Subjects of NP's?

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Part I

- 1) the barbarians' destruction of Rome
- 2) The barbarians destroyed 'Rome
- 3)a Rome's destruction
 - b Mary's portrait
 - c the theorem's proof
- 4)a Mary's poem (≠ poem about Mary)
 - b Harry's novel (# novel about Harry)
- 5)a _ destruction Rome
 - b _ portrait Mary
 - c proof the theorem
- 6)a _ poem Mary
 - b _ novel Harry .
- 7) a the poem of Mary (\neq poem about Mary)
 - b the novel of Harry (≠ novel about Harry)
- 8) *[John's [likelihood [t to leave]]]
- 9)a *P [t,+a,-p]
 - b ... V P... -> ... V....
- c A bare NP can occur as the complement of a noun only if "affectedness" holds.
- 10 *algebra's knowledge t (cf., knowledge of algebra)
- 11) *algebra's knowledge of t
- 12) *Mary's speech about t

Part II

- 13) The navy sank the ship
- 14) A torpedo sank the ship
- 15) The ship was sunk by the navy
- 16) The ship was sunk by a torpedo
- 17) The navy sank the ship with a torpedo
- 18) The ship was sunk by the navy with a torpedo
- 19) *The navy sank the ship by a torpedo





- 20) *A torpedo sank the ship by the navy
- 21) "Each argument bears one and only one θ -role, and each θ -role is assigned to one and only one argument." LGB p.36
- 22) Hypothesis: In (19-20), the navy is agent and a torpedo is instrument.
- 23) Hypothesis: "subject" is a θ -role relevant to (21)
- 24) Hypothesis: by assigns subject role. cf., Marantz(1984,p.129)
- "...the object in a <u>by PP</u> within a VP headed by a passive participle bears the semantic role assigned by the predicate that the passive participle produces."
- 25) (19-20) violate (21)
- 26)a The city was destroyed by the rocket
 - b the city's destruction by the rocket
- 27)a The rocket destroyed the city
 - b ?the rocket's destruction of the city
- 28)a The enemy destroyed the city with the rocket
 - b the enemy's destruction of the city with the rocket
- 29)a *The enemy destroyed the city by the rocket
 - b ?*the enemy's destruction of the city by the rocket
- 30)a ?the enemy's destruction of the city by rocket
 - b ?The enemy destroyed the city by rocket
 - c *Rocket destroyed the city
- 31) Hypothesis: <u>by rocket</u> is a pure instrumental, and not a subject.

References

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