# **North East Linguistics Society**

Volume 30 Proceedings of the North East Linguistic Society 30 -- Volume One

Article 6

2000

# Adjectival Modifiers and the Raising Analysis of Relative Clauses

Rajesh Bhatt University of Texas at Austin

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarworks.umass.edu/nels



Part of the Linguistics Commons

#### **Recommended Citation**

Bhatt, Rajesh (2000) "Adjectival Modifiers and the Raising Analysis of Relative Clauses," North East Linguistics Society: Vol. 30, Article 6.

Available at: https://scholarworks.umass.edu/nels/vol30/iss1/6

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Graduate Linguistics Students Association (GLSA) at ScholarWorks@UMass Amherst. It has been accepted for inclusion in North East Linguistics Society by an authorized editor of ScholarWorks@UMass Amherst. For more information, please contact scholarworks@library.umass.edu.

## Adjectival Modifiers and the Raising Analysis of Relative Clauses \*

# Rajesh Bhatt

## University of Texas at Austin

#### 0. Introduction

We start with the observation that (1) is ambiguous. The two readings can be characterized as involving a 'high' and a 'low' construal of the adjectival modifier respectively.

(1) The first book that John said that Tolstoy had written

'high' reading ≈ In 1990, John said that Tolstoy had written Anna Karenina; in 1991, John said that Tolstoy had written War and Peace. Hence the NP in (1) is Anna Karenina.

(i.e. order of saying matters, order of writing is irrelevant)

'low' reading  $\approx$  John said that the first book that Tolstoy had written was War and Peace. Hence the NP in (1) is War and Peace.

(i.e. order of writing matters, order of saying is irrelevant)

Like (1), (2a, b) also have 'high' and 'low' readings.

- (2) a. The only book that John said that Tolstoy had written
  - b. The longest book that John said that Tolstoy had written

We show that it is not possible to derive the 'low' readings by using the headexternal analysis of relative clauses. We then demonstrate how the 'low' readings can be derived using a version of the head-raising analysis of relative clauses.

© 2000 by Rajesh Bhatt NELS 30

<sup>\*</sup>Many thanks to David Embick, Irene Heim, Sabine Iatridou, and Roumyana Izvorski for very helpful discussion. This material has been presented in front of audiences at USC, MIT, Penn, and Rutgers and I want to thank the members of these audiences for helpful suggestions. In particular, I would like to thank Joseph Aoun, Cedric Boeckx, Željko Bošković, Ben Bruening, Lina Chouciri, Barbra Čitko, Kai von Fintel, Bob Frank, Anthony Kroch, Idan Landau, Richard Larson, Ora Matushansky, Jon Nissenbaum, Ken Safir, Philippe Schlenker, Roger Schwarzschild, and Karina Wilkinson

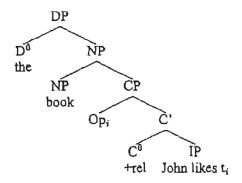
## 56

# 1. 'Low' Readings and the Head-external analysis of Relative Clauses

# 1.1. The Head-external Analysis

The head-external analysis is quite ubiquitous in the literature, so much so that its origins are unclear. Quine (1960) seems to suggest it, and it is assumed in Montague (1970), Partee (1975), Chomsky (1977), Jackendoff (1977). In the head-external analysis, the head NP originates outside the relative clause CP. The relative clause CP involves A'-movement of a relative operator, which may be overt or covert. The relative clause CP is adjoined to the head NP and the two combine semantically via intersective modification.

# (3) [DP the [NP [NP book] [CP Op; [IP John likes t;]]]]



## 1.2. 'Low' Readings and the inadequacy of the Head-external Analysis

Let us apply the head-external analysis to (4a-c).

- (4) a. The first book that John said that Tolstoy had written
  - b. The only book that John said that Tolstoy had written
  - c. The longest book that John said that Tolstoy had written

The head NP and the relative clause are both predicates which combine via intersective modification to create a new predicate. The modifiers first/only/-est apply to this predicate. This yields the first/only/longest member of the set of books such that John said that Tolstoy wrote them. This is the 'high' reading.

There seems to be no way to put first/only/-est in the scope of say, which is what the 'low' reading requires. Since under the head-external analysis, the NP head of the relative clause does not originate inside the relative clause CP, there is no way to reconstruct it inside the relative clause.

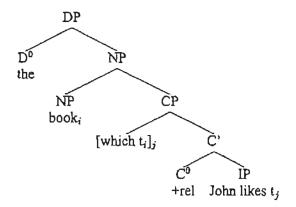
#### 2. 'Low' Readings and the Head-Raising analysis of Relative Clauses

#### 2.1. The Head-Raising Analysis

The Head-Raising analysis was originally proposed by Brame (1968), Schachter (1973), and Vergnaud (1974). Recent versions include Kayne (1994) among others. Under the

head-raising analysis that we are adopting, the head NP originates inside the Relative Clause CP. The head NP and the relative operator of which the head NP is a complement move to [Spec,CP] via A'-movement. From the [Spec,CP], the head NP moves out of the CP and adjoins to the CP.

(5)  $[DP \text{ the } [NP \text{ book}]_i [CP \text{ [which } t_i]_j [C' \text{ } C^0 \text{ } [IP \text{ John likes } t_j]]]]$ 



Since the *head* NP originates inside the relative clause CP, it is possible to reconstruct it inside the relative clause. A brief summary of earlier arguments for the Head-Raising analysis of Relative Clauses and a discussion of some the problems faced by this analysis is provided in Appendix A.

#### 2.2. 'Low' Readings and the Head-Raising Analysis

Under the head-raising analysis, we have the option of deciding which copy of the head NP to interpret.<sup>1</sup>

- (6) The [first/only/longest book]<sub>i</sub> [CP first/only/longest book<sub>i</sub> that [John said [CP first/only/longest book<sub>i</sub>]]]] (copies are italicized.)
  - a. 'High' Reading: interpret the highest CP-internal copy the  $\lambda x$  first [book, x] [John said that Tolstoy had written x]  $\approx$  the first book about which John said that Tolstoy had written it
  - b. 'Low' Reading: interpret the lowest CP-internal copy the  $\lambda x$  [John said that [first [book, x] [Tolstoy had written x]]]  $\approx$  the x s.t. John said that the first book that Tolstoy had written was x.

The LFs for the 'high' and 'low' readings are generated through the independently motivated mechanisms of copy deletion and est-movement (cf. Szabolcsi 1986, Heim 1995, for some details see Appendix B).

Given a semantic mechanism for interpreting reconstruction into relative clauses (see Appendix C), we get the desired truth-conditions, which are indicated by the paraphrases in (6).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>For simplicity, the null relative operator which takes first/only/longest book as a complement has been omitted in (6). A more complete representation would show A' movement of the phrase headed by the relative operator followed by the movement of first/only/longest book out of the relative clause CP.

# 3. Evidence for the proposal from NPI-licensing

So far, we have seen that there is a reading (the 'low' reading) which cannot be derived given the head-external analysis of relative clauses but which can be derived using a head-raising analysis of relative clauses. This is sufficient to show the inadequacy of the head-external analysis but does not in itself demonstrate that the head-raising analysis is the mechanism involved in the derivation of the 'low' reading. To show that the head-raising proposal sketched here is indeed how the 'low' reading is derived, we will show that the 'low' reading correlates with certain phenomena that require the presence of the raised modifier in the embedded clause at LF.

According to our proposal, for the 'low' readings, first/only/-est are at LF in a position that is distinct from their surface position. On the surface, first/only/-est appear as NP-modifiers, external to the relative clause. However, in the LF for the 'low' reading, they are in the embedded clause (the write clause in 6). We know that first/only/-est are able to license negative polarity items (cf. 7).

(7) This is the only/longest/first book that I have ever read.

If the appropriate configuration for NPI licensing holds at LF, we expect to find reflexes of the reconstruction of first/only/-est for the 'low' reading in NPI licensing and we do. We can force a 'low' reading by putting a Negative Polarity Item in the embedded clause.

- (8) a. the first book that John said that Tolstoy had ever written
  - b. the only book that John said that Tolstoy had ever written
  - c. the longest book that John said that Tolstoy had ever written

The examples in (8) only display the 'low' reading of first/only/est. (8a) only picks out the x such that John said that the first book that Tolstoy had ever written was x. This is not surprising given that we know that NPIs must have local licensors (cf. Linebarger 1980). Likewise, the examples in (9) only display the 'high' reading.

- (9) a. the first book that John ever said that Tolstoy wrote
  - b. the only book that John ever said that Tolstoy wrote
  - c. the longest book that John ever said that Tolstoy wrote

The correlation between NPI-licensing and 'low' vs. 'high' readings supports our proposal that for the 'low' reading, first/only/-est (the NPI-licensor) must be interpreted in a position lower than its surface position.

## 4. A'-Reconstruction and 'Low' Readings

Our specific proposal that the derivation of 'low' readings of adjectival modifiers in relative clauses involves the head-raising analysis receives additional support from the existence of intermediate readings and the existence of intervention effects.

# 4.1. Intermediate Readings

Since the device by which we are relating the head NP to the relative clause-internal trace

position is A'-movement<sup>2</sup>, and A'-movement is successive cyclic, we predict the existence of *intermediate* readings i.e. readings that are neither 'high' (-est) nor 'low' (-est). This prediction is borne out. (10) has an 'intermediate' reading.

(10) the first book that John said that Dan told Mary that Antonia wrote

The LF corresponding to the intermediate reading of (10) is shown in (11).

- (I1) the [CP]  $\lambda x$  [IP] John said [CP] first [book,x] that [IP] Dan told Mary [CP] that [IP] Antonia wrote x]]]]]]
  - $\approx$  the x s.t. John said that the first book that Dan told Mary that Antonia wrote was x. (on the higher reading of this first)

The head NP moves through successive cyclic movement from the most deeply embedded clause through the [Spec,CP] positions of all the intervening clauses. The first/only/-est can associate with any of the intervening clauses. When first/only/-est associate with the intermediate clause (the tell clause), the result is the 'intermediate' reading in (11).

## 4.2. Intervention Effects

Our proposal that A'-movement is involved in the derivation of 'low' readings receives further support from the fact that the 'low' readings of modifiers are blocked by the presence of an intervening negation.

- (12) a. This is the first book that John didn't say that Antonia wrote.
  - b. This is the longest book that John didn't say that Antonia wrote.
  - c. This is the only book that John didn't say that Antonia wrote.

'Low' readings are also blocked by negative verbs like doubt and deny.

- (13) a. This is the first book that John denied that Antonia wrote.
  - b. This is the longest book that John doubted that Antonia wrote.

These are also environments where certain kinds of A'-dependencies are blocked. The intervention of a negative element between the position of a phrase in overt syntax and its reconstructed position triggers the Negative Island effect. This is the case with how many question cf. (14).

- (14) How many dogs did John not feed?
  - a. For which n: there are n-many dogs that John did not feed.

    (available reading; negation does not intervene between the degree operator and the degree variable)
  - For which n: it is not the case that John has fed n-many dogs.
     (unavailable reading; negation intervenes between the degree operator and the degree variable)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>There are two movements involved in the head-raising analysis according to our proposal: there is A'-movement internal to the CP and then there is a head-raising movement that extracts the head NP out of the relative clause and adjoins it to the relative clause CP. See §6.6 for some details.

60

The observations regarding Negative Islands are due to Ross (1984), the particular correlation between reconstruction across a negation and the Negative Island effect that I have in mind is due to Heim (1992) and Beck (1996). We are not providing a complete explanation of why we find intervention effects with 'low' readings here.<sup>3</sup> Our objective is merely to show that the existence of intervention effects patterns with certain cases of A'-movement, thus lending support to our proposal that the derivation of 'low' readings involves A'-movement and reconstruction.

# 5. Only NPs reconstruct

In the version of the head-raising analysis of relative clauses that we have adopted, it is the NP (and associated adjectival modifiers) that raises out of the relative clause CP. The  $D^{\circ}$  is merged external to the structure created by the adjunction of the raised NP to the relative clause CP. 'Low' readings arise by reconstruction of the adjectival modifier into a position lower than its surface position. Within our proposal, only the NP (and associated adjectival modifiers) have the option of reconstruction. Since the  $D^{\circ}$  originates in its surface position, it cannot participate in reconstruction.

If a particular element could appear both as an 'adjectival' modifier and as a determiner, we would expect it to have 'low' readings only in its 'adjectival' guise. This prediction is borne out. 'High' and 'low' readings are available with numeral modifiers when they occur with the, with numeral-like uses of fewlmany when they occur with the, and adjectives in general.

- (15) a, the two books that John said that Antonia has written
  - b. the few books that John said that Antonia has written
  - c. the many books that John said that Antonia has written

When few/many/numerals are used without a the, the lower readings disappear.

- (16) a. two books that John said that Antonia has written
  - b. few books that John said that Antonia has written
  - c. many books that John said that Antonia has written

This is precisely what is predicted by our proposal. In the absence of the, two/few/many function as determiners. They are merged external to the relative clause CP and cannot be reconstructed inside the CP. The 'low' reading which requires reconstruction is therefore absent.

## 6. Appendix A: Earlier Arguments for the Head-Raising Analysis

In the following sections, we provide a brief summary of some of the arguments that have been previously adduced in favor of the head raising analysis of relative clauses.

#### 6.1 Idioms

The logic behind the argument from 'idioms' for a raising analysis goes as follows: the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>For example, it is not clear why there are no intervention effects with Which picture of himself; does Mary deny that John; admires?. Further, it is not obvious why the A'-movement involved in the derivation of the 'low' reading is the kind of A'-movement that displays intervention effects.

'idiom' can only appear as part of a larger expression. The larger expression is shown in the (17-20a). That it cannot appear outside this context is shown in (17-20b). However, the 'idiom' is able to felicitously appear as the head NP of a relative clause, where the position it is associated with inside the relative clause (its trace) is part of the larger expression it needs to appear with. This is shown by the examples in (17-20c).

Under a head-external analysis, given the unacceptability of the examples in (17-20b), the acceptability of the examples in (17-20c) is unexpected and vice versa. The raising analysis is able to explain these facts parsimoniously. 'Idioms' need to appear in a particular environments as shown by the examples in (17-20a) and the unacceptability of the examples in (17-20b). The examples in (17-20c) are acceptable because the 'idiom' appears in the relevant environment at some point in the derivation (minimally point of Merge, maybe also at LF).

- (17) (cited to Brame 1968 ms., ex. 35 from Schachter 1973)
  - a. We made headway.
  - b. \* (The) headway was satisfactory.
  - c. The headway that we made was satisfactory.
- (18) (ex. 36 from Schachter 1973)
  - a. She's keeping careful track of her expenses.
  - b. \* (The) careful track pleases me.
  - c. The careful track that she's keeping of her expenses pleases me.
- (19) (ex. 37 from Schachter 1973)
  - a. Lip service was paid to civil liberties at the trial.
  - b. \* I was offended at (the) lip service.
  - c. I was offended by the lip service that was paid to civil liberties at the trial.
- (20) (cited to George Bedell, fn. 15 from Schachter 1973)
  - a. He solved the problem in a clever way.
  - b. The clever way in which he solved the problem impressed me.
  - c. \*The clever way impressed me.

#### 6.2. Subcategorization

Larson (1985) observes that headed relative clauses containing a trace in adjunct position, but neither a relative adverb or a stranded preposition, are grammatical only if the head NP is a bare-NP adverb.

- (21) (from Larson 1985) (Roumyana Izvorski p.c.)
  - a. the way [Op; that you talk ti]
  - b. \*the manner/fashion [Op; that you talk 4]
  - c. You talk that way.
  - d. \*You talk that manner/fashion.

The well-formedness of the operator-variable chain in (21a) depends upon what the head NP is. Information about the head NP is required internal to the relative clause. Under a head-raising analysis, the ill-formedness of (21b) directly follows from the ungrammaticality of (21d). This explanation is not directly available under the head-external analysis and Larson, who is assuming the head-external analysis, has to introduce a feature-transmission mechanism which makes the relevant information about the head NP available internal to the relative clause.

# 6.3. Binding Theory Evidence

62

The argument from binding theory evidence is based on the examples in (22-24), which show that here for the purposes of binding theory the head NP behaves as if it was in its (lowest) trace position inside the relative clause.

- (22) (exs. 42a, 43a from Schachter 1973)
  - a. The portrait of himself, that John, painted is extremely flattering.
  - b. The interest in each other, that John and Mary, showed was fleeting.
- (23) \*The opinion of him; that John; has is favorable.

  (compare with: The opinion of himself; that John; has is favorable.)
- (24) (exs. 41b, 42b from Schachter 1973)
  - a. \*The opinion of John; that he; thinks Mary has is unfavorable.
  - b. \*The portrait of John, that he, painted is extremely unflattering.

Under the 'head-external' analysis, we expect the Condn. A example to be bad (unless we appeal to a device such as logophoricity etc.) and we expect the Condn. B and Condn. C examples to be good. The actually observed pattern of (un)grammaticality can be explained under the raising analysis if the head NP is interpreted at LF in its trace position. All the binding theory examples below are cases where like in the 'idiom' cases (paint a portrait of, show an interest in, have a (Adj) opinion of) it is plausible that at LF the head NP has to form a unit at LF with relative-clause internal material. This might explain why we get reconstruction of the head NP into the relative clause for binding purposes.<sup>4</sup>

#### 6.4. Amount Relatives

The existence of amount readings provides another reason for assuming a raising analysis of relative clauses. In (25), for independent reasons, we do not wish to entertain a variable following there be (cf. Carlson 1977, Heim 1987).

(25) (from Heim 1987:33, also see Carlson 1977)

The very few books that there were on his shelves were all mysteries.

LF: The very few  $\lambda d$  that there were d-many-books on his shelves were all mysteries.

https://scholarworks.umass.edu/nels/vol30/iss1/6

8

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup>The obligatory relative-clause internal interpretation of the head NP that we see in (23) and (24) is not a general property of relative clauses. There exist cases where the head NP must be interpreted in a relative-clause external position (cf. i).

In [[pictures of Al<sub>i</sub>] which he; lent to us], he is shaking hands with the president. (from Munn 1994
via Safir 1999)

# Adjectival Modifiers and the Raising Analysis of Relative Clauses

63

Therefore it is postulated that the head NP is reconstructed in the trace position and the abstraction is over a degree variable. It is possible to interpret the head NP in the trace NP only under the raising analysis. Thus the analysis of amount relatives provides independent support to the raising analysis.

Reconstruction in amount readings can take the *head NP* below another scope bearing element thus producing scope reconstruction effects. This is the the case in (26).

- (26) (exs. from Sauerland 1998:54a, b)
  - a. No linguist would read the many books Gina will need for vet school. possible reading: need > many
  - b. Mary shouldn't even have the few drinks that she can take.
     possible reading: can > few

# 6.5. Scope Reconstruction

In (26), we saw an instance of the head NP taking scope under a relative clause internal modal. (26), however, involved amount readings. The head NP can take scope under a relative clause internal operator even in the absence of amount readings. This point is made by examples like (27).

(27) I am worried about the twenty five people likely to come for dinner tomorrow. possible reading: likely > 25 people (Heim p.c.)

A head external analysis is unable to derive the relevant reading of (27). A head raising analysis has more success since it provides us with a way of putting the head NP under the scope of likely.<sup>5</sup>

## 6.6. Some Problems

The head raising analysis faces two primary problems. Both problems are related to the step where the head NP moves out of the relative clause CP and adjoins to it. The first problem is that the movement involved is an unorthodox one which involves extractions of unboundedly deeply embedded possessors. <sup>6</sup>

- (28) Assumption: which with a covert [+human] complement is pronounced who (cf. Kayne 1994, fn. 12, pg. 154)
  - a. the [[NPstudent], [CP [which [NPstudent],], C<sup>0</sup> [Jonah likes t<sub>j</sub>]]]
    Pronounced: 'the student who Jonah likes'
  - b. the  $[N_P \text{student}]_i [C_P [\{\text{which } [N_P \text{student}]_i\}]'s \text{ brother}]_j C^0 [\text{Jonah likes } t_j]]]$ Pronounced: 'the student whose brother Jonah likes'

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup>The question, however, remains of exactly what kind of object the NP + relative clause denotes and how this object is derived from the relative clause.

 $<sup>^6</sup>$ It may be the case that the movement of the head NP out of the relative clause seems unusual only because the other cases of phrasal movement we are comparing it to all involve DP, and not NP, movement Unlike DP movement, NP movement does not have to obey the usual constraints on case and  $\theta$ -roles. This is so because plausibly, DP's, and not NP's, receive case and  $\theta$ -roles. So it should not be surprising if NP and DP movement bave different properties. If this suggestion is on the right track, then the question will arise as to why (and whether) NP movement is only found in relative clauses.

c. the  $[[N_P student]_i [C_P [[[which [N_P student]_i]'s brother]'s roommate]_j C^0 [Jonah likes t_j]]]$ 

Pronounced: 'the student whose brother's roommate Jonah likes'

The second problem relates to the nature of the landing site of the problematic movement. When the head NP moves out of the relative clause CP, it is an instance of a projecting movement i.e. an instance of movement where the moving phrase and not the target projects. None of the instance of movement that we are familiar with, e.g. whmovement, raising, and head-raising, involve a projecting movement. In all these cases, it is the target that projects. Chomsky (1995, §4.4.2), Chomsky (1998, §5:pg. 51) build into the derivational mechanism that in cases of of movement, it is always the target that projects.?

For the above reasons, it has been proposed that the relationship between the head NP and the complement of the relative operator is one of matching (and deletion) and not actual movement (cf. Chomsky 1965). There are three arguments in favor of treating the relationship between the head NP and the complement of the relative operator as involving actual movement. First, with the head raising analysis we can explain why the head NP is pronounced, based on general conceptions of how movement chains are pronounced. Second, under the head raising analysis, it follows why the head NP must be pronounced and the relative clause internal material must be deleted (i.e. \* the book which book Mary likes). Finally, in ellipsis (which is what the matching and deletion account amounts to), while only phrase is pronounced both phrases are interpreted. In relative clauses, we find cases where the head NP seems to be interpreted wholly relative-clause-internally. This is to be expected under a movement analysis but not under a matching story.

## 7. Appendix B: Movement of first/only/-est

There is independent evidence provided by Szabolcsi (1986), Heim (1995) that shows that est moves to associate with focus. The examples in (29) show that est associates with focus (cf. Ross 1964, Jackendoff 1972, Szabolcsi 1986, Gawron 1995, Heim 1995):

- (29) a Joan F gave Caterina the most expensive present.
   ≈ Some people gave Caterina presents. Of all those presents, the present that was given by Joan was the most expensive.
  - b. Joan gave Caterina F the most expensive present.
     ≈ Joan gave some people present. Of all those presents, the present given to Caterina was the most expensive.

Depending upon where the focus falls, we get truth-conditionally distinct readings (29a vs. b). It turns out that the association of est with focus is constrained by syntactic islands (cf. 30).

# (30) (\* indicates the unavailability of the indicated reading)

64

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup>The problem of projecting movement might turn out not to be a problem at all. Iatridou, Anagnostopoulou, & Izvorski (2000) argue that projecting movement is necessary for the proper analysis of reduced relatives. They note that it is unnecessary to have a stipulation against projecting movement built into the grammar. The surrounding environment is sufficient in all the relevant cases to determine whether it is the target that projects or the moved phrase.

- 65
- a. Bill<sub>F</sub> expected [PRO to get the fewest letters].
   ≈ Bill expected to get 2 letters, Jane expected to get 3, Polly expected to get 5 letters. Hence Bill expected to get the fewest letters.
- b. Bill<sub>F</sub> wanted [PRO to climb the highest mountain].
   ≈<sub>dedicto</sub> Bill wanted to climb a mtn. of height 10kms., Jane wanted to climb a mtn. of height 7kms., Polly wanted to climb a mtn. of height 5kms. Hence Bill expected to climb the highest mountain.
- c. \*Bill f likes the student who John gave the fewest presents.

   # Bill likes the student who John gave 10 presents. Jane likes the student who John gave 15 presents. Polly likes the student who John gave 20 presents. John also gave Einar 3 presents, but nobody seems to like Einar. (There may also be students who John gave no presents). Hence Bill likes the student who John gave the fewest presents.
- d. \*Bill<sub>P</sub> made the claim that you got the fewest letters.
  ≠ Bill made the claim that you got 2 letters, Jane made the claim that you got 3, Polly made the claim that got 5. Hence Bill made the claim that you got the fewest letters.

Szabolcsi (1986), Heim (1995) argue that the paradigm in (30) reflects LF-movement of est and the assumption that est can only associate with a focus that it c-commands at LF. In order for the est to associate with the focus on Bill, est has to move to a position where it c-commands Bill. In the case of (30c, d), this would involve movement of est out of an island. Therefore, est is unable to associate with focus on Bill in (30c, d). The evidence provided for movement of est extends to first and nominal only.

# 8. Appendix C: Semantic interpretation of Reconstructed Phrases

The problem with interpreting the head NP in a relative clause-internal position from a semantic perspective is that the types do not fit. NPs are predicates (of type  $\langle e, t \rangle$ ) but the position of reconstruction requires an individual (of type e) or a generalized quantifier (of type  $\langle e, t \rangle$ ).

(31) the book [Jonah thinks [that Olafur likes]]

LF with book reconstructed into the relative clause: the [Jonah thinks [that Olafur likes book]]

For example, in (31), how does *likes* which takes an individual/generalized quantifier argument take *book*, which is a predicate as an argument. To get around this problem, we assume that the predicate can undergo short movement to a position where the semantic types are correct. This, however, is not sufficient. In addition, we need a type-adjustment rule.

- (32) The book [Jonah thinks [that Jones likes]]
  - a. After Copy deletion: the [C<sup>0</sup> [Jonah thinks [that Jones likes [book] ]]]
  - b. Local movement for interpretive reasons the [C<sup>0</sup> [Jonah thinks [that [[book]  $\lambda x$  [John likes x]]] the [C<sup>0</sup> [Jonah thinks [that  $\lambda x [book(x) \wedge like(j, x)]]]$ ]

c. Type adjustment:  $C^0$  requires a propositional complement, it gets a predicate as a complement.  $C^0$  type-lifts the predicate into a proposition with a free variable.  $[C^n] = \lambda P \exists x [P(x) \land x = y] = P(y)$  the  $[C^0]$  [Jonah thinks  $|\exists x|book(x) \land like(j,x) \land x = y]$ ]]

d. Relative  $C^0$  binds the free variable the  $\lambda x$  [Jonah thinks  $[book(x) \wedge like(j, x)]$ ]

The type-adjustment rule in (32c) is an innovation, used to make the types come out right. Without it, think which takes a propositional complement would receive a predicate as a complement. It is possible that a more independently motivated rule of interpretation could derive the reading that we are going for. In that case, the type-adjustment rule can be abandoned without damage to the remaining proposal.

#### References

- Beck, S. (1996) Wh-constructions and transparent Logical Form, Doctoral dissertation, Universität Tübingen, Tübingen, Germany. distributed SfS Report 04-96.
- Brame, M. K. (1968) "A new analysis of the relative clause: evidence for an interpretive theory," unpublished manuscript, MIT.
- Brame, M. K. (1976) Conjectures and Refutations in Syntax and Semantics, North-Holland Publishing Co., New York.
- Carlson, G. N. (1977) "Amount Relatives," Language 53:3, 520-542.
- Chomsky, N. (1965) Aspects of the Theory of Syntax, MIT Press, Cambridge, MA.
- Chomsky, N. (1977) "On wh-movement," in P. Culicover, T. Wasow, and A. Akmajian, eds., Formal syntax, Academic Press, New York, 71-132.
- Chomsky, N. (1993) "A minimalist program for linguistic theory," in K. Hale and S. Keyser, eds., The view from Building 20: essays in linguistics in honor of Sylvain Bromberger, MIT Press, Cambridge, MA, 1–52.
- Chomsky, N. (1995) The minimalist program, Studies in Linguistics 28, MIT Press, Cambridge, Massachusetts.
- Chomsky, N. (1998) Minimalist Inquiries: The Framework, MIT Occasional Papers in Linguistics 15, MITWPL, Cambridge, MA.
- Gawron, J. M. (1996) "Comparatives, Superlatives, and Resolution," Linguistics and Philosophy 18, 333-380.
- Heim, I. (1987) "Where does the Definiteness Restriction Apply? Evidence from the Definiteness of Variables," in E. Reuland and A. ter Meulen, eds., The Linguistic Representation of (In) definiteness, MIT Press, Cambridge, MA.
- Heim, I. (1992) "Kroch, Cinque, Negative Islands," handout from 1992 lecture, Massachusetts Institute of Technology.
- Heim, I. (1995) "Superlatives: A case study on the division of labor of syntax and semantics," unpublished manuscript, Massachusetts Institute of Technology.
- Iatridou, S., E. Anagnostopoulou, and R. Izvorski (2000) "Some Observations about the Form and Meaning of the Perfect," in M. Kenstowicz, ed., Festschrift for Ken Hale (lentative), MIT Press, Cambridge, MA.

66

- Jackendoff, R. (1977) X Syntax: A study of Phrase Structure, MIT Press, Cambridge, MA.
- Jackendoff, R. S. (1972) Semantic Interpretation in generative grammar, Studies in Linguistics 2, MIT Press, Cambridge, Massachusetts.
- Kayne, R. S. (1994) The Antisymmetry of Syntax, Linguistic Inquiry Monographs 25, MIT Press, Cambridge, MA.
- Larson, R. (1985) "Bare-NP Adverbs," Linguistic Inquiry 16:4, 595-621.
- Linebarger, M. (1980) The Grammar of Negative Polarity, Doctoral dissertation, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Massachusetts. distributed by MIT Working Papers in Linguistics.
- Montague, R. (1974) "English as a formal language," in R. H. Thomason, ed., Formal Philosophy: Selected papers of Richard Montague, Yale University Press, New Haven, CT. originally published in 1970.
- Munn, A. (1994) "A minimalist account of reconstruction asymmetries," in *Proceedings* of NELS 24, Amherst, Massachusetts, GLSA.
- Partee, B. (1975) "Montague Grammar and Transformational Grammar," Linguistic Inquiry 6.
- Quine, W. V. O. (1960) Word and object, Studies in communication, MIT Press, Cambridge, MA.
- Ross, J. R. (1964) "A partial grammar of English superlatives," unpublished manuscript of M.A. Thesis, University of Pennsylvania.
- Ross, J. R. (1984) "Inner Islands," in C. Brugmann and M. Macaulay, eds., Proceedings of the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Berkeley Linguistics Society, Berkeley, California, Berkeley Linguistics Society.
- Safir, K. (1999) "Vehicle Change and Reconstruction in A'-chains," Linguistic Inquiry 30. to appear.
- Sauerland, U. (1998) The Meaning of Chains, Doctoral dissertation, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Massachusetts. distributed by MIT Working Papers in Linguistics.
- Schachter, P. (1973) "Focus and Relativization," Language 49:1, 19-46.
- Szabolcsi, A. (1986) "Comparative Superlatives," in N. Fukui, T. R. Rapoport, and E. Sagey, eds., *Papers in Theoretical Linguistics*, MIT Working Papers in Linguistics 8, MITWPL, Cambridge, MA, 245–265.
- Vergnaud, J.-R. (1974) French Relative Clauses, Doctoral dissertation, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Department of Linguistics Calhoun 501 University of Texas Austin, TX 78712

bhatt@cs.utexas.edu