

SUMMARY REPORT
"SEMINAR ON ENGLISH COMPLEMENT CONSTRUCTIONS"

Peter S. Rosenbaum--April, 1964

from the office of:

D. T. LANGENDOEN

P. S. ROSENBAUM

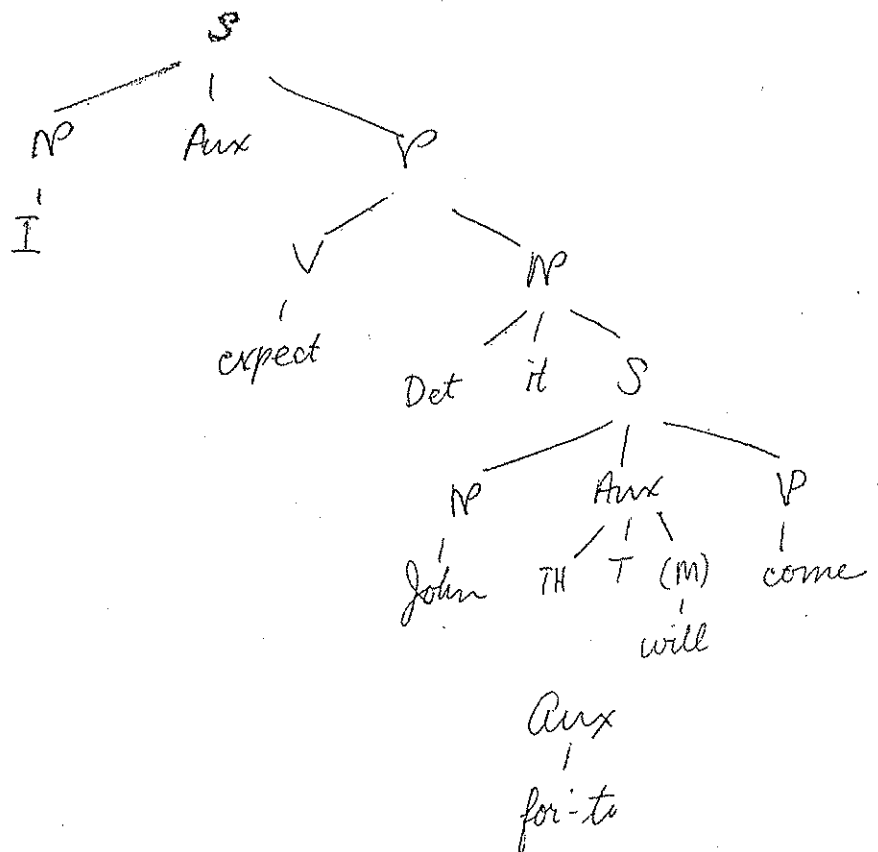
IBM Research Center

29 June 1964

This report is a summary of a seminar given at MIT in April, 1964, dealing with the phrase structure and transformational apparatus required to characterize a variety of complement constructions in English.

I. Consider the following sentences, (1)-(5), and their postulated underlying structure, (6).

- (1) I expect that John will come
- (2) It is expected that John will come
- (3) That John will come is expected
- (4) I expect John to come
- (5) John is expected to come
- (6)



Sentences (1)-(5) can be derived through the following transformations (Cf. PR No. 1).

(7) a. Y NP that Z
 1 2 3 4
 1 3 2 4

T
that

b. Y NP for to Z
 1 2 3 4 5
 1 3 2 4 5

T
for separation

c. Y V for Z
 1 2 3 4
 1 2 ∅ 4

T
for deletion

d. Y it S Z
 1 2 3 4
 1 ∅ 3 4

T
it deletion

e. Y it S Z
 1 2 3 4
 1 2 4 3

T
S separation

f. Y it AUX V [NP X]
 1 2 3 4 5
 1 4 3 ∅ 5

T
noun phrase subject

Utilizing the above rules, sentences (1)-(5) are derived as follows:

- (8) I expect [it[John that will come]] BASE
S NP

- I expect [it[that John will come]] T
S NP that

- I expect [[that John will come]] T
S NP it deletion

- (9) I expect [it[John that will come]] BASE
S NP

- I expect [it[that John will come]] T
S NP that

- [it[that John will come]] is expected T
S NP passive

- [it] is expected [that John will come] T
NP S S separation

- (10) [it[that John will come]] is expected T, T₁
S NP that, passive

- [[that John will come]] is expected T
S NP it deletion

- (11) I expect [it[John for to come]] BASE
S NP

- I expect [it[for John to come]] T
S NP for separation

- I expect [[for John to come]] T
S NP it deletion

- I expect [[John to come]] T
S NP for deletion

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|---------------------|
| (12) I expect [it[for John to come]] | T | |
| S NP | for separation | |
| [it[for John to come]] is expected | T | |
| S NP | passive | |
| [it] is expected [for John to come] | T | |
| NP | S | S separation |
| [it] is expected [John to come] | T | |
| NP | S | for deletion |
| [John] is expected [to come] | T | |
| NP | S | noun phrase subject |

In certain dialects sentences (13)-(17) occur. The transformational apparatus described above is strong enough to derive these sentences although the derivation of each will not be presented.

- (13) I expect it that John will come
- (14) I expect it for John to come
- (15) I expect for John to come
- (16) For John to come is expected
- (17) it is expect for John to come

The transformations described above are unordered, but operate in a cycle from the lowest to the highest sentence in the deep phrase marker. There are, however, various restrictions on the output of these transformations and these restrictions vary from person to person. Insofar as these restrictions are idiosyncratic to particular lexical items, the dictionary entries for these items will ultimately have to be marked for the application and non-application of specific rules.

II. Certain of the transformations suggested above are independently motivated. Thus both T_{S separation} and T_{it deletion} are required to produce sentences like (18) and (19).

(18) It surprised me that John came so early

(19) That John came so early surprised me

The transformation referred to as T_{noun phrase subject} is analogous to what might be called T_{noun phrase final} which applies in (20) to produce (21) and in (22) to produce (23).

(20) It was easy for Clay to hit Liston

(21) Liston was easy for Clay to hit

(22) It was difficult to sleep in the bed

(23) The bed was difficult to sleep in

This transformation might have the following form (altered slightly in PR No. 2):

(24)	X	it	be	Adj	[Y NP]	Z	T
							noun phrase final
	1	2	3	3	4 5	6	
	1	5	3	4	∅	6	

With respect to T_{noun phrase subject}, it is reasonable to ask why this transformation cannot be simplified as in (25) to produce (5) in the derivation (26).

(25)	Y	it	[NP Y]	Z
(26)				S
	1	2	3 4	5
	1	3	∅ 4	5

- (26) [it[for John to come]] was expected T
S NP passive
- [John:[for to come]] was expected T
S NP Cf. p. 5
- [John] was expected [for to come] T
NP S S separation
- [John] was expected [to come] T
NP S for deletion

Prohibiting this solution is the fact that T is
S separation

severely restricted in its application. Thus (27) is possible but (28) is not.

(27) The fact that John came early was appreciated

(28)*The fact was appreciated that John came early

Similarly with adjectival constructions:

(29) The fact that the world is round is obvious

(30)*The fact is obvious that the world is round

Not only does the above solution fail to capitalize on this generalization, but such a solution requires a more complex statement of

the environments in which T may occur. (To my knowledge there is one exception to this generalization in English.
S separation

This is sentences with the verb "remain." "The fact remains that John is a fool.")