Retroactive infinitives in Czech

In Czech, several verbs can embed infinitives in which the object, not the subject, appears to function as the controlled argument. Following Jespersen (1940) we call these infinitives retroactive infinitives and analyze them, still following Jespersen (1940), as hidden passives, in which an object base-generated in the embedded structure enters into an A-relation (phi-agreement, Case-assignment, A-movement) with the matrix structure. We show that a proper analysis of Czech retroactive infinitives contributes to our understanding of structural Case assignment and structural deficiency. In particular, we argue that structural Dative is licensed higher than structural Accusative in Czech (contra Bailyn, 1995 for Russian) and that peeling is the default mechanism of structural impoverishment.