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Wh Question In-Situ and Movement in Najdi Dialect

Mohammad Fayyad M. Alqasem

Research Scholar

Under The Supervisore of Dr. B.K. Ravindranath

Department Of Studies in Linguistics,

Kuvempu Institute of Kannada Studies,

Manasagangotri, University Of Mysore, Mysore.

Email: mohammadfayyad3@yahoo.com

Abstract: Changes in the word's place and the formation of the structure is a system by which some words move from its place to take another due to some effects of linguistic aspects like morphology and syntax . This movement is not only restricted to the words, but that may take place in phrases as well. These changes involve constrains that governs these changes and the movements process. Syntactic structure is one of the linguistic aspects that are commonly influenced in dialect languages. The structure of the sentence, including all kinds of sentences, is a matter of change in dialect. Much concern is paid to study the notion of interrogatives whether in Arabic dialect or in Gulf Arabic dialect. Since the divers of dialects of Saudi dialects are difficult to be touched, although these dialects are mutually intelligible. One of the two dominant dialects, Hijazi and Najd, can be a good representative of the rest of the sub-dialects. This paper will be a contribution to shed light on the structure of wh- interrogatives in-situ in Najdi Arabic dialect and the movement that takes place in different positions in the sentence.

**Keywords:** interrogative, in situ, syntax, dialect, embedded, Saudi Arabic dialect (SAD), Saudi Arabic dialect (SAP).

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I.   INTRODUCTION

Gulf Arabic dialect is a variety of Standard Arabic language spoken in Arabian Peninsula stretches to include all the countries that is in border with Saudi Arabia such as Kuwait, Qatar, Oman, United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and some Jordanian Bedouin tribes on Saudi- Jordan border. Some variations can be noticed here and there depending on the region in which a dialect is spoken. Dialects in Saudi Arabia can be divided into two main dialects Najdi and Hijazi. These dialects are very loosely respects of intelligibility between the dialects. Speakers of different dialects can understand each other easily. The syntactic structure of these dialects is almost the same which constitute the common shared linguistic feature for all the dialects.

An interrogative is a term used in grammar to refer to features that form questions. The syntactic structure of the interrogative sentence shows that the structure of the sentence is a question. Interrogative sentences are designed to fulfill answers of yes- no questions or to ask an information question using wh questions like: what, when, where, which, who, and how. A few studies have worked on the construction of interrogative of Najdi dialect or interrogative of Saudi dialects in general, but the documentation of dialect still severely limited. Bamgbose (1990: 183) defines interrogative construction as a device to make an enquiry by employing interrogative markers.

Languages vary in forming questions. In addition, every language has its own way to form interrogative questions including different structures of word order and insertion of interrogative particle. To note, Questions are mostly characterized by marked intonation that is what discriminate the yes-no question from that of declarative one.

Interrogative questions are mainly of two types: wh that specify the information using marked wh words and OR?. The OR? Interrogative is so called because it relates to the OR specialization of conjunction (e.g. "Did John or Mary do that?").   Yes- no questions that reflects the listener to answer using yes or no as a response for the question. The third is the choice question that requires alternative answers like "does she speak English or Arabic?). in addition, the fourth is the Tag questions which are questions tagged at the end of the sentence often used to check the information that we think we know is true like" penguin is a bird. Isn't it?. These types of questions are formed by using a helping verb like" be and have".

Studies and theories are set in order to determine the derivation rules of wh- question started in Chomsky's (1957) Syntactic Structures. Chomsky was the pioneer in proposing two transformational rules ,optional and obligatory rules, to derive interrogative in English. Regarding the movement of wh-words and Bach 1971 proposed his theory in which he states that wh-word are always to the left and never to the right. Depending on his

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analysis of wh-questions, Culicover (1976) tries to improve the relation of presence of wh-question in the initial position and the inversion in the sentence.

In 1977a new phase of understanding the generative and the movement of wh-question began by Chomsky when he proposes how to wh-questions can be derived from a formal fashion. Chomsky clarified the w-h phrase syntactic movement and what it is left behind after the movement takes place. In addition, he asserts that the trace left behind after movement is co- index with the operator wh-word which bends it (Chomsky 1981).

Regarding standard Arabic, syntax of Standard Arabic has been examined on the bases of Chomsky's minimalist movement of wh-movement. A unified treatment was presents by Fakih 2007 on the wh-short and long movement extracted from subject and object positions both at PF and LF component. He assured that in Standard Arabic extraction of wh-phrase is permitted in derivation of the normal VSO order and not the SVO order. In a simple sentence, the wh-phrase undergoes obligatory overt movement to [Spec,C] for feature checking and that it cannot stay in- situ in overt syntax.

In the same regards, study conducted by Aloteiby on analyses of wh-questions in Standard Arabic clarifies what asserted by Fakih 2007. His finding shows that the wh-movement is only can be applied to the unmarked VSO, but not to the SVO word order. Aloteibi states that "A problem arises when the non-subject wh-phrases move over the SV order.".

As far as wh-movement is concerned, languages are divided into three groups: (i) wh-movement languages, (ii) wh-in-situ languages and (iii) languages with optional wh-regarding wh- movement. He indicates that "the SVO order is formed via base generation and not via movement. Empirical evidence shows that the A'-movement effects in the SVO order." . He pointed out that wh- questions in Standard Arabic follow two main structures, SVO and VSO movement, where the wh-phrase appears in situ or displaced. Greenberg (1966) relates wh-movement to word order. VSO languages, according to Greenberg, always have wh-movement while no such process is found in SOV languages.

Interrogatives particularly wh-phrase and sentences in Arabic dialects has acquired considerable interest during the last two decades. The syntactic structure and the analyzing of the movement and the in- situ of wh-phrase has been a matter of scholars' suggestions to providing unified vision on how wh-questions construct within a sentence. For instance, Wahba (1984) proposes that wh-scope licensing in Egyptian Arabic takes place via movement: covert movement in the case of in-situ wh-questions, and overt movement in the case of ex-in-situ wh-questions. On the other hand, Sultan (2010) suggests a

different point of view; he states that wh-scope takes place by means of the mechanism of unselective binding in the sense of Pesetesky (1987) not via movement. Sultan (2010, pp. 18-19) argues that "fronting of wh-argument in Egyptian Arabic is not strictly prohibited." It may be indicate that the difference in wh-movement strategies is often attributed to the fact that cross-linguistically wh-constituents are not identical in nature.

Chen (1991), Aoun and Li (1993), and Ouhallah (1996) argue that morphological and syntactic properties of a language could be the reason behind the wh- questions differences in natural languages. On the other hand, Abdel Razaq (2011) examines the typological variation in wh-constructions in some modern Arab dialects, although there are commonly shared features between some languages particularly, Iraqi, Lebanese and Jordanian he observes that there are certain differences in the technique manipulated in the formation of wh-questions.

Furthermore, many spoken modern Arabic dialects like Iraqi Arabic (Ouhallah (1996), Simpson (2000) and Wahba (1991)), Lebanese Arabic (Aoun, Benmamoun and Choueiri (2010), and Aoun and Li (2003)), Egyptian Arabic (Cheng (1991), Sultan (2 009) and Wahba (1984)) and Jordanian Arabic (Al-Moman (2010) use different strategies like wh-movement and in-situ in the formation of wh-questions. Moreover, Yassin (2013) explores wh-movement in Jordanian Arabic (JA) and Egyptian Arabic (EA) and shows that the former moves the wh-phrase, whereas the latter leaves it in-situ. Yasin (2013, p. 1) illustrates that both JA and EA "would be a strong testing ground for Richards's theory since it is expected that they will behave alike given that both dialects, as well as other dialects, descended from Classical Arabic (CA) (Aoun et al. 2010) and that Comp is on the left periphery in both.".

Word orders in Najd dialect

Najdi Arabic daily life conversation mostly follows the SVO word order which is the most frequent word order in communication. VSO in the other hand can be understood as a yes/ No question in some cases if it combined with a tone. In Najdi dialect, it is not common to posit the object in initial position. It seems to keep the subject close to the verb that it complements.

1-Nayef raah   assouq
 Nayef go-PERF the market
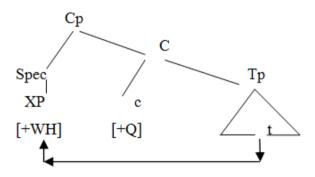 "Nayef went to the market"

 -*assouq   Nayef   raah
  The market Nyef   go-PERF
  "Nayef went to the market"

Najdi Arabic dialect takes two word orders, SVO " Nayef akal al-tamr " or VSO " akal Nayef al-tamr " . In Najdi Arabic possible structure matrix of wh-movement takes two forms as well. Wh-operators can be argument like min, "who", wish "what", aye "which", or wh- adjunct operator like laysh "why", wajn "where". Looking at the sensitivity of the complimentizer agreement to wh extraction we note the effect of wh- movement on the matrix of the sentence. The movement of wh-question appears in the following example which is related to the following sentences:

Nayef akal al-tamr

2- a. min akal   al-tamr ?
      who   eat.PERF.3SG.MASC the-dates
      'Who ate the dates?'
   b. Nayef akal   wish ?
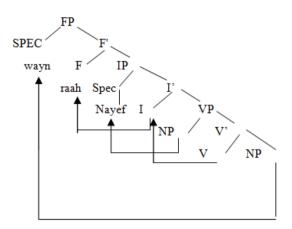   Nayef eat.PERF.3SG.MASC   what
      'Nayef ate what?'

Simple wh- question movement structure

Wh- in situ in any language refers to the displacement of alternative wh- question in the place that is left by the movement of some words in a sentence. This displacement usually leaves a gap corresponding to the wh-phrase. In such a construction, the trace (t) should agree with the moved wh- element that in turn should appear in the clause initial position of the clause. In the following example from Najdi dialect the illustration of the movement case, the chain that links wh- expression and its trace appears in the following diagram.
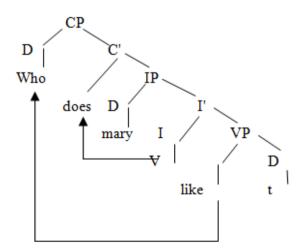

The structure's two basic aspects in the previous diagram consists of the existence of C with [+Q] and [Spec,CP] with [+wh] features. This position in the structure is marked by C with the movement triggered by licensing this [+Q] feature. This in turn necessitates agreement between C and something in the position of specifier, (chomsky: 1995). To illustrate how wh-question works, let's consider the following examples.

3 -wayn raah   nayef ?
   Where go-PERF Nayef ?
   Where did Nayef go?

Relating the sentence number 3 to the MP movement justification, we observe how derivation process takes place and existence of wh expression in the initial position of the clause that match the corresponding features of adjoined constituent in the [Spec,CP]. This movement to the left periphery is urged by licensed and setting correspondence relation between the head C and the proposed XP (Rizzi 1979).

Looking at the movement in the previous sentences 3 which is represented on the tree structure above shows that, the verb undergoes three syntactic movements to land in its position in wh- sentence as a specifier. While the subject cannot move more than one and cannot go further. Unlike English, Najdi Arabic doesn't follow English system regarding the movement of wh- question that leaves a gap in its position. Najdi Arabic does not have a gap; instead it requires a resumptive pronoun. . In English, either relative clause or wh- question regarding the surface word order contains gap position and the underlying word order that involves wh- movement (Chomsky;1981). Let's consider the following tree structure:

The figure above portrays the movement of wh-question from its origin place to the front place leaving its place empty, as it appears in English language. The underlying word order has a trace and the wh- phrase must cross one bounding node as it doesn't require to be filled with a resumptive pronoun.

The possible structure regarding wh-question word order in Najdi dialect is obviously clear if we notice the movement in the simple wh- question sentence. It is possible to find different structures of wh- question that could be as follows:

4-wayn raah   Nayef?
Where go-PERF Nayef
Where did Nayef go?

5- wayn Nayef raah?
Where Nayef go-PERF
Where did Nayef go?

6- hu   Nayef   raah   wayn?
particl Nayef go-PERF   where
where did Nayef go?

From the above observation, the movement in wh – question takes place in different positions. As in sentence 4 and 5 we notice that wh – word can be in initial position but the movement of the wh-word takes once after the verb and once before. It is not common using the structure as in 5, but still possible. While in sentence 4 the movement of wh-question follows the systematic movement in Najdi dialect word order, in sentence 6, it seems to follow the in situ structure, but the significance is that the insertion of the word "hu" which is a Q-particle means "he" that is a pronoun in its normal situation. In sentence 6 the particle "hu" seems to be inserted to function as a focus that makes the listener pay more attention to the person or the thing that is being asked.
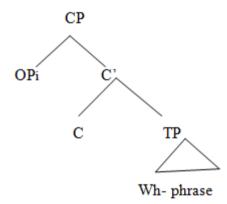
Wh-question in situ

Echo question has the same syntactic form of the information question, but somehow they are significant in respect of which they are associated in melody that makes them vary from the information questions. They can be determined further by giving them a special syntactic form that makes wh-question doesn't undergo wh- movement. The wh- question remains in its position as a complement of the verb (predicate). In addition, the structure of wh-clause does not include trace as that we see in wh- movement structure. Consider the following sentences:

7- Nayef akal   wish?
Nayef eat-PERF what?
What did Nayef eat?

8- Nayef rakab   assiarah   laysh?
Nayef drive-PERF the car   why?
Why did Nayef drive the car?

9 Nayef sharab   al-qahwa   wiin?
Nayef drink-PERF the coffee   where?
Where did Nayed drink coffee?   (Lewis; 2013)

Considering the previous sentences, it can be observed that wh- question stayed in its canonical position to fulfill a grammatical function as a complement for the predicate. It is bound by a null operator in Spec,C. The position of wh- in situ can be determined by the null operator in Spec,C as it appears in the following representation diagram :

Wh- words in embedded clause

In Najdi Arabic dialect, the wh- word can be possible and remain in situ in embedded clause. Najdi Arabic allows all adverbial and nominal phrases to stay in-situ.

11- abi   a?ref   aye   sayarah saaq Ahmad?
Want-1ST-present know-present   which   car drrive-PERF   Ahmad?
I want to know which car ahmad drove?

In this sentence it seems that the sentence is of two parts, one is a statement and the complement of the verb is a question. The speaker wants to know the answer of the question which is the complement of the verb namely "aye sayarah saaq ahmad". According to the minimalist program regarding to multi- clause sentence like sentence 11, the wh-form moves through all intermediate possible landing sites, namely the CP at the front of each clause, but fails to stop due to its features that are not perfectly

Matched. If a landing site is not "open," the movement cannot advance. In sentence 11 there is an open CP(CP2). Consider the structure of the sentence:

[CP1 [- indirect Q] [CP2 wh +indirect Q]]

The 'aye' stays below in CP2 because the word a?ref "projects" (or creates the likelihood of) an indirect question in the CP of the following (lower) clause. That is, the verb has as part of its lexical entry- the possibility that it can take an embedded or indirect question. Example (11) is an embodied indirect question.

12- twgaʕat -to ?inno sallahu -h kiif?

Thought -3PL that fixed -it how?

How did you think they fixed it? (Albaty:2010)

Min te?tigid in Rima shaafa-t-(ih).

Who 2SG-think.IMPERF that Rima saw.PERF-3RDF -3SN. MASC.

who do you think Rima saw?

In Najdi Arabic the movement of wh-word can be determined by if the wh-word is an argument of the verb or not. In the case of wh-word as an argument of the embedded verb, it should show agreement marker relating to the position it was moved from.

II. CONCLUSION

Considering the variation of the wh- question movement and in situ, it is clear that the movement is basically based on the morphological requirements of the lexical words. The position of the lexical item is the dispensable factor in movement. The relationship between the sentence elements is crucial in making the checking ensure. This paper discussed wh- expressions moving to the initial position namely CP' C position in one single sentence in addition to the movement of wh- words in multi clause sentences. movement of wh-expression in direct and indirect question within The embedded sentence discussed to determine the case in which wh- expression is not allow to land in initial position (SPC).

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