

P-stranding

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Introduction

Languages vary when extracting determiner phrases (DPs) from prepositional phrases (PPs) (Law 2006; Salles 1995). In English, such an extraction is possible and it is referred to as *preposition stranding* (or p-stranding). Consider the following example :

- (1) Chad doesn't know [DP what friend]_i Kevin is travelling [PP with _{ti}]

In (1), the DP *what friend* has been extracted from the PP *with*.

In English it is also possible to move the DP along with the PP, and this is referred to as *pied-piping*. Consider the following example:

- (2) I don't know [PP from [DP what store]]_i she got it _{ti}.

In (2), the entire PP, along with the DP, was moved.

Spanish, on the other hand, traditionally does not allow for p-stranding—only pied-piping is permissible. Consider the following examples:

- (3) Fernando no sabe [PP con [DP qué amiga]]_i Sergio está viajando _{ti}.
(4) */? Fernando no sabe [DP qué amiga]_i Sergio está viajando [PP con _{ti}].

In (3), the entire PP has been pied-piped, resulting in an acceptable sentence. In (4), the preposition has been stranded, resulting in an unacceptable sentence.

This asymmetry between Spanish and English creates a potential conflict when both languages are used in the same utterance, otherwise known as *code-switching* (CS). There are several questions that arise with this conflict:

- What is the availability of p-stranding and pied-piping in intresential code-switching?
- Is it possible to extract a Spanish DP out of an English DP? or vice versa?
- If so, is it the language of the determiner or the preposition that motivates p-stranding?

References

- Law, Paul. 2006. "Preposition Stranding." In *The Blackwell Companion to Syntax*, 631–84. John Wiley & Sons, Ltd. <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1002/9780470996591.ch51>.
Salles, Heloisa Moreira-Lima. 1995. "Preposition Pied-Piping and Preposition Stranding: A Minimalist Approach." *Research Papers in Linguistics* 6: 97–123.