Introduction

Wh-Dependencies are constructed actively. This yields a locality bias.

What counts as “local”? Linear or Structure?

Bangla

Bangla has both word orders [5] and wh-movement [6]:

(1) Emily kothae bollo ʃe jie nijee bebartho koro
Emily where said that self hurt did
(2) Emily kothae ʃe nijee bebartho koro bollo
Emily where self hurt did that said

‘Where did Emily say that she hurt herself?’

Allows a within-language comparison

Expt 1

Methods:
Replicates the “Question-After-Story” task from [5].

• 23 participants watched 8 videos
• Character acts & speaks in diff. places
• Participant reads (1) or (2), word order btw subjects. Answers indicate parse.

If linear locality determines filler-gap resolution preferences, then filler-gap dependency preferences cannot explain island effects (i.e., structural locality) [4]

Expt 2 and 3

Methods:

Main verb first, Argument/Adjunct wh:
jahid kake/kothae, khabi Obakhabe tar bondhuke boche je Nipa parite-de ke dekheche?
J whom/where very surprisingly his friend told that N. party-at saw?
‘Who did Jahid tell his friend very surprisingly that Nipa saw (him) at the party?’

Main verb last, Argument/Adjunct wh:
jahid kake/kothae, Nipa parite-de tar bondhuke dekheche boche khabi Obakhabe bochele?
J whom/where N party-at his friend saw that very surprisingly told?
‘Who did Jahid tell very surprisingly that Nipa saw his friend at the party?’

References:

More Structure?

Differences in dependency type? [9].

whi ... V ... [CP ... ti ...] ...
Raj who, his friend told that Sita saw

whi ... [CP ... pro ... ] ... V ...
Raj who his friend told that Sita saw

If resumptives complete dependencies “bottom-up” [10] → no active formation

Thus, the parser ranks linearly local resolution with a resumptive over linearly distant gaps...

...but doesn’t actively construct these dependencies