

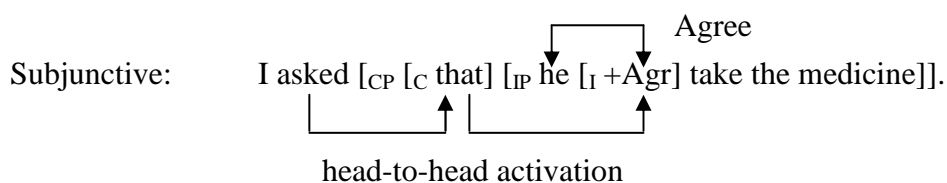
Verb Movement: The Contrast between English and Polish

Madoka Murakami (Jissen Women's University, Tokyo, Japan and University of Siena, Italy)

This paper discusses V features, nominative case checking, and V movement in Chomsky's (1995; 2001) minimalist program. V movement can be accounted for in the unitary Infl system of any language where I is a bundle of features, without recourse to AgrP parameterization (Pollock, 1989).

As proposed in Murakami (1992), the feature matrices [-Tense, +Agr] and [+Tense, -Agr] will be argued for the subjunctive and imperative respectively; the auxiliary *do*, a dummy tense carrier, can be inserted into [+Tense] of imperatives, while untensed I cannot accommodate *do* in subjunctives: *I insist that you (*do) not be lenient*. The imperative *do* never inflects for agreement even if its overt subject is third person singular: *Everybody do/*does sit down*.

On the other hand, [+Agr] is a dependent case checker which must be activated by another head under head-to-head adjacency (Raposo, 1987); the complementizer *that* is necessary for subjunctives to connect to the chain of Agr activation and check off the nominative features, e.g.:



Furthermore, finite V carries [+Tense, +Agr] in present-day English, but [+Tense, +Agr, +Mood] in earlier English, due to the fact that mood was morphologically realized on the surface of the Old English verb form by the subjunctive morpheme *e*. The claim is that V movement can be accounted for in terms of the numerical strength of V features: *The more, the stronger*. Thus all Vs used to raise over *not* with three positive features in older English, e.g.: *I know not t*.

In present-day English by contrast, only *be* and perfective *have* raise, while main verbs remain in situ, with two positive features, e.g.: *John often kisses Mary*. But no Vs move with only one positive feature in subjunctives and imperatives, e.g.: *I insist that you not be lenient*.

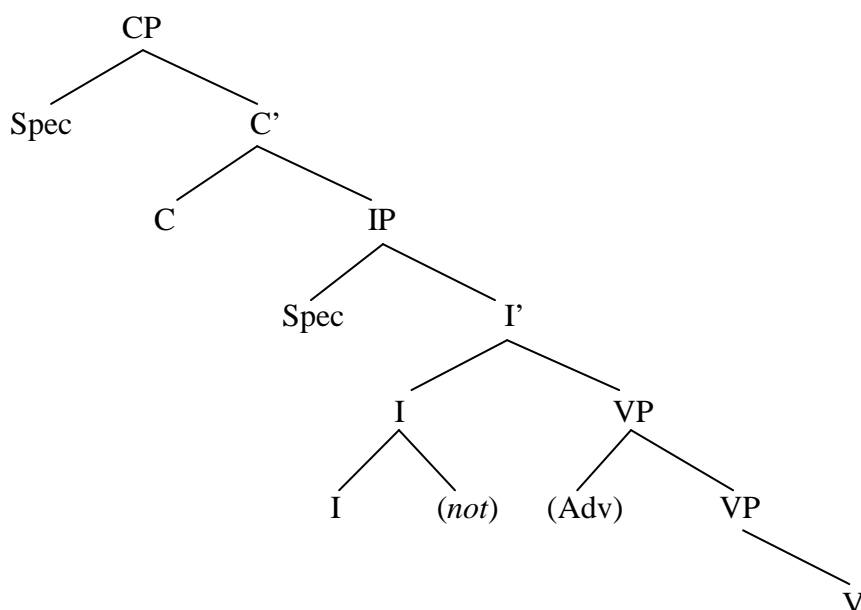
This hypothesis highlights the difference of V movement between English and other European languages. In the Polish language as well, there are three morphological moods: the indicative, subjunctive, and imperative. One example of how the Polish indicative can be used interrogatively in which the main verb is raised in front of its subject is evident in the following construction (Tsukamoto, 2008): *Przyjdzie Andrzej?* (= Does Andrzej come?) In the imperative, an overt nominative subject may follow an inflected main verb, which means that the main verb has moved over its subject: *Chodźmy [ja ti ty] do domu*. (Lit: Go [you and I] to home.)

The Polish subjunctive verb is composed of the past third person form as its base, the subjunctive morpheme *by*, and an agreement suffix (Ishii and Mitsui, 2008). Although further research is necessary, the subjunctive verb *mogłabyś* (= subjunctive *can*) seems to occupy the same position of the indicative verb *możesz* (= indicative *can*): *Czy mogłabyś/możesz pójść ze mną na zakupy?* (= Could/Can you go shopping with me?)

I will examine sufficient Polish data and reach the conclusion that all finite Polish verbs raise from V to I (and then to C) due to the existence of mood morphology, regardless of the mood to which they belong.

(516 words including examples)

Clausal Structure (V' level omitted)



Strength of I

T	Agr	M	# of +	
+	+	+	3	All Vs raise in earlier English and Polish
+	+		2	Only <i>be</i> and perfective <i>have</i> raise in English
	+		1	No Vs raise in English subjunctives
+			1	No Vs raise in English imperatives

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