

## How to Probe the Expletive *There*

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In this talk, I address mainly two questions: (i) how does the expletive *there* enter into a derivation? and (ii) how is the expletive *there* characterized in terms of formal features? As for (i), I argue for the claim that *there* and its associate form a constituent underlyingly, advocated by Sabel (2000) and Sato (2008), among others. As for (ii), I claim that *there* has default Case- and  $\phi$ -features, and the default  $\phi$ -features may be valued by its associate. After introducing Sato's (2008) analysis of the *there*-construction under the framework of Chomsky (to appear), I point out that this analysis will face a problem with respect to how to deal with the agreement pattern shown in the following examples:

(i) a. There seems to Mary to be a man in the room.

b. There seems/?\*seem to Mary to be men in the room. (Boeckx 1999)

I argue that this pattern is naturally captured by assuming the feature characterization of *there* mentioned above and further adopting Goto's (2008) probe-goal system, according to which Move can take place before Agree at least in English. I provide further consequences of this new system regarding the *there*-construction in the ECM context.