

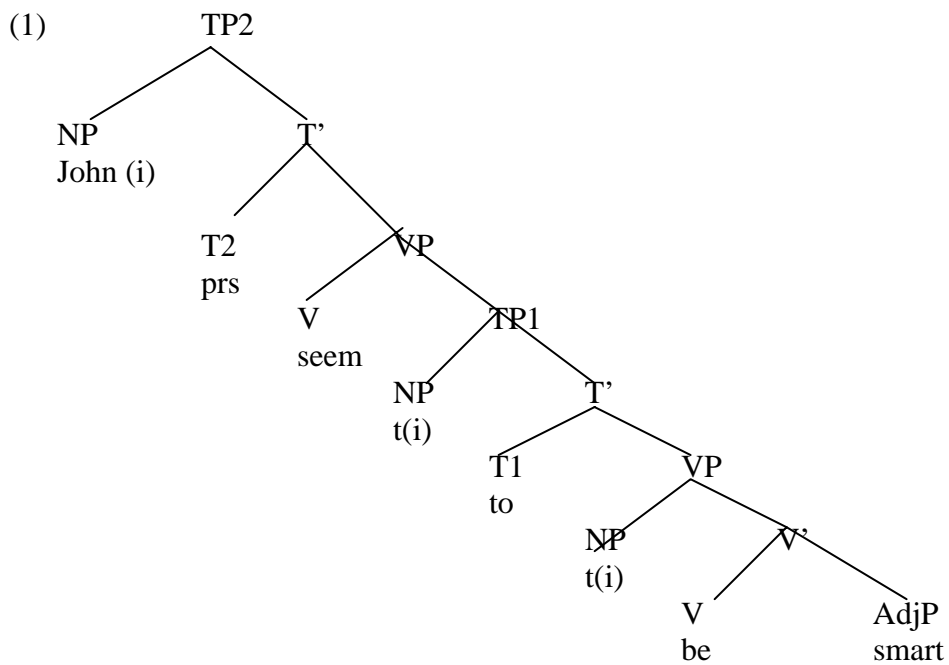
SOME MORE TREES

TREES FOR RAISING CONSTRUCTIONS

(1) John seems to be smart

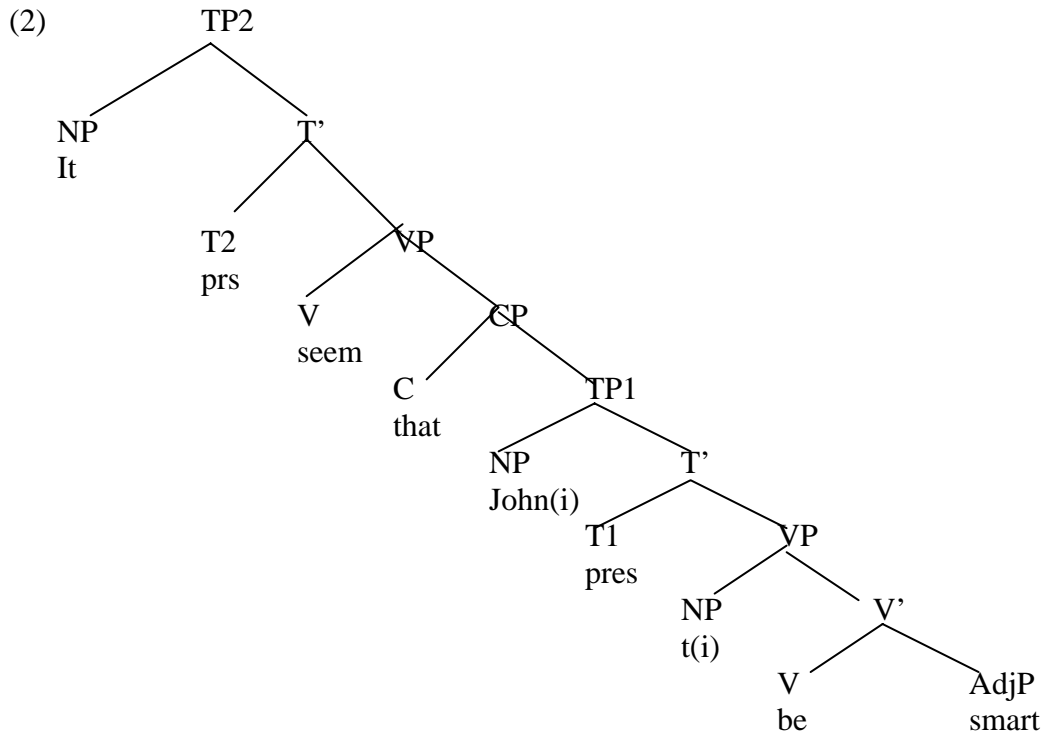
(2) It seems that John is smart

(3)* John seems that is smart



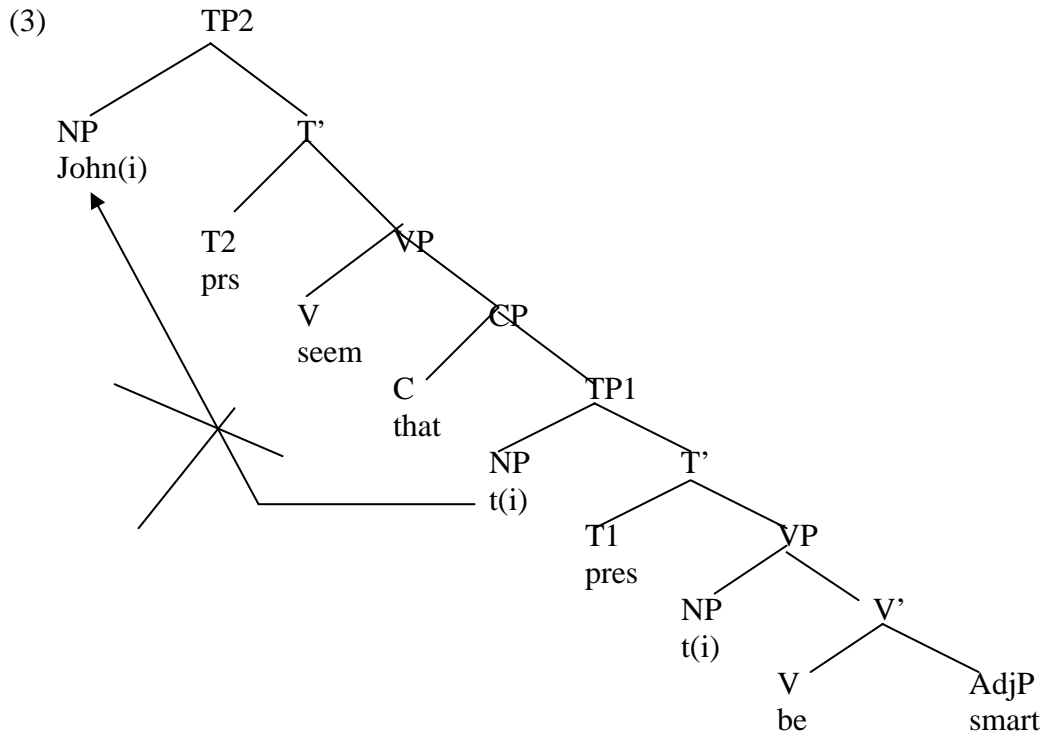
→ John receives a theta-role from ‘be smart’ and raises to spec TP1 for case. BUT! T1 is an infinitive “to” and cannot assign nominative case. So, John moves up higher to get case in the spec of matrix TP

(2) It seems that John is smart



→ John receives a theta-role from “Be smart” and moves to spec TP1 for nominative case. T1 is finite, so John gets case and stays there. The expletive ‘it’ is inserted into spec TP2 for EPP!

(3)* John seems that is smart (superraising)



→ John receives a theta-role from “Be smart” and moves to spec TP1 for nominative case. T1 is finite, so John **gets case and stays there**. THERE IS NO REASON FOR ‘JOHN’ TO MOVE TO SPEC OF TP2. HENCE, IT CANNOT MOVE THERE. IF YOU TRY TO MOVE ‘JOHN’ TO SPEC TP2, YOU GET AN UNGRAMMATICAL SENTENCE!