Introduction to Syntax
The subjects on non-finite clauses

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Subjects of non-finite clauses

- Consider the clauses in italics below.
- Who is the subject of the non-finite verb (to succeed, to announce, to do) in each sentence below?
- Is the subject of the matrix (main) predicate (is certain, is excited, is tough) the semantic argument of that predicate?
- Attested examples (www)

1. If you make reading a fun part of your daily life, your child is certain to succeed!
2. Elms College Athletic Department is excited to announce the hiring of Rosamaria Riccobono.
3. If you think the Green New Deal is tough to do, think about the Rural Electrification Administration
Subjects of non-finite clauses

1. If you make reading a fun part of your daily life, your child is certain to succeed!

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   1. raising
   2. control
   3. “tough-movement”
Subjects of non-finite clauses

1. Carl is likely to fight.
2. Carl is eager to fight.
3. Carl is fun to fight.

- *Carl* is the syntactic subject of "is likely, is eager and is fun".
- *Carl* gets a semantic role from *is eager*, but not from *is likely, is fun*.
- Carl is interpreted as the subject of *to fight* in (1) and (2).
- Note that (1) and (3) can be reworded as *It is likely that Carl will fight, It is fun to fight Carl*.
- The subject of *to fight* in (3) is interpreted as "people in general". This is called arbitrary control.
Arbitrary control

- We didn’t talk about arbitrary control last time.
- PRO_{arb}

1. To know him is to love him.
2. Playing Fortnite is a good use of time.
Raising

Subject

- The matrix subject gets a semantic role from the downstairs but not the upstairs predicate: raising to subject. 
  *seem, happen, appear, turn out, is likely, is certain,* a number of passives: *said, thought, presumed*...
- *Sara seems to love Hitchcock movies.*

Object

- The matrix object gets a semantic role from the downstairs but not the upstairs predicate: raising to object. 
  *expect, believe, know, want, consider*...
  Also referred to as *Exceptional Case Marking (ECM)*verbs
- *Linda expected Sarah to love Hitchcock movies.*
Control

**Subject**
- Equi(valent) NP deletion, Equi-constructions
- The matrix subject gets a semantic role from both the downstairs and the upstairs predicate.
  - *try, attempt, want, expect, is eager...*
  - *Sara prefers to go to bed early.*

**Object**
- The matrix object gets a semantic role from both the downstairs and the upstairs predicate.
  - *tell, order, forbid, teach...*
  - *Giorgio forced us to watch Hitchcock movies.*
Balinese (Arka 2019):

Bapa tawang tiang [ ___ bah ditu].
father know 1SG collapse there

‘I know that your father collapsed there.’
Subject-to-object raising

Basque (Rezac et al. 2014):

Katu-ak sagu-ak harrapatzen ikusi ditut.

‘I saw the cats catch the mice.’
Moro (Jenks and Rose 2017):

Kúk:u ɡəndətʃinú náŋələvətʃa ɲál:on

‘Kuku tried to hide Ngalo.’
Estonian (Torn 2006):

'Direktor palus sekretäril asja selgitada.'

'The director asked the secretary to explain the issue.'
There are of course many further interesting things to explore (this is true for all topics we have touched on).

For example arbitrary control (above) and also ‘partial control’ (judgements may vary):

1. Fred wanted to sit quietly together.
2. Fred preferred to sit quietly together.
3. *Fred tried to sit quietly together.
4. *Fred managed to sit quietly together.

Examples of further topics that have been explored cross-linguistically: finite complement clauses, complementizers, backwards control, backwards raising, copy-raising, etc.

