

**Apparent *Wh*-island Effect and Syntactic/Phonological Cyclicity
(Working Title)**

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In the last few years there have been several works on the interaction between syntax and phonology of *wh*-question in Japanese (Lee and Tomioka, 2001; Deguchi and Kitagawa, 2002; Ishihara, 2002, 2003; Hirotsu, 2003; Kitagawa and Fodor, 2003; Kitagawa and Tomioka, 2003). One of the intriguing properties of Japanese *wh*-question is the disagreement about the judgment status of the sentence containing *wh*-island. Recent discussions on this topic have already shown quite convincingly that prosody has a great impact on the interpretation of *wh*-questions.

In this talk, I will revisit this issue once again. First I will reexamine Takahashi's (1993) observations about the certain *wh*-question construction containing an *wh*-island. I will also raise an issue about a sentence which Saito (1989) uses as evidence for radical reconstruction effect. These sentences are always reported with slightly degraded judgment status. The main goal in this talk is to specify the source of this judgment degradation.

I will propose an analysis based on the recent Minimalist framework (Chomsky, 2000, 2001b,a) which extends the notion of multiple Spell-Out to the phonological process of focus intonation formation. The cyclic Spell-Out mechanism creates a mismatch between the intonation patterns that would match for the intended *wh*-question interpretations and the actually produced one. A result of a phonetic experiment will be also given to support the proposed analysis.

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