What happened to government? It's alive and kicking, and called 'Agree'

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The structural relationship of government was mobilised in the 1980s in two very different ways: *(a)* in head–dependent relations ('head government'), for which the title 'government' was familiar from traditional grammar, and *(b)* in antecedent–trace relations ('antecedent government'). The unification of *(a)* and *(b)* under a single title facilitated a generalisation about the licensing of traces (the ECP: 'a trace must be properly governed'). But already in *Barriers*, the disjunctive ECP of *LGB* was largely unnecessary (the combination of profusely performed intermediate adjunction and the notion of 'extended chains' making even object traces antecedent-governed), and artificial reference to antecedent–trace relations as 'government' relations became redundant. Early work in the minimalist programme sought to undermine the head-government relation, with the Spec–Head relation taking over wherever necessary. But in more recent minimalist work, the pendulum has swung back decisively to *Barriers*-style syntactic derivations for movement dependencies, with a concomitant reintroduction of 'government' (i.e., c-command within a local domain), under the title 'Agree'. In this paper, I concentrate on the central role that Agree plays in the licensing of specifiers. I propose (1) as the definition of Agree, and use it to integrate the Case Filter, the EPP and the ECP with the aid of the principle in (2).

(1)   *Agree*
     a.   RELATOR heads can establish two types of agreement relations at the same time
         (i)   *Upward Agree* (a.k.a. Spec–Head agreement) with their specifier
         (ii)   *Downward Agree* with their complement
     b.   non-RELATOR heads can only establish a *Downward Agree* relation with their complement

(2)   *Specifier Licensing Principle (SLiP)*
        a specifier is licensed in an *Agree* relation with a probe

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