

Assignment 6

I.1. Consider the following facts from German and English.

- (1) a. German
- i. *(Es) wurde getanzt
it was danced
'There was dancing.'
 - ii. *(Es) wurde bis spät in die Nacht getrunken
it was till late in the night drunk
'There was drinking till late in the night.'
 - iii. *Es wurde diesen Roman von vielen Studenten gelesen
it was this-Acc novel by many students read
 - iv. *(Es) wurde dieser Roman von vielen Studenten gelesen
it was this-Nom novel by many students read
'This novel was read by many students.'
 - v. Dieser Roman wurde (*es) von vielen Studenten gelesen
this-Nom novel was it by many students read
'This novel was read by many students.'
- b. English
- i. * was arrested John.
 - ii. *It was arrested John.
 - iii. There were several men arrested yesterday.
 - iv. */???[That the conclusion was false] was believed.
 - v. It was believed [that the conclusion was false].
 - vi. *There was believed [that the conclusion was false].

Provide an explanation for the above pattern of grammaticality. Your explanation should extend to a hypothesis about differences between English and German from which the above differences between English and German would follow.

I.2. Next consider the following Hindi-Urdu data. Note that the passive auxiliary in Hindi-Urdu is *jaa/ga* 'go' and not *ho* 'be'.

- (2) a. *dekh* 'see'
- i. Active:
Vijay Dawood-ko bazaar-me dekh-egaa
Vijay-Nom Dawood-Acc market-in see-will
'Vijay will see Dawood in the market.'

ii. Passive 1:

Dawood-ko (Vijaya-dwaaraa) bazaar-me dekhaa gayaa
Dawood-Acc Vijaya-by market-in seen was
'Dawood was seen by Vijaya in the market.'

iii. Passive 2:

Dawood (Vijaya-dwaaraa) bazaar-me dekhaa gayaa
Dawood-Nom Vijaya-by market-in seen was
'Dawood was seen by Vijaya in the market.'

b. *hās* 'laugh'

i. Active:

Yunus zor-se hās-egaa
Yunus loudly laugh-will
'Yunus will laugh loudly.'

ii. Passive 1:

*Yunus-ko hāsaa gayaa
Yunus-Acc laughed was

iii. Passive 2:

*Yunus hāsaa gayaa
Yunus-Nom laughed was

iv. Passive 3:

Yunus-dwaaraa zor-se hāsaa gayaa
Yunus-by loudly laughed was
'*It was laughed loudly by Yunus.'

c. *ubal* 'boil_{intransitive}'

i. Active:

paanii ubal rahaa hai
water boil -ing is
'The water is boiling.'

ii. Passive 1:

*paanii-ko ubl-aa gayaa
water-Acc boiled was

iii. Passive 2:

*paanii ubl-aa gayaa
water-Nom boiled was

iv. Passive 3:

*paanii-dwaaraa ubl-aa gayaa
water-by boiled was

Provide a theoretical characterization of the differences between passives in Hindi-Urdu and English. Further provide a characterization of why the passive behaves differently with the three classes of predicates shown above. For simplicity, you can assume that the Hindi-Urdu predicates in question have the same syntactic properties as the corresponding English predicates.

II.1 Consider the following Hebrew data. What generalizations can be drawn from this data set concerning the interaction of unaccusativity, (in)definiteness, and the possibility of postverbal subjects. Assume that variants of (3-5) where the subjects is pre-verbal are all grammatical.

- (3) a. parca mehumma (ha.boqer)
erupted.f.sg riot.f.sg this.morning
'A riot erupted this morning.'
- b. hitxilu haPganot (ha.boqer)
started.m.pl demonstrations this.morning
'Demonstrations started this morning.'
- c. hoPia γ γ ašan laBan ba-šamayim (ha.boqer)
appeared smoke white in-the.sky this.morning
'White smoke appeared in the sky this morning.'
- (4) a. parcu šaloš mehumot
erupted three riots
'Three riots erupted.'
- b. hitxilu harbe haPganot
started many demonstrations
'Many demonstrations started.'
- c. hoPia γ harbe γ ašan laBan ba-šamayim
appeared much smoke white in-the.sky
'Much white smoke appeared in the sky.'
- (5) a. *parac ha.vikuaz (ha.boqer)
erupted.MSg the.argument.MSg this.morning
- b. *hitxilu kol ha.haPganot (ha.boqer)
started.MPl all the.demonstrations.MPl this.morning
- c. *hoPia γ ha. γ ašan hab.laBan ba-šamayim (ha.boqer)
appeared the.smoke the.white in-the.sky this.morning

II.2 Now consider the following data from Italian. Extend the generalizations you drew from the Hebrew data to encompass the Italian data to the extent possible, noting of course the points at which Hebrew and Italian differ.

- (6) a. Il ragazzo è arrivato
the boy is arrived
'The boy arrived.'

- b. È arrivato il ragazzo
is arrived the boy
'The boy arrived.'
- c. Il ragazzo ha parlato (con Piero)
the boy has spoken with Piero
'The boy spoke with Piero.'
- d. Ha parlato (con Piero) il ragazzo
has spoken with Piero the boy
'The boy spoke with Piero.'
- e. Il ragazzo ha mangiato un dolce
the boy has eaten a cake
'The boy ate a cake.'
- f. Ha mangiato un dolce il ragazzo
has eaten a cake the boy
'The boy ate a cake.'

(You can assume for concreteness that subjects in Italian can appear after the VP - either right adjoined to VP or with a right linearized specifier.)

- (7) a. All'improvviso è entrato un uomo [dalla finestra]
suddenly is entered a man from-the window
'Suddenly, a man entered from the window.'
- b. *All'improvviso è entrato l' uomo [dalla finestra]
suddenly is entered the man from-the window
- c. All'improvviso un uomo è entrato [dalla finestra]
suddenly a man is entered from-the window
'Suddenly, a man entered from the window.'
- d. Era finalmente arrivato qualche studente [a lezione]
is finally arrived some student to the.lecture
'Some student finally arrived at the lecture.'
- e. *Era finalmente arrivato ogni studente [a lezione]
is finally arrived every student to the.lecture
- f. Ogni studente era finalmente arrivato [a lezione]
every student is finally arrived to the.lecture
'Every student finally arrived at the lecture.'

(You can assume that the PP marks the right edge of the VP. Further you can assume that the counterparts of these examples where the subject appears after the PP are all grammatical.)