Primer Parcial — 8
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LINGÜÍSTICA INGLESA: CORRIENTES SINTÁCTICA ACTUALES
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FIRST TERM

1. Do only verbs assign theta roles? Provide some examples to illustrate your opinion.
   No

2. What can you tell me about the Pro-drop parameters?
   Sujeto

3. Analyse the following example: is it (un)grammatical? Comment on the role of there in the sentence:
   There occurred three accidents after lunch.
   [Blank] [Blank]

SECOND TERM

1. Analyse the following sentences (remember that the use of tree diagrams is voluntary):
   a) Poirot preferred to be an excellent teacher rather than a brilliant doctor.
   b) Poirot turned out to be an excellent teacher rather than a brilliant doctor.
   c) Poirot was liable to be an excellent teacher rather than a brilliant doctor.

2. Are the following sentences (un)grammatical? Explain why:
   a) I consider very much him to be a good candidate. √
   b) Miss Marple surely gave her pipe to Janvier. ✗

3. What is exceptional about this sentence?
   [Blank] him to have agreed to the proposal is surprising.
4. Try to rescue these examples using what you know about Case Theory and/or c-command domains:

a) *Your parents to come to my wedding would be a smart move.

b) *Mary's concern him.

c) *Poirot travelled John and me.

d) *Patrick should wash themselves every day.

5. Look at the following sentence: “My grandmother believed my boyfriend to be a liar”:

a) Is the sentence grammatical or ungrammatical? Why?

b) Now look at the second part of the sentence: [my boyfriend to be a liar]: is it a CP or an IP? Why?

6. Analyse the following sentence using as much theoretical support as you can:

He was fascinated by everything.
The first term 3/3

(1) Do only esta página roles? Provides some examples to prove il entera won.

No, verbs are only ones to assign theta roles, although for example, he buys him a car. In this case, the verbs can assign three different arguments, although "him" can be omitted, for example, he buy a car. Then, we put this verb like this: 

\[
\text{buy} \rightarrow [\text{NP}] [\text{en}] [\text{NP}].
\]

We have three arguments but one of them can be omitted. According to the theta criteria, each argument is assigned a theta role and each theta role is assigned to an argument. Then, "he" will be assigned a theta role, in this case "Agent", and "a car" is the theme of sentence.

But, we can see in the following examples an adjective, a preposition can assign theta roles, for example, in "Jane is envious of me", in this example, the copula verb "to be" is weak and almost transparent to assign a theta role. For this reason, "envious" assign a theta role to "Jane" and "me" because we have two arguments of envious: [\text{NP}] [\text{PP}].

So, if we do not want to break the theta grid, we must
assign a theta-role to each argument.

At the same way it happens with the preposition "between", for example, in Genoa is between Roma and Milam.
We have the same copular verb 'to be', which is weak and transparent in order to assign a theta-role. So, the preposition "between" assign these arguments: [NP] between [NP] [NP].

2/3

What can you tell me about the Prep Pre-drop parameters?

The pre-drop parameters are related to Extended Projection Principle because it is related to the subject in each sentence.

As we know, the subject can be omitted in other languages, for example in the Spanish language: Compré un coche. However, the English language cannot omit the subject because the inflection of English verbs are poor, for example: I bought a car.

But, there are some cases in which the subject is preserved in the sentence although they were not written, for example: in "To tell her truth is not correct," and "I think to buy a new car."

In the first example, the subject of the clause does not appear, but we cannot break the Extended Projection Principle in which each sentence must have a subject, so we put "Pre-drop" to indicate the place of subject, as it is showed here:
Prep can show that we have a subject but we do not know exactly what it is. (Prep is arbitrary). We must add this subject should appear with the preposition for. \[
\text{[I forgot to tell the truth... was...]
\]

In the other example, “I \textit{think} to buy a new car”, the subject of the clause does not appear but it is implicit, and we put ‘Prep’ to indicate it. Prep indicates us that the subject is related to another part of the sentence, in this case “I”. \[\text{[I think [Prep, to buy a new car]]}\]

\textit{End-weight?}

3/4

3. Analyse the following example: is it (in)grammatical? Comment on the role of there in the sentence.

\[\text{“there occurred three accidents after lunch.”}\]

Although this sentence can appear to be strange, it is perfectly grammatically, although there are some aspects we must note.\[\text{SELF}\]

This sentence, for some linguists, has two subjects. One of them is the syntactic subject (there), and the other is
to the meaning of the sentence and no role is assigned to it. So, we leave no role for there.

Impersonal?
SECOND TERM

1a → It is a grammatical sentence because the verb "to be" is not repeated at the end of the sentence between "rather than" and "a brilliant doctor".

We have a subordinate clause ("to be an excellent ... doctor"), in which the subject is implicit in the clause, as we see here: "Poirot, presumed [to be an excellent teacher rather than a brilliant doctor]."

1b → Here we have a raising predicate from type one.

As we know, in this sentence we have a subject-to-subject movement in which Poirot moves from his initial position, between turned out and to be, to his final position, at the beginning of the sentence.

Is equivalent?

1c → Here we have a raising predicate from type two.

We also have a subject-to-subject movement in which Poirot moves from his initial position, between liable and to be, to his final position, at the beginning of the sentence.
2a → this sentence is ungrammatical. If we want this sentence to be grammatical, we must insert the preposition "for" between very much and him. If we do this, there is nothing which blocks him in order to receive case, because the preposition would be the case-assigner for him.

2b → this sentence is grammatical because the verb "give" we find the three arguments of this verb (give), and because the adverb "surely" is a verb complement and it must appear close to the verb.

3) this sentence is grammatical and it is expressions because the heavy constituent, in this case, a [ ] clause, is placed at the beginning of the sentence. We do this in order to emphasize the [ ] clause. It is also a peculiar sentence because of the insertion of the preposition "for" to avoid the ungrammaticality of the sentence. If we do not insert this preposition, the reflection is too weak to give a case.

ECM?
him to have agreed the proposal. We would insert the dummy it and the heavy constituent would be placed at the end of the sentence.

0.5/0.5

4a → The inflection is too weak to assign a case so for this reason, we must insert the preposition "for" in order to make this sentence grammatical. "For" permeates through the inflection and it assigns a case for "your parents".

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4b → The noun phrase "Mary's concern" c-commands "him" and we know that a noun phrase cannot assign case, it is necessary to insert something between the two noun phrases. In this case, the insertion of the preposition "about" would solve the ungrammaticality of the sentence.

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4c → The verb "travel" requires a noun phrase and a prepositional phrase, so you cannot put it before travelled John and me. You must insert the preposition "with" in order to recover the grammaticality of the sentence.
According to the Binding theory, the reciprocal pronoun themselves will be related to a plural subject, with more than one participant. In this case, Patrick is alone, so themselves cannot refer to Patrick. In order to solve this, we put "himself" in order to "themselves". c-command domain?

5a. This sentence is perfectly grammatical because there is no obstacle between the verb believe and the noun phrase "my boyfriend", so the verb is the case-assigner of the noun phrase.

5b. You can represent this clause as you want because "my boyfriend to be a liar" is the same than "that my boyfriend is a liar". So we can represent with a CP or an IP. In the CP we have the complementizer "that" and in the IP we have "to".

6. He was fascinated by everything.

This is a passive sentence. The main features of the passive sentences are the following:

- the morphology of the verb changes.
- the elements of the sentence change position, so the case is different in the passive voice than in the active voice, but the roles does not change. "to" will be the experiencer in the active or passive voice.
- the nominative case assigner changes in the passive voice.
- the inherent case disappear in the passive voice.