Island Constraints in English and Kurdish

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Abstract:

In transformational grammar, there are rules such as relativization, questioning and topicalization, in which elements abandon their position and move to the front of the sentence. The present study focusses on certain islands in English and Kurdish and examines whether these islands constrain the extraction of elements in Kurdish or not. It is hypothesized that islandhood is not only bout the restrictions on the extraction of an element and putting it in front of the sentence. In Kurdish, even if the question word remains in-situ, there are islands that impose restrictions on forming structures such as interrogatives.

Keywords: Complex NP Islands, Sentential Subject Constraint, Left Branch Condition, Coordinate Structure Constraint, Adjunct Clause Constraint, Indirect Wh-Question Constraint**.**

1. Introduction:

Imagine that you are on an ***island*** that abounds with different types of fruit, but without any means of transport for ***exporting*** the ***fruits***; they are ***locally*** usable (only on the island). And imagine that you are trying to export the fruits in a ***leftward*** direction but all the attempts will be abortive. Why? Because the island is surrounded by the sea that has huge waves forming the biggest obstacle to exporting the fruits. Chomsky in 1964, discovered the island and observed the waves (= restrictions) in front of the export (= displacement) operations known as A-bar movement or extraction. Ross's thesis (1967) moves around Chomsky's proposal shedding light on the weakness and strength of his proposal. Ross (1967) states that Chomsky's A-over-A hypothesis is too strong about the extraction of a noun inside a bigger noun phrase:

1) a. Which news did you read [a newspaper about _____]?

On the other hand, Chomsky's A-over-A theory does not say anything about the extraction of the adjective phrase from the noun phrase in (2c).

2) a. She has got a very handsome boyfriend.

   b. How handsome a boyfriend has she got?

   c. *How handsome has she got [a ____ boyfriend]? (Boeckx, 2010: 5)

Later, Ross in (1967) noticed that it is the nature and structure of the islands that do not permit elements inside themselves to be exported or extracted to somewhere else outside them. Now let us leave our imaginary island and come to the Ross's real syntactic islands.

2. Complex NP Constraint (Complex NP-islands) (CNPC):

Before talking about the islands, consider the following examples:

3) a) Jane was dating < Tom >.
   b) Jane was dating < who >.   (Deep structure)
   c) < Who > was Jane dating? (Surface structure)

Examples (3a-c) show that wh-movement is grammatically acceptable, in which a declarative sentence was changed to an interrogative one in force. Now we have an island that can epitomize the syntactic island constraints. So the CNPC is that phrase to which a clause is a complement.

4) a) Clare believed Jane was dating < Tom >.
   b) < Who> did Clare believe Jane was dating?
5) a) Clare believed *Jane who was dating < Tom >*.
   b) * < Who > did Clare believe Jane who was dating _____?
6) a) I saw < the man who talked about <u>you</u> >
   b) *<u>Who</u> did you see < the man who talked about ____>?

The complex NP *the man who talked about you* in (6a) is that imaginary island that you are on. *You* is the fruit (element) that cannot be extracted from the island and it is only usable inside the complex NP. The obstacles formed by the waves are called constraints. In (7), the x on the arrow elucidates that *John* is constrained from being wh-questioned.

7)
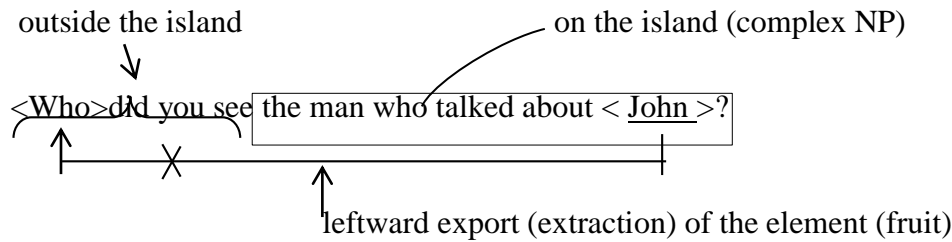
Ross (1967: 119) argues that "elements dominated by a sentence which is dominated by a noun phrase cannot be questioned or relativized." Consider the following example:

    8) a) He concealed [NP the fact [CP that she murdered her husband].

The idea is that any element inside the CP *that she murdered her husband* (which Ross refers to as a sentence) is not allowed to be extracted because the CP is dominated by the NP *the fact*.

    b) **Who* did he conceal [NP the fact [CP that she murdered _____?]

    c) **Who* did he conceal [NP the fact [CP that__ murdered her husband?]

    d) **What* did he conceal [NP the fact [CP that she _____ her husband?]

Ross's claim can be restated as what Kim and Sells (2007: 242) state: "A CP dominating any NP has a gap value, but an NP dominating a CP does not have a gap value". Now consider sentences (9a & b):

    9)   a) The government proposed [CP that they change the voting system].

      b) The government proposed [NP a motion [CP that they change the

        voting system].

The difference between the NP *the voting system* in (9a) and the NP *the voting system* in (9b) is that the NP in (9a) is a constituent of a clause functioning as direct object of the verb *proposed*. A clause functioning as object of a verb has a gap value, i.e. in *wh*-interrogatives; the clause allows its constituents to be extracted. Accordingly, the CP of (9a) is not an island.

    c) <What> did the government propose [that they change <___>?]

On the other hand, the NP *the voting system* in (9b) is a constituent of (dominated by) a CP which is again dominated by another NP, namely *a motion*. The whole structure *a motion that they should change the voting system* forms a complex NP island. Thus, the NP *the voting system* cannot be wh-questioned:

    d) *<What> did the government propose [CNP a motion that they change <_____>]?

To understand what CNP is, Featherston (2001: 65) simply names it sentences containing relative clauses. The constraint is also imposed on the nominal head *a motion*; it cannot be extracted out of complex NP because it is a constituent of the whole complex NP structure.

> e) **What* did the government propose [NP ____ [CP that they change the voting system?]

Only the extraction of the whole complex NP is grammatical, this is because the complex NP serves the function of being the complement (direct object) of the verb *propose*:

> f) What did the government propose [_____]?

In the process of topicalization, the complex NP (CNP) does not permit the extraction either:

> 10) a) I have [CNP two friends who like *Jack*]
>
> b) As for Jack, I have [CNP two friends who like *him*].
>
> c) *Jack, I have [CNP two friends who like __]. (Goodluck, 1992: 3)

All the above examples of CNP functioned as direct object. Even if it functions as subject, it still remains as an island because islandhood, which is being discussed here, is about the structure not function (Frank, 2002:104). For island constraints based on grammatical functions, see Kaplan and Zaenen (1989) and Heck (2008).

> 11) a) [NP The tests [CP that <the water> contains high levels of
>   pollutants] worried environmentalists.

3. Sentential Subject Constraint (SSC):

Ross (1967: 243) points out that "no element dominated by an S may be moved out of that S if that node S is dominated by an NP which itself is immediately dominated by S." This type of island is a clausal subject within which an element is not allowed to be wh-questioned or relativized (= extracted).

> 12) a) [That the government promotes your salary] is a blatantly fat lie.
>   b) **What* is [that the government promotes __] a blatantly fat lie?
>   c) **Who* is [that _____ promotes your salary] a blatantly fat lie?

Consider the following that-clauses in the sentences below:

> 13) a) Adam believed [that the government would promote his salary].
>
> b) It was believed by Adam [that the government would promote his salary].
>
> c) [That the government would promote his salary] was believed by the employee.

Sentences (13b & c) are passives of (13a). Noun phrases in that-clauses of (13a & b) can be extracted because they do not function as subject. On the other hand, no element in the that-clause of sentence (13c) is allowed to be extracted. In the introduction it was stated that 'the elements are locally usable (only on the island),' it is necessary

to clarify the statement. The that-clause of sentence (13c) is a sentential (= clausal) subject island on which the elements can be locally reordered only; the elements of the clause can be passivized locally:

> d) [That his salaries would be promoted by the government] was believed by the employee.

Even by reordering the elements of the sentences (13a, b and c), we can get the following:

> 14) a) The salary which the employee believed that the government would promote is a pipedream.
>
> b) The salary which was believed by the employee that the government would promote is a pipedream.
>
> c) *<His salary which> that the government would promote <   > was believed by the employee is a pipedream.

Although, in each of the sentences (13a, b and c), the noun phrase *his salary* is the object of the verb *promote*, the verb *promote* of sentences (14a and b) is in those that-clauses which function as the objects of the verb *believed*. While the noun phrase *his salary* and the verb *promote* of (13c) are in a that-clause which functions as the subject of the sentence.

4. Left Branch Condition (LBC):

This island is an NP which is divided into left and right branches, each branch is an NP. The movement of the left branch is hampered from movement.

> 15) a) Jack broke the glass of <*the window*>.
>
> b) <u>What</u> did Jack break the glass of < _____>?

The window is the right branch of the NP and the movement of this one is grammatical, but the left branch is not allowed as explained in the following example.

> c) Jack broke <*the glass*> of *the window*.
>
> d) *What did Jack break < _____> of the window?

Radford (2004: 217-18) states that LBC gives an explanation of the ungrammaticality of structures whose leftmost constituent cannot be extracted out of it. He adds that the structures are not only noun phrases but adjectival and adverbial phrases.

> 16) a) I stole <*Jack's money*>.
> b) **Whose* did you steal < ___ *money*>?
>
> 17) a) She was <u>very</u> glad of her warm coat> in the biting wind.
>
> b) **How* was she < __ *glad of* her warm coat> in the biting wind?
>
> 18) a) He plays football <<u>very</u> well>.
>
> b) *How does he play football <___ well>?

LBC hampers or blocks the movement of *whose* and *how* on their own. To make the interrogative sentences grammatically well-formed, the Convergence Principle is the solution. It is a UG principle by means of which the next smallest constituent containing *whose* or *how* is preposed. The next smallest constituent means the only sufficient material is moved along with *whose* or *how* for the sake of convergence (= grammaticality). The resulting derivation will be convergent, i.e. it does not go against any syntactic constraints. Accordingly, the sentences (16b, 17b, and 18b) are reformulated as (19, 20, and 21) below:

19) *Whose money* did you steal <   >?

20) *How glad* was she <   of her warm coat> in the biting wind?

21) *How well* does he play football <   >?   (Radford, 2004: 111)

5. Coordinate Structure Constraint (CSC)

A coordinate structure, as Newson et al (2006: 82) point out, is that one in which two elements by means of a coordinator are strung together from which a single element is formed. This formed element functions like the two former elements that have had or would have separately. Here, the main focus is on the central coordinators: *and* and *or*.

22) *Jack and Jane* had dinner in the new restaurant.

The structure consists of at least two conjucts namely *Jack* and *Jane* put together by means of the coordinator *and*. The conjucts once again can consist of different grammatically hierarchical structure; they can be words as in (22), phrases as in (23a), or even clauses as in (23b). They can also appear as subject, object, complement, etc.

23) a) *My uncle* and *Jane's mother* got married in 2000.

   b) *Jack studies at university* and *Jane works for an airline*.

Ross (1967: 161) makes a claim that neither conjunct alone, nor any element contained in the conjunct may be moved out of that conjunct. In other words, neither a conjunct can be a gap alone, nor can the conjunct contain a gap if its antecedent (= filler) is moved outside that conjunct.

24) *Tom washed the dishes* and *Lily dried them*.

   *What did *Tom wash* and *Lily dried them*?

   *What did Tom do and Lily dried them?

   *What did Lily dry and Tom washed the dishes?

   *What did Lily do and Tom washed the dishes?

But when a coordinate structure is a constituent of a relative clause or that-clause, there may be exceptions that can easily violate the island constraint:

25) This is the tennis player that [we got [the signature of and two rackets of]].

Sag and Wasow (1999: 359) are of the view that (25), which is a violation called 'Across-the-Board' Exception, is only a complicated addendum that Ross added to (CSC). They might be true because, firstly, a relative or that-clause

can allow its elements to be extracted. And secondly, (25) can be reordered as (26a) in which the coordinate structure *the signature and two rackets* is a case of Left Branch Condition which cannot be wh-questioned:

26) a) We got *the signature and two rackets* of this tennis player.

   b) *<What> did you get <_____> of this tennis player?

Another point to be raised is that even a coordinator, either with a conjunct or without it, cannot leave a gap because it is a part or element of the second conjunct as Quirck et al (1985: 921) exemplify:

27) a) Maybe, it is my imagination or Jane is behaving strangely at the moment.

   b) Is it my imagination or is Jane behaving strangely at the moment?

   c)*Or is Jane behaving strangely at the moment, it is my imagination?

   d)*Or is it my imagination, is Jane behaving strangely at the moment?

And Ross gives a reason for this point stating that if a conjoined sentence is broken into two separate sentences, the coordinator never goes with the first sentence:

28) a) Jessamine arrived, and she didn't even say hello.

   b) Jessamine arrived. And she didn't even say hello.

   c) *Jessamine arrived and. She didn't even say hello.

6. Adjunct Clause Constraint

Adjunct clauses which are also known as adverbial clauses include: clauses of reason, concession, time, place, purpose and condition. The following are consecutive examples of each type mentioned above:

29) He stopped the car [*because he didn't want to hit the sloth*.]

30) [*Although he braked hard*], he couldn't avoid running into the car in front.

31) We met [*while we were flying to New York*.]

32) They went [*wherever they could find happiness*.]

33) I left early [*in order that I could catch the bus*.]/ [so as to catch the bus]

34) You have to study hard [*if you want to pass the exams*].

These clauses, as Boeckx (2012 :16-17) points out, are structures from which no element can be extracted or questioned. If sentence (29) is tested, the following ungrammatical sentences are the results:

35) a) *<Why> did he stop the car [<   > *he didn't want to hit the sloth*?]

b) *<Who> did he stop the car [*because < > didn't want to hit it*?]

c) *<What> did he stop the car [*because he didn't want to hit* <   >?]

7. Indirect Wh-question Constraint

Kim and Sells (2007: 243) state that an indirect question is a structure, an island, from which an NP cannot be extracted.

36) a) Can you tell me [*where I can find Jasmine*?]

b) *Who can you tell me [where I can find < >?]

c) *Who can you tell me [where < > can find Jasmine?]

Not only an NP is blocked, but also other elements, too.

37) a) I wonder [why Joseph left early.]

b) *When do you wonder [why Joseph left < >?]

c) *Who do you wonder [why <   > left early?]

8. Subjacency Condition

In 1964, Chomsky noticed that wh-movement for the purpose of forming a question or a relative clause is conditional. Only one element in the same structure can be extracted at a time. Otherwise, the result will be an ungrammatical sentence:

38) a) We know the people. We met *the people* in London.

b) We know the people [*the people* we met < > in London.]

c) We know the people [*who* we met < > in London.]

d) We know the people [we met < > in London.]

The attempt to extract another element from the same structure will be abortive.

39) a) We know the people [we met < > <where>.]

b) *Where* do we know the people [we met < > < >?]

The Ross's work *Constraints on Variables in Syntax*, a thesis in 1967, was supervised by Chomsky himself. Ross examined a number of structures that prevent their elements from being extracted. Such examinations lead to the birth of a new term called "syntactic islands". Later and in 1967, Chomsky himself proposed an alternative theory called "Subjacency Condition" for Ross's observations. Chomsky suggested that an element cannot be moved across more than one "bounding node". Thus, the element *where* in (39b) has to move a clause boundary and a noun phrase which is impossible. Illustration (40) indicates that the element *where* cannot be relativized in a single movement operation; in one long jump (Baker, 1995: 597).

40)
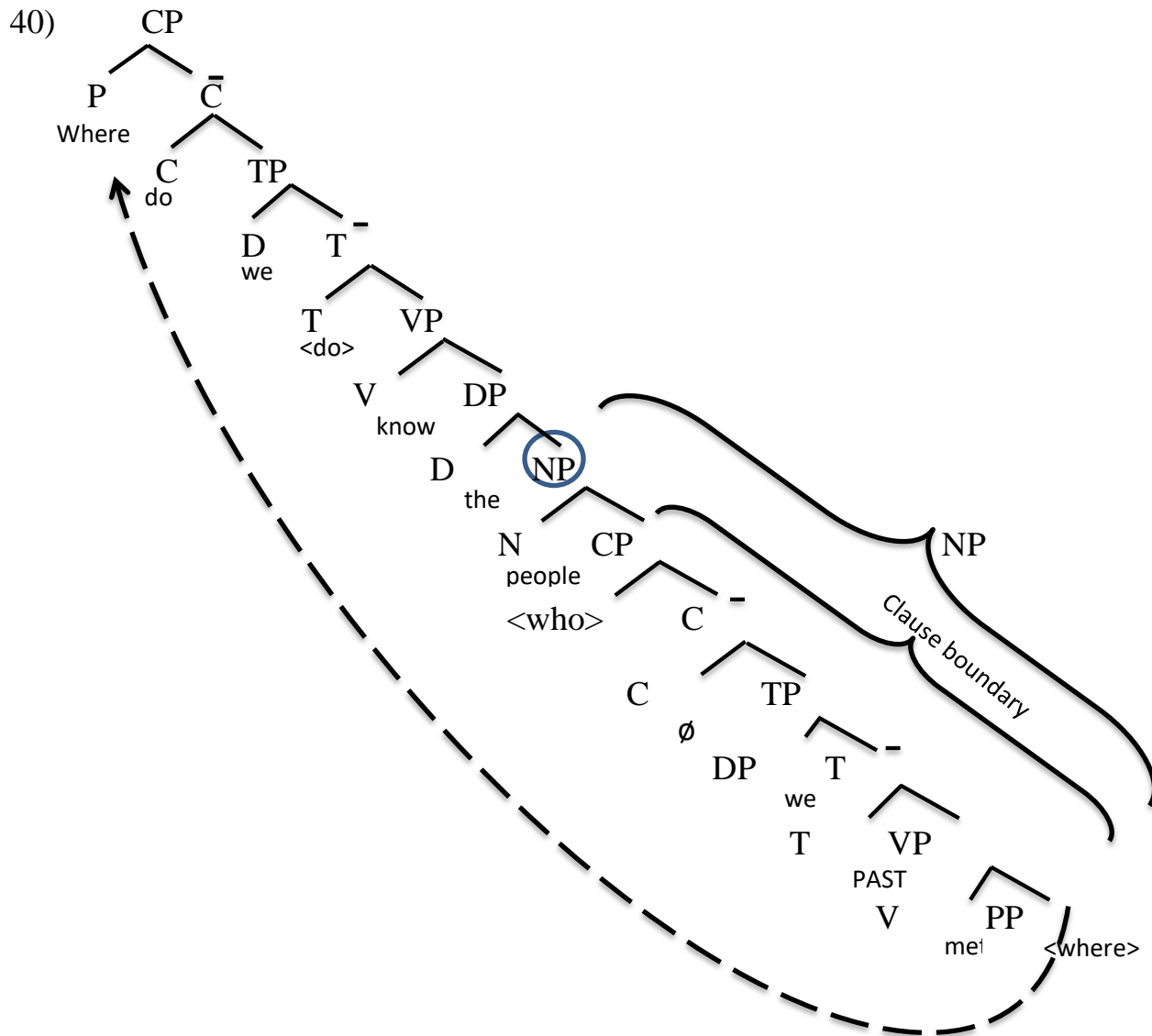
On the other hand, if we take an example of an indirect question applying "successive-cyclicity" in which a wh-element can be extracted, not in one long movement operation, but in a number of short movements. In each movement, the wh-element moves to the initial position of a clause which is called "parking place".

41) I want to know [___ Jack believed that Tom said that Jane bought <what >].

I want to know [<what> Jack believed that Tom said that Jane bought < >].

*<What> do you want to know [<_> Jack believed that Tom said that Jane bought]?

42)
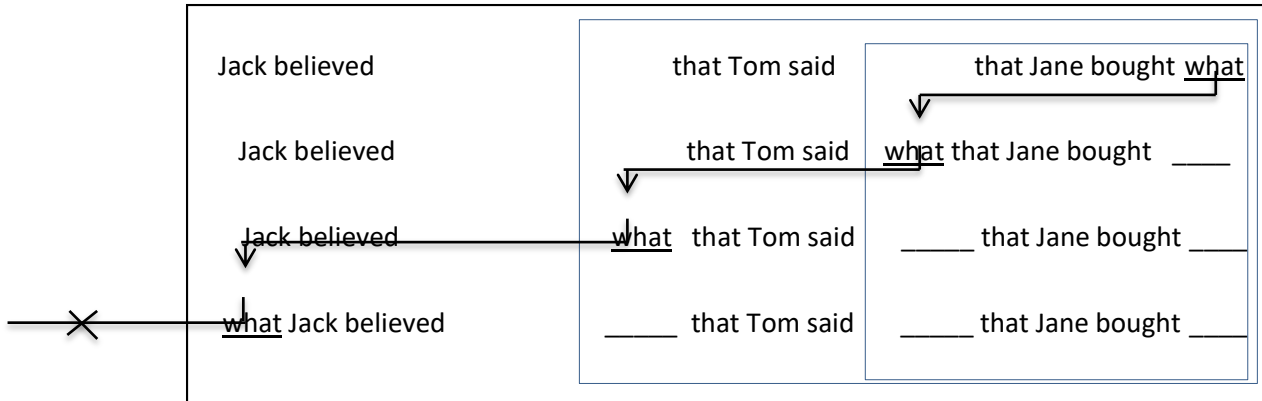
Hence, both "Subjacency Condition" and "Successive-Cyclicity" are locality principles suggested by Chomsky referring to the processes of an item that can be moved only inside the island. Finally, Hornstein (2009: 11) raises a question stating that why topicalization, relativization and the formation of interrogatives etc. are all obedient of island conditions. He answers the question pointing out that they, whatever their differences are, all include the operation of Wh/A-bar movement and this movement is subject to subjacency.

9.   Complex NP Constraints in Kurdish

Although Mihemed (2009: 258-9) argues that, in Kurdish, it can be expected that the binding nodes are just like the English ones (NP and IP), he is not sure whether the binding nodes follow or violate the islandic constraints without testing any CNP. The underlined parts, in (43a), are a complex NP which functions as subject *Ew kûrey* is an NP and *ke dwênê min bînîm* is a relative clause which post-modifies the head of the NP, *kûr*. No element can be extracted from the structure CNP.

    43) a) [NP Ew kûrey [CP ke   dwênê   min bînîm]] biray Azad bû.

      [NP The boy [CP whom yesterday I   saw]]   brother Azad was.

      (= The boy whom I saw yesterday was Azad's brother.)

- Extracting the head:

    b) *Kê [CNP ew <   > ke dwênê min bînîm] biray Azad bû?

In Kurdish, the interrogative pronoun "kê" (=who) in (12b) cannot be extracted. Qadir (2008: 34) states that the relative clause marker "ke" (= that/whom), in (12a), is different from the English one in that it has originally and already taken the COMP position in its deep structure. However, even though the wh-question word remains in-situ, the CNP is still the island:

    c) *[CNP Ew < kê> ke dwênê min bînîm] biray Azad bû?

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- Extracting the elements of the relative clause or keeping them in their places:

    d) *Kê [$_{CNP}$ ew kûrey ke dwênê < > bînîm biray Azad bû?

    e) *[$_{CNP}$ Ew kûrey ke dwênê <kê> bînîm biray Azad bû?

    f) *Key (=when) [$_{CNP}$ ew kûrey ke < > min bînîm] biray Azad bû?

    g) *[$_{CNP}$ Ew kûrey ke <key> min bînîm] biray Azad bû?

When the CNP functions as direct object, the head of the NP is not directly followed by the post-modifier relative clause; the verb of the sentence occurs between the head and the relative clause:

    44) a) Ħikumet pêşiniyarî [$_{NP}$ ew piŕojeyey] kirid [$_{CP}$ ke ewan debê
        sîstimî denigdan bigoŕin].

        Government a proposal   [$_{NP}$ the project] made [$_{CP}$ that they should

        change the voting system]

- Extracting the head or keeping it in its place:
    b) [çî] Ħikumet pêşiniyarî kirid [$_{CP}$ ke ewan debê sîstimî denigdan bigoŕin]?
    c) ? Ħikumet pêşiniyarî [çî] kirid [$_{CP}$ ke ewan debê sîstimî denigdan bigoŕin]?

The sentence is, semantically and grammatically, correct, but the question word "çî" (= what) in (44c) which remains in-situ is not asking about the head of the NP, "ew piŕojeyey" (= the project), the question is about something else which is equivalent to the following question: *What did the government propose to change the voting system?* And this question is not about *which project*; it may be about anything else.

- Extracting the elements of the relative clause or keeping them in their places:
    d) Kê Ħikumet pêşiniyarî [$_{NP}$ ew piŕojeyey] kirid [$_{CP}$ ke < > debê sîstimî denigdan bigoŕin]?
    e) *Ħikumet pêşiniyarî [$_{NP}$ ew piŕojeyey] kirid [$_{CP}$ ke <kê> debê sîstimî denigdan bigoŕin]?

Although the question word (kê = who), in (e), which asks about (ewan = they) remains in-situ, the interrogative sentence is incorrect. The question word is singular but the verb of the relative clause (bigoŕin) is plural. And if the verb is changed to a singular one, (bigoŕêt), the sentence loses its interrogative force which means:

    f) Ħikumet pêşiniyarî [$_{NP}$ ew piŕojeyey] kirid [$_{CP}$ ke <kê> debê sîstimî denigdan bigoŕêt].
       (= The government proposed a motion that who changes the voting system.)

Hawkins (2004: 170) points out that CNP is a principle not a parameter opening his argument by asking a question why CNPs are less hospitable environments for gaps than other structures. On the contrary, Kuno (1973: 238-40) argues that CNPC does not apply to Japanese. For further reading (see Shopen, 2007: 224).

10.Sentential Subject Constraint (SSC) in Kurdish:

In Kurdish, specified or sentential subject constraint is also an island.

45) a) [Ewey ke Dara ŕiqî le Azade] diroyekî şaxdare.
      [That Dara hates Azad] is a big lie.

No element can be questioned about within this clausal subject.

b) *Kê [ewey ke Dara ŕiqî lêye <   >] diroyekî şaxdare?

c) *Kê [ewey ke <   > ŕiqî le Azade] diroyekî şaxdare?

d) *Çî [ewey ke Dara <   > le Azade] diroyekî şaxdare?

Although wh-question words remain in-situ in Kurdish, the sentences still will be grammatically ill-formed.

e) *[Ewey ke Dara ŕiqî le <kê>e] diroyekî şaxdare?
f) *[Ewey ke <kê> ŕiqî le Azade] diroyekî şaxdare?
g) *[Ewey ke Dara <çî> le Azade] diroyekî şaxdare?

11. Left Branch Condition (LBC) in Kurdish:

In Kurdish, the same case does not exist because the wh- question word does not move but remains in-situ. Example (46a) is an NP consisting of two branches:

46) a) Min [NP parey Azadim] dizî.

   I [NP the money of Azad] stole. (= I stole Azad's money.)

  b) To [çî Azadit] dizî?

.   c) *Çî to [<   > Azadit] dizî?

47) a) Azad [mindałekanî kołanekey] derkird.

   b) Azad [<Kêy> kołanekey] derkird?

   c) *Kê Azad [<   > kołanekey] derkird?

Sentences (46a and 47a) elucidate that dependent genitive case in Kurdish is equivalent to the of-structure in English. Since Kurdish is considered as a head-last language; the head of adjective and adverb phrases occur at the end of the phrase (Khoshnaw, 2008: 32).

48) a) Hawar [AdvP zor bexêrayî] geŕayewe.

    Hawar [AdvP very quickly] came back.

    (= Hawar came back very quickly.)

b) Hawar [<çenid > bexêŕayî] geŕayewe?

c) *Çenid Hawar [<   > bexêŕayî] geŕayewe?

49) a) Xanûwekey ême [~AdjP~ zor gewreye].

House our [~AdjP~ very big] is. (= Our house is very big)

b) Xanûwekey êwe [<çenid > gewreye]?

c) *Çenid xanûwekey êwe [<   > gewreye]?

The difference between each pair sentences of (47b & c), (48b & c), and (49b & c) explain that there is no need to move the question words. It proves that question words, in Kurdish, remain in-situ. Hence it can be roughly said that LBC is not an island in Kurdish (Ma'roof, 2010: 54).

12. Coordinate Structure Constraint (CSC) in Kurdish:

Mihemed (2009: 257) states that whenever two NPs or two sentences are coordinated by a coordinator, they create an island from which no elements can be extracted or questioned about.

50) a) Baram [Aso û Nazdarî] bînî.

Baram [Aso and Nazdar] saw. (= Baram Saw Aso and Nazdar)

b) *Kê Baram [<   > and Nazdarî] bînî?

c) *Kê Baram [Aso and <   >] bînî?

Even if the question word "Kê" (= who) remains in-situ, the result is an island:

d) *Baram [<Kê> û Nazdarî] bînî?

e) *Baram [Aso û <Kêy>] bînî?

On the contrary, Fatah (2010: 74) argues that the clauses in compound sentences that are coordinated buy the coordinator "û" (= and) are equivalent. He also adds that only the verb in the first part of the conjunct cannot be questioned when they semantically have a strong relation:

51) a) [Kameran gwêzekanî deweşand] û [mindałekanîş koyan dekirdnewe].

[Kameran the nuts was shaking] and [the children were collecting them].

b) *[Kameran <çî dekird>] û [mindałekanîş koyan dekirdnewe]?

c) [<Kê> gwêzekanî deweşand] û [mindałekanîş koyan dekirdnewe]?

d) [Kameran gwêzekanî deweşand] û [<Kê> koy dekirdnewe]?

e) [Kameran gwêzekanî deweşand] û [mindałekanîş < çîyan dekird>]?

Sentence (51a) means that someone was shaking the nut tree so that the nuts fell down and the children were collecting them. So only (51b) is ungrammatical or it creates an island. There are two actions that were happening one after the other or may be at the same time. Asking about the first action is not grammatical because the speaker does not understand the second part unless the verb of the first part is quite clear. On the other hand, asking about any other elements does not lead to the creation of an island. However, when the conjuncts are coordinated buy "yan" (=or), there will be a sense of choice between the two conjuncts:

52) a) [Nanî nîweŕo] yan [nanî êware] pêkewe dexoyn.

   [Lunch] or [dinner] together we will have.

   (= We will have lunch or dinner together)

   b) *[<Çî>] yan [nanî êware] pêkewe bixoyn?

   c) *[<Çî nîweŕo>] yan [nanî êware] pêkewe bixoyn?

   d) *[<Nanî key>] yan [nanî êware] pêkewe bixoyn?

   e) *[<Nanî key>] yan [nanî êware] pêkewe bixoyn?

   f) *[Nanî nîweŕo] yan [<çî> êware] pêkewe bixoyn?

Concerning the coordinator "bełam" (=but), Mihemed (2009: 257) adds that the conjuncts are islands, too.

53) a) Ewey ke [Azad minałekani xoşdewêt] bełam [Newzad minałekani

      xoşnawêt] lay hemwan ŕûne.

      That Azad likes the children but Newzad doesn't like them is obvious.

   b) *Ewey ke key [Azad <   > xoşdewêt] bełam [Newzad minałekani

      xoşnawêt] lay hemwan ŕune?

   c) *Ewey ke kê [<   > minałekani xoşdewêt] bełam [Newzad

      minałekani xoşnawêt] lay hemwan ŕune?

Although Mihemed has not tested the examples (53b or c) whether they still create an island or not when the question word "kê" (=who) remains in-situ, they give the same result; they are islands in Kurdish, too.

   d) *Ewey ke [Azad <key> xoşdewêt] bełam [Newzad minałekani

      xoşnawêt] lay hemwan ŕune?

   e) *Ewey ke [<kê> minałekani xoşdewêt] bełam [Newzad

minałekani xoşnawêt] lay hemwan ŕune?

Even co-ordinate structures like *Azad* û *Ali* are islands if one wants to tropicalize a part of the coordinate structure. Hence, in a sentence like:

54) Min sersamim be *Azad û Ali*.

The whole co-ordinate structure *Azad û Ali* can be moved to the front of the overall sentence (as in '*Azad û Ali*, min sersamim pêyan), but *Azad* cannot be topicalise*d* alone (as we see from the ungrammaticality of (56)

56) ∗*Azad* min sersamim William *û*. (Radford, 2009: 391)

13. Adjunct Clause Constraint in Kurdish

In Kurdish, elements of adjunct clauses are constrained from extraction, too.

55) a) Aram naçête derewe [çûnke deyewêt xoy le nexoşî biparêzêt].

   Aram doesn't go out because he wants to protect himself from disease.

   b) *Boçî Aram naçête derewe [<   > deyewêt xoy le nexoşî biparêzêt]?

   c) *Le çî Aram naçête derewe [çûnke deyewêt xoy <   > biparêzêt]?

When the question words remain in-situ, the result will be the same:

   d) *Aram naçête derewe [<boçî > deyewêt xoy le nexoşî biparêzêt]?

   e) *Aram naçête derewe [çûnke deyewêt xoy <Le çî> biparêzêt]?

The reason for the islandhood in both Kurdish and English is that only the elements of superordinate clauses can be extracted, but the elements of subordinate clauses do not allow this extraction. In Kurdish, the subordinate clause, in a complex sentence, can be easily recognized. That reason is that the clause marker "ke" is equivalent to almost all English clause markers of ajunct and relative clauses such as 'where', 'when', 'why', 'who(m)', 'which', 'that', etc. (Mukiryanî, 2004: 10).

14. Indirect Wh-question Constraint in Kurdish

Mihemed (2009: 255) refuses the statement of other linguists stating that sentences (56b, c & d) are still grammatical because moving the question word has not crossed more than one bounding node; the question word has moved across only one (IP) node. The evidence for their claim is that moving wh-question phrase does not exist in Kurdish or Persian. He provides two evidences for his statement. Firstly, Kurdish has its own direct questions like (57b, c & d), and indirect questions like (58, 59, 60 & 61):

56) a) Baram dezanêt [kê gûłekan aw dedat].

   Baram knows who the flowers waters

   (= Baram knows who waters the flowers)

   b) *Kê Baram dezanêt [<   > gûłekan aw dedat]?

   c) * Baram dezanêt [gûłekan <kê> aw dedat]?

   d) * Gûłekan Baram dezanêt [<kê> aw dedat]?

57) a) Akam gûłî pêşkeş be Sakar kirid.

   b) <Kê> gûłî pêşkeş be Sakar kirid?

   c) Akam <çî> pêşkeş be Sakar kirid?

   d) Akam gûłî pêşkeş be <kê> kirid?

58) Aram pirsî [Akam <çî> pêşkeş be Sakar kirid]?

59) Aram gutî [Akam gûłî pêşkeş be <kê> kirid?]?

60) [Aram dezanêt [Akam gûłî pêşkeş be <kê> kirid]]?

61) [Aram [wîstî [PRO bizanêt [kê gûłî da be kê]]]?

Secondly, in Kurdish, the interrogative pronoun does not have the interrogative force as a question word, and sentences (60 & 61) do not have interrogative elements. So a question word cannot be recognized as a variable in Kurdish, that's why it does not represent or show the phenomenon of subjacency condition. Interrogative sentences are formed by virtue of stress and intonation without needing any question words and moving them to the front of the sentence. Extracting the wh-question words, in all the sentences (58, 59, 60, and 61), results in islandhood.

62) *Çî Aram pirsî [Akam <　> pêşkeş be Sakar kirid]?

63) *Kê Aram gutî [Akam gûłî pêşkeş be <　> kirid?]?

64) *Kê [Aram dezanêt [Akam gûłî pêşkeş be <　> kirid]]?

65) *Kê [Aram [wîstî [PRO bizanêt [<　> gûłî da be kê]]]?

15. Conclusions

Complex noun phrase and sentential subjects in Kurdish create islandic structures, if the wh-question words are moved to the front of the sentence or remain in-situ.

Left branch condition and indirect wh-questions in Kurdish are controversial; any attempt at extracting and wh-questioning the left branch of an NP or of indirect wh-questions is island in Kurdish but keeping it in its place will not lead to the creation of any constraints.

Coordinate constraint and adjunct clauses structures in Kurdish are also islands without taking the movement of the wh-question word into account.

List of Kurdish Phonemic Symbols

1- Kurdish Consonants

/p/	**p**êkewe	/**p**ekəwə/	'together'
/b/	**b**eyanî	/**b**əja:ni:/	'morning'
/t/	**t**emen	/**t**əmən/	'age'
/d/	**d**esit	/**d**əst/	'hand'
/k/	bê**k**ar	/be**k**ar/	'jobless'
/g/	**g**erdûn	/**g**ərdu:n/	'universe'
/q/	**q**eyran	/**q**əjræn/	'crisis'
/ʔ/	**e**we	/**ʔ**əwə/	'that'
/f/	**f**arisî/	/**f**arɪsi:/	'Persian'
/v/	miro**v**	/mɪrɒ**v**/	'human'
/s/	**s**êşem	/**s**eʃəm/	'Tuesday'
/z/	**z**ewî	/**z**əwi:/	'Earth'
/ʃ/	**ş**anişîn	/**ʃ**ænɪʃi:n/	'kingdom'
/ʒ/	**j**ûr	/**ʒ**u:r/	'room'
/χ/	**x**ewin	/**χ**əwɪn/	'sleep'
/ɣ/	**x̌**erîbe	/**ɣ**əri:bə/	'stranger'
/h/	**h**ewşe	/**h**əwʃə/	'yard'
/h/	hêlke	/helkə/	'egg'
/ʕ/	**'**ereb	/ **ʕ**ərəb/	'Arab'
/h/	**h**êz	/**h**ez/	'power'
/tʃ/	**ç**etir	/**tʃ**ətɪr/	'umbrella'
/dʒ/	**c**iwan	/**dʒ**ɪwæn/	'beautiful'
/l/	**l**êw	/**l**ew/	'lip'
[ɫ]	ga**l**te	[gɑ:**ɫ**tə]	'joke'
/m/	**m**irdin	/**m**ɪrdɪn/	'death'
/n/	**n**erim	/**n**ərɪm/	'soft'
/r/	pi**r**is	/pɪ**r**ɪs/	'issue'
[ɽ]	**ŕ**ê**ŕ**ew	[**ɽ**e**ɽ**əw]	'corridor'
/w/	he**w**ir	/hə**w**ɪr/	'cloud'
/j/	pe**y**wendî	/pə**j**wəndi:/	'relationship'

2- Kurdish Vowels

/i:/	s**î**r	/s**i**:r/	'garlic'
/i/	xiward**i**	/xwɑ:rd**i**/	'he ate'
/ɪ/	m**i**rd**i**n	/m**ɪ**rd**ɪ**n /	'death'
/e/	s**ê**	/s**e**/	'three'
/ə/	heft**e**	/h**ə**ft**ə**/	'week'
/ɑ:/	d**a**r	/d**ɑ**:r/	'wood'
/ʊ/	k**u**rt	/k**ʊ**rt/	'village'
/u:/	d**û**r	/d**u**:r/	'far'

بەربەستە دوورگەییەکان لە زمانی ئینگلیزی و کوردیدا

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پوختە:

لە ڕیزمانی گواستنەوەیی دا ، چەند یاسایەکی وەک دەرهینان و گواستنەوە و پرسیارکردن و ڕستەی باسمەند هەن کە کەرەسەکان شوینی خۆیان جیدەهیڵن و بۆ پیشەوەی ڕستە دەجولین. ئەم لیکۆلینەوەیە تیشک دەخاتە سەر هەندی لە دوورگە سینتاکتیکیەکان لە زمانی ئینگلیزی و کوردیدا و تاقیکردنەوەیان ئاخۆ ئەم دوورگانە بەربەست دەخەنە بەردەم هینانەدەرەوە و گواستنەوەی کەرەستەکانیان لە زمانی کوردیدا یاخود نا. لەم لیکۆلینەوەیەدا ، گریمانەی ئەوە دەکریت کە دوورگە تەنها دەربارەی ئەو بەربەستانە نین لەبەردەم دەرهینان و گواستنەوەی کەرەستەیەک بۆ سەرەتای ڕستە. لە زمانی کوردیدا ، ئەگەرچی وشەی پرسیاری لە شوینی خۆیدا دەمینیتەوە ، بەلام هیشتا دوورگەی وا هەن کە دەبنە بەربەست لە دروستکردنی هەندی ڕۆنانی ڕیزمانی ، بۆ نمونه ، ڕستەی پرسیاری.

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