

Topicalization

"Topicalization" is the name given to the syntactic phenomenon illustrated below:

- (1) These frogs, we'll use to make soup.
- (2) On her finger she put a simple silver ring.

From these examples you can see that a movement is involved (or something more exotic involving deletion). (You can explore both possibilities, if you want to.) There are verbs that require complements, and those complements are not where we expect them to be. So first work out at least one analysis of these constructions, answering the questions: what moves, where to, and why? (Or, if your analysis does not involve movement, the corresponding questions.)

In thinking about where to, take into account facts like the following:

- (3) I am pretty sure that in the back garden he keeps pigs.
- (Make up more, of course.)

Once you have answers to these basic questions (and an analysis to match) answer the obvious further questions:

1. Is this movement (or whatever it is) unbounded?
2. Does it obey the island constraints that we have observed?
 - a. Specifier Island
 - b. Adjunct Island
 - c. Complex NP Island
 - d. WH Island (I assume we'll identify such a thing on Tuesday this week)
3. Can it move a constituent from a left branch?
4. Can it move a subject that is immediately preceded by an overt Complementizer?

Other questions may come to mind. Discuss any issues that come up.