

# LIN 311 Syntax Recitation

May 10, 2019  
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# Summary

- Long-Distance Wh-movement: Intermediate stops or not?
- Islands and Constraints:
  - The Coordinate Structure Constraint
  - The Complex NP Constraint
  - The Wh-Island Constraint
  - The Sentential Subject Constraint

# Long-distance *wh*-movement

*Why do you think that the President will tweet?*

a. One long move:

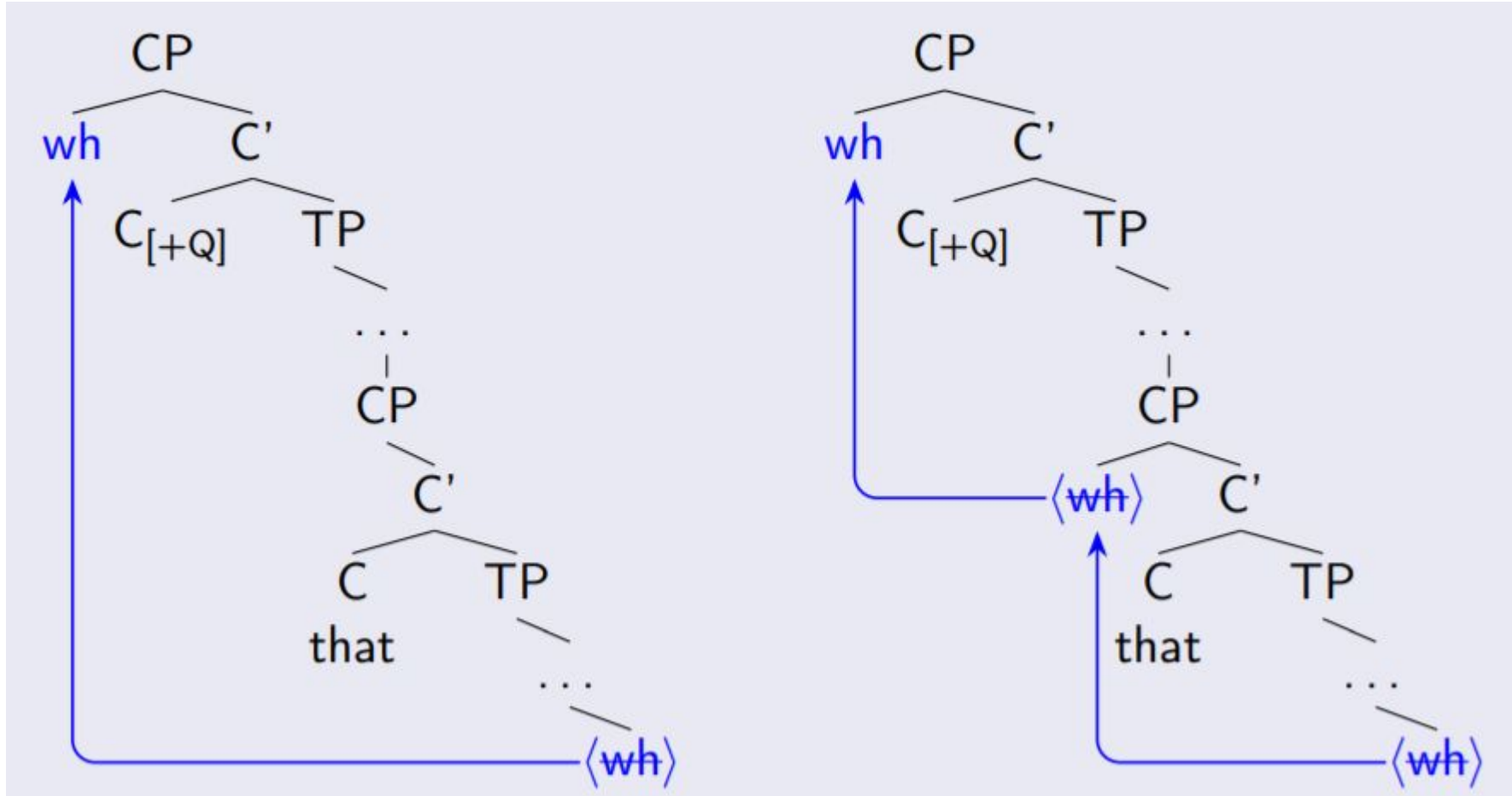
*wh* . . . think [CP that . . . *wh*].

b. Several short moves through intermediate Spec,CP positions:

*wh* . . . think [CP *wh* that . . . *wh*].

a. *Sally believed [ that Jill ate her ice-cream].*

b. ***Why did Sally believe [ that Jill ate her ice-cream]?***



*Why (1) is unambiguous?*

- (1) Why did Sally ask\_\_ [CP when Jill ate her ice-cream]?
- (2) \* Why did Sally ask [CP when Jill ate her ice-cream\_\_\_\_ ]?

# Islands

- (1) Cheryl made the claim that she read **the book**.
- (2) \*What did Cheryl make the claim that she read ?

The Complex NP Constraint

- (3) a. He will put a table between [some chair and some sofa].  
b. \*What will he put the chair between [some table and\_\_ ]?  
c. \*What will he put the chair between [\_\_ and some sofa]?

The Coordinate Structure Constraint

- (4) a. I asked [CP **why** John bought **this painting**].  
b. \*What did you ask [CP why John bought \_\_\_\_]?

The *Wh*-Island Constraint

- (5) a. I think [CP that John bought **this painting**].  
b. **What** did you think [CP that John bought \_\_\_\_]?



- (6) a. [That the principal would fire **some teacher**] was expected by the reporters.
- b. \***Who** was [that the principal would fire\_\_] expected by the reporters?

The Sentential Subject Constraint

# Quantifier stranding: VP internal subject hypothesis

- (1) The men have all drunk bubble tea.

# Questions?

## something special about English *wh*-questions

*why we don't insert do-support for subject wh-questions in English?*

(1) Mary ate fried chicken.

(2) Who ate fried chicken?

(3) \* Who **did** eat fried chicken?

# something special about English *wh*-questions

*Why we can not have wh-word adjacent to the over complementizer 'that'?*

(4) \*Who that John left?

(5) Who did John left?

(6) \*What did John say that \_\_\_\_ was baked?

(7) What did John say \_\_ was baked?