

## MOVE WH IN A LANGUAGE WITHOUT WH MOVEMENT\*

C.T. JAMES HUANG

### 1. INTRODUCTION

*1.1.* The study of constraints in grammar has been one of the most persistent topics in generative studies. Among the most important results of this enterprise is a set of locality conditions, including most notably Ross' island constraints and Chomsky's Subadjacency Condition. These locality conditions are usually defined over certain structural configurations and a rule of movement, deletion or at least some kind of dependency between two structural positions.

One type of inquiry that arises from studies of these conditions concerns their status in languages where there is no structural configuration or overt dependency between two structural positions meeting the definition of the various islands and constraints. For example, many languages do not have a WH-word fronting rule in syntax to form a WH question, and some do not move any element for the purpose of subdividing a sentence into focus and presupposition (i.e. of forming a cleft sentence). Since questions and sentences with focus are universal sentence types, it is natural to ask what the proposed structural conditions have to say about these languages. It would seem that since these languages do not exhibit the defining configurations for the conditions to be applicable, they would be exempt from these conditions. If it turns out, however, that these types of sentences do show properties as if they form islands and obey island conditions, then it might seem that the conditions as formulated in structural terms must be rejected or revised. As a point of logic, however, this fact may lead us instead to ask if it is a mistake to regard these sentence types as exhibiting absolutely no structural configurations in every possible

\* For their insightful discussions I am indebted to Y. Aoun, S. Chiba, Noam Chomsky, Ken Hale, Jim Higginbotham, Alec Marantz, Bob May, M.-C. Paris, David Pesetzsky, Henk van Riemsdijk, Claudia Ross, Donca Steriade, Tim Stowell, and Shou-Hsin Teng. The comments and suggestions of two anonymous reviewers have also led to certain improvements in this paper and are gratefully acknowledged. An earlier version of this paper was presented at the 1980 LSA summer meeting at Albuquerque, New Mexico. This work was supported by a Fulbright fellowship and a research grant from the National Institute of Mental Health.