

On Adjectives in English with Special Reference to Those Followed by *To*-Infinitives (Continued)*

(2) 'be likely to', 'be able to', and 'be kind to'

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III. Type 3

3.1 *(Un)likely* and *certain* are quite unique in their syntactic behavior. We call them Type 3.

- (40) a. He is *(un)likely* to come.
b. He is *certain* to come.¹

3.2 This type is distinguished from the others in that it can take the construction shown in (41). Adjectives such as *sure*, *safe* (=sure), *apt* (=likely), *liable* (=likely), etc., all of which refer to, among others, future time just like *(un)likely* and *certain*, are not to be included in this class, but in Type 4, since they can never have the structure *it be adj that-clause* (see section 4.4).

- (41) a. It is *(un)likely* that he will come.
b. It is *certain* that he will come.

3.3 *It is likely (certain)* cannot be followed by the *for*-phrase plus *to*-infinitive as in (42c). In transformational terms, when the adjective of this type takes a *for-to* complementizer instead of *that*, both the extraposition and the pronoun replacement transformations must successively apply to get (42d). If they are not applied, ungrammatical sentences (42b & c) will be generated.

- (42) a. [[it]_N [he come]_S]_{NP} be *likely*
b. *For him to come is *likely*.
c. *It is *likely* for him to come.
d. He is *likely* to come.

* Received September 17, 1974

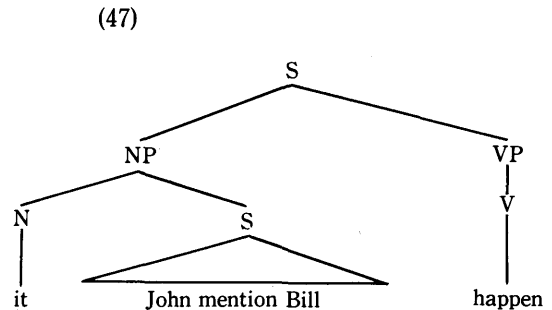
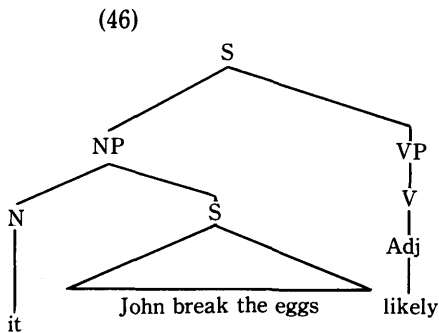
This restriction will have to be stated in the lexicon of *likely* and *certain*. This reminds us of such verbs as *happen*, *chance*, *appear*, and *seem*, which require the same restriction.

- (43) a. $[[[it]_N [he come]_S]_{NP}]_{NP}$ *happen*
 b. *For him to come *happened*.
 c. *It *happened* for him to come.
 d. He *happened* to come.

3.4 I will mention here two more things which *likely* and *happen* have in common.

- (44) a. John is *likely* to break the eggs.
 b. The eggs are *likely* to be broken by John.
 (45) a. John *happened* to mention Bill.
 b. Bill *happened* to be mentioned by John.

When we think logically of (44a), we find that what is likely is not so much *John* as *John's breaking of the eggs*. And in (45a) what happened is *John's mentioning of Bill* rather than *John*. Therefore we may say that (*is*) *likely* and *happened* are both concerned with the remaining part of the whole sentence. This logical observation will permit us to assume the underlying structures of (44a) and (45a) to be those shown in (46) and (47), respectively.

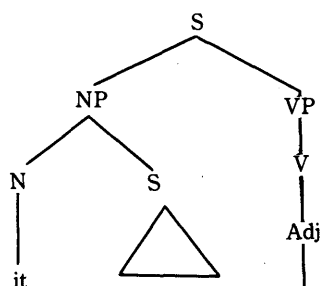


This configuration is quite similar to that of Type 2 sentences (see tree diagram (24)). In this respect, *likely* and *certain* can be regarded as 'abstract' adjectives.

Next notice the synonymy of the two sentences in (44) and (45). If we assume the deep structure of the two sentences in (44) to be (46), this synonymy will be explained automatically, since the two sentences (a) and (b) differ only in the non-application or application of the passivization transformation to the common underlying structure.² The same is true of the sentences in (45). This again will serve as a motivation to set up the configuration (46) or (47) as deep structure.

3.5 It would be interesting to compare the derivation (42), which I cite below again for ease of reference, with the derivations (49) and (50). (49) is an instance of Type 2 adjectives (*easy, difficult, hard, etc.*), and (50) is an instance of such adjectives as *important, proper, essential, necessary, etc.*, the latter not being properly dealt with in the present study. The three derivations are similar in having a configuration of (48) as their deep structure. (In the illustration below and elsewhere as well, it must be understood that (c), (d) and (e) in each derivation result, strictly speaking, from the application of a transformation to the structure underlying (b), (c), and (d), respectively.)

(48)



(42) a. [[it]_N [he come]_S]_{NP} *likely*

b. *For him to come is *likely*.

↓ Extraposition Transformation (Obligatory)

c. *It is *likely* for him to come.

↓ Pronoun Replacement T. (Obligatory)

d. He is *likely* to come.

(49) a. [[it]_N [he heat the room]_S]_{NP} *easy*

b. For him to heat the room is *easy*.

↓ Extraposition T. (Optional)

c. It is *easy* for him to heat the room.

↓ Pronoun Replacement T. (Not to be applied)

d. *He is *easy* to heat the room.

↓ Topicalization T. (Optional)

e. The room is *easy* for him to heat.

(50) a. [[it]_N [he read the book]_S]_{NP} *necessary*

b. For him to read the book is *necessary*.

↓ Extraposition T. (Optional)

c. It is *necessary* for him to read the book.

↓ Pronoun Replacement T. (Not to be applied)³

- d. \downarrow *He is *necessary* to read the book.
 Topicalization T. (Not to be applied)
- e. *The book is *necessary* for him to read.

The sentences (d) and (e) in (50) may be possible when we analyze the infinitives (in (e), along with the *for*-phrase) as functioning as 'purpose-adverbials'. But in that case we have to admit that the pronoun replacement and topicalization transformations have changed the meaning that (c) has had before they have been applied. This clearly contradicts the fundamental principle on 'transformation' that it does not affect meaning. Thus it is justified to give an asterisk to (d) and (e).

The comparison of the above instances reveals that (50) differs from (42) in that the pronoun replacement transformation must not apply in the former, even if the structural description is met, while it must apply in the latter. (50) is distinguished from (49) in that the topicalization must not apply in the former, even if the structural description is met, whereas it is optional in the latter.

IV. Type 4

4.1 Here we have another kind of adjectival construction. Example sentences will be given in the course of proceeding. This type can be briefly characterized as follows:

1. The *for*-phrase can never occur between the adjective and the infinitive, in other words, the subject of the the main sentence must be identical with that of the embedded sentence, in sharp contrast with Type 1.
2. The grammatical subject of the sentence is invariably the logical subject of the *to*-infinitive, and not the logical object. In this respect, Type 4 contrasts with Type 2.
3. The structure *it be adj that-clause* is impossible, in contrast with Type 3.

Judging mainly from 2 and 3, it may be said that the combination of the adjective and the infinitive of this type is so tight that hardly any change of the structure is conceivable. It is the most tight, as compared with any other type I am now working on in this study.

It may be possible to subclassify Type 4 adjectival constructions on some syntactic grounds, but after some effort I found it hard to do so in a revealing way. So here I will tentatively classify them on the basis of meaning, and then give some remarks, if any, on each subtype, taking special notice of the possibility of occurrence of a prepositional phrase in place of the infinitive. I try to enumerate the members of each subtype as exhaustively as I possibly can.

4.2 Subtype A

- (51) a. He is *(un)able* to come.
b. Jane is *(in)competent* to teach French.
c. He is *(un)fit* to do the job.
d. He is *(un)worthy* to take the lead.
e. John is *(in)eligible* to vote.
f. That man is *suited* to be a teacher.

Except *(un)able*, these adjectives can be followed by the prepositional phrase :

- (52) a. *He is *(un)able* for coming.
b. Jane is *(in)competent* for teaching French.
c. He is *(un)fit* for the job.
d. The event is *(un)worthy* of being remembered.
e. John is *(in)eligible* for voting.
f. That man is *suited* for a teacher.

We may say that *able* and *capable* (or *equal*) supplement each other in this respect.

- (53) a. *John is *capable (equal)* to teach French.
b. John is *capable of (equal to)* teaching French.

4.3 Subtype B

- (54) a. We are *apt* to be wasteful of time.
b. We are all *liable* to make mistakes occasionally.
c. He is *prone* to act rashly.
d. He is *propense* to exaggerate things. (now rare)
e. The man who is lazy to work for his living is the most *ready* (=apt) to beg or to steal.

The prepositional phrase can occur after *liable* and *prone*, and never after *apt* ;

- (55) a. *He is *apt* to idleness.
b. He is *liable* to fits of temper.
c. He is *prone* to rash act.

4.4 Subtype C

- (56) a. The weather is *sure* to be wet.
b. The President is *safe* (=sure) to be re-elected.
c. Our team is *bound* (=sure) to win.
d. He is *due* (=scheduled) to speak here tonight.

- e. He is *apt* (=likely) to succeed this time.
 f. We are *liable* (=likely) to be in New York next week.

There will be no doubt that the last two adjectives belong to this type, not to Type 3, though they are equivalent to *likely* in meaning. The reason is that they cannot be transformed into the structure *it be adj that-clause*, as is shown below :

- (57) a. *It is *apt* that he will succeed this time.
 b. *It is *liable* that we will be in New York next week.

I cannot tell why the adjectives of this subtype can never take a prepositional phrase after them. ⁴

4.5 Subtype D

- (58) a. He is *slow* to react.
 b. He was *quick* to see his mistakes.
 c. Be *prompt* to carry out his order.
 d. He is (*un*)*apt* (= (slow)quick) to learn.
 e. He was not *long* to discover his guilt.
 f. He is always *late* to come.
 g. He was *early* to come and *late* to return.
 h. He is *easy* (=quick) to believe.
 i. Don't be too *ready* to believe him.

All of these adjectives, except *easy* and *ready*, can take a prepositional phrase after them :

- (59) a. He is *slow* of understanding. ⁵
 b. He is *quick* at learning languages.
 c. He is *prompt* in paying his rent.
 d. He is (*un*)*apt* at devising new means.
 e. He was not *long* in making up his mind.
 f. He was *late* in coming home.
 g. He was *early* in coming and *late* in returning.

The first three adjectives are distinguished from the others in that the sentences containing them can change their forms in the following three ways :

- (60) a. He is $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \textit{slow} \\ \textit{quick} \\ \textit{prompt} \end{array} \right\}$ to react.
 b. He reacts $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \textit{slowly} \\ \textit{quickly} \\ \textit{promptly} \end{array} \right\}$

- c. His reaction is $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \textit{slow} \\ \textit{quick} \\ \textit{prompt} \end{array} \right\}$

4.6 Subtype E

- (61) You are *welcome* to pick the flowers here.
(62) You are *welcome* to the use of my library.

I am not able to find any other adjective which has the same status as *welcome*. The adjective *free* as in *You are free to go or to stay* may be included here, but we should rather think that this sentence is to be related to *It is free for you to go or to stay*,⁶ and that *free* makes a separate group along with *necessary*, *important*, *proper*, *essential*, etc. (See note 3.)

4.7 Subtype F

- (63) a. He was *wont* to read the newspaper at breakfast.
b. He was *accustomed* to sleep for an hour after his lunch.

4.8 Subtype G

- (64) a. I walked till I was *fit* to drop (=on the point of dropping).
b. The sun was *ready* (=about) to break through the clouds.

4.9.1 Subtype H (a)

All of the adjectives under this subtype, except *ready*, can be followed by the prepositional phrase. H (a) has the notion of 'reaching out for' and H (b), which is to be described in the next subsection, expresses the notion of 'holding back from'. These closely parallel Type I (A) and Type I (B).

- (65) a. He was *desirous* to know further details.
He is very *desirous* of going to France.
b. He was *zealous* to please his employer.
They were *zealous* for liberty.
c. I am *wishful* to say a word to you.⁷
She lives here alone *wishful* for happy days.
d. He was *mad* (*crazy*, *wild*) to see her.
He was *mad* (*crazy*, *wild*) for water.
e. He is *hungry* (*thirsty*) to go to see the match.
He is *hungry* (*thirsty*) for affection.
f. He was *greedy* (*avaricious*, *avid*, *covetous*) to gain fame.
He is always *greedy* (*avaricious*, *avid*, *covetous*) for admiration.

- g. He was *curious* to hear all about it.⁸
She is too *curious* about other people's business.
- h. He is always *ready* (=willing) to help people in trouble.⁹
- i. He was *game* to do anything for me.
The explorer was *game* for any adventure.
- j. That shopman is *studious* to please his customers.
He is *studious* of mastering French.
- k. He is *bound* (=determined) to go there alone.
He is *bound* on going there alone.

4.9.2 Subtype H (b)

- (66) a. He was *afraid* to go out into the dark.
(He was *afraid* of offending her. (In a slightly different sense.))
- b. I am a soldier and *unapt* (=unwilling) to weep.
- c. Old man as he was, he was not *ashamed* to learn.
I am *ashamed* of sitting idle.
- d. I am *shy* to do it again.
Don't be *shy* of telling me what you want.
- e. We are not *averse* to acknowledge it.
He is *averse* to coming here.

4.9.3 Subtype H (c)

I have collected the words, ending with *-ed* or *-ing*, which express the notion of 'reaching out for' or 'holding back from', combined with the *to*-infinitive.

- (67) a. He was (*half*)*minded* to open the whole matter.
*He was (*half*)*minded* for....
- b. He was (*dis*)*inclined* to help that lazy fellow.
The weather was so hot that I was (*dis*)*inclined* for a swim (the work)
- c. He was not *disposed* to help us.
Are you *disposed* for a walk?
- d. They were *burning* to avenge the death of their leader.
They were *burning* for revenge for their leader's death.
- e. She was *bursting* to inform us of the news.
She was *bursting* for the news of her son's success.
- f. I am *dying* to see her.
He is *dying* for a drink.

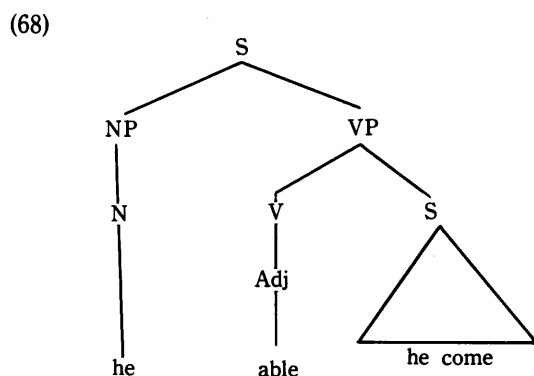
I am inclined to think that these forms are 'adjectives' rather than verbs proper. The reason for it is this: in (67a) the active form as in **They minded him to open the whole matter* is impossible; in (67b & c), the active form may be possible as in *The*

situation inclined him to help that lazy fellow and *The weather did not disposed him to take a walk*, yet even so the fact must be noted that *be* can be replaced by such verbs as *feel*, *seem*, *appear*, and so on, without any loss of grammaticality (See Hofmann (1966)); and in (67d, e, & f), the *ing* form will certainly be the most common if it is to be used in the sense intended here, that is, in the sense of *very eager*. If these forms are permitted to be regarded as adjectives, they ought to have been classified as Subtype H (a) or H (b) according to the notion they express.

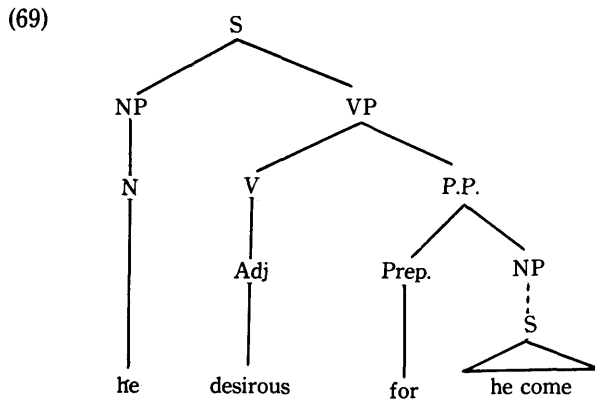
4.10 It will be immediately seen that all of the infinitives in the sentences given here under the heads from Subtype A to Subtype H are not 'purpose-adverbials'. We should rather consider them as instances of what Otto Jespersen calls the 'infinitive of specification'. In his *A Modern English Grammar* (V. 17.2) he gives only 19 'adjectivals' the infinitives after which serve to specify them (*able, capable, competent, worthy, unworthy, equal, qualified, free, at liberty, welcome, quick, slow, long, fit, game, apt, due, afraid, shy*).

Our study far surpasses his data in quantity, and with more data added and more detailed analysis pursued it will surely contribute to the description of verb-like, or auxiliary-like, adjectives.

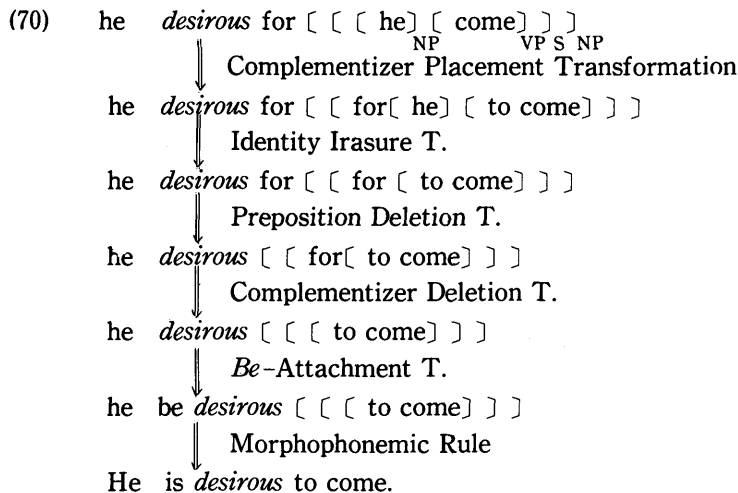
4.11 Now it is time to pass to the problem of deep structure and derivation. P. S. Rosenbaum (1967 : 117) and G. Lakoff (1965 : A-14) suppose the deep structure of the sentence *He is able to come* to be the one shown in diagram (68). I do not yet have a motivation strong enough to say for or against it. (68) is only tentative.



The sentence containing the adjective which can take a prepositional phrase after it would have a slightly different deep structure configuration. As an instance, the sentence *He is desirous to come* is supposed to have a deep structure like (69).



Notice the similarity of (69) to (13). The latter is the configuration of deep structure of such adjectives as *eager*, *anxious*, *reluctant*, etc., and it was already dealt with in section 13. But there is a decided difference between the two, that is, in (69) the subject of the main sentence and that of the embedded sentence have to be identical, while in (13) the identity of the subjects is not requisite. The derivation of *He is desirous to come* might be specified in the following way:



V. Type 5

5.1 The next group of adjectives which I intend to classify here as constituting the construction of Type 5 are those which can take both the structure (A) and the structure (B).

- (71) Structure (A) : *NP be adj to-infinitive*
- a. You are *kind* to say so.
 - b. He was *thoughtful* to bring flowers.

- c. He is very *wrong* to mislead you in this way. ¹⁰

(72) Structure (B) : *it be of NP to-infinitive*

- a. It is *kind* of you to say so.
b. It was *thoughtful* of him to bring flowers.
c. It is very *wrong* of him to mislead you in this way.

Notice the difference between the sentences in (72) and those given below in (73). To the sentence in (73) the structure (B) should not be assigned. The difference lies in that in (72) the logical or sense subject of the *to*-infinitive is clearly the noun standing just before the *to*-infinitive, whereas in the sentence of (73) it is not so much the noun preceding the infinitive as a 'general' or 'unspecified' person. And furthermore we should notice that the syntactic and semantic functions of the preposition 'of' in (72) and (73) are to be distinguished.

- (73) a. It is *typical (characteristic)* of Japanese to smile like that.
b. It is (*un*)*worthy* of a gentleman to say a thing like that.
c. It is not *becoming* of a poet to make such a poor composition.

The adjective for which the structure (B) is possible can also take the structure (C).

(74) Structure (C) : *to-infinitive be adj of NP*

- a. To say so is *kind* of you.
b. To bring flowers was *thoughtful* of him.
c. To mislead you in this way is very *wrong* of him.

5.2 The number of adjectives which fit in this pattern and are in common use is quite large. It will probably more than two hundred. I have found about one hundred and fifty adjectives of this kind. It will be unnecessary and fruitless as well to write them all here, so I shall be content to give only some of them below :

- (75) absurd, arrogant, beastly, brave, careful, careless, childish, civil, clever, (in)considerate, cowardly, cunning, (in)decent, foolish, (un)fortunate, good, (dis)honest, (in)humane, impudent, (un)kind, lazy, (un)lucky, mad, merciful, merciless, nice, (ig)noble, (im)polite, (im)prudent, right, (in)sane, (un)selfish, spiteful, sweet, thoughtful, uncouth, wicked, (un)wise, wrong, etc.

5.3 I should like to point out the fact that there are some adjectives which can take the structure (A), but never (B). These adjectives we shall call purely 'personal' :

- (76) a. You are *angry* to be saying words like that.
*It is *angry* of you to be saying words like that.
b. You are *rich (moneyed)* to have all these goods.
*It is *rich (moneyed)* of you to have all these goods.

And a 'personal adjective' used in a sentence with the structure (A) can be replaced by a 'personal noun' without a substantial change of meaning. This will serve to confirm us that the adjective in the structure (A) is nothing other than 'personal'.

- (77) a. You are *lucky* to go. ¹¹
 You are *a lucky fellow* to go.
 b. You are *foolish* to spend so much money.
 You are *a fool* to spend so much money.
 c. He is *splendid* to wait.
 He is *a prince* to wait.
 d. You are *wonderful* to do that for me.
 You are *an angel* to do that for me.

Next let's notice the fact that, in contrast to those in (76), there are some adjectives which takes only the structure (B) and can never take the structure (A). These we call purely 'abstract':

- (78) a. *You are *unbelievable* to say a thing like that. ¹²
 It is *unbelievable* of you to say a thing like that.
 b. *You are *unjustifiable* to do such a thing. ¹³
 It is *unjustifiable* of you to do such a thing.
 c. *You are *unacceptable* to be late for the meeting.
 It is *unacceptable* of you to be late for the meeting.

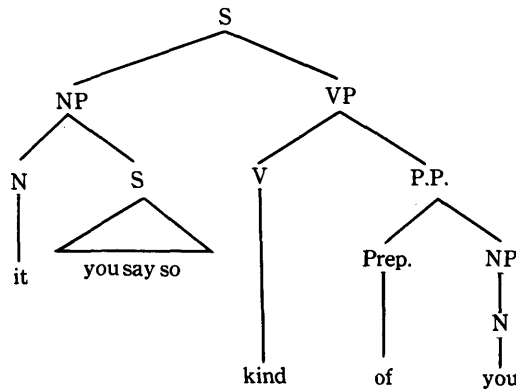
Taking into consideration the data in (76) and (78), we will see that it is natural to name the adjectives of Type 5 'personal-abstract', or 'neutral' with respect to personalness or abstractness, since they can take both the structure (A) and the structure (B).

It seemed to me at first that the adjectives, such as *English*, *learned*, *(il)literate*, *uneducated* and *ignorant*, are personal and not abstract, but I found that these adjectives can take the structure (B) as well as the structure (A). ¹⁴ Therefore we must classify them as 'neutral' adjectives, along with words listed in (75).

- (79) a. He is *English* to be wearing a hat like that.
 It is *English* of him to be wearing a hat like that.
 b. He is *learned (literate)* to express such opinions.
 It is *learned (literate)* of him to express such opinions.
 c. He is *uneducated* to say a thing like that.
 It is *uneducated* of him to say a thing like that.
 d. She is *ignorant* to say a thing like that.
 It is *ignorant* of her to say a thing like that.

5.4 Now we return to the question of the deep structure and derivation of the sentence containing a neutral adjective. If we assume the deep structure to be roughly the one shown in (80), we can show the relatedness of the sentence *You are kind to say so* (structure (A)) to the sentence *It is kind of you to say so* (structure (B)), or *To say so is kind of you* (structure (C)), specifying them as derived from a common deep structure through the application of a partially different sequence of transformational rules.

(80)



It will be seen that this deep structure configuration represents the semantic fact that the adjective *kind* is concerned not only with *you say so* (i.e., that the adjective is 'abstract'), but also with *you* (i.e., that it is 'personal'). Needless to say, much more evidence and motivation must be shown if we wish to approve this deep structure configuration, but this much will suffice for the present study. The derivation will be:

- (81) [[it]_N [you]_{NP} [say so]_V]_S]_{NP} kind of you
 ↓ Complementizer Placement Transformation
 [[it] [for [you] [to say so]]] kind of you
 ↓ Identity Erasure T.
 [[it] [for [to say so]]] kind of you
 ↓ Proun Deletion T.
 ↓ Complementizer Deletion T.
 To say so is kind of you.
 ↓ Extraposition T.
 [[it]] kind of you [for [to say so]]
 ↓ Complementizer Deletion T.
 It is kind of you to say so.
 ↓ Pronoun Replacement T.
 [you] kind of [for [to say so]]
 ↓ Preposition Deletion T.

↓ Complementizer Deletion T.
 [you] *kind* [[to say so]]
 ↓ Be-Attachment T.
 ↓ Morphophonemic Rule
 You are *kind* to say so. (To be continued.)

NOTES

- 1 *Uncertain* is excluded from Type 3, since **He is uncertain to come* is not usual, although *It is uncertain that he will come* is possible.
- 2 See P. S. Rosenbaum (1967 : 103-4).
- 3 To the best of my knowledge, the adjective *free* is the only exception to this :
 It is *free* for you to go or stay.
 You are *free* to go or stay.
 At first sight, *fit* seems to be also an exception, but it is only apparent :
 It is *fit* for you to do the job.
 You are *fit* to do the job.
 It is because *fit* in the first sentence and *fit* in the second should be interpreted as being different in meaning, the one being equivalent to 'proper', and the other 'able' or 'worthy'. The second *fit* belongs to Type 4 in this study (see section 4.2).
- 4 When the preposition follows, it brings about a change of meaning :
 He is *sure* of succeeding (=confident of success).
 He is *bound* on doing it (=determined to do it).
- 5 Cf. *He is *tardy* to offer help.
 He is *tardy* in offering help.
- 6 Cf. *It is *welcome* for you to pick the flowers here.
- 7 In spite of having a similar meaning and the same ending, *hopeful* is unlikely to be followed by the *to*-infinitive.
 *He is *hopeful* to attain his object.
 He is *hopeful* of attaining his object.
- 8 *Inquisitive* cannot replace *curious* in this sentence.
- 9 The adjective *ready* is several ways semantically ambiguous :

<i>ready</i>	{	=apt	: Subtype B
		=quick	: Subtype D
		=willing	: Subtype H (a)
		=about	: Subtype G
		=prepared	: as in <i>The goods are ready to be shipped.</i>

When *ready* is interpreted as 'prepared', the *for*-phrase can stand between the adjective and the *to*-infinitive as in *A new dress was ready for me to put on.* For this

reason, I do not put this construction of *ready* under Type 4. And *ready* in this sense sometimes occur without the *to*-infinitive as in *The dinner is not ready*.

- 10 Dwight L. Bolinger (1961 : 366-81) rightly explains the semantic structure of this type of construction, saying that *He is clever to make so much money* means *His making so much money classifies him as clever*. And he adds, '*He is clever to make so much money* is a condensed syllogism. ... This could be shown syllogistically :

People who make so much money are clever.	}	⇒	He is clever to make so much money!
He makes so much money.			

- 11 The example sentences from (a) to (d) are all cited from D. L. Bolinger (1961 : 369-70). But trivially the order is changed.
- 12 The three adjectives in (78) are also from Bolinger (*ibid.*).
- 13 *You are unjustified to do such a thing* is possible.
- 14 Informed by native speakers.

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