

Arguments for Phonetically Null Cs

In Main Clauses

Theory Internal Argument: ...if we suppose that the set of UG principles wired into the Language Faculty include a **Categorial Uniformity Principle** to the effect that all expressions of the same type belong to the same category (and, more specifically, all clauses with the same force belong to the same category): since declarative *that*-clauses are clearly CPs, it follows from the Categorial Uniformity Principle that all other declarative clauses (including declarative main clauses must be CPs. (p98)

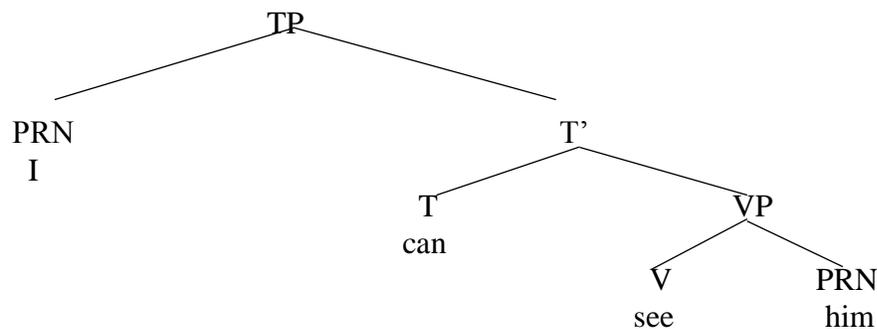
Cross-Linguistic Evidence Other languages (exx p.98 from Arabic) have overtly filled Cs which mark illocutionary force of the sentence.

Theory + Data Argument: Inverted Ts in questions come where you'd expect a C + cannot co-occur with *if* C, suggesting that those questions have an overtly filled C. If so, then the sentence, *I want to go to the movies, but should I stay home and do my homework?* contains a question (a CP) coordinated with a declarative clause. The Co-ordination Condition requires that only like constituents be coordinated—so the first clause must be a CP. The Headedness Principle requires that all non-terminal constituents be projections of a lexical head—so if the first clause is a CP, then it must contain a C.

Now comes the **Case Condition:** A pronoun or noun expression is assigned case by the closest case-assigning head which c-commands it. (p101)

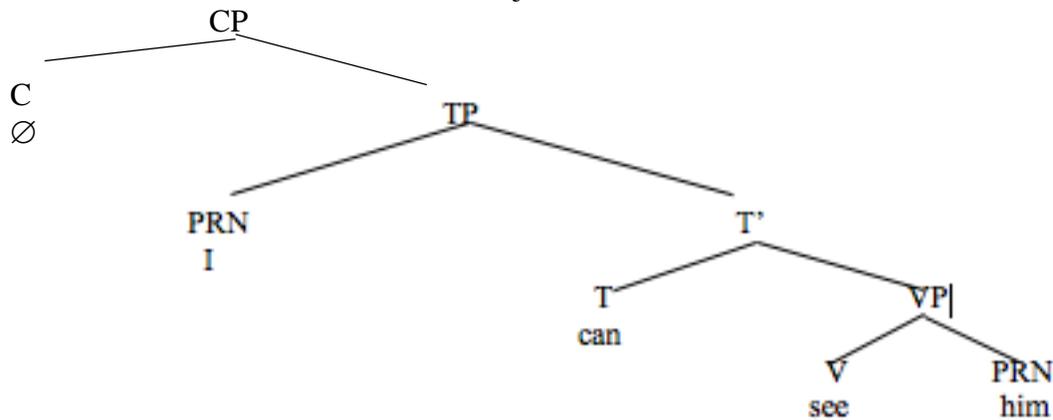
So Vs assign case to their complements; Ps assign case to their complements. What assigns case to subjects? In the vast majority of clauses, the c-commanding head is going to be the C.

If we don't have a C in a main clause, then what assigns nominative case to *I* in *I can see him*?



see c-commands *him* and assigns accusative case. But if this is the complete tree, what c-commands *I*?

If on the other hand, we have a CP, not just a TP, then the structure instead looks like this



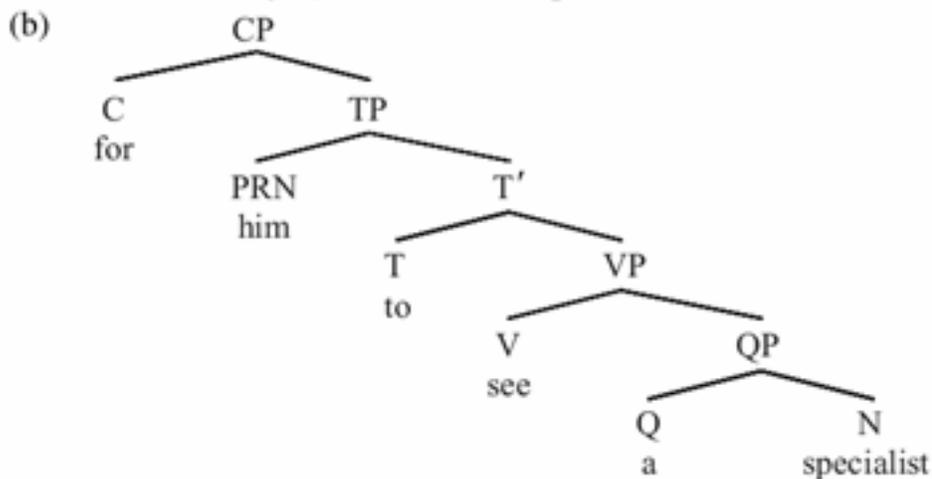
and therefore *I* is c-commanded by a finite declarative C which assigns nominative case (just like *that* and *that* does in subordinate clauses).

In Non-Finite Clauses

Overt *for* can occur as the C with an infinitive clause complement, as in I will arrange [CP for [TP him to see a specialist]]. (p102)

For assigns accusative case to *him*; *see* assigns accusative case to *a specialist*.

(53) (a) I will arrange [*for* him to see a specialist]



What assigns case to *him* in (54) She wanted [him to apologize]? (p102)

Either *want* or a phonetically null accusative case assigning C. If *want* then the complement of *want* is a TP; if a C then the complement of *want* is a CP.

What can (55) be used to argue for and why?

(55) I want [Mary to come to Japan] and [for her to see my parents] (p102)

Other data:

- (57a) *More than anything, she wanted for him to apologize
 b) More than anything, she wanted him to apologize
 c) She wanted, more than anything, for him to apologize
 d) * She wanted, more than anything, him to apologize
- (58a) What she wanted was for him to apologize
 b) *What she wanted was him to apologize (p103)

Compare these with (ECM/defective) clauses

- (67) *We didn't intend [you to hurt him] or [for him to hurt you].
 (68) We didn't intend [you to hurt him] or [him to hurt you]
 (69a) *What they believe is [him to be innocent]
 b) *What we hadn't intended was [you to hurt anyone].
 (70a) He is believed to be innocent.
 b) You weren't intended to hurt anyone.
 (71a) We didn't intend [for you to hurt anyone]
 b) You weren't intended [for to hurt anyone] (p106)

Impenetrability Condition

A constituent in the domain of (i.e. c-commanded by) a complementiser is impenetrable to (and so cannot be attracted by) a higher head c-commanding the complementiser (p107)

The crucial thing about ECM clauses is that they are NOT CPs and so don't have a phonetically null C.