1 Gerunds in English

This problem concerns the structures of the boxed phrases in (1)

(1) a. Bill’s reading of the poem was inspiring
    b. Bill’s reading the poem was inspiring
    c. Bill reading the poem inspired me.

1.1 Analysis of gerunds

Use the data (1–5) to answer the following questions. You should not talk about each individual example of the data, but you should talk about each group of data, and make a generalization about the data that relates to the question:

Q1 What is the syntactic category of reading in (1a, 1b and 1c)?
Q2 Based on your analysis, propose a structure for the boxed phrases in (1a) and (1b).
Q3 Explain how case is assigned to Bill in the POSS-ing gerund (1b).

Data

(2) a. * I don’t remember Bill’s having read of poems last year.
    b. I don’t remember Bill’s having read poems last year.
    c. I don’t remember Bill having read poems last year.

(3) a. I can’t stand Bill’s pompous reading of poems.
    b. * I can’t stand Bill’s pompous reading poems.
    c. * I can’t stand Bill’s reading of poems pompously.
    d. I can’t stand Bill’s reading poems pompously.
    e. * I can’t stand Bill pompous reading poems.
    f. I can’t stand Bill reading poems pompously.

(4) a. * I hated Bill’s not reading of poems.
    b. I hated Bill’s not reading poems.
    c. I hated Bill not reading poems.

(5) a. Bill’s readings of poems are always inspiring.
    b. * Bill’s readings poems are always inspiring.
    c. * Bill readings poems are always inspiring.
1.2 ACC-ing gerunds and Case

Now consider the data in (6) to answer the following question.

Q4 How does Bill get Case in the ACC-ing gerund? Compare this with how case is assigned in ECM constructions like (6a). Your answer should include an explanation of the ungrammaticality of (6c) compared to the grammaticality of (6e) and the ungrammaticality of (6f) compared to the grammaticality of (6d). (Note: (6c-f) are simply passivized versions of (6a or b).)

(6) a. We expected Bill to read the poem pompously.
   b. We expected Bull reading the poem pompously.
   c. * Bill to read the poem pompously was expected.
   d. Bill was expected to read the poem pompously.
   e. Bill reading the poem pompously was expected.
   f. * Bill was expected reading the poem pompously.

2 Verb types

What kind of verbs (raising, object control, subject control, ECM) are the following five nonsense verbs: snarfle, bink, fint, glart and shink? Use the data below to defend your answer, and draw trees for (7a, 7c, 7d, 8b, 8e). You should organise your answer by verb not by sets of examples. (Note: For (12) assume the the following Reflexive Generalization: A reflexive must be bound (c-commanded and co-indexed) with an antecedent in the same clause as it.)

(7) a. John snarfled Bill to be there.
   b. * John binked Bill to be there.
   c. John glarted Bill to be there.
   d. John finted Bill to there.
   e. * John shinked Bill to be there.

(8) a. John snarfled to be there.
   b. John binked to be there.
   c. * John glarted to be there.
   d. John finted to be there.
   e. John shinked to be there.

(9) a. John snarfled that Bill would be there.
   b. * It snarfled Bill that John would be there.
   c. John glarted that Bill would be there.
   d. * It binked that Bill would be there.
   e. * John glarted that Bill would be there.

(10) a. John glarted Sue that Bill would be there.
   b. John finted Sue that Bill would be there.

(11) a. John snarfled it to rain.
   b. * John binked it to rain.
   c. * John glarted it to rain.
   d. * John finted it to rain.
   e. * John shinked it to rain.

   b. John, binked to help himself.
   c. John glarted Bill, to help himself.
   d. John, finted Bill to help himself.
   e. John, shinked to help himself.