Is the following sentence a contradiction?

1. Sue$_m$ is certain that she$_m$ will win but she$_m$ herself does not believe it.

What about (2)?

2. Sue$_m$ is certain to win but she$_m$ herself does not believe it.

Why is (1) a contradiction and why is (2) not?

In (2), no certainty of state of mind is attributed to Sue. That is, *Sue* does not receive a theta-role from *certain*.

In other words,….

Sue is not generated as an argument of *certain* in (2) but it is in (1).

(What/who is *certain* attributed to (2)? Who is certain?)

Instead of (2), we could have said (3). That is, (2) and (3) have the same truth-conditional content, including the same theta-roles to the same arguments, etc.

2. Sue$_m$ is certain to win but she$_m$ herself does not believe this yet.

3. It is certain that Sue$_m$ will win but she$_m$ herself does not believe it yet.

The element *it* is an "expletive" or a "dummy" element. It does not contribute anything to the semantics. It does not refer to anything. It is there for reasons of syntactic wellformedness that will not preoccupy us right now. Remember that dummy *do* was a similar element.

- In (3,) *Sue* is an argument of the embedded sentence.
- In (2), *Sue* is not an argument of the matrix predicate.
- There is a derivational relationship between (2) and (3).

3'.   is certain that [Sue will win]$_{IP}$

2'.   is certain   [Sue to win]$_{IP}$

In both cases the distribution of theta-roles is the same but in (2), *Sue* is not happy where it is.
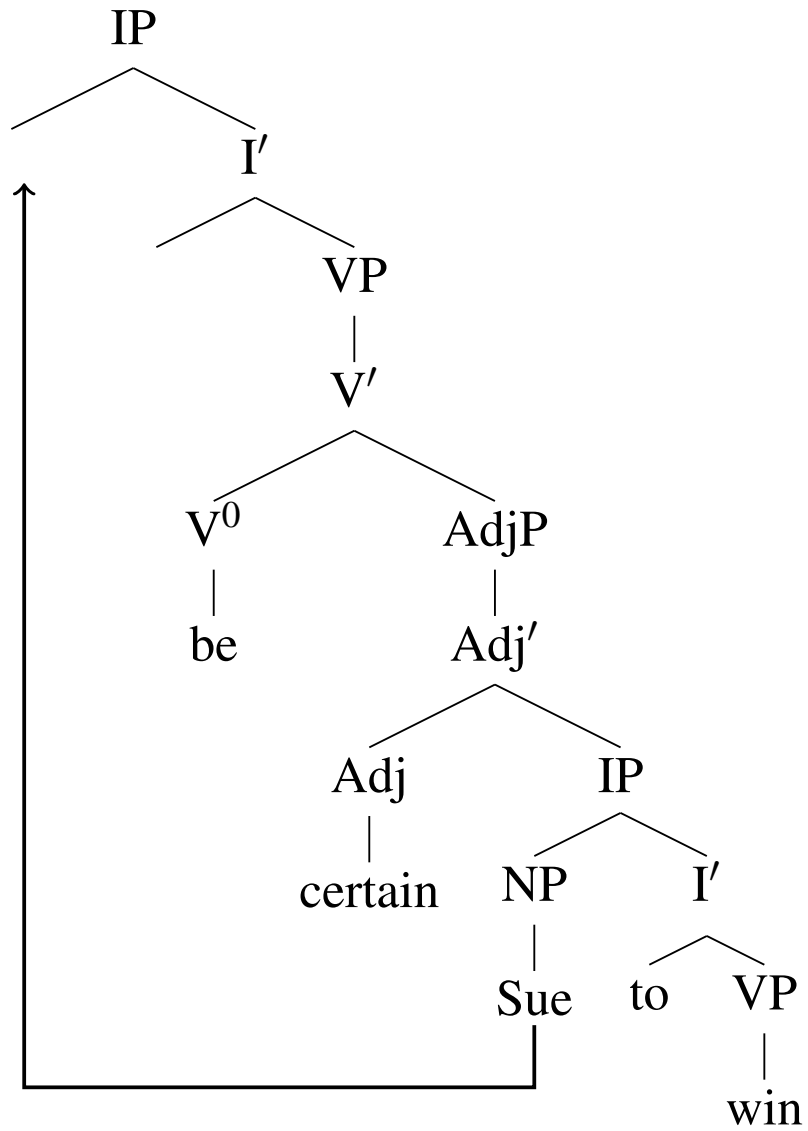
Why?

Sue needs Case!

- *Sue* moves to the specifier of the IP where it gets Case from …

  …the tensed I^0.

How do we know this movement is to the specifier of the IP and not the specifier of the CP?

Because it triggers subject-verb agreement:

2. Sue_k <u>is</u> certain [t_k to win]

4. The $children_k$ <u>are</u> certain [t_k to win]

IP
└─ I′
   └─ VP
      └─ V′
         ├─ V⁰
         │ └─ be
         └─ AdjP
            └─ Adj′
               ├─ Adj
               │ └─ certain
               └─ IP
                  ├─ NP
                  │ └─ Sue
                  └─ I′
                     ├─ to
                     └─ VP
                        └─ win

5

- Movement to the specifier of IP was called "A movement" because it is movement to an "A position".
- "A" stands for "argument". That is, an A position is a position in which an argument *can* be generated. The specifier of an IP is an A position because a thematic subject can be generated there <u>in principle</u>.
- "A-bar movement" was called this because it is movement to an "A-bar" position.
- "A-bar" positions are the complement of A-positions. (logic notation)

- Movement to the specifier of the IP is possible in (2) because there is no theta-role assigned there.
- If a theta-role had been assigned there, the position would have been filled at D-structure and nothing could have moved there.
- So movement of *Sue* to the specifier of the IP in (2) is possible because that position receives no theta-role at D-structure.
- And it is also for this reason that an expletive can appear there in (3). Expletives cannot appear in positions in which a theta-role has been assigned since they have no reference.

- A-movement is also cyclic:

4. Sue seems [t''_k to be likely [t'_k to be certain [t_k to win]]]

How do we know this?

Relativized minimality effects!

If we block up one of the intermediate positions, ungrammaticality results.

What would we block it up by?

An expletive. (can you tell why?)

5.* Sue seems [t''_k to be likely [it is certain [t_k to win]]]

The ungrammatical (5) differs from the grammatical (4) only in the presence of the expletive in (5). The expletive blocks *Sue* from moving through that position. So if there is an expletive in the position where it is in (5), *Sue* has to remain in the lower clause, as in (6):

6. It seems that it is likely that it is certain that Sue will win

- Like Abar movement, A-movement happens in a variety of places.

- It also happens, for example in passives:

6. John$_k$ <u>was</u> arrested t$_k$

7. The students$_k$ <u>were</u> arrested t$_k$

In (6,7) *John* and *the children* receive the theta-role of theme of arresting (not agent), so they are generated in the object position of the verb.

A lot of questions arise, of course, about how/why the passive has these properties.

What are some of these questions?

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