

Multiple sluicing in Basque: the Clausemate Condition experimentally

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Abstract (as provided by the author):

Multiple sluicing (henceforth MS) concerns non-pronunciation of sentential material with the exception of more than one wh-remnant being pronounced.

(1)

Aitorrek esan du [emakumeren batek₁ libururen bat₂ ekarri duela],
baina ez dakit zein emakumek₁ zein liburu₂.

Aitor-ERG say AUX woman-of one-ERG book-of one-ABS bring AUX-COMP
but not I.know which woman-ERG which book-ABS

Interestingly, languages that exhibit MS have been observed to disallow remnants separated by a clausal boundary, which has been dubbed as the Clausemate Condition (henceforth CMC) (Takahashi 1994; Nishigauchi 1998; Merchant 2001; Abels & Dayal 2023). By way of illustration, in (1) both remnants correspond to correlates (underlined) that belong to the same clause; on the contrary, in (2) each correlate sits on a different clause.

(2)

*Emakumeren batek₁ esan du [Aitorrek libururen bat₂ ekarri duela],
baina ez dakit zein emakumek₁ zein liburu₂.

woman-of one-ERG say AUX Aitor-ERG book-of one-ABS bring AUX-COMP
but not I.know which woman-ERG which book-ABS

We can initially posit that what is at stake is the movement operation involving remnants. Namely, wh-movement of remnants from different clauses is illicit (2), whereas multiple wh-movement from the same embedded clause is acceptable (1).

In this talk, I will discuss the aforementioned CMC effects as well as more complex cases concerning bound pronouns, islands, and different levels of interpretation of adverbs. Furthermore, I will present preliminary experimental designs which aim to eventually shed light on the theoretical questions related to movement and deletion in MS.