Syntax handout J. Merchant

# Evidence for successive cyclic wh-movement

1.Languages with wh-agreement

Irish, Chamorro, Palauan, Hausa, Passamaquoddy, Coptic

2. Successive inversion phenomena

Belfast English, Spanish, French

3. Intermediate copy pronunciation

Child English, German dialects

- 4. Wh-scope marking ('partial wh-movement') German, Romany, Hungarian, Hindi
- 5. Stranded *all* in West Ulster English
- 6. Intermediate reconstruction effects
- 7. Zaenen, Annie. 1983. On syntactic binding. Linguistic Inquiry 14:469-504.

# 1. Languages with wh-agreement

(see Haïk, Isabelle. 1990. Anaphoric, pronominal, and referential INFL. *Natural Language and Linguistic Theory* 8: 347-374 for an overview)

Irish (data from James McCloskey, 1979, Transformational syntax and model theoretic semantics: A case study in Modern Irish; D. Reidel: Dordrecht)

#### Declaratives:

- (1) Deir sé go dtuigeann sé an scéal. says he that understands he the story 'He says that he understands the story.'
- (2) Dúirt sé gur bhuail tú é. said he C struck you him 'He said you struck him.'

## Yes-no Questions:

(3) An bpósfaidh tú mé?
Q will.marry you me
'Will you marry me?'

# WH-Questions:

- (4) Cén fear a<sup>L</sup> thiteann go talamh which man C falls to earth 'Which man falls to earth?'
- (5) Cé [a<sup>L</sup> bhuail tú] ? who C struck you 'Who did you hit?'
- (6) Cé a<sup>L</sup> mheas tú a<sup>L</sup> chonaic tú? who C thought you C saw you 'Who did you think that you saw?'
- t-úrscéal a<sup>L</sup>  $a^{L}$ (7) mheas mé dúirt  $a^{L}$ Cén sé thuig sé. Cunderstood he which novel C thought I said he C 'Which novel did I think he said he understood?'

- (8) Níl a fhios agam cén fear a thiteann go talamh *I don't know which man C falls to earth*'I don't know which man falls to earth.'
- (9) Níl a fhios agam cé [a bhuail tú] *I don't know* who C struck you
  'I don't know who you hit.'
- (10) Níl a fhios agam cén t-úrscéal  $a^L$  mheas mé  $a^L$  dúirt sé  $a^L$  thuig sé. I don't know which novel  $C_{trace}$  thought I  $C_{trace}$  said he  $C_{trace}$  understood he 'I don't know which novel I thought he said he understood.'

*aL* also occurs in clefts, relative clauses, 'reduced' clefts, certain manner and temporal adjunct clauses, and in 'negative emphatic' constructions

**Chamorro** (data from Chung, Sandra. 1998. *The design of agreement: Evidence from Chamorro*. Univ of Chicago Press: Chicago.)

# Yes-no: Chamorro *kao* left-peripherally (cf. Irish $a^N$ )

Constituent questions: the interrogative phrase is left-peripheral in the clause, immediately preceding the complementizer *na* (which can be null):

- (12) a. Ginin hayi na un-chuli' i lepblu? C184 from who? Comp agr-take the book
  'From whom did you take the book?'
  - b. Hayi kumákati? C184
     who? WH[nom].agr.cry.Prog
    'Who is crying?'
  - c. Hafa malago'-mu? C184
     what? WH[obl].want-agr
    'What do you want?'
  - d. Kuantu biahi mu-mímisa? C185 how.many? time agr-go.to.mass.Prog 'How often does he go to church?'
- (13) a. Hayi malago'-ña si Juan na u-kuentus

  who? WH[obl].want-agr Juan Comp WH[nom].agr-speak

  yan i ma'estra? C191

  with the teacher

  'Who does Juan want to speak (lit. that should speak)

  with the teacher?'
- (14) a. Hafa fina'tinas-ñiha i famalao'an? C201 what? WH[obj].make-agr the women 'What did the women cook?'
  - b. \*Hafa ma-fa'tinas i famalao'an? C201
     what? WH[obj].agr-make the women
    (What did the women cook?)

## Wh-agreement with a nominative is realized overtly only with realis transitive verbs:

- (15) a. Hayi na famagu'un siha pumatik i bola? C201 who? L children Pl WH[nom].kick the ball 'Which children kicked the ball?'
  - b. Hayi mu-lalatdi siha? C201
    who? WH[nom]-scold them

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'Who scolded them?'
c. Hayi um-ayuda hao? C201
who? WH[nom]-help you
'Who helped you?'
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- (16) Hayi sinangane-nña si Juan malago'-ña pära who? WH[obj2].say.to-agr Juan WH[obl].want-agr Fut u-bisita? C211 WH{obj].agr-visit 'Who did Juan tell (us) that he wants to visit?'
- (17) a. Ha-fa'gasi si Juan i kareta. C236

  agr-wash Juan the car

  'Juan washed the car.'
  - b. Hayi fuma'gasi i kareta? C236
     who? WH[nom].wash the car
    'Who washed the car?'
  - c. Hafa fina'gasése-nña si Henry pära hagu? C236 what? WH[obj].wash-agr Henry for you 'What is Henry washing for you?'

Inflection on verbal and adjectival predicates in wh-questions:

[Nom] -um- when the predicate is realis and transitive
 [Obj, Obj2] (optional) nominalization, plus -in- when the predicate is transitive
 [Obl] nominalization, plus (optional) -in- when the predicate is unaccusative

*Overt* realization of wh-agreement *replaces* regular subject-verb agreement. If wh-agreement is *not* overt, then the predicate has the regular subj-verb agreement. E.g., with questioned subjects of transitive but irrealis predicates:

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(18) Hayi pära u-sangani yu' ni ansa? C238 who? Fut WH[nom].agr-say.to me Obl answer 'Who is going to tell me the answer?'
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and with questioned objects if the nominalization option isn't chosen:

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(19) Hafa un-kákannu'? C239 what? WH[obj].agr-eat.Prog 'What are you eating?'
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## 2 Successive inversion

**Belfast English** (data from Alison Henry. 1995, Belfast English and Standard English: Dialect variation and parameter setting. OUP: Oxford)

- (20) a. Who did John hope [would he see \_\_]?
  - b. What did Mary claim [did they steal \_\_]?
  - c. I wonder what did John think would he get \_\_?
  - d. Who did John say [did Mary claim [had John feared [would Bill attack \_\_]]]?

Spanish and French ('stylistic inversion'); Torrego 1984, Kayne and Pollock 1999, Pesetsky and Torrego 2001

# 3 Wh-copy

**Child English** (data from Stephen Crain and Diane Lillo-Martin. 1999. *An introduction to linguistic theory and language acquisition, Blackwell: Malden, Mass., p. 238)* 

- (21) a. What do you think what Cookie Monster eats? (age 5;0)
  - b. Who do you think who Grover wants to hug? (age 4;9)
  - c. What do you think what's in that box? (3;3)

#### German

(22) Wer glaubst du, wer nach Hause geht? who think you who to home goes 'Who do you think is going home?'

# 4 Partial wh-movement (aka wh-expletives, aka wh-scope marking) (see Dana McDaniels 1988 *NLLT* and Julia Horvath 1997 *NLLT*)

#### German

(23) Was glaubst du, mit wem er gesprochen hat? what think you with whom he spoken has 'With whom do you think that he spoke?'

### Hungarian

(24) Mit gondolsz, hogy kit látott János? what.ACC you.think that who.ACC saw.3sg J.NOM 'Who do you think that Janos saw?'

# 5 Stranded *all* in West Ulster English

(James McCloskey. 2001. Quantifier float and *wh*-movement in an Irish English. *Linguistic Inquiry* 31:57-84.)

- (25) a. What all did he say (that) he wanted?
  - b. What did he say (that) he wanted all?
  - c. What did he say all (that) he wanted?
- (26) a Where do you think all they'll want to visit?
  - b. Who did Frank tell you all that they were after?
  - c. What do they claim <u>all</u> (that) we did?

# 6 Intermediate reconstruction

(Fox, Danny. 1999. Reconstruction, Binding Theory, and the interpretation of chains. *Linguistic Inquiry* 30: 157-196.)

- (27) a. [Which paper that he<sub>1</sub> wrote for Ms. Brown<sub>2</sub>] did every boy<sub>1</sub> hope that she<sub>2</sub> 'd regrade? (Example answer: His worst one.)
  - b. \* [Which book that he<sub>1</sub> asked Ms. Brown<sub>2</sub> for] did she<sub>2</sub> say every boy<sub>1</sub> had to return by Monday?