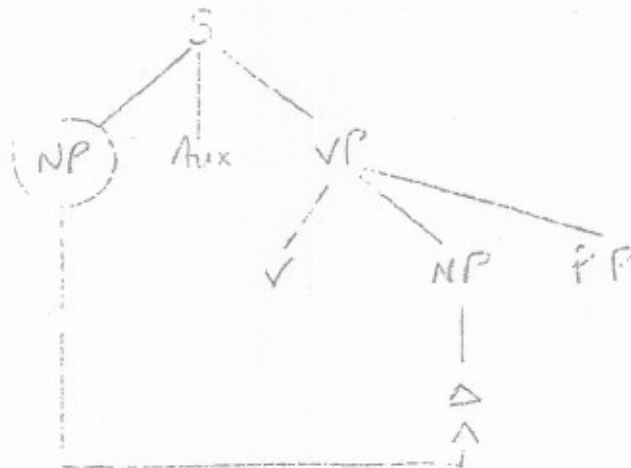


When Things Go Right
Moving Subjects in English and French

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Subject
Postposing



- 1/ In through the window came flying the mad Dr. Tarzan.
In through the window the mad Dr. Tarzan came flying.

1. 2/ A girl and an older woman were walking along a metalled
2. pathway. To their left, beyond a strip of grass, was the
3. front of a large high building in grey stone. Reaching its
4. corner, at which there was a pointed turret, brought them
5. a view of a square of grass on which stood a tower-like
6. structure supported by stone pillars....The pathway had
7. broadened into a circle. In the middle was an ornamental
8. pond, its stonework discoloured and scabbed with moss, and
9. in the centre of this a plinth on which crouched a stone
10. creature somewhat resembling a lion. Each of its claws
11. became a thin stem ending in a flower shaped like a flattened
12. bell, from which in turn protruded a kind of tongue with
13. three points. The thin tail appeared to have been broken
14. off, shortened, and the break filed smooth. From the smiling
15. mouth(there) curled upward a triple tongue with a small object,
16. not entirely observable, at each point. (Kingsley Amis,
17. The Anti-Death League (beginning))

1. 3/ At Platform 1 in Paddington Station stands the Cornish Riviera Express, a chocolate-and-cream colored dragon of the great Western Railway, hissing and smoking
2. and restless to be off. Crowds of people swarm into the station, and among them you may glimpse the Russell family emerging from a taxi on their annual migration to Cornwall.
3. There is the famous philosopher himself, in a dark suit and a grey hat, speaking to the taxi driver with the
4. greatest politeness. Beside him stands his young wife, elegantly dressed, looking about the station with her beautiful brown eyes, and his two small children, keeping very close to him for protection in this bewildering place.
5. They are both rather untidy, more the way children look at
6. the end of a trip than at the beginning. Behind them is a shy governess and a small tower of luggage. (p.3)
7.(p.71) It was an ideal place. Around the house (there) stood some two hundred acres of private woods, where we could safely roam at will, and beyond that lay miles and miles of downland, grassy hills of chalk to be run up and rolled down and walked over and explored ad infinitum.

(M. Parker, "The Secret of the Treasure")

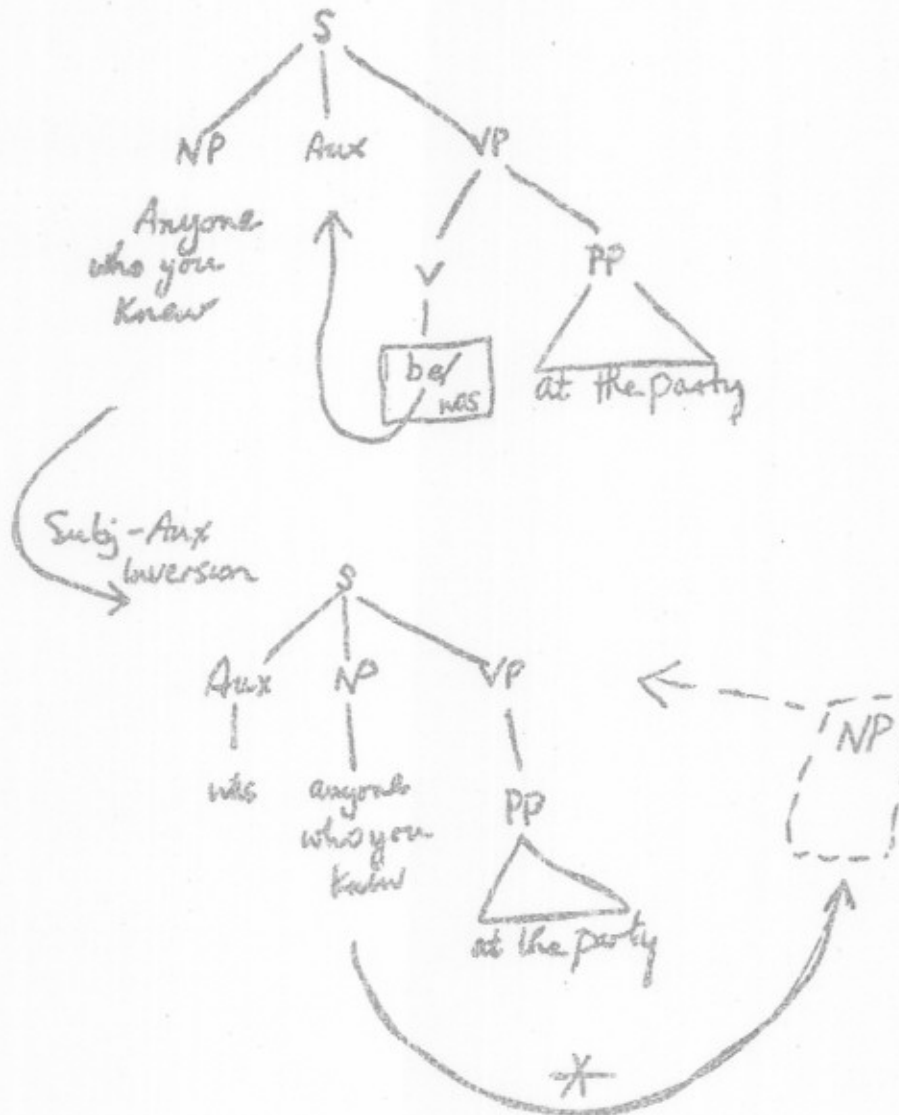
4. Out of a few germs of thought conceived in the early ages have been evolved all of the principles institutions of mankind. (Ancient Society, Lewis Henry Morgan)

Transitives and Intransitives

1. An old and treacherous rope-bridge stretched across the wide ravine.
2. Across the wide ravine an old and treacherous rope-bridge stretched.
3. Across the wide ravine stretched an old and treacherous rope-bridge.
4. The archers shot the arrows across the wide ravine.
5. Across the wide ravine the archers shot the arrows.
6. *Across the wide ravine shot the archers the arrows.
7. *Across the wide ravine shot the arrows the archers.

(Note that not just any process getting the Subject NP to the right of the verb then permits the subject NP to continue traveling rightward under the aegis of Heavy NP Shift: e.g.,

Anyone was who you knew was at the party
Was anyone who you knew at the party?
*Was at the party x anyone who you knew?



Subject Postposing (tentative)

W PP · NP · X V · [NP₄ Δ] · Y
 1 2 3 4 5 → 1 0 3 2 5

Directional Adverb Preposing

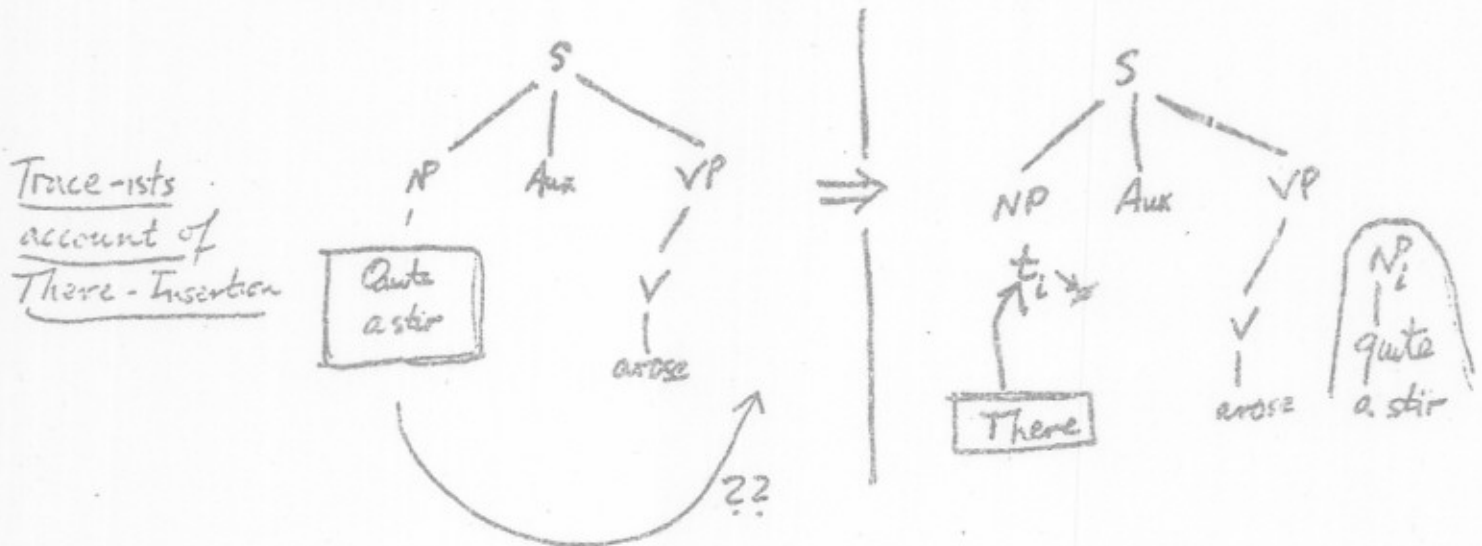
X · [S Y · PP · Z
 1 2 3 4
 1 3+2 0 4

Condition: 3 is a PP of
 direction or
 location

1. Trace theory: If NP_i binds a trace t , NP_i must either precede or asymmetrically command t (Fiengo).

If NP_i binds a trace t , NP_i must precede and command t (several others).

Milsark, Fiengo, and Chomsky observe that this Condition 1 above "explains" the insertion of "there" in there-insertion sentences, for otherwise an ill-bound trace would be left on the surface.



2. Structure-Preserving Hypothesis

Question: Is the Structure-preserving hypothesis (a) a hypothesis about syntactic transformations (Emonds' position), or is it an artifact of (the fact) that structure-preserving rules (like Passive, Seems-raising, etc.) are actually "lexical redundancy rules"?

We shall argue for position (a) -- maintaining Subject Postposing (above, p.4) as a syntactic transformation -- on the grounds that its application may follow Wh-movement in relative clauses.

- (1) The Founding Fathers, from whom have come our most basic ideas of political organization,...
- (2) The Founding Fathers, from whom our most basic ideas of political organization have come,...
- (3)*The Founding Fathers, whom have come our most basic ideas of political organization from ,...
- (4) The Founding Fathers, whom most of our basic ideas of political organization have come from,...

- (5) a plinth on which crouched a stone creature...
 (6) a plinth on which a stone creature crouched....
 (7) * a plinth which crouched a stone creature on...
 (8) * a plinth which a stone creature crouched on...

Transitives

- (7) a plinth on which a maiden held a bouquet...
 (8) a plinth which a maiden held a bouquet on...
 (9)*a plinth on which held a bouquet a maiden...
 (10) * a plinth on which held a maiden a bouquet...

etc.

- (11) The chemicals {out of} which have been developed our
 {from} modern sulfa drugs were
 once rare and virtually
 unknown.

- (12) The chemicals from which scientists have developed our modern sulfa drugs were once rare and virtually unknown.

- (13)*The chemicals from which have developed our modern sulfa drugs
scientists were...

- (*subject postposing) scientists our
modern sulfa drugs were.

Thus

- (R) Rule Application (\neq rule ordering)

- (Adverb Preposing
- (Wh-movement
- (Subject Postposing

DIGRESSION

(Note that if we say that all three rules in (R) apply
to derive sentences like (5) or (11), we would also
expect *a plinth which on crouched a stone creature;
thus we cannot say the ordering is Adverb Preposing
Subject Postposing
Wh-movement)

We may thus reject the proposal that structure-preservation is not a property of rules, but merely an artifact of lexical processes.

MOTION

1. Into the woods dashed the soldiers. (Motion)
2. *Into the woods got the soldiers. (Achievement)
3. Away from the port sailed the ship. (Motion)
4. Away from the port stayed the ship. (Rest)

5. Towards the lighthouse swam the tiny fishes.

6. *? To the big wall ran the children.
7. Out of the germ ~~2~~ of a simple idea grew his General Theory
of Relativity.
8. ??Into a full-fledged theory developed his tiny idea.
(compare non-inverted "His tiny idea developed into
a full-fledged theory.")

9. Without a hitch the ceremony proceeded.

10. *Without a hitch proceeded the ceremony.

11. The original Post Road went up to Boston.

- 12.??Up to Boston went the original Post Road.
(?Up to Boston the original Post Road went.)
13. Up to Boston went Lafayette, carrying a message to
Adams from General Washington.

One last (as of yet unexplained) set: OBSERVER ORIENTATION

(see Atkinson (1973))

14. Over the hill rode the cavalry.

15. *Over the hill rode the cavalry away from us.

(cf. The cavalry rode over the hill away from us.)

16. The mainland area,??from which migrated the early Polynesians,...
 ,from which the early Polynesians migrated,...