Introduction

  1)a I remain to be convinced that your plan is feasible.  
  1)b Headway remains to be made on the difficult problem of deblenification  
  1)c Washington remains to be convinced that interstitial regulation is the key technology.  
  1)d Most of Homer remains to be deconstructed.  

- The structures assumed as the input and output of A-Raising, roughly:

  \[ S_0 \xrightarrow{\text{remain}} S_1 \]

  \( \text{(for) } \text{NP}_{\text{subj}} \rightarrow \text{VP} \)

  \[ S_0 \xrightarrow{\text{remain}} S_1 \]

  \( \text{NP}_{\text{subj}} \rightarrow \text{VP} \)

  2)a It remains (for Martha) to strew the aisles tastefully with rose blossoms.  
  2)b *It remains that Martha (will) strew(s) the aisles with rose blossoms.  
  3)a *It is likely/seems/appears for Martha to strew the aisles with rose blossoms.  
  3)b It is likely/seems/appears that Martha will strew the aisles tastefully with rose blossoms.  

- Constraints on A-Raising with \textit{remain}, (hereinafter \textbf{R-Raising}) according to Ross (1977):
  A. \textbf{No Negatives}  
     *That doesn’t remain to be decided, after all.  
  B. \textbf{No Progressive}  
     *He is currently remaining to be convinced.  
  C. \textbf{No Perfect}  
     *This case has remained to be settled for too long.  
  D. \textbf{No Gerundive}  
     *Though remaining to be promoted, Maggie is cheerful.  
  E. \textbf{No Equi above remain cycle}  
     *He planned to remain to be told who had won the race.  
  F. \textbf{No Raising above remain cycle}  
     *Headway is believed to remain to be made on this problem.  
  G. \textbf{Obligatory Downstairs be-Passive}  
     *I remain to believe that your plan is feasible.  

- Characteristic parts of R-Raising that need to be separately accounted for:
  - The \textit{infinitive} in the complement (covered in this paper)  
  - The \textit{passive} in the complement  
  - The origin of the \textit{subject} of \textit{remain}  

The Oxford English Dictionary, 2\textsuperscript{nd} Edition, has 7,167 quotations that use a form of \textit{remain}\textsuperscript{1} 

The Web interface for generating quotation corpora is by Digital Library Production Services\textsuperscript{2} 

The 2 MB \textit{remain} corpus is available on the Web at http://www.umich.edu/~jlawler/oedqa-remain.html 

A 1.5 MB version with unique reference numbers is at http://www.umich.edu/~jlawler/oedqc-remain.html

\textsuperscript{1} This number appears to be about normal; various related verbs range between 4,000 and 13,000 quotations. There are 2,435,659 quotations in the OED2.  

\textsuperscript{2} The institutions currently subscribing to this interface are Cornell, Columbia, Georgia, Harvard, Indiana, Indiana-PUI, Northwestern, Rice, and Michigan. Other institutions can subscribe to the OED, or for that matter the content of any other collections. Those interested should contact: John Price-Wilkin <jpwilkin@umich.edu> Digital Library Production Services, University of Michigan
Overview

- **Agent** subject
  4 a) (1770.3) Fools, who came to scoff, remained to pray. Goldsm. Des. Vill. 180
  b) (1800.5) Some willings and jest-mongers, still remain For fools, to laugh at. Joanna Baillie (O.)
  c) (1875.40) Two powers, now remained to struggle for the dominion of the trilateral island [Sicily].
    Merivale Gen. Hist. Rome xviii. (1877) 102
  d) (1901.26) Few Boers, have remained to face the bayonets. Linesman Words by Eyewitness (1902) 100
  e) (1974.48) Hayes, his middle stump removed by a Holder no-ball., remained to fight another day. Sunday Tel. 3 Mar. 33/7

- **Patient** subject
  5 a) (1603.5) The wales, marks, scarres, and cicatrices, of sinne and vice remaine to be seen. Holland Plutarch’s Mor. 558
  b) (1604.4) But now that we have left the sea, let vs come to other kindes of waters. (that, remaine to be spoken of).
    E. G[rimstone] D’Acosta’s Hist. Indies iii. xv. 169
  c) (1779.2) So much remains to be done, (that I can hardly spare a single day from the Shop).
    E. Gibbon Let. 15 May (1956) II. 215
  d) (1813.5) Some fragments of marble linings remain to attest the ancient magnificence of this port. Eustace Italy I. vii. 281
  e) (1880.12) From the palm-oil bath by means of tongs, the sheets, are passed by the tinman to the tin pot, which is full of molten tin, and here they remain to soak for a period of 20 minutes. Flower Hist. Trade Tin xiii. 170
  f) (1950.4) In a moderated reactor there remain more free neutrons, to sustain and propagate the chain reaction of U²³⁵.
    F. Gaynor Encyl. Atomic Energy 114

- **Senses** of remain with infinitive
  I. The **Basic sense** of remain, not generally taking an infinitive, is the Continuative Aspect Operator.
  II. The prototype infinitive that appears with the Basic sense of remain is a **Purpose infinitive**, e.g. (4a), (4d).
  III. The **Decremental infinitive**, (5b-d) “To be left after the removal or appropriation of some part, number or quantity.”

- **Idiom mining:**
  - Complimentary close
    5 a) (1600.2) I will ever remain Your assured friend Charles Percy. C. Percy in Shaks. C. Praise 38
    b) (1793.1) I remain, my dear friend, Affectionately yours, W. C. Cowper Let. to J. Hall 10 Dec.
  - **All-clefts** (Collins 1991), McCawley (1998:485n29)
    7 a) (1605.1) All that remains is (by this, or some such like deed, to professe my sensiblenes of your great favoure).
      A. Wotton Answ. late Popish Art. Ded
    b) (1887.24) All that remained for the brakemen and switchmen, to do was (to go to the office,. and call for)
      what is known in railroad parlance as their ‘time’). Courir-Journal (Louisville, Kentucky) 12 Jan. 6/3
  - Historical commentary (note the perfective has in (8a), contra Constraint C)
    8 a) (1906.3) So utterly has the status of woman been accepted as a sexual one (that it has remained for the woman’s
      movement of the nineteenth century, to devote much contention to the claim (that women are persons! ))
      C. P. Gilman Women &. Economics (ed. 5) iii. 49
    b) (1971.14) It remained for Samuel de Champlain, to spike the legend of a City of Norumbega, storied like a New Jerusalem.
      S. Morison Euro Disc Amer.: North Voy. xiv. 469
    c) (1976.6) It remained for Proust, to summate the retrospective social novel. J. Baylel Uses of Division i. i. 24
  - In (Extraposed) Conclusion (note 4 centuries of employment by linguists)
    9 a) (1599.2) Now it remaineth to giue a Paradigma or example of euerie Coniugation of their Moods. Minshau Span. Gram. 20
    b) (1834.15) It now only remains to mention the fate of Inchi Oowan Saban. P. J. Begbie Malayan Peninsula ii. 83
    c) (1909.3) It remains to show (that the operator V applied to V gives the grad). J. G. Coffin Vector Analysis 103
    d) (1952.14) It remains now to (he generation and removal from the lattice of the large number of vacancies
      which do not form voids. Proc. Physical Soc. B. LXV. 522
    e) (1970.25) There remain still to be considered the instances, of pronominalization in simplex sentences - reflexives, emphatics, and topicalized sentences. Chapin Language XLVI. 374
  - **The nothing but construction** (6),
    6 a) (1588.10) Remaineth nought but to interre our Brethren, And with low’d Laruns welcome them to Rome.
      Shaks. Titus Andronicus. i. i. 147
    b) (1843.12) Apparently nothing but warmth, remained to indicate (that life had not already become extinct).
    c) (Mod..4) There remains no more but to thank you for your courteous attention.

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to be seen = Indefinite Subject
for Proust, to summate = Infinitive Subject
ruins, to unbury = Infinitive Object
Slide Stains: nought = Negative any = NPI some = Quantifier now = Deictic will = Modal but = Fulcrum of Cleavage
Idioms

The (quasi-)idiomatic remain to be seen prototype construction

10 a) (1921,15) It remains to be seen (how the Persian Court will take to the idea of Sovietisation). Glasgow Herald 17 Jan. 11

b) (1938,7) (Whether I’ll write anything for publication), remains to be seen. H. L. Mencken Let. 23 Apr. (1961) 427

c) (1959,34) It remains to be seen (whether he could also ‘liaise’ successfully). Guardian 15 Oct. 10/7

d) (1971,37) It remains to be seen (whether the small amounts of racemic amino-acids were syngenetic with the meteorite parent body). Nature 12 Mar. 108/2

e) (1976,41) It would remain to be seen (to what extent it would be practical or desirable to build houses there). SouthernEven. Echo (Southampton) 13 Nov. 3/6

Not the idiomatic sense (cf also 5a)

11) (1700,13) I press’d. that Capt. Checkley should give Daniel a Deed; that so this Fraudulency, might not remain to be seen. S. Sewall Diary 18 Apr. (1879) II. 11

Remain to be seen is a metaphor (SEEING IS KNOWING, the ‘actinic’ metaphor).

Remain to be seen is indirect.

Remain to be seen is polite.

Metaphoric extension of see:

12 a) (1763,1) The question, (Whether a Secretary of State can grant a general warrant against authors, printers, and publishers, without naming any names), remains yet to be determined. A. B. Let. 7 May in Gentil. Mag. XXXIII. 246

b) (1965,24) The capability, of Langerhans cells to synthesize melanin remains to be proven. Jnl. Investigative Dermatol. XLV. 403/1

c) (1979,27) The lack, of resucubility of focus-forming activity from transplants caused by MSV DNA fragments remains to be resolved. Nature 22 Nov. 382/2

d) (1979,29) They have included evidence for the ‘gluon’ (the photon of the quark-quark force), and excited states of the upper (which contains a beauty quark and its anti-particle), but ‘truth,’ (the quark beyond and pairing with beauty) remains to be found. Nature 6 Dec. 546/2

Remain to be seen is, nevertheless, negative, in the sense that it triggers weak NPIs (cf. 8a)

Remain to be seen is Stative, and has a subject marked as Patient.

Predictions:

- R-Raising should be more limited in its variability than a more ordinary collocation.
- R-Raising, as a negative, should not occur with free negatives. (Constraint A)
- R-Raising uses stative remain, thus occurs only where statives and Patients are OK. (Constraints B & E)
- R-Raising can be ambiguous between its negative sense and an existential Purpose sense:

13 a) (1712,5) You may fill up the Holes to the Level of the Ground to take up the Earth, (that, may possibly, remain to be disposed of). J. James tr. Le Blond’s Gardening 121

b) (1727-51,3) The work, being thus far gilt, when dry, remains either to be burnedish, or matted.. Chambers Cycl. s.v. Gilding

c) (1857,26) When players are very equally matched, neither party has gained an advantage; hence the match, remains to be played another day. Chambers’ Inform. II. 693/1

d) (1863,7) After the centre of the field has been ploughed, the head-lands, will remain to be ploughed separately. Fawcett Pol. Econ. i. vi. 81

e) (1953,14) The gas stock (and a few other tranches, too), remains to be sold. Economist 15 Aug. 470/2

References


