Exercise

1.State whether the italicized verbs in the sentences below function as **raising** and / or **control** predicates , and discuss the derivation of each sentence, giving arguments in support of your answer.

(i) Power *tends* to corrupt people.
(ii) Tom has *decided* to resign.
(iii) You *have* to obey me.
(iv) He *came* to understand her point of view.
(v) He *failed* to achieve their objectives.
(vi) They *appear* to have misunderstood me.

Model answer for 1

There are three reasons for suggesting that *tend* functions as a raising predicate when it takes an infinitive complement. The first is that it allows a nonthematic subject like *there* , as shown below.

There *tends* to be a lot of confusion about syntax.

Secondly, it also seems to impose no restrictions on its choice of subject:

(i) She tends to exaggerate.
(ii) Her goldfish tends to eat too much.
(iii) His theory tends to confuse people.

Both of these reasons indicate that *tends* does not theta-mark its subject, thereby functioning as a raising predicate.

The third piece of evidence that *tends* functions as a raising predicate comes from the fact that it can have an idiomatic subject.