

Introduction

- (Ross (1977) = Ross, John Robert. 1977. 'Remnants'. *Studies in Language* 1:1.127-135.)

1)a I remain to be convinced that your plan is feasible.

[= Ross 1977 (1)]

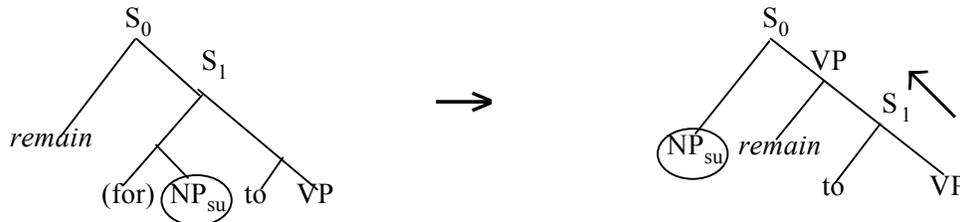
1)b Headway remains to be made on the difficult problem of deblenification

[=(26)a]

1)c Washington remains to be convinced that interstitial regelation is the key technology.

1)d Most of Homer remains to be deconstructed.

- The structures assumed as the input and output of A-Raising, roughly:



2)a It remains (for Martha) to strew the aisles tastefully with rose blossoms.

2)b *It remains that Martha (will) strew(s) the aisles with rose blossoms.

3)a *It is likely/seems/appears for Martha to strew the aisles with rose blossoms.

3)b It is likely/seems/appears that Martha will strew the aisles tastefully with rose blossoms.

- Constraints on A-Raising with *remain*, (hereinafter **R-Raising**) according to Ross (1977):

A. No Negatives

*That doesn't remain to be decided, after all.

B. No Progressive

*He is currently remaining to be convinced.

C. No Perfect

*This case has remained to be settled for too long.

D. No Gerundive

*Though remaining to be promoted, Maggie is cheerful.

[=(12)b]

E. No Equi above remain cycle

*He planned to remain to be told who had won the race.

F. No Raising above remain cycle

*Headway is believed to remain to be made on this problem..

G. Obligatory Downstairs be-Passive

*I remain to believe that your plan is feasible.

- Characteristic parts of R-Raising that need to be separately accounted for:

- ❑ The **infinitive** in the complement (covered in this paper)
- ❑ The **passive** in the complement
- ❑ The origin of the **subject** of *remain*

- The Oxford English Dictionary, 2nd Edition, has 7,167 quotations that use a form of *remain*¹
- The Web interface for generating quotation corpora is by Digital Library Production Services²
- The 2 MB *remain* corpus is available on the Web at <http://www.umich.edu/~jlawler/oedqa-remain.html>
- A 1.5 MB version with unique reference numbers is at <http://www.umich.edu/~jlawler/oedqc-remain.html>

¹ This number appears to be about normal; various related verbs range between 4,000 and 13,000 quotations. There are 2,435,659 quotations in the OED2.

² The institutions currently subscribing to this interface are Cornell, Columbia, Georgia, Harvard, Indiana, Indiana-PUI, Northwestern, Rice, and Michigan.. Other institutions can subscribe to the OED, or for that matter the content of any other collections. Those interested should contact: John Price-Wilkin <jpwilkin@umich.edu>

Overview▪ **Agent subject**

- 4 a) (1770.3) Fools_i, who_i came to _i_scoff, *remained* to _i_pray. Goldsm. *Des. Vill.* 180
 b) (1800.5) Some wittings and jest-mongers_i still remain **For fools**_i to _i_laugh at_j. Joanna Baillie (O.)
 c) (1875.40) Two powers_i now remained to _i_struggle for the dominion of the trilateral island [Sicily].
 Merivale *Gen. Hist. Rome* xviii. (1877) 102
 d) (1901.26) Few Boers_i have *remained* to _i_face the bayonets. Linesman *Words by Eyewitness* (1902) 100
 e) (1974.48) Hayes_i, his middle stump removed by a Holder no-ball., *remained* to _i_fight another day. *Sunday Tel.* 3 Mar. 33/7

▪ **Patient subject**

- 5 a) (1603.5) The wales, marks, scarres and cicatrices_i of sinne and vice *remaine* to _i_be seene. Holland *Plutarch's Mor.* 558
 b) (1604.4) But now that we have left the sea, let vs come to other kinde of waters_i (**that**_i *remaine* to _i_be spoken of).
 E. G[rimestone] *D'Acosta's Hist. Indies* iii. xv. 169
 c) (1779.2) So much_i *remains* to _i_be done, (**that** I can hardly spare a single day from the Shop).
 E. Gibbon *Let.* 15 May (1956) II. 215
 d) (1813.5) Some fragments_i of marble linings *remain* to _i_attest the ancient magnificence of this port. Eustace *Italy* I. vii. 281
 e) (1880.12) From the palm-oil bath by means of tongs, the sheets_i are passed by the tinman..to the tin pot, which is full of molten tin, and here they_i *remain* to _i_soak for a period of 20 minutes. Flower *Hist. Trade Tin* xiii. 170
 f) (1950.4) In a moderated reactor **there remain** more free neutrons_i to _i_sustain and _i_propagate the chain reaction of U²³⁵.
 F. Gaynor *Enycl. Atomic Energy* 114

▪ **Senses of remain with infinitive**

I. The **Basic sense** of *remain*, not generally taking an infinitive, is the Continuative Aspect Operator.

II. The prototype infinitive that appears with the Basic sense of *remain* is a **Purpose infinitive**, e.g. (4a), (4d).

III. The **Decremental infinitive**, (5b-d) “To be left after the removal or appropriation of some part, number or quantity.”

▪ **Idiom mining:**

☞ Complimentary close

- 5 a) (1600.2) I will ever remain Your assured friend Charles Percy. C. Percy in *Shaks. C. Praise* 38
 b) (1793.1) I *remain*, my dear friend, Affectionately yours, W. C. Cowper *Let. to J. Hall* 10 Dec.

☞ **All-clefts** (Collins 1991), McCawley (1998:485n29)

- 7 a) (1605.1) All that remaines is (by this, or some such like deed, to _professe my sensiblenes of your great fauour).
 A. Wotton *Answ. late Popish Art.* Ded
 b) (1887.24) All that_i *remained* **for the brakemen and switchmen**_i to _i_do_j **was** (to _i_go to the office..and _i_call for what is known in railroad parlance as their_i ‘time’). *Courier-Journal* (Louisville, Kentucky) 12 Jan. 6/3

☞ Historical commentary (note the perfective **has** in (8a), contra Constraint C)

- 8 a) (1906.3) **So** utterly has the status of woman been accepted as a sexual one (**that it has remained for the woman's movement of the nineteenth century**_i to _i_devote **much** contention to the claim (that women are persons!))
 C. P. Gilman *Women & Economics* (ed. 5) iii. 49
 b) (1971.14) **It remained for Samuel de Champlain**_i to _i_spike the legend of a City of Norumbega, storied like a New Jerusalem.
 S. Morison *Euro Disc Amer.: North Voy.* xiv. 469
 c) (1976.6) **It remained for Proust**_i to _i_summate the retrospective social novel. J. Bayley *Uses of Division* i. i. 24

☞ In (Extraposd) Conclusion (note 4 centuries of employment by linguists)

- 9 a) (1599.2) Now it remaineth to _giue a Paradigma or example of euery Coniugation of their Moodes. Minsheu *Span. Gram.* 20
 b) (1834.15) **It now only remains** to _mention the fate of Inchi Oowan Saban. P. J. Begbie *Malayan Peninsula* ii. 83
 c) (1909.3) **It remains** to _show (**that** the operator **∇** applied to *V* gives the grad). J. G. Coffin *Vector Analysis* 103
 d) (1952.14) **It remains now** to _discuss the generation and removal from the lattice of the large number of vacancies which do not form voids. *Proc. Physical Soc. B.* LXV. 522
 e) (1970.25) **There remain still** to _i_be considered the instances_i of pronominalization in simplex sentences - reflexives, emphatics, and topicalized sentences. Chapin *Language* XLVI. 374

☞ The nothing..but construction (6),

- 6 a) (1588.10) *Remaineth nought but* to _interre our Brethren, And with low'd Larums _welcome them to Rome.
 Shaks. *Titus Andronicus.* i. i. 147
 b) (1843.12) Apparently **nothing but** warmth_i *remained* to _i_indicate (**that** life had not already become extinct).
 R. J. Graves *Syst. Clin. Med.* v. 71
 c) (Mod.4) **There remains no more but** to _thank you for your courteous attention.

Idioms

☹ The (quasi-)idiomatic **remain to be seen** prototype construction

- 10 a) (1921.15) It **remains to be seen** (**how** the Persian Court will take to the idea of Sovietisation). *Glasgow Herald* 17 Jan. 11
 b) (1938.7) (**Whether** I'll write **anything** for publication)_i **remains to be seen**. H. L. Mencken *Let.* 23 Apr. (1961) 427
 c) (1959.34) It **remains to be seen** (**whether** he could also 'liaise' successfully). *Guardian* 15 Oct. 10/7
 d) (1971.37) It **remains to be seen** (**whether** the small amounts of racemic amino-acids were syngenetic with the meteorite parent body). *Nature* 12 Mar. 108/2
 e) (1976.41) It **would remain to be seen** (**to what extent** it would be practical or desirable to build houses there). *Southern Even. Echo* (Southampton) 13 Nov. 3/6

☹ **Not** the idiomatic sense (cf also 5a)

- 11) (1700.13) I press'd. that Capt. Checkley should give Daniel a Deed; that so this Fraudulency **might not remain to be seen**. S. Sewall *Diary* 18 Apr. (1879) II. 11

☺ *Remain to be seen* is a metaphor (SEEING IS KNOWING, the 'actinic' metaphor).

☺ *Remain to be seen* is indirect.

☺ *Remain to be seen* is polite.

☺ Metaphoric extension of *see*:

- 12) a) (1763.1) The question_i (**Whether** a Secretary of State can grant a general warrant against authors, printers, and publishers, **without** naming **any** names), **remains yet to be determined**. A. B. *Let.* 7 May in *Gentl. Mag.* XXXIII. 246
 b) (1965.24) The capability_i of Langerhans cells to synthesize melanin **remains to be proven**. *Jrnl. Investigative Dermatol.* XLV. 403/1
 c) (1979.27) The lack_i of rescuability of focus-forming activity from transformants caused by MSV DNA fragments **remains to be resolved**. *Nature* 22 Nov. 382/2
 d) (1979.29) They have included evidence for the 'gluon' (the photon of the quark-quark force), and excited states of the upsi-lon (which contains a beauty quark and its anti-particle), but 'truth_i' (the quark beyond and pairing with beauty) **remains to be found**. *Nature* 6 Dec. 546/2

☺ *Remain to be seen* is, nevertheless, **negative**, in the sense that it triggers weak NPIs (cf. 8a)

☺ *Remain to be seen* is Stative, and has a subject marked as Patient.

➤ Predictions:

- ❖ R-Raising should be more limited in its variability than a more ordinary collocation.
- ❖ R-Raising, as a negative, should not occur with free negatives. (Constraint A)
- ❖ R-Raising uses stative *remain*, thus occurs only where statives and Patients are OK. (Constraints B & E)
- ❖ R-Raising can be ambiguous between its negative sense and an existential Purpose sense:

- 13) a) (1712.5) You may fill up the Holes to the Level of the Ground to take up the Earth_i (**that**_i **may possibly** **remain to be** disposed of). J. James tr. *Le Blond's Gardening* 121
 b) (1727-51.3) The work_i being thus far gilt, when dry, **remains** either to **be** burnished, or matted.. Chambers *Cycl.* s.v. *Gilding*
 c) (1857.26) When players are very equally matched, neither party has gained an advantage; hence the match_i **remains to be** played another day. *Chambers' Inform.* II. 693/1
 d) (1863.7) After the centre of the field has been ploughed, the head-lands_i **will remain to be** ploughed separately. *Fawcett Pol. Econ.* i. vi. 81
 e) (1953.14) The gas stock (and a few other tranches, too)_i **remains to be** sold. *Economist* 15 Aug. 470/2

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