

ON DETERMINING THE D-STRUCTURE AND S-STRUCTURE OF WORLD LEADERS' QUOTES

Muhamad Ahsanu
Jenderal Soedirman University

Abstract

This article projects the syntactical aspects of world leaders' quotes via the X-bar theory. The reason why portraying the quotes utilizing the X-bar is due to the distinctiveness of the sentence patterns of the quotes themselves. By distinctiveness, world leaders tend to use simple sentence pattern in their creating their quotes and due to this simplicity the quote has endless impact and becomes easily chanted and widely known. For instance, the quote 'I have a dream' is very familiar to everyone's ears for partly it uses DP-VP-NP in the X-bar theory. This typicality is exposed through the primary research problems: what are the typical D-structure configurations of the world leaders' quotes and how are the configurations transformed into their S-structures? Thus, this article focuses on discovering the underlying representations of the quotes of world leaders via the generative and transformational processes. The identified quotes are the internet-based data selected purposively. The article utilizes a descriptive and explanatory analysis.

Keywords: *D-structure, S-structure, world leaders' quotes*

Introduction

Along with sleeping, eating and drinking, talking is one of the most common of human activities. When we speak, we utter a stream of sounds with a certain meaning, which our speaking partner can process and understand, in the event that they speak the same language. Therefore, according to Bloomfield (1933), language plays a great part in our life. We rarely observe it, taking it rather for granted, as we do breathing or walking. In tandem with this general maxim that *language has a crucial part in human lives*, Chomsky (1965) affirms that when we study human language, we are approaching what some might call the "human essence," the distinctive qualities of mind that are unique to man and that are inseparable from any critical phase of human existence, personal or social. The normal use of language is a creative activity. This creative aspect of normal language use is one fundamental factor that distinguishes human language from any other known system of animal communication.

One example of this human creativity is the creation of world leaders' quotes. These quotes are just sentences but can change the "world." However, in what specific ways the quotes change the world are not the issue in this article. This merely sees the grammar or the internal structures, so-called D-structures, and how they are transformed into their S-structures. In the light of Lock (1996), there are many ways of describing the grammar of a language. One of which sees grammar as a set of rules which specify all the possible grammatical structures of the language. In this approach, a clear distinction is usually made between grammatical (called well-formed) sentences and ungrammatical sentences. The main concern is with the *forms* of grammatical structures and their relationship to one another, rather than with their meanings or their uses in different contexts. Of numerous noted world leaders' quotes, only were the quotes of Lincoln, Barack Hussein Obama and Martin Luther King Jr. chosen to be the primary

cases analyzed. In terms of the analysis, such quotes will be seen from the stance of transformational generative grammar, precisely utilizing X-bar theory. This theory is used to fit the goals of linguistic theory (Chomsky 1986). There are three major goals of linguistic theory (Van Valin and Lapolla 1999) made up of (1) description of linguistic phenomena, (2) explanation of linguistic phenomena, and (3) understanding the cognitive basis of language.

Problem limitation

For the sake of solidity of the analysis, the scope of this article is limited to the use of the X-bar Theory in generating the D-structures and in transforming the D-structures into the S-structures of the given data. There are two main reasons why it is limited to this theory. First, it is the latest theoretical development of phrase structure rule that now has been abandoned. Secondly, this topic seems to fit the syntactical analysis using the X-bar theory of constituent structure, with the interaction of syntax and lexicon via the Projection Principle (cf. Cook 1988). In terms of data coverage, it is restricted to three quotes deemed to be truly world leaders' quotes.

Theoretical Framework

To do a syntactical analysis, we are to make ourselves familiar with the goals of linguistic studies. To understand the goals, Radford (1981) suggests raising this question: 'Why study language? For Chomsky, according to Radford, the answer is that language is a mirror of the mind – i.e. by detailed study of language, we might hope to reach a better understanding of how the human mind produces and processes language.

The X-bar Theory

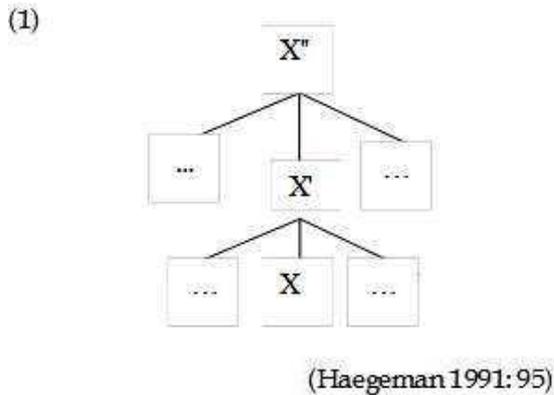
This theory, X-bar theory, can be defined as a theory of the phrase structure (Cook 1988). Its main principle is that a phrase always contains a head of the same type. By using the X-bar Theory, sentences (Radford 1981) are hierarchically

structured into sets of category-labeled constituents, and that the constituent structure of a sentence can be displayed graphically in the form of a tree-diagram (phrase marker). A tree diagram is a type of graph consisting of a set of points (called nodes) with each such point carrying a label, and with each pair of nodes being related either by a precedence or a dominance relation (cf. Cook 1988; Radford 2009; Haegeman 1991). This tree diagram can help visualize the D-structures of the quotes. This X-bar syntax, as Cook further elaborated, makes a generalization in which it replaces large numbers of idiosyncratic rules with general principles; where it captures all properties of all phrases; and it bases the syntax on lexical categories that link with entries in the lexicon. This X-bar theory can show quickly the Configurational Hierarchies (D-structures) that hold between the various nodes in a given syntactic structure (Napoli 1993).

In this theory, the first thing to act out is to find out the *head* of a phrase. In X-Bar Theory, identifying the head in the first place is very essential for it determines the type of phrase. In the rule of this theory, every phrase is *endocentric* (Haegeman 1991). This means that every phrase has an element in its construction that acts as the head of the construction. In line with this, Carnie (2006) asserts that heads are the most prominent element in a phrasal category and give their part of speech category to the whole phrase. Hence, X is the head of construction, XP. The head of the construction is X, the category immediately above it is X-Bar and the category above X-Bar is X-Double Bar. Therefore, it can be said that the X-bar theory is the theory about the formation of phrases. Anything in an X-bar rule that is not a head must be a phrase and optional (Cook 1988). Hence, in a phrase, there is a head which is added by other modifiers such as specifiers, adjuncts, complements. The complements, which are obligatory, combine with the head to

form a higher level constituent. The adjuncts and specifiers may be optional. Therefore, the X-bar, according to Carnie (2006), is considered to be a more articulated structure.

Abstracting away from the category of the head, the general schema as exhibited in Diagram (1) is employed (Haegeman 1991):



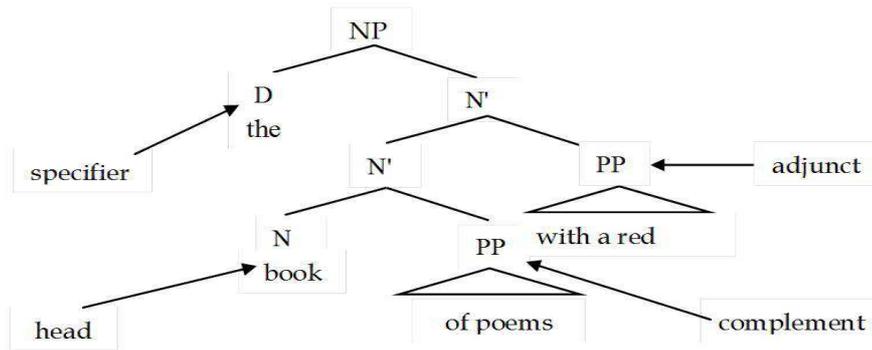
The X in diagram (1) above stands for N, V, A or P. Hence, in the X-bar syntax we need not include four schemata, but only one. Haegeman (1991) mentions that X-bar theory brings out what are common in the structure of phrases. Again, in X-bar theory (cf. Radford 1981; Cook 1988; Napoli 1993; Carnie 2006) all phrases are headed by a lexical head (traditionally known as *endocentric*). The lexical head of the projection is a zero projection (X^0). In diagram (1), X ranges across all major categories. At the lowest level, called the lexical level and written as X, we have the nodes from which our lexical items hang. The lexical-level node X is the head of its phrase. At the next level up, the head X is found with dots on either side. This head determines the category of the whole phrase. Thus, if the head is an N, for instance, the whole phrase will be an NP; if the head is a V, the whole phrase will be a VP. The dots on either side of the head represent possible positions for items that either modify the head or are arguments of the head.

In the X-bar Theory, there are three important structural notions to be intro-

duced: *complement*, *adjunct*, and the *specifier*. Radford (2009) elaborates that *Complements* is an expression which is directly merged with (hence is the sister of) a head word, thereby projecting the head into a larger structure of essentially the same kind. It functions to denote a specific grammatical function. Complement is not an additional element, but an obligatory one inherently attached to the head it modifies. On the other hand, *Adjunct* is simply an optional phrasal constituent (Haegeman 1991), or optional elements of a situation expressed by a clause, used to specify time, place, and manner in which an event takes place and to denote a constituent which has been attached to another to form a larger constituent of the same type (Radford 2009). Adjuncts are also perceived as *non-arguments* (Van Valin and Lapolla 1997). Lastly, the term *specifier* could be interpreted as a functional term, which serves to relate the phrase it introduces to the rest of the discourse or to indicate a quantity or degree (Napoli 1993). Radford (2009) defines specifier as the grammatical function fulfilled by certain types of constituent which precede the head of their containing phrase. The specifier is defined as the daughter of XP and sister to X'. Specifiers are different from adjuncts and complements. Since the specifier rule is not recursive, there can be only one specifier. The specifiers cannot be reordered with respect to other adjuncts or complements. These notions can be visualized in (2) below, through the rule system of the X-bar Theory (Carnie 2006) which applies so-called binary branching and the first N' rule is iterative or self-recursive.

Chomsky in Carnie (2006) observed that a phrase structure grammar (such as X-bar theory) cannot generate all the sentences of a language. He proposed that what was needed was a set of rules that change the structure (very limited ways) generated by phrase structure rules. These rules are called *transformational rules*. Transformation takes the output of X-bar

(2)

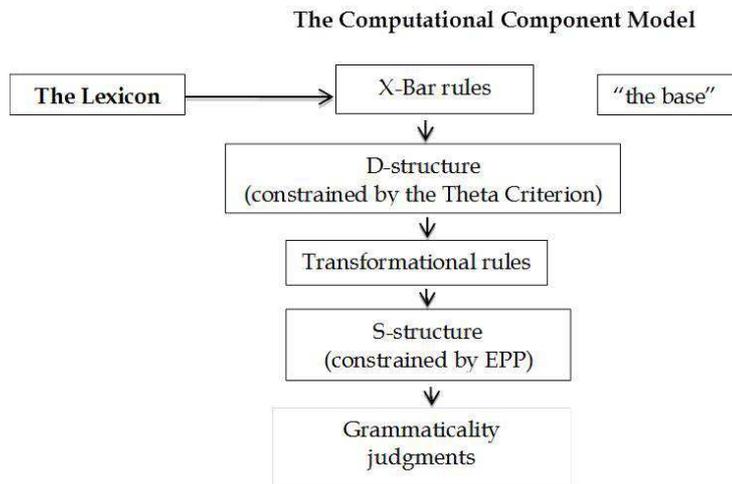


at
the
top,
and

(Carnie 2006: 170)

rules (and other transformations) and change them into different trees, as visualized in the following model of grammar where the derivation of a sentence starts

what comes out at the bottom is what you say, as indicated in the following model.



(Carnie 2006: 242)

This is read like a flow chart. The derivation of a sentence starts at the top, and what comes out at the bottom is what you say. The diagram produces the idea that x-bar theory and the lexicon conspire together to generate trees. This conspiracy is called *the base*. The result of this tree generation is a level called D-structure (used to be called Deep Structure) sometimes called the *underlying form* or *underlying representation*. The theta criterion filters out ungrammatical sentences at D-structure. D-structure is then subject to the transformational rules which can move words around in the sentence. The

output of transformational rules is called the S-structure (used to be called Surface Structure) of a sentence. The s-structure is filtered by the EPP (Extended Projection Principle), which ensures that the sentence has a subject. What is left at the end is a grammatical sentence (Carnie 2006). These are like T to C movement in subject aux inversion constructions, and affix lowering, which gets inflectional suffixes to lower to their verb.

D-Structure and S-Structure

In Chomskyan paradigm, there are two levels of sentence structure: surface structure (s-structure)" and a more ab-

stract structure so-called “deep structure (d-structure)” or “underlying structure”. According to Traugott and Pratt (1980), the underlying structure unambiguously specifies the basic meaning and categories of the sentence. This structure is modified in various ways to become a surface structure, which is the linear arrangement of words and phrases which will be pronounced. The underlying structures can be modified to give the same surface structure through so-called “transformations” (Traugott and Pratt 1980). So, all sentences in all human languages have both a *deep structure* and a *surface structure* (Jacobs and Rosenbaum 1968). In other words, all we can hear is the surface structure while the deep structure is an abstract concept. And, such deep structure becomes a surface structure via transformations. According to Haegeman (1991), the level of D-structure encodes the lexical properties of the constituents of the sentence. This carries the meaning that the D-structure represents the basic argument relations in the sentence. Meanwhile, S-structure in Haegeman's words reflects the more superficial properties of the sentence: the actual ordering of the elements in the surface string, and their case forms. These two levels of syntactic representation are related to each other by means of movement transformations (Haegeman 1991): elements which originate in some position at D-structure are moved elsewhere at S-structure.

Method

The choice of research method, as in this article, should depend upon what the researcher is trying to find out (Silverman 2000). Since this article is configured to explore the features of world leaders' quotes in terms of their transformational generative grammar, a blend of descriptive and qualitative methods are favored, as the nature of the data is not in the quantifiable terms that have the potential to be variables (able to change), yet on the

quality of texts constructed in words, so-called ‘quotes’. This method merely deals with qualitative data presented descriptively. The description is syntactical in the sense that the major focus is on the syntactical aspects of the given quotes. The description goes further to the nature and feature of the D-structures' transformation to the S-structures in which some criterion selection is needed.

Source of Data

The source of the data is internet. The data were taken from some websites that provide ample samples of world leaders' quotes. So, the documents to be analyzed in this research belong to virtual outputs (Bryman 2004), which are the documents that appear on the internet. Its vastness and its growing accessibility becomes the likely reason the researcher chooses it as the main source of this qualitative data analysis.

Analysis

In this phase, the data analysis just consists of four components: data reduction, data display, data analysis and conclusion drawing (Miles and Huberman 1994). *Data reduction* here refers to the process of selecting, focusing, simplifying, and transforming the data, in this regard, the quotes. This data reduction is conducted continuously throughout the research processes. The focus of this data reduction, as a part and a form of data analysis, is to sharpen, sort, focus, discard, and organize the data in such a way that “final” conclusions can be drawn. Thus, in this phase, the number of the quotes was reduced to approximately (using purposive sampling) three quotes assumed to be *representative* ones.

Discussion

The D-structure Configurations of the Quotes

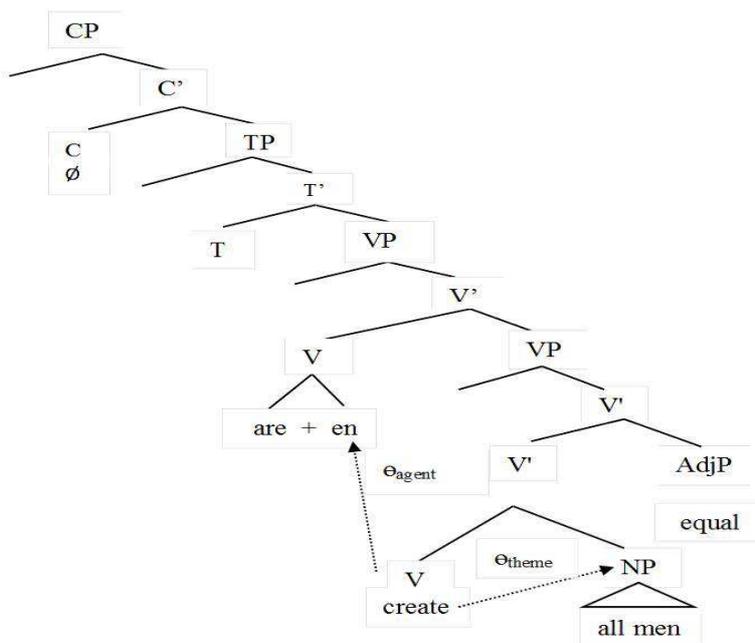
The following tree diagrams represent the D-structures configurations of the quotes of the world leaders. The trees starts from Lincoln's, Obama's, and ended by King's quotes. The analysis starts from the underlying representation of the

quotes, followed directly by the transformational analysis on the generated D-structures of the given quotes. Therefore, the analyses of the D-structure and S-structure are presented subsequently for each quote since the two are closely intertwined.

Abraham Lincoln's Quote

The D-structure of the Lincoln's Quote "We are created equal" is depicted in Diagram (3a) below (<http://showcase.netins.net/web/creative/lincoln/speeches/gettysburg.htm>).

(3a)



1. The analysis of the D-structures of the quote "We are created equal"

On the basis of Diagram (1a), it can be seen that the D-structure (in a simplified form) is VP + NP + AdjP, in which VP serves as the head phrase, NP as the complement of VP, and AdjP as the complement of the whole phrase. Actually, the quote *All men are created equal* (which is in passive form) derives from the active sentence *God creates all men equal*. These two sentences do not mean exactly the same thing, however (cf. Carnie 2006; Radford 2009). The active one is a sentence about *God* (where *God* is the topic of the sentence); by contrast, the passive one is a sentence about *all men* (similarly, *all men* is he topic). However, they do describe the same basic event with the same basic participants: there is some creating happen-

ing, and the creator (*agent*) is *God* and the created (*theme*) is *all men*. On the surface, these two sentences seem to involve the same thematic idea.

However, on closer observation, things change. In the full passive sentence *All men are created by God*, the agent is represented by an optional prepositional phrase headed by *by*. This is known as an adjunct, in which it is not included in the basic theta grid and is not subject to the theta criterion (cf. Carnie 2006). If the agent here is an adjunct and not subject to the theta criterion, it should be optional. Seemingly, these active and passive sentences have different thematic properties in which the active has an agent and a theme, whereas the passive lack the agentive theta role in their theta grids. The explanation for this is not syntactic, instead

it is a morphological issue. The morphological operation does not only affect the outward pronunciation of the word *create* → *created*, it also affects the meaning. More particularly, it affects the theta grid of the verb. Whenever the *-en* suffix exists, NP/DP (agent) is not present there. One way of thinking of this is that the *-en* absorbs (or assigned) the agent role (cf. Carnie 2006), as visualized below.

a) *create*

<u>Agent</u>	<u>Theme</u>
NP	NP
God	all men

b) *create+en* (→ *created*)

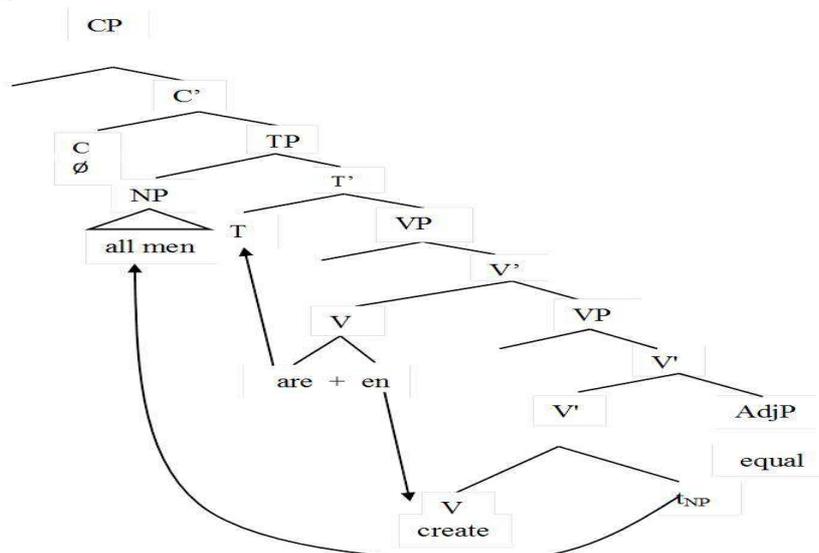
<u>Agent</u>	<u>Theme</u>
NP	NP
<i>-en</i>	all men

Another important point to note is regarding the word order of the theme in active and passive. In the active, the theme argument appears in object position; in the passive it appears in the sub-

ject position. By looking at both D-structure and S-structure, we can have a claim that the *theme* is generated in object position in both active and passive sentences, but then it is moved to subject position in the passive. Now, let us have a look at the D-structure of the quote in (1a). The dotted arrows in this tree represent theta (θ) assignment, not movement. Since the *-en* absorbs the agent role, there is only one NP in this sentence (all men), the one that gets the theme role. The theme is the internal argument, so it does not appear in the specifier of the VP, it must appear as the complement, like other internal theta roles.

This quote is unique as the sentence construction used is passive form in which the position of Subject and Object in the active form is reversed in the passive form, and the stress is given to the subject to show its importance. Whereas the *-by* subject is no longer necessary to be mentioned as those who hear this quote are believed to have learnt it since they share similar belief on who creates all men. In short, it can be said that passive sentence is a typical type of a quote especially when related with the idea of the creation of God of which emphasis is not on who the creator is but on who is created. Meanwhile, the transformation of this D-structure into its S-structure is exhibited in (3b) below.

(3b)



2. *The analysis of the transformation of the D-structures into the S-structures of the quote*

In the quote's generative and transformational process as in (3b), there is a unique and typical internal occurrence of the clause components called *movement*. This kind of movement involves *V-to-T movement*, more specifically, movement of a finite main verb from the head V position of VP into the head T position of TP (cf. Radford 2004; Radford 2009). Accordingly, a sentence or quote like (3b) *all men are created equal* involves the V-to-T movement operation represented by the dotted arrow in that diagram. Thus, the auxiliary verb *are* is first merged in the head V position within VP, and then moves into the head T position under TP, thereby ending up positioned after NP *all men*. An important question to ask at this point is *why* the auxiliary verb *are* should move from V to T. Using Chomsky's strong metaphor (in Radford 2009), it can be assumed that a finite T is *strong* and so must be filled. This denotes that in a sentence in which there is a T position, it must be filled by an auxiliary, so that it needs a movement of the auxiliary from V position to that T empty position in order to fill the strong T position. This movement can also be called as *Auxiliary raising*. It can be claimed that no verbs in present-day English can move from V to T (cf. Radford 2009). The copular verb *are* in (3b) seems to occupy the head V position in VP, and this suggests that the copula *be (are)* originates as a main verb in the head V position of VP). On this view, this English quote is said to have a *be-raising* operation moving finite forms of *be* from the head V position in VP into the head T position in TP.

This quote also undergoes another movement. Since spec-TP is an Aposition which can only be occupied by an argument expression (i.e. an expression which is the subject or complement of a verb or predicate (cf. Radford 2004)), the sort of movement operation illustrated by the

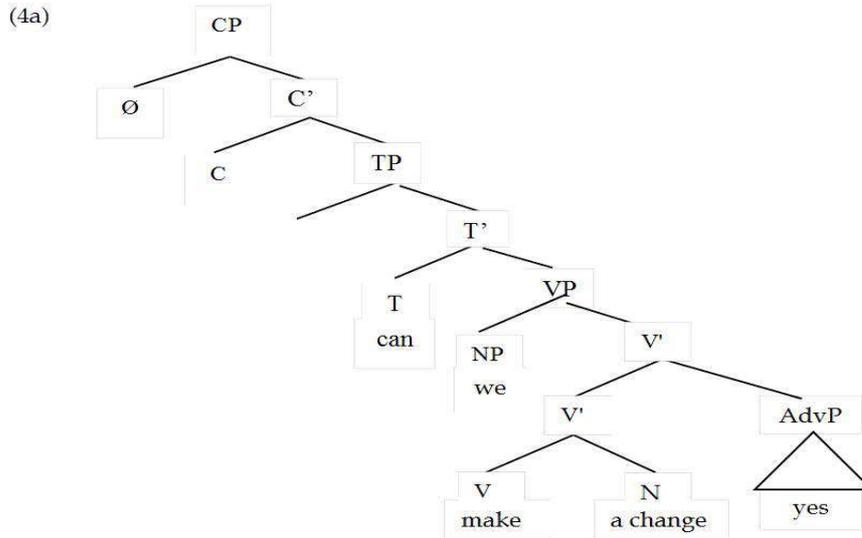
dotted arrow in (3b) is called *A-movement*. It can be assumed that [_T *are*] has an [EPP] feature requiring it to project a structural subject/specifier. Another supposition is that the requirement for [_T *are*] to have a specifier of its own cannot be satisfied by merging expletive *there* in spec-TP because in standard varieties of English *there* can generally only occur in structures containing an intransitive verb like *be, become, exist, remain, etc.*, which are in the active mood. Instead, the [EPP] requirement for T to have a subject with person/number properties is satisfied by moving the subject in the manner shown by the dotted arrow in Diagram (3b).

The last transformation (movement) is the affix lowering. Since English is parameterized for affix lowering rather than verb raising (Carnie 2006), the suffix *-en* lowers and attaches to the verb *create* to become *created* (with a morphological rule). The final result (s-structure) is shown in (3b). Another argument for this lowering is that (Radford 2009) T in present day English contains a weak tense affix, and a weak tense affix cannot attract a verb to move from V to T, but rather can be attached to a verbal host either by merger of an auxiliary like *shall* directly with the null tense affix in T, or by lowering the tense affix onto the main verb. In terms of the D-structure, this quote proves the truthful nature of English construction where English language is bound to the pattern of S+V+O (when in transitive) and S + V (when in intransitive). Put another way, English sentence can be constructed in verb-less form or without the subject or the agent as the type of agent will determine the type of verb to be used. Therefore, the D-structure embraces the VP + NP (+ AdjP). By this construction, the quote looks simple and therefore easy to remember in addition to the fact that the meaning is fundamental to human life and social encounters in citizenship of a state adoring democracy. Back to the idea of Transformational Grammar, the grammar does not merely

transform the D-structure into the S-structure, but more importantly the grammar also changes the focus from *God who creates humans* to *Humans are created equally (by God)*. Thus, the issue is not God, but *all men* who is the same in the eyes of God.

Barack Obama's Quote

Barack Obama's quote "Yes, We Can" was used repeatedly in some lines his acceptance speech and the D-structure for this memorable quote is visualized in (4a) below (<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2008/nov/05/uselections2008-barackobama>).

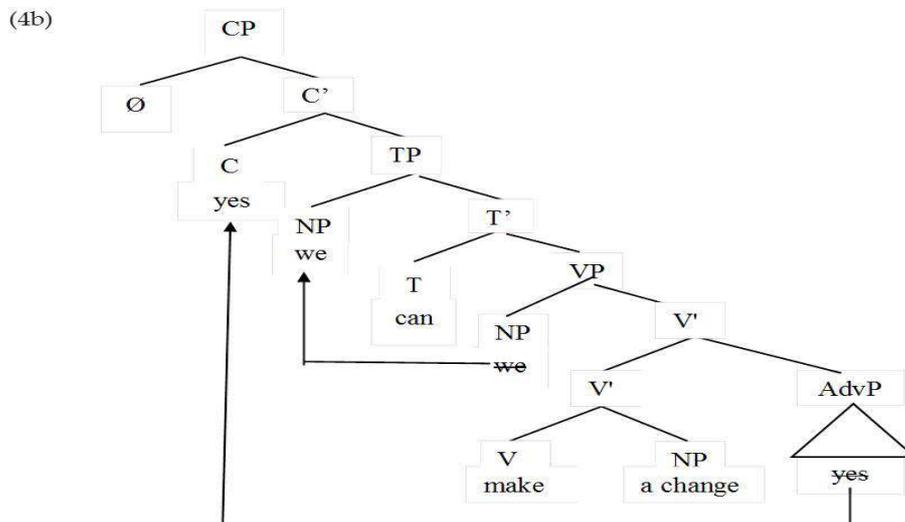


1. The analysis of the D-structure of the quote "Yes, We Can"

Based on Diagram (4a), it can be learnt that the D-structure (in a shortened form) is (TP) NP + VP + NP + AdvP (before undergoing a deletion process) in a lengthened form, assuming that the next verb (VP) and noun (NP) are *make* and *a change* respectively). Since the construction is like answering yes-no question form, the adverb phrase *yes* is placed

at the end or after VP as a complement of VP before it is moved to the empty C node. Meanwhile, there is a *T* node to indicate the node for modal aux *can*. Like (1a), the NP *we* here serves as a subject and NP *a change* counts as an object in the longer version (Yes, we can make a change) from the shorter one (Yes, we can.).

The next part shows the transformation of this D-structure into its S-structure as displayed in (4b) below.



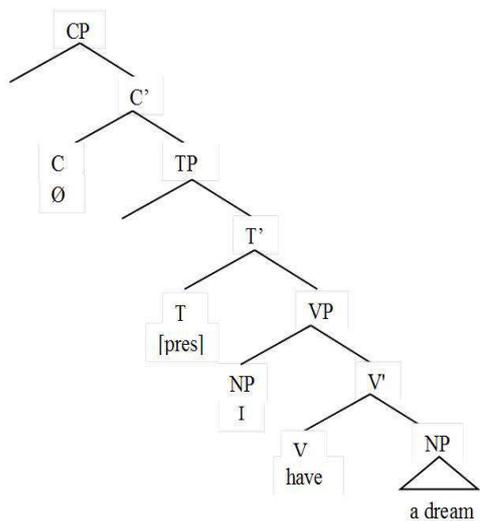
2. The analysis of the transformation of the D-structures into the S-structures

Similar to (3a), this quote’s transformational process possesses distinctive internal syntactical elements that undergo movement. There are two kinds of movements here. The first is the movement from the head NP position under VP into the subject position of NP within TP. This is needed to fulfill the requirement of EPP in which all clauses in English need a subject in order to be grammatical. Thus, the EPP requirement for T to have a subject with person (personal pronoun) properties is gratified by moving the subject *we* from its original position in spec-VP into a new position in spec-TP, in the manner shown in (4b) above. This is in line with the proposition exerted by Chomsky in Radford (2004; 2009) that the spec-TP is an A-position which can only be occupied by an argument expression (in this regard, the subject of the modal auxiliary verb *can*). Thus, this quote is said to have undergone an *A-movement*. The second movement is the movement that involves *AdvP-to-C movement*, precisely, the movement of a finite adverb from the AdvP position into the head C empty position of C bar. This movement is obligatorily needed to complete the affirmative statement *we can* (change it/make it/make a change, etc.). This is actually a ‘yes/no-question answer, that is the answer given by Obama meant to answer the doubts and pessimisms of Obama’s political (5a) opponents or analysts on his capability, competence, skills, capacity and resources to lead America and to drive fundamental transformation in American domestic and foreign affairs. So, *Yes We Can* is a mighty answer for the questioning and doubting mind of Obama’s friends and foes. This *Yes We Can*, then, indicates Obama’s highest degree of his certainty that he was the right candidate to choose to lead the nation

Pertaining to its D-structure, this quote appears to have the simplest D-structure, that is TP + NP + AvP. The long version should be added with VP and NP serving the additional elements assumed to exist as the quote has undergone a deletion process. The assumed deleted structural elements are the verb phrase *make* and the noun-phrase *a change*. Thus, the actual S-structure of this quote is supposed to be CP (C) + NP + TP or CP (C) + NP + TP + VP + NP. The unique aspect of this D-structure is perhaps indicated by the presence of the C which is usually left unoccupied unless there is *wh-movement*. This ‘yes we can’ acclamation contains the AdvP *yes*, and in yes/no question form, it must be positioned before the subject especially when answering a question. This, accordingly, can function as specifier of the clause *we can*. To fulfill the requirement that a specifier has to stay close with, in this case, the noun phrase being specified, the advP under V bar is then moved to C under the node of C bar.

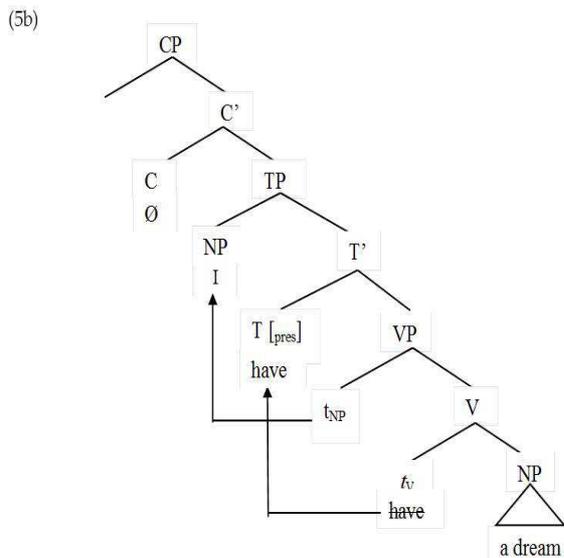
Martin Luther King, Jr's Quote

One of the most famous short speeches is the “*I have a dream*” speech by Martin Luther King Jr. King that outlined his vision of American racial harmony in a historic piece of oratory (http://www.theholidayspot.com/martin_luther_king_day/speech.htm). The D-structure of this memorable quote is indicated in (5a) below.



The analysis of the D-structure of the quote "I have a dream"

From Diagram (5a), it can be recognized that this belongs to the shortest quote and its D-structure is NP + VP + NP. Its D-structure resembles the basic standard of English sentence pattern, S+V+O. This simple structural form probably makes it easy to remember in addition to the very familiar lexicon used *dream* as it is one of the earliest word people are introduced to in their early developmental age that is easily articulated by every human kind on earth, with a personal pronoun *I* and with another very common verb *have*. The combination of these three words creates a tonic expression *I have a dream*. The transformation of this D-structure into the S-structure is indicated in (5b) below.



In terms of the quote's generative process, it can be deduced that this quote undergoes so called A-movement. The NP *I* moves from its base-generated position, or the position at the D-structure, functioning as a specifier of VP to the specifier position of TP, and *have*, operating in the same way, moves from its base-generated position as a head of VP to the position of T within TP forming the present form verb *have*. In different tone, it can be said that the shift of the subject DP from the

specifier of the VP into the specifier of TP. For the auxiliary, here the main verb *have* raises to T because there is no modal in T and no suffix in T (cf. Carnie 2006), but the information that the tense *is* in present form. This movement operation is represented by the arrows in Diagram (5b) above.

As stipulated in the Computational Component Model, the [_T *have*] has an [EPP] feature requiring it to project a structural *subject/specifier*. Another supposition is that the requirement for [_T *have*] to have a specifier of its own cannot be satisfied by merging expletive *there* or *it* in spec-TP because in standard varieties of English *there* can generally only occur in structures containing an intransitive verb like *be*, *become*, *exist*, *remain*, etc. which are in the active mood (Carnie 2006). Instead, the [EPP] requirement for T to have a subject with person/number properties is satisfied by moving the subject in the manner shown by the dotted arrow in Diagram (5b). Accordingly, the movement of DP *I* fits this requirement.

In brief, this quote has the second simplest D-structure after Obama's quote which represent typically basic standard English sentence pattern, S + V + O, using the most common personal pronoun or NP *I*, and utilizing one of the most familiar content words (lexicon) representing the ideas of the majority of American people or NP *dream*. All these combinations, in addition to the speaker's status as an activist of human rights, then, reasonably and arguably when this expression is produced, people will automatically link it to Martin Luther King and this makes this quote memorable for now and then.

Conclusion

To conclude, there are three main points worth mentioning dealing with the typical D-structure configurations of the three quotes that have been put into tree

diagrams, the generation and transformation of the D-structure to S-structure using the X-bar theory. First, there is a typicality of the quotes in terms of their D-structure distribution. This indicates that the quotes share fairly similar patterns with slight differences in terms the positions of their NPs (subject/specifier), VPs and NPs (complement). For instance, the simplest one on which it only contains NP + VP (where the NP is under TP and followed by VP) is found in the first quote. So, the pattern NP + VP can be the typical D-structure of the quote. Another typical pattern found in quote 3 is the one that starts from NP followed by VP and ended by NP that are virtually similar to the basic English sentence pattern: S-V-O. The third typical is the one with NP+VP+NP discovered in quote 2.

The second point as discerned previously highlights the process so-called transformation after the D-structures have been generated. In their transformation processes, some movements were performed in order to have the acceptable S-structures. The movements included Head-to-Head, DP movements, and raising (V-to-T) and affix lowering (T-to-V) or interchangeably with verb raising. All the resulted S-structures of the quotes are judged to be grammatical after being filtered by the EPP (Extended Projection Principle) stipulating that all clauses must have subjects). This essentially denotes that all of the quotes have met the basic tenet of transformational grammar that every sentence has to be grammatically accepted or having the element of well-formedness.

References

- Bloomfield, Leonard. (1933). *Language*. New York: Holt.
- Bryman, Alan. (2004). *Social Research Methods*. (2nd Edition). Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Carnie, Andrew. (2006). *Syntax: A Generative Introduction*. (2nd Edition). Oxford: Blackwell Publishing Ltd.
- Chomsky, Noam. (1965). *Aspects of the Theory of Syntax*. Cambridge: The M.I.T. Press.
- Cook, V. J. (1988). *Chomsky's Universal Grammar: An Introduction*. New York: Basil Blackwell, Inc.
- Haegeman, Liliane. (1991). *Introduction to Government and Binding Theory*. Oxford: Basil Blackwell Ltd.
- Jacobs, Roderick A. and Rosenbaum, Peter S. (1968). *English Transformational Grammar*. London: Ginn and Company Ltd.
- Lock, Graham. (1996). *Functional English Grammar: An Introduction for Second Language Teachers*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Napoli, Donna Jo. (1993). *Syntax: Theory and Problems*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Radford, Andrew. (1981). *A Student's Guide to Chomsky's Extended Standard Theory*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Radford, Andrew. (2009). *Analyzing English Sentences: A Minimalist Approach*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Silverman, David. (2000). *Doing Qualitative Research: A Practical Handbook*. London: SAGE Publications.
- Traugott, Elizabeth Closs and Pratt, Marry Louise. (1980). *Linguistics for Students of Literature*. New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, Inc.
- Van Valin, Robert D. and Lapolla, Randy J. (1999). *Syntax: Structure, Meaning and Function*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Acceptance Speech of Obama. Retrieved on 6 March 2012. Available at: (<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2008/nov/05/uselections2008-barackobama>)
- Biography of Abraham Lincoln. Retrieved on 12 March 2012. Available at: <http://showcase.netins.net/web/creative/lincoln/speeches/gettysburg.htm>