D-structure checklist

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1 Undoing movement checklist

Consider possible movements in the following order. Start at the matrix clause.

1. Subject Aux inversion: Move an aux from C into T of the current clause.
2. Do insertion: Delete a *do* in T.
3. DP-movement (Passive One): Move a subject into object position in the same clause
4. Wh-movement One: Move a Wh phrase from Spec of CP of the current clause into a free argument or adjunct position in the current clause. (Note: Only wh-phrases eligible for adjunct position can move into adjunct positions, *when, where, why, how*).
5. DP-movement (Passive Two): Move a subject into object position in the same clause (need to check this again in case a Wh-phrase moved into subject position in a passive clause).
6. Wh-movement Two: Move a Wh phrase into Spec of CP in the embedded clause. [Note that both the Wh steps can happen to the same Wh-phrase, which is why they are separate steps]

7. DP-movement (Raising): Move the subject of the current clause into an open subject position in the embedded clause

Now, are we done? No! We do it over again in the embedded clause, except that we don't have to consider the first step, Subject-aux inversion, in embedded clauses. Hence, clause by clause, we can get A DP back into its D-structure position (where it gets its theta role).

Now an example.

(1) Who was likely to be chosen by the mayor.

First we add brackets. This helps us see how many clauses there are and where there might be free arguments positions (especially free subject position).

(2) [$_{CP}$ Who was [$_{TP}$ [$_{T}$] likely [$_{CP}$ [$_{TP}$ [$_{T}$ to] be chosen by the mayor]]]]

Now we apply the principles to the **main clause**, which gives the following result.

[$_{CP}$ Who was [$_{TP}$ [$_{T}$] likely [$_{CP}$ [$_{TP}$ [$_{T}$ to] be chosen by the mayor]]]]

⇑ Subject Aux inversion

[$_{CP}$ Who [$_{TP}$ [$_{T}$ was] likely [$_{CP}$ [$_{TP}$ [$_{T}$ to] be chosen by the mayor]]]]

⇑ Wh-movement One

[$_{CP}$ [$_{TP}$ Who [$_{T}$ was] likely [$_{CP}$ [$_{TP}$ [$_{T}$ to] be chosen by the mayor]]]]

⇑ Wh-movement Two

[$_{CP}$ [$_{TP}$ [$_{T}$ was] likely [$_{CP}$ Who [$_{TP}$ [$_{T}$ to] be chosen by the mayor]]]]

Now we have everything that needed to be moved from the main clause in the embedded clause, and we start over in the **embedded clause**.

$[_{CP}\ [_{TP}\quad$ was likely $[_{CP}$ Who $[_{TP}\quad$ to be chosen by the mayor]]]]

$\Uparrow$ Wh-movement One

$[_{CP}\ [_{TP}\quad [_{T}$ was] likely $[_{CP}\ [_{TP}$ Who $[_{T}$ to] be chosen by the mayor]]]]

$\Uparrow$ DP-movement (Passive Two)

$[_{CP}\ [_{TP}\quad [_{T}$ was] likely $[_{CP}\ [_{TP}\ [_{T}$ to] be chosen who by the mayor]]]]

There are no further embedded clauses, and no more rules apply, so **that's** our D-structure string. Note that all the places we moved something FROM in the derivation are places we're going to move something TO on the way from D-structure to S-structure.