SYNTAX
Handout 7

THE COMPLEMENTIZER PHRASE AND WH-MOVEMENT

IP: made up of a subject and a predicate, but certain (embedded) clauses are introduced by a constituent preceding the subject: that, if, for → complementisers (they introduce a sentential complement)

The whole sentence is a Complementiser Phrase (CP) defining the force of the clause (interrogative or indicative interpretation). Main clause indicatives: zero C head.

**Wh-movement**
Who₁ will Mary invite t₁?
Will₁ Mary t₁ invite Peter?

Question words: Spec, CP
moved auxiliary: I-to-C movement (the transformational equivalent of Subject-Auxiliary Inversion, SAI). not Case-driven, the wh-word is assigned Case in the position it comes from.

**DP-movement and Wh-movement compared:**

Shared properties:
1. Movement is obligatory.
2. The landing site of movement is an empty position.
3. Movement leaves a trace.
4. The trace is coindexed with the moved element, the antecedent, with which it forms a chain, the movement chain.

The most important differences:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>DP-movement (A-movement)</th>
<th>Wh-movement (A’-movement)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>the moved element</td>
<td>DP</td>
<td>Wh-word</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the launching site</td>
<td>an A(rgument)-position</td>
<td>an A- or A’(non-argument)-position</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the landing site</td>
<td>an A-position</td>
<td>an A’-position</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the landing position</td>
<td>Spec, IP of a finite clause</td>
<td>Spec, CP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>availability of Case in landing site</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Endterm sample**

I. Definitions: in the case of abbreviations it is not enough to identify what they stand for, you also have to specify what they mean. Whenever possible give examples as well. (16 points)

- generative grammar
- adjunct rule
- argument vs. complement
- Thematic Criterion
- Projection Principle
- language faculty
II. Explaining ungrammatical structures. Remember that it is not enough to point out what the grammatical form would be, you are also expected to explain the ungrammaticalities using the notions discussed in class. At times drawing a tree can also be useful. (12 points)

*John’s the book, *the he, *there sat the man in the study, *there sang a man in the study
*The door opened an opening.
*Him was invited. *I invited he.
*There grew a tree bigger.

III. Drawing a tree for two sentences (a question and a statement with detailed DPs). The trees should also indicate which constituents assign Case to the DPs in the sentences. (12 points)

What will Peter say?
John’s mother put the books on the chair.
They arrived.