

منهج الحد الأدنى للقيود المحليه لاسئله الاستفهام في اللهجه العريقيه العربيه

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A Minimalist Approach to Locality Restrictions on wh- Movement
in Iraqi Arabic

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ملخص البحث

يتقدم البحث بمجموعه بيانات جديده بخصوص اسلوب التعامل مع أدوات السؤال في اللهجه العراقيه العربيه. يبرهن البحث بان حركة ادوات الاستفهام باللهجه العراقيه العربيه تخضع لقيودا محليه الى حيث مكان انتقالها في الجملة الواحده في ظل المستوى المنطقي للغه . أداة الاستفهام باللهجه العراقيه يمكن أن تظهر في أماكن متعدده كمحدد (واصف) في الجملة الواحده . كذلك يتناول البحث شرح تفصيلي عن نطاق الحيز الواسع والضيق لأدوات الاستفهام على مستوى الجملة. إضافة إلى ذلك يساهم البحث بشرح شروط التقليل او المحدوديه في ظل نظريه تشومسكي Principles and Parameters. ومنهج المحدوديه Minimalist Program. يتضمن البحث المحاور التاليه:

المحور الاول: اساسيات تعيين ادوات السؤال

المحور الثاني: اسلوب التعاطي مع ادوات السؤال في شبه الجملة الواحده

المحور الثالث: تحليل ادوات الاستفهام في الجملة ذات شبه جملتين

أخيرا الخاتمه

List of Symbols

The following is a list of the distinctive phonetic symbols that are particular to Iraqi Arabic:

- /ʃ/ Voiceless palato-alveolar fricative, as in /ʃeno/ (what)
- /ġ/ Voiced velar fricative, as in /il-ġurfa/ (the room)
- /ʒ/ Voiced pharyngeal fricative, as in /ʒurfat/ (She knew)
- /q/ Voiceless uvular plosive, as in /iʒtiqdat/ (She thought).

Abstract

This paper presents a new set of data concerning the behavior of wh-operators in Iraqi Arabic (IA). It argues that Logical Form (LF) movement (Huang, 1982) in IA must observe a Locality Constraint (Rizzi,1990, Chomsky,1995, Richard,1997) according to which the wh operator must move to the closest Spec position of a [+wh] Complementizer (Comp). Wh-operators in IA may occur in the Spec of the matrix Comp as in English or in-situ as in Chinese (Huang, 1994:149). However, unlike Chinese and English, IA wh-operators may also occur in any Spec of an intermediate Comp between the matrix Comp and the in-situ position. The wh-operator exercises wide scope over the entire question whether it occurs in-situ, in the Spec of the intermediate Comp or in the matrix Comp (Wahba, 1986, 1991). This paper argues that this economy condition can elegantly be captured by Chomsky's Principles and Parameters (Chomsky, 1986) and the Minimalist Program (Chomsky, 1995). This paper is organized as follows: section (1) introduces the main diagnostics of wh-questions in IA. Section (2) investigates the behavior of wh-operators in mono-clausal questions. Section (3) analyzes the behavior of Bi- Clausal Questions with [+wh] and [-wh] Embedded Comp IA. Section (4) concludes

Key words:-

Minimalism, Locality restrictions, wh-movement, Wh-in-situ, Logical Form (LF), Scope.

1. The Main diagnostics of Wh-Questions in Iraqi Arabic

Unlike English, as in (1) and Chinese, in (2), the wh-operator in IA (Wahba, 1986,1991) may occur in-situ as in Chinese in (3a), in the Spec of the matrix Comp as in English (3c), or in the Spec of the intermediate [-wh] Comp position as in (3b).

(1) [What did [John want [~~what~~-Mary to buy ~~what~~?]]]

- (2) Zhangsan yiwei Lisi mai-le sheneme?
 Zhangsan thinks Lisi bought what
 ‘What does Zhangsan think Lisi bought’

(Huang, 1994:97)

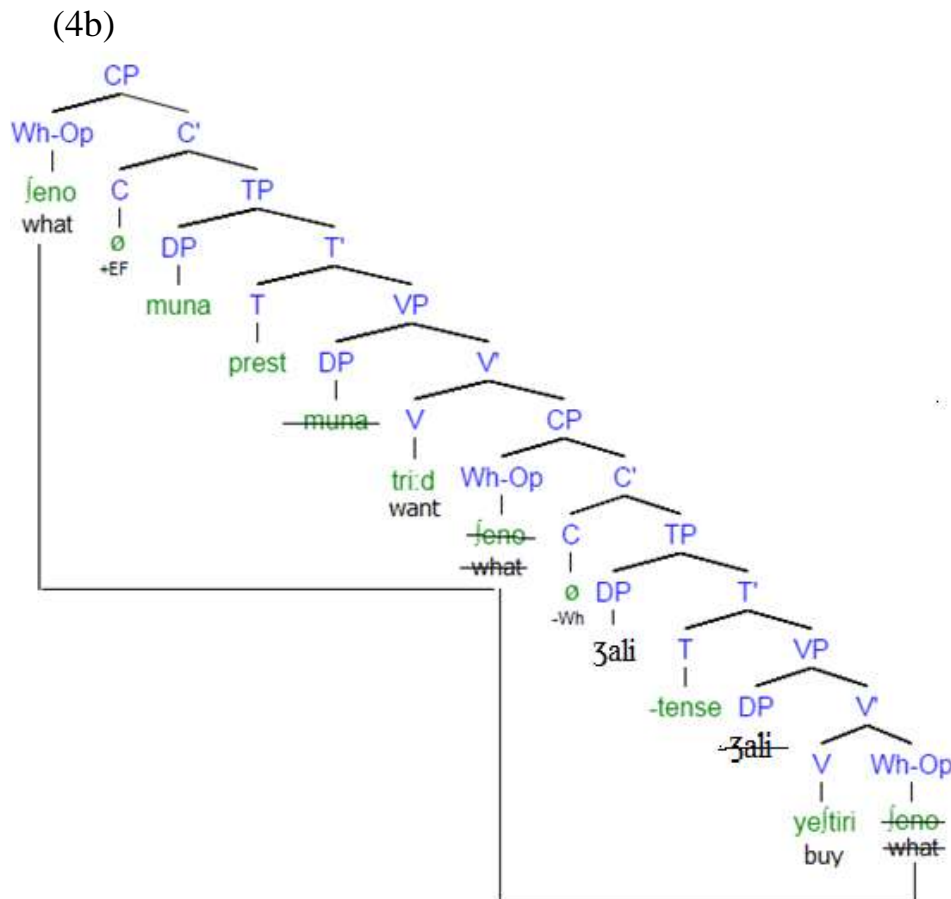
- (3) (a) muna tri:d [TP ʒali yeʃtiri ʃeno?]
 Muna want Ali buy what?
 (b) muna tri:d [CP ʃeno [TP ʒali yeʃtiri ʃeno?]]
 Muna want what Ali buy what?
 (c) [CP₁ ʃeno [TP₁ muna tri:d [CP₂ ʃeno [TP₂ ʒali yeʃtri ʃeno?]]]]
 What Muna want what Ali buy what?
 ‘What does Muna want Ali to buy?’

This paper addresses the controversial issue exemplified by (3b) above where the wh-operator *what*: ʃeno at the surface structure lands in the Spec of the [-wh] Comp. In both English and IA, the verb *want* obligatorily, subcategorizes for a [-wh] Comp. Therefore, a wh-operator is barred from occurring in such position in English. However in IA, it is perfectly legitimate to have the wh-operator in a [-wh] Comp. Moreover, in (3b), the wh-operator exercises wide scope over the entire question giving a main question reading.

The wh-operator in (3b) is visible at the Phonetic Form (PF) level and invisible at the LF level. With respect to LF level, the wh-operators in (3a) and (3b) mimic the syntactic movement in (3c) where the wh-operator exercises wide scope over the entire question. The analysis of the above examples, adopts the LF movement strategy (Huang, 1982) to account for the wide scope exercised by the wh-operator in (3a) and (3b). In addition, the analysis discloses a new set of data in which wh-operators may optionally land at the Spec of the light vP according to the VP split analysis (Larson, 1988).

The following tree (4b) exhibits the cyclic movement of the wh-operator *what* : *ʃeno* in paradigm (3) above, repeated in (4a).

(4a) [_{CP1} *ʃeno* [_{TP1} *muna tri:d* [_{CP2} *ʃeno* [_{TP2} *ʒali yeʃtri ʃeno?*]]]]
 What Muna want what Ali buy what ?

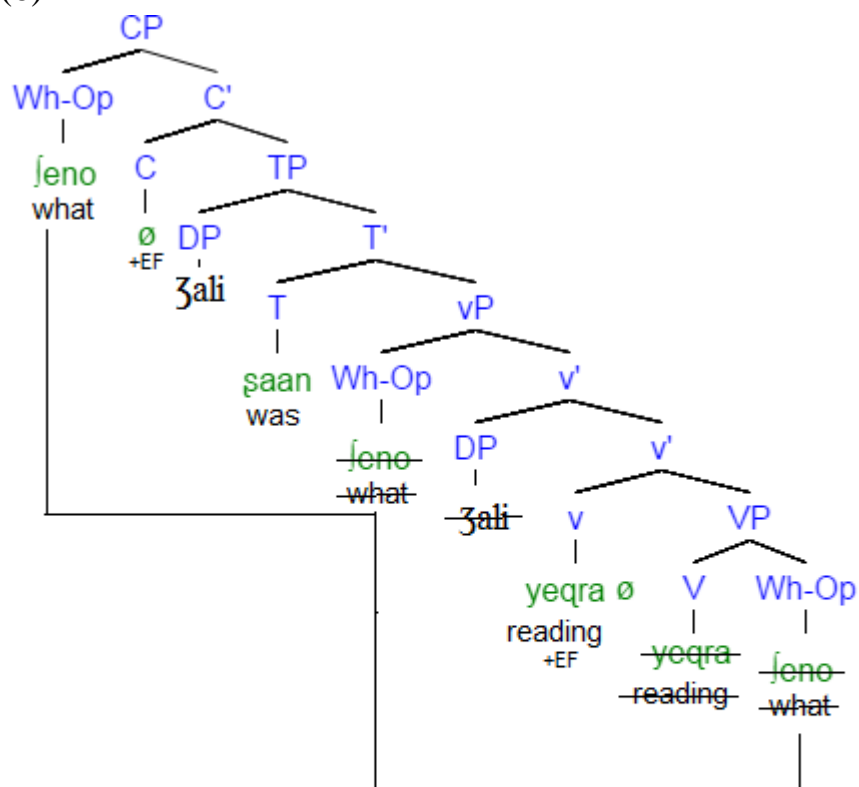


In the above tree (4b), the wh-operator gets raised cyclically from the in-situ position to the Spec of the embedded CP to land finally in the Spec of the matrix Comp.

To recapitulate, this section represents the fact that unlike English and Chinese, the wh-operator in IA may equally occur in-situ, in the Spec of the intermediate Comp or the Spec of the matrix Comp giving a main question reading. With respect to LF movement, the wh-operator whether in-situ or in an intermediate Comp mimics the syntactic movement where the wh-operator exercises wide scope over the entire question as illustrated in the tree in (4) above.

[_{CP} *ʃeno* [_{TP} *ʒali* *ʃaan* [_{VP} *ʃeno* *yeqra* *ʃeno?*]]]
 What Ali was what reading what?

(6)



In the above tree (6), the wh-operator *what*: *ʃeno* adjoins to the Spec of the matrix Comp moving from the in-situ position to the Spec of the light vp landing finally in the Spec of the matrix Comp.

To sum up, in a mono clausal question, the wh-operator may occur in-situ, in the spec of the light vP or in the spec of the matrix Comp. In the light of this, LF movement provides a unified analysis for the three versions of the wh-question ‘what was Ali reading?’ in IA.

3. Bi- Clausal Questions with [+wh] and [-wh] Embedded Comp in IA

This section presents a distinction between matrix verbs that subcategorize for a [-wh] Comp such as *wanted* : *ra:dat* , *thought* : *tsawwarat* and *believed* : *ʔiʒtiqdat* and verbs that subcategorize for both [+wh] and [-wh] Comp such as *knew* : *ʒurfat*.

The verb *knew* : *ʒurfat* may subcategorize for an embedded question as in (7a) and (7b) or a [-wh] complement as in (7c) as illustrated in the following sentences (7a,b,c):

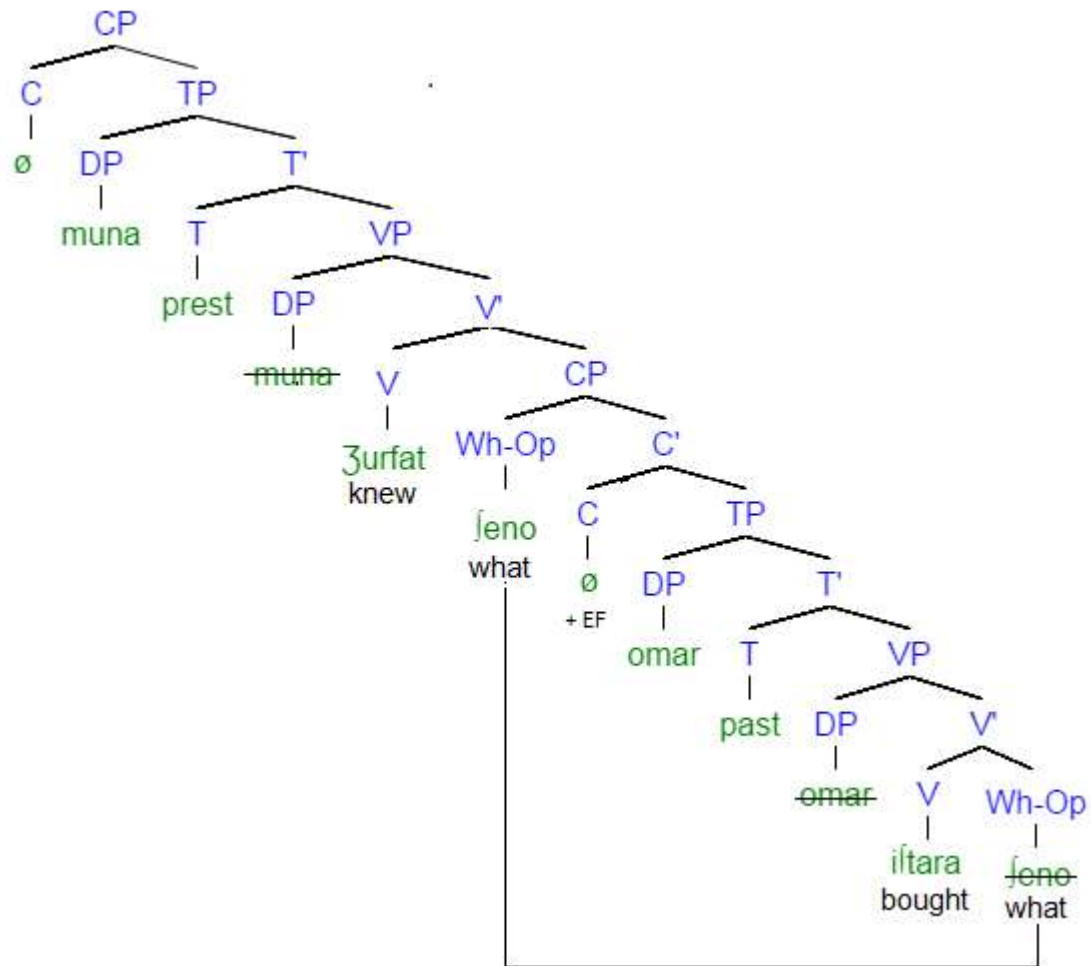
(7) (a) muna ʒurfat [ʒomar ʔiʒtara]**eno**].
Muna knew Omar bought what
'Muna knew what did Omar buy.'

(b) muna ʒurfat []**eno** ʔiʒtara ʒomar]**enə**].
Muna knew what bought Omar what.
'Muna knew what did Omar buy'.

(c) muna ʒurfat omar ʔiʒtara seyara.
Muna knew Omar bought a car
'Muna knew Omar bought a car'

The following tree (7b') exhibits the subcategorization of the verb *knew* : *ʒurfat* of the examples (7a) and (7b) and the position of the wh-operator *what* : *ʒeno* in the embedded clause.

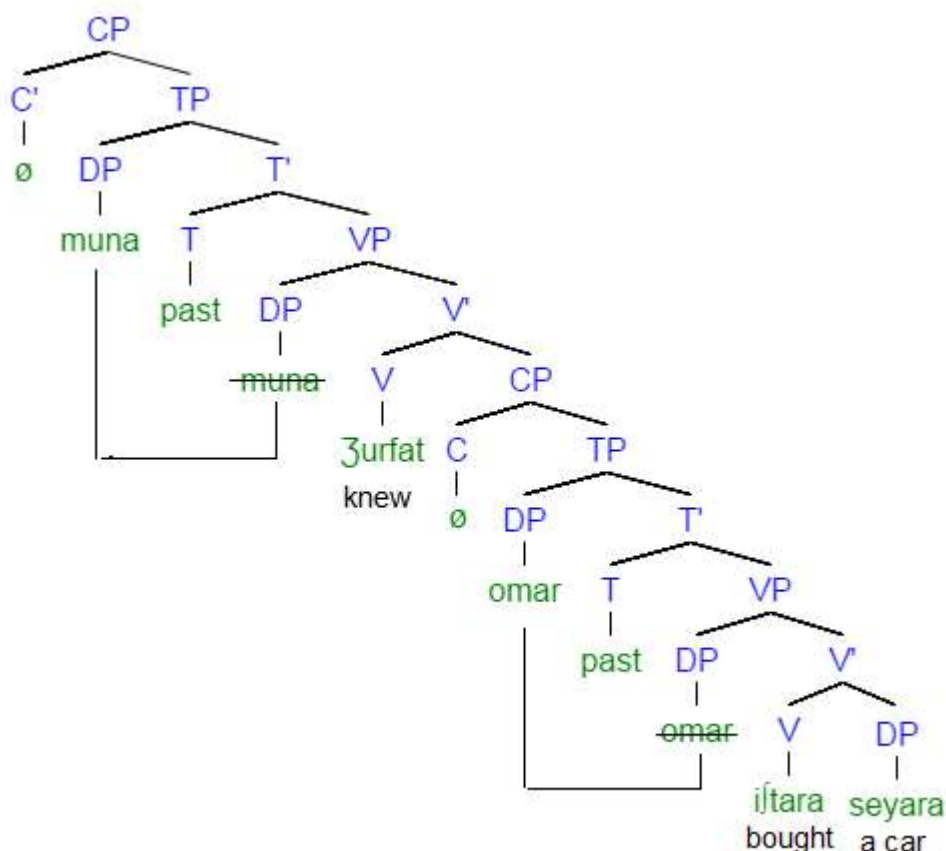
(7b')



The tree above demonstrates the wh-operator *what*: *ʒeno* is in the Spec of the intermediate embedded Comp.

The tree (7c') below illustrates the [-wh] Comp in the embedded clause:

(7c')



In (7a) and (7b), we get only the reading of an embedded question. In other words, the *wh*-operator in the above sentences has narrow scope. *what* : $\int eno$ is barred from having wide scope due to the presence of a potentially [+*wh*] in Comp. In (7b), the *wh*-operator cannot have wide scope over the entire sentence. Therefore, we get only the reading of an embedded question. There is a contrast between (7b) and (8) below:

- (8) *muna tri:d* [$\int eno$ [$\int ali ye\int iri$]]?
 Muna want what Ali buy
 ‘What does Muna want Ali to buy?’

The *wh*-operator in both sentences (7b) and (8) occupies the Spec of the embedded Comp. However, in (7b), it cannot have wide scope, i.e., we only have an embedded question reading.

In (8), the *wh*-operator must have wide scope over the entire construction, giving us a main question reading. The minimal difference between (7b) and (8) has to do with the subcategorization properties of the matrix verb. In (7b), the matrix verb *knew* : *ʒurfat* may take an embedded question (7a) and (7b) or a statement as in (7c). In (8), the verb ‘want’ obligatorily subcategorizes for a [-*wh*] Comp. Therefore, the sentence in (8) can never be interpreted as an embedded question in IA. How can we account for this contrast between (7b) and (8) ? The answer lies in the locality constraint which simply states that if a verb subcategorizes for a [-*wh*] Comp, it must have a *wh*-operator in its domain. (This is automatically applied to verbs that only takes [+*wh*] Comp.

To account for the contrast between (7b) and (8), the constraint in (9) below is posited:

(9) A [+*wh*] Comp must have a *wh*-operator in its domain.

The locality requirement in (9) applies by default to verbs that only subcategorize for [+*wh*] Comp as in (10) below:

(10) *huwa saʔal meno sa:ʒad muna*
 He asked who helped Muna
 ‘He asked who helped Muna’

A Syntactic movement is the only option available when the matrix verb optionally subcategorizes for a [+*wh*] or [-*wh*] Comp. Therefore, IA behaves like English as the *wh*-operator moves cyclically to land in the Spec of the matrix Comp at the surface structure as in (11)

(11) [~~eno~~_{Comp} muna ʒurfat_(+ - wh) [ʒomar ʔiʃtara]~~eno~~?
 What Muna knew Omar bought ~~what~~
 ‘what did Muna know Omar bought?’

To summarize, the locality constraint requires an embedded [+wh] Comp to have a wh-operator in its domain. This constraint accounts for the contrast between the verbs like *knew* : *ʒurfat* that subcategorizes for [+wh] and [-wh] Comp resulting an embedded question reading, and verbs like *wanted* : *ra:dat* that subcategorizes for [-wh] Comp to exercises wide scope over the embedded sentence resulting thus, a main question reading. In terms of Chomsky's Economy Principle (Chomsky, 1989:69), the wh-operator chooses the closest available [+wh] Comp.

4. Conclusion

This paper deals with a different strategy for forming wh-questions in IA. Unlike English and Chinese, the wh-operator may show-up in any intermediate Comp. With respect to the LF movement, the wh-operator in these positions mimics the syntactic movement where it exercises wide scope over the entire question. Moreover, it may appear in the Spec of the light vP under the light of the theory of VP split analysis. To account for such behavior, Chomsky's minimalist program provides a unified analysis that captures the following new facts in IA. First, a wh-operator may appear in a [-wh] Comp at the surface structure level. Second, the wh-operator may appear in the Spec of the light vP. Assuming both Lf movement and the VP split analysis. Minimalism can provide a unified analysis for wh-questions in IA.

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