

LINGUIST 601
November 3, 2006
Due on November 10, 2006

Assignment 8

I 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 (1-3) where the subjects is pre-verbal are all grammatical.

- (1) a. parca mehuma (ha.boqer)
erupted.f.sg riot.f.sg this.morning
'A riot erupted this morning.'
- b. hitxilu haPganot (ha.boqer)
started.PI demonstration.PI 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.'
- (2) 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.'
- (3) a. *parac ha.vikuax (ha.boqer)
erupted.MSg the.argument.MSg this.morning
- b. *hitxilu kol ha.haPganot (ha.boqer)
started.MPI all the.demonstrations.MPI this.morning
- c. *hoPia γ ha. γ ašan ha.laBan ba-šamayim (ha.boqer)
appeared the.smoke the.white in-the.sky this.morning

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.

- (4) 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.)

- (5) 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.)