Verb movement

1. French: why is the verb not next to its complement?

[Answer: the verb moves.]

(1) V Adv DO
   a. Marie parle souvent français.
      'Marie often speaks French.'
   b. *Marie souvent parle français.

(2) V Neg DO
   a. Marie ne parle pas français.
      'Marie doesn’t speak French.'
   b. *Marie ne pas parle français.

Hypothesis:

(3) Verb movement
   V moves to I (when I is [+finite]).

(4) V does not move to I in an infinitival clause
   a. ...ne pas parler français...
      'to not speak French'
   b. *...ne parler pas français...

(5) Some verbs take a VP complement
   V' --> V VP

(6) Subcategorization properties of [V, +Aux]
   Auxiliary verbs subcategorize for VP complements (more accurately, for V, the
   head of a VP complement): [+ __ VP]

(7) It's the highest V that moves to I by rule (3)
   a. Marie n’a pas parlé français.
      'Marie has not spoken French.'
   b. *Marie ne pas a parlé français.

(8) Head Movement Constraint (Hypothesis due to Lisa Travis, McGill University)
   A head H may move to another head X, only if HP is the complement of X.

What structure is formed by verb-movement?
When a head H moves to another head X, H and X form a word (i.e. affixation gets done,
even if X happens to be phonologically null)

   e.g. the result of V-movement to I is:

   (9) I
       / \
       V   I

   [This term adjunction is often used to describe a structure in which X and Y are sisters,
   and the label of the mother node is Y, as in (9)].

2. Irish: why does the verb precede the subject?

Why is the verb not only separated from its complement -- but actually to the left of
the subject?

[Answer: The verb moves to I over the subject. The subject is in Spec,VP!]

(10) a. Kissed Mary the leprechaun.
       b. Is Mary kissing the leprechaun.

   [Italics = Irish]

The Irish verb follows C, so it's not moving to C!

(11) Said I that kissed Mary the leprechaun.

Why does the subject follow the verb in T?
   --> The subject of a sentence actually starts as Spec,VP.
   --> In English, the subject moves from Spec,VP to Spec,IP.
   --> In Irish, it does not.

So now we have a hypothesis about the missing "??" daughter of VP.

1 DO = "direct object"
2 "finite" = "not an infinitive", i.e. bears tense (present, past, future...)

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An argument that we might be on the right track. Some verbs in English subcategorize for a VP whose subject is *unraised*:³

(12) "Bare VP complements"
   a. I saw Bill leave the room.
   b. I made Bill leave the room.

[What makes us think that *Bill leave the room* is a VP and not an IP or CP?]

(13) "Small clauses" - AP and PP have subjects
   a. I consider Bill very happy.
   b. I expect you by my side at 10:00 sharp!

(14) **Specifier:**
Phrases appear to contain a position for a non-modifier sister to a single-bar projection, which is sometimes filled by movement, and sometimes "just there". This position is generally unique (i.e. a phrase does not have more than one⁴) and is always higher than all modifiers (i.e. a daughter of the maximal projection). This position is called a **specifier**.

3 We will learn a lot more about subject raising very soon.

4 This is not quite accurate, as we will see towards the very end of the course.

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3. **German: do we have any independent argument that V-movement exists?**

How do we know that V-movement really exists?

- In embedded declarative clauses, the finite verb comes last.
- But in a main-clause yes/no question, the finite verb comes first.

4. 

(15) a. Marie denkt, dass die Frau den Mann sieht.
   'Mary thinks that the woman sees the man.'
   b. Sieht die Frau den Mann?
   'Does the woman see the man?'

   • If the verb has a "separable prefix", the prefix is in last position even when the verb comes first.

(16) a. Marie denkt, dass der Mann das Licht an-macht.
   'Mary thinks that the woman turns on the light.'
   b. Macht die Frau das Licht an?

(17) a. ... dass die Frau den Brief auf-gibt.
   '...that the woman is mailing the letter.'
   b. Gibt die Frau den Brief auf?

(18) a. Müssen wir das Licht an-machen?
   'Must we turn on the light?'
   b. Hat die Frau den Brief auf-gegeben?

What is going on?!

• In embedded declarative clauses, the finite verb comes last.
• But in a main-clause yes/no question, the finite verb comes first.
(20)  a. Das Licht macht der Man an.
    b. Den Brief gibt die Frau auf.

(21)  a. Das Licht müssen wir an-machen.
    b. Jetzt müssen wir das Licht an-machen.

Assume: The phrase that precedes the verb is topicalized or focused.5
Assume: A rule moves the Topicalized/Focused phrase.

Where is the verb?

(22)  a. Hans sagte, er sei glücklich.
      Hans said he is happy

    b. Hans sagte, dass er glücklich ist.
      Hans said that he happy is

[Condition: limited class of higher verbs, embedded clause is in the "subjunctive mood".]

(23)a. Er benahm sich, als habe er noch nichts gegessen.
      he behaved himself, as had he yet nothing eaten
      'He behaved as if he had eaten nothing yet.'

    b. Er benahm sich, als ob er noch nichts gegessen habe
      he behaved himself, as if he yet nothing eaten had

What is going on?

5 This is almost true.