

Ling 498y: Lecture notes. 22 Oct 2008.

1. Baker's (1988) Theory of Incorporation

Baker uses head movement to derive morphologically complex words.

(1) Noun incorporation (Mohawk: Baker 1988: 81-3)

a. Yao-wir-a?a ye-nuhwe?-s ne ka-**nuhs**-a?
 Pre-baby-Suf 3SgF/3N-like-Asp the Pre-house-Suf
 'The baby likes the house.'

b. Yao-wir-a?a ye-**nuhs**-nuhwe?-s ?.
 Pre-baby-Suf 3SgF/3N-house-like-Asp
 'The baby likes the house.'

(2) Causatives (Chichewa: Baker 1988: 148-9)

a. Mtsikana ana-chit-its-a kuti mtsuko u-**gw**-e
 girl Agr-do-make-Asp that waterpot Agr-fall-Asp
 'The girl made the waterpot fall.'

b. Mtsikana anau-**gw**-ets-a mtsuko
 girl Agr-fall-make-Asp waterpot
 'The girl made the waterpot fall.'

2. Argument Structure and The Theta Criterion

(3) John put his things on the table.

(4) *John put on the table.

(5) put

<u>Agent</u>	Theme	Goal
DP	DP	PP
i	j	k

(6) John_i put his things_j on the table_k

The underlined theta role is the *external theta role*. It is assigned to the subject. Remaining arguments are assigned *internal theta roles*.

Types of *theta roles*: Agent, Experiencer, Theme, Goal...

(7) love

<u>Experiencer</u>	Theme
DP	DP
i	j

Modifiers (adjuncts) never appear in theta grids. They are entirely optional.

Theta Criterion ensures a one-to-one mapping between theta roles and arguments:

(8) *The Theta Criterion*

- a. Each argument is assigned one and only one theta role.
- b. Each theta role is assigned to one and only one argument.

(9) *The Locality Constraint on Theta Role Assignment*

Theta roles are assigned within the projection of the head that assigns them.

(10) Megan_i loves Kevin_j.

(11) *Megan_i loves.

Is the TC a constraint on D-Structure or S-Structure? Why?

Potential problem: Do expletive pronouns violate the theta-criterion?

(12) It is likely that John will leave.

(13) There arrived three soldiers.

We know already that there is a constraint requiring spec of TP to be filled:

(14) *The Extended Projection Principle*

All clauses must have subjects (i.e. the specifier of TP must be filled).

For this reason, we have a transformation inserting expletive subjects:

(15) *Expletive insertion rule*

Insert an expletive pronoun into the specifier of TP.

At which level of representation is the EPP active?