

SPEECH ACTS IN GRAMMAR

ARGUMENTS FROM META-QUESTIONS

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Performative Hypothesis

Speech Acts can be syntactically represented

Ross (1970), Lakoff (1970), Gazdar (1979), Chomsky (2001), Krifka (2001), Miyagawa (2012, 2022), Trinh and Bassi (2023), Trinh (2024a)

Repetitive questions

(1) A: Are you married?

B: **Am I married?**

A: Yes. Are you?

B: No.

(2) [whether [A ASK [whether [B is married]]]]

Trinh (2024b)

Echo questions

(3) A: John talked to Mary.

B: **John talked to whom?**

A: Mary.

(4) [whom₁ [A ASSERT [John talked to *t₁*]]]

(to be revised)

Fox (2024)

Declarative questions

(5) A: I have to go pick up my sister.

B: **You have a sister?**

A: Yes.

(6) [whether [A ASSERT [A has a sister]]]

Gunlogson (2003), Safarova (2005), Trinh and Crnic (2011), Trinh (2024b)

Excursive questions

(7) A: Did John use the car?

B: **When?**

A: Yesterday.

B: No.

(8) [when₁ [A ASK [whether [John used the car *t₁*]]]]

(to be revised)

Embedding

Meta-meta questions are not possible

Trinh (2024b)

Proposal

(A) There is no overt wh-movement to the specifier of a performative head
(B) In-situ questions cannot be embedded

Boskovic (2000), Cheng and Rooryck (2000), Stepanov et al. (2001), Fox (2024)

Questioning a repetitive question

(9) A: Are you married to Andrea?
[Q₁ whether₁ C_[+wh] [t₁ B is married to Andrea]]
B: Am I married to Andreas?
[Q₂ f₂ whether₂ [A ASK Q₁^[Andrea → Andreas]]]
A: #Are you married to Andreas?
[Q₃ f₃ whether₃ [B ASK Q₂]]]

Trinh (2024b), Fox (2024)

Questioning an echo question

(10) A: I sent a letter to Andrea.
B: You sent what to Andreas?
[Q₁ f₁ [A ASSERT [John sent what₁ to Andreas]]]
A: #I sent what to who?
[Q₂ f₂ [B ASK Q₁^{f₁ [A ASSERT [A sent what₁ to whom₂]]]]]]}

Fox (2024)

Questioning a declarative question

(11) A: I had to file joint tax returns.
B: You're married?
[Q₁ f₁ whether₁ [A ASSERT [B is married]]]
A: #I'm married?
[Q₂ f₂ whether₁ [B ASK Q₁]]]

Gunlogson (2002, 2003), Trinh and Crnic (2011), Krifka (2017), Trinh (2024b)

Ellipsis

Ellipsis allows covert movement to become overt

Lasnik (1999)

Questioning an excursive question

(12) A: Did you use the car?
[A ASK [Q₁ whether₁ C_[+wh] [t₁ B used the car]]]
B: When?
[Q₂ when₂ [A ASK [Q₁ whether₁ C_[+wh] [t₁ B used ... t₂]]]]
A: When?
[Q₃ f₃ whether₃ [B ASK Q₂]]
B: Yeah. When?
A: Yesterday.
B: No. I did not use the car yesterday.

(13) A: Did you use the car?
B: Did I use the car when?
A: #Did you use the car when?
(14) A: Did John talk to the man who used the car?
B: #When?
(15) a. John ate, but I don't know what
b. #John met the man who ate, but I don't know what

Chung et al. (1995), Trinh and Bassi (2023), Fox (2024)

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