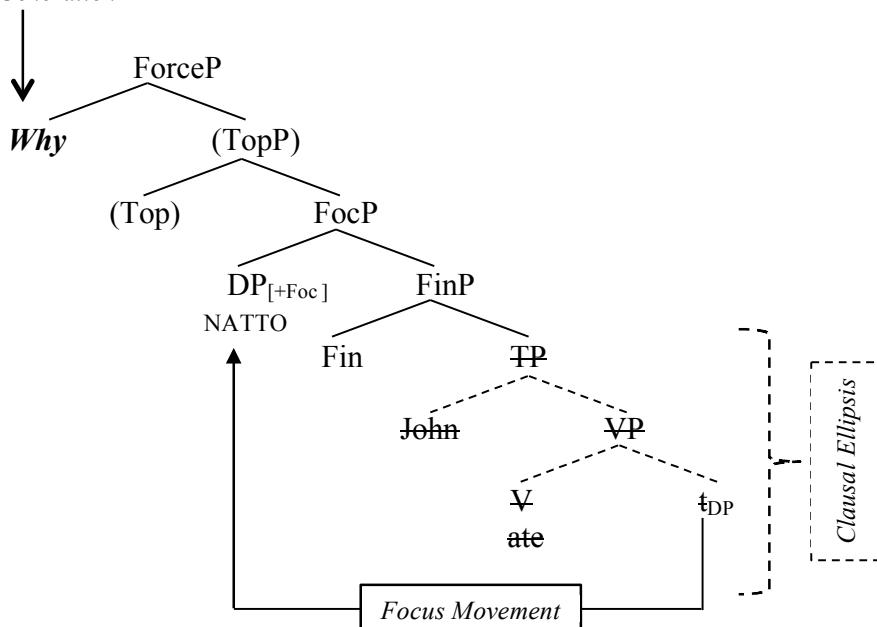


(5) *Base Generation*

2. Basic properties of Why-Stripping

2.1. Clausal ellipsis in Why-Stripping

Sluicing (e.g., (2a/3a)) and Stripping (e.g., ((4a)), which have full-clausal counterparts in (2b/3b) and (4b), have often been analyzed as instances of clausal ellipsis. Merchant (2001), following Ross's (1969) traditional analysis, claims that Sluicing is derived via *wh*-movement followed by IP-deletion, as shown in (6a) (see also Chung, Ladusaw and McCloskey 1995 and Lasnik 2001). Similarly, Depiante (2000) claims that Stripping involves focus movement of the remnant followed by IP-deletion as shown in (6b) (see Merchant 2003 and Jones 2004 for similar analyses).

- (6) a. John ate natto, but I don't know [_{CP} **why**₁ [_{TP} ~~John ate natto~~ *t*₁]].
 b. John ate sushi, but [_{FP} [**not natto**]₁ [_{TP} ~~John ate~~ *t*₁]].

This section points out that the properties of Sluicing and Stripping that have been considered as evidence for the existence of the underlying clausal structure also apply to Why-Stripping, and thus claims that a clausal structure underlies Why-Stripping similarly to these two elliptical constructions.

First, Sluicing, Stripping and Why-Stripping all show so-called binding connectivity effects, as illustrated in (7). The anaphor *himself* inside the ellipsis remnant in these examples can apparently be bound by an antecedent in the previous clause.

- (7) a. *Sluicing* **John**₁ sold a lot of pictures, but I don't know how many pictures of **himself**₁.
 b. *Stripping* **John**₁ sold a lot of pictures, but not pictures of **himself**₁.
 c. *Why-Stripping* A: **John**₁ sold a lot of pictures. B: Why PICTURES OF **HIMSELF**₁?

This fact is accounted for if the clause underlying ellipsis includes the antecedent *John* in the same way as the antecedent clause as shown in (8) for the Sluicing example. Thus, the binding connectivity effects are evidence that these constructions involve clausal ellipsis.

- (8) ... but I don't know [_{CP} [how many pictures of **himself**₁]₂ [_{TP} ~~**John**₁ sold~~ *t*₂]]. (= (7a))

Second, Merchant (2001) employs Case connectivity effects as an argument for clausal ellipsis in Sluicing. As shown in (9a), the Case of the *wh*-phrase in German Sluicing has to match that of the corresponding indefinite phrase in the antecedent clause. Similarly, a Stripping remnant must have the

same Case as its contrastive phrase in the antecedent clause ((9b), Nakao 2009, J. Jurka p.c.). (9c) shows that Why-Stripping also shows Case connectivity in that the remnant and the correlate of Why-Stripping bear the same Case.

- (9) a. *Sluicing*
 Er will jemandem schmeicheln, aber Sie wissen nicht, *wer/*wen/ wem
 he wants someone.dat flatter but they know not who.*nom/*acc/dat
 “He wants to flatter someone, but they don’t know who.”
- b. *Stripping*
 Peter will der Sekretarin gefallen, aber nicht dem/ *den Chef.
 Peter wants the.dat secretary please, but not the.dat/*acc boss
 “Peter wants to please the secretary, but not the boss.”
- c. *Why-Stripping*
 A: Peter will der Sekretarin gefallen. B: Warum DER/*DIE SEKRETAERIN?
 Peter wants the.dat secretary please why the.dat/*acc secretary
 “Peter wants to please the secretary.” “Why the secretary?”

The Case connectivity effects are predicted under the clausal ellipsis analysis because there is an underlying verb (e.g., *flatter* in (9a)) that assigns Dative Case to the ellipsis remnant, as shown in (10), and the verb is identical to that in the antecedent clause.

- (10) ... but they know not [_{CP} who₁ [_{TP} ~~he wants to flatter~~]]. (= (9a))

Third, all of these constructions do not tolerate voice mismatches, as shown in (11). When the antecedent clause is active, the ellipsis remnant cannot be the passive *by*-phrase. As argued by Merchant (2001, 2008) for *Sluicing*, this is expected under the clausal ellipsis account, with the assumption that the clause underlying ellipsis needs to be identical to its antecedent clause in terms of voice.

- (11) a. *Sluicing* Someone kissed Mary, but I don’t know (*by) who?
 b. *Stripping* John kissed Mary, but not (*by) Bill.
 c. *Why-Stripping* A: John kissed Mary. B: Why (*BY) JOHN?

Similarly, *Sluicing*, *Stripping* and *Why-Stripping* do not allow argument structure mismatches; when the antecedent clause has the double object construction, the ellipsis remnant cannot have the oblique Dative form *to*. This is an indication that these elliptical constructions have an underlying clause, and that the clause must have the same argument structure as its antecedent clause.

- (12) a. *Sluicing* John gave someone his book, but I don’t know (*to) who.
 b. *Stripping* John gave Mary his book, but not (*to) Susan.
 c. *Why-Stripping* A: John gave Mary his book. B: Why (*TO) MARY?

In sum, the arguments for the clausal ellipsis analysis of *Sluicing/Stripping* can be extended to *Why-Stripping*; therefore, these facts suggest that *Why-Stripping* also has an underlying clausal structure.

2.2. Movement in *Why-Stripping*

Under the clausal ellipsis analysis in (5), the ellipsis remnant moves out of the TP before the TP gets elided. Merchant (2001) claims that the existence of movement is supported by the following P-stranding generalization.

- (13) **P-stranding Generalization** (modified from Merchant 2001) P-less remnant in fragmental constructions (Sluicing, Stripping etc.) is allowed only in a language that allows P-stranding in explicit A'-movement.¹

The German examples in (14) and the English examples in (15) illustrate the P-stranding generalization. In a language that does not allow P-stranding in wh-movement such as German, the preposition cannot be omitted from the ellipsis remnant when the remnant is a PP, as shown in (14).

- (14) a. *Sluicing* (Merchant 2001)
 Anna hat mit jemandem gesprochen, aber ich weiß nicht ***(mit) wem**.
 Anna has with someone spoken but I know not **with who**
 "Anna has spoken with someone, but I don't know with whom"
- b. *Stripping* (Nakao 2009; see also Depiante 2000 for Spanish examples)
 Maria hat mit Hans gesprochen, aber nicht ***(mit) Bill**.
 Mary has with Hans spoken, but not **with Bill**
 "Mary spoke with Hans, but not with Bill." (*Intended reading*: "Maria didn't talk with Bill.")
- c. *Why-Stripping*
 A: Anna hat mit Abel gesprochen. B: Warum ***(MIT) ABEL?**
 Anna has with Abel spoken. Why **with Abel?**
 "Anna has spoken with Abel" "Why with Abel?"

On the other hand, in a P-stranding language such as English, the preposition on the remnant may or may not be present when the corresponding phrase in the antecedent is a PP.

- (15) a. *Sluicing* Peter was talking to someone, but I don't know **(to) who?** (Merchant 2001)
 b. *Stripping* John talked to Mary, and **(to) Susan**, too. (Depiante 2000)
 c. *Why-Stripping* A: Anna talked to Abel. B: Why **(TO) ABEL?**

This correlation provides evidence for the movement of the remnant; in order to exclude the preposition from the remnant, you need to move a DP and strand the preposition as illustrated in (16), which is a banned operation in languages such as German.

- (16) ... but I don't know [_{CP} who_i [_{IP} ~~Peter was talking to t_i~~]]. (= (15a))

Again, the fact that the P-stranding generalization also holds for Why-Stripping supports the claim that the Why-Stripping remnant undergoes movement in the same way as that of Sluicing/Stripping.

These three constructions are also similar with respect to the P-stranding impossibility in Sprouting. Chung et. al (1995) shows that Sluicing may lack a corresponding indefinite phrase in its antecedent clause and they name such a construction Sprouting. Chung (2005) shows that, even in P-stranding languages such as English, P-stranding is impossible under Sprouting Sluicing as shown in (17a). Stripping and Why-Stripping can also come without a correlate phrase. We will call these constructions Sprouting Stripping and Sprouting Why-Stripping, respectively. As we show in (17b, c), Sprouting Stripping and Sprouting Why-Stripping also disallow P-stranding.

- (17) a. *Sprouting Sluicing* John served dinner, but I don't know ***(to) who**.
 b. *Sprouting Stripping* John served dinner, but not ***(to) his father**.
 c. *Sprouting Why-Stripping* A: John served dinner. B: Why (even/not) ***(TO) BILL?**

Why-Stripping and Sluicing also exhibit similarity with respect to their locality constraints. Although there is evidence for movement and deletion in Sluicing (as discussed above), Sluicing is insensitive to island constraints, a fact that is well-known since Ross (1969). The Sluicing example in

¹ There are a number of potential exceptions to this generalization, e.g., Spanish or Brazilian Portuguese, which allow P-stranding only under ellipsis. According to Rodrigues, Nevins and Vicente 2009, P-stranding under ellipsis in those languages is only possible when the ellipsis site contains an underlying copula, and thus has a different form than its antecedent clause.

(18a) is acceptable, while the corresponding wh-question in (18b) is impossible due to the complex NP constraint. Merchant (2001) claims that Sluicing involves TP-deletion at PF and it eliminates the island violations made in the PF representation.

- (18) a. John likes [girls who speak *some Romance language*], but I don't know **which**.
 b. *John likes [girls who speak *some Romance language*], but I don't know [_{CP} **which**_I [_{TP} John likes [girls who speaks **t_i]]]].**

Similar island-amelioration effects are observed in Why-Stripping as well. Even though the correlate phrase is trapped inside an island, the corresponding remnant can escape ellipsis as shown in (19).

- (19) A: John likes [girls who speak *French*]. B: Why **FRENCH** (in particular)?

Stripping behaves differently from the other two elliptical constructions in this respect. It is island-sensitive (Reinhart 1991), as shown in (20). The account of the island-sensitivity of Stripping is beyond the scope of this paper (Yoshida et. al, in preparation, suggest a possible account based on Merchant's 2004 theory of Fragment Answers), but we claim that the island-insensitivity of Why-Stripping parallels that of Sluicing.²

- (20) *John likes [girls who speak *French*], but **not Italian**.

To sum up, based on the data in Section 2.1. and Section 2.2., we claim that Why-Stripping is derived via movement of the remnant followed by clausal ellipsis as shown in (21).

- (21) Why [**NATTO**_I [_{TP} ~~John ate **t_i**]]?~~

The remaining questions include: where does the remnant move to and what is the status of the movement? Also where does the wh-phrase *why* reside? In the next section, we will argue that (i) *why* is base-generated in the left-periphery, that (ii) the remnant undergoes focus movement, and that (iii) the focus movement is induced by the special 'focus-association' effect of *why*.

3. Focus association, focus movement and focus projection

3.1. The focus association effect of 'why' and the position of the remnant

Bromberger (1992) shows that the wh-phrase *why* has a special property of focus association. Its interpretation changes depending on the location of the focus in the sentence. For example, the answer to the question 'Why did Adam eat the apple?' changes according to the focus, as shown in (22). We will refer to such why-questions that involve a focus phrase as the 'Why-Focus construction.'

- (22) a. A: *Why* did ADAM eat the apple?
 B: Because he (Adam) is the one that Eve worked on.
 b. A: *Why* did Adam eat the APPLE?
 B: Because it (the apple) was the only food around.

² Merchant (2001) classifies island effects into two subtypes, propositional islands and PF-islands, and claims that only the latter are repaired by PF-deletion. He treats complex NPs as propositional islands and explains that the lack of an island effect in (18a) is not due to PF-deletion, but due to the lack of an island itself under ellipsis. We, however, follow Nakao and Yoshida's (2007) argument that so-called propositional islands can also be ameliorated by PF-deletion: otherwise the presence of island effects with Stripping (e.g., (20)) and Sluicing with *why* (see section 3.2.) is unexpected. On the other hand, we probably cannot dismiss the distinction between the two types of islands altogether, given that what Merchant calls PF-islands (e.g., Left Branch Condition) is different from complex NPs in that they are ameliorated even by Stripping, as shown in (i). We leave this an open issue.

(i) a. *Sluicing* John made [**too strong** an espresso], but I don't know **how strong**. (Merchant 2001)
 b. *Stripping* John made [**too strong** an espresso], but not **too weak**.
 c. *Why-Stripping* A: John made [**too strong** an espresso]. B: Why **too strong**?

Questions with other *wh*-phrases such as *when* do not show such a property; the answer to the question remains constant even when the focus changes, as (23) shows.

- (23) a. A: When did ADAM eat the apple?
 B: At 4 p.m. on July 7, 24,000,000 B.C.
 b. A: When did Adam eat the APPLE?
 B: At 4 p.m. on July 7, 24,000,000 B.C.

We claim that the fact that only *why* licenses Why-Stripping is related to this special property of *why*. As shown in (24b), other *wh*-phrases such as *when* cannot co-occur with a non-*wh* remnant.

- (24) a. A: John ate natto. B: Why NATTO?
 b. A: John ate natto. B: *When NATTO?³

We claim that the movement of the remnant in (21) is an overt manifestation of the focus association effect of *why* in the Why-Focus construction. Under this view the remnant undergoes focus movement induced by *why*. The assumption that *why* can induce focus movement is supported by the fact that only *why* is compatible with focus movement in focus-movement languages. The Romanian examples in (25) show that the focused phrase *NATTO* can undergo overt movement in *why*-questions, but not in questions involving other *wh*-phrases.

- (25) a. A: Ion manc-a natto.
 John eating-was natto.
 “John was eating natto.”
 B: **De ce NATTO** pro manc-a t_{natto} ?
Why natto pro eating-was?
 “Lit. *Why* NATTO he was eating?”
 b. A: Cineva manc-a natto.
 Someone eating-was natto.
 “Someone was eating natto.”
 B: **Cine** manc-a natto?
Who eating-was natto?
 “Who was eating natto?”
 B': ***Cine** NATTO manc-a t_{natto} ?
Who natto eating-was?
 “Who NATTO was eating?”

According to our analysis, *why* and the focused phrase agree as in (26a) and the remnant undergoes focus movement as shown in (26b) (see section 3.3. for a further refinement of this proposal).

- (26) a. $\text{Agree} \left[\begin{array}{c} \text{CP } \mathbf{Why} \left[\text{TP John ate } \mathbf{NATTO} \right] \right]$ b. $\text{Movement} \sqrt{\text{CP } \mathbf{Why} \left[\mathbf{NATTO} \left[\text{TP John ate } t_i \right] \right]}$

This movement is covert in the Why-Focus construction in (1b) and (22), but it is overtly manifested in Why-Stripping in (1a), as well as in Romanian (25a).

Note that such movement is also possible with so-called focus particles such as *only*, as exemplified in (27a). The focus association between *only* and the focused phrase can also cross an island (e.g., (27b)). Thus, the parallelism between *why* and focus particles gives some credit to the idea that *why* induces focus movement.

- (27) a. A: John only ate natto. B: Only NATTO?
 b. *Context*: we need to find someone who likes sushi and someone who likes natto.
 A: I only know [a guy who eats natto]. B: Only NATTO?

³ At least some speakers allow for a closely-related ellipsis structure such as the example in (i), where a *wh*-element appears with a non-*wh*-remnant that contrasts with the correlate, as opposed to repeating it (Nevins 2008):
 (i) Someone prepared for all the talks but I don't know **who** for syntax.
 The *wh*-element (e.g. *who*) and the focused XP (e.g. *for syntax*) arguably compete for the same position, and as a consequence, the remnant undergoes rightward movement to escape ellipsis. The properties of this structure is, therefore, fairly different from Why-Stripping (see Ortega-Santos et al. in preparation for discussion).

Then what is the landing site of this focus movement? We employ the Split-CP Hypothesis (Rizzi 1997, 2001, van Craenenbroeck 2010, a.o.) and claim that the position of *why* is the uppermost layer of CP (namely, ForceP) while the landing site of the focus movement is [Spec, FocP], as shown in (28). After the movement, TP undergoes PF-deletion.

(28) [_{ForceP} **Why** [_{TopP} Top [_{FocP} **NATTO** Foc [_{FinP} Fin [_{TP} ~~John ate t_i].~~

Because *why* resides in the ForceP position, the whole illocutionary force of Why-Stripping is the same as that of ordinary wh-questions. As shown in (29), Why-Stripping undergoes the same selectional restriction as interrogative sentences. (Note that (29d) may be possible as a ‘direct quote’ interpretation: I think, “Why natto?”, but that reading is irrelevant here.)

- (29) a. I wonder why John ate natto. b. I wonder why NATTO.
c. *I think why John ate natto. d. *I think why NATTO.

3.2. ‘Why’ from where?

Bromberger speculates that the *why* that associates with focus (e.g., (22)) does not undergo movement. Following his claim, we assume that *why* is base-generated in the sentence-initial position ([Spec, ForceP]), and scopes over all the elements in the sentence. We point out that differences in locality constraints provide evidence that *why* in Why-Stripping also does not undergo movement from within the same clause as the associated focus phrase.

Merchant (2001) observes that *why* obeys strict locality constraints under Sluicing. Unlike other wh-phrases, *why* does not show island-amelioration effects under Sluicing (e.g., (30a)). Moreover, it cannot even escape a finite clause, as shown in (30b).

- (30) a. *He wants to interview [someone who works at the soup kitchen *for a certain reason*],
but he won’t reveal yet **why**.
b. *Mary said [that John left *for a certain reason*], but I don’t know **why**.

If *why* in Why-Stripping is base-generated in the same clause as the associated focus phrase and undergoes movement to the matrix [Spec, FocP], it should obey the same locality constraints as *why* in (30). However, (31) shows that this is not the case. Even when the remnant originates inside an island (e.g., (31a); see also (19)) or a finite clause (e.g., (31b)), Why-Stripping is grammatical. This indicates that *why* in Why-Stripping does not undergo wh-movement, unlike *why* in Sluicing.

- (31) a. A: John is happy [because Bill ate *natto*]. B: Why NATTO?
b. A: John denied [that Mary ate *natto*]. B: Why NATTO?

Another piece of evidence that the focus-associating *why* is base-generated involves its interaction with quantifiers. *Why* in ordinary questions can take a narrower scope than a quantifying subject as shown in (32a) (Collins 1991), but *why* in the Why-Focus construction (e.g., (32b)) and Why-Stripping (e.g., (32c)) must scope over the subject.

- (32) a. Why does everyone hate John? (why > every, every > why)
b. Why does everyone hate JOHN (not Bill)? (why > every, *every > why)
c. A: Everyone hates John. B: Why JOHN (not bill)? (why > every, *every > why)

In sum, we claim that there are two types of *why*: *why* in ordinary interrogatives undergoes wh-movement (Huang 1982, Collins 1991, Lasnik and Saito 1992, Ko 2005), and *why* in the Why-Focus Construction and Why-Stripping is base-generated in the left periphery, namely, [Spec, ForceP] (cf. Bromberger 1992, Rizzi 2001).

3.3. Obligatory ellipsis

In contrast to Romance Why-focus constructions (e.g., (25a)), there is no overt focus movement in the English Why-Focus construction. We assume overt focus movement in our analysis of Why-Stripping as shown in (21), but focus movement is impossible under non-elliptical Why-Focus constructions, as the impossibility of (33) shows.

(33)A: Why did John eat natto? B: *Why **NATTO** did John eat?

Why is it that focus movement is allowed in English only under ellipsis? We give two possible approaches here. One possible way is to assume that focus movement in English such as (33) violates some syntactic locality constraints, and that PF-deletion of IP in Why-Stripping ‘repairs’ the problem in the same way IP-deletion repairs the island effects made by the movement of the remnant (e.g., (19)). It is still unclear, however, what the nature of such a constraint is and why the Romanian example in (25a) is exempt from this constraint and thus allows overt focus movement after *why*.

Another potential account assumes that it is not the case that ellipsis is obligatory whenever there is focus movement, but rather, a focused phrase must move out whenever there is ellipsis. This idea is based on the recoverability condition on ellipsis in (34) (Pesetsky 1997).

(34) A syntactic unit with semantic content (e.g., focus) must be pronounced unless it has a sufficiently local antecedent.

If the focused XP stays in situ as shown in (35a) and TP-deletion occurs, the information on ‘what is focused in the sentence’ would not be recoverable. Only in such a case, the otherwise-in-situ focus phrase undergoes the last resort overt movement, as shown in (35b).

(35) a. Why [_{TP} John ate **NATTO**_i]? b. Why [**NATTO**_i [_{TP} John ate ~~t_i~~]]?

This account predicts that, as long as the information on ‘where the focus is placed’ is recoverable, the focused phrase does not need to escape the ellipsis site. This prediction is borne out in (36). The focal stress is already assigned to the correlate phrase in A’s utterance, so the remnant, which bears focus, can be elided in B’s utterance.

(36)A: John ate **NATTO**. B: Why (**NATTO**)?

The fact that Sprouting does not allow P-stranding (e.g., (17)) is similarly accounted for in terms of the recoverability condition. In the Sprouting context, the preposition is not given in the antecedent clause. As a result, the P-stranding in (37b) would make the deleted preposition unrecoverable. This is why the preposition is obligatory in (37a).

(37) a. A: John served dinner. B: Why (even/not) *(**TO**) **BILL**? (= (17c))
b. B: [_{ForceP} Why [_{FocP} **BILL**_i [_{TP} John served dinner ~~to t_i~~]]]?

A potential problem with the recoverability account, however, is the fact that VP-ellipsis does not feed the focus movement, unlike IP-deletion in (35b). (38) shows that, regardless of the position of the auxiliary *did*, the focused phrase cannot escape the VP under VP-ellipsis.

(38) A: John ate natto. B: { *Why **NATTO**_i he did [_{VP} eat t_i] } /
*Why **NATTO**_i did he [_{VP} eat t_i] } / *Why did **NATTO**_i he [_{VP} eat t_i] } }

Note that *wh*-phrases are also incompatible with VP-ellipsis (Merchant 2008); as the impossibility of (39b) shows, there is no VP-ellipsis counterpart of Sluicing in (39a). Thus, it seems that there is some problem outside of VP, which can be deleted in clausal ellipsis in both Sluicing and Why-Stripping. We will leave this issue open for future research (see Merchant’s 2008 MaxElide argument for relevant discussion).

- (39)a. John ate something, but I don't know **what**.
 b. *John ate something, but I don't know **what** he did.

4. The view from Romance Why-Stripping

We have seen above that the focused phrase moves overtly in the Why-Focus construction in Romanian, but not in English. Thus, among languages that allows Why-Stripping, some have overt focus movement after *why* and others not. We will take a look at data from some more languages in this section. In particular, Italian, Romanian and Portuguese accept Why-Stripping (the a-examples) and overt focus movement (the b-examples) as shown in (40)-(42):

- (40)a. A: Gianni ha fatto questo. B: Perché QUESTO? (Italian)
 Gianni has done this why this
 "Gianni has done this." "Why THIS?"
 b. Credo che QUESTO avreste dovuto dirgli (non qualcos'altro)
 I-believe that this you-should have said-him, not something else
 "I believe that you should have said him THIS, not something else."
- (41)a. A: Ion s-a insurat cu Maria. (Romanian)
 Ion se.RCP-Aux.3P.SG married with Maria.
 "Ion married Maria."
 B: De ce cu MARIA, (si nu cu Suzana)?
 Why with Maria, (and not with Suzana)
 "Why MARIA, (and not Suzana)?"
 b. Ion a mancat NATTO. b.' NATTO, a mancat Ion.
 Ion was eat natto NATTO was eat Ion
 "Ion ate NATTO." "It is NATTO that Ion ate."
- (42)a. A: O João dançou com a Maria. (Portuguese)
 the João danced with the Maria
 "João danced with Maria."
 B: Por que com a MARIA/ELA, e não com a Cristina?
 why with the Maria/her, and not with the Cristina?
 "Why with MARIA/HER, but not with Cristina?"
 b. COM A MARIA o João dançou, e não com a Cristina.
 with the Maria the João danced, and not with the Cristina
 "João danced with MARIA, but not with Cristina."

Among Spanish dialects, there seems to be a microparametric variation with respect to the availability of focus fronting. Overt focus movement is possible in Iberian Spanish as shown in (43b) (Zubizarreta 1998); still, objects cannot undergo focus movement in Mexican Spanish (Gutiérrez Bravo 2002: 171; see also Martínez-Sanz, 2011 for Dominican Spanish). Why-Stripping, on the other hand, is acceptable in all dialects (e.g., (43a)).

- (43)a. A: Pedro comió natto. B: Por qué NATTO? (Spanish)
 Pedro ate natto why natto
 "Pedro ate natto." "Why natto?"
 b. NATTO₁ detesta Pedro t₁ (y no las papas)
 NATTO hates Pedro (and not the potatoes)
 "It is NATTO that Pedro hates (and not the potatoes)."

Based on the argument in Section 3.3., we assume that the focus movement in Why-Stripping is accounted for in the same way as English Why-Stripping. Given the recoverability condition account, the explanation is the following: Although focus fronting is usually unavailable in Mexican Spanish, it is forced to escape the ellipsis site of Why-Stripping, in order to satisfy the recoverability condition. Note that the recoverability condition forces focus fronting in ellipsis environments, but the availability of focus fronting in non-ellipsis environments can be independently determined, presumably based on the strength of the Focus feature on the Foc⁰ (Chomsky 1995, Richards 2001, van

Craenenbroeck 2010): Iberian Spanish, as well as Italian, Romanian and Portuguese, allow for the presence of strong features on Foc^0 , whereas Mexican Spanish, as well as English, do not.

5. Conclusion

This paper examined properties of Why-Stripping and claimed that it involves clausal ellipsis in the same way as Sluicing and Stripping. The remnant in Why-Stripping undergoes focus movement induced by *why*, while *why* in Why-Stripping is base-generated in [Spec, ForceP], unlike regular *why*. In languages/varieties like English and Mexican Spanish, focus movement is overtly manifested only in ellipsis constructions such as Why-Stripping. We suggest that this overt manifestation of focus movement under ellipsis is due to the recoverability condition on ellipsis.

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