Some Questions About Theta Roles and Syntactic Theory
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I. Do thematic properties directly constrain transformations?
Ia.

1.   Someone destroyed Rome

2.   Rome was destroyed t

3.   The destruction of Rome

4.   Rome's destruction .t

5.   Someone knows algebra

6.   Algebra is known t

7.   The knowledge of algebra

8.   *Algebra's knowledge t

9.   John is believed [t to be intelligent]

10. *John's belief [t to be intelligent]

11.   Can only an 'affected theme' undergo NP Movement in nominals?

12.   [e destruction Rome]

13.   [e knowledge of algebra]

Ib.

14.   It threatens [t to rain]

15.   The truck threatens [t to hit the building]

16. *Mary threatens [t to slap John]

17.   The key promises [t to open the door]

18.   Your solution promises [t to be a good one]

19. *Bill promises [t to brush his teeth every day]

20.   Why can't an 'agent' undergo raising out of the complement of
      threaten or promise?

21.   Alternatively, why can't the subject of the complement of
      threaten or promise (in the relevant sense) be an agent?

22. The ice melted

23. The ice chilled the beer

24. *The ice served to melt

25. The ice served to chill the beer

26. Is the restriction on <u>serve</u> that its complement contain a transitive verb?

27. The skeleton key opened the door

28. John opened the door

29. The skeleton key served to open the door

30. *John served to open the door

31. The subject of the complement of <u>serve</u> must be an instrument.

II. What is the Theta Criterion about?

32. John attacked Bill [agent]

33. Mary enjoyed the movie [experiencer]

34. Susan received the package [goal?]

35. The skeleton key opened the door [instrument]

36. Bill was attacked by John

37. The movie was enjoyed by Mary

38. The package was received by Susan

39. The door was opened by the skeleton key

40. John opened the door with the skeleton key

41. The door was opened with the skeleton key by John

42. *John opened the door by the skeleton key

43. *The skeleton key opened the door by John

44. In (37) and (38), just as in (35) and (36), each argument has an independent theta role.

45. <u>By</u> assigns 'subject' role (see (31-34), and this role may be assigned only once in a clause.

III. Do nouns have argument structure?
IIIa.

46. The army's destruction of the city

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47. The missile's destruction of the city

48. The city's destruction by the army

49. The city's destruction by the missile

50. The army's destruction of the city with the missile

51. *The army's destruction of the city by the missile

52. *The missile's destruction of the city by the army

IIIb.

53. A man who you met yesterday was arrested

54. A man was arrested who you met yesterday

55. [A man (t)] was arrested who you met yesterday

56. The proof that John was guilty was presented

57. The proof was presented that John was guilty

58. [The proof (t)] was presented that John was guilty

59. The proof that John was guilty was interrupted

60.?*The proof was interrupted that John was guilty

61. [The proof t] was interupted that John was guilty

IV. ??

62. Ann's desire to pass the exam

62. *The desire by Ann to pass the exam

63. The students' knowledge of history

64. *The knowledge of history by the students

65. They sank the ship with a torpedo

66. A torpedo sank the ship

67. They cut the cake with a knife

68. A knife cut the cake

69. He ate the meal with a fork

70. *A fork ate the meal