Control Vs Raising

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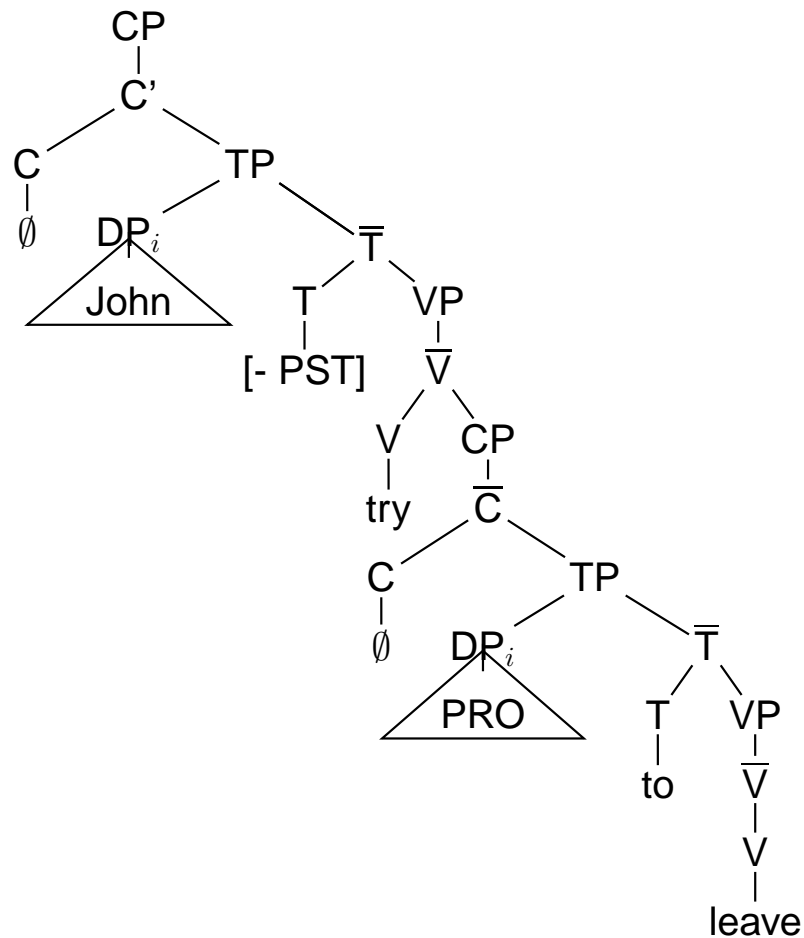
Linguistics 522

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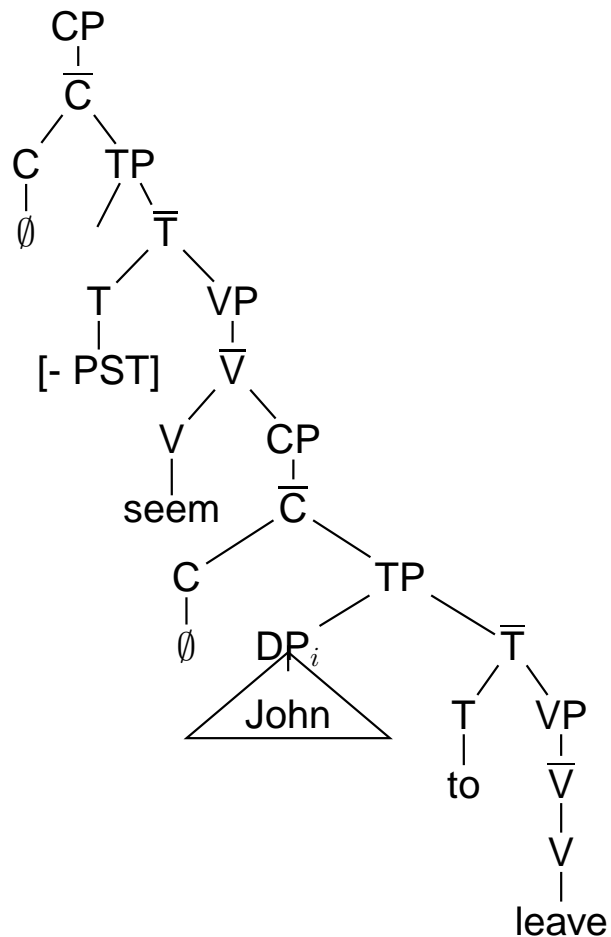
gawron@mail.sdsu.edu

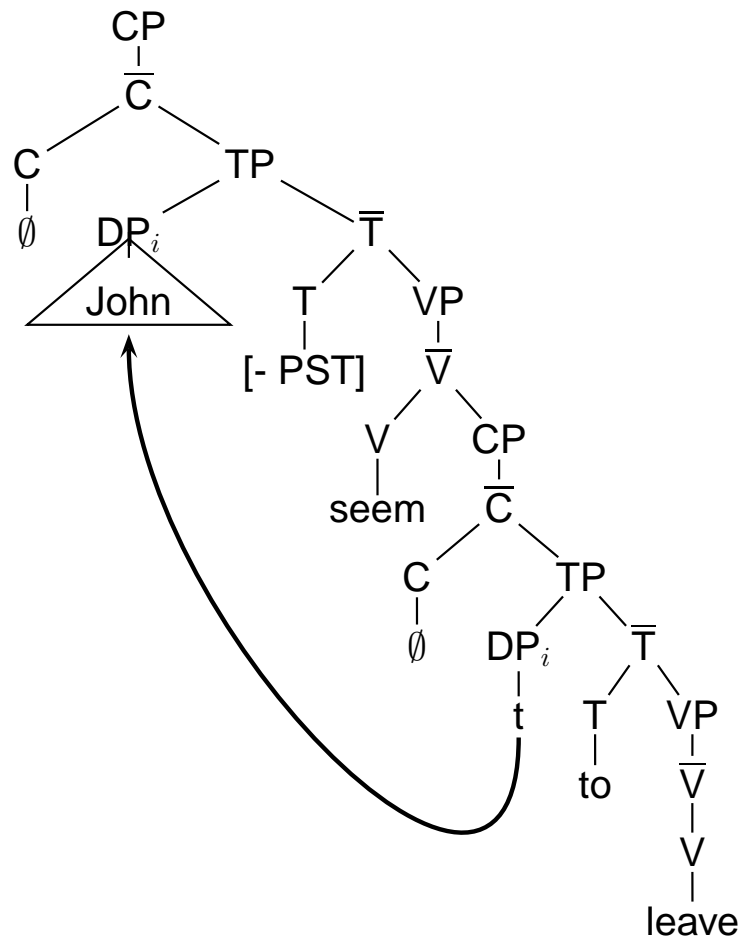http://www.rohan.sdsu.edu/∼gawron

Subject Control
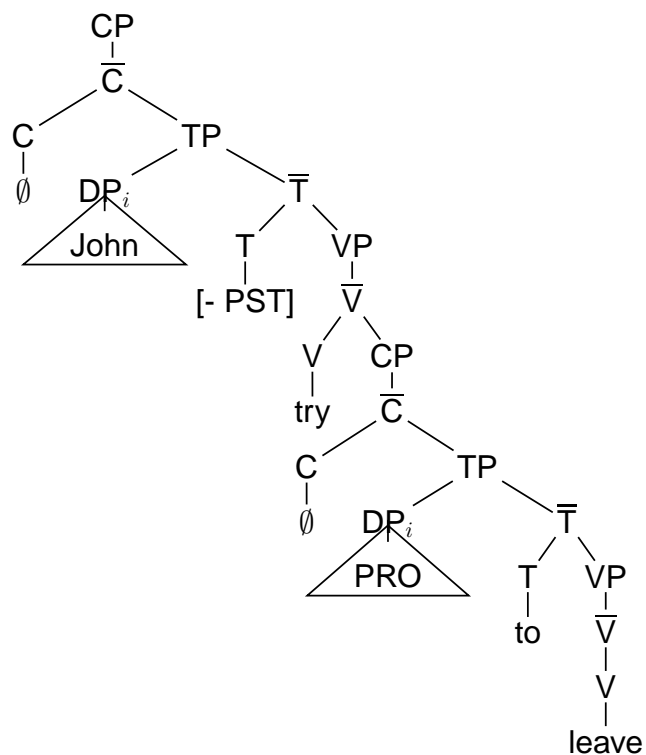
Subject Raising

D-Structure
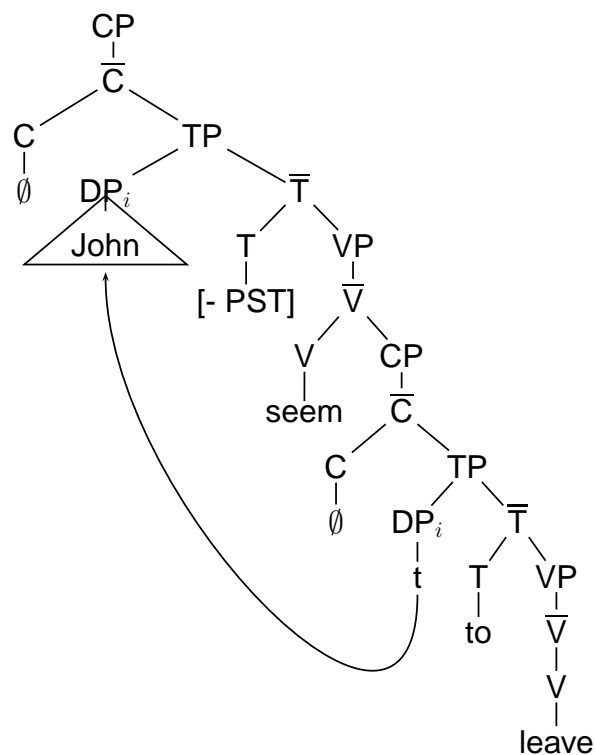
Subject Raising

S-Structure
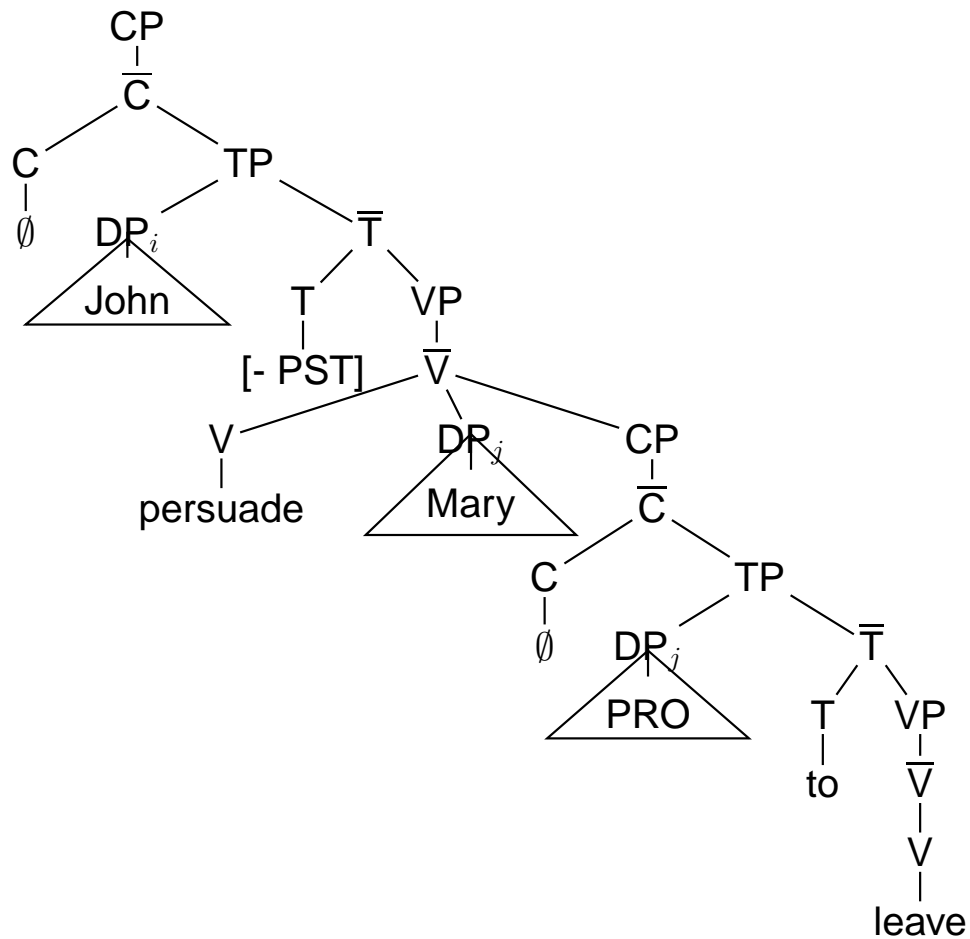
Subject Control Vs. Subject Raising

John tries to leave.

John seems to leave.

Object Control

John persuades Mary to leave.

Object Raising
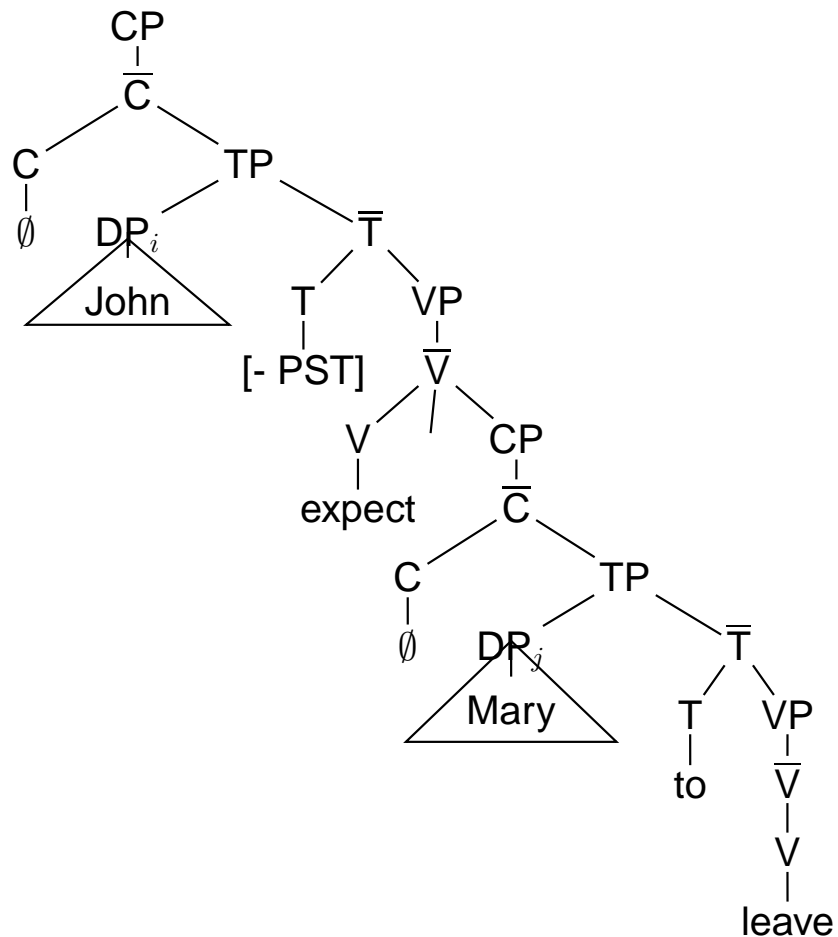
D-Structure

Object Raising
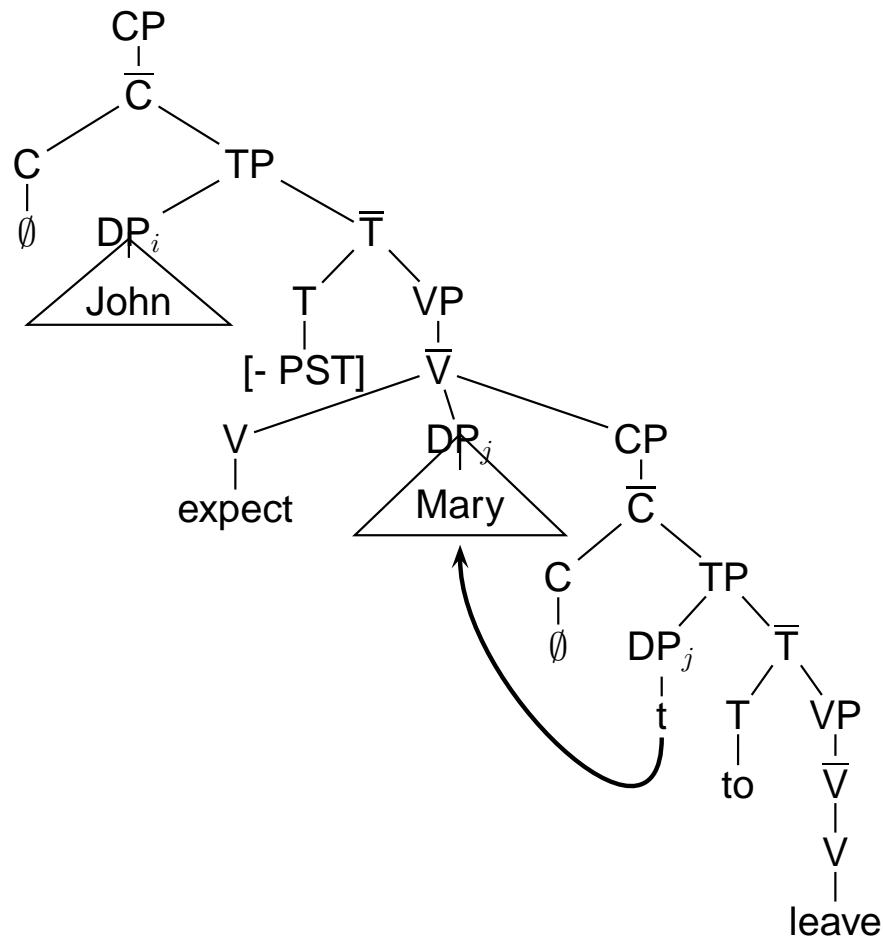
S-Structure

Object Control Vs. Object Raising
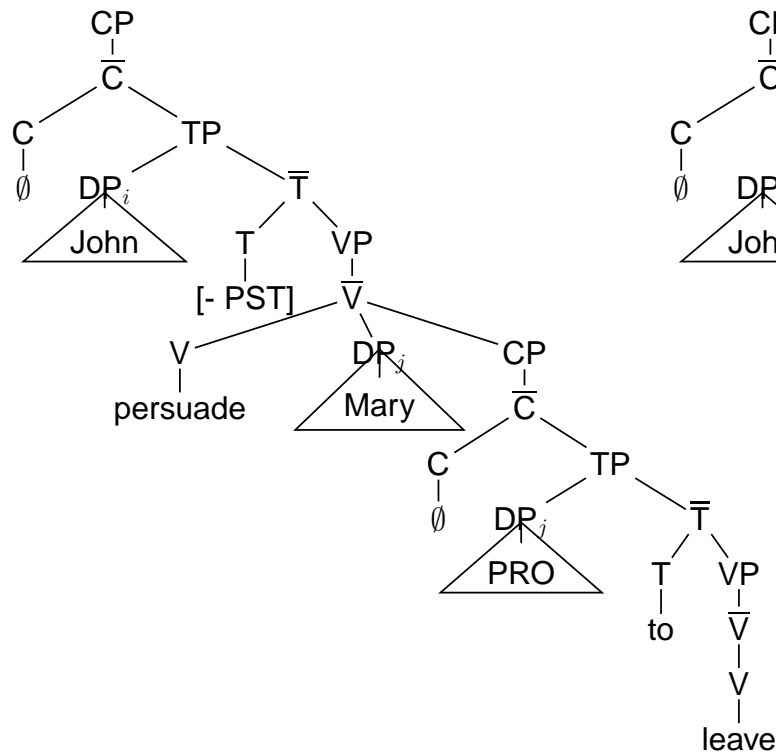
John persuades Mary to leave.
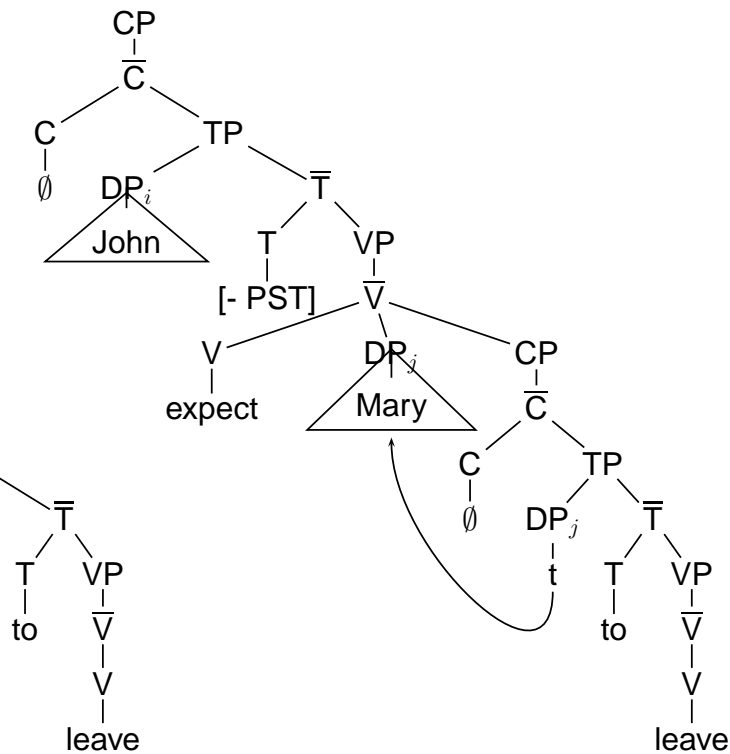
John expects Mary to leave.

Transitive vs Intransitive Verb

1. Object control vs. Object Raising: The verb is followed by an overt NP.

   (1) a. John persuaded **Mary** to leave.
        b. John expected **Mary** to leave.

2. Subject control vs. Subject Raising: The verb is directly followed by an infinitive.

   (2) a. John tried **to leave.**
        b. John seemed **to leave.**

Potential Controller

Potential Controller: The NP that is **understood** as the subject of the infinitive

1. (3) a. John persuaded **Mary** to leave.
    b. John expected **Mary** to leave.
    c. **John** tried to leave.
    d. **John** seemed to leave.

2. This NP looks like a subject in the case of subject control/raising and an object in the case of object control/raising.

Potential controller moved?

Is the potential controller moved into its surface position?

1. Control: No movement

   (4) a. John persuaded **Mary** [$_{CP}$ PRO to leave.]

        b. **John** tried [$_{CP}$ PRO to leave.]

2. Raising: Movement

   (5) a. John expected **Mary** [$_{CP}$ t to leave.]

        b. **John** seemed [$_{CP}$ t to leave.

Thematic roles of potential controller

Does the potential controller receive a thematic role in the upstairs clause?

1. Control:

   (6)   John persuaded **Mary** [$_{CP}$ PRO to leave.]

   (7)   **John** tried [$_{CP}$ PRO to leave.]

2. Raising: No role in upstairs clause

   (8)   John expected **Mary** [$_{CP}$ t to leave.]

   (9)   **John** seemed [$_{CP}$ t to leave.]

Roles and movement

1. All roles are assigned at D-structure (the θ-criterion)

2. An NP cannot move into a position where it receives a role.

3. NPs must move to positions that have no role assigned. [Raising: no role]

4. An NP that does have a role assigned in some position cant move there. [Control: no movement]
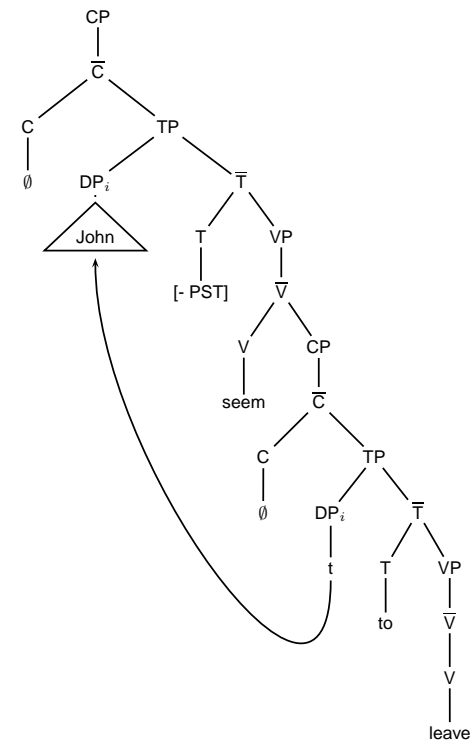
John seems to leave.

Funny subjects I

Subjects with no roles. They get no roles. Morevover they canNOT get any roles because they don't refer to anything.

(10)   a.   **It** rained.
      b.   **It** is surprising that he is such a fool.
      c.   **There** is a good place to hide. [A good hiding place exists].

Subjects with roles:

(11)   a.   **It** left. [Agent]
      b.   **It** is surprised that he is such a fool. [Experiencer]
      c.   **There**$_i$ is a good place to hide! [There ([under the bed]$_i$) is a good hiding place.]

Moral: The predicate determines whether the subject gets a role.

More evidence about roles

(12) a. **It** is surprising that he is such a fool.
      b. **It** is surprising to me that he is such a fool. [Experiencer surfaces in a PP]
      c. It is surprised that he is such a fool. [Experiencer surfaces as subject]
      d. John is surprised that he is such a fool. [Any appropriate NP can occur there.]
      e. * John is surprising (to me) that he is such a fool. [$_{\text{Adj}}$ *surprising*]: [Experiencer is PP, can't be subject]
      f. It is surprised (* to me) that John is such a fool. [$_{\text{Adj}}$ *surprised*]: [Experiencer is subject, can't be PP]

Moral: It is an individual lexical property whether the subject gets a role.
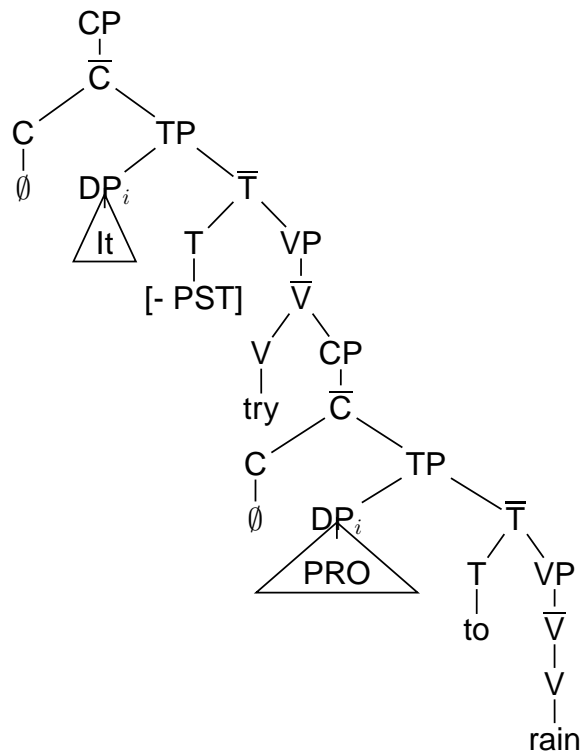
Funny subjects II

Idiomatic Subjects. They receive the interpretation they have only in the context of the entire idiom.

(13) a. **The shit** hit the fan.
b. **The cat** was (let) out of the bag.
c. **Advantage** was taken of him.
d. **Close tabs** were kept on him during his hotel stay.

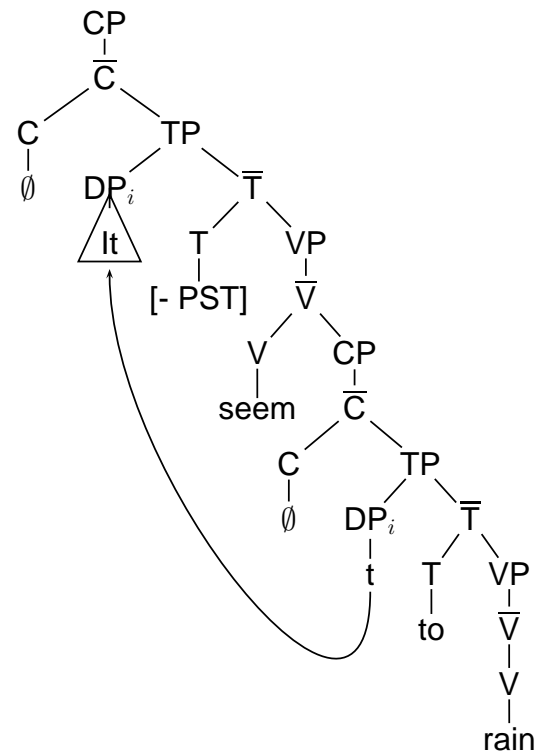Away from the idiom

(14) a. ? **The cat** was revealed!
b. ? The secret to good-parenting is **close tabs**.

(15) a. ? The cat thinks that he is out of the bag. [experiencer role]
b. ? Advantage thinks it was taken of him.
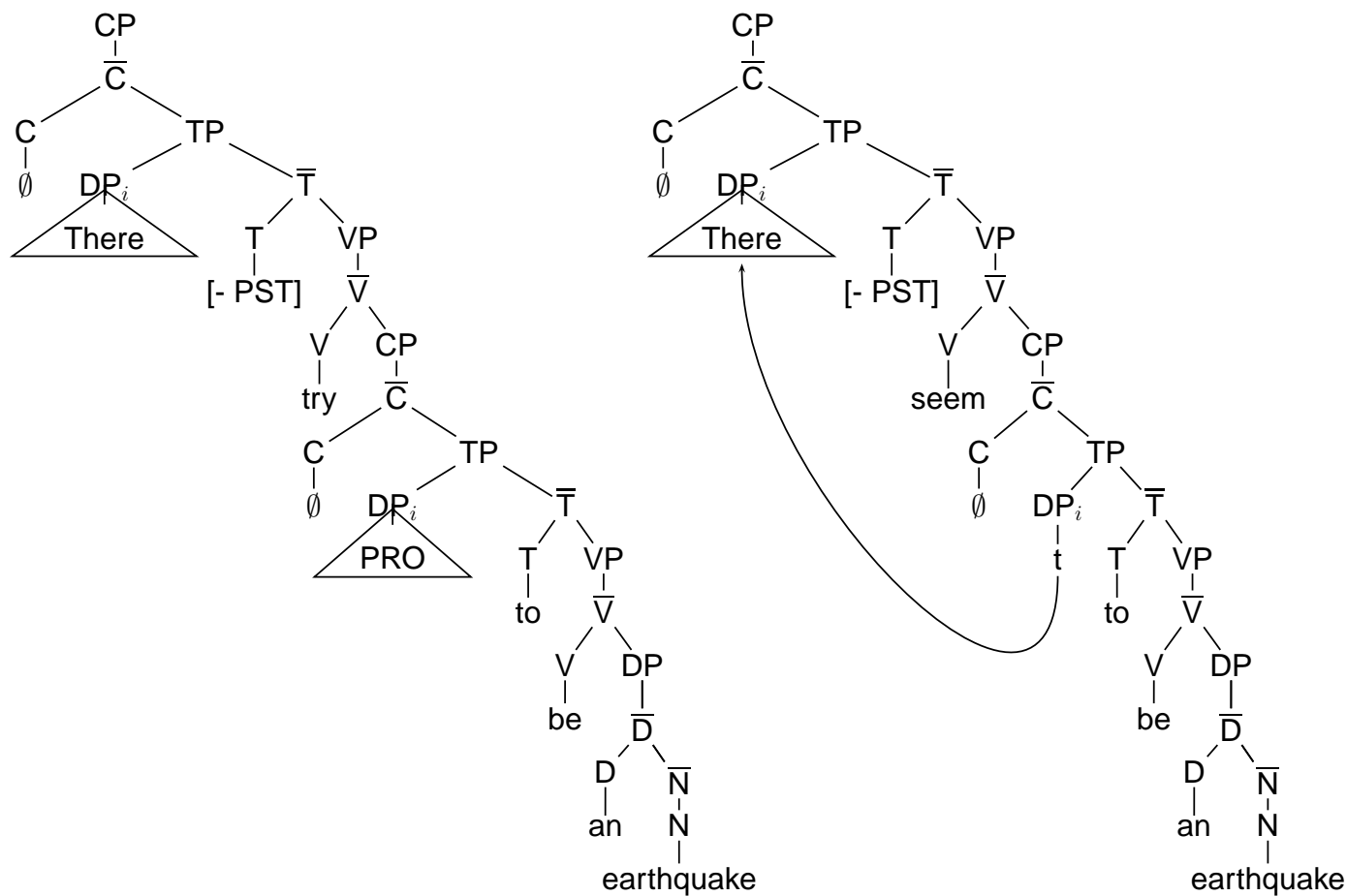
Funny Subjects: Control Vs. Raising

* It tries to rain.

It seems to rain.

Funny Subjects: Control Vs. Raising

* There tries to be an earthquake.

There seems to be an earthquake.

Try vs. seem

(16) a. It seemed to be raining.
    b. There seemed to be an earthquake.
    c. It seemed to be surprising that she was such a fool.
    d. The cat seemed to be out of the bag.
    e. The shit seemed to have hit the fan.
    f. Tabs seem to have been kept on him by the FBI.

(17) a. * It tried to be raining.
    b. * There tried to be an earthquake.
    c. * It tried to be surprising that she was such a fool.
    d. * The cat tried to be out of the bag.
    e. * The shit tried to have hit the fan.
    f. * Tabs tried to have been kept on him by the FBI.

Persuade vs. expect

(18) a.   John expected it to be raining.
      b.   John expected there to be an earthquake.
      c.   John expected it to be surprising that she was such a fool.
      d.   John expected the cat to be out of the bag.
      e.   John expected the shit to hit the fan.
      f.   John expected tabs to be kept on him by the FBI.

(19) a.   * John persuaded it to be raining.
      b.   * John persuaded there to be an earthquake.
      c.   * John persuaded it to be surprising that she was such a fool.
      d.   * John persuaded the cat to be out of the bag.
      e.   * John persuaded the shit to hit the fan.
      f.   * John persuaded tabs to be kept on him by the FBI.