# Raising/control safari: How the ERG's inventory compares to what's studied in the theoretical literature

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# Context

- Raising & control phenomena are an important part of the syntax/semantics interface

- … and have also been a key phenomenon in syntactic theory building (on the must-handle menu)

- But theoretical attention to this construction is largely focused on a narrow subset of it

- Developing a broad-coverage implemented grammar has led to the enumeration of "42" variants which fall under the broad definition of raising/control

# Core examples

- Pat *continues* to avoid conflict.

- Pat *tries* to avoid conflict.

- Kim *expected* Pat to leave.

- Kim *persuaded* Pat to leave.

# Working definition: Control

- One semantic argument is shared between two predicates

- The sharing is mediated by a lexical item (contributing one of the predicates)

- The argument is only overtly realized as a syntactic argument of one of the predicates (the one mediating the sharing)

# Working definition: Raising

- The semantic argument of one predicate is realized as a syntactic argument of another

- This relationship is mediated by the lexical item for which the element is only a syntactic argument

- The argument is only overtly realized as a syntactic argument of one of the predicates (the one mediating the sharing)

NB: English-specific working definitions!

# Project

- Collect examples from key theoretical papers on raising/control in English

- Parse & treebank

- What was out there that we didn't know about in the ERG?

- What proportion of the ERG's raising/control types are covered by the examples from the literature?

# Examples extracted by RA Bryan Thompson from:

Chomsky, N. (1965). *Aspects of the theory of syntax*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

Culicover, P. W., & Jackendoff, R. (2006). Turn over control to the semantics! *Syntax*, *9*(2), 131–152.

Davies, W. D., & Dubinsky, S. (2008). *The grammar of raising and control: A course in syntactic argumentation*. John Wiley & Sons.

Kroeger, P. (1993). *Phrase structure and grammatical relations in Tagalog*. Stanford: Center for the Study of Language (CSLI).

Pearson, H. (2016). The semantics of partial control. *Natural Language & Linguistic Theory*, *34*(2), 691–738.

Polinsky, M., & Potsdam, E. (2006). Expanding the scope of control and raising. *Syntax*, *9*(2), 171–192.

Postal, P. M., & Pullum, G. K. (1988). Expletive noun phrases in subcategorized positions. *Linguistic Inquiry*, *19*(4), 635–670.

Rosenbaum, P. S. (1967). *The grammar of English predicate complement constructions*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

Runner, J. T. (2006). Lingering challenges to the raising-to-object and object-control constructions. *Syntax*, *9*(2), 193–213.

Sag, I. A., & Pollard, C. (1991). An integrated theory of complement control. *Language*, *67*, 63–113.

Stiebels, B. (2007). Towards a typology of complement control. *ZAS Papers in Linguistics*, *47*(8).

White, A. S., & Grano, T. (2014). An experimental investigation of partial control. In *Proceedings of sinn und bedeutung* (Vol. 18, pp. 469–486).

# By the numbers

|              | Total | Unique | Parsed correctly |
| ------------ | ----- | ------ | ---------------- |
| Examples     | 1831  | 1711   |                  |
| Grammatical ex | 1305 | 1217  | 1254 (96.9%)     |

# The full menagerie

| | |
|---|---|
| v_vp_seq_le | B intended to win. |
| v_vp_seq-from_le | B refrained from smoking. |
| v_prd_seq_le | B remained doubtful. |
| v_prd_seq-idm_le | B made sure that C won. |
| v_prd_seq-va_le | B became impatient \| admired. |
| v_ap_seq_le | B proved competent \| ?admired. |
| v_pp_seq_le | B wanted into the game. |
| v_pp_seq-e_le | My battery shows as empty. |
| v_vp_seq-prp_le | B loves playing chess. |
| v_vp_seq-bse_le | B helped finish the paper. |
| v_vp_seq-go_le | B will go play chess \| *goes play chess. |
| v_vp_seq-and_le | They try and find it \| #tried and found it. |
| v_vp_seq-and-bse_le | B will try and find it. |
| v_vp_seq-but_le | B couldn't help but continue. |
| v_p-vp_seq_le | B turned out to be wrong. |

# The full menagerie

| | |
|---|---|
| v_pp-vp_seq_le | B arranged with C to stay. |
| v_np-vp_oeq_le | B invited C to stay. |
| v_np-vp_oeq-ntr_le | B got C to stay. |
| v_np-vp_oeq-bse_le | B helped C win. |
| v_np-vp_oeq-psv_le | The teacher promised me to be allowed to play outside. |
| v_np-prd_oeq_le | B proved C wrong. |
| v_np-ap_oeq_le | B imagined C taller. |
| v_np-prd_oeq-ntr_le | B wanted C ready. \| *C was wanted ready (by B). |
| v_np-vpslnp_oeq_le | B had C to talk to. |
| v_np-vp_oeq-from_le | B excused C from playing. |
| v_p-vp_oeq_le | B geared up C to go. |

# The full menagerie

| | |
|---|---|
| v_vp_ssr_le | There failed to be a link. |
| v_vp_ssr-n3sg_le | We needn't wait here. |
| v_vp_ssr-n3sg-r_le | We need only wait here. |
| v_p-vp_ssr_le | B has yet to win. |
| v_prd_ssr-va_le | It became obvious that Kim arrived. |
| v_vp_ssr-prp_le | It finished raining. |
| v_vp_ssr-nimp_le | There tend to be problems. |
| v_pp-vp_ssr_le | It seems to B to be windy. |

# The full menagerie

| | |
|---|---|
| v_np-vp_aeq-ntr_le | B promised C to stay. \| *C was promised by B to stay. |
| v_np-vp_aeq_le | B used C to reach D. |
| v_np-vp_aeq-psv_le | B asked C to be allowed to leave. \| #B asked C to leave. |
| v_np-vp_aeq-noel_le | B took an hour to finish. |
| v_np-vp_aeq-prp_le | B had trouble sleeping. |

# The full menagerie

aj_pp-vp_i-it_le     It is easy for B to win.

aj_pp-vp_i-it-nt_le     It is urgent for B to win. | *B is urgent to win.

aj_pp-vp_i-on-it_le     It is incumbent on B to go.

aj_pp-vp_i-of-it_le     It is nice of B to go.

aj_pp-vp_i-tgh_le This race is tough to win.

aj_pp-vp-pp_i-cmp-it_le It is easier to solve this problem than that one

aj_vp_i-it-prp_le    It is worth reading that book.

aj_vp_i-ssr_le     There are destined to be unicorns in the garden.

aj_vp_i-wrth_le     The race is worth running.

aj_vp_i-prty_le     Paris is pretty to look at.

aj_vp_i-seq-nmd_le   B is supposed to win.

aj_vp_i-seq-prp_le    B is done running.

# The full menagerie

| | |
|---|---|
| n_vp_c_le | B has the ability to win. |
| n_vp_m_le | B has permission to stay. |
| n_vp_mc_le | B has clearance to stay. |
| n_vp_c-it_le | It is a pleasure for B to sleep. |
| n_vp_m-it_le | It is drudgery for B to do that. |
| n_vpslnp_c_le | B is a pleasure for C to mmet. |

# Taxonomy: Which cells are unpopulated?

- Raising v. control

- Part of speech of raising/control predicate (verb, adj, noun*, adverb?)

- Category of controlled complement (to VP, from VP, -ing VP, [PRED +], …)

- Grammatical function of controller (subject, object, PP complement, other?)

- Full argument structure pattern (additional args, possibility of passivization)