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**Overriding Syntactic Islands with Prosodically Marked Wh-scope**

This poster presents results from two experiments on in-situ wh-phrases with ambiguous scope in Tokyo Japanese, Fukuoka Japanese, and South Kyeongsang Korean. The widely accepted wh-island effect is held to block a wh-phrase from taking scope out of a wh-island. In Japanese and Korean, however, varying judgments have been reported regarding the island effect of the embedded complementizers corresponding to *whether* (C.M. Suh 1987, Nishigauchi 1990, Watanabe 1992, Takahashi 1993, Deguchi and Kitagawa 2002, Ishihara 2003, Hirotani 2005, H.K. Hwang 2006, H.J. Hwang 2007). A production study shows that matrix scope readings are acceptable when a plausible context for the reading is provided. Also, a comprehension study confirms that prosodic wh-scope marking observed in the languages can guide listeners’ scope interpretation and improves the acceptability of the matrix scope readings in violation of the wh-island effect. The experimental results showing that the wh-island constraint can be overridden by plausible contexts and the appropriate prosodic marking of wh-scope highlight the need for an expanded scope of analysis, one which incorporates the interactivity of prosody, syntax, and discourse observed here.

**References**


