

Linguistics 611 Spring 2014
HW #3 10 points
Due Tuesday 4/8

[This HW is an exercise for exploring theories of phrase structure, Case, movement, and maybe θ -role assignment with respect to a couple of different basic assumptions.]

We have looked in detail at simple transitive sentences in terms of the phrase structures proposed in Chapters 2 and 3, with Agr_s and Agr_o and with the VP internal subject hypothesis. We also began to look at how this plays out with the elimination of Agr and the addition of v (as in Chapter 4; see p. 369 for instance).

→What we want you to do now is to look at simple ditransitives in terms of these two approaches. What might each say about the structure and derivation of “Mary gave John a book”? Be explicit. Draw trees and indicate what movements take place (and when they take place).

[One thing to bear in mind: The first object asymmetrically c-commands the second by all known tests. For evidence you can take a look at Barss, A. and H. Lasnik. 1986. A note on anaphora and double objects. Linguistic Inquiry 17:347-354.]