

**Indian Institute of Technology Madras
Presents**

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National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning**

Introduction to modern linguistics

Lecture-37


Syntax: exceptional case marking

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Nominative Case

- * **Him** found the evidence.
- * **Him** loves Mary.
 - Verbs do not assign case to NPs outside VPs.
- John loves Mary.
 - Finite Clause: I [+Tense (Present)]
 - Finiteness as the head of the IP assigns Nominative Case to the NP in the Spec of IP (Subject).



What we have seen so far okay so let me let me put that in perspective yet we are trying to see how cases are assigned to different NPs in a sentence there are two types of cases one is two types of cases and empirical grounds one is abstract type of case and the other is morphological type of case that is in terms of their appearance in on a noun phrase most of the time except genitive cases on nominal NPs cases are abstract and on predominant piece.

They surface in some kind of morphological so with some kind of morphological change that that is about empirical part of case what becomes more interesting.

With respect to trace structure and x-bar theory how do these NPs get cases they we raise a very interesting question this theory raises an interesting question which is do noun phrases or nouns come with cases as a lexical item or are they getting case in a sentence there is plenty of evidence available that nouns or noun phrases do not come case assigned already they receive cases when they become part of a sentence.

When we move beyond that acceptable idea then we want to understand how do they get it after all and we have been looking at so far the structural configuration responsible for assignment of case and we know that this assignment works in a structural configuration and we looked at accusative or objective case being assigned by work and then we yesterday we looked at nominative case is being assigned.

To subjects and we try to look at both in terms of uniformity of a structural behavior and which we said heads are responsible for go for assigning cases and heads such as verb preposition or depending upon languages postpositions and infinite evil sorry finite eyes finite in fill assigned cases to be precise verbs assign accusative case to its complement prepositions assign accusative case to its complement and in fill tensed in fill not non-finite.

Once but finite and in fills assign accusative assign nominative cases to subject IP for this assignment we tried to restrict the domain in terms of the following that heads which become governor's assign cases under certain structural configuration and that is heads must see command the as the case assigning noun phrase and it must also govern it unless these two conditions meet the case assignment does not work you see.

The examples on the screen the reason why these two sent these two sentences are ungrammatical because why is the first sentence not good I am not asking for a good sentence I am asking for why is the first sentence not good right anybody the subject the noun phrase in the subject position does not have nominative case it has an accusative case right that is the that is one possible answer which also tells us that so somebody can raise equation.

So what is the problem after all it has a case the all case theory tells us that a noun phrase must have a case it has a case so what is the problem the problem is in a particular structural position in a sentence remember we have been looking at organization of words in a sentence and

relationship among elements of a sentence in terms of a structural configuration and how they are represented in human mind and what are those things what are the components.

That lead sentences to and grammaticality okay out of which we see in a particular structural position and NP must have a particular type of behavior that is the first noun phrase in this in these two sentences must have nominative case not accusative cases.

The second point that is clear to us accusative cases are assigned by verbs and postpositions and what we see here is verbs if these two sentences are to be taken as grammatical then we see worse assigning cases to the NPs that they are not supposed to be assigning cases that because words do not work found find and were loved in these two sentences do not see comment or govern their subject and peace therefore these two sentences are ungrammatical.

Finally verbs do not assign case to NPs outside their domain therefore the domain is important governed and that domain is governing to me and the government is largely assigned through C command if a head see comments the NP that it assigns case to then it governs that NP as well if the NP is not able to see command the head backward then it does not govern the head as well through which we establish the only hence govern in peace and not.

End peace govern the does that answer the question of a government anything else before I move to accept no case marking and few more examples of case assign NPs our heads assigning cases we let us also keep in mind that only finite clauses assign nominative cases we do not see nonfinite I assigning nominative cases to the to the subject and NPs and we are going to look at that today.

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- C-Command:
 - A C-Commands B iff:
 - A does not dominate B and every X that dominates A also dominates B;
 - X is the first branching node.

- M-Command:
 - A M-Commands B iff:
 - A does not dominate B and every X that dominates A also dominates B;
 - X is the maximal projection.



Moving on we have seen these things.

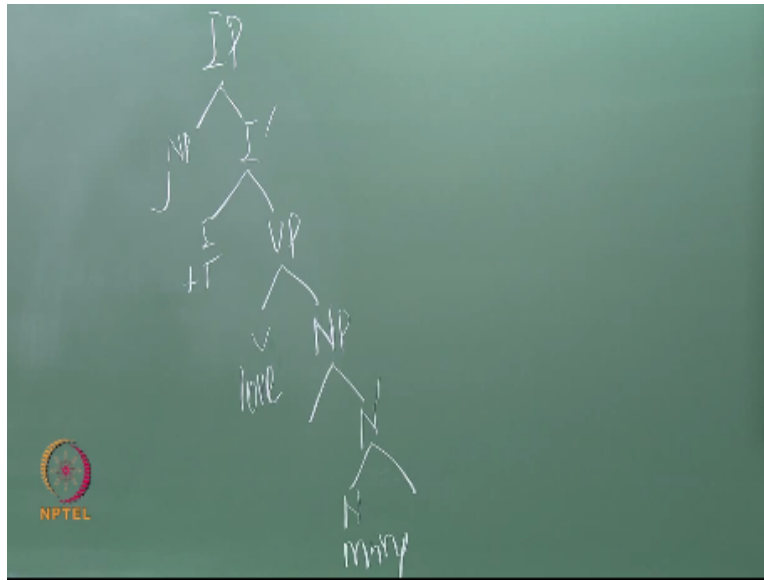
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- Government
 - A governs B iff
 - A is a governor; and
 - A m-command B and no barrier intervenes between A and B.
 - Maximal projections are barriers to government.
 - Heads are governors.



Look at this definition of government some people were asking me about government yesterday look at this definition of government A is a governs be if and only if a is a governor A commands B or C commands B depending upon our need and there is no barrier intervening a and B where maximal projections serve as barriers to the government and hence are govern government okay let me let me talk about this in a moment when we say something like the example that I have given you.

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Another simple example John loved this I is finite I that is plus tense now we are saying this V see comments this NP and this V governs the same P get it at the same time we need to restrict. That this n does not see comment this head backward so we really find that notion of see comment in which the reverse see command does not work and we said that the first we need to define first branching node carefully the first branching node dominating B should not be dominating A however if the first branching node dominated first branching no dominating A is going to dominate be any way we do not need to invoke the notion of maximal projection.

Here because the first branching node dominating B is not going to be dominating a anyway however if we say this if we allow this to govern this one then we land into trouble therefore we do not want to say this governs the head at all so we need to say it is not post branching node is not enough if there is a maximal projection in between then B is not going to be able to govern A however A is going to govern B by the virtue of A C commanding B therefore this notion of maximal projection where we say C you see the last but one point here maximal projections are barrier to government in the sense that it is not going to be governing get it all right no.

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Assignment of Case

- Structural Case Marking:
 - [For John to attack Bill] would be surprising.
- Exceptional Case Marking:
 - John believes **the story**.
 - John believes [**him** to be a liar].
 - I want [**him** to learn English].



We I want to show you some examples where we where the theory find some difficulties with we are governing the NP this is governing the NP where as this is going to so for this one for v2 govern this in is part of this empty so v for the government by V there is no problem this NP creates a barrier for government backward okay it is a very important question and that that needs to be understood clearly.

What you are saying is if we try to look at government this side also there is an MP does this serve as a barrier for V to govern n that is your question it does not because in order to govern N in eventually this needs to govern this NP and remember we are talking about assignment of case to NP so this does not serve as a governor it is just what we say bleeds case.

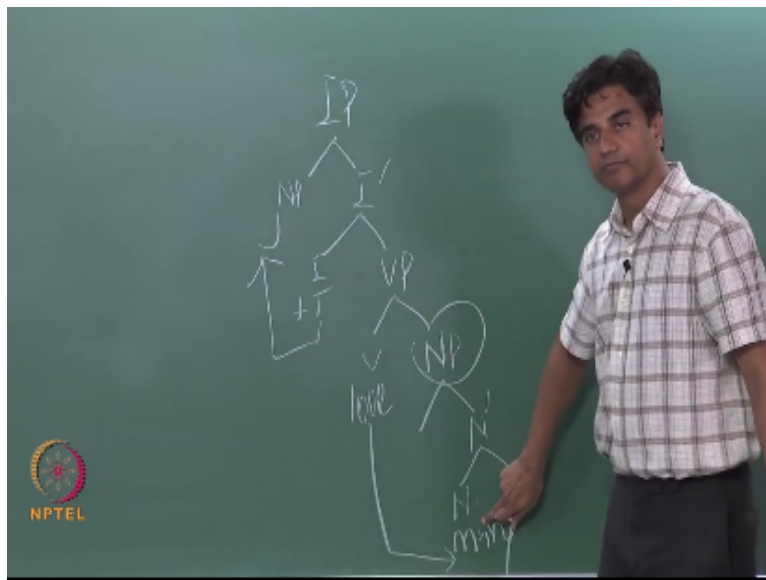
Eventually to in so they V this NP is not a barrier for government by V where as this NP is a barrier for government by m to V it is just a simple technicality to stop gays assigned now to govern the head backward see if we say A dominates B and B dominates C then there is an equal relationship then how can we say there a science case and B does nothing to A this is not how it works in this is not how things work in general okay.

So this is just a technicality technical manipulations to control things and I have shown you the differences between C command and M command and how that even leads to a little bit of weakness in the theory that we need to invoke the notion of M command with a minimal distinction between the two to account for nominative cases in a particular way it is clear

making sense to everybody it is in a stipulation but I do not want to run it as an ax stipulation to you I want you to understand even this stipulation is not in a clear way okay.

No we want to look at these cases let me first look at the cases with exceptional features sentences which require exceptional manipulations to work with case all these assignments all these things that you see so far on the screen is part of a structural case marking that is we ensure that is adjective case to the complement of V and nominative case.

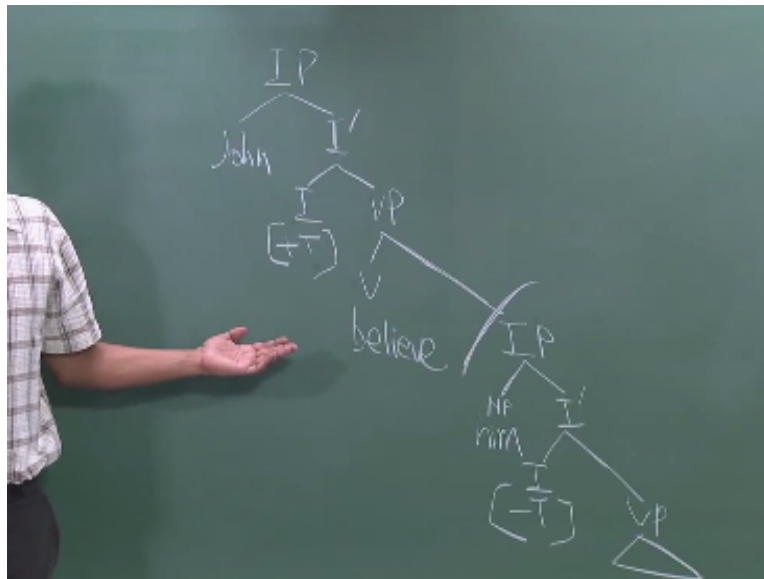
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To this NP by this head in a structural fashion that because this is higher because V commands NP because V governs and P therefore V assigns case this is called a structural case assignment because I M commands the subject NP because I is a potential governor therefore I finite I assigns nominative case to the subject anyway this is this is called a structural case because structure of a sentence ensures two different kinds of cases today all right.

We run into some issues and some problems when we look at some other examples like there is no issue when we look at John believes this story this is taken care of by the same structure that you see on the board believe is the head and the story because story is the complement of that head and receives accusative case no problem it is a finite Clause the signs easily a science nominative case to the subject and be absolutely no problem the problem starts from when with the examples when we look at John believes him to be a liar okay what is the problem with the sentence the let us look at the structure of the sentence.

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We have an IP and then we see a VP we have a subject and P here and this V has here believe what is the complement of this P in this sentence to John believes him to be a liar but the complement of this V him to be a liar which is and I by itself it is a clause does this have a the does this complement have a verb in it him to be a liar to be a liar does this have a verb in it to be right that means that is a clutch it is larger than a phrase it is a clause.

And therefore it becomes it receives the status of an IP okay and now look is this a if this is a clause if this do we have a tense here or not no tense so this is a non-finite clause we understand finiteness and non finiteness of a clause in terms of presence or absence of tense which become evident when we look at the structure it is a simple thing for that representation of finiteness or non finiteness is going to be.

I when we see a finite plus here this is a finite I which is plus tense what is the tense here present when we are talking about a non-finite clause so all we are going to see is no tense here that is the structural difference between a finite clause and in on finite class.

Right get it the issue the important issue is this is the M subject NP and which is which becomes him okay and then we have a VP of this sentence which I am just going to put as a bundle okay.

Now the issue here is there are two fold problems is this NP is in the subject position of this non-finite clause right subject positions are not supposed to get accusative cases probably to have nominative case so now then we have a much bigger problem the first requirement is the subject NP should get a nominative case that is not a requirement number one but like you mentioned that nominative comes through finite NP it is re finiteness of the clause and the fact that this is not finite this NP should not get a case finiteness of a clause a science nominative case to the subject which is two non finiteness of a clause will assign.

Some other case is not the condition non finiteness will just not assign any case at least a nominative case okay then how does this get an accurate if this is an accusative case NP right there is nothing in the VP or at least any head of the V will not be able to govern this NP higher up in this in this IP to assign it any kind of accusative case because there is a head here okay the remember when we were looking at the definition of government.

I am trying to trying to keep it simple at the elementary level there are lots of discussions and barriers heads become heads become barrier too so ahead here remember all the way down in VP if we have a head this head under no circumstances is going to govern any NP higher up for a variety of reasons and out of out of such reasons one is if there is another head intervening that then there is no question a head from outside.

Is going to govern this NP out of question this head is potentially different it is a non finite head not going to take part in assignment of case at all the problem is how does this get a case through this V right but this V is supposed to assign cases only to its complement the whole IP is complete its complement but this is not just this is not just whole IP this is there are two bit you see the maximal projections here there are two of them now the what I am trying to point it out to you that there is a problem here according to normal and general definitions.

That we have seen subjects you are supposed to get nominative cases so the first problem is an NP in a non nominative case in subject position okay that is no problem number one even if we accept that if there was in it look there is there is one more part of the story which I have not been able to talk to you IPs are full domain by itself if we allow a head to intervene this IPs then it is a big time of intervention you see the you see the problem IPs are domains by itself.

It we can have when this head is governing this NP it is still the story within IP yet it when V is assigning a case to its complement it is still within its own domain but when we are letting a head intervene into another IP then that becomes a B that that is a big cost for a theory.

So these are the issues which x-bar theory has not been able to answer however we still need to give a solution to this problem and definitely that solution is by some with heavy heard we allowed to say that this work in an exceptional way a science accusative case to this listen P this is true that this more of a science accusative case but in an exceptional way this is why we call such cases as examples of exceptional case marking.

It is not normal accusative case assignment through C command of course this C comments this is in a C commanding domain because it this the first branching node dominating this V dominates this NP as well but then there are potential issues here this is a nominative case position and then there are IP is a big time barrier for accusative case assignment.

Usually an in head will not be able to intervene IP to assign a case outside its domain yet it but we such cases are called exceptional case marking because these are grammatical sentences and if the if a sentence is grammatical then it needs to be accounted for right the patch is this is called exceptional case marking yeah but what kind of end a clause is that finite clause or non-finite Clause to him to learn English is this a finite class or a non-finite class.

Do we have a tense there no not tense it is still a non-finite class the story is the same and non-finite class will not be able to assign nominative case to its subject fine there is no nominative subject in it the subject position either what we find in a strange way is an accusative subject in the in that position the question for us to wonder is how does this subject position get an accusative case the only way to account for this is it is probably receiving accusative case.

From the V in the higher domain okay remember the key case filter also says that a verb must discharge its case this work has not it is a potential signer has not discharged its case it has potential to assign accusative case to any people with that potential it intervenes the domains that it is not supposed to and assigns accusative case even to the position where usually we do not find a curative case assigned entity if we head in and if we add this as a finite clause.

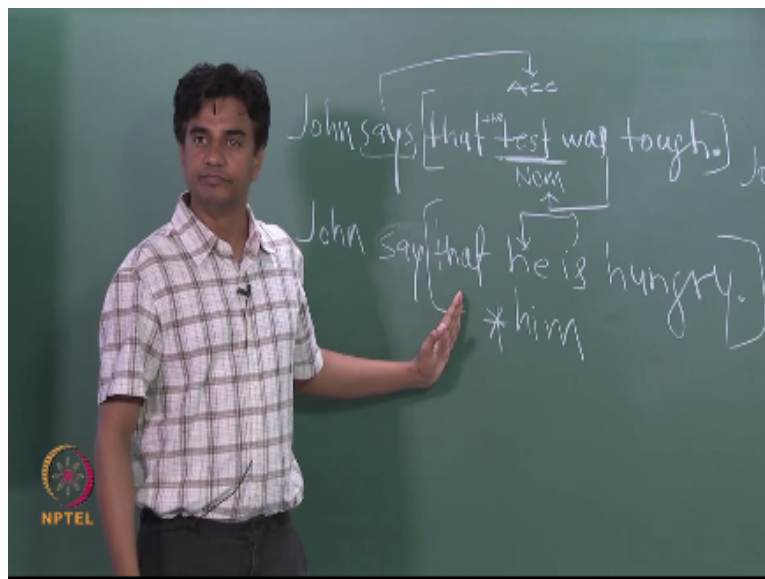
There is no way this work will be able to do it has to remain unsatisfied but it will not be able to intervene there I do not have an example on the screen for you let me give you an example can

you give me an example of a finite subordinate clause understand my question an example of a subordinate clause which is finite can you come up with an example we have a complex sentence we have the fight where the subordinate clause.

Which is the complement of the V is a finite class should not be a difficult question we are asking her to too difficult thing from you a sentence where the subordinate clause is a finite one this not clear right so give me an example come on you can do much better than that the test was tough says that the test was tough all right that is a good example.

So what is the bigger sentence is John says that the test was tough first class main clause it does this have a finite does this have a tense John says what stance is that present tense what is the subordinate clause that the test was tough is this a finite clause or what is the word win here what is the tense here was this if John says that the test was tough so what is the subject of the subordinate clause the test the finiteness of the second subordinate clause second clause subordinate clause is assigning nominative case to this MP let us try putting a accusative case marker on this let me let me write this .

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John says that test was tough this is the sentence we are talking about without giving it in structure we are talking about this class where we are talking about actually with this is that test was tough this NP which gets nominative case from this right now let us try a sentence where

we are putting a non nominative NP here I am coming to that question in a moment and that will be kind of answered with the question that .

I am asking yeah that is right he is right what he is saying is say as a verb is a potential case assign yeah it has to assign accusative case to it is complement yeah this question is which NP does it assign in the case to am I right we come we come to that in a moment and you are answering this question that it is assigning the accusative case to the entire clause that that takes care of the answer to but I want to go into little bit more details .

Of that first we want to try we want to look at this sentence with respect to this okay let us try putting a pronominal here which is morphologically accusative case marked to clearly show that an accusative case marked NP would not occur here so we will need a different kind of a sentence right so we say let us say John I will give you my type of type of sentences. Met a friend who is studying physics then a friend who is studying physics would be the finite clause you would replace it with John met him okay John met no give me a clause John met hold on oh no you are you are right the effort that you are making is giving us the sentence but let us give a clear example of where we can have where we cannot have an accusative case mark when we say John met him is a accusative case margin P.

And then the sentence is good we are trying to put him as the subject of a finite clause leading it to an grammaticality John says that he is hungry yes this is a much simpler example can we say John says that him is hungry no why can we not say John says that him is hungry is everybody with me here do we understand what we are doing okay that answers the question which we are raising here why a nominee why an accusative case margin P is allowed here.

And why an accusative case margin P is not allowed here hold on hold on talk to me for a moment please okay and then you can discuss me teaching it and actually this is an accusative case mark morphologically accusative case mark pronominal NP and this cannot occur here in this sentence because it is a finite clause and the finiteness of this clause assigns nominative case to the NP the sentence is fully satisfied.

It will not allow an NP which has any case other than nominative to occur in this position and if you try to put this then the sentence results in two and grammaticality okay however if the subordinate clause is not case is not finite in like the examples that you see here john believes

him to be a liar him to be a liar is not a finite clause wants him to learn English him to learn English is not a finite clause in such cases you find an NP accusative case.

Mark pronominal NP being the subject of those finite classes those non-finite clauses a finite plus will not allow the point that I am trying to abstract with these examples and contrast these examples with what you have on the board is a finite clause will not allow a nominative case smart will not allow an accusative case marking P in the subject position a finite Clause and however and non-finite Clause will have to allow an accusative case marking yet.

It if we if we if we understand this much then what we also understand is an IP or a CP an IP or a CP is a domain because every single configurational requirement is satisfied within it does not need help from outside it can become a subordinate clause because it is an object of the main work but it does not need any kind of a structural intervention from outside therefore it is a domain by itself therefore we say even in these cases something from outside.

Is not supposed to intervene this however in exceptional situations where there is no case a signer and this is a potential case assignor V is a potential case a signer and I is incapable of assigning nominative case to its subject it has external intervention and such things are called exceptional case mark it here this thing now.

The question was another question was how does this how does this V assign it is accretive case if I asked you to order two things we must assign its accusative case right and the second condition is a domain does not allow intervention from outside which requirement do you think is stronger the dignity of the domain the integrity of the domain right so in those cases it has to even if it remains them without discharging it is case.

That is acceptable for the theory but integrity of the domain is more important that is theoretical point number one however when it comes to assign accusative case it assigns the accusative case to the entire clause it satisfies it is requirement however it does not get to satisfy this requirement in the terms of sentence number one John believes this story where it gets a clear NP and assigns accusative case to it that is a clear example.

No intervention in any other domain everything gets remains satisfied integrity of the clause is good everything fine integrity of a colic clause is violated when there is no potential assignor within the clause when there is a potential assignee within the clause it does not allow anything

from out see yet we see that is these are the examples of sorry this structure explains you the example of exceptional case marking and this talks about the sentence talk about integrity.

Of a clause get it so you should be able to able to answer these questions if people ask you in his in sentences like I want him to learn English him is his is a subject of a clause and subject of a clause is supposed to get a nominative case how do you explain this clause not having a nominative NP you will be able to explain this thing defend this thing right all right now let us look at the sentence that is before this for John to attack bill will be surprising you.

Can you can draw the structure of this sentence can you please quickly draw the structure of the sentence in your notebook and then we see how case marking works in this sentence for John to attack bill is a particular type of clause what type of clause is this again no not CP or anything I am talking about finiteness or not my name is non-finite class and what is the position in which this clause occurs subject position of the main clause right.

So far you have seen examples of subject positions being filled by an NP right the grammaticality of this sentence tells us that in the subject position of a sentence we can have heavier elements than in peace okay we can have heavier elements than NP s and the heavier element will be by heavy we mean bigger than the NP chunk bigger than the NP chunk is IP still bigger will be CP okay so we can have bigger than NP bigger than chunks.

Bigger than NP s elements bigger than NP s phrases bigger than NPs in both object positions subject phases right these the significance of subjects and object positions in a sentence okay now the reason why we are other reason why we are looking at this exam this example is subjects are supposed to get nominative cases right through the finiteness of it is clause.

Which so the whole Clause is this whole is the whole Clause finite and non-finite whole clause for John to attack bill would be surprising if this a finite Clause the whole thing that is a finite clause because remember while discussing C command case and all these things we should not forget certain basic things we cannot have a sentence that is not finite independently we every sentence must be a finite clause okay.

Non-finite clauses could only be subordinate clauses in the subject positions or in the object positions we do not get independent non-finite clauses okay that is that is why not subjects not objects not predicates what defines a sentence is finiteness this is why we do we call sentences

as IPs because what hence the sentence is an I are you are you getting my point what defines a sentence is finiteness its tense because there cannot be a tense.

In any language of the world there cannot be a sentence in any language of the world which does not have a tense which rules out the possibility of an independent infinite non-finite clause with that significance of finiteness in a sentence people started calling a sentence as IP it is not a fashionable term alone it is an IP because the head of this IP is tense is eventually tense the most if we translate it in simple terms.

The most significant element of a sentence is not either subject or object or its verb it is tense I hope at this stage I am able to show you that that point okay now very quickly I know you have we are running out of this very quickly just give me two to two minutes the NP John okay so the finiteness of the large clause a science nominative case it is subject done just like this world assigns accusative case to the entire clause done.

But within that IP in this is just for John to attack Bill is going to be a CP in that now within that CP this NP John needs the case okay what is going to assign case to that NP is also a crucial question and the reason why we have for in this CP is because for as a post position as a preposition becomes a head and assigns accusative case to that NP that NP what we have here at John is actually getting an accusative case are you with me change.

The sentence to a pronoun put it put a predominant MP here can we say for he to attack Bill will be surprising or do we need to say for him to attack Bill will be surprising for him to attack Bill will be surprising or would be surprising what we are saying is in the in the situation where you see John here this is an activity of case marking in be what a science accusative case inside this subject CP is this head prepositions.

The signs accusative case to the subjected to the NP John here therefore we cannot simply say John to attack Bill he to attack Bill would be surprising these sentences are and grammatical and in a language like English at least we have to say for him to attack Bill would be surprising I hope this is making sense to you in the interest of time I would like to stop here.

Like I said we will be meeting next time in the regular classrooms professor Chaudhary will come for the next class and I hope that some of the elements of how sentences are organized and how we discuss elements of sentences with respect to its case marking its relationship among

various elements and how the whole notion of X bar captures these relationships in a particular way is making some sense to you thank you.

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