

Hyun Kyung Hwang
JSPS Research Fellow

Overriding Syntactic Islands with Prosodically Marked Wh-scope

This poster presents results from two experiments on in-situ wh-phrases with ambiguous scope in Tokyo Japanese, Fukuoka Japanese, and South Kyeongsang Korean. The widely accepted wh-island effect is held to block a wh-phrase from taking scope out of a wh-island. In Japanese and Korean, however, varying judgments have been reported regarding the island effect of the embedded complementizers corresponding to *whether* (C.M. Suh 1987, Nishigauchi 1990, Watanabe 1992, Takahashi 1993, Deguchi and Kitagawa 2002, Ishihara 2003, Hirotani 2005 H.K. Hwang 2006, H.J. Hwang 2007). A production study shows that matrix scope readings are acceptable when a plausible context for the reading is provided. Also, a comprehension study confirms that prosodic wh-scope marking observed in the languages can guide listeners' scope interpretation and improves the acceptability of the matrix scope readings in violation of the wh-island effect. The experimental results showing that the wh-island constraint can be overridden by plausible contexts and the appropriate prosodic marking of wh-scope highlight the need for an expanded scope of analysis, one which incorporates the interactivity of prosody, syntax, and discourse observed here.

References

- Deguchi, M. and Kitagawa, Y. 2002. Prosody and wh-questions. In M. Hirotani (ed.), *Proceedings of NELS 32*, 73–92. Amherst: GLSA.
- Hirotani, M. 2005. *Prosody and LF Interpretation: Processing Japanese wh- questions*. Doctoral dissertation, University of Massachusetts at Amherst.
- Hwang, H.J. 2007. Wh-Phrase Questions and Prosody in Korean. In *Proc. 17th JK Linguistic Conference*.
- Hwang, H.K. 2006. Intonation Patterns of Wh-interrogatives in South Kyungsang Korean and Fukuoka Japanese. *Eoneohak, Journal of the Linguistic Society of Korea* 45, 39-59.
- Ishihara, S. 2003. *Intonation and Interface Conditions*. Ph.D. dissertation, MIT.
- Nishigauchi, T. 1990. *Quantification in the theory of grammar*. Kluwer. Dordrecht.
- Suh, C.M. 1987. *Gukeo Uimummum Eongu [A study on Korean interrogatives]*. Tower Press.
- Takahashi, D. 1993. Movement of wh-phrases in Japanese, *Natural Language and Linguistic Theory* 11, 655-678.
- Watanabe, A. 1992. *Wh-in-situ, Subjacency, and Chain Formation*, MIT Occasional Papers in Linguistics 2, MITWPL, Cambridge.