DP Movement

Passives, Raising: When DPs are not in their theta positions.
You’ll see this operation called NP movement or DP movement. It’s the same thing. It is sometimes also called A-movement (for “argument” movement).
Locality restriction on theta roles

- Leave

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>agent DP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Adrian left
- *It left (where it is an expletive)

- Must be in same clause

  - *[I want Bradley, it [that left]]
  - *John, thinks that left]
Locality Condition on Theta Roles

Theta roles are assigned within the projection of the head that assigns them (usually the VP)
A Problem
A Problem

[John, is likely [ to leave]].
A PROBLEM

[John, is likely [to leave]].

John is the subject of is likely.
A Problem

[John, is likely [ to leave]].

- John is the subject of is likely.
- Is it theta marked by is likely?
A Problem

[John, is likely [ to leave]].

- **John** is the subject of **is likely**.

- Is it theta marked by **is likely**?
  - **NO!** (cf. it is likely that **John left**)
A Problem

[John₁ is likely [ to leave]].

- **John** is the subject of **is likely**.
- **Is it** theta marked by **is likely**?
- **NO!** (cf. it is likely that John left)
- **It is** theta marked by **leave**!
A Problem

[John, is likely [ to leave]].

John is the subject of is likely.

Is it theta marked by is likely?

No! (cf. it is likely that John left)

It is theta marked by leave!

But it isn’t in the same clause! Yikes!
IS LIKELY

[[That John will leave],\textsubscript{J} is likely ]

It is likely [that John will leave],\textsubscript{J}

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Proposition DP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>J</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It is likely [\textsubscript{CP} That John will leave ]
IS LIKELY

[[That John will leave], J, is likely]

It is likely [that John will leave],

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Proposition DP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>J</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

IT IS LIKELY  [cp that John will leave]
It is likely that John will leave.
**IS LIKELY**

[[That John will leave], is likely ]

It is likely [that John will leave],

**No theta role on the subject of ‘is likely’**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Proposition DP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>J</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**IT IS LIKELY** [CP that John will leave]

©Andrew Carnie, 2006
In the wrong place!

- John is likely to leave

- John is theta marked by leave, but appears in the subject position of is likely, in violation of the locality constraint.

- The DP [John] is displaced from its theta position.
In the wrong place!

- John is likely to leave

- John is theta marked by leave, but appears in the subject position of is likely, in violation of the locality constraint.

- The DP [John] is displaced from its theta position.
likely is to John leave
likely is to John leaves Theta role here
likely is to John to leave

Ends up here

Gets Theta role here

©Andrew Carnie, 2006
This is called **Raising**

The diagram shows the structure of a sentence, with categories such as CP (Complementizer Phrase), T (Tense), VP (Verb Phrase), AP (Adjective Phrase), and DP (Determiner Phrase). The arrow indicates the movement of the verb *leave* from T to VP, getting a Theta role in the process.

**Likely is to John**

The sentence ends up with the structure where the verb *leave* has been raised to the VP position, indicating a movement process in grammar called Raising. This is a linguistic concept used to explain how certain elements in a sentence can move to different syntactic positions.
John gets its theta role in the specifier of the lower VP, but moves to the specifier of the higher TP.

This is called \textit{Raising}.
WHY???

Well one thing we can observe, is the EPP holds. (the requirement that every sentence have a subject). The DP John could move to satisfy this requirement.

This doesn’t account for examples such as:

* John is likely [that left].
* It is likely John to leave.

Why are these bad?
Case Theory

- Case is a licensor. In order for the sentence to be grammatical, an DP must get case.

  - **Nominative case** is assigned in the specifier of finite TP (note: FINITE).
  - **Accusative case** is assigned as the complement to the verb.
  - **Prepositional Case** is assigned to the sister of a Preposition.

- These are the only Three places you can get case.
The Case Filter

All DPs must have case
Case Checking

local Configuration

local Configuration

local Configuration
A quick detour

Remember VP internal subjects? How do English Subjects get before the T? EPP is part of the motivation, but case also plays a role here.
A quick detour

Remember VP internal subjects? How do English Subjects get before the T? Epp is part of the motivation, but case also plays a role here.

The diagram illustrates the structure of the sentence with the following elements:
- CP (Complementizer Phrase)
- C' (Complementizer)
- TP (Predicate Phrase)
- Ø[-Q] (null bound variable)
- T' (Clause)
- [past] VP (Past tense verb phrase)
- [nom] DP (Nominal DP)
- John (DP)
- Left (auxiliary v)

gets Theta role here, but not a Case position.
A Quick Detour

Remember VP internal subjects? How do English subjects get before the T? EPP is part of the motivation, but case also plays a role here.

\[
\text{Checks case and EPP here}
\]

\[
\text{Gets Theta role here, but not a Case position}
\]
A quick detour

Remember VP internal subjects? How do English Subjects get before the T? EPP is part of the motivation, but case also plays a role here.

[Diagram of English syntactic structure]

- Checks case and EPP here
- Gets Theta role here, but not a Case position
Remember VP internal subjects? How do English Subjects get before the T? EPP is part of the motivation, but case also plays a role here.

For you technical sticklers, it’s of course the trace of T that checks the case here; but we aren’t going to worry too much about that detail.
likely is to John Raising again leave
Raising again

GETS THETA ROLE HERE, BUT NOT A CASE POSITION
Raising again

Gets Theta role here, but not a case position
Raising again

Stops here to satisfy EPP

Gets Theta role here, but not a case position
Raising again

- Gets Theta role here, but not a case position
- Stops here to satisfy EPP
Raising again

Ends here to check EPP and NOM case

Stops here to satisfy EPP

Gets Theta role here, but not a case position

likely is to John

Raising again

GETS Theta role here, but not a case position

likely is to John

likely is to John
Raising vs. Control (PRO)

- John is likely to leave
- John is eager to leave

- John gets a theta role from leave
- John also gets a theta role from is eager!
  (agent)
- Violation of Theta Criterion???

- John is eager [PRO to leave]
Raising vs. Control (PRO)

More on this in chapter 14

- John is likely to leave
- John is eager to leave

- John gets a theta role from leave
- John also gets a theta role from is eager!
  (agent)
- Violation of Theta Criterion???

- John is eager [PRO to leave]
Summary of Raising

- Some DPs appear to be displaced from their theta assigners.
- This is caused by raising.
- Motivated by Case
  - non-finite T can’t assign case
  - NP moves to specifier of finite T
- Not all DP V [ ___ to leave] constructions are raising. Some involve PRO. It depends upon the theta properties of the main verb.
Passives

**Active**

[The linguist] kissed [the kitten]

Agent	theme

**Passive**

The kitten was kissed (by the linguist)

Theme	(agent)

**Active has agent and patient.**

**Passive requires only a theme which is the subject**
Passive Morphology

With the passive morphology, the Agent theta role is not obligatory. One way of encoding this is by claiming that the -en suffix is assigned the agent role.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>KISS</th>
<th>AGENT</th>
<th>THEME</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

```
VP
  V'
    V
      WAS -EN_i
        V'
          V
            KISS
```
With the passive morphology, the Agent theta role is not obligatory. One way of encoding this is by claiming that the -en suffix is assigned the Agent role.

| KISS |  
|-----|---
| AGENT | THEME |
|     | k   |

```
VP
   V'
   V WAS -EN
   V' V KISS
   DP_k
```
Passive Morphology

With the passive morphology, the Agent theta role is not obligatory. One way of encoding this is by claiming that the -en suffix is assigned the agent role.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>KISS</th>
<th>AGENT</th>
<th>THEME</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>i</td>
<td>k</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

![Diagram of VP structure with -ENi and DPk]
Passive Morphology

With the passive morphology, the Agent theta role is not obligatory. One way of encoding this is by claiming that the -en suffix is assigned the agent role.

| KISS |  
|------|------|
| Agent | Theme |
| i     | k     |

Ahem, this very slightly violates our locality condition, but let’s pretend all the VPs in a clause count for now.
Passive Morphology

The other thing the passive morphology does is absorb the check the accusative Case feature on the verb. So the DP cannot check case with its sister V.

\[
\text{VP} \\
\text{V'} \\
\text{V} \\
\text{V} \\
\text{VP} \\
\text{VP} \\
\text{was} \quad t_i \\
\text{V} \\
\text{V'} \\
\text{DP} \\
\text{No case checker}
\]
The other thing the passive morphology does is absorb the check the accusative Case feature on the verb. So the DP cannot check case with its sister V.

```
VP
  \---
   \- V' [acc][acc]
    |     \- V [acc][acc]
    |        \- V (KISS+EN)
    |                     \- checking
    \- WAS (ti) (was)
```

No case checker
A Passive

```
CP
  C'
    C
    Ø[-Q]
    TP
    T'
    T
    [NOM]
    VP
    V'
    V
    WAS
    t_i
    V
    V'
    [ACC][ACC]
    KISS+EN
    DP
    CHECKING
```
A Passive

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CP</th>
<th>C'</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>T'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>φ[-Q]</td>
<td>T [NOM]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TP</td>
<td>VP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V'</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V</td>
<td>V'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WAS t_i</td>
<td>V</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KISS+EN [ACC][ACC]</td>
<td>checking</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

©Andrew Carnie, 2006
A Passive

This position is empty because +en took the agent role, so DP can move here to check case (and the EPP).
A Passive

This position is empty because +en took the agent role, so DP can move here to check case (and the EPP)

No case checker
Why Movement and not simply change in theta grid?

An alternative possibility:

Why not simply have the -en suffix change the theme into an external argument:

KISS  KISS+en (=kissed)

Note the underlining in the passive. This would just put the theme in the subject position to start with.

So why start it in object position and then move it? Why not just put it in the subject position to start with (by the underlining)?
Why movement and not simply change in theta grid?

"Consider"

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exper</th>
<th>Prop</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Wilma considers Fred to be foolish

Note that Fred does NOT get a theta role from considers. It gets its theta role from to be foolish. But if you passivize consider, Fred moves to the subject position:

Fred is considered to be foolish.

Since Fred doesn't get its theta role from consider. Having the passive morpheme underline the theme won't work. Fred here comes from a totally different theta grid.
Passives: A summary

The passive morpheme

- Suppresses agent theta role
- Delete's V's accusative case feature

The theme DP can't get case from the passive verb, so it moves (to the specifier of TP, where it can get nominative case.)
DP Movement

With both raising and passives, you are moving DPs, and in both situations you do this to get case on a caseless DP.

This transformation is called “DP movement”

The constraint that forces DP movement is the case filter.