Chapter 12

Stripping in Hindi: Does clause size matter?

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Wurmbrand (2017) shows that *that*-less complements can embed the ellipsis construction known as stripping in English. In Hindi, it is possible to embed stripping even in the presence of the complementizer like element *ki*. We argue that the crucial difference between English and Hindi is the position in the structure the complementizer resides. The analysis of Hindi stripping also sheds light on negative stripping and alternative questions.

1 Introduction

Wurmbrand (2017) explores the elliptical operation known as stripping. In the original formulation of the stripping transformation, the structural condition for the transformation was specified as conjunction (see e.g., Hankamer 1979). This was done to ensure that ellipsis could not occur in embedded environments. As the sentences in (1) suggest, stripping is possible in conjoined structures, but not embedded under speech and attitude verbs (elided material appears in ~~strikeout~~).

(1)   a.   Jane loves to study rocks and geography ~~she likes to study t~~ too.

       b.   * Jane loves to study rocks and John says that geography ~~she loves to study t~~ too.

Following in this tradition, Merchant (2003) also specifies that stripping can only occur in coordinations by having the ellipsis licensing E-feature come with a *u*Conj feature that must be checked in an agree relation with a conjunction head. Wurmbrand notes that such theories cannot account for cases where stripping is

possible in embedded environments when there is no overt complementizer as shown in (2).

(2) Jane loves to study rocks and John says geography ~~she loves to study t~~ too.

Based on the distinction between sentences like (1b) and (2), Wurmbrand proposes the generalization in (3).

(3) *Embedded stripping generalization*
Embedded stripping is only possible when the embedded clause lacks a CP.

She goes on to propose a novel analysis of stripping that accounts for this generalization. Near the end of her paper, she considers languages where it is not clear that (3) holds. Consider the example in (4) from Hungarian (van Craenenbroeck & Lipták 2006, 2008, 2013). In (4), it appears that embedded stripping is possible even though the complementizer head *hogy* is present.

(4) János meghívott valakit   és   azt   jiszem hogy Bélát.
    János invited   someone.ACC and that.ACC think that Bélá.ACC
    'János invited someone and I think that it was Bela.'

One language not discussed by Wurmbrand is Hindi. In this paper we demonstrate that Hindi *ki* can also be present in embedded stripping, but does not conform to the generalization that languages that allow for a structure like (4) have *wh*-movement to the specifier of FocP. We instead put forth an analysis based on the respective height of the complementizer like elements. This analysis can provide a satisfactory answer to this puzzle and also has implications for the nature of Hindi complementation, the structure of negative stripping and also the derivation of alternative questions.

   The paper is outlined as follows, in Section 2, we explore the Hindi data and the distribution and nature of *ki* in Hindi. In Section 3, we present our analysis and some extensions to different elliptical constructions. In Section 4, we conclude.

2 Initial Hindi data

Like English, Hindi allows for stripping in coordinations with *lekin* 'but' and *aur* 'and'. This is demonstrated in (5) with *lekin*. In (5), the second conjunct has undergone stripping only leaving negation and *Mohan-ko* behind as the remnant.

(5) Sita-ne   Ram-ko   tohafaa diyaa,   lekin Mohan-ko   nahi.
Sita-ERG Ram-DAT gift   give.PRF but   Mohan-DAT NEG
'Sita gave Ram a gift, but not Mohan.'

Note that *Mohan-ko* must bear the dative case, if it appears in the unmarked absolutive as in (6), the example becomes ungrammatical. This follows from the ellipsis analysis of (5), as case connectivity is a hallmark characteristic of clausal ellipsis (Merchant 2001).

(6) * …lekin Mohan   nahi.
  …but   Mohan.ABS NEG
  '…but not Mohan.'

In addition to case-connectivity, Hindi stripping also conforms to the P-stranding generalization. Example (7) shows that Hindi postpositions cannot be stranded under movement and also obligatorily appear in the Hindi sluicing like construction.

(7) a. * Kis   aap ke   saath kaam kar-te   haiN.
       who 2PL GEN with work do-HAB AUX
       Intended: 'Who do you work with?'

    b. Sita khaana pakaa rahii hai,   par Ali-ko   nahiiN pa-taa
       Sita food   cook   PROG AUX.PRS, but Ali-DAT NEG   know-HAB.M
       kis-ke   liye/*kis/kuan.
       who-GEN for/*who.OBL/*who.NOM
       'Sita is cooking, but Ali doesn't know for whom.'
                                    (Gribanova & Manetta 2016: 643)

Just as in the sluicing like construction, stripping also obligatorily requires the postposition, as shown in (8).

(8) Ham-ne Ravi ke   liye khaanaa banaayaa,   aur Mohan ke   *(liye) bhii.
1PL-ERG Ravi GEN for food   make.PRF.3 and Mohan GEN *(for) also
'We made food for Ravi and, for Mohan too.'

Now let us turn to the stripping in embedded clauses. These judgments are less clear cut than others presented here. Gribanova & Manetta (2016) assign similar examples "?/*". It is unclear whether this indicates that there is inter speaker variation. The Hindi speakers consulted for this paper (including the second author)

allow for embedded striping, and as shown in (9), it is possible with or without the complementizer like element *ki*.[1]

(9) Sita-ne   daawaa kiyaa   ki Ram use bahar ghumaane le   jaa saktaa
    Sita-ERG claim   do.PRF KI Ram her out   visit.INF   take go can.IMPRF
    hai,   lekin vah nahii sochtii   (ki) Mohan bhii.
    be.PRES, but   she NEG   think.IMPRF (KI) Mohan also
    'Sita claimed that Ram would ask her out, but she didn't think Mohan too.

Kush (2016) also reports similar variation in such structures, which he refers to as single remnant gapping. For a subset of his consultants, the examples in (10) and (11) are acceptable.

(10)   Akhbaar-me   likhaa   thaa   ki Manu-ne   Sita-ko   dehk-aa,
       newspaper-in written aux.PAST.M.3SG C Manu-ERG Sita-OBJ see-PFV.M.SG
       lekin magazin-me likhaa   thaa   ki Rina-ko   ~~dekh-aa~~.
       but   magazine-in written aux.PAST.M.3SG C Rina-OBJ ~~see-PFV.M.SG~~
       'It was written in a newspaper that Manu saw Sita, but it was written a
       magazine that (Manu saw) Rita.'

(11)   Akhbaar-me   likhaa   thaa   ki Manu-ne   Sita-ko   dehk-aa,
       newspaper-in written aux.PAST.M.3SG C Manu-ERG Sita-OBJ see-PFV.M.SG
       lekin magazin-me likhaa   thaa   ki Rina-ne   ~~Sita-ko~~
       but   magazine-in written aux.PAST.M.3SG C Rina-ERG ~~Sita-obj~~
       ~~dekh-aa~~.
       ~~see-PFV.M.SG~~
       'It was written in a newspaper that Manu saw Sita, but it was written in a
       magazine that Rina (saw Sita).'   (Kush 2016: 70 & 71)

This variation also appears to tied to availability of embedded gapping. For all of Kush's consultants that found (10) and (11) acceptable, they also allowed for embedded gapping, as shown in (12) (see also Farudi 2013 for similar observations and for further discussion).

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[1]Bhattacharya & Simpson (2012) note that *ki* occurs in Hindi sluicing like constructions as well, as shown below.

(i) Raam-ne kuch ciiz   cori-kii-thii,   par muhje nahe maluum *(ki) kyaa.
    Raam   some thing stealing-DO-PST but I   NEG know   C   what
    'Ram is stealing something but I don't know what.' (Bhattacharya & Simpson 2012: 199)

Our informants also allow for *ki* to occur in sluicing like constructions, but like the stripping examples its presence is not obligatorily, but is slightly preferred.

(12) Manu-ne Sita-ko dekh-aa aur [Rina-ne soch-aa/
Manu-ERG Sita-OBJ see-PFV.M.SG and [Rina-ERG think-PFV.M.SG/
Rina-ko lag-aa] ki Tanu-ne Mira-ko ~~dekh-aa~~.
Rina-DAT strike-PFV.M] C Tanu-ERG Mira-OBJ ~~see-PFV.M.SG~~
'Manu saw Sita and Rina thought/ it seemed to Rina that Tanu saw Mira.'
(Kush 2016: 53)

This correlation is suggestive of analyses that treats gapping as a subspecies of stripping, but with multiple remnants (see Johnson 2018 for extensive discussion of the relation between the two constructions).[2]

While the interspeaker variation found in Hindi is interesting and deserves further attention, for our purposes, we will focus on the subset of Hindi speakers that do allow for embedded stripping and gapping. For such speakers, both embedded stripping and gapping are allowed in the presence of the complementizer like element *ki*.

Note again that we find the case connectivity effects that we saw in the more classic cases of stripping (13a), and as shown in (13b) we once again see obligatory postposition pied piping.

(13)   a. Sita-ne Ram-ko tohafaa diyaa aur mujhe lagtaa hai
Sita-ERG Ram-DAT gift give.PRF and 1SG.DAT feel be.PRES
Mohan-*(ko) bhii.
Mohan-*(DAT) also
'Sita gave Ram a gift and I think Mohan too.'

   b. Ham-ne Ravi ke liye khaanaa banaayaa aur mujhe lagtaa
1PL-ERG Ravi GEN for food make.PRF.3 and 1SG.DAT feel
hai Mohan ke liye bhii.
be.PRES Mohan GEN for also
'We made food for Ravi and I think for Mohan too.'

This once again suggests that clausal ellipsis is also at work in such examples.

We find another type of clausal ellipsis reminiscent of stripping sometimes referred to as alternate negation clauses in Sinha & Thakur (2005). As far as we know,

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[2]As Johnson notes, gapping examples, originally from Weir (2014), parallel to Wurmbrand's stripping examples are also acceptable, as shown below.

(i)   a. John ate oysters and I suspect Mary swordfish.
   b. John ate oysters and I imagine Mary swordfish. (Weir 2014: 333)

Just as in Wurmbrand's examples, the complementizer *that* must be absent in such examples.

this construction has received less attention in the generative literature. Interestingly for our purposes, the negative element that proceeds the remnant in such constructions is morphologically complex, consisting of a negative morpheme *naa* and *ki*, the complementizer like element.[3] Just as in the previous examples, case-matching is enforced, as shown in (14).[4]

(14) Ham-ne aap-ko   bulaayaa thaa   naaki un-*(ko).
     1PL-ERG 2SG-DOM called   be.PST NEG.KI 3PL-DOM
     'We called you, not them.'

As with the other examples, postposition omission is not allowed, as shown in (15).

(15) Ham-ne Ravi ke   liye khaanaa banaayaa   naaki Mohan ke   *(liye).
     1PL-ERG Ravi GEN for food   make.PRF.3 NEG.KI Mohan GEN *(for)
     'We made food for Ravi, not for Mohan.'

The above data also rule out the possibility that the ellipsis site contains a cleft or copula structure. In the examples below we see that continuations with a copula are ungrammatical.

(16) a. * Ham-ne Ravi ke   liye khanna banaayaa   thaa   aur mujhe   lagtaa
           1PL-ERG Ravi GEN for food   make.PRF.3 be.PST and 1SG.DAT feel
           hai   ki Mohan ke   liye bhii thaa.
           be.PRES KI Mohan GEN for also be.PST
           Intended: 'We made food for Ravi and I think for Mohan too.'
     b. * Ham-ne aap-ko   bulaayaa thaa   naaki un-ko   thaa.
           1PL-ERG 2SG-DOM call   be.PST NEG.KI 3PL-DOM be.PAST
           Intended: 'We called you, not them.'

So it appears that the complimentizer like element *ki* can occur in stripping like constructions in Hindi. Both in embedded environments (for some speakers) and in the alternate negation clauses.

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[3] *na(a)* is just one of the three negative morphemes found in Hindi (*mat* and *nahii* being the other two). It occurs with most non-indicative verb forms and also in *neither … nor* constructions. See Bhatia 1995 for extensive discussion of negation in Hindi.

[4] It has also been claimed that *kyuNki* 'because' can be decomposed in to *kyuuN* 'why' + *ki* and *jabki* 'whereas' can be decomposed into *jab* 'when' + *ki*.

2.1 Does Hindi have *wh* focus movement?

As we have shown Hindi does have a stripping like operation even in the presence of the complementizer like element *ki*. In this section, we consider whether Hindi conforms to the generalization that languages that allow for stripping with complementizers have obligatory focus driven *wh*-movement (van Craenenbroeck & Lipták 2013).

Hindi *wh*-questions have been extensively studied (see Dayal 2017 for a recent discussion), and it has been suggested that Hindi does have focus driven movement, but to the specifier of *v*P, not a position in the clausal periphery. This explains the fact that *wh*-elements occur immediately before the verb, as shown in (17).

(17) a. Anu-ne   kyaa khariidaa?
         Anu-ERG what bought
         'What did Anu buy?'

     b. Yeh kavitaa kis-ne   likhii?
        this poem   who-ERG wrote
        'Who wrote this poem?'

     c. Tum-ne paisaa kis-ko   diyaa?
        you-ERG money who-DAT gave
        'Who did you give money to?'

It is unclear whether such movement is obligatory, however. As we see in (18), the *wh*-elements can also remain in-situ without issue, and in some cases, sound more natural than their counterparts in (17).

(18) a. Kis-ne   yeh kavitaa likhii?
         who-ERG this poem   write
         'Who wrote this poem?'

     b. Tum-ne kis-ko   paisaa diyaa?
        you-ERG who-DAT money gave
        'Who did you give money to?'

So it is quite tenuous to claim that Hindi has obligatory focus movement. Even if we were to accept this claim, Hindi may still pose an issue for van Craenenbroeck & Lipták (2013) as the claim in that work is that the head that attracts the *wh*-element is the head the hosts the E-feature (i.e., the head whose complement undergoes ellipsis). Under this theory, we are lead to predict that Hindi

sluicing/stipping targets VP. Gribanova & Manetta (2016) show that this cannot be case, as the auxilary verb *ho*, typically thought to be a realization of a T head, is elided in sluicing.

(19) Ali koi   kitaab caah-taa   hai. Ham-eN nahiiN pa-taa   kaunsii
      Ali some book   want-HAB.M AUX. We-DAT NEG   know-HAB.M which.f
      ~~Ali caah-taa hai~~.
      Ali want-HAB.M AUX
      'Ali wants some book, but we don't know which.'   (Gribanova & Manetta
      2016: 643)

A similar test can be used to show the stripping also targets something larger than VP. Below the auxiliary *hai* is part of the elided material suggesting that ellipsis must be larger than VP.

(20) Ali kitaab caah-taa   hai aur muhje lagtaa hai ki kalam bhii.
      Ali book   want-HAB.M AUX and 1SG.DAT feel   AUX KI pen   also
      'Ali wants a book. I think (he wants) a pen too.'

2.2 What is *ki*?

The element *ki* is subject of debate in the literature. Some researchers have claimed that it is similar to a coordination marker, others have claimed that it is a complementizer similar to English *that*, we show that neither view fully captures the behavior of *ki*.

  Dwivedi (1994) suggests that *ki* is in fact a conjunction marker that has a selection restriction such that it may only conjoin two CPs. Since this proposal, there have been several arguments against it. Take negative sensitive items licensing as an example. As shown in (21), negation in the first conjunct of a true coordination cannot license a negative sensitive item in the second conjunct. Example (21a) involves negation in the first clause and the negative sensitive element in the second clause and the result is ungrammatical. If both the negation and negative sensitive element are within the same clause, then the sentence is grammatical, as seen in (21b).

(21) a. * MaiN-ne bahut logoN-ko   nahi bulaaya   thaa   lekin koii
           I-ERG   very people-DOM NEG invite-PRF be-PST but   someone
           bhi   aayaa.
           even come-PRF
           Intended: 'I did not invite many people, but nobody came.'

b. MaiN-ne bahut logoN-ko   bulaaya   thaa lekin koii   bhii
    I-ERG   very people-DOM invite-PRF be-PST but   someone even
    nahi aayaa.
    NEG come-PRF
    'I invited many people, but nobody came.'

If *ki*, conjoined two clauses, we would predict that negation in the first clause could not license a negative sensitive item in the second clause. This prediction is not correct as shown in (22). The negation in the first clause can license the use of the negative sensitive item in the second clause.

(22) Sarita-ne   nahii kahaa ki koii   bhii aayaa.
      Sarita-ERG NEG   say   KI someone even came
      'Sarita did not say that anyone came.'

The fact that negation can license the negative sensitive item in the second clause suggests that the second clause is subordinate to the first clause. This allows for the matrix negation to c-command/scope over the negative sensitive item and properly license it.

This suggests that the second clause introduced by *ki* is in fact embedded within the first clause suggesting it is complementizer like English *that*, but, as shown in (23), *ki* does not have the same selection restrictions as *that*. It can introduce both declarative (23a) and interrogative (23b) complement clauses.

(23) a. Us-ne   kahaa ki maiN sach boluNgaa.
          3SG.ERG said   KI 1SG   truth speak.FUT
          'He said that I speak the truth.'
      b. Sudha-ne   puchaa ki maiN kab   jaauNgii.
          Sudha-ERG asked   KI 1SG   when go-GO
          'Sudha asked whether I will leave.'

This suggests that Hindi *ki* does not correspond directly to English *that*. Following previous works, we suggest that *ki* is a general subordination marker and does not contribute information about clause type.

3 Towards an analysis: Height matters

In this section, we explore the idea that the variation in the height of heads in the left periphery affects their ability to coincide with ellipsis. We propose that *ki* resides higher in the clausal periphery than English *that* and this height difference explains the difference in behavior in stripping as well.

We have seen that *ki*, unlike English complementizers, appears agnostic to clause type. It shows up in both declarative and interrogative complements. This leads us to postulate that *ki* is in fact just a marker of subordination and does not encode clause type information (see Bhatt & Yoon 1991 for a similar proposal and also Davison 2003 who argues that *ki* resides high in a Force projection). This is supported by examples like (24). In (24) we see both *ki* and the polar question marker *kyaa* in the embedded clause. Note that the order of the two elements is fixed: *ki* must precede *kyaa*. The other order would result in the utterance becoming ungrammatical.

(24) a. Ram-ne   puchhaa ki kyaa Sita aayegii.
          Ram-ERG asked   KI what Sita come.FUT
          'Ram asked whether Sita will come.'

     b. * Ram-ne   puchhaa kyaa ki Sita aayegii.
           Ram-ERG asked   what KI Sita come.FUT
           'Ram asked whether Sita will come.'

This data suggests that *ki* occupies a higher position than the head that contributes clause type information. We will assume a expanded CP in line with Rizzi (1997). We suggest that *ki* simply marks subordination between two clauses and resides in a subordination phrase (SubP) and that the height of the complementizer that allows it to survive stripping. We assume the representation in Figure 1 for the embedded stripping cases. *Ki* heads the subordination phrase that is the topmost projection in the clause and takes a Focus projection as its complement. The remnant of stripping moves to the specifier of the Focus projection followed by ellipsis of the complement of FinP.[5]

This analysis correctly predicts that other materially such as markers of Force can occur in stripping in Hindi. In (25), *kyaa* marks the clause as interogative and can survive stripping.[6]

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[5] An anonymous reviewer asks what drives the movement of the remnant to the Focus position. We assume, following Hartman & Ai (2009), that focused phrases dominated by e-given phrases are given an interpreted focus feature, it is this feature that ensures that the remnant moves to the focus projection and avoids ellipsis.

[6] Hindi also has a construction similar to *why*-stripping where a focused constituent and *kyuN* ('why') survive ellipsis as shown below.

   (i) Ram-ne   roTii khaaii, lekin mujhe   nahii maaluum roTii hii   kyuN.
        Ram-ERG bread eat.PST but 1SG.DAT not   know   bread EMP why
        'Ram ate bread, but I don't know why only bread.'

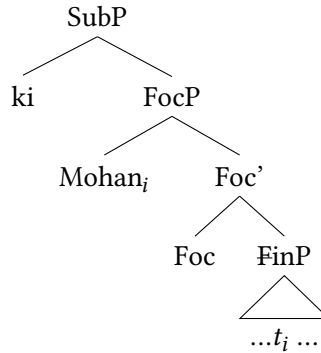We leave further investigation of this construction as a matter of future research.

Figure 1: Clause structure for Hindi stripping

(25) Sitaa-ne Ravi ke liye khaanaa banaayaa lekin mai jaanaa chaahataa
Sita-ERG Ravi GEN for food make.PRF.3 but I to.know want
huN ki kyaa Mohan ke liye bhii.
be.PRES KI what Mohan GEN for also
'Sita made food for Ravi but I want to know whether (she made food) for
Mohan also.'

So our analysis of Hindi stripping allows for heads higher in the left periphery
to survive ellipsis. Interestingly, the idea that height of the complementizer like
element plays a role in its ability to survive stripping has recently been proposed
by Yoshida & Myers (2018). They are analyzing stripping like constructions under
if in English, as shown in (26).

(26) John likes to drink whiskey. If scotch, I will pour him an Islay. (Yoshida &
Myers 2018: 1)

Note that like stipping in coordinations the remnant can occur with negation as
shown in (27).

(27) John likes to drink scotch, if not scotch, then bourbon.

Yoshida & Myers (2018) argue that if *if* is a type of complementizer, then such
examples may also constitute a counterexample to the embedded stripping gen-
eralization. They argue that *if* is a Force head that sits atop the focus projection
that hosts the remnant of stripping in its specifier. Since it resides high in the
clause, it is able to appear in stripping parallel to our treatment of *ki* in Hindi.
English *that* on the other hand is low in the structure in Fin (e.g., Baltin 2010)
and cannot survive ellipsis.

3.1 Stripping with negation

Let us now turn to stripping like constructions that involve negation. These included stipping in a coordination (28) but also the alternate negation clause (29).

(28) Sita-ne   Ram-ko   tohafaa diyaa,   lekin Mohan-ko   nahi.
      Sita-ERG Ram-DAT gift   give.PRF but   Mohan-DAT NEG
      'Sita gave Ram a gift, but not Mohan.'

(29) Ham-ne aap-ko   bulaayaa thaa   naaki   un-*(ko).
      1PL-ERG 2SG-DOM called   be.PST NEG.ki 3PL-DOM
      'We called you, not them.'

In the literature on negative stripping, there has been two proposals about the structure of negation (Merchant 2003, Wurmbrand 2017, den Dikken & Griffiths 2018). Under one view, it is argued that negation in negative stripping is the result of a high sentential negation Figure 2. The other view argues instead that such structures involve constituent negation Figure 3.
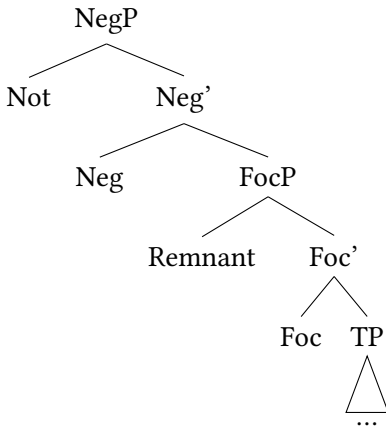
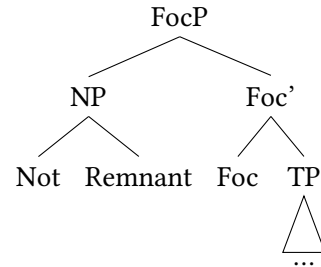Figure 2: High sentential negation analysis of negative stripping

Figure 3: Constituent negation analysis of negative stripping

The Hindi data, especially the alternate-negation, seem to favor the sentential approach, as it appears that negation does not form a constituent with the remnant, but rather forms a morphological word with the subordination marker *ki*. To account for this structure we assume that high sentential negation takes the subordination phrase as it complement, the remnant moves to the focus projection followed by FinP ellipsis. *ki* undergoes head movement to the negation head.

At PF, negation in the specifier of NegP and *ki* form a word via m-merger. The syntax we assume is shown in Figure 4.[7]
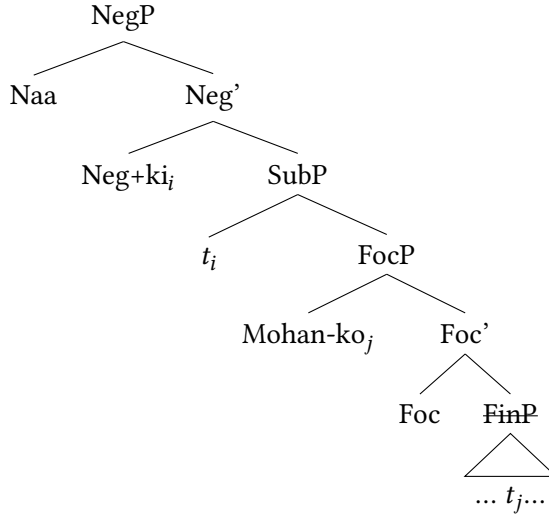

Figure 4: Structure of alternate-negation stripping in Hindi

By treating *ki* as a high subordination marker, we can account for its appearance in stripping like constructions in Hindi. We argued that height of the complementizer mattered for its ability to appear in stripping, both with and without negation. This approach mirrors a similar proposal of *if*-stripping in English made by Yoshida & Myers (2018).

3.2 Extension to alternative questions

We have argued that *ki* is a subordinator. A potential issue for this analysis is that *ki* can behave as a disjunction marker as shown in (30).

(30) (Kyaa) tum-ne Ravi ke   liye khaanaa banaayaa   yaa/ki Mohan ke
      (what) 2PL-ERG Ravi GEN for food   make.PRF.3 or/KI Mohan GEN
      liye?
      for
      'Did you make food for Ravi or for Mohan?'

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[7]It is important to note that headedness is not harmonic in Hindi with some heads following their complements and some heads proceeding them. We present the left periphery as uniformly head initial, but this is an idealization as we can be seen from comparison of (28) and (29), what appears to be the negation head can either proceed or follow the remnant. We leave an analysis of the word order variation for future research.

For many Hindi speakers, it is also possible that *yaa* and *ki* co-occur, again making a morphologically complex word *yaaki* in such examples. This may appear on the surface to be an issue for our analysis as it appears that *ki* in (30) can take a PP as a complement instead of a clause level projection. There is reason to believe that such examples actually also involve a clausal complement, but with another ellipsis operation. First note that such questions in English are ambiguous between a polar reading which requires a Yes/No answer and alternative reading which is answered with one of the two PPs.

(31) Did you make food for Ravi or for Mohan?
    a. Yes/No (*Polar*)
    b. For Ravi/For Mohan (*Alternate*)

The examples with *ki* in Hindi, however, only allow for the alternative reading. This is important, as it has been argued that the alternative reading involves clausal ellipsis (Han & Romero 2004, Gračanin-Yuksek 2016, Podobryaev 2017). Additional evidence for an ellipsis analysis comes from P-omission. Podobryaev (2017) shows that in alternative questions in Russian, the second disjunct can only omit a preposition if that preposition can be stranded under movement, i.e., it conforms to the p-stranding generalization (Merchant 2001). In light of this, compare the examples in (32). In the English example (32a), it is possible to omit the preposition in the second disjunct, as it is possible to strand prepositions in English. In the Hindi example in (32b) omission of the postpostion in second disjunct leads to ungrammaticality. This follows from the ellipsis analysis as we have already seen that Hindi does not tolerate postposition stranding under movement or P-omission under sluicing.

(32) a. Did you make food for Ravi or Mohan?
    b. *Kyaa tum-ne Ravi ke   liye khaanaa banaayaa   ki Mohan ke?
        what 2PL-ERG Ravi GEN for food   make.PRF.3 KI Mohan GEN
        'Did you make food for Ravi or for Mohan?'

We assume the structure below in Figure 5 for the second disjunct in alternative questions. Once again, *ki* will act as a subordination marker, there is movement of the remnant to a focus projection followed by clausal ellipsis. This analysis hence allows us to keep a uniform syntax for *ki* (i.e., it always takes a clause complement) and also accounts for the lack of P-omission in Hindi.
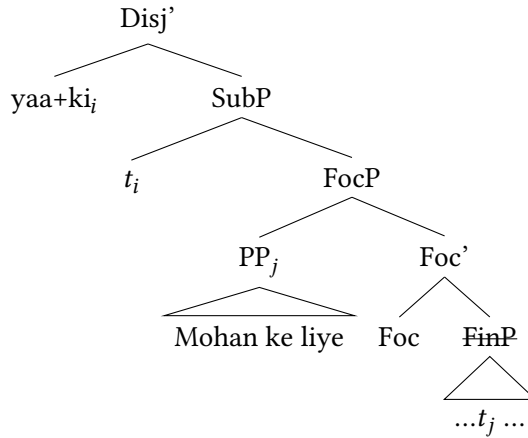
Figure 5: Ellipsis analysis of alternative questions with *ki*

4 Conclusion

By discovering that stripping can occur in embedded environments in English as long as there was no complementizer, Wurmbrand (2017) argued that clause size mattered for the availability of stripping. In this paper we attempted to show that height in the clause also mattered for the availability of certain complementizer-like heads to survive ellipsis.

Acknowledgements

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