PIED-PIPING BY CYCLIC AGREE: IN DEFENSE OF FEATURE PERCOLATION

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INTRODUCTION
2
    CORE PROPOSAL
                         3
                                    8
    TYPOLOGICAL PREDICTIONS
3
    COMPETING ACCOUNTS
           Heck (2004, 2008, 2009)
    4.1
                                      11
           Cable (2007, 2010a,b)
    4.2
                                    13
           Challenges to wn-percolation
    4.3
                                          14
    4.4
           Response to challenges
    A CASE STUDY: BASQUE
5
           Clausal pied-piping
    5.1
           Challenges to Heck and Cable
    5.2
                                           22
6
    CONCLUSION
                    24
    APPENDIX
                  27
```

ABSTRACT. I argue that pied-piping is a consequence of WH-feature percolation. To formalize my proposal, I adapt Béjar and Rezac's (2009) model of Cyclic Agree, independently motivated in the domain of ϕ -agreement. In doing so, I offer a solution to the problem of pied-piping which avoids the pitfalls of previous feature percolation approaches without increasing the complexity of syntactic theory.

The present proposal predicts that cross-linguistic variation with respect to pied-piping and wn-inversion resides in featural specification of functional heads. I demonstrate preliminary typological evidence which corroborates this prediction.

I present a case study of Basque (ISO 639-3: eus). I show that the present proposal correctly derives the facts of Basque clausal pied-piping. Finally, I discuss competing accounts, which predict that Basque facts should be unattested (Cable, 2007, 2010a,b; Heck, 2004, 2008, 2009).

1 INTRODUCTION

In many languages, content questions are formed by dislocating the question word from its canonical position towards the left edge of the sentence. In English, for example, objects typically follow the verb (1a). When asking about the identity of the object, however, the question word which corresponds to it appears at the front of the interrogative phrase (1b).

- (1) a. VERB-OBJECT WORD ORDER *I had cake.*
 - b. OBJECT FRONTING IN A WH-QUESTION What did you have?

Question words are often designated morphologically. In English, for example, they begin with wh-. More importantly, question words are commonly assumed to have a distinguishing morphosyntactic feature [wh]. Correspondingly, they are often referred to as wh-words and the operation of fronting they undergo—wh-movement.

The obligatory wh-movement to the front of the interrogative phrase is known as the *wh-criterion* (Aoun, Hornstein, and Sportiche, 1981; Pesetsky, 1982; others). The wh-criterion can be stated as the requirement that the wh-phrase appear in [Spec, CP] in an interrogative (or relative) clause. In formalizing the wh-criterion, one could reasonably assume that it targets specifically the wh-feature associated with wh-words. This predicts that only wh-words should front.

The present paper investigates the phenomenon of so-called *pied-piping*, known as least since Ross (1967, 1986). Pied-piping takes place when a constituent larger than the wh-word itself is fronted (2). Pied-piping presents a challenge to the wh-criterion.

(2) CAR PIED-PIPED BY WHOSE Whose car did he steal?

In structures such as (2), the constituent which undergoes the movement whose car only contains the wh-word whose, but is not identical with it. Thus, the question arises: Why does car front together with whose? This is the problem of pied-piping. To tackle the problem, one must abandon one of the two assumptions: (i) only wh-words carry the wh-feature or (ii) the wh-criterion only targets the wh-feature.

¹ The evocative coinage alludes to the legend of the Pied Piper of Hamelin, whose eponymous protagonist retaliates against townsmen by using his magical pipe to lead away their children. Thus, in (2), whose is analogized to the Pied Piper and the pied-piped car—to the children.

In this paper, I argue that pied-piping takes place when functional heads Agree with the wh-feature, "passing it up" to higher projections. The novelty of my proposal lies in the adaptation of Béjar and Rezac's (2009) model of Cyclic Agree, independently motivated in the domain of ϕ -agreement. In doing so, I offer a solution to the problem of pied-piping which avoids the pitfalls of previous feature percolation approaches without increasing the complexity of syntactic theory.

In exploiting Agreement to pass the wh-feature up, the current proposal rejects assumption (i); wh-words are not the only carriers of the wh-feature. Thus, the current proposal is a refinement of traditional "feature percolation" approaches which predominated in the literature on pied-piping until quite recently (e.g. Cowper, 1987; Grimshaw, 2000; Koopman, 2000; Moritz and Valois, 1994). At the same time, it marks a sharp departure from more recent proposals which reject assumption (ii) and eschew feature percolation at the cost of revising the wh-criterion (Cable, 2007, 2010a,b, 2012, 2013; Heck, 2004, 2008, 2009).

The rest of the paper is organized as follow. In Section 2, I put forward the core proposal and apply it to English data.

I observe that the present proposal predicts that cross-linguistic variation with respect to pied-piping and whinversion resides in featural specification of functional heads. In Section 3, I demonstrate preliminary typological evidence which corroborates this prediction.

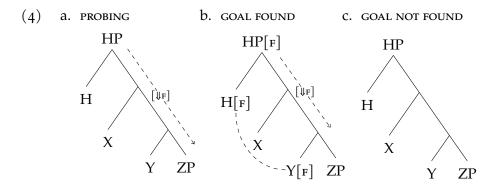
In Section 4, I outline the two main competing accounts (Cable, 2007, 2010a,b; Heck, 2004, 2008, 2009) and address their challenges to feature percolation approaches.

In Section 5, I present a case study of Basque (150 639-3: eus). I show that the present proposal correctly derives the facts of Basque clausal pied-piping. I discuss competing accounts, which predict that Basque facts should be unattested. In Section 6, I conclude.

2 CORE PROPOSAL

I propose that the interrogative C_Q -head probes for the wh-feature. The wh-probe is bundled with an EPP feature which causes movement. The probe locates the structurally closest constituent which carries the wh-feature $(what_{[wh]})$, copies the wh-feature to the C_Q -head $(C_Q[wh])$, and moves the constituent to $[Spec, CP_Q]$ (3).

The wh-feature found on wh-words is represented as [wh]. The wh-probe is represented with a double down arrow ([\Downarrow wh]). The EPP feature on the wh-probe is represented with a caret ([\Downarrow wh^]). A successful probe-goal relation is represented with a dashed line (---). Movement is represented by striking out the moved constituent and an arrow (\longleftarrow).



I propose that a functional head may also carry a wн-probe which probes into its complement. If its complement has the wн-feature, the probe copies that feature onto the functional head. In this way, the wн-feature "percolates" up, making the entire phrase a potential target for a higher wн-probe. Thus pied-piping is derived. Now, I will outline the featural specification of English function heads.

- (5) P[↓wH]
 - a. P agreeing with wh-word $[_{\mathrm{PP[wH]}} \ in_{\mathrm{P[wH]}} \ what_{\mathrm{[wH]}} \ way? \]$
 - b. $PP[wh] = C_Q$ $[CP [PP[wh] In what way] is_{CQ[wh]} it good [PP[wh] in what way?]]$

A degree phrase in English can follow the noun (6a) or precede it (6b). I assume that the DegP originates low and optionally moves to [Spec, DP]. If the DegP contains a wH-word, that movement is obligatory (6c-d).

- (6) VARIABLE DegP HEIGHT
 - a. He bought a car that big.
 - b. He bought that big a car.
 - c. *A car how big did he buy?
 - d. How big a car did he buy?

Turning to D, I propose that the English determiner a carries the EPP probe $[\Downarrow wh^{\smallfrown}]$. Thus, I will represent it as $D[\Downarrow wh^{\smallfrown}]$ (7). The D-head copies the wh-feature and extracts the wh-bearing constituent from its c-command domain to [Spec, DP] (7a). Now since [wh] is a feature of the entire DP, that DP becomes a goal of the higher wh-probe and undergoes movement to $[Spec, CP_O]$ (7b).

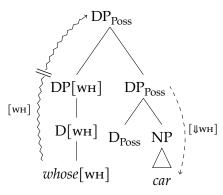
- (7) D[₩**wh**^]
 - a. D extracting Deg[wh] $\begin{bmatrix} \operatorname{DegP[wh]} how \ big \ \end{bmatrix} a_{\operatorname{D[wh]}} \operatorname{car} \underbrace{ \begin{bmatrix} \operatorname{DegP[wh]} how \ big? \end{bmatrix} }_{\text{$`----[$$}$} \end{bmatrix}$
 - b. DP[wh] extracted by C_Q [CP[DP[wh]] How big a car] $did_{C_Q[wh]}$ he buy CQ[wh] he buy CQ[wh] how big a car?]

Now consider (8). I assume that *whose* originates in the specifier position of a DP headed by a phonologically null possessive D_{Poss} . This presents us with a different configuration from (7), where the wh-element originated below the D-head.

(8) CAR PIED-PIPED BY WHOSE Whose car did he steal?

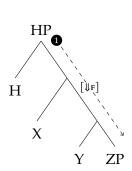
This configuration is an apparent challenge to the mechanism of Agree assumed so far. D_{Poss} probes for [wh] into its complement NP (----). However, the wh-feature is located on its specifier. A mechanism is needed to get the wh-feature to "percolate up" from [Spec, DP_{Poss}] to DP_{Poss} (9). The challenging feature copying is represented with a squiggly arrow (\leftarrow and the apparent barrier—with a double vertical line (\parallel).

(9) Spec-H agreement challenge

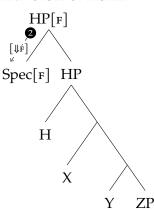


To address the challenge, I adopt Béjar and Rezac's (2009) model of Cyclic Agree (10), independently motivated in the domain of ϕ -agreement. In the model of Cyclic Agree, head H first merges with its complement, and probes into it (1) immediately upon merging (10a). Then, HP combines with its specifier. If the probe was not fully satisfied on the first cycle of Agreement, it reprojects and probes into its specifier (2), resulting in a second cycle of Agreement (10b).

(10) a. 1ST CYCLE OF AGREE



b. 2ND CYCLE OF AGREE



In Béjar and Rezac's (2009) original proposal, the mechanism of Cyclic Agree is used to model φ -agreement realized on v. The v-head probes for φ -features preferentially into its internal argument (DP₁). It φ -probes into

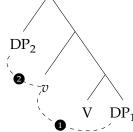
b. CYCLIC WH-AGREE ON D

its external argument (DP_2) only if the probe was not fully satisfied on the first cycle (11a).

I propose that the behavior of the φ -probe on v is mirrored by the behavior of the wh-probe on D (11). Specifically, the D_{Poss}-head first probes for the wh-feature into its complement (NP). If not fully satisfied on this first cycle, the wh-probe looks into its specifier (DP) on the second cycle (11b).

(11) a. CYCLIC ϕ -AGREE ON v





To return to the case at hand, a possessive D-head first probes for the wn-feature into its complement. If it does not find it, the probe reprojects into its specifier. If the specifier carries the wn-feature, the probe copies it onto the head and the search is halted (12a).² The entire DP_{Poss} the becomes the goal for the higher wn-probe and moves to $[Spec, CP_O]$ (12b).

 $\begin{array}{ll} \text{(12)} & D_{Poss}[\Downarrow \text{wh}] \\ \text{a.} & D_{Poss} \text{ agreeing with Spec} \\ & \left[DP[\text{wh}] \ \textit{whose}_{[\text{wh}]} \ D_{Poss}[\text{wh}] \ [\text{NP } \textit{car} \] \] \\ & \text{b.} & DP[\text{wh}] \text{ extracted by } C_Q \\ & \left[CP \ [DP[\text{wh}] \ \textit{Whose } \textit{car} \] \ \textit{did}_{C_Q[\text{wh}]} \ \textit{he steal} \ \frac{1}{[DP[\text{wh}]} \ \textit{whose } \textit{car} \ ? \] \] \\ & \text{constant} \end{array}$

Finally, I propose that subordinate C-heads do not bear the wh-probe (13). Thus, I will represent them as C[]. With no wh-probe on the subordinate C-heads, the wh-feature does not percolate up to the level of the CP. In other words, English does not allow for clausal pied-piping. This results in one of two possibilities. If the subordinate CP is not an island for movement, the interrogative $C_{\rm O}$ -head may probe into it, extracting the wh-word by

² Note that wh-agreement differs from ϕ -agreement in some crucial ways. For example, in the case of ϕ -agreement, the agreement feature copied onto the head does not play any grammatical role other than being morphologically exponed. In the case of wh-agreement, the agreement feature feeds wh-movement.

itself (13a).³ If the subordinate CP is an island, probing is blocked, yielding ineffability (13b).

3 TYPOLOGICAL PREDICTIONS

I the previous section, I have proposed that English has P-, C-, and D-heads which exemplify all three different wh-probe values: $P[\psi H]$, C[], and $D[\psi H^{-}]$, respectively. This was motivated empirically, but no principled reason was given as to why a particular probe goes with a particular head.

In this section, I will argue that there is no principled reason and that any functional head can go with any probe. I will support my claim by showing that each head-probe combination is cross-linguistically attested. Recall the consequences of each wh-probe value for pied-piping and word order.

H[]—the head does not probe for [wH]. If HP is not an island, the wH-word is extracted without pied-piping. If HP is an island, ineffability results.

 $H[\Downarrow wH]$ —the head probes for [wH] but does not trigger movement. The wh-word pied-pipes HP and remains HP-internal.

 $H[\Downarrow wh^{\hat{}}]$ —the head probes for [wh] and triggers movement. The wh-word pied-pipes HP and fronts to [Spec, HP].

³ Here, I am not representing cyclic wh-movement to [Spec, CP] in subordinate clauses. I assume that the movement of the wh-constituent through intermediate specifier positions is not featurally-driven. Proposals of "featureless" intermediate movement compatible with the present approach include Bošković (2002, 2007) and Chomsky (2013). Bošković (2002, 2007) proposes that the wh-constituent moves to establish c-commend relation required for Agree. Chomsky (2013) assumes that intermediate movement results from well-formedness conditions on syntactic structure.

⁴ Assuming Deal's (2020) Interaction/Satisfaction model of Agree, a failure of C_Q to Agree with a wh-word does not by itself explain the ungrammaticality of (13b); in the Interaction/Satisfaction model, underagreement does not generally result in a derivational crash. Following Simpson (2000), Watanabe (2006), Adger and Ramchand (2005), and others, I assume that (13b) is ungrammatical on semantic grounds. Specifically, the C_Q -head must establish a syntactic dependency with the wh-word for a sentence to receive an interrogative interpretation.

In English, we saw an instance of $P[\Downarrow wH]$ (5). P[] can also be found in English. In preposition-stranding constructions, the P-head does not probe for [wH]. Since PP is not an island, the wH-word is extracted without piedpiping (14).

 $P[\Downarrow wh^{-}]$ can be found in Chol. $P[\Downarrow wh^{-}]$ probes for [wh] and triggers movement. The wh-word pied-pipes PP and fronts to [Spec, PP] (15).

(15)
$$P[\Downarrow wh^{\wedge}]$$
 Chol a. $[pp]$ $Maxki_1$ $[pp]$ tyi $[pp]$ tyi $[pp]$ tyi $[pp]$ tyi $[pp]$ tyi majliyety? whose to house you.went Whose house did you go to?

b. $*[pp]$ Tyi $[pp]$ iyotyoty $maxki_1$] tyi majliyety? to house whose you.went

c. $*[pp]$ Tyi $[pp]$ $maxki_1$ iyotyoty] tyi majliyety? to whose house you.went

(Cable, 2010a, p. 186)

In English, we saw an instance of C[] (13). $C[\mbox{$\downarrow$WH}]$ can be found in Haida. The wn-word pied-pipes the subordinate CP, but it remains internal in that subordinate clause (16).

(16) C[\|\text{wh}\] Haida

[CP k'yuwee guusrahl 'la srasgadaan]-.uu 7wii qeeng.ulaang?

the.door what.with he strike FOC it.is.easy.to.see

What is it easy to see that he hit the door with?

 $C[\wn^{\ }]$ can be found in Ancash Quechua. $C[\wn^{\ }]$ probes for $[\wn^{\ }]$ and triggers movement. The wh-word pied-pipes the subordinate CP and fronts to $[\ensuremath{\mathsf{Spec}}, \ensuremath{\mathsf{CP}}]$ (17).

```
(17) C[↓wh^]
                                                            Ancash Quechua
           [CP Imata<sub>1</sub> [IP wawa t_1 mikuchun ] ]<sub>2</sub>-taj
                                                        Maria t_2 munan?
                           child
                                        eat
                                                         Maria
                                                    Q
           What does Maria want the child to eat?
            * [CP [IP wawa imata mikuchun]]2-taj
                                                     Maria t_2 munan?
                           what
                                    eat
                                                     Maria
                                                                want
                    child
       b.
                                                        (Cable, 2007, p. 292)
```

In English, we saw an instance of $D[\Downarrow wh^{\smallfrown}]$ (7). D[] can be found in Russian. D[] does not probe for [wh]. Since DP in Russian is not an island, the wh-word is extracted without pied-piping (18).

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(18) D[] Russian
Ja sprosil kakuju<sub>2</sub> ty čital [DP t<sub>2</sub> knigu]<sub>3</sub>.

I asked whose you read book
'I asked whose book you read.'

(Ross, 1986, p. 145; Heck, 2008, p. 155)
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Finally, $D[\Downarrow wH]$ can be found in Hungarian. $D[\Downarrow wH]$ probes for [wH] but does not trigger movement. The wh-word pied-pipes the larger possessive DP but it remains inside of that DP (19).

```
D[↓wH]
(19)
                                                                Hungarian
          [DP1 János [DP2 melyik fiát]] szereted legjobban?
                John
                          which son
                                         you.like
                                                    best
          Which son of John's do you like the best?
          [DP1 Az
                      anyád
                                 DP2 hány
                                                 barátőjének ] ] telefonáltál?
                                                  her.friends
               the your.mother
                                     how.many
                                                               you.phoned
       b. How many of your mother's friends did you call?
                     (Horvath, 2007; Szabolcsi, 1984; Cable, 2007, p. 296)
```

The present proposal models cross-linguistic variation with respect to piedpiping and whinversion with featural specification of functional heads. This predicts that any functional head can be associated with any value of the wh-probe. In this section, I showed that this prediction is borne out, as all combinations of functional heads P, C, and D with $[], [\Downarrow wh], and [\Downarrow wh^]$ are attested. Table 1 summarizes the cross-linguistic findings.

	P	С	D
[]	English (14)	English (13)	Russian (18) ⁵
[₩ H]	English (5)	Haida $(16)^6$	Hungarian (19)
[₩ w +^]	Chol (15)7	Quechua (17)	English (7)

Table 1: Languages by functional head and wн-featural specification.

⁵ also Polish (51)

⁶ also Bangla (52), Marathi (53)

⁷ also Finnish (54)

4 COMPETING ACCOUNTS

The two recent influential accounts of pied-piping are proposed in Cable (2007, 2010a,b) and Heck (2004, 2008, 2009). Heck proposes to view pied-piping as a repair strategy and formalizes his proposal in Optimality Theory (McCarthy and Prince, 1986; Prince and Smolensky, 1993). Cable considers pied-piping to be an illusory phenomenon, resulting from the movement of a phrase headed by a silent Q-particle.

Despite their differences, Heck an Cable agree that feature percolation is not a viable solution to the problem of pied-piping, and seek alternatives to it. In this section, I give a brief overview of Heck's and Cable's approaches and address their challenges to feature percolation.

4.1 Heck (2004, 2008, 2009)

Heck (2004, 2008, 2009) begins by observing that pied-piping is often possible only when extraction of out of the pied-piped constituent is independently impossible. Thus, pied-piping has the flavor of a repair strategy, formulated by Heck as the repair generalization (20).

(20) REPAIR GENERALIZATION Pied-piping of β by a wh-phrase α is possible only if movement of α out of β is blocked. (Heck, 2008, p. 117; Heck, 2009, p. 92)

Heck accepts the common assumption that wh-movement is triggered by Agreement between the wh-word and the interrogative C-head, but adopts a nonstandard view of how Agreement functions. Specifically, Heck proposes a violable OT constraint Local Agree, which penalizes projections intervening between two constituents in an Agree relation (21).

(21) LOCALAGREE

If a probe α Agrees with a goal β , then there is no XP which dominates β but not α .

(Heck, 2008, p. 191; Heck, 2009, p. 80; Cable, 2012)

Local Agree derives the requirement on wh-movement. In (22), the first candidate (without wh-movement) incurs three violation marks, one for each XP between the unpronounced C-head and the wh-word *who*. The second candidate (with wh-movement) incurs only one violation, so it emerges as the winner. Thus, Local Agree forces wh-movement.

(22) WH-MOVEMENT TRIGGERED BY LOCAL AGREE

Input: $[CP C_{[wh]}][TP Bill [PP v [VP introduced John to who]]]]]$	Local Agree
a. $[_{CP} C_{[wh]} [_{TP} Bill [_{\nu P} \nu [_{VP} introduced John to \mathbf{who}]]]]$! * **
b. $[CP \ Who \ [CP \ C_{[\psi h]} \ [TP \ Bill \ [\nu P \ \nu \ [VP \ introduced \ John \ to \ t \]]]]]]$	*

(Cable, 2012, p. 819)

Other structural conditions modulate the degree to which Local Agree is satisfied. For example, Heck proposes the LeftBranch Condition, which prohibits extraction from left branches of DPs (23).

(23) LeftBranchCondition, or: LBC If α is the leftmost category within DP, then α cannot undergo movement from DP.

(Heck, 2008, p. 121; Heck, 2009; Cable, 2012, p. 820)

In (24), the winning candidate (with piped-piping) incurs one violation mark of Local Agree more that the third candidate (with wh-extraction), but it manages to avoid a violation of LeftBranch Condition. Thus, pied-piping emerges as a consequence of optimal satisfaction of competing demands on syntactic structure.

(24) PIED-PIPING LICENSED BY LOCAL AGREE

	LBC	Local Agree
a. $[_{CP} C_{[wh]} [_{TP} you]_{_{PP}} \nu [_{VP} read [_{DP} whose book]]]]]$		i ** *
b. $[_{CP}[_{DP} \mathbf{Whose}] = [_{CP} C_{[wh]}[_{TP}] = [_{PP} \nu [_{VP}] = [_{PP} \nu [_{VP}]]]]$		**
c. [CP Whose [CP $C_{[wh]}$ [TP you [PP ν [VP read [DP t book]]]]]]	!*	*

(Cable, 2012, p. 820)

4.2 *Cable* (2007, 2010a,b)

Cable (2007, 2010a,b) proposes that pied-piping is fundamentally an illusory phenomenon. This is to say, it is incorrect to think of the wн-word as a pied-piper leading away additional words to [Spec, CP]. Rather, pied-piping structures result from the movement of a question phrase (QP), with the Q-head (or Q-particle) heading a phrase which contains the wн-word (25).

(25) PIED-PIPING AS QP-MOVEMENT CP CP CP CP CP CQ IP Agree/Attract Overt Movement QP_1

(Cable, 2010a, p. 38; Cable, 2010b, p. 567; Cable, 2012, p. 823)

Cable's proposal is inspired by the facts of Tlingit. Tlingit shows wh-movement. The fronted wh-constituent is always followed by $s\acute{a}$ 'Q.' Importantly, if any additional material, e. g. *teen* 'with,' fronts along with the wh-word, $s\acute{a}$ 'Q' appears outside of that fronted material (26).

```
(26) PIED-PIPING AS QP-MOVEMENT

a. [OP [PP | Aadóo teen ] sá] yeegoot?
who with Q you.went

Who did you go with?

b. * [PP [OP | Aadóo sá] teen ] yeegoot?
who Q with you.went

(Cable, 2010b, p. 575; Cable, 2012, p. 825)
```

Cable proposes that $s\acute{a}$ 'Q' is a Q-particle heading the question phrase (QP) aadóo teen $s\acute{a}$ 'who with Q.' Importantly, movement to [Spec, CP] targets not the wH-word aadóo 'who,' but rather the entire QP. Thus, if the problem of pied-piping is defined as the fronting of additional material (e. g. teen 'with') despite the fact that it is not the target of movement, the problem is illusory. Movement targets not the wH-word by itself, but rather the QP which contains the wH-word as well that additional material. Thus, there is no pied-piping to begin with.

Cable proposes to extend this analysis to languages where the Q-particle is unpronounced, such as English. Thus, in (27), the Q-head takes the DP whose brother's friend's father as its complement. The entire QP whose brother's friend's father \emptyset then moves to [Spec, CP]. Thus, the difference between Tlingit and English is that the English Q-particle is phonologically null.

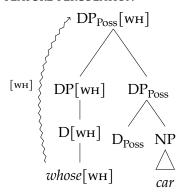
(27) PHONOLOGICALLY NULL Q English $[_{\mathbb{QP}} [_{\mathbb{DP}} [_{\mathbb{DP}}$

4.3 Challenges to wh-percolation

Despite their obvious differences, both Cable (2007, 2010a,b) and Heck (2004, 2008, 2009) reject feature percolation as a solution to the problem of pied-piping. Their three main challenges relevant to the present proposal are summarized below, largely recapitulating the discussion in Cable (2012, pp. 826–829).

First, feature percolation has exceptional status. Typically, features of head H extend only to projections of H. This is known as "feature projection." In striking contrast to feature projection, feature percolation is an operation whereby the features of H extend beyond the projections of H (Cable, 2012, p. 827). The mechanism of feature percolation is schematized in (28), where the wh-feature projects from whose[wh] and then "percolates up" (\longleftrightarrow) from DP[wh] in [Spec, DP_{Poss}] to DP_{Poss}.

(28) FEATURE PERCOLATION



Yet, few features have been proposed to percolate other than the wh-feature (Cable, 2010a). Clearly, it would be preferable to dispense with a separate grammatical operation stipulated only to account for pied-piping.

Second, if feature percolation were to be adopted, it should be derived from one of the basic operations of the grammar: Merge, Move, or Agree. Heck

(2008, pp. 56–74) argues that it cannot be reduced to either of the three operations. Here, I summarize only the argument that feature percolation cannot be reduced to Agree.

Heck observes that under Government & Binding approaches, it was possible to view feature percolation as a consequence of agreement between the D_{Poss} -head and the wh-possessor (Heck, 2008, p. 57). Specifically, DP_{Poss} gained the wh-feature "parasitically" by agreeing with the wh-constituent in [Spec, DP_{Poss}]. However, current theories of Agreement do not predict such parasitic transmission of features on their own (Cable, 2012, p. 828). If parasitic agreement were reintroduced as a solution to pied-piping, it would be purely stipulative, again lacking motivation outside of pied-piping structures.

Third and last, agreement between the head and its specifier is often difficult to motivate on independent grounds. In (29), for example, the DP_{Poss} father is third person singular, whereas the possessor *our* in [Spec, DP_{Poss}] is first person plural. The ϕ -features of the DP_{Poss} are those of its head father, as seen by the agreement on the inflected verb.

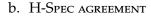
(29) No ϕ -agreement between H and Spec English Our father is / *are / *am at the party. (adapted from Cable, 2012, p. 829)

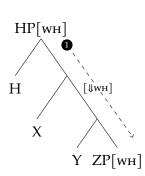
In general, there seems to be no feature with respect to which the head and specifier must agree. Therefore, treating [wh] as an Agreement feature is at best stipulative.

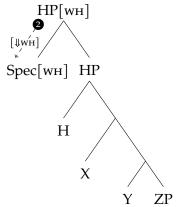
4.4 Response to challenges

I reduce feature percolation to Cyclic Agree (Béjar and Rezac, 2009). In the model of Cyclic Agree, a wн-probe located on head H may copy the wн-feature from its complement (30a) as well as its specifier (30b).

(30) a. H-Comp agreement







Modeling wh-feature percolation with Cyclic Agree immediately addresses the first two challenges. First, feature percolation is not exceptional, but rather reducible to Agree. Second, the mechanism used to model feature percolation (Cyclic Agree) is not stipulative, since it is independently motivated in the domain of ϕ -agreement.

Finally, I concur with Cable and Heck that treating [wH] as an agreement feature predicts that [wH] should interact with ϕ -features. I argue that this prediction is borne out, as this is precisely what we find in patterns of antiagreement and wH-agreement. In antiagreement, a verb agreeing with a wH-phrase shows an impoverished set of ϕ -features (31a). In wH-agreement, the verb agreeing with a wH-phrase has a special wH-agreeing form (31b).

(31) SENSITIVITY OF ϕ -AGREEMENT TO [WH]

a. Anti-agreement Fiorentino (Romance)

Quante ragazze gli/*le ha/*hanno parlato
how many girls 3sg.m/3pl.f have.3sg/have.3pl spoken
con te?
with you

'How many girls (it) has spoken to you?'
(Brandi and Cordin, 1989, pp. 124–5; Baier, 2018, p. 1)

b. WH-AGREEMENT Tarifit (Berber)
man tamghart_i ay yzrin/*t_i-zra Mohand
which woman C see.PTCP/3SG.F-see Mohand
'Which woman saw Mohand?'

(Ouhalla, 1993, p. 479; Baier, 2018, p. 1)

5 A CASE STUDY: BASQUE

Basque (ISO 639-3: eus) is a language isolate spoken predominantly in the Basque Provinces of Spain. In this section, I provide an overview of Basque wh-fronting and clausal pied-piping. I demonstrate how the present proposal can capture the Basque facts. Finally, I show that Basque clausal pied-piping is problematic for competing accounts (Cable, 2007, 2010a,b; Heck, 2004, 2008, 2009).

Basque word order is predominantly SOV, where V stands for a nonfinite participle followed by a finite auxiliary.⁸ The order of the bracketed constituents can permute (32).⁹

(32) SOV word order

[Ene aitak] [amari] [gona gorria] [ekarri dio]. my father.ERG mother.DAT skirt red.DET bring AUX 'My father brought mother a red skirt.'

(Hualde and Ortiz de Urbina, 2003, p. 448)

Basque is a wh-fronting language. The wh-word must appear immediately before the verb. In (33), nothing can come between *zer* 'what' and *egiten* 'do.IMPF.' In other words, Basque exhibits v2 in wh-interrogatives.

(33) WH-EXTRACTION

Zer egiten duzu zuk hemen? what do.IMPF AUX you.ERG here 'What are you doing here?' [Atx. Ob.:56]

(Hualde and Ortiz de Urbina, 2003, p. 464)

Following Ortiz de Urbina (1986), I assume this is a consequence of obligatory movement of the verb to C and movement of the wh-constituent to [Spec, CP] (34).

(34) WH-MOVEMENT TO [Spec, CP] $[CP Zer_{[WH]} egiten duzu_{C_{Q}[WH]} [TP zuk hemen zer_{[WH]}?]]$

Wh-words inside DPs pied-pipe the entire DP when they move to [Spec, CP] (35). D-heads with the wh-feature pied-pipe their complements (35a). Wh-words in [Spec, DP_{Poss}] pied-pipe the entire DP_{Poss} (35b).

⁸ Most of the data and generalizations come from Hualde and Ortiz de Urbina (2003). Uncited data was collected by the author.

⁹ The order of the verb and the auxiliary in some stylistic contexts can invert too (Hualde and Ortiz de Urbina, 2003, p. 466).

(35) PIED-PIPING OF DP

a. PIED-PIPING BY D

Zer bide du hartzen idazlariak?

which way AUX take.IMPF writer.ERG

'Which way does the writer take?' [Etch. Id. I:293]

(Hualde and Ortiz de Urbina, 2003, p. 466)

b. PIED-PIPING BY [Spec, DP]

Noren bide hartzen du idazlariak

whose way take.impf aux writer.erg

"Whose way does the writer take?"

5.1 Clausal pied-piping

Now consider structures with wn-words originating in subordinate CPs (36). The wn-word can pied-pipe the entire clause (36a), but it can also be extracted out of clausal complements (36b).

- (36) WH-WORD ORIGINATING IN CP
 - a. PIED-PIPING OF CP

 Nor etor dadin (*zuek) nahi duzue

 who come AUX(SUBJ).COMP you.PL want AUX

 (zuek)? (pied-piping)

 you.PL

 'Who do you want to come?'
 - b. wh-extraction out of CP Nor nahi duzue (zuek) etor dadin? (extraction)

(Hualde and Ortiz de Urbina, 2003, pp. 487–8)

In (36a), we see unambiguously that the entire CP is pied-piped because the subject *zuek* 'you.pl' cannot intervene between the wh-constituent (here, the pied-piped CP) and the verb.

This can be modeled by proposing that Basque has two C-heads for subordinate clauses: $C[\Downarrow wh^{\smallfrown}]$ and C[]. The clausal pied-piping of (36a) can be modeled with $C[\Downarrow wh^{\smallfrown}]$ (37). The wh-extraction out of CP in (36b) can be modelled with C[] (38).

- (37) C[₩H^]
 - a. C extracting wh-word

$$\left[_{\text{CP[wH]}} \ \textit{nor}_{\left[\text{WH} \right]} \ \textit{etor dadin}_{\left[\left[\text{WH} \right]} \ \textit{nor}_{\left[\text{WH} \right]}? \ \right]$$

b. CP[wh] extracted by C_Q [$_{CP[wh]}$ Nor etor dadin] nahi duzue $_{C_Q[wh]}$ [$_{CP[wh]}$ nor etor dadin?]]

Pied-piping is mandatory when the WH-word originates inside of an island, such as a clausal *when*-adjunct. In declarative sentences, a *when*-clause can come to the right of the main clause (39). The example headings schematize syntactic structure and word order. The matrix clause is represented as CP_{M} . The *when*-clause is represented as CP_{when} .

(39) $CP_M CP_{when}$ Etxera joango naiz NEUK nahi dudanean. home.to go.FUT AUX I.INTS.ERG want AUX.when 'I will go home when I want to.'

(Hualde and Ortiz de Urbina, 2003, p. 515)

A wh-word originating in a *when*-clause fronts and pied-pies the *when*-clause (40). Wh-movement can be diagnosed by the fact that nothing can come between the wh-phrase *zenbat gai* 'how many subjects' and the verb *suspenditzen* 'fail.impf.' CP_{Q} represents the matrix clause of an interrogative sentence. Constituents fronted to specifier positions are represented with brackets in the example headings ([]).

(40) $[[wH] CP_{when}] CP_O$ Zenbat suspenditzen denean daiteke gai pasa how.many subject fail.IMPF AUX.when pass AUX hurrengo urtera? next course.to 'When one fails how many subjects can he pass to the following course?' (Hualde and Ortiz de Urbina, 2003, p. 490)

As we just saw, wh-movement in Basque is obligatory. This is to say, the wh-word or the phrase containing the wh-word has to end up in [Spec, CP_Q]. Now, let us turn our attention to doubly embedded clauses. First, consider an underlying word order before wh-movement (41). CP_1 and C_1 represent the first embedded CP and its head. CP_2 and C_2 represent the more deeply embedded CP and its head.

```
(41) /\text{CP}_Q \text{CP}_1 \text{CP}_2 wh/ (underlying word order) 

/ [ \text{C}_Q Esan dute haiek [ \text{C}_1 uste duela Mikelek say aux those.erg think aux.comp Mikel.erg 

[ \text{C}_2 etorri dela nor? ] ] ] / come aux.comp who 

"Those said that Mikel thinks that who has come?"
```

For a structure such as (41), there are four ways of satisfying Basque's requirement of wh-initiality. I propose that they can be captured by allowing either of the two subordinate clause heads $(C_1 \text{ and } C_2)$ to have either of the two wh-probe values present in Basque $([] \text{ and } [\Downarrow \text{wh}^{}])$.

First, the wh-word can be extracted. This structure is modeled with $C_1[]$ and $C_2[]$. Without wh-probes on C_1 and C_2 , CP_1 and CP_2 do not inherit the wh-feature from *nork* 'who.erg.' Thus, when the matrix C_Q wh-probes into its c-command domain, the closest wh-bearing constituent it finds is *nork* 'who.erg.' The wh-word *nork* 'who.erg' moves to [Spec, CP_Q] and no pied-piping takes place (42).

```
(42) [WH] CP_Q CP_1 CP_2 (WH-EXTRACTION)

? 10 [Nork C_Q dio Jonek [C_1 uste duela Mikelek [C_2 Who.erg said Jon.erg think aux.comp Mikel.erg irabaziko duela? ]]]

Win.fut aux.comp

"Who did Jon say Mikel thinks will win?"
```

Second, the more deeply embedded clause can be pied-piped. This structure is modeled with $C_1[]$ and $C_2[\Downarrow wh^*]$. First, C_2 establishes Agree with *nork* 'who.erg,' moves it to [Spec, CP_2], and inherits its wh-feature. C_1 does not probe for [wh]. Thus, when the matrix C_Q wh-probes into its c-command domain, the closest wh-bearing constituent it finds is CP_2 . The CP_2 moves to [Spec, CP_O] (43).

¹⁰ MAS's comment: "I think the initial phrasing is a bit awkward, even in English I imagine most people would rephrase to say «According to Jon, who ...?»." I interpret MAS's comment to mean that (42) is not strictly ungrammatical, but rather clunky, given that Basque has other ways of expressing the content of (42) without creating as long a dependency between the wн-word and its trace.

```
[[wh] CP_2] CP_0 CP_1 (PIED-PIPING WITH SECONDARY WH-MOVEMENT)
 Nork
           irabaziko duela
                                 esan du
                                            Jonek uste
 who.ERG
          win.FUT
                     AUX.COMP
                                say
                                       AUX
                                           Jon
                                                    think
 duela
            Mikelek?
 AUX.COMP Mikel.ERG
'That who will win did Jon say Mikel thinks?'
                      (Hualde and Ortiz de Urbina, 2003, p. 493)
```

Third, the first embedded clause can be extracted, and then the wh-extraction can take place within the extracted clause. This structure is modeled with $C_1[\Downarrow wh^*]$ and $C_2[]$. C_2 does not probe for [wh]. C_1 establishes Agree with *nor* 'who,' moves it to $[Spec, CP_1]$, and inherits its wh-feature. Thus, when the matrix C_Q wh-probes into its c-command domain, the closest wh-bearing constituent it finds is CP_1 . The CP_1 moves to $[Spec, CP_Q]$ (44).

```
(44) [[WH] CP_1 CP_2] CP_Q (extraction within pied-piping) [[Nor C_1 uste duela Mikelek [C_2 etorri dela]] C_Q who think aux.comp Mikel.erg come aux.comp esan dute haiek?] say aux those "Who did those say Mikel thinks has come?"
```

Fourth, CP_2 can also front to $[Spec, CP_1]$, with CP_1 then in turn fronting to $[Spec, CP_Q]$. This results in a so-called roll-up. This structure is modeled with $C_1[\mbox{$\mathbb{I}$}]$ and $C_2[\mbox{$\mathbb{I}$}]$ First, C_2 establishes Agree with *nor* 'who,' moves it to $[Spec, CP_2]$, and inherits its wh-feature. Then, C_1 establishes Agree with CP_2 , moves it to $[Spec, CP_1]$, and inherits its wh-feature. Thus, when the matrix C_Q wh-probes into its c-command domain, the closest wh-bearing constituent it finds is CP_1 , which in turn has CP_2 in its specifier position. That CP_1 with CP_2 fronted inside of it moves to $[Spec, CP_Q]$ (45).

```
(45) [[[WH] CP<sub>2</sub>] CP<sub>1</sub>] CP<sub>Q</sub> (SECONDARY PIED-PIPING OR ROLL-UP)

[Nor etorri dela uste duela Mikelek]

who come AUX.COMP think AUX.COMP Mikel.ERG

esan dute horiek?

say AUX those.ERG

'Who did those say Mikel thinks has come?'

(Hualde and Ortiz de Urbina, 2003, p. 493)
```

In sum, the four outcomes of Basque wн-movement when the wн-word is doubly CP-embedded are captured by allowing either of the two subordi-

nate clause heads $(C_1 \text{ and } C_2)$ to have either of the two wh-probe values
present in Basque ([] and [\ wH^\]). Table 2 summarizes the findings. 11

C_Q	C_1	C_2	SURFACE STRUCTURE
[↓w h ^]	[]	[]	[wh] $CP_Q CP_1 CP_2$ (42)
[₩ w +^]	[]	[↓w H ^]	$[[wH] CP_2] CP_Q CP_1 (43)$
[₩ w +^]	[₩ H ^]	[]	$[[w_H] CP_1 CP_2] CP_Q (44)$
[\ w H ^]	[₩ H^]	[₩ H^]	$\left[\left[\left[wH\right]CP_{2}\right]CP_{1}\right]CP_{Q}\ (45)$

Table 2: Surface structure of doubly-embedded interrogatives by featural specification of subordinate C-heads.

5.2 Challenges to Heck and Cable

Basque data is problematic for the accounts of pied-piping advanced by Heck (2004, 2008, 2009) and Cable (2007, 2010a,b). First, optionality is problematic for Heck, who sees pied-piping as a last-resort strategy.

The repair generalization is derived in Heck's OT approach by making Local Agree a violable constraint. Pied-piping structures will always incur more Local Agree violations than wh-extraction but they might still be more harmonic than wh-extraction if wh-extraction violates higher-ranked constraints. Importantly, Heck predicts that pied-piping should take place *only* if wh-extraction is prohibited on independent grounds. Yet, we see that in Basque clausal pied-piping is optional, since wh-extraction is also possible—it is not a repair strategy.

Second, secondary movement in pied-piped clauses is problematic for Heck. Heck observes contrast between (46) and (47). In (46), the wh-phrase (DP, DegP) is spelled out at the edge of a phase (DP). In (47), the wh-phrase (DP) is not licensed at the edge of a phase (DP, CP).

- (46) a. Horace claims to know [DP] whose DP[GEN] D[UGEN] sister] DP met Egbert.
 - b. Egbert knows [$_{DP}$ how hard $_{DegP[DEG]}$ $a_{D[\Downarrow DEG]}$ \xrightarrow{DegP} problem] she solved \xrightarrow{DP} . (Heck, 2008, p. 222)
- (47) a. *Horace claims to know [$_{DP}$ who $_{DP}$ the $_{D}$ sister of $\frac{DP}{DP}$ met Egbert. (Heck, 2008, p. 217)

¹¹ While C_1 and C_2 can have either of the two wn-probe values ([] and [\Downarrow wn^]), I assume that the matrix interrogative C_Q -head always comes with the probe [\Downarrow wn^]. This is to say, movement to [Spec, CP_Q] is obligatory, as is definitional of a wn-fronting language.

b*?a book [CP whichDP afterC Egbert had read DP] he fell asleep CP (Heck, 2008, p. 218)

To capture the contrast, Heck proposes the PhaseEdgeCondition (48).

(48) PhaseEdgeCondition, or: PEC A wh-phrase α can be spelled out at the edge of a phase P if and only if an Agree relation between the head of P and α has been a established. (Heck, 2008, p. 218)

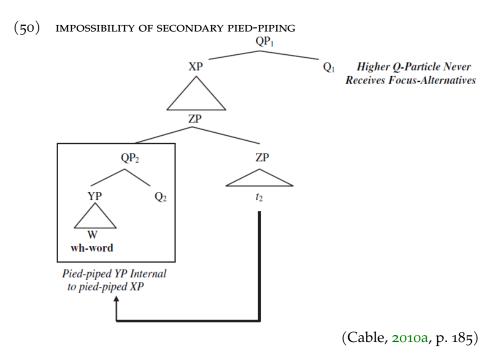
In (46a), D assigns [GEN] to its specifier. In (46b), the Agreement is established with respect to the DEG-feature. Thus, the wh-phrase is licensed at the edge of a phase. In (47), no Agreement is established, so the wh-phrase cannot remain at the edge of the phase.

Assuming, as Heck does, that movement to the edge of a CP phase is not feature driven, i.e. C does not establish Agreement with respect to any feature with its specifier, secondary whovement in unexpected (Heck, 2008, p. 234).

Finally, even if the first two problems were dealt with, roll-up structures will always incur more violations of Local Agree than pied-piping with no roll-up. This is because in roll-up pied-piping there are more projections intervening between the C_Q -head and the wh-word (49). This predicts that roll-up structures should be universally unattested, contrary to Basque data (cf. 45).

Now I turn to Cable (2007, 2010a,b). Cable proposes that pied-piping is illusory; the wh-word does not pied-pipe anything, but rather it is the QP which contains the wh-word that moves. Thus, for secondary pied-piping to occur, there would have to be two Q-particles.

Structures with multiple Q-particles are ruled out on semantic grounds. The lower Q-particle closes off the focus alternatives of the wh-word, so the input to the higher Q-particle is not of the right semantic type. Thus, Cable categorically predicts absences of roll-ups (50), again contrary to Basque data (cf. 45).



6 conclusion

In conclusion, I propose that pied-piping can be naturally captured in Béjar and Rezac's (2009) model of Cyclic Agree, which allows for "passing up" the wh-feature to higher projections. Thus, I formalize the notion of feature percolation using a mechanism which is independently motivated in the domain of ϕ -agreement. The current account avoids pitfalls of previous feature percolation approaches, and correctly predicts the interaction between the wh-feature and ϕ -features.

The account predicts that cross-linguistic variation in pied-piping and wnfronting resides in featural specification of functional heads. I demonstrate that the prediction is borne out, as all combinations of functional heads P, C, and D with $[], [\Downarrow wn], and [\Downarrow wn^]$ are attested.

Finally, I show that the present account captures the variable outcomes of wh-movement out of deeply embedded clauses in Basque and discuss why competing accounts (Cable, 2007, 2010a,b; Heck, 2004, 2008, 2009) predict it to be impossible.

The notion of feature geometries originally motivated in the domain of ϕ -agreement (e. g. Béjar and Rezac, 2009; Deal, 2015, 2020) has been recently extended to account for phenomena related to \bar{A} -movement (e. g. Baier, 2018; Hedding, 2020). The current proposal extends Béjar and Rezac's (2009) model of Cyclic Agreement, also originally motivated for ϕ -agreement, to

the \bar{A} -domain. Thus, the current proposal contributes to the growing body of literature which capitalizes on the formal similarities between the ϕ - and \bar{A} -phenomena, further strengthening the connection between the two domains.

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A APPENDIX

(51) D[] Polish

Jaki Pawel [vP samochód kupil swojej żonie ___]?

what Pawel car bought his wife

'What car did Pawel buy his wife?'

(Wiland, 2010; Urk, 2019, p. 23)

| Bangla | C[ψwH] | Bangla | jOn [c, meri kon boi-Ta poRe-che], bollo t,?
| John [Mary which book-CLA read-has.3] said?
| 'Which book did John say Mary read?'

(Simpson and Bhattacharya, 2000, p. 590)

(53) C[↓wH] Marathi
Mini-la [cp Lili-ni Ravi-la kay dila asa] vaTta
Mini-ACC Lili-ERG Ravi-ACC what gave COMP believes
'What does Mini believe Lili gave to Ravi?'

(Wali, 1988; Simpson and Bhattacharya, 2000, p. 591)

(54) $P[\Downarrow wh^{\uparrow}]$ Finnish

- a. Pekka käveli [PP kohti **puistoa**]. Pekka walked towards park.PAR 'Pekka walked towards the park.'
- b. [PP Mitä kohti] Pekka käveli? what towards Pekka walked 'What did Pekka walk towards?'
- c. [PP Mitä yli] Pekka käveli? what over Pekka walked

'What did Pekka walk over?'

(Huhmarniemi, 2012, pp. 105, 115; Urk, 2019, p. 33)