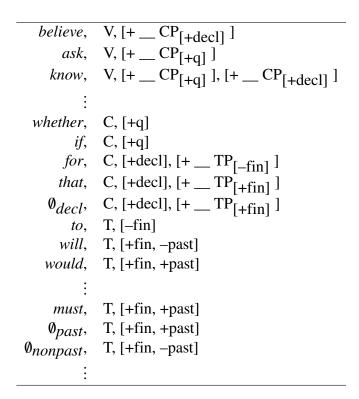
March 18, 2024

1 Previously, in Syntax

Here's where we are, basically:

		V' ightarrow	V (DP)
	<u>C'</u>	${ m V}' ightarrow$	V CP
$CP \rightarrow C'$	C	${ m V}' ightarrow$	V DP CP
$\mathrm{C}' \rightarrow$	C TP	$\mathrm{PP} \rightarrow$	Ρ′
$TP \rightarrow T'$	DP T'	$\mathrm{P}' ightarrow$	P DP
${\rm T}' \rightarrow$		$VP \rightarrow$	V'
$\mathrm{DP} \rightarrow$	D'	$VP \rightarrow$	•
$\mathrm{D}' \rightarrow$	D (NP)		VP AdvP
$\rm NP \rightarrow$	NP PP		
$\mathrm{NP} \rightarrow$	AdjP NP	$VP \rightarrow$	
$NP \rightarrow$	N'	$AdvP \rightarrow$	
$N' \rightarrow$		$\mathrm{Adv}' ightarrow$	Adv
$\mathbb{N} \rightarrow$	N (PP)	$AdjP \rightarrow$	Adj′
		m Adj' ightarrow	Adj



- (1) Pat left.
- (2) Pat will leave.
- (3) Pat leaves.

2 Silent elements

2.1 Imperatives

- (4) Leave.
- (5) Kick the ball.
- (6) Put the ball on the table.

These seem to have no subjects. But don't they? Who will have left, kicked the ball, put the book on the table. What does a verb like *kick* mean anyway?

- (7) a. John kicked himself.
 - b. * John kicked myself.
 - c. * I kicked himself.
 - d. You kicked yourself.
 - e. * You kicked myself.
- (8) a. Express yourself.
 - b. * Express myself.
 - c. Put yourself on the table
 - d. * Put myself on the table

We have a similar issue with embedded infinitive clauses.

- (9) a. Marge expects to win the race.
 - b. Marge expects for herself to win the race.
 - c. Marge wants to win the race.
 - d. Marge wants Bart to win the race.

Who is winning? Who is wanting/expecting? It seems like the winner is sometimes missing—or silent? It's simpler if it's just silent. The rest of the grammar can remain unchanged.

The silent subject is known as **PRO**. That's all capital letters.

PRO is not possible everywhere, but it is often possible as the subject of an infinitve clause (or imperative clause).

I expect to persuade you to adopt this analysis.

Much of what comes next depends on the thematic structure of different verbs.

We've talked about this informally somewhat, but a verb is generally either a **property** of something or a **relation** between things.

(10)	a. Bart slept.	Bart was among those who sleep in the past.
	b. Bart kicked the ball.	Bart is he agent, the ball is the theme, of a kicking.

Intransitive, transitive, ditransitive are terms describing how many participants are in a given verbing. (1, 2, and 3, respectively.)

So, our semantic knowledge of *expect* is something like this:

1. expect(X, Y)

- 2. X is the experiences of the state (the "expecter")
- 3. Y is the theme of the state (the thing that is expected)

There are a few verbs that don't have any participants at all. Weather verbs.

(11) a. It stole my lunch.

b. It snowed.

In (11b), *it* is **pleonastic pronoun**. It doesn't refer to anything. It's actually there mainly because a tensed clause in English isn't allowed not to have a subject (and the silent **PRO** is not available in tensed clauses). *There* in *There is a fly in my soup* is similarly pleonastic.

Pleonastic Pronoun Principle: Pleonastic pronouns occur only in subject position.

[Pointing at a robot]

- (12) a. Homer expected Marge to win the race.
 - b. Homer persuaded Marge to win the race.
- (13) a. Homer expected it to rain.
 - b. * Homer persuaded it to rain.

Why would (13b) be bad?

- 1. persuade(X, Y, Z)
- 2. X is the agent of the action (the "persuader")
- 3. Y is the theme of the action (the individual that is persuaded)
- 4. Z is the goal of the action (what the theme is persuaded of)

What kind of thing can one expect? What kind of thing can one persuade someone of? Something like a "Proposition." How is a proposition expressed in syntactic terms?

The clause in (12) that is being expected or that someone's being persuaded of is the one that has *win* as its verb. And in (13a), it has *rain* as its verb. It's an infinitive clause.

So in (12a), who is the winner? Is *Marge* a subject? In (12b), who is the winner? Who is being persuaded? Is *Marge* a subject?

Ah, but **PRO** is allowed to be the subject of an infinitive clause. Thus:

- (14) a. Homer expected [Marge to win the race].
 - b. Homer persuaded Marge [PRO to win the race].

cf.

- (15) a. Homer expected [that Marge would win the race].
 - b. Homer persuaded Marge [that she would win the race].

2.2 Idioms

- (16) a. Bart tossed his cookies.
 - b. Bart expected to toss his cookies.
 - c. Lisa expected Bart to toss his cookies.
 - d. Lisa persuaded Bart to toss his cookies.
- (17) a. The cat is out of the bag.
 - b. Lisa expected the cat to be out of the bag.
 - c. Lisa persuaded the cat to be out of the bag.
 - d. The cat expected to be out of the bag.