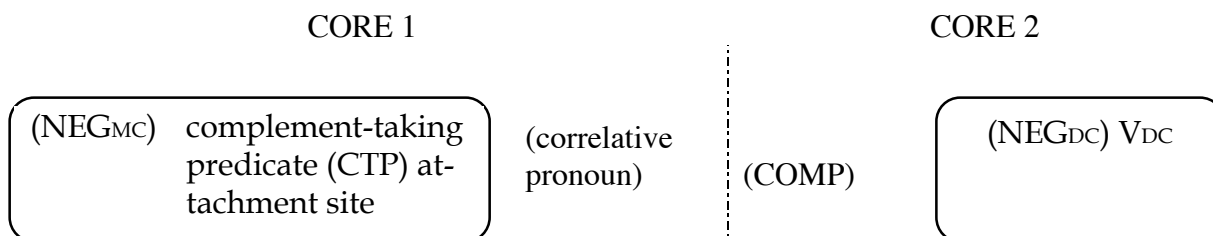


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Finite infinity: controllers and choice of clausal complements (in Serbian)

One well-known phenomenon of clausal complementation (CC) in present-day Serbian, one that also conforms to the proposed template sketching the potential components of CC structures,



is seen in (1) below,

- (1) Mogao je da uradi i više.
can.**pparticiple**.M.SG be.**present**.3RDSG that do.**present**.3RDSG also more
'He could have done even more.'

where CORE 1 is *Mogao je* and CORE 2 is *da uradi i više*. What is crucial regarding the example sentence (1), however, is the descriptive observation that the covert-entity subject of the CTP in CORE 1 is the exact same entity, and covert at that, as the subject of the VDC in CORE 2.

The full extent of the phenomenon sketched in (1) is only truly comprehensible after the following is offered:

- (2) Mogao je uradi i više.
can.**pparticiple**.M.SG be.**present**.3RDSG do.**infinitive** also more
'He could have done even more.'

Sentences (1) and (2) arguably convey the same idea and are almost, yet crucially not!, exactly the same in form. The difference between the two is found in CORE 2: in (1), CORE 2 is a finite structure, headed by a verb inflected for tense, grammatical person and number; in (2), it is non-finite, headed by a verb not inflected for tense, grammatical person and number.

My primary goal was to examine whether there was anything in the syntax of the clausal complementation phenomenon shown here that determines a preference for one type of structure over the other or whether the choice was a random one. I present evidence that there is one syntactic factor whose presence or absence, indeed, determines the choice of CORE 2 type of structure.