

Contents

	<i>page ix</i>
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	
Introduction: four apparently unrelated empirical domains	1
1 The anomaly of copular sentences: the raising of predicates	17
1.1 Subject–object asymmetries and the theory of clause structure	17
1.2 The anomaly of copular sentences: the data	23
1.3 The raising of predicates: a unified theory of copular sentences	30
1.4 Exploring the syntax of predicative noun phrases: θ -role assignment and the local domain for binding	77
1.5 Conclusions	89
2 The syntax of <i>ci</i>	94
2.1 The standard analysis: on the notion of expletive	94
2.2 Extraction from the embedded subject of <i>ci</i> -sentences and other unexpected phenomena	103
2.3 An alternative analysis: <i>ci</i> as a raised predicate	107
2.4 A difference between English <i>there</i> and Italian <i>ci</i>	118
2.5 Conclusions	127
3 Are there parameters in semantics? The defining properties of existential sentences	131
3.1 Introduction: on the absence of the Definiteness Effect in Italian existential sentences	131
3.2 On the so-called ‘existential meaning’: the role of syntax	133
3.3 How to escape the Definiteness Effect: the role of the <i>pro</i> -drop parameter	150
3.4 A cursory view across languages: ‘Jespersen’s generalization’	159
3.5 Conclusions	163

4.	The 'quasi-copula': the role of finite clauses in <i>seem</i>-sentences	167
4.1	Finite clauses as arguments: passive vs <i>seem</i>	167
4.2	<i>Seem</i> as the 'quasi-copula'	170
4.3	On differentiating the role of <i>it</i> : empirical evidence	180
4.4	Infinitival clauses with <i>seem</i>	194
4.5	Conclusions	210
5	A view beyond: unaccusativity as an epiphenomenon	214
5.1	On the notion of intransitive verbs	214
5.2	A view beyond: unaccusative constructions as <i>ci</i> -sentences	222
5.3	Conclusions	245
	Appendix: a brief history of the copula	248
1	The meaning(s) of 'copula'	248
11	A brief survey of three major approaches	248
111	'Grammatical subjects': copular sentences in modern syntax	255
	<i>Notes</i>	262
	<i>References</i>	301
	<i>Index</i>	310