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## 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 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-kak-vodade?  
who what gave?  
Who gave what?

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

2. ktokogozabit?  
Who whom killed?  
Who killed whom?

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

3. kto co kiedyzrobit?  
Who what when did?

Who did what and when?(Intended meaning)

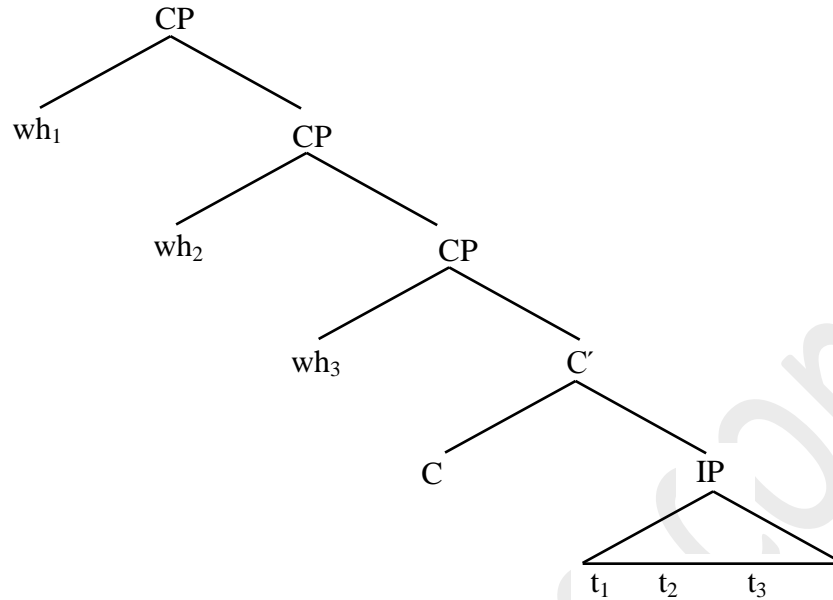
Considering English, all the wh-elements are not fronted though English has wh-fronting in interrogatives. Here only one wh-element is fronted and the other wh-elements remain in-situ in multiple questions.

4. Who ate what?

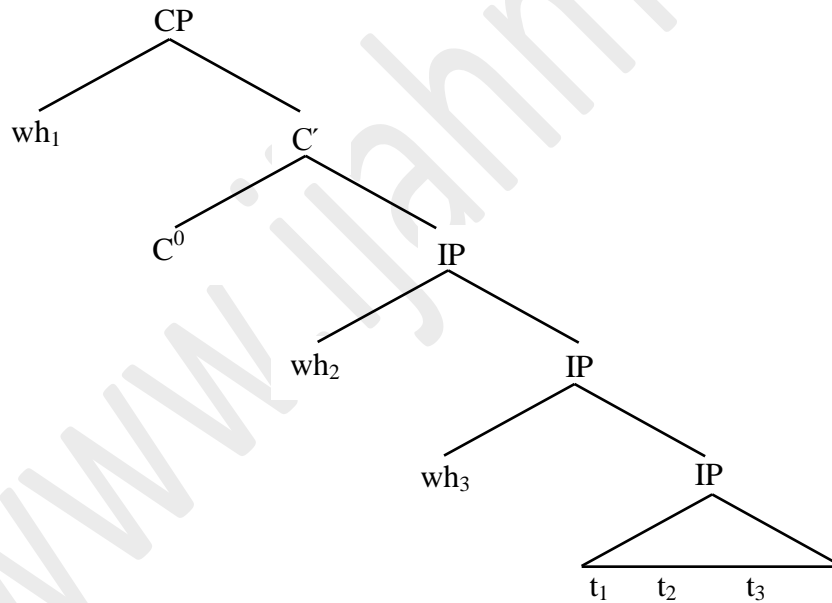
#### **TYPOLOGY OF LANGUAGES WITH MULTIPLE QUESTIONS:**

- 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 kogovižda?  
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. jengei-le sheishenme? (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.



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



**MULTIPLE QUESTIONS IN DAKKHINI:**

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

- 9. alikiskukābhijaya?  
Ali who where sent?  
Who did Ali sent where?

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

10. Un[konkāgayebolke ]pucha?  
 He who wherewent comp asked?  
 He asked that who went where?

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

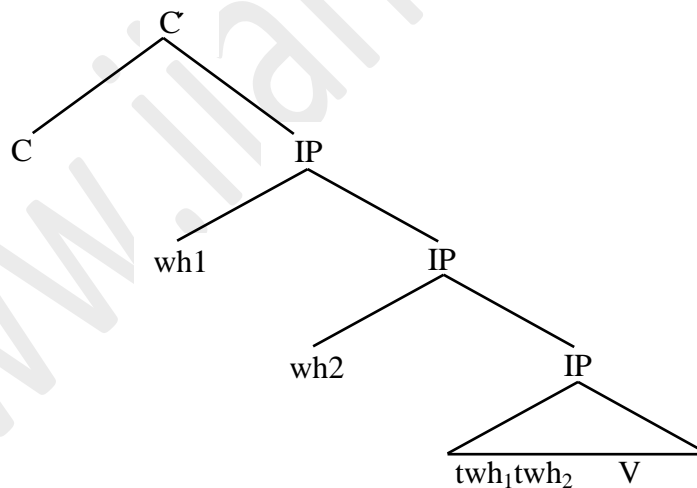
As Dakkhini does not have a fixed word order and scrambling of the elements is possible in Dakkhini. The wh-elements in multiple question can scramble as in

11. kiskukābhijayaali?  
 Who where sent Ali?  
 Who did Ali sent where?

More than two wh-elements can occur in Dakkhini.

12. koonkabkiskukyaakare?  
 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-pairreading 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

koikogoe pokanilnavečerjata? (Bulgarian)

whowhom Aux invited to dinner?

'Who invited who to the dinner?'

15. PL/\*SP

werhat wen zumAbendesseneingeladen? (German)

whoAux 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-ganani-o kattano?

who-nomwhat-accbought Q?

Who bought what?

According to Bošković English permits wh-movement but languages like Japanese and Chinese 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.

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

17. koonkiskumaaraa?

Who whom hit?

The possible answers could be.

Ali hit Ahmed (SP)

Ali hit Ahmed and Ahmed hit Abdul (PL)

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

18. PL/\*SP

koonkoonkiskukiskumaaraa?

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 [koonkoonkākāgayebolke ]pucha?

He who whowherewhere 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 kogovidjal? (Bulgarian)

whowhom saw?

‘Who saw whom?’

b) \*kogokojvidjal?

Whom who saw?

The order of occurrence of the wh- elements in Serbo-Croatian is free.

21. a) koj kogavidio? (Serbo-Croatian)

whois whom seen?

Who saw whom?

b) kogaje kovidio?

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 kogokakvoe pital?

Who whom what is asked?

Who asked whom what?

b) koj kakvokogo e pital?

c) \*kogokakvokoj e pital?

d) \*kakvokogokoj e pital?

e) \*kakvokojkogo e pital?

f.) \*kogokojkakvo e pital?



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

23. a) kosikogaturdioda je istukao? (Serbo-Croatian)  
whoare 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.

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

24. a) kidarkabgaye tum?  
where when went you?  
Where did you go when? (Intended meaning).  
b) kabkidargaye tum?  
when where went you?
25. a) kiskukittadena?  
To whom how much give?  
How much is to be given to whom? (Intended meaning)  
b) kittakiskudena?  
how much to whom give?
26. a) koonkiskumaare?  
who to whom hit?  
Who hit whom?  
b) kiskukoonmaare?  
to whom who hit?
27. a) kabkājaanaahai?  
when where go is?  
b) ?kākabjaanaahai?  
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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