

Mixed identity requirements in CP-Ellipsis

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In this talk, I discuss *Root Topic-Remnant Elided Wh-Questions*, which I will refer to as root *wh-TREQs* for simplicity. Root *wh-TREQs* are elliptical questions interpreted as follow-up *wh*-questions. Unlike other types of sentential ellipsis that involve *wh*-questions, *wh-TREQs* require a *wh*-phrase to go unpronounced. Crucially, this occurs even though there is no explicit *wh*-question or *wh*-phrase in the antecedent. Thus, I claim that *wh-TREQs* in Spanish are the result of the ellipsis of a *wh*-question, from which a Contrastive Topic has moved out, surviving deletion. I will argue that *wh-TREQs* provide further evidence for the need of a syntactic identity condition to license ellipsis. However, as I will show, this identity condition only applies to the lower portion of the elided structure (i.e. the TP and everything below it). With respect to the upper part of the structure (i.e. material above the TP), I will show that there is in fact no need to propose a specific identity condition to license ellipsis of the elements lying between C and Top and that only more general, pragmatic conditions on dialogue congruence, and at-issue content are at play here. Finally, as a way of implementing my proposal, I will argue that this type of construction (*wh-TREQs* in particular and CP-ellipsis in general) involves the presence of two [E] features, that impose different identity conditions.