

Lecture 12: Clause level operations

[continued: fronting]

8. Adv fronting and S/V inversion

Out came a weasel

On the porch sat a fierce dog

Never have I seen such a disaster

Here come the news

→ Inversion end-focuses the S

9. Left-dislocation

moves word, phrase to beginning but leaves a PRO coreferent

Peter, he'll be home later

→ reintroduces given info, topicalizes, usually contrastive and definite

10. Cleft sentences

transformed from standard declarative sentences

Jane gave Bill a book on Friday

It was

It was

It was

It was

→ cleft sentence: dummy it subject, form of *be*, cleft item

→ often contrastive (*It was Peter (not Mary) who stole the money*)

11. Pseudoclefts and one-clefts

What Bill studied at university was chemistry

What Bill did was study chemistry at university

→ headless relative clause, new info after *be*, focus shifted to the end

one-cleft sentences: *The one who studied chemistry was Bill*

12. Passives and topic

cf. agented passives: *Ada was given an award by the council*

passive S is given and topic, tend to be definite, cf. [?]*A car was driven by Frank*

→ create cohesion:

*John walked up behind Mary – She was surprised by his sudden appearance vs.
[?]His sudden appearance surprised her*

13. Topicalization transformations

1. raising by *hard, easy, tough,...*

The right answer is difficult to find

→ *It is difficult to find the right answer – To find the right answer is difficult*

2. S to S raising

Sam is certain to pay the bill

→ *It is certain that Sam will pay the Bill – That Sam will pay the Bill is certain*

3. *take, have, get*

The wave hit the ship – The ship took a hit from the wave

1. Clause level operations: *that*-clauses

→ behave like IP, have finite V, any number of aux, can be negative
restrictions: cannot be questions **that does he want the book*
imperatives **that read the book now!*

have nominal function:

- S

- O_{dir} often after verbs of communication

- O_{dir} after O_i, but not before

- predicative

- A complement

- N complement

→ postnominal *that*-clauses: with abstract N like *claim, fact, idea, hope, proposal, explanation...*, complements the whole NP including possible A
cf.

for V-complementing *that* -clauses: selectional constraints

We expected good news – We expected that the news would be good

*Mary raised the bar – *Mary raised that the bar came up*

**Tom hoped good news – Tom hoped that the news would be good*

2. Extraposition movement

That John is a liar is well known – "heavy element" *that*-clause in front → tendency of avoidance

→ CP moved from an obligatory position (S-position) to the end
obligatory position cannot remain empty and is filled with anticipatory *it*

→ *It is well known that John is a liar*

movement is optional, only with some raising verbs it is obligatory,

- related movement: right movement

His belief that coffee grows in Denmark is incorrect

→

3. *That*-deletion

always possible:

in O_{dir} position

O_{dir} after O_i

A complement *I'm certain Ø coffee grows in Brazil*

sometimes possible:

predicative *My wish is Ø we have fun*)

NP complement *His claim Ø coffee grows in Denmark is false*

never possible:

S position

**Ø coffee grows in Denmark is a well-known fact*