

4 Movement

We introduced a new tool in passing yesterday: movement. I notated it in a double way with an arrow and a curved line. We will look a bit more at movement today.

5 A first look at the Passive

- (106) Leif Erikson discovered America.
- (107) America was discovered by Leif Erikson.
- (108) The two sentences share the same basic meaning; yet, their structure is very different:
- (109) It is plausible to say that the active and the passive are somehow related to each other.
- (110) We can convince ourselves by making the following observations.
- (111)
- a. The police handcuffed the criminal.
 - b. The police handcuffed the murderers
 - c. The police handcuffed the mayor.
 - d. The police handcuffed the students.
 - e. *The police handcuffed the windows.
 - f. *The police handcuffed the dream.
 - g. *The police handcuffed the sounds.

Generalization I: The object of handcuff in the active voice must be an organism with hands.

- (112)
- a. The criminal was handcuffed by the police.
 - b. The murderers were handcuffed by the police.
 - c. The mayor was handcuffed by the police.
 - d. The students were handcuffed by the police.
 - e. *The windows were handcuffed by the police.
 - f. *The dream was handcuffed by the police.
 - g. *The sounds were handcuffed by the police.
- (113) Again the same restriction emerges, except that the restriction that applied to objects in the active voice applies to subjects in the passive voice.

Generalization II: The subject of handcuff in the passive voice must be an organism with hands.

- (114) Consider now the verb hear and the restrictions on its subject.
- (115)
- a. John heard the shot.
 - b. The teacher heard the shot.
 - c. The congressperson heard the shot.
 - d. The cat heard the shot.
 - e. *The artichoke heard the shot.

- f. *The explosion heard the shot.
- g. *The flame heard the shot.
- h. *The wallpaper heard the shot.

Generalization III: The subject of hear in the active voice must be an organism with an auditory sense.

- (116)
- a. The shot was heard by John.
 - b. The shot was heard by the teacher.
 - c. The shot was heard by the congressperson.
 - d. The shot was heard by the cat.
 - e. *The shot was heard by the artichoke.
 - f. *The shot was heard by the explosion.
 - g. *The shot was heard by the flame.
 - h. *The shot was heard by the wallpaper.

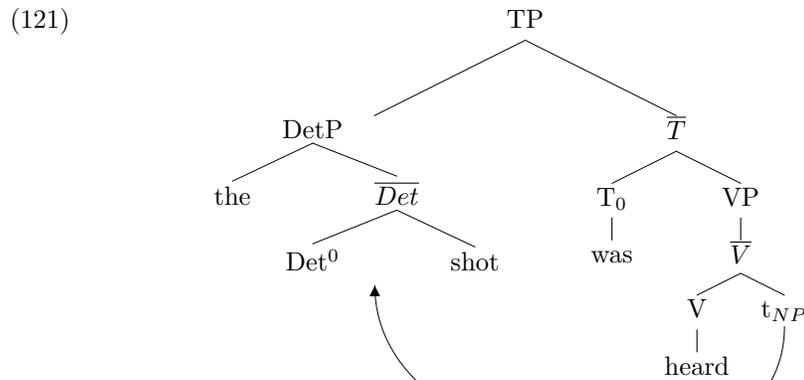
Generalization IV: The material after by in the passive voice of hear must be an organism with an auditory sense.

(117) Clearly, generalizations I and II are really the same and generalization III and IV are also the same. But if our grammar did not relate active and passive sentences to each other, there would be no way to relate I to II and III to IV.

(118) In general the restrictions that a verb in the active imposes on the object are identical to those that a passive verb imposes on the subject, and the restrictions that a verb in the active imposes on the subject are identical to those that a verb in the passive imposes on the material after by.

(119) What we want to say is that the verb puts restrictions on the object position on what goes into its complement position. This can then be the same for both active and passive.

(120) There is an obvious way of making sure that the object of the active sentence is the subject of the passive: it occupies both positions. This configuration is called movement.



(122) More evidence for the transformational treatment of passives comes

from Russian genitive of negation.

- (123) a. Ivan ne pročitai knigi, knig
Ivan.nom NEG read.msc.sg books.nom.pl, books.gen.pl
Ivan didn't read the books.
b. *Ivana ne pročitai(o) knigi, knig
Ivan.gen NEG read.msc.sg(neut.sg) books.nom.pl, books.gen.pl
Ivan didn't read the books.
- (124) a. Knigi ne byli pročitany.
books.nom.pl NEG were.pl read.pl
The books weren't read.
b. Knig ne bylo pročitano.
books.gen.pl NEG was.sg read.sg.neut
The books weren't read.

Movement, i.e., the attachment of the same object in several positions in the tree is used in transformational grammar and its successors to deal with cases there is evidence of an element occupying two positions.

6 Preview

Next week we will look at

- Argument Structure
- Agreement and Case
- More on passives, case, and subjects
- Long distance Movement and Locality Theory
- Long distance Movement and Cyclicity

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