Wh-movement across (some) languages

**Chinese**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wh-word(s) do(es) not move.</th>
<th>A question particle appears in C.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hufai</td>
<td>maile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hufai buy</td>
<td>what</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**English**

*What has John bought*

*Who do you think said what*  
*Who what do you think said*

*Who met John*  
*Who did meet John*

• The first wh-word only moves to the beginning of CP.  
• If the wh-phrase is not a subject, the highest auxiliary moves to C, so that the order of subject and auxiliary inverts.

**Spanish**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quién</th>
<th>ha</th>
<th>comido</th>
<th>sopa</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Who</td>
<td>has</td>
<td>eaten</td>
<td>soup</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Que</th>
<th>ha</th>
<th>comido</th>
<th>Juan</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What</td>
<td>has</td>
<td>eaten</td>
<td>Juan</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Que | ha | Juan | comido |
| What | has | Juan | eaten |

• The first wh-word moves to the beginning of CP.  
• If the wh-phrase is not the subject, the subject moves to the end of the sentence.

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Bulgarian

\[ \text{Kakvo bešè Ivan pročel} \]
What has Ivan read

\[ \text{Koj kogo viľda} \]
Who whom sees

- Subject/auxiliary inversion more or less as in English (with various complications which we won't go into).
- \textit{All} wh-phrases move to the front.
- The order of the wh-phrases at the front of the sentence is the same as the order before they moved.

Some generalizations (rough!)

- Something must appear in C indicating that the sentence is a question. This can either be a moved \textit{wh}-phrase, or a special question particle.
- In languages where the \textit{wh}-phrase moves, there is always an inversion operation of some kind associated with movement of a non-subject \textit{wh}-phrase (e.g. subj/aux inversion in English, subj inversion in Spanish).
- In languages where the \textit{wh}-phrase moves, it always moves to the beginning of the sentence, never the end.

The “Principles and Parameters” approach to language variation

- Some universal \textit{principles}. For example, “Something must be in C in a \textit{wh}-question.”
- Various \textit{parameter settings}. For example, “Fill C using a question particle;” “Fill C by moving the first \textit{wh}-phrase;” “Fill C by moving all \textit{wh}-phrases.”