Wh-questions

• Elements to be questioned must be constituents.
  – I saw a handsome guy with blue eyes at the park yesterday.
  – I saw [a handsome guy with blue eyes] [at the park] [yesterday].
  – Who did you see at the park yesterday?
  – Where did you see a handsome guy with blue eyes?
  – When did you see a handsome guy with blue eyes at the park?

Wh-questions

• How do we form a wh-question?
  – Replace the phrase in question with a suitable wh-word or wh-phrase
  – Move the wh-word or wh-phrase to the beginning of the clause
  – There is a gap where the wh-word or wh-phrase was.

Wh-questions

• The cat is wearing [a hat].
• The cat is wearing what.

• What is the cat wearing _____?
  ___________________

Wh-questions

• Wh-phrase replaces the phrase it stands for.
  – Same grammatical category
  – Doesn’t get a new grammatical relation

• The gap cannot be filled by another item of the same type.
  – *What is the cat wearing a shirt?
Position of wh-phrase

- Position of wh-phrase seems to be outside the main body of the clause.
- Immediately before complementizer
  "What that is the cat wearing?"

Frisian
wat oft ik drinke woe?
what whether I drink would
‘What would I drink?’

Embedded clause

- I wonder what the cat is wearing.
- I wonder the cat is wearing *what.*
- I wonder what the cat is wearing _____.

Wh-in-situ

- Wh-phrase stays in position; it does not move.
- In English, echo question:
  – You saw who? (vs. Who did you see?)
- In Thai?

Wh-in-situ

- In some languages, questions can be formed by both wh-movement and wh-in-situ.

French
Tu vois Pierre ce soir.
you see:2SG Pierre this evening
‘You’re seeing Pierre tonight.’

Qui tu vois ____ ce soir?
who you see:2SG ____ this evening
‘Who are you seeing ____ tonight?’

Tu vois qui ce soir?
you see:2SG who this evening
‘Who are you seeing ____ tonight?’
Multiple wh-question

• Can we question more than one constituent in a single clause?
• In English, only one wh-phrase can be fronted.
  [The cat] is wearing [a hat].
  Who is wearing what?
  *Who what is wearing?

Multiple wh-question

• Multiple wh-fronting
  Bulgarian
  Koj kogo vidjal?
  who whom saw
  ‘Who saw whom?’

  Kogo kakvo e pital Ivan?
  whom what is asked Ivan
  ‘Who did Ivan ask what?’

  – Wh-phrases occur in a fixed order.

Multiple wh-question

• Multiple wh-fronting
  Serbo-Croatian
  Ko koga voli?
  who whom loves
  ‘Who loves whom?’

  Koga ko voli?
  whom who loves
  ‘Who loves whom?’

  – Wh-phrases can occur in any order.

Multiple wh-question

• Multiple wh-fronting
  Other movements

  Tea I like, but coffee I can’t stand.
  เosemiteนใจไม่ชอบ

  • A phrase is moved to the clause-initial position.
  • There is a gap where the phrase originally was.
  • No change in grammatical relation

  Tea I like ___, but coffee I can’t stand ___.
  เosemiteนใจไม่ชอบ _______
Other movements

- **Scrambling**: constituents may be scrambled up in no particular order.
  - Japanese, Korean

Relative clause

- An embedded clause which modifies a head noun
  - A farmer who hits his donkey is drunk.
  - ฉันไม่ชอบเสื้อที่เธอแต่ง
- Restrict the possible set of entities
- Simple or complex sentence?

Relative clause

- In English, a relative clause begins with a wh-word like ‘who’ or ‘which’, or ‘that’; or comes right after the head noun it modifies.
  - A farmer [who hits his donkey] is drunk.
  - John borrowed the book [that Mary liked].
  - John borrowed the book [Mary liked].
- A relative clause contains a gap.
  - A farmer [who ___ hits his donkey] is drunk.
  - John borrowed the book [that Mary liked ___ ].
  - John borrowed the book [Mary liked ___ ].

Relative clause

- The gap refers to the same entity as the head noun.
- Relativized position
### Cross-linguistic variation

- **Order of relative clause and head noun**
- **Existence of a gap in the relativized position**

#### Examples

**Bambara**
- `tye ye so san man PAST horse buy`  
  `‘The man bought the horse.’`

- `tye ye [ne ye so min ye] san man PAST I PAST horse which see buy`  
  `‘The man bought the horse that I saw.’`

**Huasa**
- `wugad [da ya kashe ta da ita] knife REL he killed her with it`  
  `‘the knife that he killed her with ___’`