Properties of Subjects

❝ At the outset we must note that there are no properties which in all languages are always exhibited by subjects and only exhibited by them. There may be some properties that are universally restricted to subjects [fn omitted], but there are certainly none that they always have. Rather, we find properties that are exhibited by subjects in a wide range of languages, and which may be plausibly argued to be restricted ❞ to subjects in some of them. [Andrews, Avery D. (1985) "The Major Functions of the Noun Phrase." in Timothy Shopen, ed., *Language Typology and Syntactic Description*. Vol. 1: Clause Structure. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 62–154. p. 104]

☞Agent, if there is one Keenan B.2

 ☞ perhaps related, "Independent Existence" Keenan A.1

☞addressee of imperative Keenan B.2

☞Binding Theory prominence Keenan A.3, 3.1.1, 3.1.3/Andrews §3.2.5

☞Switch-reference controller and controllee Keenan A.3.2/Andrews §3.2.4

☞most likely to be realized as a zero pronominal Keenan A.3.4.2 (and 3.4.1)/Andrews §3.2.2

☞subject is usually the discourse topic Keenan A.3.8/Andrews §3.2.6

☞control coreferential deletion or pronominalization across coordination Keenan A.3.1.2/Andrews §3.2.2

☞deleted under coreference across coordination Keenan A.3.4.3/Andrews §3.2.2

☞controllee (PRO) in subordinate clause Keenan A.3.4.2 (and 3.4.1)/Andrews §3.2.2

☞undergo Raising Keenan A.3.16

☞most likely to "undergo *wh* movement" Keenan A.3.13/Andrews §3.2.2. Also:

 ☞possessors of subjects are most likely possessors to undergo *wh* mvmt Keenan A.3.14.

 ☞*wh* moved subjects not likely to be expressed as a resumptive pronoun Keenan A.3.15

☞"Indispensability" (obligatoriness) Keenan A.2

☞ strong preference for the subject to be definite Keenan A.3.9. Perhaps related to this:

 ☞ there is a presupposition that the referent of the subject exists Keenan A.3.5

 ☞ … even under negation, questioning, or conditionalization Keenan A.3.6

 ☞ ability to be expressed by independent pronoun which is a full NP Keenan A.3.17

☞ wide scope Keenan A.3.11

☞"external" structural position Keenan D

☞usually leftmost Keenan A.3.12/Andrews §3.2.1

Morphological

☞Verb Agreement Keenan A.3.3/Andrews §3.2.1

☞not Case marked or "nominative" Keenan B.1/Andrews §3.2.1

 ☞ change Case marking in causatives, nominalizations, and infinitives Keenan B2,3/Andrews §3.2.3

Probably not really subject properties

☞quantifier float Keenan A.3.18

☞subjects unlikely to be idiom chunks Keenan A.3.7 (but this may be thematically based)