Some Questions About Theta Roles and Syntactic Theory
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I. Do thematic properties directly constrain transformations?

Ia.

1. Someone destroyed Rome
2. Rome was destroyed to
3. The destruction of Rome
4. Rome's destruction to
5. Someone knows algebra
6. Algebra is known to
7. The knowledge of algebra
8. *Algebra's knowledge to
9. John is believed [to be intelligent]
10. *John's belief [to be intelligent]

Ib.

11. Can only an 'affected theme' undergo NP Movement in nominals?
12. [e destruction Rome]
13. [e knowledge of algebra]

Ib.

14. It threatens [to rain]
15. The truck threatens [to hit the building]
16. *Mary threatens [to slap John]
17. The key promises [to open the door]
18. Your solution promises [to be a good one]
19. *Bill promises [to brush his teeth every day]

20. Why can't an 'agent' undergo raising out of the complement of threaten or promise?

21. Alternatively, why can't the subject of the complement of threaten or promise (in the relevant sense) be an agent?
22. The ice melted
23. The ice chilled the beer
24. *The ice served to melt
25. The ice served to chill the beer
26. Is the restriction on serve that its complement contain a transitive verb?
27. The skeleton key opened the door
28. John opened the door
29. The skeleton key served to open the door
30. *John served to open the door
31. The subject of the complement of serve must be an instrument.

II. What is the Theta Criterion about?
32. John attacked Bill [agent]
33. Mary enjoyed the movie [experiencer]
34. Susan received the package [goal?]
35. The skeleton key opened the door [instrument]
36. Bill was attacked by John
37. The movie was enjoyed by Mary
38. The package was received by Susan
39. The door was opened by the skeleton key
40. John opened the door with the skeleton key
41. The door was opened with the skeleton key by John
42. *John opened the door by the skeleton key
43. *The skeleton key opened the door by John
44. In (37) and (38), just as in (35) and (36), each argument has an independent theta role.
45. By assigns 'subject' role (see (31-34), and this role may be assigned only once in a clause.

III. Do nouns have argument structure?
IIIa.
46. The army's destruction of the city
47. The missile's destruction of the city
48. The city's destruction by the army
49. The city's destruction by the missile
50. The army's destruction of the city with the missile
51. *The army's destruction of the city by the missile
52. *The missile's destruction of the city by the army

IIIb.

53. A man who you met yesterday was arrested
54. A man was arrested who you met yesterday
55. [A man (t)] was arrested who you met yesterday
56. The proof that John was guilty was presented
57. The proof was presented that John was guilty
58. [The proof (t)] was presented that John was guilty
59. The proof that John was guilty was interrupted
60. *The proof was interrupted that John was guilty
61. [The proof t] was interrupted that John was guilty

IV. ??

62. Ann's desire to pass the exam
62. *The desire by Ann to pass the exam
63. The students' knowledge of history
64. *The knowledge of history by the students
65. They sank the ship with a torpedo
66. A torpedo sank the ship
67. They cut the cake with a knife
68. A knife cut the cake
69. He ate the meal with a fork
70. *A fork ate the meal