

Analyzing Across-the-Board Wh-movement in Sanandaji Kurdish: A Parallel Merge Approach

Shahla Seifouri

PhD student in General Linguistics, Sanandaj Branch, Islamic Azad University, Sanandaj, Iran.

Yadgar Karimi¹

Associate Professor, Department of English Language and Literature and Linguistics, University of Kurdistan and Department of Kurdish Literature, and Linguistics, Kurdistan Studies Institute

Shahram Saeidi

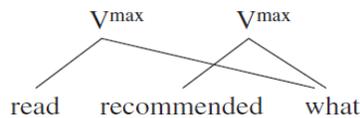
Professor, Department of Mathematics, Kurdistan University, Sanandaj, Iran

Mohsen Masoumi

Assistant Professor of English Language and Literature, Sanandaj Branch, Islamic Azad University, Sanandaj, Iran

Introduction

In this research, the approach of Citko (2005) to across the board wh-movement was considered. He has proposed the sharing approach in deriving this type of structure for the wh-word under goes “Across the board” operation. According to Citko (2005), it happens when two constituents are conjoined and the shared question word, simultaneously meets the case requirement of two separate verbs in two coordinate conjuncts. In this case, the agreement operation is performed simultaneously (Sitko, 2005:479). For example, ATB, in symmetric merge structure (1), is caused by the parallel merge operation in the multidominant structure, in such a way that first [read] is merged externally with the question word [what] and at the same time [recommended] is parallel merged with [what].



(1) symmetric merge structure

The multidominant structure creates a combination between external merge and parallel merge, and a wh-word is shared between the two current nodes. Considering that Sanandaji Kurdish belongs to the wh-in situ languages, the presence of semetric merge in wh-coordination can be questionable. In (2a) a wh-argument [ke] in both clauses, remains in situ in the object position and does not follow Sitko's (2005) sharing approach.

2a. Hiwa **ke** di u Ronak **ke** di ?

* The corresponding author: y.karimi@uok.ac.ir

Hiwa who see-past.3sg and Ronak who see-past.3sg
Who did Hiwa see And who did Ronak see?

In (2c) and (2d), [bæ ke] is pronounced only once, but it has a semantic scope on both clauses in coordinate construction.

2d. **bæ ke** Zana rei da wæle Narin rei nada ?
To whom Zana vote past.3sg but Narin vote-not. past.3sg
To whom Zana voted but Narin did not vote?

In this research, an attempt is made to investigate the board wh-movement of interrogative words from two equivalent clauses in Sanandji Kurdish according to this approach in order to answer two questions. Is it possible to believe in across the board wh-movement in Sanandaji Kurdish based on parallel merge approach of Citko (2005). And the second question is, how is the linearization of the shared question word in the multidominant structure.

Materials & methods

Karimi and Vaezi (2017) have analyzed the syntactic and semantic characteristics of wh-coordination according to the principles of parallel merge in Persian language. In their research as an alternative to the pair-list reading required by multiple wh-questions, Wh-coordination gives a single-pair reading. Regarding its syntactic properties, as opposed to conventional coordination, wh-coordination breaches the Coordination of the Likes Law (Williams 1987). In terms of Parallel Merge and Multidominance, syntactic analysis of such constructions may elucidate such intrinsic characteristics of wh-coordination. On the basis of their syntactic and semantic distinctiveness, it is asserted that clauses containing wh-coordination have a bi-clausal structure, with VPs and TPs parallel-merged, where each wh-constituent is merged within its respective dominating clause and therefore, the two clauses are conjoined in the CP level. Hence, coordination of the wh-constituents is only apparent; the accurate coordination occurs at the CP level of clauses containing the wh-constituents. The superficial coordination of the wh-constituents is an epiphenomenon ensuing from the linearization of bi-clausal conjunction. Sadati Noushabadi et al. (2019) have analyzed symmetric Merge in Persian Syntax, Evidences from across-the board Wh and Wh questions showed that in Persian language, existence of the same tense in two conjuncts and impossibility of voice mismatches of the little verb between two conjuncts and characteristics such as common noun phrase between two conjuncts are the reasons for the existence of this type of construction in Persian language.

The current research is a subgroup of descriptive-analytical research. First, theoretical information related to across the board wh questions was collected from related books and articles. Then, using the field method, the daily conversations of Sanandji Kurdish speakers have been recorded and collected. Among these data, Wh-coordination constructions have been selected and analyzed. In this study, the method of selecting the speakers is random and implicit, and in data collection, the only criterion for selecting the speakers is their availability. The data studied in this research were spoken and taken from the daily conversations of speakers in the city of Sanandaj. The analysis of the desired data mainly relies on the rational and linguistic analysis of one of the researchers, as a Kurdish speaker. Besides, the ungrammaticality of some data was linguistically examined by Sanandji speakers.

Discussion & Results

The present study examines across the board wh-movement in Sanandaji Kurdish language. This study is based on the parallel merge approach of Citko (2005) in multidominant structure. In the analysis of Sanandaji's Kurdish variety data, the evidence indicates that wh-arguments in the object position of the verb (inside vp) do not move to the scope position of wh-phrase and behave in-situ and remain in their original generated position. ATB-movement cannot influence wh-questions in the object position. If they are shared between two conjuncts, wh-arguments can be proposed to the left periphery of the structure. It cannot be claimed that the wh-questions display mixed behavior; however, data containing conjuncts with a single pair reading does not undermine the pure assumption of wh-in-situ in Sanandaji Kurdish and in this sense. In Sanandaji Kurdish, the ATB-movement of the wh – adjuncts to the left periphery is the result of topicalization and focusing, which often occupies the specifier position within a Focus phrase. In Sanandaji Kurdish, the movement of the wh-adjuncts in the coordinate configuration is elective and is conducted in the logical form (LF) and receives information focus.

Conclusion

In this research, we showed that preposing the wh- question in Sanandaji Kurdish is not obligatory and it can be inserted in the main place as a wh-in situ and in this type of language, the question word was replaced in the target structure without any forced movement, unlike English language.

In the data where there was a single pair reading of two coordinate conjuncts , due to the non-compulsory movement of the question word, the absolute assumption of the question word in the main place in Sanandaji kurdish was not violated.

On the other hand, the data showed that the preposing of the wh-question word to the left periphery is caused by the process of topicalization and focalization and the focus question word was highlighted . Also, in some data, preposed wh word was consistent with gap in two clauses in terms of case. In order to linearize the shared question word in the multidominant structure, Citko's (2005) algorithm was investigated. In this algorithm, movement was considered as a linearization factor. This algorithm cannot be responsible for the linearization of the multidominant structure in which movement does not occur.

Keywords: Parallel merge, ATB wh – movement, Sanandaji Kurdish, Coordination

References

- Abe, J, & C. Nakao (2009). On ATB-movement and parasitic gaps in Japanese. In *visions of the minimalist program*. pp. 1-19. Proceedings of the 11th Seoul International Conference on Generative Grammar.
- Chomsky, N. (1982). *Some concepts and consequences of the theory of government and binding*. Cambridge: MIT press.
- Chomsky, N. (1995). Bare phrase structure. Gert Webelhuth, ed. *Government and binding theory and the minimalist program*. pp. 383-439. Oxford: Blackwell
- Chomsky, N. (2001). Beyond explanatory adequacy No.20. *MIT working papers in linguistics*.
- Chomsky, N. (2008). On phases. *Current studies in linguistics series*, (45). pp. 133-66.
- Chomsky, N. (2013). Problems of projection. *Lingua*, (130). pp. 33-49.

- Chomsky, N. (2020). The UCLA lectures. <https://ling.auf.net/lingbuzz/005485>
- Citko, B. (2000). Parallel merge and the syntax of free relatives. Doctoral dissertation. State University of New York at Stony Brook).
- Citko, B. (2003). ATB wh-movement and the nature of Merge. In *PROCEEDINGS-NELS*, (33), pp. 87-102.
- Citko, B. (2005). On the nature of merge: External merge, internal merge, and parallel merge. *Linguistic Inquiry*, 36(4), pp. 475-496.
- Citko, B. (2011). *Symmetry in syntax: Merge, move and labels*. Vol. 129. New York: Cambridge University Press.
- De Vries, M. (2017). Across-the-board phenomena. *The Wiley Blackwell Companion to Syntax*, 2nd. Ed. pp. 1-31.
- Johnson, K. (2009). Gapping is not (VP-) ellipsis. *Linguistic inquiry*, 40 (2), pp. 289-328.
- Karimi, Y., & Vaezi, H. (2018). Parallel merge, multidominance and the structure of wh Coordination. *Language Research*, 9(1), 39-58. [in Persian].
- Kayne, R. S. (1994). The antisymmetry of syntax. Vol. 25. Cambridge, Massachusetts: MIT press.
- Meshkatodini, M. (2005). *Seire Zabanshenasi*. Ferdowsi University of Mashhad. [in Persian].
- Moltmann, F. (1992). On the interpretation of three-dimensional syntactic trees. In *Semantics and Linguistic Theory*, (2), pp. 261-282.
- Pan, V. J. (2011). ATB-topicalization in Mandarin Chinese: An intersective operator analysis. *Linguistic Analysis*, 37(1-2), pp. 231-272.
- Sadati, N. S. M., Sabzevari, M., Sabouri, N. B., & Anoushe, M. (2020). Symmetric Merge in Persian Syntax, Evidences from Across-The-Board Wh and Wh Questions. *Zaban Pazhuhi, Alzahra University*. (36)12. Pp 7-36. [in Persian].
- Simpson, A. & T. Bhattacharya (2003). Obligatory overt wh-movement in a wh-in-situ language. *Linguistic Inquiry*, 34(1), pp. 127-142.
- Yasui, M. (2011). Multidominant rooted graphs without projection labels. <https://dokkyo.academia.edu/MiyokoYasui>. J/K *Linguistics Conference* 21 (Oct. 20, 2011)