

Wh Movement in Afrikaans

Author(s): Hans du Plessis

Reviewed work(s):

Source: *Linguistic Inquiry*, Vol. 8, No. 4 (Autumn, 1977), pp. 723-726

Published by: [The MIT Press](#)

Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/4178017>

Accessed: 02/05/2012 12:52

Your use of the JSTOR archive indicates your acceptance of the Terms & Conditions of Use, available at <http://www.jstor.org/page/info/about/policies/terms.jsp>

JSTOR is a not-for-profit service that helps scholars, researchers, and students discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content in a trusted digital archive. We use information technology and tools to increase productivity and facilitate new forms of scholarship. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.



The MIT Press is collaborating with JSTOR to digitize, preserve and extend access to *Linguistic Inquiry*.

References

- Green, G. M. (1976) "Main Clause Phenomena in Subordinate Clauses," *Language* 52, 382-397.
- Lakoff, R. (1969) "A Syntactic Argument for Negative Transportation," in R. I. Binnick, A. Davison, G. Green, and J. Morgan, eds., *Papers from the Fifth Regional Meeting of the Chicago Linguistic Society*, University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois, 140-147.
- Singer, J. (1975) "Discourse Constraints on So-called 'Movement' Transformations," unpublished undergraduate thesis, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Wh MOVEMENT IN AFRIKAANS
 Hans du Plessis,
 University of South Africa,
 Pretoria

Postal (1972) and Epée (1976) have argued against Chomsky's (1973) hypothesis concerning *Wh* Movement as a successive cyclic rule. Postal's first argument is based on the Preposition Dangle Argument. Epée offered a similar kind of argument, which might be called the Duala *no*-Dangle Argument.

Postal claimed that, if a *wh*-word is moved successive cyclically, it must be possible to strand a pied piped preposition in an intermediate cycle. However, a preposition can be stranded only in the lowest cycle, otherwise it must be pied piped into the maximal sentence-initial position.

Epée pointed out that the same argument against the successive cyclic nature of *Wh* Movement in Duala holds for the particle *no*. The particle *no* in Duala is obligatorily inserted after the first verbal element of the clause, if the questioned constituent originates to the right of the verb (Epée (1976, 194)). If *Wh* Movement is to be a successive cyclic transformation, it should be possible to strand the *no*-particle in any intermediate cycle. This, however, is not possible, and therefore *Wh* Movement must be regarded as a transformation that applies in a nonsuccessive fashion.

Contrary to these Dangle Arguments, a preposition in Afrikaans can be stranded either in its original position or in a position in an intermediate cycle. Furthermore, the Afrikaans *wh*-word + preposition can appear simultaneously in all the cycles of a well-formed sentence.

Before going any further into this matter, something has to be said about the pied piping of prepositions in Afrikaans.

Wh Fronting in Afrikaans is an obligatory rule. The following sentence is therefore ungrammatical.

- (1) a. *julle dink *wat*?
 you think what
 b. *wat* dink julle?
 what think you
 ‘What do you think?/What are you thinking?’

A *wh*-word can optionally pied pipe a preposition. One peculiar fact about such a pied piping is that a *wh*-word + pied piped preposition can (optionally) be replaced by a compound:

- (2) a. *vir wat* werk ons nou eintlik?
 for what work we now actually
 ‘For what do we actually work?’
 b. *waarvoor* werk ons nou eintlik?
 wherefore work we now actually
 ‘For what do we actually work?’

In (2a) the phonological form of both the *wh*-word (*wat*) and the preposition (*vir*) is altered as result of the substitution.

- (3) *vir* + *wat* → *waarvoor*

A compounded preposition can be stranded, but only in the compounded form; the stranded preposition cannot remain in its original form:

- (4) a. *waar* werk ons nou eintlik *voor*?
 b. **waar* werk ons nou eintlik *vir*?

The *wh*-word (*waar*) in (4a) can be either in the original form (*wat*) or in the compounded form *waar* if its preposition is stranded, although the form *waar* is preferred.

- (4) c. *wat* werk ons nou eintlik *voor*?

But (4d) is certainly not permitted:

- (4) d. **wat* werk ons nou eintlik *vir*?

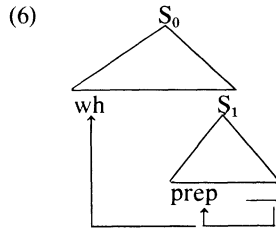
If the Afrikaans *wh*-word is moved across one cycle or more than one cycle, the preposition may be stranded in one of the intermediate cycles; or it may be pied piped into sentence-initial position, or it may be left in its original final position in the lowest cycle.

- (5) a. [_s NP V [_sNP V Prep-Wh_s]_s]
 b. *julle dink ons werk *vir* *wat*
 you think we work for what
 c. *vir wat* dink julle werk ons ____?
 for what think you work we
 d. *waarvoor* dink julle werk ons?
 wherefore think you work we
 e. *waar/wat* dink julle werk ons *voor*?
 where/what think you work we for
 f. *waar/wat* dink julle *voor* werk ons?

In sentence (5f) the preposition (*voor*) is stranded sentence-

SQUIBS AND DISCUSSION

initially in the S_1 cycle in a structure of the following form:



Wh Movement being an obligatory rule, the following sentence will be ungrammatical:

- (7) **dink julle ons werk waarvoor?*

Furthermore, the possibility exists in Afrikaans of having the *wh*-word + preposition appear in all the cycles of a sentence.

- (8) *waarvoor dink julle waarvoor werk ons?*
 wherefore think you wherefore work we
 'What do you think we are working for?'
- (9) *waaroor dink julle waaroor stry ons die meeste?*
 whereabouts think you whereabouts argue we the
 most
 'What do you think we are arguing about the most?'
- (10) *waaroor dink jy waaroor dink die bure waaroor stry ons die meeste?*
 whereabouts think you whereabouts think the
 bure whereabouts argue we the most
 neighbors whereabouts argue we the most
 'What do you think the neighbors think we are arguing about the most?'
- (11) *met wie het jy nou weer gesê met wie het Sarie gedog met wie gaan Jan trou?*
 with who did you now again said with who did
 Sarie thought with who go Jan marry
 Sarie thought with who go Jan marry
 'Whom did you say (again) did Sarie think Jan is going to marry?'

The preposition can be stranded in the sentence-final position, while the *wh*-word can be fronted across an intermediate cycle:

- (12) *wat/waar dink julle dink die bure stry ons oor?*
 what/where think you think the neighbors argue
 we about

The preposition can also be left dangling in the sentence-initial position of the lowest cycle:

- (13) *wat/waar dink julle dink die bure oor stry ons?*

If the preposition is compounded in the lowest cycle, only the

compounded form can appear in any higher cycle. Therefore, (14a) is a grammatical sentence, while (14b) is ungrammatical.

- (14) a. *waaroor* dink jy *waaroor* stry ons die meeste?
 b. **wat* dink jy *oor waaroor* stry ons die meeste?

If a preposition is stranded in the deepest embedded clause and only the *wh*-word is fronted in that clause, it does not imply that the same will happen in any of the higher sentences. In other words, preposition stranding in the lowest cycle does not necessarily imply preposition stranding in any of the higher cycles.

- (15) *waaroor* dink jy *waaroor* dink die bure *wat/waar* stry ons die meeste *oor*?

In conclusion, we may therefore claim that the Afrikaans *Wh* Movement seems to be a bounded rule, the Afrikaans *wh*-word being moved successively from its original sentence-final position into the sentence-initial position of the next higher cycle. As we have seen, the main arguments in favor of such a claim are, first, the simultaneous appearance of a fronted *wh*-word in all the cycles of the same sentence and, second, the possibility of preposition dangling in an intermediate cycle in a well-formed Afrikaans sentence.

References

- Chomsky, N. (1973) "Conditions on Transformations," in S. R. Anderson and P. Kiparsky, eds., *A Festschrift for Morris Halle*, Holt, Rinehart and Winston, New York.
 Epée, R. (1976) "On Some Rules That Are Not Successive Cyclic in Duala," *Linguistic Inquiry* 7, 193–198.
 Postal, P. (1972) "On Some Rules That Are Not Successive Cyclic," *Linguistic Inquiry* 3, 211–222.

IS *make the claim* A COMPLEX LEXICAL ITEM?

Alexander Grosu,
 Tel Aviv University

Chomsky (1975, chapter 3, footnote 24) has suggested that *make the claim* is a complex lexical item derived by a (lexical) rule of Idiom Formation. This suggestion was motivated by the desire to provide a principled way of distinguishing between (1a) and (1b) within the framework of linguistic description proposed in Chomsky (1973; 1975).

- (1) a. *this book(.) I never believed [_{NP}the claim [_Sthat you would buy t]]
 b. this book(.) I never [_vmade the claim] [_Sthat you would buy t]

The distinction in (1) is predicted as follows: in the derivation