

(Structure Preservation Constraint, Bare Phrase structure from last time's handout)

1 What we have so far:

A: an account of the basic word-order differences between Japanese and English
 → Japanese head-final, English head-initial

B: an account of the difference in verb placement in finite declarative clauses in French and English

- English finite verbs remain in VP, French verb moves to I
- French non-finite verbs and participles remain in VP

C: an account of the difference in auxiliary vs. main verb placement in questions in French and English:

- In English and French, I moves to C in questions
- this results in Aux-S-V-O order in English questions and
- this results in V-S-O order in (some) French questions

2 What triggers movement?

Certain features trigger movement

- in English, a [+Q] feature on C triggers movement from I
- in French, a [+finite] feature on T triggers movement from V

3 What restricts movement?

The Structure Preservation Constraint (a 'principle' of UG) restricts movement: heads may only move to head positions; phrases may only move to phrasal positions.

In a way that we have not yet fully fleshed out, Relativized Minimality restricts movement -- the closest eligible item is the one that has to move to satisfy the feature

4 Why do features trigger movement?

New assumption: The feature that triggers the movement is matched by a feature on the moving element. We say that movement is motivated to *check* features, where 'checking' means 'matching' features on the moved element to features on the target. When the features are checked, they are deleted from the tree.

→ The goal of syntax: delete all *uninterpretable* features from the tree before sending it off to be pronounced and interpreted. That is, if a feature that needs to be checked remains unchecked at a certain point in the derivation, the derivation will *crash*. The idea is that features that need to be checked are *uninterpretable*

Uninterpretable to what? we are now in a position to look at the Big Picture of the Model:

Starting point: a list of 'words' from the lexicon
(including elements like *walked* [V], *dog* [N]
the [D], *John* [DP], etc., as well as functional
elements like \emptyset [_I +past], \emptyset [_C +Q], ...)

The list is called the "Numeration"

Then: build your tree, either by merging words directly with each other, as in Bare Phrase Structure, or by projecting a syntactic template and then merging those elements, as in X-bar theory.

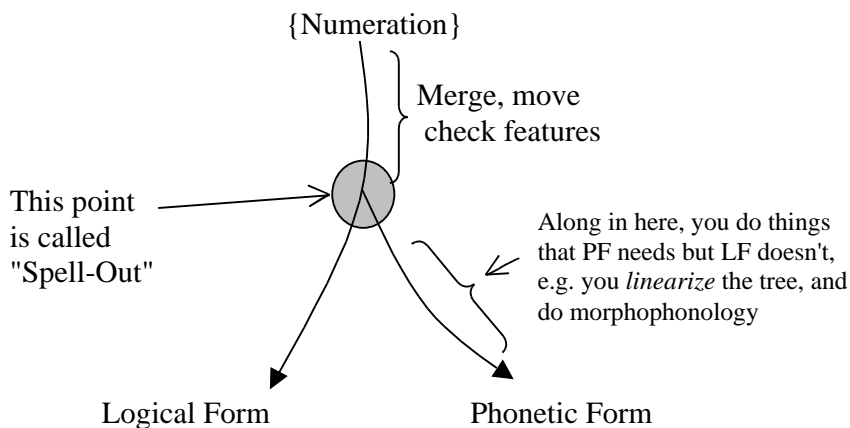
Move elements as needed to check uninterpretable features before sending the tree off to be pronounced — before mapping it to Phonetic Form.

(note that, by hypothesis, the only features you need to check before PF are the ones that are uninterpretable *to PF*)

Send the sentence off to be interpreted by the articulatory/motor system.

Is that all? obviously your sentence also needs to be interpretable by the semantic system as well — Chomsky calls it the 'conceptual/intentional system". So you must send it off to the C/I system as well. The form in which it is understood is called *Logical Form* (on a par with *Phonetic Form*).

Schematically, here's what happens (the famous "Y"-model):



What about on the way to LF? do you do things that LF needs but PF doesn't?