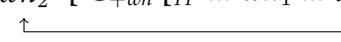


Single-pair readings are derived from LFs that differ only in that they contain a single ?-operator occurring above all interrogative elements. This yields a ‘flat’ set of possible answers (5b), yielding a single-pair interpretation of the question.

(4) **LFs for the single-pair readings of multiple questions contain a single ?-operator:**

- a. [? [CP wh₁ [CP wh₂ [C_{+wh} [TP ... t₁ ... t₂]]]]] Superiority-obeying

- b. [? [CP wh₂ [C_{+wh} [TP ... wh₁ ... t₂]]]]] Superiority-violating


For a superiority-obeying multiple question as in (5a), denotations for the single-pair and pair-list readings of the question are given in (5b–c) respectively.

(5) **The single-pair and pair-list reading of a superiority-obeying question:**

- a. *Which* student read *which* book?
- b. A ‘flat’ structure with a single ?-operator yields a single-pair reading (LF (4a)):
 $\{\lambda w. x \text{ read } y \text{ in } w : y \in \text{book}, x \in \text{student}\} \iff$
 $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{John read A, John read B, John read C, Mary read A,} \\ \text{Mary read B, Mary read C, Bill read A, Bill read B, Bill read C} \end{array} \right\}$
- c. A nested structure with multiple ?-operators yields a pair-list reading (LF (3a)):
 $\{\{\lambda w. x \text{ read } y \text{ in } w : y \in \text{book}\} : x \in \text{student}\} \iff$
 $\left\{ \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{John read A} \\ \text{John read B} \\ \text{John read C} \end{array} \right\}, \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Mary read A} \\ \text{Mary read B} \\ \text{Mary read C} \end{array} \right\}, \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Bill read A} \\ \text{Bill read B} \\ \text{Bill read C} \end{array} \right\} \right\}$

A prediction: This proposal correctly predicts that so-called ‘quiz master’ questions, involving *wh*-in-situ in English, can only have single-pair readings. This is because the ?-operator occurs in C but all *wh*s necessarily occur below C, excluding an LF as in (3a).

- (6) Elvis Presley introduces *which movie star* to *which baseball team*?

Conclusion: The single-pair and pair-list readings of multiple questions are thus derived from a well-motivated syntax and from minimally different LFs, differing only in the number of ?-operators they contain. This is not achieved in previous analyses of multiple *wh*-questions. The components of the derivation are assigned simple meanings and they are modeled after operators that have been previously proposed in the literature. The talk will give detailed derivations to show how the attested readings of English questions and their presuppositions are derived, and furthermore discuss extensions to other languages. Time permitting, the talk will also demonstrate how *intervention effects* (Beck, 2006) can be modeled within this framework.

Selected references: Beck, 2006. Intervention effects follow from focus interpretation. *NALS*. Beck & Kim. 2006. Intervention effects in alternative questions. *Journal of Comparative German Linguistics*. Cable. 2010. *The grammar of Q: Q-particles, wh-movement, and pied-piping*. Fox. 2012. *The semantics of questions*. Manuscript. Hagstrom. 1998. Decomposing questions. *Dissertation, MIT*. Nicolae. 2013. Any questions? *Dissertation, Harvard*. Shimoyama. 2001. *Wh-constructions in Japanese. Dissertation, UMass*.