

**The ECP**  
November, 2009

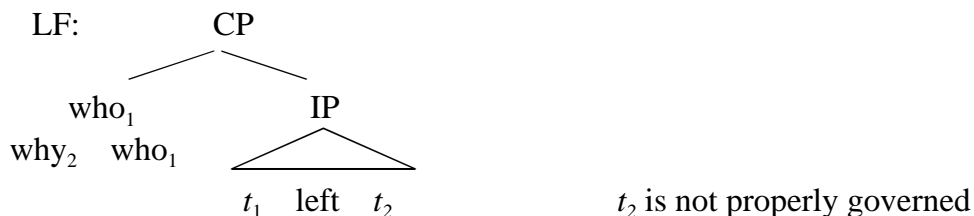
- (1) ECP (Empty Category Principle) 1<sup>st</sup> version:  
A trace must be governed
- (2) \*John is illegal [<sub>CP</sub>[<sub>IP</sub> *t* to park here]] (CP is a barrier to government; non-finite Infl isn't a governor)
- (3) ECP 2<sup>nd</sup> version:  
A trace must be properly governed (Proper government is government by a **lexical head**)
- (4) \*Who do you think [that [*t* solved the problem]] (*t* is not properly governed)
- (5) Which problem do you think [that [John solved *t*]] (*t* is properly governed by solve)
- (6) Who do you think [*t*' [*t* solved the problem]] (*t* is not lexically governed)
- (7)  $\alpha$  properly governs  $\beta$  if
  - i.  $\alpha$  governs  $\beta$  and  $\alpha$  is lexical ('lexical government')
  - ii.  $\alpha$  binds  $\beta$  and  $\beta$  is (zero) subjacent to  $\alpha$  ('antecedent government')
- (8) \*Who do you think [<sub>CP</sub> *t*' [<sub>C</sub> that [<sub>IP</sub> *t* solved the problem]]]
- (9) Either that somehow blocks antecedent government  
or  
that somehow turns C' into a barrier for antecedent government
- (10) ?\*Which car did you leave [before Mary fixed *t*] Subjacency - an 'adjunct island'
- (11) \*How did you leave [before Mary fixed the car *t*] (*t* is not properly governed, so the ex. violates both Subjacency and the ECP)
- (12) Similarly for all islands: extraction of an adjunct in violation of Subjacency always yields crashingly bad results.
- (13) Lasnik and Saito technology: A trace that is properly governed is marked + $\gamma$ ; one that is not is marked - $\gamma$ . The ECP says \*[- $\gamma$ ]
- (14) ✓ How do you think [*t* [(that) [Mary fixed the car *t*]]] (Why no "that-trace effect with adjuncts?")
- (15) Lasnik and Saito proposal: Adjunct traces are not gamma-marked in overt syntax (maybe because they aren't present yet). In LF (as in overt syntax) that can be deleted.
- (16) Argument traces are gamma-marked in overt syntax (or we lose the that-trace effect for subjects).
- (17) \*How<sub>2</sub> do you wonder [when<sub>1</sub> [John said *t*<sub>1</sub> [*t*<sub>2</sub>' [Mary solved the problem *t*<sub>2</sub>]]]]]

- (18) Intermediate traces must be properly governed. ( $t_2$  is antecedent governed by  $t_2'$ ; so it must be the latter the is not properly governed in violation of the ECP.)
- (19) Further, gamma-marking must be specifically at **levels**. If  $t_2'$  could properly govern  $t_2$  and then delete, (17) would be a 'mere' Subjacency violation.
- (20) Chomsky's version of this, from the mid-1980's: "Adjuncts must be fully represented". That is, all the traces in the chain of the moved adjunct must remain.

(21) \*Who left why

(22) Suppose all WH-phrases move eventually, creating an adjunction structure.

(23) LF:



(24) \*Who  $t_1$  said [ [ John left why]] Again, intermediate traces must be properly governed.

(25) ?\*Which car did you leave [before Mary fixed  $t$ ]

(26) Who left before Mary fixed which car Subjacency doesn't constrain LF movement. (Huang)

(27) ?\*What do you believe the claim that Lisi bought  $t$  (Subjacency: 'Complex NP constraint'. There is actually a difficult puzzle here, since by the core Barriers theory, there will actually not be any barriers, assuming that a head N  $\theta$ -governs its clausal complement. We put this problem aside here.)

(28) ✓Ni xiangxin Lisi mai-le sheme de shuofa Chinese  
 you believe Lisi buy-Asp what claim

(29) \*Why do you believe [the claim [that [ Lisi left  $t$ ]]]

(30) \*Ni xiangxin [[ Lisi weisheme likai] de shuofa Chinese  
 you believe Lisi why leave claim

(31) And similarly for all islands. This is the most powerful argument I know for covert movement.

(32) Mali renwei [[Yuehan weisheme likai]]  
 Mary thinks John why leave  
 "Why does Mary think [John left  $t$ ]"

(33) Long distance interpretation (hence movement) of adjuncts is fine when there is no island.