

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:

	DP-movement (A-movement)	Wh-movement (A'-movement)
the moved element	DP	Wh-word
the launching site	an A(argument)-position	an A- or A'(non-argument)-position
the landing site	an A-position	an A'-position
the landing position	Spec, IP of a finite clause	Spec, CP
availability of Case in landing site	yes	no

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

UTAH

object complement

the canonical subject position

Wh-movement vs. DP-movement

intransitive vs. unaccusative verb

cognate object

the Case Filter

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.