

Copy raising as a lexical rule

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[All positive numbered examples were attested on the web in 2021, unless otherwise indicated.]

- (1) it's not difficult to work out why *Trump looked like he was going to win in January*: the stock market was booming, unemployment was low, crime was low, there were no new wars...it's not a mystery.
- (2) i have gone ahead and paid your parts because *the host of the giveaway looks like he disappeared ...*
- (3) *the bill seemed like it would easily pass...*
- (4) I'm so excited to get my copy of Sara's book ... *this one sounds like it's going to win an immediate place in my heart.*
- (5) a. Marion looks like she will be elected. (Invented example.)
b. 'It appears likely that Marion will be elected' (CR)
c. 'Marion's visual appearance suggests that she will be elected' (Perception report)
- (6) a. Pat looks like Marion is angry at him. (Invented example)
b. Pat looks like Marion is angry. (Invented example)
- (7) ... everyone high or low acquitted himself *(as if the fortune of the field depended on his own individual prowess.)
- (8) Although it continued to float in midair, it acted *(like someone had cemented it to the ground).
- (9) Americium, which is a pseudolanthanide, behaves *(as though it were roughly atomic No. 60.)
- (10) Doug Collins looked *(like someone had just slapped him). (Kevin Sullivan & Mary Jordan, *Trump on Trial: The Investigation, Impeachment, Acquittal, and Aftermath*)
- (11) The words sounded *(as if they were floating like flowers on water). (Virginia Woolf, *To the Lighthouse*)
- (12) As for Ramsey...he had told me all along that his head was in danger, and he seemed *(as though the order was out for its removal).
- (13) The man called her *as though he was calling a little cat.*
- (14) This girl swims *like it was something she was meant to do.*
- (15) She looked at him *like he had lost it completely.*
- (16) She looked like someone had died.

Expletives

- (17) There looks like $\left. \begin{array}{l} \text{there's going to be a storm} \\ \text{*it's going to rain} \\ \text{*Kim's going to win} \end{array} \right\} \text{ (Sag 2012: 150, (110a))}$
- (18) ?Kim looks like $\left. \begin{array}{l} \text{there's going to be a storm} \\ \text{it's going to rain} \\ \text{Pat's going to win} \end{array} \right\} \text{ (Sag 2012: 151, (110b))}$

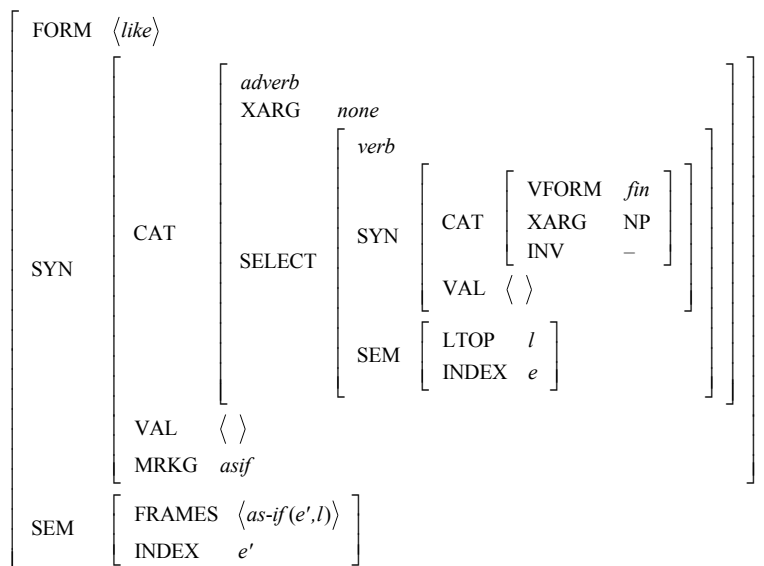
$$(19) \left[\begin{array}{l} \text{FORM} \langle look \rangle \\ \text{ARG-ST} \left\langle \text{NP}_i, \text{PRT} [like], \left[\text{S} \text{ XARG} \langle \text{NP}_i [pron] \rangle \right] \right\rangle \end{array} \right] \text{ (Sag 2012:151, (111))}$$

- (20) a. 'How's it down there?' – 'It's fairly calm'
 b. 'How's it up there?' – 'It's practically ripping the trees out.'
- (21) a. 'Isn't it nice out this afternoon?' – 'You must be crazy. It's so hot that it's giving me a headache.'
 b. 'It's cold enough to freeze the balls on a brass monkey.'
- (22) a. It's scary in the dark.
 b. It's inspiring here at MIT.
 c. I'm climbing down. It's too exposed up here.
 d. It's her graduation next week.
 e. I like it in California.
 f. The noise makes it hard to study.
 g. It's all finished between us.
- (23) a. *Stop it!* (what you are obviously doing).
 b. *Don't do it!* (what you are obviously about to do).
 c. *Come off it!* (what you are obviously insisting on)" Bolinger (1973: 263).
- (24) a. It seems like it's going to rain soon.
 b. *It seems like there is going to rain soon.
 c. *There seems like there is going to rain soon.
 d. *There seems like it is going to rain soon.
 e. It seems like rain is coming soon.
 f. *There seems like rain is coming soon.
 g. There seems like there is going to be a storm soon.

Analysis of Copy Raising

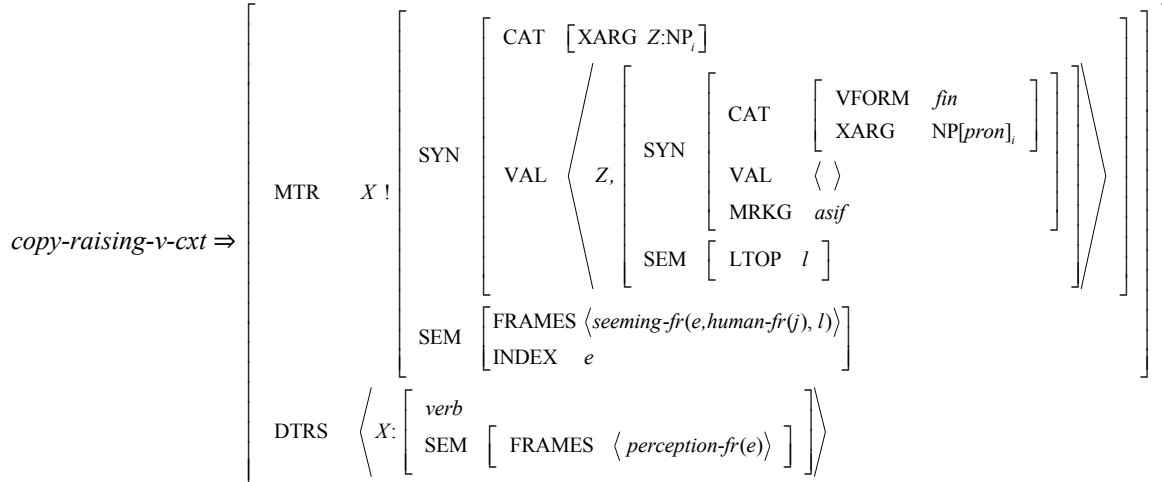
- (25) ... the bill seems like a positive step for our state.
- (26) MTR [ARG-ST <NP_i, S[MRKG *as-if*, SYN[XARG NP[*pron*]_i]]>]
- (27) Trump looks like he disappeared. (Aspirational example)

(28) Listeme like



[Notational abbreviation: AVMs tagged X:[...] and X![...] are identical in all respects in which they are not shown to differ.]

(29) Copy Raising Construction (\uparrow derivational-cxt) [a lexical rule]



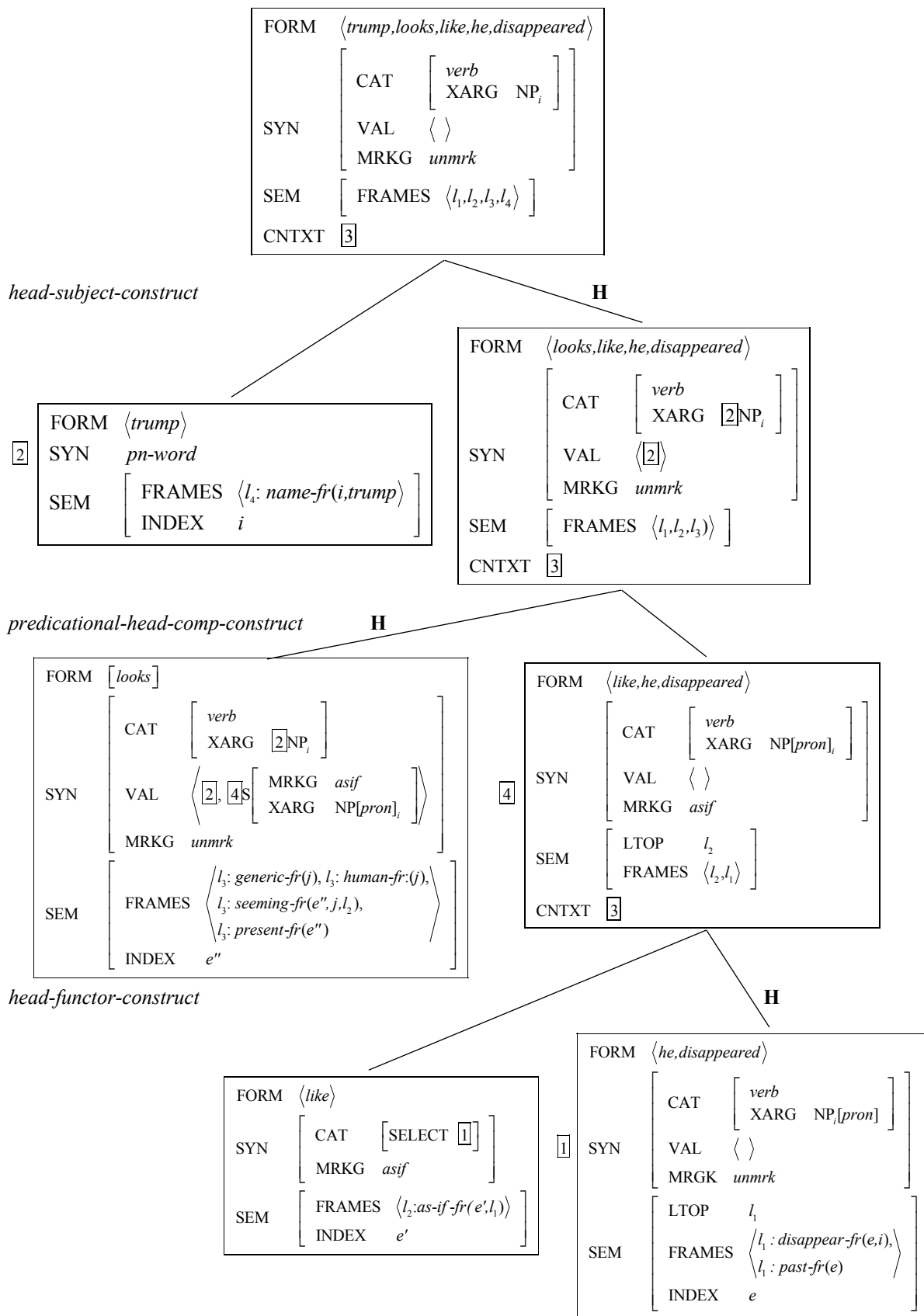


Diagram 1. Derivation Tree for *Trump looks like he disappeared*

Acknowledgments

I would like to thank Jong-Bok Kim and Eric Potsdam for helpful email correspondence. The story of CR presented here has arisen from many conversations on this subject with Laura Michaelis. I owe to Rui Chaves an unpayable debt for his counsel in formalizing the analysis. The remaining flaws are, of course, mine.

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