

## Verb movement

### 1. French: why is the verb not next to its complement?

[Answer: the verb moves.]

- (1) **V Adv DO<sup>1</sup>**
- a. Marie parle souvent français.  
Marie speaks often French  
'Marie often speaks French.'
- b. \*Marie souvent parle français.
- (2) **V Neg DO**
- a. Marie ne parle pas français.  
Marie *ne* speaks not French  
'Marie doesn't speak French.'
- b. \* Marie ne pas parle français.

#### Hypothesis:

- (3) **Verb movement**  
V moves to I (when I is [+finite])<sup>2</sup>.
- (4) **V does not move to I in an infinitival clause**
- a. ...ne pas parler français...  
*ne* not speak French  
'to not speak French'
- b. \*...ne parler pas français...
- (5) **Some verbs take a VP complement**  
V' --> V VP
- (6) **Subcategorization properties of [V, +Aux]**  
Auxiliary verbs subcategorize for VP complements (more accurately, for V, the head of a VP complement): [+ \_\_ VP]

<sup>1</sup> DO = "direct object"

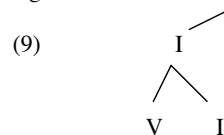
<sup>2</sup> "finite" = "not an infinitive", i.e. bears tense (present, past, future...)

- (7) **It's the highest V that moves to I by rule (3)**
- a. Marie n'a pas parlé français.  
Marie *ne*-has not spoken French  
'Marie hasn't spoken French.'
- b. \*Marie ne pas a parlé français.
- (8) **Head Movement Constraint** (Hypothesis due to Lisa Travis, McGill University)  
A head H may move to another head X, only if HP is the complement of X.

What structure is formed by verb-movement?

When a head H moves to another head X, H and X form a *word* (i.e. affixation gets done, even if X happens to be phonologically null)

e.g. the result of V-movement to I is:



[This term *adjunction* is often used to describe a structure in which X and Y are sisters, and the label of the mother node is Y, as in (9).]

### 2. Irish: why does the verb precede the subject?

**Why is the verb not only separated from its complement -- but actually to the left of the subject?**

[Answer: The verb moves to I over the subject. The subject is in Spec,VP!]

- (10) a. *Kissed Mary the leprechaun.*  
b. *Is Mary kissing the leprechaun.*

[Italics = Irish]

**The Irish verb follows C, so it's not moving to C!**

- (11) *Said I that kissed Mary the leprechaun.*

**Why does the subject follow the verb in T?**

--> The subject of a sentence actually starts as Spec,VP.

--> In English, the subject moves from Spec,VP to Spec,IP.

--> In Irish, it does not.

**So now we have a hypothesis about the missing "??" daughter of VP.**

	ENGLISH	IRISH	FRENCH
non-auxiliary verbs move to I?	-	+	+
subject moves to Spec,IP?	+	-	+

An argument that we might be on the right track. Some verbs in English subcategorize for a VP whose subject is *unraised*:<sup>3</sup>

- (12) "Bare VP complements"  
 a. I saw Bill leave the room.  
 b. I made Bill leave the room.

[What makes us think that *Bill leave the room* is a VP and not an IP or CP?]

- (13) "Small clauses" - AP and PP have subjects  
 a. I consider Bill very happy.  
 b. I expect you by my side at 10:00 sharp!

- (14) **Specifier:**  
 Phrases appear to contain a position for a non-modifier sister to a single-bar projection, which is sometimes filled by movement, and sometimes "just there". This position is generally unique (i.e. a phrase does not have more than one<sup>4</sup>) and is always higher than all modifiers (i.e. a daughter of the maximal projection). This position is called a **specifier**.

### 3. German: do we have any independent argument that V-movement exists?

How do we know that V-movement really exists?

- In embedded declarative clauses, the finite verb comes last.
- But in a main-clause yes/no question, the finite verb comes first.

<sup>3</sup> We will learn a lot more about subject raising very soon.

<sup>4</sup> This is not quite accurate, as we will see towards the very end of the course.

- (15) a. Marie denkt, dass die Frau den Mann sieht.  
 Mary-SUBJ thinks that the woman-NOM the man-OBJ sees  
 'Mary thinks that the woman sees the man.'

- b. Sieht die Frau den Mann?  
 sees the woman-SUBJ the man-OBJ  
 'Does the woman see the man?'

- If the verb has a "separable prefix", the prefix is in last position even when the verb comes first.

- (16) a. Marie denkt, dass der Mann das Licht an-macht.  
 Mary-SUBJ thinks that the man-SUBJ the light-OBJ on-makes  
 'Mary thinks that the woman is turning on the light.'

- b. Macht die Frau das Licht an?

- (17) a. ... dass die Frau den Brief auf-gibt.  
 ... that the woman-SUBJ the letter-OBJ up-gives  
 '...that the woman is mailing the letter.'

- b. Gibt die Frau den Brief auf?

- (18) a. Müssen wir das Licht an-machen?  
 must we the light on-make

- b. Hat die Frau den Brief auf-gegeben?  
 has the woman-SUBJ the letter-OBJ up-given?

What is going on?!

- (19) **Main-clause declarative sentences show "Verb-second" order**

- a. Den Mann sieht die Frau.  
 the man-OBJ sees the woman-SUBJ  
 'The woman sees the man.'

- b. Jetzt sieht die Frau den Mann.  
 now sees the woman-SUBJ the man-OBJ  
 'Now the woman sees the man'

- (20) a. Das Licht macht der Man an.  
b. Den Brief gibt die Frau auf.
- (21) a. Das Licht müssen wir an-machen.  
b. Jetzt müssen wir das Licht an-machen.

**Assume: The phrase that precedes the verb is topicalized or focused.<sup>5</sup>**

**Assume: A rule moves the Topicalized/Focused phrase.**

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**Where is the verb?**

- (22) a. Hans sagte, er sei glücklich.  
Hans said he is happy
- b. Hans sagte, dass er glücklich ist.  
Hans said that he happy is

[Condition: limited class of higher verbs, embedded clause is in the "subjunctive mood".]

- (23)a. Er benahm sich, als habe er noch nichts gegessen.  
he behaved himself, as had he yet nothing eaten  
'He behaved as if he had eaten nothing yet.'
- b. Er benahm sich, als ob er noch nichts gegessen habe  
he behaved himself, as if he yet nothing eaten had]

**What is going on?**

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<sup>5</sup> This is almost true.