A *most* selective history of Binding Theory (Lasnik 1989:19–34)

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Terminology, anaphor vs. pronoun complementarity, | c-command |, | A- vs. A′-binding |, | locality |, "Tensed S Constraint", "Nominative Island Constraint", "R-expressions", etc.

(1) a. ANAPHORS:

  1. *myself, yourself, himself, herself, ...*

  2. *each other, one another, ...*

  3. traces of A-movement (as in, e.g., *John$_i$ was liked t$_i$*)?

  4. PRO (as in, e.g., *She$_i$ wants to PRO$_i$ to dance*)?, ...

  b. PRONOUNS:

  1. *I, me, you, she, her, he, him, we, ...*

  2. *pro* (as in, e.g., Spanish *pro$_i$ canto* 'I sing')

  3. PRO (as in, e.g. *PRO$_{arb}$ to try it is PRO$_{arb}$ to like it*)?, ...

  c. R-EXPRESSIONS (NAMES):

  1. *John, Mary, ...*

  2. *The man that I saw yesterday, That professor*

  3. traces of *wh*-movement (as in, e.g., *Who$_j$ does she$_i$ like t$_j$?*)?, ...

(2) a. *John$_i$ likes himself$_{i/*j}$*

  b. *John$_i$ likes him$_{j/*i}$*

(3) a. *[John$_i$'s mother]$_j$ likes herself$_j$*

  b. **[John$_i$'s mother]$_j$ likes himself$_i$*

  c. **[The mother of John$_i$]$_j$ likes himself$_i$*

(4) *John$_i$'s mother likes him$_i$*

(5) a. ** John, I like himself*

  b. *John, I like him*

(6)   a.   *$Nixon_i$ wanted the American people to like $himself_i$*

      b.   *$Nixon_i$ wanted the American people to like him_i*

(7)   a.   * *[Schwarzenegger and Shriver]$_i$ expect that [[each other]$_i$ will win]*

      b.   *[Schwarzenegger and Shriver]$_i$ expect [[each other]$_i$ to win]*

(8)   a.   *[Schwarzenegger and Shriver]$_i$ expect that [they$_i$ will win]*

      b.   * *[Schwarzenegger and Shriver]$_i$ expect [them$_i$ to win]*

(9)   a.   * *He$_i$ likes John$_i$*

      b.   *His$_i$ mother likes John$_i$*

(10) a.   * *He$_i$ thinks that Mary likes John$_i$*

Binding Theory post-1980

(11) a.   An anaphor is A-bound in some local domain (which?).

      b.   A pronoun is A-free in some local domain (which?).

      c.   An R-expression is free (everywhere?).

(12) a. α is A-bound by β iff α and β are coindexed, β c-commands α, and β is in a so-called "A position" (a potential argument position? what's that?).

      b. α is A-free iff it is not A-bound.

"Local domain" in Chomsky 1981 (LGB):

(13) α is the governing category (GC) for β iff α is the minimal category containing β and a governor of β, where α = NP or S.

(14) α governs β iff:

      a. α is a potential governor (=Case-assigner?)—$\alpha \in \{V, P, I^0[+\text{tense}], D^0[+\text{genitive}], \dots \}$
      b. α m-commands β (i.e., every maximal projection XP that dominates α also dominates β)
      c.   there is no maximal projection XP such that X^0 is a potential governor, XP dominates β and XP does not dominate α (i.e., there is no potential governor that is closer to β than α is).

Problem: The "Specified Subject Condition"

(15) a.   *Mary dislikes criticism of herself*

      b.   **Mary dislikes Bill's criticism of herself*

Governing Category refined:

(16) a. α is the governing category (GC) for β if α is the minimal category containing β, a governor of β, and a SUBJECT accessible to β.

[SUBJECT $\in$ { Spec(XP) with X^0 a lexical head, AGR in I^0[+Tense] }]

A root sentence is a governing category for a governed element.

b. α is accessible to β if β is in the c-command domain of α and assignment to β of the index of α would not violate the "*i*-within-*i*" condition in (17).

(17) *$[_\gamma \ldots \delta_i \ldots]_i$ — γ and δ (δ a constituent of γ) bear the same index.

(18) a. **There is* $[_{NP}$ *a picture of itself$_i$*$]_i$ *on the mantelpiece*

b. * $[_{NP}$ *the owner of his$_i$ boat*$]_i$

(19) a. * *Mary realized that herself$_i$ INFL$_i$ would win*

b. *Mary realized that* [*a picture of herself*]$_i$ *INFL$_i$ was on sale*

(20) Consider $[_{IP}$ XP $[_{I'}$ I^0 $\ldots$]]
(How) Does AGR in I^0 become "accessible" to XP in Spec(IP)?

One residual problem (among many others): Cases of non-complementarity between anaphors and pronouns

(21) a. [*The candidates*]$_i$ *expect that* [[*each other*]$_i$ *'s spouses will be supportive*]

b. [*The candidates*]$_i$ *expect that* [*their$_i$ spouses will be supportive*]

(22) a. [*The students*]$_i$ *are enjoying* [*each other*]$_i$*'s participation in this class*

b. [*The students*]$_i$ *are enjoying their$_i$ participation in this class*

Governing Category in Chomsky 1986 *Knowledge of Language*

(23) "A governing category is a "complete functional complex" (CFC) in the sense that all grammatical functions compatible with its head are realized within it. ... The local domain for an anaphor or pronominal α ... is the least CFC [COMPLETE FUNCTIONAL COMPLEX] containing a lexical governor of α."

Problem: "Nominative Island Constraint"

(24) **John$_i$ believes (that)* [*himself$_i$ is intelligent*]

(25) a. *John$_i$ is believed* [*t$_i$ to be intelligent*]

b. **John$_i$ is believed (that)* [*t$_i$ is intelligent*]

(26)   *Jean se$_i$ croit   [t$_i$ intelligent]*   (French)
         John 3sg-REFL believes   intelligent
         "John believes himself intelligent"

Other problem: Are R-expressions really free everywhere?

(27)   *John$_i$ is tough [$\mathcal{O}_i$ [PRO$_{arb}$ to please t$_i$]]*

(28)   An R-expression must be A-free in the domain of the operator that A$'$-binds it (=
         in the domain of the head of its maximal chain).