On Having Arguments and Agreeing: Semantic EPP

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Introduction:

'EPP-features are... non-semantic... though the configuration they establish has effects for interpretation' (Chomsky 2000)

But if they have semantic effects, why are they nonsemantic?

... *What if ..?*

— EPP-features *are* semantic?

— like this:

$[EPP] = [\Lambda] = \lambda$

— And they bind argument variables?

— which are like this:

$\theta = [\text{ID}] = x$

(cf. Adger & Ramchand 2003)

Which is to say:

EPP-features instantiate predication (Williams 1980; Rothstein 1983; Heycock 1991; Åfarli & Eide 2001)

— **by means of predicate (λ) abstraction** (Heim & Kratzer 1998; Nissenbaum 1998; Sauerland 1998)

— **which is represented in the syntax by two features, $[\Lambda]$ and $[\text{ID}]$** (Adger & Ramchand 2003).

So:

$[\Lambda] \ldots [\text{ID}]$

$\hookrightarrow$

maps to

$\downarrow$

$\lambda \ldots x$

$\hookrightarrow$

V — introduces θ ($= [\text{ID}]$)

v — introduces [EPP] ($= [\Lambda]$)

$[\Lambda]$ binds $[\text{ID}]$ ($=$ predicate)

Predicate satisfied by DP ($=$ argument)

$= v$P

(derivation steps 1 & 2)

T — introduces [EPP] ($= [\Lambda]$)
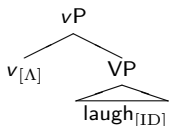
$T_{[\Lambda]}$ forms a dependency with $v_{[\Lambda]}$ via AGREE — so

$T_{[\Lambda]}$ ends up abstracting over $[\text{ID}]$ too
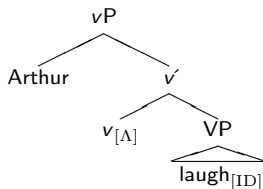
DP is Remerged ($\longrightarrow$ INTERPRET EVERYTHING — well, everything interpretable (derivation step 4) — cf. Sportiche 2002)
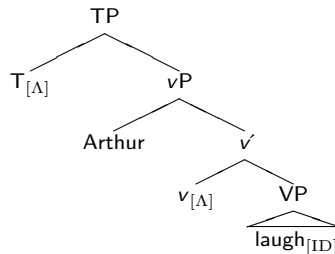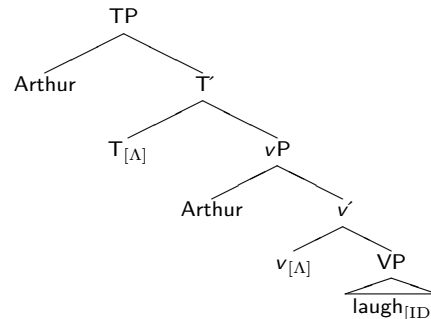
$= $ TP

A Derivation:

$= \lambda.$ laugh (x) $= \lambda.$ [laugh (x)] (Arthur) $= \lambda.$ Arthur laugh (x) $= \lambda.$ [Arthur laugh (x)] (Arthur)

                 $= $ Arthur laughs $= $ Arthur is such that Arthur laughs

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No $[\Lambda]$? Don't worry — we have many other binders to meet your needs:

GEN $\ldots$ $[\text{ID}] = \text{PRO}_{\text{ARB}}$

$\hookrightarrow$

CONTROL $\ldots$ $[\text{ID}] = \text{PRO}_{\text{Control}}$

$\hookrightarrow$

$\exists \ldots$ $[\text{ID}] = $ Passive subject

$\hookrightarrow$

References Adger & Ramchand 2003. 'Merge and Move: wh-dependencies revisited' ms; Chomsky 2000. 'Minimalist Inquiries' in *Step by Step*; Heim & Kratzer 1998. *Semantics in Generative Grammar*; Heycock 1991. *Layers of Predication*; Nissenbaum 1998. 'Movement and derived predicates' MITWPL 25; Rothstein 1983. *The Syntactic Forms of Predication*; Sauerland 1998. *The Meaning of Chains*; Sportiche 2002. 'Movement types and triggers' TiLT; Williams 1980. 'Predication' LI 11; Åfarli & Eide 2001. 'Predication at the Interface' ZASPiL 26