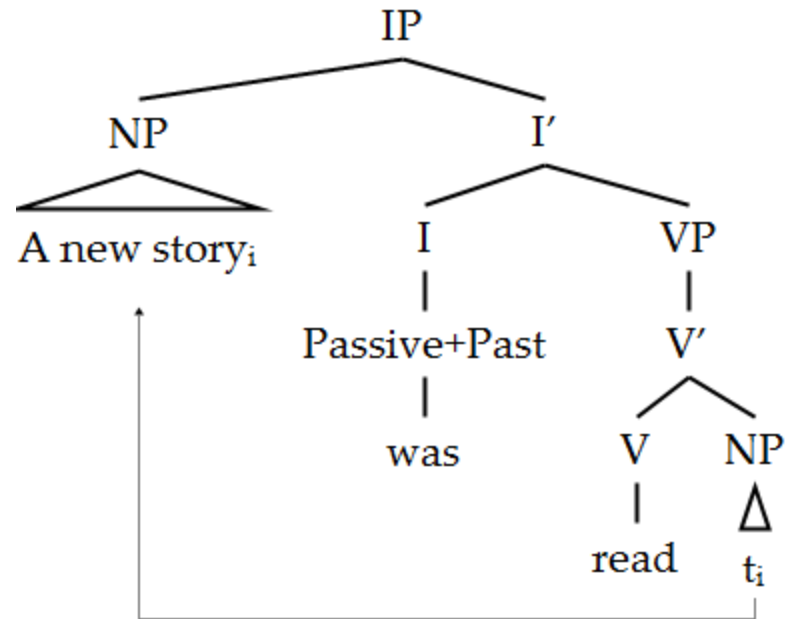
# D-S Representation



# NP-movement Transformation



# S-structure





# Cont...

- The movement starts out from an NP position and terminates in an NP position. Therefore, is known as NP-movement.
- Movement is from an A position to another A position, i.e. it is A-movement.
- The antecedent of the moved NP binds its trace.
- S-structure is the relevant level for case assignment.

# Raising movement

- Verbs like **Seem, appear**, etc. and adjectives **certain, likely**, etc. are intransitives taking a clausal complement.
- 1. John seems [ to dislike Mary]
- 2. It seems [that John dislikes Mary]
- 3. Mohan is certain[ to arrive today]
- 4. It is certain[ that Mohan will arrive today]

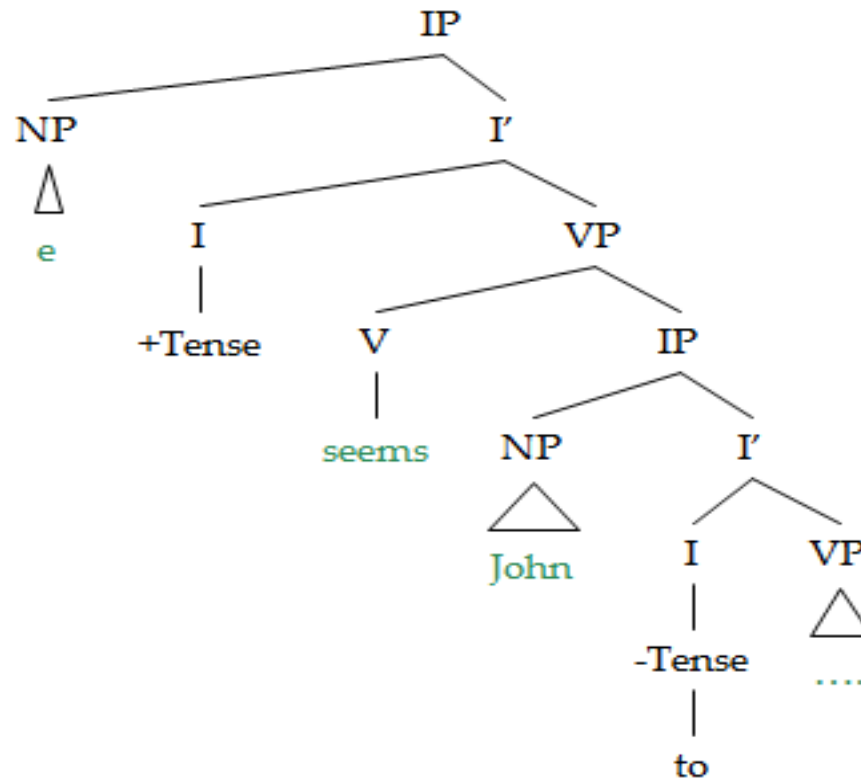
# Why Raising movement?

- Contrasting finite/nonfinite clausal complements in the preceding slide show that matrix Subject in the (1) and (3) belong to the embedded clause's Subject position.
- They are arguments of the embedded verb, given theta criterion and projection principle
- When the embedded clauses are finite, the matrix subject is occupied by a semantically vacuous pronoun **it**, a place holder for subject, given Extended projection principle.

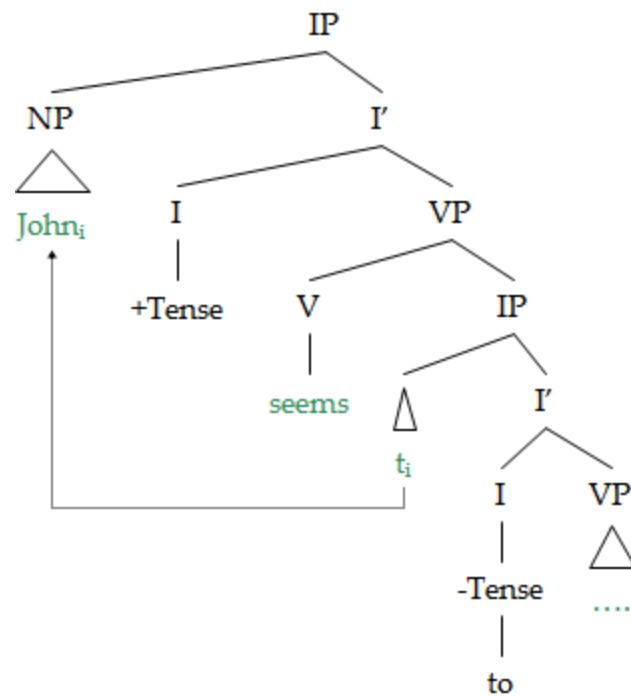
# Cont..

- Hence, the D-structure representations of both (1) and (3) would have their matrix subject in the embedded Subject position, for they are arguments of the embedded verb, just as in their finite counterparts.
- $[_{IP}[_{NP} e] [_{I'} [_{I} +Tense] [_{VP} [V \text{ seem/certain}] [_{IP} [NP \text{ John}] [_{I'} [I [-Tense \text{ to}]] [_{VP} \dots]]]]]]]$

# D-Structure



# S-Structure



# Why traces for Subject raising?

- Raising: Embedded Subject to Matrix Subject
- Why traces:
  - i. To satisfy Theta criterion and Projection Principle:  
The verb of the embedded clause
  - ii. Extended Projection: All Clauses need to have a Subject
  - iii. Binding requirements for anaphors
- Anaphors need to be bound within their governing category. So traces could satisfy antecedenthood.
- John<sub>i</sub> seems [t<sub>i</sub> to dislike himself<sub>i</sub>]

# Licensing of adverb **together**

- Adverbs like **together** require a plural subject in their clause.
- 5. They went to the movie together
- 6. \*John went to the movie together
- 7. \*John<sub>j</sub>/They<sub>i</sub> seems [t<sub>i</sub>/<sub>\*j</sub> to have left together]



# REFERENCES

- Carnie, Andrew. 2006. *Syntax: A Generative Introduction* (2<sup>nd</sup> Ed.). Oxford: Blackwell.
- Chomsky, N. A. 1981. *Lectures on Government and Binding*. Dordrecht: Foris.
- Haegeman, L. 1994. *Introduction to Government and Binding theory*(2<sup>nd</sup> Ed.). Oxford: Blackwell.