LNGT 0250
Morphology and Syntax

Lecture #20
April 22nd, 2015

Announcements

• Changes to the class schedule of the last week.
• Questions on assignment 6?
• Changes to deadlines: Assignment 6 is now due on Thursday April 30 at 5pm.
• Assignment 7 will be due on Friday May 8 at 5pm.
• Important note regarding your paper proposals: Your paper has to have a morphological and/or syntactic focus.

The syntax of ‘like’

Instructions for LDP presentations

• Each presenter will talk for 4 minutes. After the group is done, there will be 4 minutes for questions.
• Please make sure to practice your presentation against the clock. I will stop you if you go over the time limit.
• Do not try to talk about everything; it is NOT feasible. Be selective; choose aspects that you know would interest the audience.

Instructions for LDP presentations

• You have to use either PowerPoint slides or a handout with linguistic data. You can simply scan and paste the data from the sources instead of typing the examples to save time.
• You have to combine everything in one PowerPoint file (or one handout). Make sure to send me the presentation in both .ppt format as well as .pdf, no later than 2pm on the day of your presentation.
Instructions for LDP presentations

• Finally, every group must record their presentation. You can borrow a digital voice recorder from the circulation desk at the library or use any other recording device you’re familiar with.
• Looking forward to your presentations.

Aspects of cross-linguistic variation

• Head-directionality parameter: gives us English-type SVO vs. Japanese-type SOV.
• Verb movement parameter: gives us English vs. French.
• Subject placement + verb movement parameters: gives us VSO languages such as Welsh/Irish/Tagalog.
• V2 parameter: gives us German/Dutch/Scandinavian.
• Null subject parameter: gives us Spanish/Italian vs. English/French.

Aspects of cross-linguistic variation

• The wh-parameter: gives us wh-fronting languages such as English/Edo vs. wh-in-situ languages such as Japanese/Chinese/Egyptian Arabic.
• Partial wh-fronting gives us English vs. Malay.
• Wh-doubling gives us Hungarian/German dialect.

Data analysis

• Colorado (Ecuador).
• Trique of Copala (Mexico).

More on wh-questions

• Multiple wh-questions:
  Who did what?
  *What did who do?
• In languages like English locality matters: the wh-phrase closest to CP moves there.
• It turns out, however, that this is not a universal; it is parametric.

Multiple wh-questions: Bulgarian

(20) Kogo vidiš John?
    who sees John
    "Who does John see?"
(21) Koj kogo vidjat?
    who whom saw
    "Who saw whom?"
(22) Kogo kakvo e pital Ivan?
    whom what is asked Ivan
    "Who did Ivan ask what?"
(23) Koj kogo kakvo e pital?
    who whom what is asked
    "Who asked whom what?"

Data from Tallerman (2011)
Multiple wh-questions: Serbo-Croatian

(24) a. Ko koga voli?
   who whom loves
   'Who loves whom?'
   b. Koga ko voli?
   whom who loves
   'Who loves whom?'

Data from Tallerman (2011)

Multiple wh-questions

- So wh-fronting languages are of two types when it comes to multiple wh-questions: Some languages front only one wh-word, others front them all.

A puzzle

(i) When did the boy say he hurt himself?

(ii) When did the boy say how he hurt himself?

Constraints on the syntax of wh-questions:

Introducing islands

Constraints on wh-movement

- Due to the recursive nature of syntactic structure, the distance between the wh-phrase and its original position in the D-structure could be, in principle, unbounded:
  - Who did John meet t?
  - Who did you say that John met t?
  - Who does Mary believe that you said that John met t?
  - etc.

Syntactic islands

- In certain structures, however, wh-movement is simply impossible. The substructures out of which wh-movement is blocked are called syntactic *islands*.
  - Complex DPs are islands for movement:
    *Which book did Mary talk to [dp the author [cp who wrote t]]?*
    *Which famous actor do you believe [dp the rumor [cp that Mary met t]]?*
Islands

- Adverbial clauses introduced by *without, after, before,* etc., are also islands (called **adjunct islands**):
  *Who did Mary leave the party *before* meeting $t$?*
- **Coordinate structures** are also islands:
  *Who did you see *Mary and* $t$?*
  *Also, embedded CPs introduced by a wh-word act as islands for wh-movement (called **wh-islands**):
  *Who do you wonder *what bought* $t$?*

Islands

- Island effects also indicate that movement should be ‘local,’ as we have seen before with regard to head movement and wh-movement in multiple wh-questions.

Revisiting our earlier puzzle

(i) *When did the boy say he hurt himself?*

(ii) *When did the boy say how he hurt himself?*

Islands in wh-in-situ languages

- **Egyptian Arabic (Soltan 2012): The Complex DP island**

  1a. Yinta ʔasbeit ʔi-biit illi ʔigawwiz miin?
  you met.3gfm the-girl that married.3gfm who
  “Who, did you meet the girl that got married to him?”

  b. Yinta simit ʔishaa’(at) ʔin Huda ha-ʔigawwiz miin?
  you heard.2gfm rumor that Huda FUT-married.3gfm who
  “Who, did you hear the rumor that Huda will get married to him?”

- **Egyptian Arabic (Soltan 2012): The Adjunct island**

  1a. Huda miyyiit ʔab ma ʔahmad yiʔabul miin?
  Huda left.3gfm after.3gfm Ahmad met.3gfm who
  “Who, did Huda leave after Ahmad met him?”

  b. ʔahmad ʔa-jlaʔal law ʔammad ʔasbul miin?
  Ahmad FUT-be-upset.3gfm if.3gfm Mohammad met.3gfm who
  “Who, will Ahmad be upset if Mohammad meets him?”
**Islands in wh-in-situ languages**

- Egyptian Arabic (Soltan 2012): The Subject/Topic island

15. _yaml-kalaam  _qan mání  _daáyí?  _ala?  
the-talk  about  who  upset.3sgmas  _Ali  

“Who, did the talk about him, upset Ali?”

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**Islands in wh-in-situ languages**

- Egyptian Arabic (Soltan 2012): The Coordinate Structure island

16.  _?intu  _suft  _?ahmad  _wi  _míin  _fí  _?ill-halí?  
you  saw.2sgmas  _Ahmad  and  who  at  the-party  

“Who, did you see Ahmad and him, at the party?”

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**Next class agenda**

- Presentations on the languages of the world.