



LUND UNIVERSITY

Case, Tense and multiple AGREE

Johansson, Mats; Jonas, Dianne

2006

Document Version:

Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

[Link to publication](#)

Citation for published version (APA):

Johansson, M., & Jonas, D. (2006). *Case, Tense and multiple AGREE*. Abstract from The 22nd Scandinavian Conference of Linguistics , Aalborg, Denmark.

Total number of authors:

2

General rights

Unless other specific re-use rights are stated the following general rights apply:

Copyright and moral rights for the publications made accessible in the public portal are retained by the authors and/or other copyright owners and it is a condition of accessing publications that users recognise and abide by the legal requirements associated with these rights.

- Users may download and print one copy of any publication from the public portal for the purpose of private study or research.
- You may not further distribute the material or use it for any profit-making activity or commercial gain
- You may freely distribute the URL identifying the publication in the public portal

Read more about Creative commons licenses: <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/>

Take down policy

If you believe that this document breaches copyright please contact us providing details, and we will remove access to the work immediately and investigate your claim.

LUND UNIVERSITY

PO Box 117
221 00 Lund
+46 46-222 00 00

Case, tense and multiple AGREE

Pesetsky & Torrego (P&T) (2004 a,b) propose an approach to Nominative case that involves a relation established during the course of the derivation between an interpretable T(ense)-feature on the category Tense, which is valued by the lexical verb, and an uninterpretable T-feature on the subject DP; ϕ -features play no role in the valuation of Nominative. Structural case in general is an uninterpretable T-feature on DP. The licensing of structural Case in a simple transitive clause requires multiple applications of AGREE, and results in feature sharing as indicated by identical indices in (1).



First step (1): Uninterpretable T on v probes and AGREES with uninterpretable T on DP and with uninterpretable, valued T on V, creating multiple instances of T, valued in each location. Second step (2): Interpretable T on Tns probes and AGREES with uninterpretable T on v and with uninterpretable T on DP, thereby valuing T on Tns as well as T on the subject DP (Case). Under P&T's analysis, the value for T enters the derivation in (1) via the lexical verb.

Here, we propose that the valued tense feature is located on the finite auxiliary when one is present, rather than on the lexical verb. Thus, whenever one or more auxiliaries are present, the lexical verb has an unvalued T-feature which requires probing of multiple heads by Interpretable T on Tns. We capitalize on this to derive the Passive, which will turn out to be no different from an ordinary clause with one or more auxiliaries.

In Raising constructions with a transitive infinitival complement clause, AGREE proceeds as in (1), except that the shared feature T remains unvalued, as the infinitival verb is not valued for T. For P&T, valuation of T on the subject DP occurs as a result of raising it at least to Spec, TnsP in the infinitival clause where it is accessible to probing by finite Tns. We argue against this aspect of their analysis and propose that the DP low in the infinitival complement clause is accessible to probing by matrix Tns. The central Raising (2) and Passive data (3) we discuss in this paper are shown below.

- (2) a. Det verkade (*många män) vara (många män) här. (Sw)
 b. There seemed (*many men) to be (many men) here. (Eng)
 c. Það höfðu (margir menn) virst (*margir menn) vera (margir menn) hér. (Icel.)
 there had (many men) seemed (*many men) be (many men) here
- (3) a. Det har (*många älgar) blivit (*många älgar) skjutet många älgar. (Sw)
 b. Det har (*många älgar) blivit många älgar skjutna (*många älgar). (Sw)
 c. There have (*many elk) been many elk shot (*many elk). (Eng)
 d. Það hafa (margir elgir) verið (*margir elgir) skotnir (margir elgir). (Icel.)
 there have (many elk) been (*many elk) shot (many elk)

In Swedish and English Raising structures with inserted expletives, the associate DP must stay in its base position, whereas Icelandic allows a higher DP position, [Spec, TnsP], in these structures. Essentially following Jonas (1996), we assume that the availability of the higher subject position depends on V-to-Tns movement, independent of V-to-C (V2). Here we argue that verb raising interacts with our proposal for the mechanism of feature sharing to account for the distribution of DP positions in (2) and (3).

References

- Jonas, Dianne. 1996. Clause structure and verb syntax in Scandinavian and English. Doctoral dissertation, Harvard University.
- Pesetsky, David, and Esther Torrego. 2004a. Tense, case and the nature of syntactic categories. In *The syntax of time*, ed. by Jaqueline Guéron and Jaqueline Lecarme, 495-538. Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press.
- Pesetsky, David, and Esther Torrego. 2004b. The syntax of valuation and the interprebilty of features. Ms. MIT and UMass Boston.