PROTOTYPES IN SYNTAX

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Part I: OVERVIEW

Deictic (D): THERE'S Harry in the yard.
Occurrence (O): There's a man in the yard.
Existence (E): There's a flaw in the diamond.

Deictic Subtypes:
    Perceptual (PERC): There's the doorbell.
    Discourse (DISC): There's a nice point.
    Change of Existence (CHE): There goes the last of the leftovers.
    Presentational (PD): THERE is buried the father of our country.

Occurrence Subtypes:
    Change (CHO): There ensued a riot.
    Strange (STR): There's a man been shot.
    Presentational (PO): There entered the room a tall man with electric
                       green hair.

Existence Subtypes:
    Substance (SB): There's a lot to what he says.
    List (L): There's the car, the house, the dogs, ...
    Presentational (PE): There once lived in Transylvania an old lady
                       with three sons.

Part II: Here/There vs. That/This

1. { That's / There's } Sammy with a sailor suit on.

2. { This / Here } is a bat flying under a lamppost.

3. { There / *That } goes the bus.

4. { Here / *This } comes the bus.

5. { *There / That } isn't Harry.

6. { *Here's / This is } not a bagel.

7. { *There's / That's } no bagel.

8. *There's Harry, isn't there/he?
    That's Harry, isn't it?

9. Is { *here / this } a bedbug?

10. Isn't { *there / that } Linus Pauling sneezing?

Part II, contd.

11. I'm surprised that $\begin{Bmatrix} \text{*THERE'S} \\ \text{that's} \end{Bmatrix}$ Meryl Streep.

12. Wow, was $\begin{Bmatrix} \text{*THERE} \\ \text{that} \end{Bmatrix}$ ever a gorgeous catch!

13. *Wow, THERE was a gorgeous catch!

Part III: Locative Deictics

$$\text{D:} \quad \begin{Bmatrix} \underline{\text{Here}} \\ \underline{\text{There}} \end{Bmatrix} + \begin{Bmatrix} \underline{\text{be}} \\ \underline{\text{go}} \\ \underline{\text{come}} \\ \underline{\text{sit}} \\ \underline{\text{stand}} \end{Bmatrix} + \text{NP (+ Final Phrase)}$$

1. There's Harry.

2. Harry's there.

3. Harry's not there.

4. Is Harry there?

5. Harry's there, isn't he?

6. There goes the rocket.
    The rocket goes there.

7. Here comes Aunt Sadie.
    Aunt Sadie comes here.

8. There's Max $\begin{Bmatrix} \text{slicing salami.} \\ \text{in drag.} \\ \text{drunk / *tall.} \\ \text{without any clothes on.} \\ \text{in the hot tub.} \\ \text{now.} \\ \text{shot through the heart.} \end{Bmatrix}$

9. There sits Irving with his famous bassoon.

10. Here stands the world-famous statue of Lenny Bruce.

Part IV: Pragmatic Conditions associated with Locative Deictics

Abbreviations:
Speaker (S); Hearer (H); Location denoted by <u>here</u> and <u>there</u> (L);
Entity denoted by NP (NP'); Property denoted by Final Phrase
(FP'); NP' is at L (P1); NP' has property FP' (P2).

Background Conditions:
NP' exists.
NP' is present in visual field of S.
S is directing his visual attention at NP'.
S assumes H does not know P1 (nor P2) and that he is not
directing his attention at NP'.
Either: (1) NP' has just come into S's field of vision,
   or   (2) H has just asked S about the whereabouts of NP'.

Part IV, contd.

Speech Act 1:
        S asserts P1 to H, with the illocutionary points of
                (1) informing H of P1,
      and   (2) directing H's attention to NP'.

Speech Act 2:
        If FP is present, S asserts P2 to H, with the illocationary
point of identifying NP' to H.

Discourse Condition:
        NP' is a new topic.

Accompanying Gesture:
        S points to H (with finger or head).

Convention:
        An utterance of D counts as the performance of Speech Acts
1 and 2, given the above background conditions.

Syntactic Consequences:
        No negatives, tags, questions, negative questions, embeddings,
or conventionalized exclamations.

Part V: A Variation on D

1. There's Harry.

2. *There is he.

3. *There's him.

4. There he is.

5. Away ran Harry.

6. *Away ran he.

7. *Away he ran.

8. I looked up the number.

9. *I looked up it.

10. I looked it up.

11. There he is.

12. *There he's.

13. There he is with his hat on.

14. *There he's with his hat on.

15. There is Harry leaving.

16. *Harry is there leaving.

17. Harry is lying on the bed, $\left\{\begin{array}{l}\text{smoking a cigarette.} \\ \text{in drag.} \\ \text{drunk / *tall.} \\ \text{without any clothes on.} \\ \text{shot through the heart.}\end{array}\right\}$

Conclusion: D is an amalgam.

Part VI: Deictics, Occurrences, and Existentials

1. DEICTIC: THERE is a prisoner escaping.
   OCCURRENCE: There is a PRISONER escaping.

2. OCCURRENCE: There is a man running across the street.
   EXISTENTIAL: There is a crack running across the street.

3. A man is running across the street.
   *A crack is running across the street.

4. There is a flaw in the diamond.
   *A flaw is in the diamond.

5. THERE'S a deer NOW running across the field.
   *There's a DEER NOW running across the field.

6. There isn't a flaw in the diamond.
   There isn't a child sleeping.

7. Is there a flaw in the diamond?
   Is there a child sleeping?

8. Is there ever a flaw in the diamond!
   Is there ever a child crying!

9. *There isn't the child crying.

10. *Is there the flaw in the diamond?

11. There was the usual argument in class today.

12. There was the usual child crying.

13. There was this argument in class today.
    There was the biggest argument in class today!

14. There are many boys being chased by every girl.

15. There go many boys being chased by every girl.

16. There are many flaws in every diamond.

17. There was a man running down the street.

18. Which man was there running down the street?

19. Which street was there a man running down?

[[In (17), "running down the street" cannot be a reduced relative clause.]]

20. There was a mugger beating up an old man.

21. *Which mugger was there beating up an old man?

22. *Which old man was there a mugger beating up?

[[(20) cannot be simply a transformed version of a simple sentence. Best guess: O and E are complex constructions whose FP's are a result of an amalgamation of two clauses, just as D is. This would explain why NP acts as subject for FP, while <u>there</u> acts as subject for the entire construction.]]

23. There is a Santa Claus.
    *A Santa Claus is.

24. There is an hour before lunch.
    *An hour is before lunch.
    *An hour before lunch is.

Part VI, contd.

25. There was flooding in the valley.
    *Flooding was in the valley.

26. There is a flaw in the diamond.
    The diamond has a flaw in it.

27. There is a thief in the bedroom.
    *The bedroom has a thief in it.

28. There is a deer in the zoo.
    *A deer is in the zoo.
    The zoo has a deer in it.

29. There is a glass on the table. (O & E)
    A glass is on the table. (O)
    The table has a glass on it. (E)

30. There is work to do.
    There is work to be done.

31. *Work is to do.
    *Work is to be done.

Part VII: Similarities and Differences: D, O, and E

Differences:
    O and E don't have the conventionalized pragmatics of D (Part IV).
    Therefore, they allow negatives, questions, tags, negative questions, embeddings, conventionalized exclamations, etc.
    There in O and E is not deictic and is unstressed.
    Here does not occur in O and E.
    Go, come, sit and stand do not occur in O and E (so far).
    O and E take "indefinites" but these are not simply syntactic indefinites, since the usual and unstressed this are permitted. These are syntactically definite, but not fully semantically and pragmatically definite.
    E, but not O, takes infinitival Final Phrases.
    O, but not E, occurs in a normal sentence form.
    E, but not O, has a have-construction variant.

Similarities:
    There + be + NP (+ Final Phrase)
    They share the same range of Final Phrases (except in the infinitive case).
    They all have PRESENTATIONAL versions (see Part VIII).
    NP is a new topic.
    Kuno's quantifier constraint (cf. 14 - 16) applies to all.
    The prototypical uses of O and E involve direction of attention to NP'.

Suggestion:
    There and be are conventional for D, and this motivates the fact that O and E are limited to these. (D's convention is O and E's prototype.)

Part VIII: Nonprototypical Deictics

Perceptual:

1.   There's the bell NOW ringing in the distance.
2.   There goes the gong.
3.   Now THERE'S a real cup of coffee.
4.   *There sits a real cup of coffee.
5.   Here's Harry NOW knocking at the door.

Discourse:

6.   There's a nice point.
7.   There's a nice point to bring up in class tomorrow.
8.   *There's a nice point NOW!
9.   Here's an interesting fact: New Jersey is bigger than Israel.
10. *Here's an interesting fact NOW!--New Jersey is bigger than Israel.

Change of Existence:

11. There goes the last of the leftovers.
12. Here comes another outburst.

Presentational (PD):

13. There (on that hill) is buried the father of our country.
14. Here (in this bottle) is contained the secret of everlasting life.
15. There (at first base) is standing the greatest base-stealer of
     all time.
16. Here (in this very cave) can be found the secret of the Mixtecs.
17. Isn't it amazing that here in this bottle is contained the secret
     of everlasting life?
18. *Isn't it amazing that there goes the gong?
19. *Isn't it amazing that there's a nice point NOW!
20. *Isn't it amazing that here comes another outburst?
21. *THERE doesn't go the gong.
22. *HERE'S not a nice point.
23. *Does there go the last of our leftovers?
24. *THERE is buried the father of our country, isn't there?
25. *There on that hill goes the gong.
26. *Here into this room came yesterday the Queen herself!
27. There's Harry over there.
     *Over there there's Harry.

Part IX: Similarities and Differences Among the Deictics

Differences:
        D has a much wider range of Final Phrases than the others.
        PERC, DISC, and CHE don't take <u>sit</u> and <u>stand</u>.
        PERC takes as a gesture a finger pointing <u>upward</u>.
        PERC is based on the metaphor SENSATION IS SPATIAL.
        DISC is based on the metaphor DISCOURSE IS SPATIAL.
        CHE is based on the metaphor EXISTENCE IS SPATIAL LOCATION.
        DISC and CHE have the same metaphorical mappings:
                DISTAL =====$\Rightarrow$ EARLIER
                PROXIMAL ====$\Rightarrow$ LATER
        PERC and DISC have <u>that</u>-variants.
        PD has a VP where the others have a V, and requires a heavy NP.
        PD either begins a subnarrative or is a punchline.
        CHE only takes <u>come</u> and <u>go</u>.
        DISC only takes indefinites, except for superlatives.
        PD occurs in some embeddings.
        Only PD takes appositives after <u>here</u> and <u>there</u>.

Similarities:
        They all conventionally express direction-of-attention speech acts, and
have corresponding syntactic consequences: no negatives, questions, tags,
conventionalized exclamations, etc.
        They all have stressed <u>here</u> and <u>there</u>.
        All except PRES have pronominal NP preceding V, and have the Harold
King contraction constraint (e.g., *There it's.)
        They allow both definites and indefinites (except for DISC).
        No preposing of FP's.

Observation:
        <u>HERE</u> and <u>THERE</u> (with stress) are true locatives only in D. These con-
structions show a gradual cline from <u>locative</u> to <u>general perception</u> to <u>discourse</u>
to <u>existence</u>. This suggests that the unstressed <u>there</u> in O and E is the next
point on this continuum, rather than being a meaningless or dummy element.
The continuum motivates the choice of the word <u>there</u> in O and E.

Part X: Nonprototypical Occurrences

        <u>Change (including repetitive and ongoing situations)</u>:

        1. There ensued a riot in the downtown area.
            A riot ensued in the downtown area.

        2. There (quickly) convened a meeting of the entire staff.

        3. There glowed two eyes in the shadows.

        4. In the hall there gathered many people.

        5. On the water there floated a large log.

        6. Bill said there would ensue a riot, and there did.

        7. *Bill said there would ensue a riot, and there ensued one.

Part X, contd.

8. *There convened one.

9. *There gathered one.

10. For every sucker there waits a swindler.
    *Does there wait a swindler for every sucker?

11. There gathered a crowd around him.
    *There didn't gather a crowd around him.

12. There will convene no meeting of the staff this week.
    *There won't convene a meeting of the staff this week.

Presentational (PO):

13. From an asylum near Providence, R.I., there recently disappeared
    an exceedingly singular person.

14. There loomed in his mind the possibility of financial disaster.

15. There sprang from her loins the god of music playing the trombone
    as he emerged.

16. In each cubicle there was sitting alone a student writing a term paper.

17. There entered the room a clown with two heads.
    *There didn't enter the room a clown with two heads.
    *Did there enter the room a clown with two heads?

Strange Occurrences:

18. There's a man been shot.

19. There's a man's been shot.

20. *There is a man been shot.

21. *There has a man been shot.

22. *There is a man's been shot.

23. *There has a man's been shot.

24. Has there been a man shot?
    *Has there a man been shot?
    *Is there a man been shot?
    I wonder if there's a man been shot.

25. There's no man been shot around here in years.

26. There's a man been drunk / *tall (in here).

27. There's a man been in my living room.

28. There's a man been sleeping in my bed.

29. *There's a man been a lawyer.

30. *There's a man been the person I met last year.

31. There's $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{*the} \\ \text{this} \\ \text{the usual} \\ \text{the biggest} \end{array} \right\}$ bear been shot.

Part XI: Similarities and Differences Among Occurrences

Differences:
    CHO takes a lexical V; PO takes a VP and Heavy NP; and STR takes only 's, and hence does not permit questions.
    The FP in STR begins with been and is followed by those FP types that can occur after be.
    STR can take no, but not not.
    The 's in STR cannot be either be or have.
    CHO does not permit one-pronominalization.
    CHO, PO, and STR, unlike O, have restricted capacity for taking questions and negatives.

Similarities:
    None of them allow have-construction versions.
    They all describe occurrences.
    They all require "indefinites" (excluding the usual and unstressed this, and superlative definites).
    They all have non-there versions.

Part XII: Nonprototypical Existentials

Substance:

1. There's not much to him.

2. Is there anything to what he says?

3. There's a lot of substance to his claim.

4. There's a lot of merit in what he wrote.

5. There is nothing to the claim that wombats fly.

6. His claim has a lot of merit to it.

7. *A lot of merit is to his claim.

8. What is there to his claim?

9. Which of his claims is there any merit to / in?

List:

10. There's the dog, the cat, the wallaby. . . .

11. There's Charlie screaming upstairs, Harry stomping around in the kitchen, Sam watching the tube, . . .

12. There's Sam in the kitchen; there's Harry upstairs; . . . .

13. *There isn't the dog in the yard, the cat in the bedroom, . . .
     There isn't a dog in the yard, a cat in the bedroom, . . .
     There is no dog in the yard, no cat in the bedroom, ...

14. There's milk in the refrigerator; there's flour in the cupboard; . . .
     The refrigerator has milk in it; the cupboard has flour in it; . . . .

Presentational (PE):

15. There lived in Transylvania an old woman with three sons.

Part XII, contd.

16. *There didn't live in Transylvania an old woman with three sons.

17. *Did there live in Transylvania an old woman with three sons?

18. In my home town there resided a Rumanian duchess.

19. *In my home town there resided the Queen of Rumania.

20. In my home town there lived for a long time the biggest faker
     you can imagine.

21. My home town had the biggest faker you can imagine living in
     it for a long time.

Part XIII: Similarities and Differences Among Existentials

Differences:
     L takes definites; the rest take "indefinites" (except for the usual,
unstressed this, and superlative definites).
     SB requires quantity NP's referring to substance or merit; FP is a
PP with to, or with in when NP refers to merit.
     L takes negatives only when NP is "indefinite".
     PE takes a VP and Heavy NP.
     PE takes verbs of residence.
     PE introduces a narrative.
     L may iterate just the NP, the NP and FP, or the whole construction.

Similarities:
     They all take have-construction versions.
     They all have unstressed there.
     They all focus attention on NP'.
     NP is new information.
     They all have the semantics of existence.

Part XIV: Similarities Among Presentationals

     They all have VP's and Heavy NP's.
     They rarely, if ever, take FP's (since the Heavy NP's are just about
always final).
     They can all begin narratives.

Part XV: CONCLUSIONS

1. There are many systematic relations among these constructions that cannot
    be stated transformationally.

2. The constructions discussed form a natural cetagory with prototypical
    subcategories D, O, and E.

3. Constructions include syntactic, semantic, pragmatic and phonological
    conditions.

Part XV, contd.

4. There are syntactic consequences of conventionalized pragmatics.

5. There is a network of family resemblances linking the constructions.

6. The constructions in the category are not always distinct from one another, and even when they are, it is often hard to tell which subcategories they are in. In other words, the subcategories blend into one another.

7. Constructions can have prototypical uses, whether these uses are conventionalized or not.

8. What is prototypical in one subcategory is often conventionalized in another.

9. Constructions can be formed by amalgamation of parts of other, more basic constructions.

10. Nonprototypical constructions are motivated in part by prototypical constructions.

11. Metaphors may play a role in the relationships between constructions.