



**Question Formation in Iraqi Arabic:
A Generative Approach
A Dissertation**

SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
WOMEN'S COLLEGE FOR ARTS, SCIENCE AND EDUCATION
AIN SHAMS UNIVERSITY

By:

Rudayna Mohammed Badie

IN FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS
FOR THE DEGREE OF
DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN LINGUISTICS

Under the Supervision of

Prof. Wafaa Abd Al-Faheem Batran

Professor of Linguistics

English Department

Faculty of Women

Ain Shams University

Dr. Reda Said Khalil

Lecturer of Linguistics

English Department

Faculty of Alsun

Aswan University

2018

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study is to investigate the construction of question formation mainly in Iraqi Arabic (IA) dialect with reference to English adopting the Minimalist Program (MP). This study falls into two parts. The first part investigates the wh- movements in English and IA in the light of Chomsky's Minimalist Program. The second part of the study analyzes the strategies of wh-questions in IA which are the wh-in-situ, the intermediate Comp, and the wh-movement strategy with respect to Bounding Theory, the Split vP analysis, and Phase movement.

A new set of data concerning the behavior of wh-operators in Iraqi Arabic is represented. This data study that the Logical Form movement in IA must observe locality constraints. The wh-operator must move to the closest specifier (Spec) position of a [+WH] complementizer (Comp).

The study diagnoses a unique property of the wh-operator in IA. Unlike English where the wh-operator may occur in the Spec of the matrix Comp, or in-situ as in Chinese, in IA wh-operator may occur in any Spec of an intermediate Comp between the matrix Comp and the in-situ position. Whether the hosting Comp is [+WH] or [-WH], the wh-operator in IA exercises wide scope over the entire question having a main question reading. IA as a dialect has proven to be one which is rich in its analysis of question formation. The researcher empirically tries to prove this optionality of the wh-phrase in the light of MP analysis)

Chomsky's Minimalist Program captures a number of unrelated phenomena that pertain to the behavior of wh-questions in IA. Mostly, the behavior of the wh-operator that occurs in a [-wh] Comp in a main question. An enriched tree can smoothly capture the behavior of wh-questions in IA.

The minimalist tree, which is an input to the Phonetic Form (PF) and Logical Form (LF) components, may distinguish between the visibility and the invisibility of wh-operators. The IA wh-operator in a [-WH] Comp is visible at (PF) but invisible at LF. MP relies on feature checking to account for the movement of any element in the sentence. The uninterpretable feature of one element, called the Probe, needs to be checked by another element, called the Goal. A way of checking this

feature comes in the form of movement of the Goal to a position where it can get into a checking relation with the Prob.

The vP Split analysis and Phase theory are adopted for the successive cyclic movement of the wh-operator in mono, bi, and tri-clauses. The two phases, CP and transitive vP, are diagnosed in the analyses of the IA data.

Key words: Minimalism, Locality restrictions, Ross's constraints, wh-movement, Wh-in-situ, Logical Form (LF), Scope, phase, split vp analysis.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

In the beginning, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my direct advisor Prof. Wafaa Abd-alfaheem Batran for her continuous support of my Ph. D study and related research, for her patience, motivation, and immense knowledge. Her guidance helped me continuously research and write this dissertation.

I am grateful for the aspiring guidance and the invaluable constructive criticism of my second advisor Dr. Reda Said Khalil, and for his continuous support of my study.

My sincere thanks also go to Dr. Ihsan al-Sammaraie for his endless help and encouragement. I would like to thank Dr. Ali Ezzat for his helpful remarks concerning my present study. Also, I thank my best friends who helped and guided me along the correct path: Youmna, Lamia, Dr. Marwa and my late friend Asmaa.

I would like to express my thanks and gratitude to Dr. Esbah Shaker for his valuable notes concerning my study.

I would like to thank my family: my mother, brother, sister, beloved sons, my aunt Alia, and my uncle Hamood for their spiritual support throughout writing this dissertation.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to all who helped me directly or indirectly to complete my study.

TO MY BELOVED MOTHER

The following is a list of the abbreviations used in the dissertation

A-Position	Argument Position
ACC	Attract Closest Condition
AF	Affix Feature
Comp	Complementizer
CNPC	Complex Noun Phrase Constraints
CP	Complementizer Phrase
C	Complementizer
C-Command	Constituent Command
DS	Deep Structure
D	Derivation
DP	Determiner Phrase
DFCF	Double Filled Complementizer Filter
ECM	Exceptional Case Marking
EPP	Extended Principle Projection
EF	Edge Feature
GB	Government and Binding
IA	Iraqi Arabic
IPC	Impenetrability Condition
LCA	Linear Correspondence Axiom
LF	Logical Form
MP	Minimalist Program

NP	Noun Phrase
PF	Phonetic Form
PP	Prepositional Phrase
P&P	Principles and Parameters
P'	Intermediate Projection
PRN	Pronoun
PSC	Preposition Stranding Constraint
Q	Question
QF	Question Feature
S	Sentence
SPH	Structure Preserving Hypothesis
SBC	Structure Building Computation
Spec	Specifier
SS	Surface Structure
TG	Transformational Grammar
TP	Tense Phrase
TNS	Tense
-TNS	Minus Tense
+TNS	Plus Tense
T	Tense
TF	Tense Feature
UG	Universal Grammar
VP	Verb Phrase
WAC	Wh-Attraction Condition

-WH	Minus Wh
WIC	Wh Island Constraints
X	Head
X'	X-Bar
X*	Zero Projection
Φ	Phonological Component
Σ	Semantic Component

Table 1. Abbreviations used in the dissertation.

The following is a chart of the IPA symbols used along with their corresponding Arabic letters:

		Labial	Pain		Emphatic		Palatal	Velar	Uvular	Pha
			Dental	Alveolar	Dental	Alveolar				
Nasal		م m	ن n							
Stop	Voiceless		ت t		ط t			ك k	ق q	
	Voiced	ب b	د d		ض d̤		ج (d ₃) ~ g			
	Voiceless	ف f	ث θ	س S		ص ṣ	ش ʃ	خ x ~ X		
Fricative	Voiced		ذ ð	ز z	ظ ʔ ~			غ ğ ~ ɣ		
					Z					
Trill				ر r						
Approximant			ل l ~ l̥				ي j	و W		

Table2. Modern Standard Arabic Consonant Phonemes.

Due to space configurations, the following symbols are not present in the tableau:

- The symbol for the Glottal Voiceless stop (ʔ) (ء).
- The symbol for the glottal voiceless fricative (h) (ه).
- The symbol for the Voiceless post-alveolar affricate (tʃ)

<https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arabic>

Vowels	Description	Examples	Trans.
/i/	short high unrounded vowel	ḍid	against
/i:/	long high front unrounded vowel	tri:d	She wants
/u/	short high back rounded vowel	suʒa:d	a proper noun
/u:/	back close rounded vowel	ʃu:f	look
/a/	short mid unrounded vowel	ʒala	On
/a:/	long mid unrounded vowel	ra:dat	wanted
/o/	mid half close back rounded vowel	ʃeno	what
/o:/	back half open and half close rounded vowel	ʃloon	how

Table 3: Vowels in Iraqi Arabic

Adapted from (Ezzat, 1973 pp.XI-XIII)

- ❖ Length of a vowel is indicated by a (:) as (ra:dat)
- ❖ Gemination is indicated by doubling the consonant letter, as (tšawwarat)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Abstract	I
Acknowledgments	III
Chapter one	1
Theoretical Background	2
1.0 Introduction	2
1.1. Objectives of the Study	4
1.2. Sources of Data	4
1.3. Organization	4
1.4. Chomskyan Approach	5
1.4.1. Principles and Parameters	6
1.4.1.1. X-Bar Theory	8
1.4.1.2. Movement Theory	9
1.4.1.3. Binding Theory	10
1.4.1.4. Bounding Theory	12
1.4.1.4.1. Subjacency Condition	12
1.4.1.4.2. The Wh-island Constraint	13
1.4.1.4.3. NP Condition	13
1.4.2. Minimalist Program	14
1.4.2.1. Syntactic derivation	15
1.4.2.1.1. Derivational Operations	15
1.4.2.1.1.1. Select and Merge	15
1.4.2.1.1.2. Agree	16
1.4.2.1.1.3. Move	16
1.4.2.1.1.4. Transfer	17
1.4.2.2. Question formation in the Minimalist program	17
1.4.3. Logical Form and Visibility	18
1.4.4. Split VP Analysis and Phase Movement	19
1.5. Literature review	19
Chapter Two. Wh-Questions in English and Iraqi Arabic within the Minimalist Framework	24

2.0. Introduction	25
2.1. Wh-Movement in English	25
2.1.1. Mechanisms of Wh-Movement in English	26
2.1.1.1. Driving Wh-Movement	29
2.1.1.2. Pied Piping	32
2.1.1.3. Wh-Movement as Copying	35
2.1.1.4. Long Wh-Movement	38
2.2. Types of Wh-Questions	40
2.2.1. Subject Wh-Questions	40
2.2.2. Yes/ No Questions	43
2.2.3. Arguments and Adjuncts Wh-Questions	44
2.2.4. Embedded Wh-Questions	45
2.2.5. Multiple Wh-Questions	46
2.3. Wh-Questions in Iraqi Arabic	47
2.3.1. Strategies of Wh-Questions in Iraqi Arabic	47
2.3.1.1. Wh- In-Situ Strategy	48
2.3.1.2. The intermediate Wh- Comp Strategy	49
2.3.1.3. Wh- movement strategy	49
2.4. Types of Wh-Phrases in IA	50
2.4.1. The Wh-Fronting Strategy	51
2.4.1.1. Fronted Wh-Arguments	51
2.4.1.2. Fronted Wh-Adjuncts	54
2.4.1.3. Fronted Prepositional Wh-Phrase	54
2.4.2. Wh-In-Situ Strategy	55
2.4.2.1. In-Situ Wh-Arguments	55
2.4.2.2. In-Situ Wh-Adjuncts	56
2.4.2.3. In-Situ Prepositional Wh-Phrases	57
2.4.3. Yes/ No Questions	57
2.4.4. Other Wh-Constructions in IA	58
2.5. Conclusion	59

Chapter Three. Scope Properties and Locality Constraints in Iraqi Arabic	60
3.0 Introduction	61
3.1. Some Minimalist Notions	61
3.1.1. Scope	61
3.1.2. Logical Form (LF)	63
3.1.3. Phonetic Form (PF)	64
3.1.4. Visibility	64
3.2. Wh-Movement in Minimalism	64
3.2.1. Diagnostics of phrasal Movement	65
3.2.1.1. Subject to Subject Raising	65
3.3. Basics of Successive Cyclic Movement	67
3.3.1. Wh-Movement in Main Questions	67
3.3.2. Wh-Movement in Embedded Questions	68
3.4. Arguments for Successive Movement through CP	71
3.4.1. Embedded Inversion	71
3.4.2. Floating Quantifier	72
3.4.3. Binding Ambiguity	75
3.5. Subcategorization and Scope	75
3.5.1. Scope Properties of Wh-Operators in IA	84
3.5.1.1. The Wh-Operator in-Situ	89
3.5.1.2. The Wh-Operator in [+WH] Comp	89
3.5.1.3. The Wh-Operator in [-WH] Comp	89
3.6. Multiple Questions in IA and Locality	91
3.6.1. Multiple wh-Operators in Main Questions in IA	92
3.6.2. Multiple wh-Operators in Embedded Questions in IA	93
3.7 . Conclusion	94
Chapter Four. Ross's Constraints and Phase Theory in Iraqi Arabic	95
4.0 Introduction	96
4.1. Basic Notions on Boundedness	96
4.1.1. Unbounded Movement	96

4.1.2. Bounding Movement and Subjacency	97
4.1.3. Ross's Constraints	99
4.1.3.1. wh- Island Constraint	99
4.1.3.2. Complex NP constraint	99
4.1.3.2.1. Adnominal clause	100
4.1.3.2.2. Relative Clause	100
4.1.3.3. Sentential Subject Constraint	100
4.2. IA wh-Questions: Bounded VS Unbounded	101
4.2.1. Unbounded Movement in IA	101
4.2.2. Subjacency	102
4.3. Ross's Constraints and wh-movement in IA	102
4.3.1. The Wh-Island Constraint in IA	103
4.3.2. The Complex Noun Phrase Constraint in IA	104
4.3.2.1. Relative Clauses as Islands in IA	104
4.3.2.2. Adnominal Clauses as Islands in IA	105
4.3.2.3. Sentential Subject Constraint in IA	105
4.4. Split VP Analysis and Phase Movement	106
4.4.1. Split VP Analysis in Mono-Clausal Questions	107
4.4.2. Split VP Analysis in Bi- Clausal Questions in IA	110
4.5. Diagnosing Phases	111
4.5.1. CP as Phase	112
4.5.2. vP as Phase	112
4.6. Phase Movement in IA Auxiliaries	113
4.6.1. Iraqi Auxiliaries in Mono-Clausal Questions	113
4.6.1.1. (ʔa:n : was)	113
4.6.1.2. (Da : is)	114
4.6.1.3. Mumkin : May	115
4.6.1.4. jegdar : can	115
4.6.1.5. rah: will, shall	115
4.6.1.6. la:zim : must	116
4.6.2. The Auxiliary ʔa:n: was in Mono, Di, and Tri Clause Questions	116
4.6.2.1. ʔa:n: was in Mono- Clausal Questions	117
4.6.2.2. ʔa:n: was in Di Clausal Questions	121
4.6.2.3. ʔa:n: was in Tri-Clausal Questions	127
4.7. Conclusion	135

Chapter Five	136
Conclusion	137
References	140
Arabic Summary	150