Syntactic Structures
2019-2020

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Week 2
Identifying the functional spine. The morphosyntactic map of the clause.

- **Exercise**: Based on Pollock’s 1989 argument for the split of the T head in several functional heads.

- **Negative Adverbs in French and English in finite clauses**
  - Jean n’aime *pas* Marie
  - V Neg
  - *Jean ne pas aime Marie
  - Neg V
  - *John likes not Mary
  - V Neg
  - John does not like Mary
  - Neg V

- Languages differ as to Verb syntax: Parameter yielding +/- Movement of V to T
- The process ultimately depends on the **attracting property of the functional head T**.

- V, T, Neg occupy the same position across languages (a property of the clause structure that does not need to be learned).
- What varies is the **attracting property of T**.
The functional spine:

**Negative Adverbs and low adverbs. Finite and non-finite clauses: a French internal contrast**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Finite</th>
<th>Non finite</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Jean rencontre <strong>souvent</strong> Marie</td>
<td>• Jean essaye de <strong>souvent</strong> rencontrer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• V Adv</td>
<td>• Adv V</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Jean ne rencontre <strong>pas</strong> Marie</td>
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<td>• <em>Which is the unexpected data</em> (if only one functional position T)?</td>
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</tbody>
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- Which is the unexpected data (if only one functional position T)?
The functional spine

- **Proposal:**
  - At least two heads to which the verb V can/must raise
  - Schematically:
Traditional labels

IT:

a. Maria non viaggia mai
   V Neg

b. Maria sostiene di non viaggiare mai
   V Neg

Non finite
No English internal contrast

**Finite**
- John *often* meets Mary
- Adv V

- *John meets *often* Mary
- V Adv

- V does not move in English (at least: it does not raise as high as it does in French/Italian)

**Non finite**
- John tries to *often* meet Mary
- Adv V

- *John tries to meet *often* Mary
- V Adv

- John tries *not* to meet Mary
- Neg V
- *John tries to meet *not* Mary
- V Neg
The nature of V matters: V vs Aux
(Lexical Verb vs Functional Aux)

**Finite**
- a. Marie n’a pas parlé
- a’. Mary has *not* spoken
- b. Marie n’est pas drôle
- b’. Mary is *not* funny
- Aux always obligatorily moves in finite clauses

**Non finite**
- c. Marie dit ne pas avoir parlé
- c’. Mary claims *not* to have spoken
- d. Marie dit n’avoir pas parlé
- d’. Mary claims to have *not* spoken
- Movement of Aux is optionally possible in non-finite clauses