

# On CP-Recursion Phenomena: A Functional Analysis Based on the Layered Structure of the Utterance

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One of the most controversial topics among generative linguists has been CP-recursion phenomena since Subject-Aux Inversion was analyzed as the head movement of Aux from Infl to Comp (Chomsky (1986) and Koopman (1983)). Specifically, given the head movement analysis, the auxiliary *had* in (1) is taken to head a C-projection.

- (1) Mary kept saying that never in her life had she seen such a thing.  
(Authier (1992: 330))

Since the complementizer *that* is present in the embedded clause, it will follow that the embedded clause in (1) contains two CPs as follows:

- (2) Mary kept saying [<sub>CP</sub> [<sub>C</sub> that] [<sub>CP</sub> never in her life [<sub>C</sub> [<sub>C</sub> had] [<sub>IP</sub> she seen such a thing ]]]]

The most interesting and challenging task as to CP-recursion is explicate exactly what can trigger and license it. In fact, a number of syntactic accounts are already proposed within the framework of Principles and Parameters Approach (Authier (1992), Iatridou and Kroch (1992), etc.). In what follows, I will point out some insufficiencies with syntactic licensing approaches to CP-recursion phenomena. Especially, it will be a serious and fatal problem with the syntactic licensing approaches that a double CP can appear in a certain type of adjunct clauses.

- (3) Robert was quite nervous, because never before had he had to borrow money.  
(Hooper and Thompson (1973 : 466))