

Raising & Control Safari

CAS Kick-off meeting

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Context

- Raising & control phenomena are an important part of the syntax/semantics interface
- ... and have also been a key phenomenon in syntactic theory building (on the must-handle menu)
- But theoretical attention to this construction is largely focused on a narrow subset of it
- Developing a broad-coverage implemented grammar has led to the enumeration of “42” variants which fall under the broad definition of raising/control

Proposed project

- A descriptive paper that brings the knowledge encoded into the ERG to the attention of linguists whose work it could/should inform
- What generalizations can be identified over the ERG's raising/control types?
- How much variation do we find?
- Maybe: corpus analysis based on ERG parse trees (at least for frequency of the different types)?

Core examples

- Pat *continues* to avoid conflict.
- Pat *tries* to avoid conflict.
- Kim *expected* Pat to leave.
- Kim *persuaded* Pat to leave.



Working definition: Control

- One semantic argument is shared between two predicates
- The sharing is mediated by a lexical item (contributing one of the predicates)
- The argument is only overtly realized as a syntactic argument of one of the predicates (the one mediating the sharing)

Working definition: Raising

- The semantic argument of one predicate is realized as a syntactic argument of another
- This relationship is mediated by the lexical item for which the element is only a syntactic argument
- The argument is only overtly realized as a syntactic argument of one of the predicates (the one mediating the sharing)

NB: English-specific working definitions!

Tests for raising v. control: Expletives

- **It** *continued* to surprise Pat that Sandy left.
- **There** *continued* to be festivals in the park.
- Kim *expected* **it** to surprise Pat that Sandy left.
- Kim *expected* **there** to be festivals in the park.
- ***It** *tried* to surprise Pat that Sandy left.
- ***There** *tried* to be festivals in the park.
- *Kim *persuaded* **it** to surprise Pat that Sandy left.
- *Kim *persuaded* **there** to be festivals in the park.



Tests for raising v. control: Idiom chunks

- **Tabs** *continue* to be **kept on** Sandy.
- Kim *expected* **tabs** to be **kept on** Sandy.
- ***Tabs** *tried* to be **kept on** Sandy
- *Kim *persuaded* **tabs** to be **kept on** Sandy.



Tests for raising v. control: Active/passive paraphrase pairs

- Skeptics *continue* to question your hypothesis ~ Your hypothesis *continues* to be questioned by skeptics
- Reporters *tried* to interview the candidate !~ The candidate *tried* to be interviewed by reporters
- Kim *expected* skeptics to question your hypothesis ~ Kim *expected* your hypothesis to be questioned by skeptics.
- Kim *persuaded* reporters to interview the candidate !~ Kim *persuaded* the candidate to be interviewed by reporters



A start of a reading list

- Chomsky 1965. *Aspects*.
- Rosenbaum 1967. *The grammar of English Predicate Complement Constructions*. MIT Press.
- Sag and Pollard 1991. An integrated theory of complement control. *Language* 67:63-113.
- Postal and Pullum 1988. Expletive noun phrases in subcategorized positions. *Linguistic Inquiry* 19(4):635-670
- Polinsky and Potsdam 2006. *Expanding the Scope of Control and Raising*. *Syntax* 9(2):171-192.
- Runner 2006. *Lingering Challenges to the Raising-to-object and Object-control Constructions*. *Syntax* 9(2):192-213

A start of a reading list

- Davies and Dubinsky. 2006. The Place, Range, and Taxonomy of Control and Raising. *Syntax* 9(2):111-117.
- Culicover and Jackendoff. 2006. Turn Over Control to the Semantics! *Syntax* 9(2):131-152.
- Bickel. 2011. Grammatical relations typology. In Song, Jae Jung. *The Oxford Handbook of Language Typology*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 399-444.

A Short Safari

Controlled complements other than [to VP]

- `v_np-vp_oeq-from_le`: which, it should be added, doesn't *prevent* the charities from raking in a lot of money anyway.
- `v_prd_seq-va_le`: when access to digital computers *became* possible in the middle 1950s, ai research began to explore the possibility that human intelligence could be reduced to symbol manipulation.
- `v_np-pp_seq-as_le`: unlike the earlier u.s. farm-trade proposal which *struck* european countries as too extreme, the latest plan would provide some room for maneuver.



Subject is controller despite presence of direct obj

- v_np-vp_aeq_le: supervised neural networks that use an MSE cost function can *use* formal statistical methods to determine the confidence of the trained model.
- v_np-vp_aeq-prp_le: he had *spent* two hours riding around the ranch that morning



Raising/control adjectives

- aj_vp_i-ssr_le: in the coming months, however, this is *likely* to change.
- aj_vp_i-seq_le: i am very *lucky* to have friends who care about me.
- aj_vp_i-seq-prp_le: well now that we are *done* doing this, why don't we have a discussion about when we can meet next time.



Control nouns?

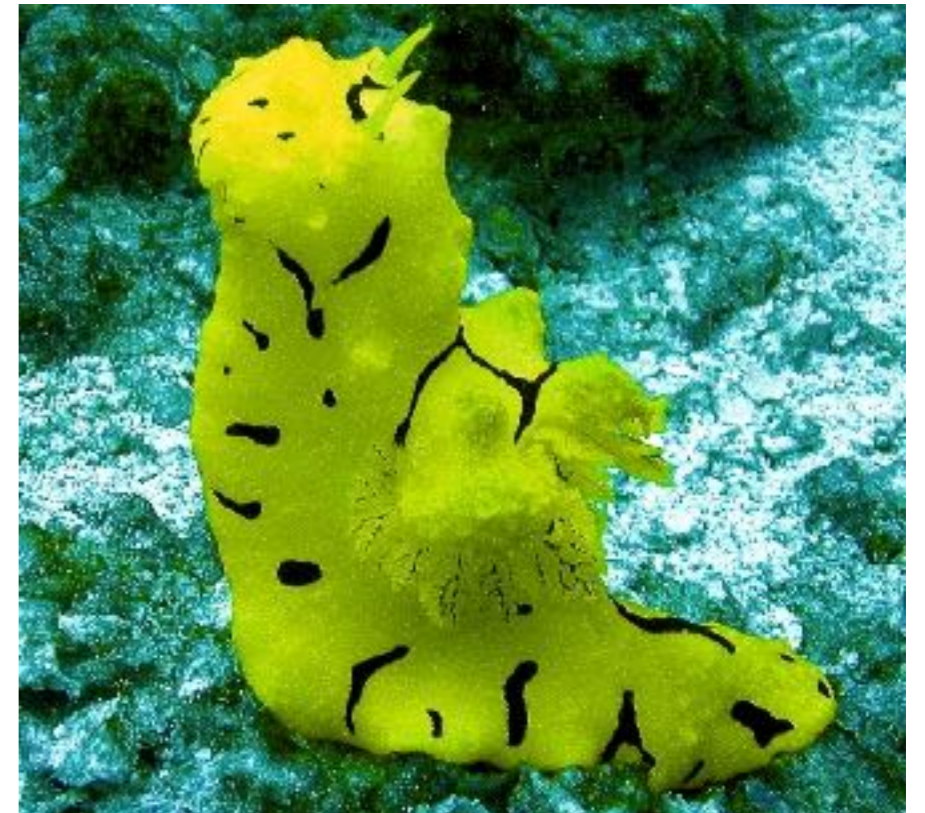
- Kim's *ability* to catch salamanders
- Kim's *attempt* to bake cake
- Our *plan* is to have fun



But: My *plan* is for us to have fun

Raising/control triggering adverbials

- *av_vp_dg-too_le* (1): loans from the region often are *too* large to be included in freddie mac and fannie mae pools
- *av_vp_dg-too_le* (2): if it's not *too* late for my cell phone (order # 10250) to be cancelled please do so as soon as possible.
- *av_vp_dg-enough_le*: Kim is old *enough* to vote.



Easy-adjectives et al -- probably not under the same umbrella

- aj_pp-vp_i-tgh_le: the route continues along the shore of the lake to the outlet at the east end, which is usually *easy* to wade across.
- aj_vp_i-wrth_le: Kyoto is *worth* visiting once.
- aj_vp_i-prty_le: Paris is *pretty* to look at.



Other things that probably aren't control

- Kim left *without* paying.
- It's *easier* for me (for you) to bring a lunch.
- The dog arrived barking.
 - cf: There's a problem opening that window
- I had a *plan* to respond.
- I made a *plan* for you to respond.



Questions

- Which audiences would benefit from this information?
- How could it best be framed to catch the interests of those audiences?

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