

Condition C Reconstruction: Implications for LF

H. Lasnik

**I. Condition C Complement/Adjunct Reconstruction Asymmetries
(The 'Freidin-Lebeaux Effect')**

- (1) a. Which report that John_i revised did he_i submit?
 b. Which report that John_i was incompetent did he_i submit?
 Freidin (1986)
- (2) a. *He_i believes the claim that John_i is nice.
 b. *He_i likes the story that John_i wrote.
 c. *Whose claim that John_i is nice did he_i believe?
 d. Which story that John_i wrote did he_i like?
 Lebeaux (1988)
- (3) a. *Which claim that John_i was asleep did he_i later deny
 b. Which claim that John_i made did he_i later deny
 Munn (1994)
- (4) a. *Which claim [that John_i was asleep] was he_i willing to
 discuss
 b. Which claim [that John_i made] was he_i willing to discuss
- (5) a. *The claim that John_i is [sic] asleep, he_i was willing to
 discuss
 b. The claim that John_i made, he was willing to discuss
 Chomsky (1993)
- (6) a. *The claim that John_i was asleep, he_i won't discuss
 b. The claim that John_i made, he_i won't discuss
 Chomsky and Lasnik (1993)
- (7) The claim that John_i was asleep seems to him_i [_{IP} t to be
 correct] Chomsky (1993)
- (8) *I seem to him_i [t to like John_i]
- (9) a. The 'Extension Condition': structure must be built
 strictly cyclically.
 b. Adjuncts are exempt from the Extension Condition; relative
 clauses are adjuncts.
 c. "Reconstruction" is essentially a reflex of the formation
 of operator-variable constructions.
 b. An operator chain (a sequence of copies) undergoes
 complementary deletion.
 c. Condition C is an LF requirement. Chomsky (1993)
- (10) a. [[Which claim][that John made]] was he willing to discuss
~~which claim~~ PF
 b. [[Which [t ~~claim~~]][that John made]] was he willing to
 discuss [~~which~~ [t claim]] LF
 c. For which x that John made, he was willing to discuss x
 claim Interpretation (?)

OR?

- (11)a. [[Which claim][that John made]] was he willing to discuss
~~which claim~~ PF
b. [[Which claim][~~t~~][that John made]] was he willing to
discuss [~~which claim~~][~~t~~] LF
c. For which x, x a claim that John made, he was willing to
discuss x Interpretation (?)
- (12)a. Which claim [that John was asleep] was he willing to
discuss [~~which claim that John was asleep~~] PF
b. [Which [~~t claim~~ [~~that John was asleep~~]] was he willing to
discuss [~~which~~ [~~t claim that John was asleep~~] LF
c. For which x, he was willing to discuss x claim that John
was asleep Interpretation (?)

BUT CRUCIALLY NOT

- (13)a. Which claim [that John was asleep] was he willing to
discuss [~~which claim that John was asleep~~] PF
b. [[Which [~~t claim~~] [that John was asleep]]] was he willing
to discuss [~~which~~ [~~t claim~~] [~~that John was asleep~~]] LF
c. For which x that John was asleep, he was willing to
discuss x claim Interpretation (?)

OR

- (14)a. Which claim [that John was asleep] was he willing to
discuss [~~which claim that John was asleep~~] PF
b. [[[Which claim][that John was asleep]]] ~~t~~] was he willing
to discuss [~~which claim that John was asleep~~]~~t~~] LF
c. For which x, x a claim that John was asleep, he was
willing to discuss x Interpretation (?)
- (15) "...preference principle for reconstruction: Do it when you
can (i.e., try to minimize the restriction in the operator
position)."

II. Concerns About the Generalization

- (16) Which piece of evidence that John was guilty did he
successfully refute?
- (17) The widespread belief that John is incompetent, he deeply
resents
- (18) Whose argument that John was incorrect did you show him?
- (19) How many arguments that John's theory was correct did he
publish?
- (20) This argument that John's theory is correct, he is now
ready to publish.
- (21) Which proof that Mary's theory is superior to John's did
she present?
- (22) Mary's attempt to hire John's student, he heartily
endorsed.
- (23) John's request to attend Mary's lecture, she immediately
granted.

- (24)a. The claim that the director_i was corrupt, he_i was unwilling to discuss
 b. That the director_i was corrupt, everyone knew that he_i would always be able to deny with a straight face
 Postal (1997)
- (25)a. Whose allegation that John_i was less than truthful did he_i refute vehemently?
 b. Whose claim that the Senator_i had violated the campaign finance regulations did he_i dismiss as politically motivated?
 Kuno (1997)
- (26)a. *Which claim that John_i was asleep did he_i later deny
 b. Which claim that John_i made did he_i later deny
 Munn (1994)
- (27) Later than what, one might ask?
- (28) *Whose claim that John_i is nice did he_i believe?
 Lebeaux (1988)
- (29) Susan: John is nice.
 Mary: John is nice.
 !John: I believe Susan but I don't believe Mary.
- (30) Lydia Grebenyova's experiment (UMD undergrads, 2004):
- (31) Two claims have been made about John's arrest: that John was arrested yesterday and that John was arrested a week ago. John has a lawyer, whose name is Bill
- (32) Which specific claim that John had been arrested did Bill deny
- (33) Which specific claim that he had been arrested did John deny
- (34) Which specific claim that John had been arrested did he deny
- (35) 6 of 7 subjects accepted both (33) and (34) on the coreferential reading.
- (36) What if the complement/relative asymmetry with WH-movement is illusory. How problematic is that for the theory?
- (37)a. (9)a vs. b is arguably just a stipulation, as is (9)c.
 b. The status of (15) is unclear.
- (38) If anything, then, lack of that asymmetry might be a 'better' state of affairs. (The only mildly negative consequence, depending on your point of view, is that a potential argument for traces, i.e., copies, disappears.)

Bibliography

- Barss, Andrew. 1986. *Chains and anaphoric dependence: On reconstruction and its implications*. Doctoral dissertation, MIT, Cambridge, Mass.
- Belletti, Adriana, and Luigi Rizzi. 1988. Psych-verbs and theta theory. *Natural Language and Linguistic Theory* 6: 291-352.
- Bošković, Željko and Daiko Takahashi. 1995. Scrambling and last resort. Ms. University of Connecticut, Storrs and City University of New York, New York.

- Chomsky, Noam. 1993. A minimalist program for linguistic theory. In *The view from Building 20*, ed. Kenneth Hale and Samuel J. Keyser, 1-52. Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press.
- Chomsky, Noam. 1995. Categories and transformations. In *The minimalist program*, 219-394. Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press.
- Chomsky, Noam, and Howard Lasnik. 1993. The theory of principles and parameters. In *Syntax: An international handbook of contemporary research*, Vol. 1, ed. Joachim Jacobs, Arnim von Stechow, Wolfgang Sternefeld, and Theo Vennemann, 506-569. Berlin: Walter de Gruyter.
- Fox, Danny. 1997. Reconstruction, binding theory and the interpretation of chains. Ms. MIT.
- Freidin, Robert. 1986. Fundamental issues in the theory of binding. In *Studies in the acquisition of anaphora*, Vol. 1, ed. Barbara Lust, 151-188. Dordrecht: Reidel.
- Heycock, Caroline. 1995. Asymmetries in reconstruction. *Linguistic Inquiry* 26: 547-570.
- Kuno, Susumo. 1997. Binding theory in the minimalist program. Ms. Harvard University.
- Lasnik, Howard. 1995. A note on pseudogapping. In *Papers on minimalist syntax, MIT working papers in linguistics 27*, 143-163.
- Lebeaux, David. 1988. *Language acquisition and the form of the grammar*. Doctoral dissertation, University of Massachusetts, Amherst.
- Lebeaux, David. 1990. Relative clauses, licensing, and the nature of the derivation. In *Proceedings of NELS 20*, 318-332. GLSA.
- May, Robert. 1977. *The grammar of quantification*. Doctoral dissertation, MIT, Cambridge, Mass.
- May, Robert. 1985. *Logical Form: Its structure and derivation*. Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press.
- Munn, Alan. 1994. A minimalist account of reconstruction asymmetries. In *Proceedings of NELS 24*. GLSA.
- Postal, Paul. 1997. Strong crossover violations and binding principles. ESCOL97.