The Syntax of Multiple Questions in Dakkhini

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ABSTRACT:

Interrogative clauses with more than one wh-elements are called multiple questions. Multiple questions not only attracted the linguist for their syntax but also for their semantics. Multiple questions got due importance in the work of Wachowicz (1974) followed by Toman (1981). In this paper the presence of multiple questions construction in Dakkhini is analysed which did not receive much attention so far. The cross-linguistics variation of multiple question construction in various languages is studied. Further the interpretation of multiple question construction which gives single-pair and pair-list reading is discussed. One of the important aspects of the multiple questions is presence of superiority effect is also discussed.

KEYWORDS: *Multiple questions, Single–pair reading, Pair-list reading, Superiority effect.*

INTRODUCTION:

Interrogative clauses with more than one wh-elements are called multiple questions. Multiple questions attracted the linguistics not only for their syntax but also for their semantics. Earliest work dealing multiple questions is of Wachowicz (1974). Later Toman (1981) studied it in Czech and Polish. Rudin (1988) found this phenomenon in Bulgarian and Russian. Comorovski (1986) in Romanian. McDaniel(1989) in Romani and dialects of German.

In languages like Bulgarian all the wh-elements in multiple questions are fronted. This phenomenon is called multiple wh-fronting. This is represented in 1. Here two wh-elements are fronted.

1. koj   kakvo   dade?
   who   what   gave?
   Who gave what?

The phenomena of multiple wh-fronting occurs in Polish also as in 2.

2. kto   kogo   zabit?
   Who   whom   killed?
   Who killed whom?

More than two wh-elements can be fronted as represented in example 3.

3. kto   co   kiedy   zrobit?
   Who   what   when   did?

Who did what and when?(Intended meaning)

Considering English, all the wh-elements are not fronted though English has wh-fronting in interrogatives. Here only one wh-element is fronted and the other wh-elements remain in-situ in multiple questions.

4. Who ate what?

TYPOLOGY OF LANGUAGES WITH MULTIPLE QUESTIONS:

I. **Multiple wh-fronting languages:** These languages exhibit obligatory fronting of all the wh-elements. All the wh-elements move to the front as in Bulgarian.

5. koj   kogo   vižda?
   who whom   sees?
   Who sees whom?

II. **Singular wh-fronting languages:** In these languages only one wh-element is fronted and the remaining wh-elements are in-situ. This can be found in English and Spanish.

6. Who gave the book to whom?

Huang (1982) Lasnik and Saito (1984) is of the opinion that English type of multiple wh-question are instances of Chinese and Japanese in-situ questions. Based on the evidence from islands of movement it is concluded that wh in-situ elements in English in multiple questions moves covertly, they are not pronounced. At LF all wh-elements form a big wh-unit through a rule absorption (Higginbotham and May 1981).
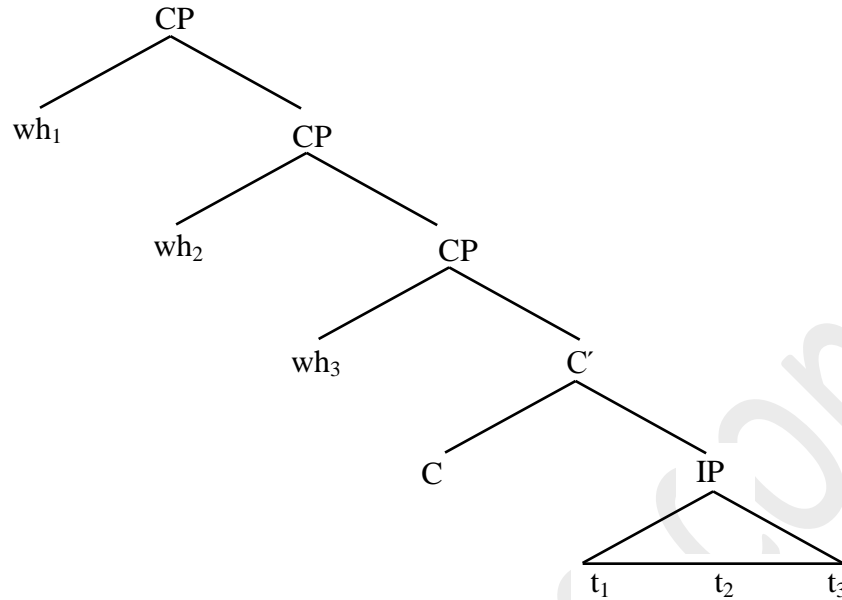
III. **Zero wh-fronting languages:** In these languages all the wh-elements remain in-situ. This phenomenon can be found in Chinese.

7. jcn   gei-le shei shenme? (Chinese)
   John   give   who   what?
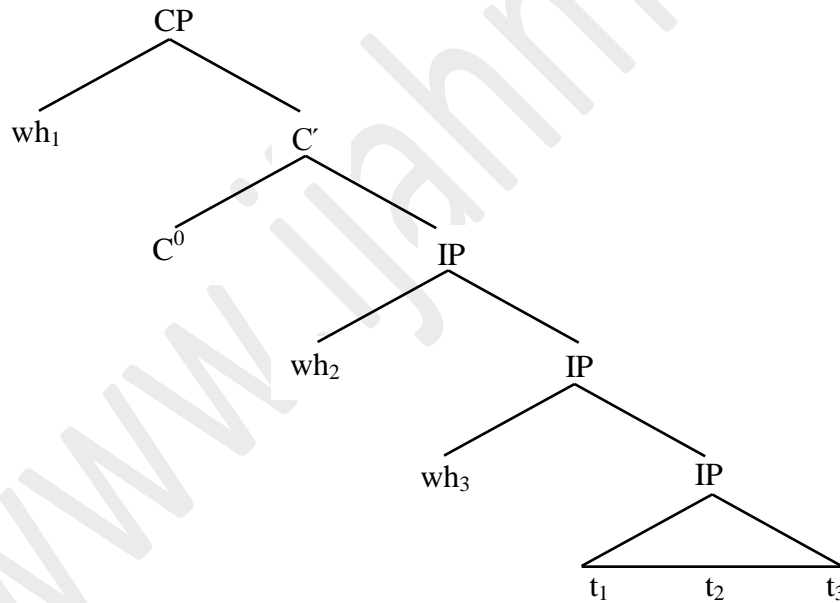   What did john give to whom?

IV. **Alternate wh-fronting language:** Languages where one wh-element is fronted and the rest are in-situ but alternately all the wh-elements remain in-situ. This is found in French.

8. a) qu' a-t-il   donné à   qui?
      what has he   given to who?

   b) il a   donné   quoi à   qui?
      he has given   what   to who?
      What has he given to whom?

Rudin (1988) further classifies the languages where all the wh-elements are fronted into two types depending on the landing site of the wh-elements that are moved in multiple question formation. Multiple filled Spec CP. [MFS] is the criteria for this classification. According to Rudin (1988) all the wh-elements that are fronted are in Spec CP and form a constituent in Bulgarian. Rudin represents such languages as [+MFS]. This is represented as follows.

```
                    CP
          ┌──────────┴──────────┐
        wh₁                     CP
                      ┌──────────┴──────────┐
                    wh₂                     CP
                              ┌──────────┴──────────┐
                            wh₃                     C′
                                          ┌──────────┴──────────┐
                                          C                     IP
                                                          ┌──────┼──────┐
                                                         t₁     t₂     t₃
```

On the other hand in languages like polish and Serbo-Croatian only one wh-elements moves to Spec CP while the others are adjoined to IP, such languages are [–MFS].

```
                CP
       ┌─────────┴─────────┐
     wh₁                   C′
               ┌───────────┴───────────┐
             C⁰                        IP
                             ┌──────────┴──────────┐
                           wh₂                     IP
                                         ┌──────────┴──────────┐
                                       wh₃                     IP
                                                        ┌──────┼──────┐
                                                       t₁     t₂     t₃
```

MULTIPLE QUESTIONS IN DAKKHINI:

The multiple question constructions are found in Dakkhini. Multiple questions remain in-situ in Dakkhini as in 9.

> 9. ali   kisku   kã   bhijaya?
>   Ali   who   where   sent?
>   Who did Ali sent where?

Dakkhini even permits multiple wh-elements in an embedded clause.

10. Un [kon kã   gaye   bolke] pucha?
    He who where went   comp   asked?
    He asked that who went where?

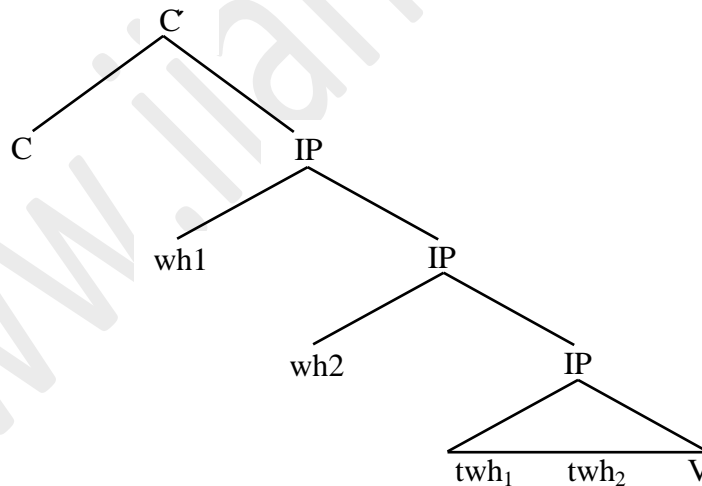But Dakkhini does not permit moving the wh-element out of the embedded clause.

As Dakkhini does not have a fixed word order and scrambling of the elements is possible in Dakkhini. The wh-elements in multiple question can scramble as in

11. kisku   kã   bhijaya   ali?
    Who   where   sent   Ali?
    Who did Ali sent where?

More than two wh-elements can occur in Dakkhini.

12. koon   kab   kisku   kyaa   kare?
    Who   when   to whom   what   did?
    Who did what to whom and when? (Intended meaning)

In Dakkhini all the wh-elements adjoined to IP and they also govern their respective trace. This can be represented graphically as.

SINGLE PAIR AND PAIR LIST READING:

The phenomenon of multiple questions is related to semantics depending on the possible answers to these questions. Multiple wh-questions are often ambiguous they give single-pair reading and pair-list reading, Wachowicz (1974).Single-pair and pair-list reading is subject to cross-linguistic variation, Hagstrom (1998) and Bošković (2002). Consider the question in English.

13. Who bought what?

The possible answer to this question is

Ravi bought a pen, Rita bought a pencil and Seema bought a book.

This is pair list (PL) answer. English has obligatorily pair list interpretation. Apart from English, languages like Bulgarian and German also give only pair-list interpretation.

14. PL/*SP

koi   kogo   e   pokanil   na večerjata? (Bulgarian)
who   whom   Aux   invited   to dinner?
'Who invited who to the dinner?'

15. PL/*SP

wer   hat   wen   zum Abendessen   eingeladen? (German)
who   Aux   whom   to   dinner   invited?
'Who invited who to the dinner?'

But it is interesting to know that cross-linguistically multiple question constructions do not always give pair list interpretations. There are languages which give single-pair (SP) interpretation as well. Japanese and Chinese can have single-pair and pair-list interpretation for the same question.

16. PL/SP

dare-ga   nani-o   kattano?
Who-nom   what-acc   bought Q?
Who bought what?

According to Bošković English permits wh-movement but languages like Japanese and Chines are in-situ languages. In-situ languages allow single-pair and pair-list interpretations. Whereas wh-fronting languages allow only pair list interpretation. This is explained using French which allows both wh-fronting of multiple questions and in-situ multiple questions alternatively. The in-situ multiple question in French can have a single-pair interpretation but the multiple questions with wh-fronting have only pair-list reading.

Dakkhini permits both pair-list and single-pair interpretation.

17. koon   kisku   maaraa?
Who   whom   hit?

The possible answers could be.

Ali hit Ahmed (SP)
Ali hit Ahmed and Ahmed hit Abdul (PL)

Dakkhini reduplicates the wh-elements and this gives only pair-list interpretation.

18. PL/*SP

koon   koon   kisku   kisku   maaraa?
Who   who   whom   whom   hit?

This is peculiar to Dakkhini. Reduplication of wh-element can be found in the embedded clause in Dakkhini.

19. PL/*SP
    Un [koon koon kã kã gaye bolke] pucha?
    He who who where where went comp asked?
    He asked that who when where? (PL)

SUPERIORITY EFFECT:

Multiple-question constructions have attracted the linguist not only for fronting of wh-element but for the variations found in the order of occurrence of wh-elements. Bulgarian have constraints on the order of occurrence of wh-elements, this is called superiority effect. It is shown in 20 a and b.

20. a) koj   kogo   vidjal? (Bulgarian)
         who   whom   saw?
         'Who saw whom?'

    b)*kogo   koj   vidjal?
       Whom   who   saw?

The order of occurrence of the wh- elements in Serbo-Croatian is free.
21. a) ko   je koga   vidio? (Serbo-Croatian)
         who is whom   seen?
         Who saw whom?

    b) koga   je ko   vidio?
        Whom   is who seen?

Bulgarian follows superiority condition. But in Bulgarian superiority effect does not prevail when more than two wh-elements are fronted. Only the first wh-element follows superiority Bošković (1997, 2002)

22. a) koj kogo kakvo e pital?
         Who whom what   is asked?
         Who asked whom what?

    b) koj   kakvo   kogo e pital?
    c) *kogo   kakvo   koj e pital?
    d) *kakvo   kogo   koj e pital?
    e) *kakvo   koj   kogo e pital?
    f.) *kogo   koj   kakvo e pital?

In Serbo-Croatian superiority effect is seen in long distance wh-movement and embedded questions.

23. a) ko   si   koga   turdio   da   je   istukao? (Serbo-Croatian)
        who   are   whom   claimed   that is   beaten?
    Who did you claim beat whom?'

    b)   *Koga sikoturdio da je istukao?

Stepanov (1998), Russian has free order of fronted wh-elements in all context.

Dakkhini also does not show superiority effect on the order of occurrence of wh-elements.

24. a) kidar   kab   gaye   tum?
        where   when   went   you?
        Where did you go when? (Intended meaning).

    b) kab   kidar   gaye   tum?
        when   where   went   you?

25. a) kisku   kitta   dena?
        To whom   how much   give?
        How much is to be given to whom? (Intended meaning)

    b) kitta   kisku   dena?
        how much   to whom   give?

26. a) koon   kisku   maare?
        who   to whom   hit?
        Who hit whom?

    b) kisku   koon   maare?
        to whom   who   hit?

27. a) kab   kã   jaanaa   hai?
        when   where   go   is?

    b) ?kã   kab   jaanaa   hai?
        where   when   go   is?

27 b. is not considered ungrammatical. However, it is not used frequently. 27 a. is used instead of this.

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