

## Prosodic F-effects in interrogatives

Hubert Truckenbrodt

Following up on Haida (2007) I argue that *wh*-words, *wh*-phrases and alternatives in alternative questions carry a question-inherent F-feature. Deviating from Haida and following Cable (2010), I semantically identify this F-feature with the classical *wh*-feature of *wh*-phrases. In other words, a *wh*-word is really an F-word with a lexical F-morpheme ('*wh*'). Prosodically, this question-inherent F shows a standard prosodic F-effect whenever *wh*-movement is not involved (here: attraction of strongest stress within its Q-domain): (a) in Japanese and Turkish *wh*-questions, which are *wh*-in-situ (approx. *Q John [who]-F a book gave*) (b) in English and German echo-questions without *wh*-movement (*Q' John gave [who]-F a book?*) and (c) in English and German alternative questions, where the alternatives arguably carry a question-inherent F-feature (*Q did John [buy or borrow]-F the book?*)

On the other hand, when *wh*-movement is involved, we find no prosodic F-effects or reduced prosodic F-effects on the *wh*-phrases (*Who did John SEE?, Who saw who? Who met who at the party?*). I present prosodic arguments that a specific version of Chomsky's syntactic agree-relation (Chomsky 2000) holds between the interrogative marker Q and the *wh*-phrases in these cases. This agree-relation copies Q onto the question-inherent F-feature: *Q [[who]-F-Q met [who]-F-Q at the party]*. This trivializes attraction of the strongest stress by F in the Q-domain but leaves a weaker prosodic F-effect intact. The picture is refined for the distinction between reduced and no prosodic F-effects. I also argue that classical percolation of the *wh*-feature (here: F-feature) from the *wh*-word to the *wh*-phrase can be demonstrated prosodically in the location of prosodic F-effects. It does not occur in cases of *wh*-in-situ (Japanese, Turkish, English/German echo questions) but it seems to occur for all *wh*-phrases in a *wh*-movement configuration. I suggest that it is tied to the syntactic agree-relation underlying *wh*-movement.

## References

Cable, S. (2010). *The grammar of Q*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Chomsky, N. (2000). Minimalist inquiries: the framework. In: *Step by step: essays on minimalism in honor of Howard Lasnik*. R. Martin, D. Michaels and J. Uriagereka (eds.). Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press, 89-155.

Haida, A. (2007). *The indefiniteness and focusing of wh-words*, Doctoral dissertation, Humboldt Universität zu Berlin.

Truckenbrodt, H. (in press). An analysis of prosodic F-effects in interrogatives: prosody, syntax and semantics. *Lingua*.

Truckenbrodt, H. (in press). On the prosody of German *wh*-questions. In: *Prosody and meaning*. G. Elordieta and P. Prieto (eds.). Berlin, Mouton.