Syntax: Verb Raising Problem

Jean Mark Gawron

Linguistics 522
San Diego State University

2013 Jan
Outline

1. Introduction
2. Elisabethan English
3. Have and Be
4. Conditional Inversion
More on verb raising

1. Elisabethan English
2. Have and Be
Basics

[From Radford 2000, pp. 128-130]

1. She shall not see me.
2. I will not think it.
3. Thou has not left the value of a cord.
4. Have I not heard the sea rage like an angry boar?
5. Didst thou not heard somebody?
6. Will you not dance?
Further data

[From Radford 2000, pp. 128-130]

7 I care not for her.
8 He heard not that Julia
9 My master seeks not me.
10 I know not where to hide my head.

11 Saw you my master?
12 Speakest thou in sober meanings?
13 Know you not the cause?
Verb raising in English

1. She may not be suitable.
2. She is not suitable.
3. She may not be enjoying syntax. [pragmatically anomalous, but syntactically fine.]
4. She is not enjoying syntax.
5. He may not have done it.
6. He has not done it.
V → T Movement

(Left) John may not be suitable

(Right) John is not $e_i$ adj suitable

Jean Mark Gawron

Linguistics 522 San Diego State University
No Movement

Jean Mark Gawron
No Movement another look

```
TP
  | NP
  | T'
  | Negp
  | Neg'
  | Neg
  | not
  | VP
  | V'
  | V
  | AdjP
  | ei
  | Adj'
  | Adj
  | suitable

TP
  | NP
  | T'
  | Negp
  | Neg'
  | Neg
  | not
  | AdjP
  | Adj'
  | Adj
  | suitable
```
Really?

1. She may be really sick.
2. She may really be sick.
3. She is really sick.

Questions

a. Note the difference in meaning of (1) and (2). How do you explain in terms of syntactic modification relations?

b. Draw trees for the two interpretations of (3), keeping in mind what you learned from (1) and (2), and assuming the movement analysis.

c. Is there an argument for the movement analysis here?
Really?

```
TP
   NP
      T
         VP
            V
                AdjP
                    be
                        Deg
                            really
                                Adj'
                                    Adj
                                        sick

TP
   NP
      T
         VP
            V
                AdvP
                    Adv'
                        Adv
                            really
                                Adj'
                                    Adj
                                        sick
```
Really/be

```
TP
  | NP
  |   T'  
  |     NP
  |       N
  |       T
  |       V
  |   |     VP
  |   |       N
  |   |       T
  |   |       V
  |     AdvP
  |       V
  |       e
  |       Deg
  |       Adj
  |       really
  |       Adj'

TP
  | NP
  |   T'  
  |     NP
  |       N
  |       T
  |       V
  |   |     VP
  |   |       V'
  |   |       AdvP
  |   |       V
  |   |       e
  |   |       AdjP
  |   |       Adj
  |   |       really
  |   |       Adj'
  |   |       sick
```
Is this an argument for the movement analysis?

[Diagram of syntactic tree structures]

Jean Mark Gawron
Basic facts: The part of speech of *if*

1. If we have the courage, we can change things.
2. I wonder *if* whether we have the courage.
3. *Whether we have the courage, we can change things.*
4. *We have the courage, we can change things.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Comp</th>
<th>Feature</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>if</em></td>
<td>+ Q</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>whether</em></td>
<td>+ Cond</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Counterfactuals

5 If we had the courage, we could change things.
6 Had we the courage, we could change things.
7 * If had we the courage, we could change things.