

Assignment 8

This problem is based on Landau (2001) and concerns the distribution of Non-Obligatory Control (NOC). An electronic copy of the Landau (2001) paper can be found at <http://www.bgu.ac.il/~idanl/files/Super-Equi.pdf>

The first generative analyses of control treated control constructions in terms of a deletion rule called *Equi*, which obligatorily deleted the subject of an infinitival under identity with an argument of the matrix predicate. Thus *John tried [to leave]* was taken to be *John tried [~~John~~ to leave]*. At some point this analysis was abandoned in part because it became clear that *Everyone wants [to leave]* does not mean *Everyone wants [~~everyone~~ to leave]*. Still the name comes up every now and then.

1 Super-Equi

The problem at hand concerns the phenomena of *Super-Equi*, where an argument of a superordinate predicate controls the subject of a clause that is not its own complement.

- (1) a. (also *please, be a relief*)
- i. Mary knew that it disturbed John [PRO to perjure himself/*herself].
 - ii. Mary knew that [PRO perjuring himself/herself] disturbed John.
- b. (also *help, be a help*)
- i. Mary knew that it damaged John [PRO to perjure himself/herself].
 - ii. Mary knew that [PRO perjuring himself/herself] damaged John.

Provide a theory of control that predicts the pattern of grammaticality seen in (1). Demonstrate how you handle the examples in (1). The theory you present should also explain the following contrast:

- (2) a. *Mary_i thought that it pleased John [PRO_i to talk about herself].
- b. ?Mary_i thought that it pleased the man greatly who hired her for the job [PRO_i to talk about herself].

2 Logophoricity

What predictions does your existing theory of control make for the following contrasts?

- (3) a. It would help Bill's_i development [PRO_i to behave himself in public].
- b. *It would help Bill's_i friends [PRO_i to behave himself in public].
- (4) a. [PRO_i finishing his work on time] is important to John's_i development.

- b. [PRO_{*i/j} finishing his work on time] is important to [John's_i friends]_j.
- (5) a. It would help Bill's_i confidence [PRO_i to plan his itinerary in advance].
- b. *It would help Bill's_i car [PRO_i to plan his itinerary in advance].

What modifications are needed to handle the above contrasts?

References

Landau, I. (2001) "Control and Extraposition: The Case of Super-Equi," Natural Language and Linguistic Theory 19:1, 109–152.