

### 1. Little v (vP). Accusative case

1) Introduces an external argument: Agent / Experiencer

2) Assigns Accusative Case to an internal argument

Burzio's Generalization: if there is little v introducing an external argument, Accusative case can be assigned.

Cf. unergatives vs unaccusatives.

Unergative verbs – *dance, smile* – have an external argument → cognate object with ACC is possible.

Unaccusative verbs – *arrive* – do not have an external argument → no cognate ACC object.

Accusative Case = **structural** case. It is assigned always by a functional head (v0).

Cf. **lexical / inherent** cases – dative, instrumental, etc. - assigned by particular lexical items, usually together with a thematic role.

### 2. IP. Nominative case

Nominative case – no adjacency requirement (not under government), not together with a specific thematic role or to a specific argument.

Idea: Nominative Case is assigned by **I0 (IP)**. Specifier-Head Agreement.

A DP **moves** into Spec, IP to get case and to **agree**.

#### 2.1. Movement

Trace is left behind. Trace + the moved DP = chain.

A chain can have only one case, only one thematic role and (normally) one 'pronounced' element.

#### 2.2. Agreement

Features. Lexical items come with inherent features. Different functional heads need to value different features.