

## More embedded infinitivals

In the last assignment, you analyzed sentences like (1a-d).

- (1) a. Kim seems to underappreciate Lee.
- b. The prosecutor appears to be investigating the governor.
- c. Dick is unlikely to avoid prosecution.
- d. Nancy is certain to replace Dennis.

What is important to explain about these sentences is that the surface subject receives its semantic role from the embedded verb. We accounted for this by assuming that the surface subject originates in the lower TP, and is moved to the matrix SpecTP position. The more detailed representation of (1a), according to this analysis, is (2).

- (2) [TP Kim seems [TP ~~Kim~~ to [vP ~~Kim~~ underappreciate Lee]]]

Now consider (3a-d), which are superficially identical to (1a-d) and the other kinds of sentences you analyzed in Assignment 7.

- (3) a. Kim likes to tickle Lee.
- b. Dick tried to avoid prosecution.
- c. The governor wants to win the election.
- d. Nancy is eager to replace Dennis.

**The question** Are the sentences in (3) derived in the same way as those in (1)? If not, how do they differ?

**The strategy** To answer this question, start by carefully identifying as many similarities and differences between the examples in (3) and those in (1) as you can, using the various types of constructions you have been looking at in the last few assignments as a starting point (possibility of expletive *it* subjects, passive/active pairs, and idioms), but also bringing in any other data that you think may be relevant. You should then use these similarities/differences as an empirical basis for developing answering the question above. If you conclude that the sentences in (3) and those in (1) are not derived in the same way, develop a detailed analysis of how they differ, and show how your proposal accounts for the range of facts you have discovered. If you conclude that they are derived in the same way, make sure that you can explain any empirical differences between the two sets of sentences. As always, make your reasoning clear and complete, make all new assumptions explicit, and illustrate crucial points with lexical entries, derivations and trees.

A SUGGESTION: You may simplify your exposition by focusing on just one of the verbs in (3). However, if you notice any important differences between the verbs in these examples, feel free to point them out.