Two Types of Paratactic Word-Order Variation

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CLITE I
Szeged, Hungary
Tuesday, April 21, 1998

"All movements go too far."
— Bertrand Russell

-1   Historical Background

There have historically been two types of approaches to "movement," one typified by GB, in which movement was always possible ("move-α") unless prohibited (filters, ECP, etc.); and the other typified by Minimalism, in which movement is possible only when motivated (feature checking, Greed, etc.).

Traditionally, there have been two types of languages, "configurational," in which GB and Minimalism accord well with observed word order, and "non-configurational," in which neither theory accords well with observed word order.

But configurationality doesn't always match-up with "freer word order," (Hale 1989), and in any case, a theory that bifurcates languages seems undesirable.

And in fact, it seems that all languages exhibit two types of word-order variation: syntactic (or "Movement") and paratactic.

0   Theoretical Background

(1)   General Architecture

Array

"Spell Out"

PF   LF
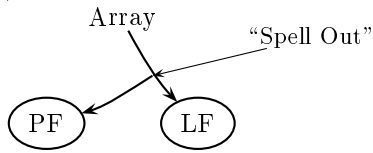
The PF level interfaces with phonology, and the LF level with
"interpretation," whatever that might turn out to mean.

(2)   Word order:

    (a)   Overt movement of X to Y occurs only if X and Y en-
ter into a checking relation, that is, checking "strong"
features. (Chomsky 1995)[1] ("Greed" and "Procrasti-
nate.")

    (b)   More economic movement prohibits less economic move-
ment.

    (c)   Asymmetric C-command among constituents orders
those constituents (Kayne 1993).

    (d)   Every element must be ordered (Kayne).

I reject (d).

1   Data

(3)   Russian:

    (a)   John   videl   svoju   mašinu
           John   saw   self's   car
           'John saw his (own) car.'

---

[1]Chomsky leaves open the possibility that, when X moves to Y via Z, the
movement to Z need not be motivated by strong features, even though the final
movement to Y must be.

(b) | videl | svoju | mašinu | John |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| saw | self's | car | John |

(c) | svoju | videl | John | mašinu |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| self's | saw | John | car |

(d) | svoju | mašinu | videl | John |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| self's | car | saw | John |

(e) | John | svoju | mašinu | videl |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| John | self's | car | saw |

(f) | John | svoju | videl | mašinu |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| John | self's | saw | car |

(g) | mašinu | videl | John | svoju |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| car | saw | John | self's |

(h) | mašinu | videl | svoju | John |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| car | saw | self's | John |

etc.

(4) Latin (Horace, *Odes* 1.22):

(a) Namque mē silvā lupus in Sabīnā dum meam cantō Lalagēn et ultrā terminum cūrīs vagor expedītīs fūgit inermem.

(b) For me-Acc forest-Abl wolf-Nom in Sabine-Abl while my-Acc I-was-serenading Lalage-Acc and beyond [the] border cares-Abl I-was-wandering set-free-Abl avoids unarmed-Acc

(c) For the wolf in the Sabine forest avoids me [in my state of being] unarmed [or "an unarmed me"] while I was serenading my Lalage and wandering beyond the border care-free [lit: cares set-free]

(d) For me$_i$ [forest$_l$ wolf in t$_l$ Sabine] [[while my$_k$ I-was-serenading [t$_k$ Lalage]] and [beyond the border cares$_j$ I-was-wandering [t$_j$ set-free]]]$_m$ avoids t$_i$ unarmed t$_m$.

3

(5) More Russian:

    (a)   ja   svojevo   dumaju   što   ty   videla   brata
             I   self's-ACC   think   that   you   saw   brother
             'I think that you saw your/*my (own) brother'

    (b)   ja   svojevo   videl   brata
             I   self's-ACC   saw   brother
             'I saw my (own) brother.'

(6) English:

    (a)   Often John has kissed Mary.

    (b)   John often has kissed Mary.

    (c)   John has often kissed Mary.

    (d)   *John has kissed often Mary.

    (e)   John has kissed Mary often.

(7) French:

    (a)   Souvent   Jean   a   embrassé   Marie
             often   Jean   has   kissed   Marie

    (b)   *Jean   souvent   a   embrassé   Marie
             Jean   often   has   kissed   Marie

    (c)   Jean   a   souvent   embrassé   Marie
             Jean   has   often   kissed   Marie

    (d)   Jean   a   embrassé   souvent   Marie
             Jean   has   kissed   often   Marie

    (e)   Jean   a   embrassé   Marie   souvent
             Jean   has   kissed   Marie   often

        Examples (3–7) demonstrate **m-scrambling**, and (6) and (7)
demonstrate **a-scrambling.**

2 M-scrambling

M-scrambling ("mobile" scrambling) obtains when two (or more) sub-trees of a sentence do not merge into one single-rooted tree before Spell-Out:

(8) If α does not check strong features on β, and β does not check strong features on α, α and β cannot merge until after Spell-Out. If one checks weak features on the other, they must merge after Spell-Out.

(9) If α and β are sent to PF un-merged, α may appear before or after β (other conditions notwithstanding), but neither may intervene within the other.
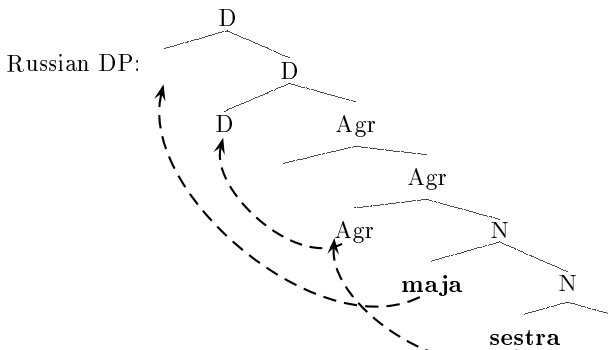
2.1 DP's

Cross-linguistically, it seems that those languages that do not have either a definite or indefinite determiner can break up a DP, as in Latin, Russian, Polish, ASL(?) and others:

(10) maju   ja   videl   sestru (Russian)
      my   I   saw   sister
      'I saw my sister'

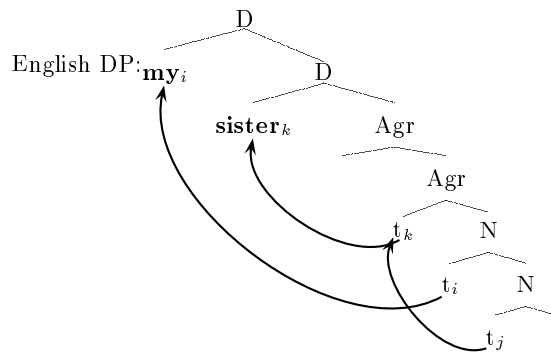This is impossible in English, French, Spanish, Hebrew, etc:

(11) **My I saw sister.

(12)

Russian DP:

(Dashed lines indicate covert movement.)

5

(13)

English DP:

```
              D
           ╱     ╲
        my_i      D
               ╱     ╲
           sister_k    Agr
                      ╱    ╲
                    Agr
                   ╱    ╲
                 t_k      N
                      ╱      ╲
                    t_i        N
                           ╱      ╲
                         t_j
```

2.2   PP's

Nothing can come between a Russian P and it's object:

(14) (a)   maja   kniga   na   stale
           my   book   on   table
           'My book is on a/the table'

   (b)   kniga   maja   na   stale
         book   my   on   table

   (c)   kniga   na   stale   maja
         book   on   table   my

   (d) *kniga   na   maja   stale
        book   on   my   table

The object of a Russian P cannot m-scramble:

(15) (a)   na   stale
           on   table
           'on a/the table'

   (b) *stale   na
          table   on

   (c)   u   menja   knigi
         chez   me   books
         'I have books.'

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    (d)   knigi   u   menja
          books   *chez* me

    (e) *u   knigi   menja
          chez books   me

But this is not because of considerations of Case:

(16) (a)   u   menja   nyet   knig
           chez me   no   books-Gen
           'I have no books.'

    (b)   u   menja   knig   nyet
           chez me   books-Gen   no

If the P's object has more than one word, part (but not all) of the object can m-scramble:

(17) silvā   lupus   in   Sabīnā
       forest   wolf   in   Sabine
       '[a] wolf in the Sabine forest'

(18) (a)   bjez   majim   bratam
           without   my   brother
           'without my brother'

    (b)   majim   bjez   bratam
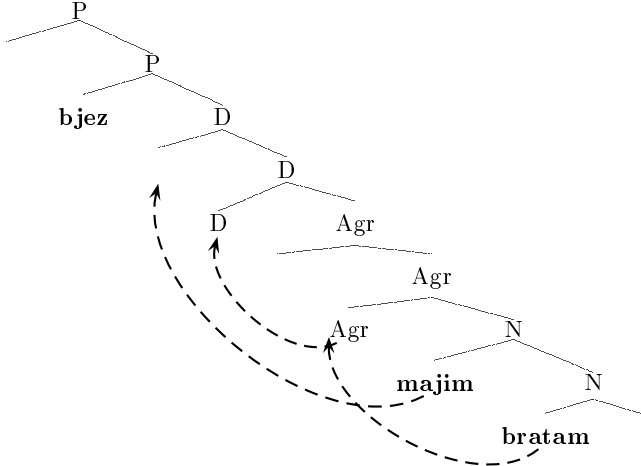   my   without   brother

    (c)   bratam   bjez   majim
           brother without   my

    (d)   bjez   bratam   majim
           without   brother   my

    (e) *majim   bratam   bjez
          my   brother   without
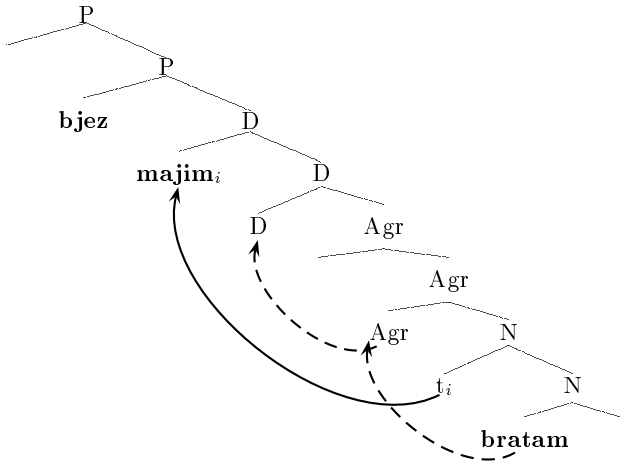
But this is not for phonological reasons:

(19)   ja   idu   bjez
      ("Are you going with your brother?" "No,) I   go   without
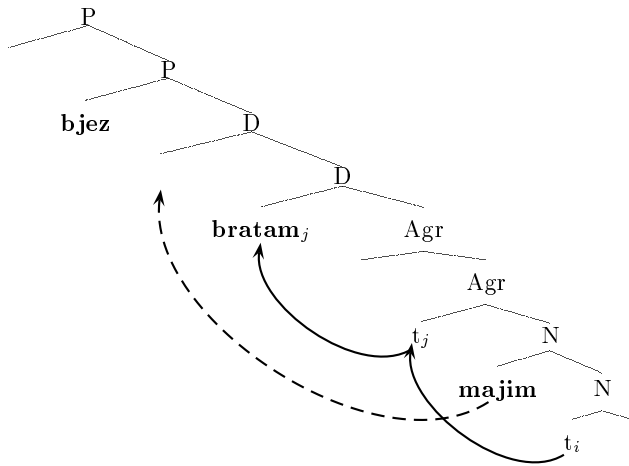   'I am going without [him].'

7

(20)

P
P
bjez
D
D
D
Agr
Agr
Agr
N
majim
N
bratam

(21)

P
P
bjez
D
majim$_i$
D
D
Agr
Agr
Agr
N
t$_i$
N
bratam

8

(22)

```
              P
          ┌───────┐
                  P
              ┌───────┐
    bjez              D
                  ┌───────┐
                          D
                      ┌───────┐
                      D         Agr
                  ┌──────┐   ┌──────┐
           bratam_j        Agr
                        ┌───────┐
                              Agr
                          ┌──────┐
                       t_j          N
                               ┌───────┐
                          majim         N
                                     ┌──────┐
                                          t_i
```

2.3 Scope of m-scrambling

This m-scrambling is not limited to a CP, and can cross barriers,
as expected:

(23) (a)   ja   svojevo   dumaju   što   ty   videla
           I   self's-ACC   think   that   you   saw
              brata
              brother
           'I think that you saw your/*my (own) brother'

   (b)   ja   brata   dumaju   što   ty   videla   svojevo
           I   brother   think   that   you   saw   self's
           'I think that you saw your (own) brother'

   (c)   svojevo   brata   ja   ne   znaju   pocemu
           self's   brother   I   Neg   know   why
              ty   ne   videl
              you   Neg   saw
           'I don't know why you didn't see your brother.'

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(d)   svojevo   brata   mnje   interesna   pocemu
     self's   brother   to-me   interests   why
       Sasha   ne   videl
       Sasha   Neg   saw
     'I wonder why Sasha didn't see his (own) brother.'

(e)   ?svojevo   mnje   interesna   pocemu   Sasha   ne
     self's   to-me   interests   why   Sasha   Neg
     videl   brata
     saw   brother
     'I wonder why Sasha didn't see his (own) brother.'

(f)   ničevo   ja   znaju   počemu   on   ne   videl
     nothing   I   know   why   he   Neg   see
     'I know why he didn't see anything.'

3   Reconstruction

"Reconstruction" in regard to m-scrambling is not construction anew, but simply post-Spell-Out construction.

3.1   Criteria

(24)   Three criteria for reconstruction:

    (a)   Binding.

    (b)   Negative Polarity Items.

    (c)   Idioms.

3.2   Binding

(25)   English:

    (a) %Himself$_i$ he$_i$ saw.

    (b) %Him$_i$ he$_i$ saw.

(26)   Russian:

    (a)   brata$_i$ svojevo$_{*i/j}$ videl   John$_j$
        brother   self's   saw   John
        'John saw his own brother'

(b) *yevo$_i$ brata Sasha$_i$ videl
his brother Sasha saw
'Sasha$_i$ saw his$_i$ brother.'

(27) Spanish:

(a) vio Pedro su auto
saw Pedro his car
'Pedro$_i$ saw his$_i$ car.'

(b) *su auto vio Pedro
his car saw Pedro
'Pedro$_i$ saw his $_{*i/j}$ car'

(28) Hebrew:

(a) Dani ra'a et acmo
Dani saw Acc himself
'Dani saw himself.'

(b) Dani et acmo ra'a
Dani Acc himself saw

(c) et acmo Dani ra'a
Acc himself Dani saw

(d) et acmo ra'a Dani
Acc himself saw Dani

etc.

3.3 NPI's

(29) Russian:

(a) Ivan ničevo ne videl
Ivan nothing Neg saw
'Ivan didn't see anything.'

(b) Ivan ne videl ničevo
Ivan Neg saw nothing

(c) ničevo Ivan ne videl
nothing Ivan Neg saw

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    (d) ničevo   ne   videl   Ivan
         nothing   Neg   saw   Ivan

    (e) ne   videl   Ivan   ničevo
         Neg   saw   Ivan   nothing

    (f) ne   videl   ničevo   Ivan
         Neg   saw   nothing   Ivan

    (g) *Ivan   ničevo   videl
         Ivan   nothing   saw

(30) English:

    (a) John didn't see anything.

    (b) *Anything John didn't see.

    (c) *John anything didn't see.

    etc.

(31) Hebrew:

    (a) Dani   lo   ra'a   af-exad
         Dani   Neg   saw   no-one
         'Dani didn't see anyone.'

    (b) *Dani   ra'a   af-exad
         Dani   saw   no-one

    (c) af-exad   Dani   lo   ra'a
         no-one   Dani   Neg   saw

    (d) ?af-exad   lo   ra'a   Dani
         no-one   Neg   saw   Dani

    (e) af-exad   lo   ra'u   Dani v'Sara
         no-one   Neg   saw   Dani and Sara
         'Dani and Sara din't see anyone'

    etc.

3.4 Idioms

(32) Russian:

(a) Ivan   zakusil   udila
     Ivan   bit   mouth
     'Ivan was/became stubborn'

(b) *udila   byli   zakušeny   Ivanom
     mouth   was   bitten   by Ivan
     'Ivan became stubborn.'

(c) udila   Ivan   zakusil
     mouth   Ivan   bit

(d) zakusil   Ivan   udila
     bit   Ivan   mouth

  etc.

(e) Ivan   nalomal   drov
     Ivan   broke   logs
     'Ivan make a lot of mistakes.'

(f) *drova   nalomany   im
     logs   were-broken   by-him
     'A lot of mistakes were made by him.'

(g) drov   nalomal   Ivan
     logs   broke   Ivan

(h) Ivan   drov   nalomal
     Ivan   logs   broke

  etc.

(33) English:

(a) *The road we hit. ($\neq$ We hit the road)

(b) *The bucket he kicked ($\neq$ He kicked the bucket.)

(c) *The coop he flew ($\neq$ He flew the coop)

  etc.

(34) Hebrew:

(a) ha-xevra   pašta   et   ha-regel
     the-company   simplified   Acc   the-foot
     'The company went bankrupt.'

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(b) *ha-regel   nif'š'ta   al yade   ha-xevra
    the-foot   was-simplified   by   the-company
    'The company went bankrupt.'

(c) et   ha-regel   ha-xevra   pašta
     Acc   the-foot   the-company   simplified

(d) et   ha-regel   pašta   ha-xevra
     Acc   the-foot   simplified   the-company

   etc.

4   M-scrambling in English

(35) (a)   I saw Bill lying in the sun.

     (b)   *[Lying in the sun]$_i$ I saw Bill$_i$.

(36) (a)   [Lying in the sun]$_i$ I saw Bill$_i$ reading a book.

     (b)   [Reading a book]$_i$ I saw Bill$_i$ lying in the sun.

(37) (a)   John saw Bill reading a book about himself.

     (b)   *Reading a book about himself$_i$ John saw Bill$_i$.

     (c)   John saw Bill lying in the sun reading a book about himself.

     (d)   [Reading a book about himself$_i$]$_i$ John$_j$ saw Bill$_i$ lying in the sun.

     (e)   [Reading a book about himself$_j$]$_j$ John$_j$ saw Bill$_i$ lying in the sun.

(38) (a)   [Often criticized for their unreliability,]$_i$ the *New York Times* startled many readers by praising the two flamboyant researchers$_i$.

     (b)   [Unable to fly,]$_i$ many people wonder why Penguins$_i$ are considered birds.

     (c)   The zoologist explained why although [unable to fly,]$_i$ people would err to consider Penguins$_i$ anything but birds.

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(d) [Unable to publish material formally,]$_i$ the Internet has made it possible for rank amateurs$_i$ nonetheless to reach wide audiences with their insipid ideas.

(e) Many rank amateurs think that [living in their ivory towers]$_i$ the media devotes too much attention to professors$_i$ and their publiciations.

(39) (a) *Who did the *New York Times* startle many readers by praising?

(b) *Who/What do many people wonder why are considered birds?

(c) *The zoologist explained why Penguins$_i$ people would err to consider t$_i$ anything but birds.

(d) *Who$_i$ has the Internet made it possible for $_i$ nonetheless to reach wide audiences with their insipid dieas.

(e) *Many rank amateurs think that professors$_i$ the media devotes too much attention to t$_i$ and their publications.
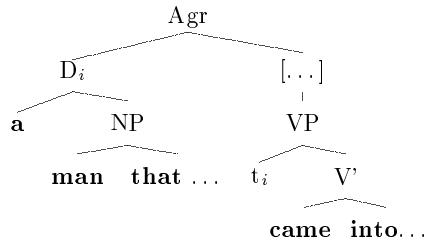
5 A-scrambling

A-scrambling ("adjunct" scrambling) obtains when two phrases fail to enter into an asymetric c-command (ac-command) relation.

(40) If α and β do not enter into an ac-command relation, they are sent to PF unordered.

(41) An element α of tree T may appear anywhere in T provided that it does not violate ordering constraints and that it does not violate adjacency constraints.

(42) Elements α and β must be adjacent if they enter into a strong-feature-checking relation.

(43) If α or a phrase containing α ac-commands β or a phrase containing β, then α must appear linearly before β at PF.

15

5.1 Extraposition

"A man that no one knew came into the room."

(44)

```
                    Agr
            ┌────────┴────────┐
          D_i               [...]
        ┌──┴──┐               │
       a      NP             VP
           ┌───┴───┐      ┌───┴───┐
          man    that...  t_i     V'
                                ┌──┴──┐
                             came  into...
```

Using the notation $\mathrm{acc}(\alpha,\beta)$ to indicate that α ac-commands β, we find that acc(a,man), acc(a,that...), acc(man,that...), acc(man,came), acc(came,into). So *a* must precede *man,* which must precede *came,* which in turn precedes *into,* yielding, "A man came into." However, *the phrase "that..." is not ordered w.r.t. "into the room:"*

(45) (a)   A man that no one knew came into the room.
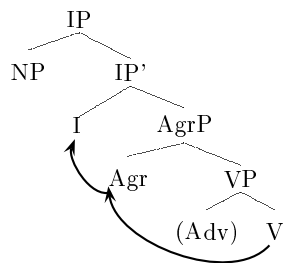
     (b)   A man came into the room that no one knew.

(This is contra Culicover & Rochemont (1990), who argue for a movement approach to extraposition.)

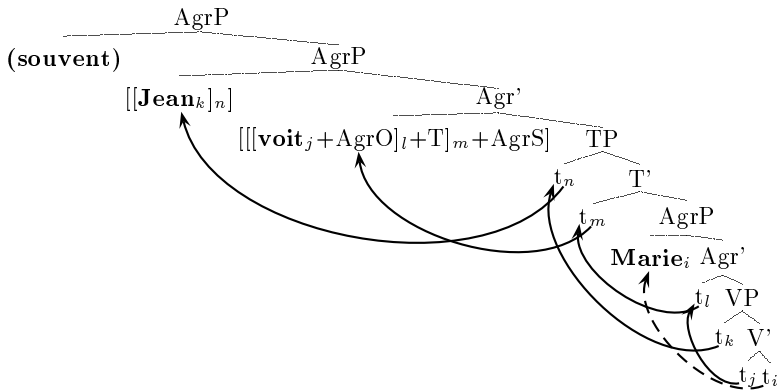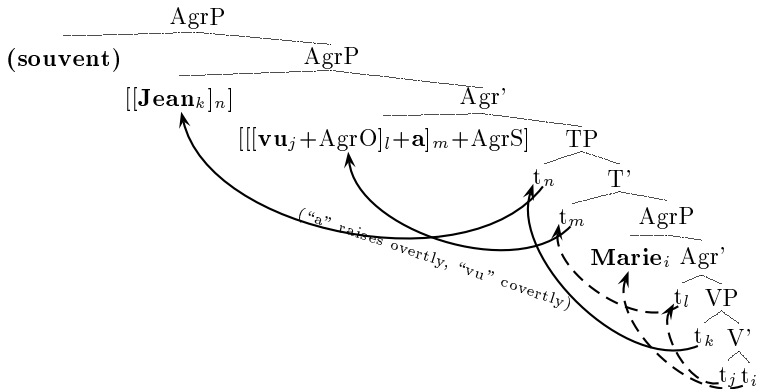## 5.2 Adverb placement

French (Pollock 1989):

(46)

```
          IP
       ┌───┴───┐
      NP       IP'
            ┌───┴───┐
            I      AgrP
                ┌───┴───┐
               Agr      VP
                     ┌───┴───┐
                  (Adv)      V
```

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French (Chomsky (1995)-ish):

(47)

AgrP
(souvent)
  AgrP
  [[**Jean**$_k$]$_n$]
    Agr'
    [[[**voit**$_j$+AgrO]$_l$+T]$_m$+AgrS]
      TP
      t$_n$
        T'
        t$_m$
          AgrP
          Marie$_i$ Agr'
            t$_l$ VP
              t$_k$ V'
                t$_j$t$_i$

(48) (souvent) Jean (*souvent) voit (souvent) Marie (souvent)

French:

(49)

AgrP
(souvent)
  AgrP
  [[**Jean**$_k$]$_n$]
    Agr'
    [[[**vu**$_j$+AgrO]$_l$+**a**]$_m$+AgrS]
      TP
      t$_n$
        T'
        t$_m$
          AgrP
          Marie$_i$ Agr'
            t$_l$ VP
              t$_k$ V'
                t$_j$t$_i$

("a" raises overtly, "vu" covertly)

(50) (souvent) Jean (*souvent) a (souvent) vu (souvent) Marie
      (souvent)

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(51)

AgrP

(often)   AgrP

[[**John**$_k$]$_n$]   Agr'

[[[**sees**$_j$+AgrO]$_l$+T]$_m$+AgrS]   TP

t$_n$ T'

t$_m$ AgrP

Mary$_i$ Agr'

t$_l$ VP

t$_k$ V'

t$_j$ t$_i$
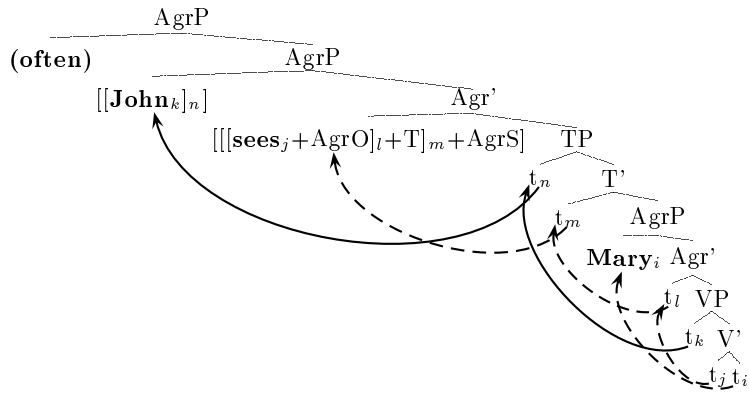
(52)   (Often) John (often) sees (*often) Mary

(53)

AgrP

(often)   AgrP

[[**John**$_k$]$_n$]   Agr'

[[[**seen**$_j$+AgrO]$_l$+**has**]$_m$+AgrS]   TP

t$_n$ T'

t$_m$ AgrP

Mary$_i$ Agr'

t$_l$ VP

t$_k$ V'

t$_j$ t$_i$
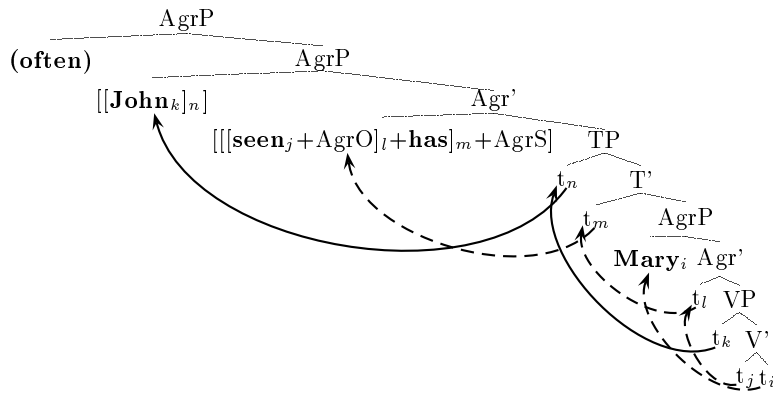
(54)   (Often) John (often) has (often) seen (*often) Mary

5.3   Adverb Interpretation

The actual attachment site, rather than the location at PF, determines interpretation:
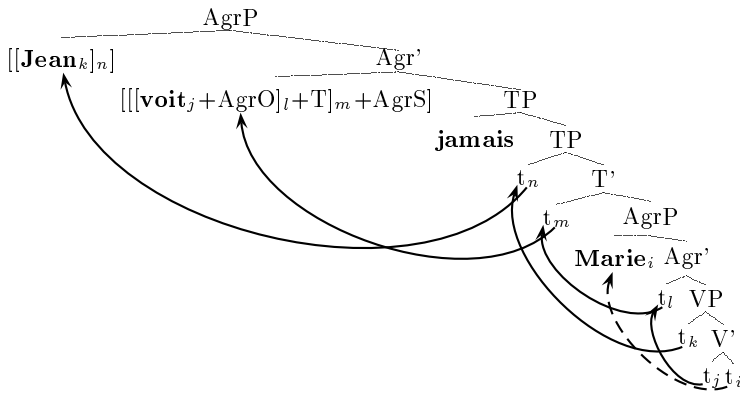
(55) (a)   Happily Mary saw John.

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(b)   Mary happily saw John. (ambiguous)

(c)   *Mary saw happily John.

(d)   Mary saw John happily. (ambiguous)

(56)   (heureusement) Marie (*heureusement) a (heureusement) vu
(heureusement) Jean (heureusement).

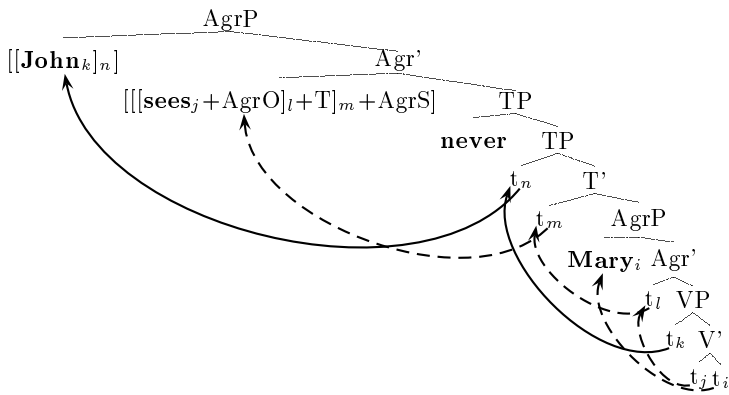## 5.4   Negation — another solution

Perhaps negation adjoins to TP?
French:

(57)

AgrP

[[**Jean**$_k$]$_n$]

Agr'

[[[**voit**$_j$+AgrO]$_l$+T]$_m$+AgrS]

TP

jamais   TP

t$_n$ T'

t$_m$ AgrP

Marie$_i$ Agr'

t$_l$ VP

t$_k$ V'

t$_j$t$_i$

English:

(58)

AgrP

[[**John**$_k$]$_n$]

Agr'

[[[**sees**$_j$+AgrO]$_l$+T]$_m$+AgrS]

TP

never   TP

t$_n$ T'

t$_m$ AgrP

Mary$_i$ Agr'

t$_l$ VP
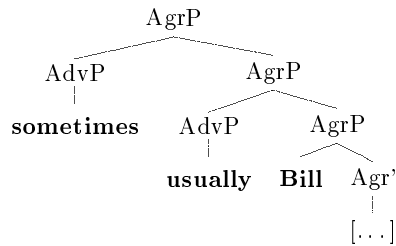
t$_k$ V'

t$_j$t$_i$

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5.5 More adjuncts

(59) Bill didn't go outside becuase it was raining.

(60) (a) The reason Bill didn't go outside was that it was raining.

   (b) That Bill went outside because it was raining is not true.

(61) (a) Not all items available in all stores.

   (b) Not all items available in some stores.

5.6 Scope among adjuncts

(62) (a) Bill sometimes usually buys semi-sweet chocolate.

   (b) Bill usually sometimes buys semi-sweet chocolate.

(63) (a) It is sometimes the case that Bill usually buys semi-sweet chocolate.

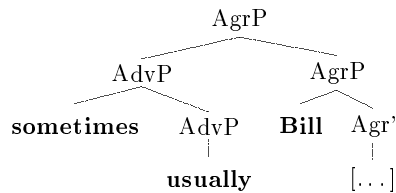   (b) It is usually the case that Bill sometimes buys semi-sweet chocolate.

Impossible structure:

(64)

```
                AgrP
              /      \
          AdvP        AgrP
           |         /    \
      sometimes   AdvP     AgrP
                   |       /    \
                usually  Bill   Agr'
                                 |
                                [...]
```

Correct structure:

(65)

```
                AgrP
              /      \
          AdvP        AgrP
         /    \      /    \
   sometimes AdvP  Bill   Agr'
              |            |
           usually       [...]
```

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6   Summary

Some word-order variation differs from classical "movement" in the following ways:

1. The apparent movement must "reconstruct" (as determined by binding, NPI's and idiom interpretation).

2. The apparent movement need not be syntactically motivated, contra movement criteria in Minimalism, and is not constrained by filters such as the ECP, contra GB.

3. The apparent movement need not obey island constraints.

4. The apparent movement correlates with (so far) either weak feature checking (m-scrambling) or lack of ac-command (a-scrambling).

Based on this evidence, a dual approach to word-order variation, in which some variation results from classical movement, and some variation from a failure of the syntax to order words, seems desirable. M-scrambling and a-scrambling are two instances of this paratactic word-order variation.

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