

Control and Raising in Non-finite Complements in English

Lecturer: Maura Coffas

Course description:

♠ Aims:

- The course addresses students in their final year of study, majoring or minoring in English.
- *it aims to discuss (syntactic) issues pertaining to raising instances and Control Theory (and the distinctions between the two) in English non-finite complements (infinitive and –ing complements).* Hence, a fair familiarization of students with a) basic concepts related to the syntax of complement clauses and b) the finite/non-finite divide is definitely welcome – if not a pre-requisite.

Starting with an introduction into the topic of reference and Binding Theory and going on with a discussion of the types of empty categories (ECs) (cross-linguistically), the elective focuses on raising and control phenomena in English non-finite complement clauses, tackling issues such as the differences between PRO and *pro*, the differences between PRO and NP-trace (Control vs Raising), the difference between the argument structure of control vs raising triggers, other syntactic differences, types of control constructions (Obligatory vs. Non-Obligatory; partial vs exhaustive Obligatory Control), types of raising structures (raising to subject vs. raising to object), a.s.o. It therefore offers a thorough revision of interesting aspects of (the syntax of) non-finite complements, while also going more into the depths of the raising/control divide and shedding light on some interesting intricacies.

♠ Evaluation:

- ▶ **seminar attendance (+activity): 10 points**
- ▶ **Midterm / Quizz (week 6): 40 points**
- ▶ **Final evaluation: take-home test** (comprehension questions + little research) **OR written exam: 50 points**

♠ (Tentative) Syllabus:

- ♣ Week 1: Warming up to the topic & Background issues
- ♣ Weeks 2 & 3: Key concepts & working tools. Introducing Binding Theory (Principles A, B and C) & Empty Categories
- ♣ Week 4: Empty Categories in English. Introducing the Control/Raising distinction
- ♣ Weeks 5, 6, 7: Control and Raising in infinitive complements (triggers, types of Control: OC vs. NOC; types of OC (partial vs exhaustive); types of Raising (SSR, SOR) & differences thereof, distinguishing subject control from Nom + Infinitive and object control cases from Acc+ Infinitive, modal verbs between the raising and control analysis)
OBS: in Week 6: Mini-midterm (cca. 1h)
- ♣ Week 7, 8, 9: Control and Raising in –ing-complements (types of gerundial and participial constructions, PRO-Gerunds vs PRO-Participles, Acc + Participle & Nominative + Participle, the differences between Acc-Gerund (the half Gerund) and Acc-Participle, raising vs control analyses of some Acc+ing constructions, etc.)
- ♣ Week 10: Taking stock & drawing conclusions.