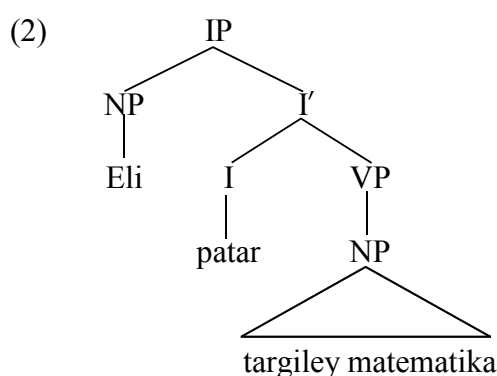


# Hebrew Triggered Inversion, p. 1

Normal (modern) Hebrew word order is SVO; the verb cannot precede the subject:

- (1) a. Eli patar targiley matematika.                      אלי פתר תרגילי מתמטיקה.  
 b. \*Patar Eli targiley matematika.                      \*פתר אלי תרגילי מתמטיקה.

The structure is a standard V-to-I structure. (In a transformational framework, this is achieved by moving the verb from the head position of VP to I.)



When something is fronted, it is possible to maintain normal word order:

- (3) Be yalduto, Eli patar targiley matematika.                      בילדותו, אלי פתר תרגילי מתמטיקה.

This is not what we are interested in, however. It is also possible to get the verb (or auxiliary) before the subject when an element is fronted:

- (4) a. Be yalduto patar Eli targiley matematika.                      בילדותו פתר אלי תרגילי מתמטיקה.  
 b. Be yalduto haya Eli poter targiley matematika.                      בילדותו היה אלי פותר תרגילי מתמטיקה.

Since this involves changing the usual order, it is considered an inversion construction. Since it is only possible when something has been fronted, it can be said to be triggered. This has therefore come to be known as the Triggered Inversion construction.

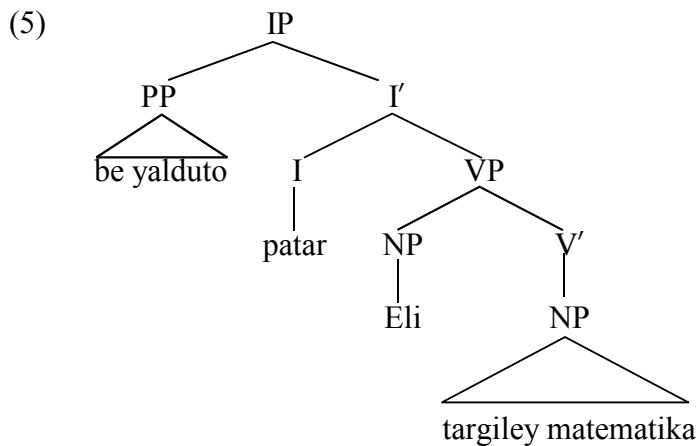
The question is:

What is the structure of a Triggered Inversion sentence? ? ? ? ? ? ?

In the transformational literature, two analyses have been proposed for the Triggered Inversion construction.

In one (e.g. Borer 1995), the Triggered Inversion construction is an IP. the topicalized element occupies the position of [SPEC, IP] (i.e. the usual SUBJ position) and the SUBJ is VP internal; the verb is in Infl as in an ordinary sentence..

# Hebrew Triggered Inversion, p. 2

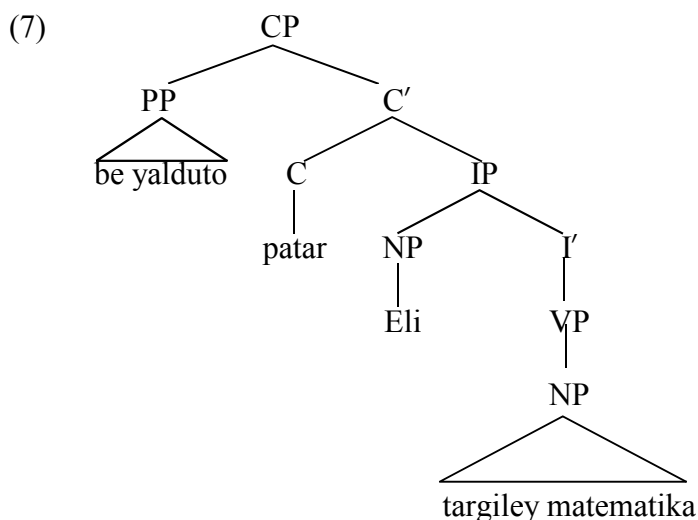


In favor of the analysis of Triggered Inversion as IP, notice that it can follow a complementizer.

(6) Sipru li še [beyalduto patar Eli targiley matematika]. [בילדותו פתר אלי תרגילי מתמטיקה].

This follows automatically under an IP analysis.

In the other analysis (e.g. Shlonsky and Doron 1992, Shlonsky 1998), the Triggered Inversion construction is a CP: the topicalized element is in [SPEC, CP] and the SUBJ is outside the VP (in [SPEC, IP]); the verb is in the complementizer position.



Evidence for the VP-external position of the SUBJ comes from adverbial placement. Elements that can be argued to be adjoined to VP follow the subject.

- (7) a. Beyalduto patar Eli bekalut targiley matematika. בילדותו פתר אלי בקלות תרגילי מתמטיקה.  
 b. \*Beyalduto patar bekalut Eli targiley matematika. \*בילדותו פתר בקלות אלי תרגילי מתמטיקה.

# Hebrew Triggered Inversion, p. 3

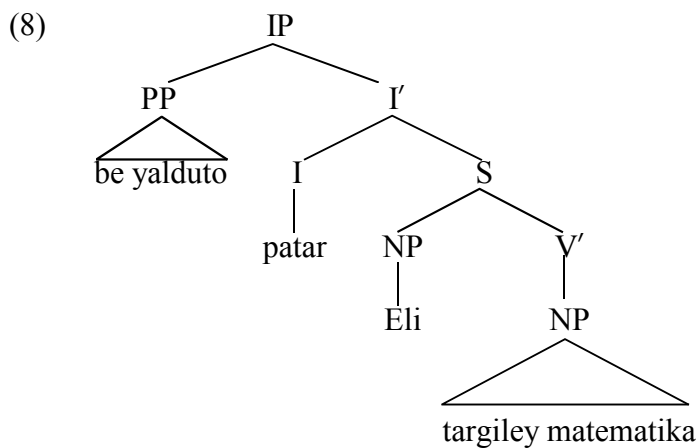
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So.....

The c-structural evidence is that the Triggered Inversion construction is an IP, but the subject is outside of the VP. Neither transformational analysis provides the right combination ☹

However:

In LFG, the hypothesis has been that there is no such thing as a VP-internal subject. In the IP analysis of Triggered Inversion (5), the node containing the subject would be an S, not a VP.



This structure captures the best of both approaches: Triggered Inversion is IP, and the subject is outside the VP! And it does this just by virtue of assuming the standard LFG approach to sentence structure: the existence of S, the non-existence of VP-internal subjects, and the use of IP-over-S structure.

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