

## **Polarity and case-licensing**

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The role of a polarity head/projection in the A-bar system is well-established (witness Rizzi's classic discussion of negative island effects). This paper is concerned, though, with the role of the polarity head in the A-system. It approaches this question initially by examining a cluster of effects and puzzles having to do with the clause structure of Irish - the surface position of the inflected verb, the nature of 'responsive' ellipsis, and the interaction between negation and disjunction (among others). Out of this examination grows a particular way of looking at Case-licensing in finite and in nonfinite clauses, with implications for the optionality of Raising in this language and for the status of the EPP. The phase-defining heads are seen to have a crucial role in all of these interactions, much as suggested in Chomsky 2008 ('On Phases').