

Islands and Ellipsis: A Reexamination

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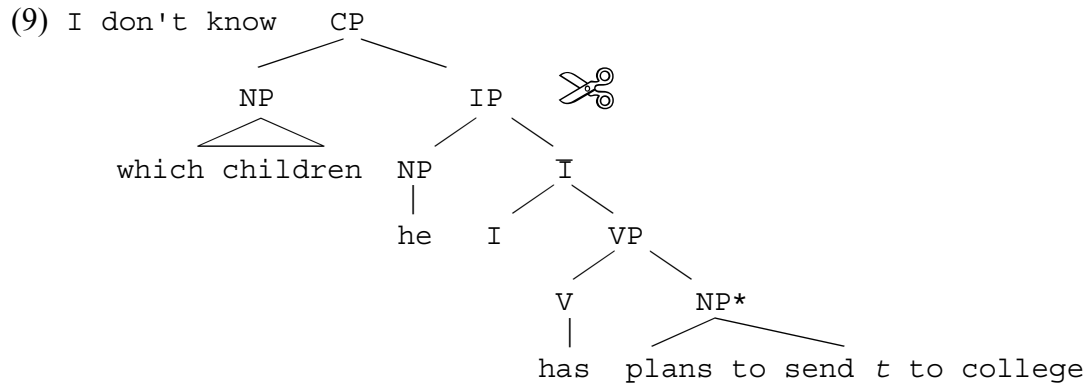
I. Instances of (?apparent) repair

A. The classic paradigm

- (1) I believe that he bit someone, but they don't know who (I believe that he bit)
- (2)a *I believe the claim that he bit someone, but they don't know who I believe the claim that he bit [Complex NP Constraint, noun complement]
 b(??) I believe the claim that he bit someone, but they don't know who
- (3)a *Irv and someone were dancing together, but I don't know who Irv and were dancing together [Coordinate Structure Constraint]
 b(??) Irv and someone were dancing together, but I don't know who
- (4)a *She kissed a man who bit one of my friends, but Tom doesn't realize which one of my friends she kissed a man who bit [Complex NP Constraint, relative clause]
 b(??) She kissed a man who bit one of my friends, but Tom doesn't realize which one of my friends
- (5)a *That he'll hire someone is possible, but I won't divulge who that he'll hire is possible [Sentential Subject Constraint]
 b (??) That he'll hire someone is possible, but I won't divulge who

All above from Ross (1969)

- (6) Ross argues that the phenomenon of island violation repair provides "evidence of the strongest sort that the theoretical power of [global] derivational constraints is needed in linguistic theory..." [p.277]
- (7) "If a node is moved out of its island, an ungrammatical sentence will result. If the island-forming node does not appear in surface structure, violations of lesser severity will (in general) ensue." [p.277]
- (8)a (*)I don't know which children he has plans to send to college
 b He has plans to send some of his children to college, but I don't know which ones
 Chomsky (1972)



- (10) Chomsky rejects global derivational constraints, and suggests [see also Baker and Brame (1972), and, for an opposing view, Lakoff (1970), Lakoff (1972)] that * (# in Chomsky's presentation) is assigned to an island when it is crossed by a movement operation (the complex NP in (9)). An output condition forbidding * in surface structures accounts for the deviance of standard island violations.
- (11) If a later operation (Sluicing in this case) deletes a category containing the *-marked item, the derivation is salvaged.
- (12) For Chomsky (1972), the condition banning * applies at surface structure. The results are the same if, instead, it is a PF condition, as suggested by Lasnik (1995b), Lasnik (2001a).

B. Possible approaches not requiring repair

i) When 'repair' takes place, islandhood was not real

- (13) "As regards [(3)b], many speakers find it completely ungrammatical." Baker and Brame (1972)
- (14) Mary met a man who had worked for someone famous, but she wouldn't tell me who
- (15) *Mary met a man who had worked for someone famous, but she wouldn't tell me who she met a man who had worked for
- (16) Mary met a man who had worked for someone famous, but she wouldn't tell me who the man had worked for Baker and Brame (1972) [and see below for more discussion of a similar proposal by Merchant (2001)]

ii) 'Pseudosluicing' (something like clefting) [First suggested by Erteschik (1973)]

- (17)a Someone just left - guess who ~~it was~~
 b Someone just left. Who ~~was it~~?
- (18)a Irv and someone were dancing together, but I don't know who ~~it was~~
 b Irv and someone were dancing together. Who ~~was it~~?
- (19) There is no island to repair on this copular analysis.
- (20) Merchant raises the question of the ultimate source of such copular sentences, and suggests that they are actually reduced forms of clefts with an extracted wh-phrase as pivot, as in:
- (21) Guess who [~~it was~~ that just left]

- (22) But on such an account, Pseudosluicing actually wouldn't address the basic phenomenon at issue - lack of island effects - since as has been known since Ross (1967), clefts obey all the same island constraints as wh-interrogatives do.
- (23) Further all such accounts take it for granted that English actually has the ellipsis process illustrated in (17) and (18). I know of no evidence that this is true, and there is even some reason to doubt that it is:
- (24) [There is a knock at the door. The occupant of the room says]
Who *(is it)
- (25) At any rate, Merchant argues convincingly that Pseudosluicing in any form cannot provide a general analysis for the Sluicing phenomenon, hence cannot provide a general answer to the repair problem.
- (26) In German, PPs can be 'survivors' of Sluicing, but can't be pivots of clefts:
- (27) *Mit wem war es, daß er gesprochen hat?
with who was it that he spoken has
- (28) Er hat mit jemandem gesprochen - rate mal mit wem!
He has with someone spoken - guess PRT with who
- (29) Further, crucially, PPs can be survivors even in island contexts.
- (30) Anke wird sich ärgern, wenn Peter mit einem der Lehrer
Anke will REFL upset if Peter with one of the teachers
spricht, aber ich weiß nicht mehr, *(mit) welchem.
speaks but I know not more with which
'Anke will get upset if Peter talks to with one of his teachers,
but I don't remember which.'
- (31) Romanian seems to have no cleft constructions at all, but still has Sluicing.
- (32) *E Ion {ce/care} a câştigat premiul întâi
is Ion that/who has won prize.the first
'It's Ion that won first prize.'
- (33) *E Ion pe care (l-) am întâlnit ieri
is Ion ACC who him- have.1sg met yesterday
'It's Ion who I met yesterday'
- (34) Cine-va a câştigat premiul întâi - ghici cine!
someone has won prize.the first guess who
'Someone won first prize - guess who!'

iii) Sluicing as LF copying, not PF deletion, hence no movement in the ellipsis site

- (35) Chung et al. (1995) argue that the amelioration of island effects with Sluicing follows from their account, in which there is no movement or deletion involved, but a type of LF copying.
- (36) However, Merchant (2001), following Ross (1969), provides strong evidence that syntactic movement (and hence deletion) *is* involved in Sluicing constructions. The evidence involves:
- (37) 'Case matching': In overtly Case inflected languages (such as German), the Case of the

survivor is just what the Case of the fronted WH expression would have been in the non-elliptical form, and crucially this is true **even** in the island violation configurations (though for Merchant, there turns out to be some equivocation on this point; more on this below). [Case matching also argues against a Pseudosluicing story as the general account, as Merchant points out.]

- (38) Er will jemandem schmeicheln, aber sie wissen nicht,
 he wants someone.DAT flatter but they know not
 *wer / *wen / wem
 who.NOM who.ACC who.DAT
 'He wants to flatter someone, but they don't know who.'
 Merchant, p.89
- (39) Sie will jemanden finden, der einem der Gefangenen
 she wants someone find who one.DAT of the prisoners
 geholfen hat, aber ich weiss nicht
 helped has but I know not
 *welcher / *welchen / welchem
 which.NOM which.ACC which.DAT
 'She wants to find someone who helped one of the prisoners, but
 I don't know which.'
 Merchant, p.91
- (40) And preposition stranding: In languages that allow P-stranding (such as English), the survivor can be the bare object of a preposition; in languages that don't (such as Greek) overwhelmingly it can't, and, crucially, this is true **even** in the island violation configurations.
- (41) Peter was talking with someone, but I don't know who Merchant, p.92
- (42) Peter's mom will get angry if he talks with someone from his class, but I don't remember who
- (43) I Anna milise me kapjon, alla dhe ksero *(me) pjon
 the Anna spoke with someone but not I.know with who
- (44) I mitera tou Giannis tha thimosi an milisi me kapjon
 the mom of Giannis FUT get.angry if he.talks with someone
 apo tin taksi tou, alla dhe thimame *(me) pjon
 from the class his but not I.remember with who
 'Giannis's mom will get angry if he talks with someone from his
 class, but I don't remember who.'
- iv) Resumption: Either no movement in the ellipsis site, just base-generation of a resumptive pronoun; or movement leaving a resumptive not subject to islands**
- (45) The Brazilian team improved after somebody from Ajax started playing for them, but I can't remember who; [~~the Brazilian team improved after he, started playing for them~~]
- (46) He wants to interview the woman who wrote some play, but I can't remember what play; [~~he want to interview the woman who wrote it,~~]
 (Illustrations from Merchant (2001))
- (47) Merchant gives several arguments that resumption can't be the general solution to the

repair problem:

a) There are wh-expressions with no corresponding resumptive forms (in English and cross-linguistically) that still display repair in Sluicing:

- (48)a * Where_i does he want to find a person [who camped (there_i)]?
b * When_i is she looking for journal entries [that describe a battle (then_i)]?
(49)a He wants to find a person who has lived somewhere specific in the Pacific but I can't remember where.
b She is looking for journal entries [sic] that describe a battle {at a certain time/in a certain year}, but I don't remember when.

b) While moved wh-phrases always take their case from their base position, wh-phrases linked to resumptives need not do so, and in general cannot. appearing instead in some default case if possible:

- (50) The police said that finding someone's car took all morning, but I can't remember
a. whose
b. *who
(51)a Who_i did the police say that finding his_i car took all morning?
b * Whose_i did the police say that finding (his_i) car took all morning?

[Merchant hints that a variety of other languages that he investigated support this general point. However, in the section where he discusses this, he points out that none of the languages actually has relevant resumptive pronouns. This leads to a different argument:]

c) There are languages that seem to lack the resumptive pronoun island strategy but that still display apparent island violation repair under Sluicing (and with Case matching).

- (52) Merchant presents evidence from German, Russian, Polish, Czech, and Greek
(53) So it seems as if there is island violation repair (but see below for further discussion).
Maybe along the lines of Chomsky (1972)? [Other approaches will be discussed later.]
(54) Possible problem: In Chomsky's approach, "a new element is introduced..."
Lakoff (1972, p.81)
(55) Kitahara (1999) gives an argument reminiscent of Lakoff's against an approach like Chomsky's (though for a slightly different phenomenon - ECP reduction to mere Subjacency via deletion of *-marked trace à la Chomsky (1991), Chomsky and Lasnik (1993)):
(56) "... a *-feature, which is not a lexical feature – since it appears nowhere in the lexicon – ... enters into a derivation as the output of certain movements. ...this assumption violates the Inclusiveness Condition." p.79
(57) Technical, semi-serious, solution to the Inclusiveness problem: Everything is 'born' with a

- ✓. When a violation occurs, the ✓ is erased. A representation with an item lacking a ✓ is unacceptable.
- (58) A further difficulty with the Chomsky (1972) approach: “It is important to note that [the # introduced in Chomsky’s derivation] must be ‘invisible’ with respect to deletion under identity, since when Sluicing applies, the deleted portion of the tree will contain this element, while the deleting portion will not.” Lakoff (1972)
- (59) And Merchant (2001) gives an empirical argument against Chomsky’s (1972) approach, based on instances of:

II. Failure of island violation repair?

- (60) *They want to hire someone who speaks a Balkan language, but I don’t know which they do [_{VP} ~~want to hire someone who speaks t~~] Merchant (2001)
- (61) Compare (62), which also involves a relative clause island:
- (62) They want to hire someone who speaks a Balkan language, but I don’t know which (Balkan language) [_{IP} ~~they want to hire someone who speaks t~~] Merchant (2001)
- (63) In fact, Chung et al. (1995) had already claimed that Sluicing and VP ellipsis diverge in this way, concluding that the latter, unlike the former, is an instance of deletion. Their example involved an adjunct island:
- (64) We left before they started playing party games.
*What did you leave before they did [_{VP} ~~start playing t~~]?
- (65) Note, though, that this case, unlike Merchant’s, is actually consistent with Chomsky’s account (which Chung et al. (1995) do not consider), as the island is not eliminated in (64), unlike the situation in (60).
- (66) Merchant, on the other hand, takes all ellipsis to be PF deletion, and argues that only some islands represent PF effects. Others, especially including relative clause islands, are LF constraints, and their violation therefore cannot be repaired by ellipsis, a PF process.
- (67) (62) is then reanalyzed as involving a ‘short’ source, lacking an island:
- (68) They want to hire someone who speaks a Balkan language, but I don’t know which (Balkan language) [_{IP} ~~she should speak t~~] [See also Baker and Brame (1972)]
- (69) They hired someone who speaks a Balkan language –
Guess which [~~she speaks t~~]
- (70) *They didn’t hire anyone who speaks a Balkan language, but I don’t remember which
- (71) *They didn’t hire anyone who speaks a Balkan language, but I don’t remember which she speaks Merchant pp. 211-212

BUT cf.

- (72) No one had a student who worked on a certain Balkan language, but I can’t remember which Balkan language Lasnik (2001b)
- (73) *No one had a student who worked on a certain Balkan language, but I can’t remember which Balkan language she worked on.

OR even

- (74) They didn’t hire anyone who speaks a certain Balkan language, but I don’t remember which.

(75) So no obvious 'short' source. Could these instead involve a cleft-like source, as proposed by Barros, Elliott and Thoms (2014)? Perhaps. To decide, we need to look at languages with rich Case morphology to see if Case matching holds. Barros et al. do just that:

(76) Sie haben keine angestellt, die einen bestimmten deutschen Dialekt sprechen, aber ich
They have no.PL hired, the.PL [a certain German dialect]_{ACC} speak, but I
weiß nicht mehr welchen deutschen Dialekt
know not more [which German dialect]_{ACC}
"They didn't hire anyone who speaks a certain German dialect, but i don't remember which
German dialect."

(77) Niemand hatte einen Studenten, der einen bestimmten deutschen Dialekt studierte,
Nobody had [a student]_{ACC} the.NOM [a certain German dialect]_{ACC} studied,
aber ich weiß nicht mehr, {welchen deutschen Dialekt / *welcher deutsche Dialekt}
but I know not more [which German dialect]_{ACC} [which German dialect]_{NOM}
"No one had a student who studied a certain German dialect, but I don't remember which German
dialect."

(78) *Niemand hatte einen Studenten, der einen bestimmten deutschen Dialekt studierte,
nobody had [a student]_{ACC} who.NOM [a certain german dialect]_{ACC} studied,
aber ich weiß nicht mehr, welchen deutschen Dialekt sie studierte
but I know not more [which german dialect]_{ACC} she studied
"*No one had a student who studied a certain German dialect, but I don't remember which Ger-
man dialect she studied."

(79) Both island 'evasion' strategies seem to be unavailable, indicating that island repair does exist. However Barros et al. claim that short sources are much more flexible than one might have thought, and that the following can be short sources for (76) and (77), as they "are offered by speakers as felicitous continuations...."

(80) Sie haben keine angestellt, die einen bestimmten deutschen Dialekt sprechen, aber ich
They have no.PL hired, the.PL [a certain German dialect]_{ACC} speak, but I
weiß nicht mehr welchen deutschen Dialect (keine sprechen).
know not more [which German dialect]_{ACC} (none.PL speak).
"They hired nobody who speaks a certain Baltic language, but I don't know which Baltic language
(nobody speaks)"

(81) Niemand hatte einen Studenten, der einen bestimmten deutschen Dialekt studierte,
nobody had [a student]_{ACC} who.NOM [a certain German dialect]_{ACC} studied,
aber ich weiß nicht mehr, welchen deutschen Dialekt kein Student studierte
but I know not more [which German dialect]_{ACC} [no student]_{NOM} studied
“No one had a student who studied a certain German dialect, but I don’t know which German
dialect no student studied.”

(82) They then claim that one example in the literature (Abels (2011)) eliminates any possibility of a short source. In the following, imagine a situation “in which there are a glut of German politicians who have had their doctorates revoked, but the revocation [sic] of one particular German politician’s doctorate caused a stir. This context independently renders a short source ... infelicitous, as it would imply that there was a unique politician who had his doctorate revoked ...”

(83) *Die Tatsache, dass einem Politiker der Dokortitel entzogen worden ist, hat die Gemüter
the fact that a.DAT politician the.NOM doctorate revoked become is, has the souls
stark erregt, aber ich weiß nicht mehr welchem (Politiker)
strongly stirred but I know not more which.DAT (politician)
“The fact that a (certain) politician had his doctorate revoked caused a big stir, but I don’t remem-
ber which politician.”

(84) Since a short source is infelicitous given the context above, there **is** no source, given that the long source violates an island constraint if there is no island repair, and a cleft-like source gives the wrong case. A potentially very important piece of evidence, but I suggest that more data collection is in order. My informant finds (83) pretty good, especially if the parenthesized “Politiker” is included.

(85) Barros, et al. raise a crucial question about cleft-like sources: If they are possible, why is there ever a case-match requirement? After all, this requirement was the most compelling evidence for a Ross-type approach to Sluicing.

Their answer:

(86) “The morphological case on the sluicing remnant must not be distinct from morphological case on its correlate.”

(87) Barros, et al. claim that when (86) is satisfied, examples with the abstract properties of (83) become grammatical:

(88) Die Tatsache, dass ein Politiker einen gefaelschten Dokortitel hat, hat die gemueter
the fact, that a.NOM politician a.ACC forged.ACC doctorate has has the souls
stark erregt, aber ich weiß nicht mehr welcher Politiker
strongly stirred but I know not more which.NOM politician
“The fact that a (certain) politician has a forged doctorate caused a stir, but I don’t know which
politician.”

(89) Here again, more data collection is in order. For instance, my informant finds no difference between (83) and (88).

(90) And it is important to keep in mind that what was so appealing about Ross's classic approach is that (86) was a theorem.

III. More evidence for repair?

- (91) There are also possible cases where structure that includes the island must exist in the Sluicing site in order to license an item in the Sluicing remnant:
- (92) Every linguist here complained because Language published a certain kind of review of his latest book, but I'm not sure just what kind of review of his latest book
- (93) *Every linguist here complained because Language published a certain kind of review of his latest book, but I'm not sure just what kind of review of his latest book every linguist complained because Language published
- (94) *What kind of review of his latest book did Language publish
- (95) Every linguist here complained because Language published a certain kind of review of his latest book, *but I'm not sure just what kind of review of his latest book Language published
- (96) Consider now Merchant's PF islands: COMP-trace effects; derived positions (topicalizations, ?subjects)
- (97) It appears that a certain senator will resign, but which senator [~~it appears that *t* will resign~~] is still a secret [adapted from Merchant p.185]
- (98) Sally asked if somebody was going to fail Syntax One, but I can't remember who [~~Sally asked if *t* was going to fail Syntax One~~] Merchant p.185, from Chung et al. (1995)
- (99) She said that a biography of one of the Marx brothers is going to be published this year, but I don't remember which [~~she said that a biography of *t* is going to be published this year~~] [adapted from Merchant p.185]
- (100) Recall the apparent failure of island violation repair with Merchant's LF island:
- (101) *They want to hire someone who speaks a Balkan language, but I don't know which they do [~~_{VP} want to hire someone who speaks *t*~~]
- (102) Surprisingly, we find the same apparent failure of repair with Merchant's PF islands [Lasnik (2001)]:
- (103) *It appears that a certain senator will resign, but which senator it does [~~appear that *t* will resign~~] is still a secret [that-trace]
- (104) *Sally asked if somebody was going to fail Syntax One, but I can't remember who she did [~~ask if *t* was going to fail Syntax One~~] [if-trace]
- (105) *She said that a biography of one of the Marx brothers is going to be published this year, but I don't remember which she did [~~say that a biography of *t* is going to be published this year~~] [subject condition]
- (106) And now notice that parallel 'failure of repair' obtains even when there was no violation in the first place.
- (107) Extraction out of an embedded clause is typically fine and Sluicing is just as good, but VPE is bad:
- (108) They said they heard about a Balkan language, but I don't know which Balkan language they said they heard about
- (109) They said they heard about a Balkan language, but I don't know which Balkan language

- (110) *They said they heard about a Balkan language, but I don't know which Balkan language they did
- (111) Similarly for extraction out of an object NP:
- (112) They heard a lecture about a Balkan language, but I don't know which Balkan language they heard a lecture about
- (113) They heard a lecture about a Balkan language, but I don't know which Balkan language
- (114) *They heard a lecture about a Balkan language, but I don't know which Balkan language they did
- (115) Even short movement of a direct object shows rather similar behavior:
- (116) They studied a Balkan language but I don't know which Balkan language they studied
- (117) They studied a Balkan language but I don't know which Balkan language
- (118) ??They studied a Balkan language but I don't know which Balkan language they did
- (119) Thus, it is not clearly necessary to bifurcate either the class of islands (Merchant) or the class of ellipses, VP vs. IP (Chung, et al.) into two types. That is, it is not clear that relative clause island violations cannot be repaired, nor is it clear that VPE cannot repair islands (since the repair might be disguised by the extra violation, whatever it might be, created by VPE). A possible solution to this puzzling paradigm is proposed by Fox and Lasnik (2003)

IV. Another Look at a Resumption Strategy

A. Responses to Merchant's arguments

- (120) Wang (2007) and Boeckx (2008) reject Merchant's Case matching argument against a resumption approach.
- (121) Wang, in particular, indicates that if resumption in the relevant instances involves movement, rather than base generation, Case matching can be accommodated. The exact mechanism, though, is not clear.
- (122) Boeckx suggests another kind of approach, indicating that Wang's specific approach is incompatible with Boeckx's theory of resumption under movement. Instead, Boeckx indicates that Case matching might be instantiated through non-syntactic means, based on "recoverability of case information". Here too, the exact mechanism is not clear.
- (123) Boeckx also rejects Merchant's argument based on apparent island repair in languages lacking resumptive pronouns. Boeckx observes that resumptive pronouns look like regular pronouns, so "the claim that a language lacks resumptive pronouns ... comes close to meaning that such a language lacks pronouns".
- (124) "No language has a pronominal paradigm exclusively devoted to resumption."
- (125) So in languages that seem to lack resumptives, what is really lacking is pronounceable resumptives, analogous to the proposal of Kennedy and Lidz (2001) that "long-distance reflexives exist in English, but they are confined to ellipsis contexts because the language lacks the right morphology to spell them out."
- (126) This is an intriguing possibility, but one seemingly at odds with (124).

- (127) Another possible response to Merchant: Virtually all of his examples arguing against resumption as the explanation of apparent island repair involve islands that Merchant claims **cannot** be repaired by ellipsis. Hence, for Merchant, there was no violation in the first place, rather, there were ‘short’ sources.
- (128) BUT see pp.6-7 above for my argument that short sources are not always available, so that even Merchant’s LF islands must, in fact, be repairable by ellipsis.

B. When resumptives are unavailable

- (129) Wang (2007) argues that when resumptives are genuinely not available, repair is likewise impossible:

Sprouting

- (130)a * Agnes wondered how John managed to cook, but it’s not clear what food _{<TP Agnes wondered how he managed to cook RP>}
- b Agnes wondered how John managed to cook [a certain food], but it’s not clear what food _{<TP Agnes wondered how he managed to cook RP>}

Adjuncts

- (131) *He wants to interview someone who works at the soup kitchen *for a certain reason*, but he won’t reveal yet *why* [ex. from Merchant (2001)]
- (132) “... the non-nominal nature of such phrases blocks the resumptive strategy.”

More examples:

- (133) *Mary met a student who solved the problem (somehow), but I’m not sure exactly how
- (134) *That Susan will solve the problem (somehow) is unclear, and I think I know how
- (135) Possible interfering factor for this part of Wang’s argument:
- (136) As Benjamin Bruening pointed out to me, it is generally very difficult to get 'long distance' readings of wh-adjuncts in Sluicing constructions altogether:
- (137) John left (for some reason), but I don't know [_{CP} exactly why [_{IP} ~~John left~~ *t*]]
- (138)?*Mary claimed that John left (for some reason), but I don't know [_{CP} exactly why [_{IP} ~~Mary claimed [that John left~~ *t*]]]

Idioms?

- (139) Yoshida and Rottman (2013) argue that, consistent with Wang’s claim that resumptives involve D-linking, idiom chunks cannot be associated with resumptives. Yet, according to Yoshida and Rottman, they can participate in island repair. Their examples are like the following:
- (140) Mary was jealous because John made headway on his project, but we don’t know how much (headway) (*_{[TP} she was jealous because he made \emptyset /it]).
- (141) *John made good headway in his project, but Mary couldn't have made it yet.
- (142) The professor did not scold anyone who made a certain amount of headway on his

project, but it's not clear how much (headway).

Possible additional example:

- (143) John is angry because Mary paid a certain amount of attention to this problem, but I don't know exactly how much attention
- (144) *How much attention is John angry because Mary paid (it) to this problem
- (145) As far as I know, noone has yet checked such idiom paradigms in languages with rich case morphology.

Reconstruction

- (146) It is well established that there can be reconstruction with Sluicing, mirroring the reconstruction found with standard wh-movement. Can there be reconstruction with resumptives?

- (147)
- | |
|--|
| <p><i>təlmiiz-[a]_i l-kəsleen ma baddna nχabbir [wala mʕallme]_i ʔanno huwwe</i>
student-her the-bad NEG want.1P tell.1P no teacher that he
<i>zaʕbar b-l-faḥṣ</i>
cheated.3SM in-the-exam
'Her bad student, we don't want to tell any teacher that he cheated on the exam.'</p> |
|--|

Lebanese Arabic

Aoun et al. (2001)

- (148)
- | |
|---|
| <p><i>ʔayya taalib min tulaab-a_i fakkarto ʔanno kəll mʕallme_i</i>
which student among students-her thought.2PL. that every teacher.FS
<i>hatnaʔ-ii</i>
will.3FS.choose-him
'Which of her_i students did you think that every teacher_i would choose (him)?'</p> |
|---|

Lebanese Arabic

Boeckx and Hornstein (2008)

BUT

- (149) Both Aoun et al. (2001) and Boeckx and Hornstein (2008) further show that there is no reconstruction into islands with resumptives.

- (150)
- | |
|---|
| <p><i>*təlmiiz-[a]_i l-kəsleen ma badkun tχabbro [wala mʕallme]_i ʕan l-bənt</i>
student-her the-bad NEG want.2P tell.2P no teacher about the-girl
<i>yalli huwwe zaʕbar maʕ-a b-l-faḥṣ</i>
that he cheated.3SM with-her in-the-exam
'Her bad student, you don't want to tell any teacher about the girl with whom he cheated on the exam.'</p> |
|---|

- (151) **talmiiz*-[a]_i *l-kəsleen* ma *hkiina* maʕ [wala mʕallme]_i ʔabl-ma *huwwe*
 student-her the-bad NEG talked.1P with no teacher before he
yuuşal
 arrive.3SM
 ‘Her bad student, we didn’t talk to any teacher before he arrived.’

- (152) *ʔayya *taalib* min *tulaab*-a_i ʔanbasatto *laʔinno* *kəll* mʕallme_i
 which student among students-her pleased.2PL because every teacher.FS
hatnaʔ-ii
 will.3FS.choose-him
 ‘Which of her_i students were you pleased because every teacher_i would choose
 (him)’

[All from Aoun et al. (2001)]

- (153) **təlmuz*-[a]_i *l-kəsleen* ma *badkun* tʕabbro [wala mʕallme]_i maʕ *miin* *huwwe*
 student-her the-bad NEG want.2P tell.2P no teacher with who he
zaʕbar *b-l-fahş*
 cheated.3SM in-the-exam
 ‘Her bad student, you don’t want to tell any teacher with whom he cheated on the
 exam.’

[From Boeckx and Hornstein (2008)]

- (154) Yet under Sluicing, reconstruction is available even into islands. Some instances were given above in (92), (93), (95).

An additional example:

- (155) No politician_i likes reporters who reveal certain kinds of stories about his_i campaign, but I’m not sure exactly what kinds of stories about his_i campaign

ON THE OTHER HAND

- (156) There is evidence that in some languages, some resumptives inside islands do allow reconstruction:

- (157) *(Doubled) clitic inside an adjunct island:*
 [ʔalib-[ha]_i *l-kassoul*]_i ma *zialat* [wala mʕallmih]_i *laʔannuh*
 student-her the-bad NEG upset.3SF no teacher because
l-mudiirah *kaḥʕat-uh* (hu)_i mn *l-madrase*
 the-principal expelled.3SF-CL (he) from the-school
 ‘Her bad student, no teacher was upset because the principal expelled
 him from school.’

- (158) Above Jordanian Arabic ex. is from Guilliot and Malkawi (2011), who present evidence that ‘weak’ resumption, but not ‘strong’ resumption, allows reconstruction into islands.
- (159) However “Welsh resumptive relative constructions where the pronoun is contained in an island systematically resist reconstruction.” Rouveret (2011, p.42)
- (160) → Research question: Does Sluicing in what would be island configurations differentially allow reconstruction in these two kinds of languages? If so, that might be a powerful argument for the resumptive approach to island violation repair. But if in both types there is reconstruction into islands with Sluicing ...

ON THE THIRD HAND

- (161) There is strong evidence that, contrary to standard claims, at least in English resumption does not repair island violations. [That-trace type violation yes, but Subjacency violations no.]
- (162) To the extent that this is so, resumption could not be what is generally responsible for island violation repair under Sluicing.
- (163) Alexopoulou and Keller (2007) report that, based on their magnitude estimation acceptability study, that “resumption does not remedy island violations: resumptive pronominals are at most as acceptable as gaps, but not more acceptable.” This result obtained for a ‘weak’ island and for a ‘strong’ one:
- (164) Weak-island condition (whether-clause)
- a. Who does Mary wonder whether we will fire /him?
 - b. Who does Jane think that Mary wonders whether we will fire /him?
- (165) Strong-island condition (relative clause)
- a. Who does Mary meet the people that will fire /him?
 - b. Who does Jane think that Mary meets the people that will fire /him?
- (166) Heestand et al. (2011) obtained similar results, for several types of complex NPs and for adjunct islands, using on-line and off-line acceptability judgment tasks.
- (167) Their experiments “showed that RPs have no rescuing effect for violations of complex NP islands.”
- (168) Likewise, for adjunct islands “sentences with RPs again showed no advantage over sentences with gaps.”

V. A new argument for a Ross-type approach to Sluicing (Yoshida, et al. (In press))

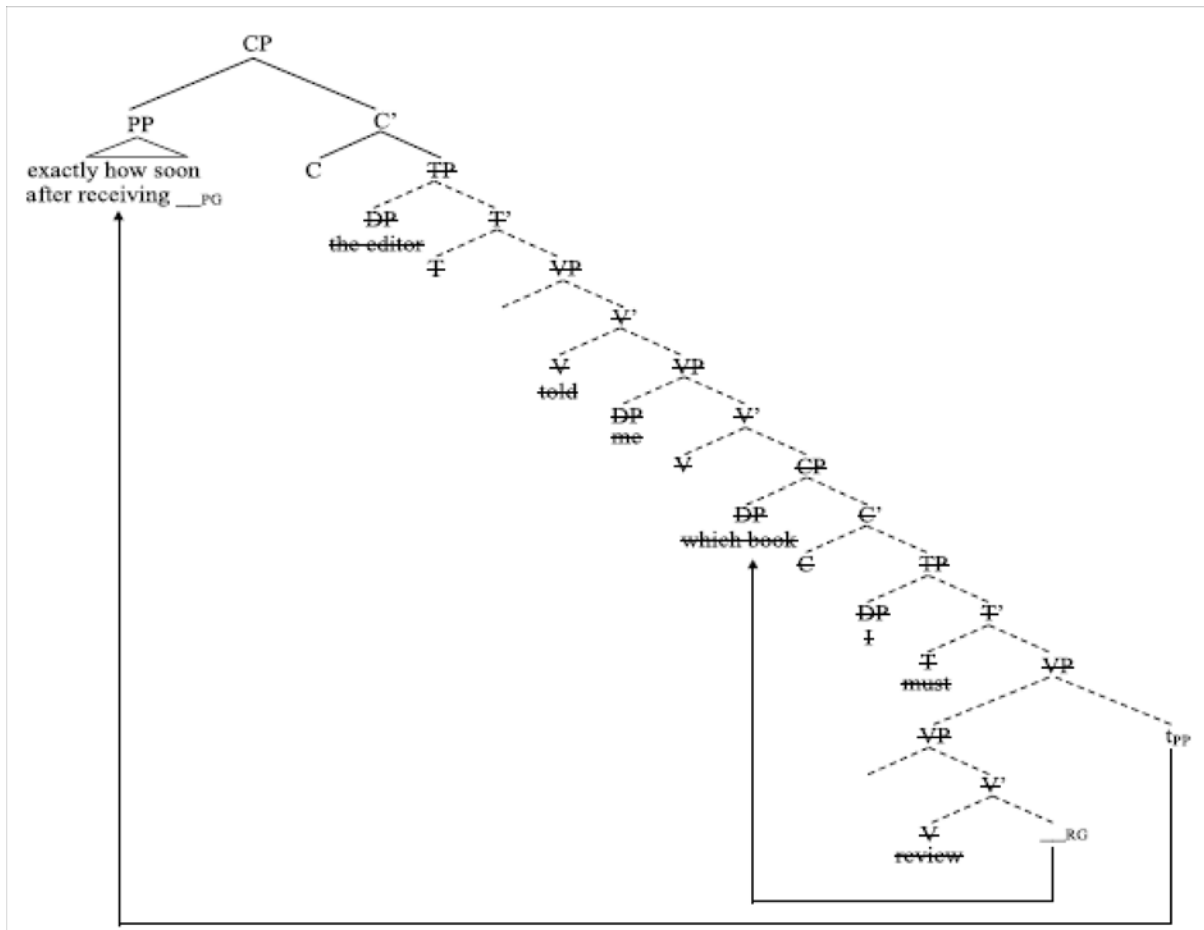
- (169) Yoshida, et al. present evidence that parasitic gaps are licensed in Sluicing contexts, and that the 'real' gap licensing the parasitic one sometimes must be in the elided material.
- (170) The editor told me which book I must review ___₁ soon after receiving ___₂, but I don't remember [exactly how soon after receiving ___₃]
- (171) Gap 2 is a standard parasitic gap, parasitic on the 'real' gap 1.
- (172) What is the nature of gap 3? Yoshida, et al. argue that it is a parasitic gap, and, more specifically, one that is parasitic **not** on gap 1, but rather on a real gap within the ellipsis

site, as gap 1 doesn't seem to be capable of licensing gap 3:

(173) *The editor told me which book I must review __₁ soon after receiving __₂, but I don't remember [exactly how soon after receiving __₃] I must review it.

(174) Yoshida, et al. then point out that a cleft-like source would not provide the necessary 'real' gap, and that no 'short' source seems to be available. So the source must be roughly as follows, with its repaired island violation:

(175)



VI. Some approaches to island constraints and repair by deletion giving substance to the idea of PF islandhood (and not requiring deletion of *-marked islands or other “magic to eliminate the islandhood usually observed with regular wh-movement” in the words of Abe (2015)):

(176) **Multiple Spell Out** (Uriagereka (1999)): Assume the first step of Kayne's LCA

a. If A c-commands B then A precedes B (defined on terminals).

(177) Then for complex A, SO ‘flattens’ the structure C that contains A and c-commands B,

- destroying internal phrasal boundaries. This essentially turns C into a terminal and allows it to linearize via (176)a.
- (178) This deduces many islands (basically all non-complements).
- (179) Now suppose this flattening is optional. If it is not done, extraction will be possible, but, of course, linearization will ultimately fail (as the cycle demands that there will be no later opportunity to flatten).
- (180) But it won't fail if the problematic material is rendered invisible to phonetics. Thus, repair of (at least these) islands by deletion.
- (181) **Fox and Pesetsky (2003)** propose that at each spell-out domain, linear ordering statements are added to an ever growing Ordering Table.
- (182) When movement does not proceed from each successive phase edge, contradictory ordering statements ultimately appear in the Table.
- (183) When deletion takes place, it can have a salvation effect by eliminating all statements involving deleted material, including the contradictory statements that can result from moving too far in one jump. Island violation repair is one such situation, as Fox and Pesetsky show.

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