

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)

Embedding

Meta-meta questions are not possible

Trinh (2024b)

Ellipsis

Ellipsis allows covert movement to become overt

Lasnik (1999)

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)

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 an excursive question

- (12) A: Did you use the car?
[A ASK [*Q*₁ whether₁ C_[+wh] [*t*₁ B used the car]]]
B: When?
[*Q*₂ when₂ [A ASK [*Q*_{1'} whether₁ C_[+wh] [*t*₁ B used ... *t*₂]]]]
A: When?
[*Q*₃ *f*₃ whether₃ [B ASK *Q*₂]]
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)

Echo questions

- (3) A: John talked to Mary.
B: **John talked to whom?**
A: Mary.
- (4) [whom₁ [A ASSERT [John talked to *t*₁]]] (to be revised)

Fox (2024)

Questioning a repetitive question

- (9) A: Are you married to Andrea?
[*Q*₁ whether₁ C_[+wh] [*t*₁ B is married to Andrea]]
B: Am I married to Andreas?
[*Q*₂ *f*₂ whether₂ [A ASK *Q*₁^[Andrea → Andreas]]]
A: #Are you married to Andreas?
[*Q*₃ *f*₃ whether₃ [B ASK *Q*₂]]

Trinh (2024b), Fox (2024)

Questioning an echo question

- (10) A: I sent a letter to Andrea.
B: You sent what to Andreas?
[*Q*₁ *f*₁ [A ASSERT [John sent what₁ to Andreas]]]
A: #I sent what to who?
[*Q*₂ *f*₂ [B ASK [*Q*_{1'} *f*₁ [A ASSERT [A sent what₁ to whom₂]]]]]

Fox (2024)

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Excursive questions

- (7) A: Did John use the car?
B: **When?**
A: Yesterday.
B: No.
- (8) [when₁ [A ASK [whether [John used the car *t*₁]]]] (to be revised)

Schmitt (2021), Trinh and Bassi (2023)

Questioning a declarative question

- (11) A: I had to file joint tax returns.
B: You’re married?
[*Q*₁ *f*₁ whether₁ [A ASSERT [B is married]]]
A: #I’m married?
[*Q*₂ *f*₂ whether₁ [B ASK *Q*₁]]

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

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