Expletives and Case Assignment Howard Lasnik

University of Connecticut

- I.
- 1. *It seems [John to be here]
- 2. *Who does it seem [t to be here]
- 3. *I tried [John to be here]
- 4. I tried [PRO to be here]
- 5. *It seems [there to be a man here]
- 6. *I tried [there to be a man here]
- 7. A CHAIN is Case-marked if it contains eactly one Case-marked position; a position in a Case-marked CHAIN is visible for theta-marking. K of L p.135
- 8. There is a man here
- 9. There is usually a man here
- 10. A car is usually here
- 11. *I heard usually a car (cf., I usually heard a car)
- 12. Someone is likely [t to be here]
- 13. There is likely [t to be someone here]
- II.
- 14. *There is likely [someone to be here]
- 15. *We consider [there a man in the room] K of L p.92
- 16. We consider [there to be a man in the room]
- 17. We consider [there likely [t to be a man in the room]]
- 18. A car is not here
- 19. *I heard not a car
- 20. Is a car here
- 21. *Heard I a car
- 22. [[A car] [Tense be] [usually \underline{t} here]
- 23. [[A car] [Tense e] [not be here]]
- 24. [[A car] [Tense will] [not be here]]
- 25. *A car will be not here
- 26. *A car will be usually here
- 27. Will a car be here
- 28. *Will be a car here
- 29. I believe [there to be someone here]

- 30. *I believe [there to be usually someone here]
- 31. *I believe [there to be not someone here]
- 32. I believe [there not to be someone here]
- 33. *I believe [John to be not here]
- 34. I believe [John not to be here]
- 35. ?There usually arrives a bus (at this time)
- 36. *There arrives usually a bus (at this time)
- 37. *There arrived not a bus [?There did not arrive a bus]
- 38. *A bus arrived not [A bus did not arrive]
- 39. *Arrived a bus [Did a bus arrive]
- 40. 'Unaccusatives' and be are Case assigners
- 41. If a lexical category alpha has a Case-marked object and a subject, then the subject must be theta-marked by alpha (or its projection). K of L p.138
- 42. There is [a car here]
- 43. There was [[a man] [arrested t]]
- III.
- 44. 'Traditional' Case filter: At S-structure, *NP that is lexical and lacks Case.
- 45. Who do you believe sincerely [t to be the best candidate]
- 46. *I believe sincerely [John to be the best candidate]
- 47. At LF, all expletives must have been replaced. 'Visibility' constrains theta-assignment at both S-structure and LF (roughly in line with the projection principle).
- 48. A man's arrival
- 49. *There's arrival of a man
- 50. *Its likelihood that John will win
- 51. *Our belief of John to be intelligent
- 52. *Our proof of John to be intelligent
- 53. If alpha is an inherent Case-marker, then alpha Case-marks NP if and only if [alpha] theta-marks the chain headed by NP. K of L p.194
- 54. *There arrival of a man
- 55. The arrival of a man
- 56. To be visible as the target of NP movement, a position must have Case.
- 57. *Someone seems [there to be [t in the room]
- 58. *Someone seems [there to have been arrested t]
- 59. Someone is certain [t to be here]
- 60. There is certain [t to be someone here]

IV.

- 61. John is rich and happy
- 62. ?John is rich and is happy
- 63. John is likely to win and certain to do well
- 64. ?John is likely to win and is certain to do well
- 65. It is likely that John will win and certain that he will do well
- 65. *It is likely that John will win and is certain that he will do well
- 66. I consider it to be likely that John will win and to be certain that he will do well
- 67. There is a bike in the driveway and a car in the garage
- 68. *There is a bike in the driveway and is a car in the garage
- 69. John is easy to talk to but is hard to please
- 70. *It is easy to talk to John but is hard to please him
- 71. Navajo is known not to be finite state and is believed not to be context-free
- 72. *It is known that Navajo is not finite state and is believed that it is not context-free
- 73.?*It is raining and is snowing
- 74. It is raining and snowing

V.

- 75. That you are here is nice
- 76. *I tried [[that you are here] to be nice]
- 77.??I believe [[that you are here] to be nice]
- 78. *It seems [[that you are here] to be nice]
- 79. I am happy that you are here
- 80. I am proud that you are here
- 81. I am proud *(of) John
- 82. I believe sincerely that you are here