

I. Introduction

(1) Why-stripping in English

John ate natto but I wonder *why* NATTO (but not something else).
(Yoshida, et al. 2013)

(2) Why-stripping in Persian

Ayda chips khord, vali ne-midoon-am *cherā* CHIPS
Ayda chips ate.3SG, but NEG-know-1SG *why* chips
'Ayda ate chips but I don't know why chips (but not something else).'

- In why-stripping, we have the *wh*-phrase *why* and a non-*wh*-phrase (e.g. *natto*, *chips*), which carries a contrastive focus interpretation (represented in CAPS)
- Why-stripping looks similar to 'why'-sluicing, in which there is only a *wh*-phrase remnant 'why'

(3) Sluicing in English

John insulted Jack, but I don't know *why*.

(4) Sluicing in Persian

Ayda chips khord, vali ne-midoon-am *cherā*
Ayda chips ate.3SG but NEG-know-1SG *why*
'Ayda ate chips but I don't know why.'

Questions:

- Does 'why' in these structures have the same/different properties?
- What is the syntax of why-stripping?

II. Their Main Differences

First difference:

- Why-stripping** is limited to *why* (2) and is incompatible with other *wh*-phrases (5).

(5) a.*Ayda be Araz ketāb dād vali ne-midoon-am **kojā** AYDA
Ayda to Araz book gave.3SG but NEG-know-1SG where Ayda

b.*Ayda dirooz be Araz ketāb dād vali ne-midoon-am **key** AYDA
Ayda yesterday to Araz book gave.3SG but NEG-know-1SG when Ayda

- Sluicing** is compatible with other *wh*-phrases (6).

(6) a. Ayda be Araz ketāb dād vali ne-midoon-am **kojā**
Ayda to Araz book gave.3SG but NEG-know-1SG where
'Ayda gave a book to Araz but I don't know where.'

b. Ayda be Araz ketāb dād vali ne-midoon-am **key**
Ayda to Araz book gave.3SG but NEG-know-1SG when
'Ayda gave a book to Araz but I don't know when.'

Second difference:

Why-stripping allows a **focalized element** while sluicing does not.

III. Diagnostics for Ellipsis

Case-matching effect:

- If a DP/interrogative phrase in a non-elliptical structure carries a case marking, it should also have the same case marking in its corresponding elliptical structure (Merchant 2001).
- When a DP with *-ro* marker undergoes movement, it must have the same case-marking (7).

(7) [Araz*(-ro)]_i Ayda t_i be mehmooni davat kard?
Araz-ACC Ayda to party invitation did.3SG
'Did Ayda invite Araz to the party?'

(8) Case-matching effect in why-stripping

Ayda Araz-ro be mehmooni davat kard vali ne-midoon-am **cherā** [ARAZ*(-ro)]_i
Ayda Araz-ACC to party invitation did.3SG but NEG-know-1SG *why* Araz-ACC
'Ayda invited Araz to the party but I don't know why Araz (but not someone else).'

(9) Case-matching effect in sluicing

Mahin ye nafar-i-ro davat karde vali be Sohrab ne-mige **ki*(-ro)**
Mahin one person-IND-ACC invitation did.3SG but to Sohrab NEG-say.3SG who-ACC
'Mahin invited someone, but she won't tell Sohrab who.'
(Toosarvandani 2008: 690)

Preposition-stranding:

- If a language does not allow preposition stranding, when the correlate in an elliptical structure is a PP, the preposition must be piedpiped. On the other hand, if a language allows preposition stranding, a DP remnant can have a PP correlate (Merchant 2001).
- In Persian, preposition must always be piedpiped (10a), and stranding preposition yields an ungrammatical sentence (10b).

(10) a. **cherā** [be Araz]_i Ayda t_i chips dād? b.*cherā Araz_i Ayda [be t_i] chips dād?
why to Araz Ayda chips gave.3SG *why* Araz Ayda to chips gave.3SG
'Why did Ayda give chips to Araz?'

(11) Preposition piedpiping in why-stripping

Ayda be Araz chips dād vali ne-midoon-am **cherā** *(BE) **ARAZ**
Ayda to Araz chips gave.3SG but NEG-know-1SG *why* to Araz
'Ayda gave chips to Araz but I don't know why to Araz (but not to someone else).'

(12) Preposition piedpiping in sluicing

Ali bā kesi harf mizad, ammā ne-midoon-am *(bā) **ki**
Ali with someone speech hit.3SG but NEG-know-1SG with who
'Ali was speaking with someone, but I don't know who.'
(Merchant 2001: 96)

IV. Sources of Why

Why in interrogatives has a scope ambiguity with the quantifier in the subject position (13a); however, *how come* does not (13b), (Collins 1991).

(13) a. Why does everyone hate John? (why>every, every>why)
b. How come everyone hates John? (how come>every, *every>how come)

- why* in (13a) has a trace below *every* while *how come* in (13b) doesn't. This means that *how come*, but not *why*, is base-generated and doesn't arrive at its surface position via movement. We find the same pattern in Persian sluicing (14) and why-stripping (15).

(14) Sluicing (why>every, every>why)
hame az Ali badeshoon miyād vali ne-midoon-am **cherā**
everyone from Ali dislike come.3SG but NEG-know-1SG *why*
'Everyone hates Ali but I don't know why.'

- There is one reason for the whole group of people that hate Ali.
- For each person x, there is a reason that x hates Ali.

(15) Why-stripping (why>every, *every>why)
hame az Ali badeshoon miyād vali ne-midoon-am **cherā** az ALI
everyone from Ali dislike come.3SG but NEG-know-1SG *why* from Ali
'Everyone hates Ali but I don't know why ALI (but not someone else).'

- Sluicing (14) allows pair-list interpretation while why-stripping (15) does not.

V. Analysis

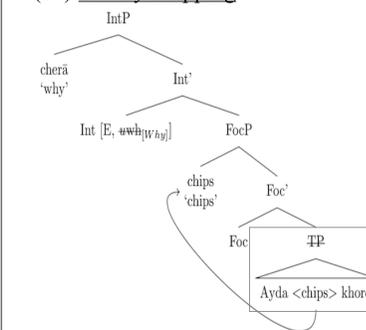
(16) Characteristics of why-stripping and sluicing

	Allows a focalized element	Requires case-matching	Allows preposition stranding	Allows pair-list interpretation	Why is base-generated
Why-stripping	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes
Sluicing	No	Yes	No	Yes	No

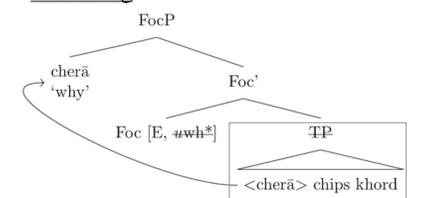
Claims and proposals

- Why* in sluicing and why-stripping has different properties.
- Why* in why-stripping functions as 'how come'.
- Adopting Rizzi (2001), I propose that in why-stripping, *why* is base-generated in Int(errogative)P, in the CP level (17a).
- Why* in sluicing functions as a regular *wh*-phrase in *wh*-questions and is moved to the CP domain (17b), as proposed in Toosarvandani (2008).

(17) a. Why-stripping



b. Sluicing



VI. Cross Linguistic Implications

- In English and Romance languages: the non-*wh*-phrase remnant in why-stripping moves to the Spec of FocP while *why* is base-generated in ForceP or IntP (Nakao et al. 2012, Ortega-Santos et al. 2014, Yoshida et al. 2015).

- I propose that *why* in Persian why-stripping is base-generated in Int(errogative)P because we can have an overt complementizer *ke* 'that' preceding *why* (18).

(18) Ayda chips khord vali ne-midoon-am [FocP **ke** [IntP cherā [FocP Ayda chips ate.3SG but NEG-know-1SG that why CHIPS_i [TP t_i-khord]]]]
chips ate.3SG
'Ayda ate chips but I don't know why chips (but not something else).'

- This is not possible in Romance languages and English (19), which indicates that *why* can't be base-generated in IntP but rather it has to be in ForceP (20).

(19) John ate chips, but I wonder (*that) why chips.

(20) John ate chips, but I wonder [FocP *why* [FocP chips_i [TP John ate t_i]]]

Predictions:

- In languages (e.g. English) that it is not possible to have a complementizer with an embedded *wh*-phrase, *why* is base-generated in ForceP.
- In language (e.g. Persian) that it is possible to have a complementizer with an embedded *wh*-phrase, *why* is base-generated in IntP.

References

Collins (1991). Why and how come. *MITWPL* 15. Merchant (2001). *The syntax of silence*, Oxford University Press. Nakao, Yoshida, Ortega-Santos (2012). On the syntax of why-stripping. *Proceedings of the 30th WCCFL*. Ortega-Santos, Yoshida, Nakao (2014). On ellipsis structures involving a *wh*-remnant and a non-*wh*-remnant simultaneously. *Lingua* 138, 55-85. Rizzi (2001). On the position Int(errogative) in the left periphery of the clause. *Current studies in Italian syntax: Essays offered to Lorenzo Renzi*, 287-296. Toosarvandani (2008). Wh-movement and the syntax of sluicing. *Journal of Linguistics* 44, 677-722. Yoshida, Nakao, Ortega-Santos (2015). The syntax of why-stripping. *NLLT* 33, 323-370.