

Chapter 5 – Conclusions

This dissertation features a detailed investigation of wh-movement and wh-expletive constructions in Kashmiri and in Hindi-Urdu and has yielded three primary results.

- An improved understanding of the organization of the left periphery of the clause: a single phase-defining functional head, *C*, containing an ordered set of features
- An account of wh-dependencies which posits that the same basic mechanisms drive both the *A*-system (the system of movement for the purposes of case and agreement) and the *A*-bar system (movement not for the purposes of case and agreement, but instead for reasons of discourse-status)
- An account of parametric variation in terms of the properties of the phase-defining heads *C* and *v*. This provides an understanding of a systematic set of contrasts between Kashmiri and Hindi-Urdu.

Each of these results contributes to the development of a theory of peripheries – not only the left periphery or clause edge, but also clause-internal peripheries, or positions in the syntax to which discourse-driven movement takes place. This work has identified a periphery on the clause edge (*C*), and a clause-internal periphery (*v*), and has furthered our understanding of how the properties of these peripheral heads

are organized and structured. Moreover we have established the connection between these peripheries and phasehood and can thereby assess how these heads mediate seeming unbounded wh-dependencies.

These developments are, for the most part, made possible by an investigation of wh-expletives. Alongside full wh-movement, these minimal wh-words permit a wider range of wh-dependencies to be constructed, including instances of partial movement in which the wh-phrase is found in a position more embedded than that at which it is interpreted. In this dissertation, we have taken a new approach to wh-expletives which departs from previous work. I claim that wh-expletives are in no way linked to the wh-phrases whose position of interpretation they indicate, and have no independent interpretation of their own. Instead, I propose that wh-expletives play a syntactic role analogous to that played by DP-expletives; that is, they serve to satisfy the requirement of a head that it have an additional specifier. That head is then what interacts with the full wh-phrase. It is the formal encoding of this analogy that yields the major results of the dissertation.

The work done here opens several important paths of inquiry. While this dissertation has dealt extensively with wh-movement and wh-expletive constructions in Kashmiri and Hindi-Urdu, we have not addressed relative and correlative clauses in these languages. There is a wealth of previous research on these structures in Hindi-Urdu (Kachru 1973, Dayal 1996, Mahajan 2000, Bhatt 2003, among others). While less work has been done in Kashmiri, it is well-known that these clauses have a special status in the language, as they are the only verb-final finite clauses. It is clear

that the periphery of the relative clause is a unique one, and I leave its investigation for future work.

A second avenue of inquiry is suggested by the discussion of sluicing in Kashmiri and Hindi-Urdu in Chapter 4, in which it was used as a diagnostic for the position of *wh*-material with respect to *v*P. Further comparative investigation of sluicing, gapping, and other ellipsis operations in the two languages should continue to yield interesting results. Clearly this kind of micro-comparative work has much to tell us about the underlying syntactic structure of the two languages.

Finally, much recent work on the clause edge has focused not only on the CP-domain, but also on the relationship between CP and TP (Chomsky 2005, Biberauer 2005). Our understanding of peripheries is incomplete without probing the relationship between the functional phase-defining heads and the functional and lexical heads they select. In future research, it will be necessary to determine how the organization of peripheries as we have described them here articulates with work which proposes a unification of the CP and TP domains.

The other important contribution of this dissertation is an empirical one. Here we have provided a detailed investigation into the syntax of a relatively understudied language, Kashmiri. We have analyzed A-bar movement in the language, which to this point has not been addressed extensively in formal linguistic research. The dissertation serves as a source of Kashmiri data, and offers new observations gained from fieldwork with native speakers. Finally, close comparisons of Kashmiri and

Hindi-Urdu of the type found in Chapter 4 promise to provide a rich context for future research.

In sum, we have has addressed an old question in syntax: how are apparently unbounded dependencies mediated? This results of this investigation claim that these dependencies are mediated by the peripheries, clause-edge (C), and clause-internal (v). The structure and organization of heads permits us to assimilate our understanding of these seemingly unbounded dependencies with our understanding of clause-bound interactions.