

“Wh Mvmnt” Constructions, p. 1

In each of these, the underlined element functions both as a discourse-prominent element (“focus” or “topic”) in the bracketed clause and as the object of the verb *put*.

Direct Questions

[Which book does the student think that the teacher said that the librarian put on the shelf?]

Indirect Questions

I wonder [which book the student thinks that the teacher said that the librarian put on the shelf]

Exclamatives

[What a book the student thinks that the teacher said that the librarian put on the shelf]!

Wh relative clauses

the book [which the student thinks that the teacher said that the librarian put on the shelf]

Non-restrictive relative clauses

this book, [which the student thinks that the teacher said that the librarian put on the shelf]

Pseudoclefts

[What the student thinks that the teacher said that the librarian put on the shelf] is the book

Topicalization

[This book, the student thinks that the teacher said that the librarian put on the shelf].

In the following constructions, the element that has these two functions does not appear explicitly

Non-wh relative clauses

the book [(that) the student thinks that the teacher said that the librarian put on the shelf]
(the bifunctional element: a relative pronoun referring to *the book*)

Clefts

It is the book [(that) the student thinks that the teacher said that the librarian put on the shelf]
(the bifunctional element: a relative pronoun referring to *the book*)

Comparatives

I read more books [than the student thinks that the teacher said that the librarian put on the shelf]
(the bifunctional element: a proform referring to *x book*)

“Tough Movement”

This book is easy [to think that the teacher said that the librarian put on the shelf].
(the bifunctional element: an element coreferential with *the book*)

“Wh Mvmnt” Constructions, p. 2

These constructions have been given various names in the literature, none of them entirely satisfactory.

- *wh* movement/dependencies/constructions
While many of these constructions involve *wh* elements, not all do.
- \bar{A} movement/dependencies
 \bar{A} here means “non-argument”, since the function of discourse-prominence is not argument-related. But, of course, there are many other constructions involving non-argument elements.
- unbounded movements/deletions/dependencies (UDCs)
“Unbounded” is supposed to express the non-local relation between the two functions. Again, being unbounded is not limited to these constructions. There is also theoretical disagreement over whether the constructions are really unbounded or simply appear to be.
- long distance movements/deletions/dependencies (LDDs)
Similar to “unbounded,” and the same objections apply. Also, not all instances are actually long-distance.
- syntactic binding
This name, which was used for a while in the 1980s, carries the implication that these constructions are similar to anaphoric binding, but more strictly governed by syntactic principles. This is a dubious assumption.
- movement/extraction
Not a name for the class of constructions, but rather for a particular kind of analysis of these constructions proposed in transformational/derivational theories, in which the multifunctional item is moved (or extracted) from one position to another. (On the other hand, the term “extraction” is inexplicably used by researchers in non-movement theoretical frameworks.)
- deletion
Not a name for the class of constructions, but rather for a particular kind of analysis of these constructions proposed in earlier transformational/derivational theories, and now abandoned, in which an item is deleted.
- SLASH constructions
Not a name for the class of constructions, but rather for a particular kind of analysis of these constructions proposed in phrase structure grammar (GPSG/HPSG) in which a feature named SLASH carries information about the multifunctional element.
- constituent control
Not a name for the class of constructions, but rather for a particular kind of analysis of these constructions proposed in early Lexical-Functional Grammar (LFG).