

About Sharing

by

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ABSTRACT

This thesis is about multidominance or sharing in syntax. The term *sharing* is used in a technical sense, to refer to a situation where a syntactic node has more than one mother. I assume that multidominance is allowed by the grammar. I argue that sharing configurations are more diverse than it has been proposed. I identify two kinds of sharing: bulk sharing and non-bulk sharing. A string of multidominated material may be shared as a single constituent, resulting in a bulk sharing structure or its subparts may be shared individually, which results in a non-bulk sharing configuration.

I argue that all sharing structures are constrained by a single condition: *Constraint On Sharing* (COSH). COSH is a filter on derivations, which imposes an identity requirement on the sets of terminal nodes completely dominated by *horizontal* mothers of any shared node. Horizontal mothers are mothers that do not dominate each other. I propose that effects of COSH are reducible to conditions that must be satisfied for a structure to be linearizable.

Empirical evidence for COSH and non-bulk sharing comes from *Bi-Clausal Multiple Wh-questions* (BMWs), which I investigate in English and Croatian. In a BMW, two wh-phrases appear to be coordinated at the left periphery of the clause: “*What and where did Bob cook?*”. I present arguments that these questions are bi-clausal, with one wh-phrase belonging to each CP conjunct. Next, I propose an analysis of BMWs that involves non-bulk sharing constrained by COSH. I argue that this analysis explains the puzzling properties that BMWs have in both languages.

I show that while English has only BMWs, in Croatian there is also a construction that mimics a BMW in the surface string, but is actually a result of a very different derivation, one that involves only one clause with two wh-phrases. I refer to this structure as a *Coordinated Multiple Question* (CMW). I propose that the placement of second-position clitics in Croatian can disambiguate a BMW from a CMW.

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