The syntax and semantics of questions
Spring 1999, Tuesday 3:30–5:30pm.
Paul Hagstrom (hagstrom@cogsci.jhu.edu)
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Disclaimer. The schedule is subject to change—nothing ever ends up looking like it did at the beginning. In fact, your suggestions are welcomed—if there’s something you think would be good for us to read and discuss, let me know.

Readings. For each week there are generally 2–3 (all fairly short) readings listed. I tried to keep the amount of reading achievable, so try to at least look at all of them if possible—however, if the rare occasion arises when you can only read 2 of 3, they’re listed in order of importance, so read the 2 listed first. If you have extra time, you might look at the “see also” readings, which will hopefully be discussed too. Readings will be placed in the “espresso lounge” upstairs with other class readings.

Structure. I envision presentations being informal, and reasonably short. On days where two papers are being presented, I’ll probably take the first half hour, splitting the rest of the time between the papers being discussed. So, something like 45 minutes for each paper, though presumably this will vary depending on the complexity of the issues involved.

Life as a registered participant. The course expectations are (i) a paper at the end, (ii) two presentations/leadings-of-discussion (of readings or of own research, preferably one of each). Try to talk to me by the end of March about paper topics you might be interested in. For the grade to be recorded, your paper should make it to me by a week before I have to turn in grades. I’m happy to read drafts, discuss possible directions, etc. My office is Krieger 143B, email is hagstrom@cogsci.jhu.edu.

Life as an unregistered participant. Of course, I can’t formally ‘require’ anything, but even those who are not formally registered in the course are heartily encouraged to present readings and/or their own research.

Schedule of Events

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Week 1: The typology of Wh-movement, wh-in-situ as basic</th>
<th>Jan 26</th>
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<td>The surface typology of wh-word-movement (one vs. all vs. none). Is there a uniform connection to CP? Is it driven by semantics? Reasons given for “covert wh-movement” of wh-in-situ, reasons against… Implementations: scope marking (representational), covert movement (derivational), unselective binding (hybrid). Some reason to believe even moved wh-phrases are “put back” for interpretation.</td>
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Week 2: The morphology of wh-in-situ
Feb 2
The “Clausal Typing Hypothesis” and Q morphemes. (Cheng 1997)
The Q-movement hypothesis; connecting dareka to dare…ka? (Hagstrom 1999)
Connecting wh-words and quantifiers (Kim 1989).

See also: Hagstrom 1998 (ch. 2) (it’s a longer version of Hagstrom 1999).

NO CLASS Feb 9—Superseded by practice talk (sorry!)

Week 3: Introduction to semantics of questions
Feb 16

Readings: Cheng 1997 (ch. 2), Hagstrom 1998 (chapter 5[§§1-2]), Heim & Kratzer 1998 (ch. 1, 2, §6.3.1, §7.1, §7.3).

Weeks 4–5: Some major approaches to wh-in-situ. Feb 23–Mar 2

Readings: Nishigauchi 1990 (ch. 2)
John Pesetsky 1987
Frankie Watanabe 1992
Colin Reinhart 1998 (wh-in-situ)
Paul Legendre, Wilson, Smolensky, Homer, and Raymond 1995

See also: Aoun & Li 1993, Brody 1995 (ch. 2), Nishigauchi 1990 (ch. 2).

Week 6: Semantics and answerhood
Mar 9

Readings: Paul Legendre, et al. 1995 (continued)
Marina Rullmann & Beck 1996 (on answerhood)
See also: Heim 1994 [IATL paper]

Week 7: Interpreting wh-words in situ
Special Bonus Class? Mar 18
Overview of issues of the semantics of questions; Groenendijk & Stokhof 1994 Semantic arguments for interpreting wh-words in situ
• Rullmann & Beck 1997 and presupposition projection.

Readings: John Groenendijk & Stokhof 1994 [§§4.1–3 and §6 (~30pp)] Paul Rullmann & Beck 1997 (on which-phrases)
Week 8: Flexible Functional Application again, pair-lists, etc. Mar 23

Pair-list readings in multiple questions. What are they? Applications of FFA in my proposal (islands, PL readings, ka-drop)

Did what I wrote in my thesis make any sense?

Readings:
- Paul Rullmann & Beck 1997 (on which-phrases) (continued)
- Paul Hagstrom 1998 \[§5.5, §6.1, §6.4\] (might also be useful to reread §§5.3–4)

See also:
- Dayal 1996 (on long distance these) (tangent 1996 (PL sensitive to islands))

Week 9: Questions with quantifiers Apr 6

Pair-list and functional readings with quantifiers (Chierchia 1991)

Readings:
- Frankie Sloan 1991
- Marina Chierchia 1991
- Hagstrom 1998 §§6.2–3 (my translation of Chierchia, but without an explanation of WCO)

See also:
- Chierchia 1993 (longer, more sophisticated version of Chierchia 1991), Sharvit 1996 (discusses QR vs. interrogative clauses)

Week 10: Scope marking and partial wh-movement Apr 13

“Direct” vs. “indirect” dependencies between “expletive” WH-word and its associate—Dayal (re Hindi) vs. Miller (re German and several others)

Readings:
- Colin Dayal 1994
- Geraldine Müller 1996

See also:

Weeks 11–12: Continuing partial wh-movement Apr 20–27

See also:
- Paul Horvath (1997).