Against Partial Wh-Movement in Russian

Natasha Korotkova alterainu@gmail.com

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ROADMAP

- ► Russian has a construction consisting of two clauses: *kak*-clause with the fronted *wh*-adverbial *kak* 'how' and *wh*-clause with a fronted *wh*-phrase
- kak vɨ ʃita-it/i, paʧimu l/ud/-i ed/-at m/as-a? how you(pl).Nom consider-2sg.pres why people-pl.nom eat-3pl.pres meat-sg.acc lit. How you consider why people eat meat?; 'Why do you think people eat meat?'
 - seems to be an equivalent of long extraction (NB: wh-fronting in Russian is obligatory)
- (2) patfimu vɨ ʃ^jita-it^ji l^jud^j-i ed^j-at m^jas-a? why you(pl).noм consider-2sg.pres people-pl.noм eat-3pl.pres meat-sg.acc 'Why do you think people eat meat?'
- was analyzed as Partial Wh-Movement by Stepanov (2000), Fanselow (2006)

My Proposal

- ► Russian has no partial movement.
- Russian does not fit well into the typology of Partial Movement and shows unexpected restrictions such as lexical idiosyncrasies, lack of fixed linear order and non-embeddability
- ► the construction in question is a full-fledged parenthetical
- its properties such as absence of fixed linear order, non-embeddability and comma intonation follow naturally from this assumption
 - syntactically, this parenthetical is adjoined at the root level
 - semantically, it is a conventional implicature (à la Potts 2002, 2005)

Partial Movements

Partial Movement: cover term for a range of superficially and arguably structurally similar phenomena in Bahasa Indonesian, Hindi, Hugarian, German, Malay, Romani inter alia (Lutz et al 2000)

DIRECT DEPENDENCY (McDaniel (1989) and others for German): PM and long movement are structural variants, wh-phrase stopped on its way in the specifier of its own clause, scope in the higher clause marked by a wh-expletive, semantically empty wh-phrase

INDIRECT DEPENDENCY (Dayal (1994) for Hindi): PM and long movement are not structural variants, both clauses are regular questions, *wh*–expletive is associated with the embedded CP via coindexation and functions as a quantifier over propositions with interpretation restricted by the *wh*–clause

A Brief Taxonomy of PM Constructions Across Languages

	Hindi	Hungarian	German	Russiar
any wh-phrase	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark
locality	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark
ungrammaticality across negation	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark
scope marking over yes/no-questions	\checkmark	no	no	\checkmark
binding relations between clauses	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	NO
island effects different from long mymt	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	NO
further embedding	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	NO
any clause-embedding predicate	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	NO
(that does not require wh-complement)				1

Where Russian is Similar

- has no restrictions w.r.t. the choice of a *wh*-phrase
- obeys locality and maintains adjacency of the scope marker and *wh*-phrase in structures with three clauses
- does not allow for scope marking across negation
- allows for scope marking across yes/no-questions (like Hindi):
- (3) v^jert^jitsa l^ji z^jiml^j-a? // z^jiml^j-a v^jert^jitsa? turn-3sg.pres Q earth-Nom.sg // earth-Nom.sg turn-3sg.pres 'ls the Earth turning?'
- (4) kak t^jib^je kazitsa, v^jert^jitsa l^ji z^jiml^j-a? // z^jiml^j-a v^jert^jitsa? how you.DAT seem.3SG.PRES turn-3SG.PRES Q earth-NOM.SG // earth-NOM.SG turn-3SG.PRES 'What does it seem to you, is the Earth turning?'

WHERE RUSSIAN IS DIFFERENT

PM languages are not uniform and one-theory-fits-all approach often fails (Beck & Berman 2000). Is it so surprising then that Russian does not always display many commonalities with them?

- no binding relations between the two clauses
- no further embedding, though embeddability is a core property of PM:
- (5) mam-a spraſiva-it, kak vam kaʒɨtsa, kavo najm-ut. mom-NoM.SG ask-3SG.PRES how you(pl).DAT seem.3SG.PRES who.ACC hire-3PL.FUT Intended: 'Mom is asking who it seems to you will be hired.'; OK as a quotative only
- any linear position with respect to the wh-clause:
- (6) kak tɨ ʃ^jita-iʃ, kavo an-a l^jub^j-it? how you.nom consider-2SG.PRES who.Acc she-nom love-3SG.PRES 'Whom do you think that she loves?'
- (7) kavo, kak tɨ ʃ^jitaiʃ, ana l^jub^jit?
- (8) kavo ana, kak $t_i \int^j itai \int_i^j ub^j it$?
- (9) kavo ana l^jub^jit, kak tɨ ʃ^jitaiʃ?
- highly restricted in terms of predicates and is possible with four predicates kazatsa 'seem', dumat 'think', palagat 'assume', fitat 'consider' (a very small subset of bridge verbs);
- (10) kto ti v^jer^j-if pal^jit^je-l na mars? who.nom you.nom believe-2sg.pres fly-m.sg.pst to Mars-acc 'Who do you believe flew to Mars?'
- (11) *kak ti v^jer^j-iſ, kto pal^jit^je-l na mars? how you.nom believe-2sg.pres who.nom fly-m.sg.pst to Mars-acc
- strong preference towards present tense in kak-clause
- ban on first person subjects, lesser frequency of third person subjects in the *kak*-clause-clause and even lesser preference towards quantified phrases as subjects
- tendency to have nothing besides *kak*, subject and predicate in the *kak*-clause; restriction sensitive to phonology with short adverbials allowed

INTEGRATED PARENTHETICALS

- ► Reis (2000): German, besides genuine PM, has an Integrated Parenthetical characterized by:
 - subordinate status of the clause with the hypothetical wh-expletive
 - this clause occupies any linear position w.r.t. the wh-clause
 - ullet the wh-clause may contain no wh-phrase being a yes/no-question
 - possible iteration
 - ban on main clause material such as modal particles
 - lack of prosodic autonomy
- ► Russian shares the linear order property and scope marking over a yes/no-question
- ▶ van Gelderen (2001): Russian construction is an IP
- ► actually, the construction differs from German in several crucial points:
 - no iteration allowed
- (12) *kak t^jib^je kazitsa, kak tɨ duma-iʃ, v^jert^jitsa li z^jiml^j-a? how you.DAT seem.3SG.PRES how you.NOM think-2SG.PRES earth-NOM.SG Q turn-3SG.PRES Lit. What do you think, what does it seem to you, is the Earth turning?
 - main clause material allowed, such as short modal particles (similar to German *ja* and *doch*)
- (13) tak kak $_{3}e$ v_{i} palagai- t_{i} e, kto ja takoj, durak il t_{i} i ptcl how ptcl you(pl).Nom assume-2PL.PRES who.Nom l.Nom such.m.nom.sg fool.Nom.sg or n_{i} igod t_{i} aj?
 - villain.Noм.sg
 - 'So finally who do you assume I am, a fool or a villain?'
- prosodic autonomy: a clear-cut comma intonation and surrounded by commas when written
- ► PM landscape of Russian is different from that of German and demands a new analysis.

Proposal

- ▶ I propose to treat PM-like thing in Russian as a full-fledged parenthetical to be analyzed as a conventional implicature in the spirit of (Potts 2002, 2005).
 - this parenthetical is a supplement that requires multi-dimensional semantics
 - meaning inside the parenthetical clause is interpreted via standard rules
- and then shifted to the CI dimension by Comma operator that takes an argument of at-issue type and returns a CI type
- semantics of questions with a *kak*-parenthetical consists of an at-issue question and of a conventional implicature 'The speaker wants to know hearer's opinion about that question'

► APPARENT PM PROPERTIES SOLVED

- badness with negation is not intrinsic to PM: parentheticals also avoid it
- Locality is among crucial empirical predictions made by **any** PM approach. There are two options to maintain adjacency of the *wh*-phrase and the scope marker in structures with three clauses: repeat the scope marker in the intermediate clause or move the *wh*-phrase further. Russian seems to obey locality ruling out non-adjacency and choosing to move the *wh*-phrase to the second clause:
- (14) *[kak t/ib/e kaʒɨtsa, [Pet/a duma-it, [ʃto ja kupl/-u]]]? how you.dat seem.3sg.pres Peter.nom think-3sg.pres what.acc l.nom buy.1sg.fut lit. '[How it seems to you [Peter thinks [what I will buy]]]?'
- (15) [kak t^jib^je ka₃itsa, [sto Pet^ja duma-it, [ja kupl^j-u]]]? lit. '[How it seems to you [what Peter thinks [I will buy]]]?' Intended in both cases: 'What does it seem to you that Peter thinks I will buy?'

Parenthetical approach does not exclude this configuration and predicts that a *kak*-clause attaches to the sentence with long movement yielding the meaning: 'What, according to your opinion, Peter thinks that I will buy?' This is why, unlike other languages, island effects are exactly the same for long movement and 'partial' movement.

► TROUBLESOME PROPERTIES SOLVED

- more likely to have lexical idiosyncrasies with parentheticals rather than with productive PM
- "relaxed" linear order w.r.t. the host clause is typical for parentheticals
- Cls are scopeless and belong to root phenomena hence are non-embeddable
- impossibility of binding relations, typical for CIs, shows general non-integrated-ness
- comma intonation is the most reliable way to identify parentheticals (plus other CIs such as appositives and expressives). English CI and non–CI *As*–parentheticals are distinguished on the base of intonation and it is the comma operator that turns the clause into a CI

► EXTRA EMPIRICAL SUPPORT

- 'how' is a non-standard wh-expletive as most languages use 'what'
- in Russian, kak is the most common way to introduce parentheticals (similar to English as):
- (16) puʃk^jin, kak izv^jesn–a, rost–am bɨl n^jiv^jil^jik Pushkin.noм how known–noм.sg height–ıns be.зsg.рsт small.м.sg 'Pushkin, as it is known, was of small height.' (Daniil Kharms)
- normally possible with 2nd person subjects (*you, fool*), apositives are not allowed in the *kak*-clause, which follows naturally from the fact that CIs are not stacked on top of each other

Puzzle

Outside of interrogatives *kak*-parentheticals are not limited with respect to particular predicates, subject, tense, or length. It seems that in questions CI-content should be "bleached", adding little to the very semantics of question so that the two dimensions, at-issue and CI, remain coherent and parallel.

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