

Preposition Stranding and Pied-Piping in English and Laali

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Abstract:

This paper contrasts preposition stranding and pied-piping operations in English and Laali. The analysis is carried out in the light of Chomsky's Minimalist Program. It results from this paper that English attests both preposition stranding and pied piping whereas Laali attests pied piping only. Indeed, in English, the complement can move out of the PP and leave its head P behind thanks to wh-movement, relativization, pseudopassivization and sluicing processes. In addition, English allows all the PP to be pied-piped out of the verb domain to the front position of the derived sentence. However, in Laali, preposition stranding operation is impossible as the preposition constitutes a barrier for its complement movement. As such, pied piping appears as a compensation to Laali which disallows preposition stranding.

Keywords: *preposition stranding, preposition pied-piping, Laali, English*

Résumé:

Ce travail compare l'orphelinage des prépositions et le pied-piping (mouvement) des syntagmes prépositionnels en anglais et en laali selon l'approche Minimaliste de Chomsky. Il se dégage que l'anglais atteste l'orphelinage et le pied-piping des syntagmes prépositionnels alors que le laali n'atteste que le pied-piping des syntagmes prépositionnels. En effet, l'anglais permet au complément d'une préposition de mouvoir hors du syntagme prépositionnel et laisser le nœud P isolé grâce aux procédés syntactiques tels que le mouvement de pronom interrogatif (wh-movement), la relativization, le pseudo-passif et l'ellipse. Ensuite, l'anglais atteste le mouvement de tout le syntagme prépositionnel de la position finale à la position initiale d'une phrase. En revanche, le laali n'atteste pas l'orphelinage des prépositions car la préposition constitue une barrière pour le mouvement de son complément. A cet effet, le pied-piping du syntagme prépositionnel apparaît comme un palliatif pour le laali qui n'atteste pas ou l'isolement des nœuds prépositionnels.

Mots clés : *orphelinage, prépositions, pied-piping, laali, anglais*

Introduction:

The present paper is concerned with the derivation of preposition stranding and pied-piping in English and Laali, one of the Bantu languages spoken in Congo Brazzaville. Based on Chomsky's Minimalist Program, this work seeks to find out how these two syntactic operations are internally merged in languages under discussion. In other

words, it aims at showing whether preposition stranding and preposition pied-piping converge at both PF and Semantic representations in the two target languages. According to Enzinna and Thompson (2014:141), “*when the entire PP moves, a Pied-piping Construction occurs. When only the prepositional complement (P-complement) moves, leaving the preposition, a P-Stranding occurs*”. French (1985:33). Indeed, pied-piping and stranding are the two major notions which attract linguists’ attention when it comes to talking about movement of elements within a prepositional phrase (French 1985, Newson 2006, Günther 2021). Consequently, the work addresses the following questions: (1) How do English and Laali operate the preposition stranding and pied-piping constructions? (2) How similar and dissimilar are English and Laali regarding the two syntactic operations? The work is structured as follows. Section (1) is about an overview of the theoretical essentials. Section (2) looks at preposition stranding while section (3) is devoted to the analysis of pied-piping.

1. A theoretical overview on the notions at issue

A number of linguists (Koronkiewicz (2022), Saleh (2021), Günther (2021), Giancarli (2017), Ifeanyi (2016), Chomsky (2015), Capó (2015), Erlewine and Hadas (2014), Enzinna (2013), Truswell (2008), Dimitriadis (2007), Roberge and Rosen (1999), Kanasugi (1995)) have looked into the notions of preposition stranding and pied-piping. Haegman (1994:375), for example argues that “*the phenomenon in which a preposition is left behind after its complement has been moved out is called preposition-stranding. The phenomenon where the preposition is moved along with the complement NP is referred to as pied-piping*”. It follows that preposition stranding and pied-piping sound like twin notions on preposition movement in world languages. However, due to a huge literature on the issues, many things have been averred. Kaiser (2012:140) uses the term *bar preposition* to refer to preposition stranding. By *bar preposition*, he means a preposition devoid of its c-commanded complement as illustrated hereafter:

- (1) a- *La fille* que je suis sorti **avec**.
The lady that I be (pres.) go out (pp) with
The lady that I went out with.

- b- *Le mec* que je t’ai vu **avec**.
The guy that I you have (pres.) see (pp) with
The guy that I you with. Kaiser (Ibid)

These examples are illustrations of the preposition stranding. What emerges is that the preposition **avec** (*with*) is stranded or remains in situ at the end of the sentential structure without its c-commanded DPs namely *La fille* (the lady) and *Le mec* (the guy) which have been moved into the focus position of the resulted derived sentences. However, Giancarli (2017: 55) uses the term *l’orphelinage des prepositions* to refer to preposition stranding. Based on Canadian French, Giancarli (Ibid) argues that “*dans les Français canadiens, on trouve des préposition en finale de constituant et dites alors “orphelines”, comme dans: C’est la qualité du programme que je regarde pour.*”² According to Giancarli, the preposition like **pour** is termed orphan preposition due to its lack of being followed by an appropriate complement. The author goes on averring that out of the preposition *pour* (for) other prepositions including *sans* (without), *de* (of), *avec* (with), *à* (to/at), *en* (in) and *comme* (like/as) can be orphaned as in:

- (2) a- *La mangue*, il est parti **sans**.
The mango he be go (pp) without
The mango he went without.
b- *Well Quosse* qu’on parle **de**.
Well Quosse that one speak of
Well Quosse spoken about.
c- *Y’en a des professeurs* qui sont difficiles à s’accorder **avec**.
There have teachers who be (present) difficult to agree with
There are teachers who are difficult to agree with.
d- *Le gars* que j’ai parlé **à**.
The guy that I have speak (pp) to
The guy that I have spoken to.
e- *Marie* est une fille que j’ai confiance **en**.
Marie be (pres.) a lady that I have confidence in

² In Canadian varieties of French, prepositions are found in final position of structures and are thus referred to as orphan prepositions as in : *It is the quality of the programme that I am looking at for*. **My translation**

Marie is the lady that I have confidence in.
 f- Y'en a pas vraiment **comme**.
 There have not really like
 There is really none like.

(Giancarli Op. cit.)

We notice from **2a** to **2f** that the functional head prepositions (in bold) do not introduce any complement at all. Roberge and Rosen (1999) who almost agrees with Giancarli opines that unlike Standard French (henceforth SF), North American French (henceforth NAF) often uses preposition stranding. This is due to the fact that “*most NAF varieties are in a fairly intense contact situation with English influences*”. (Roberge and Rosen, Op. cit., 154). Accordingly, for them, the use of preposition stranding in North American varieties of French is due to the fact that French dialects spoken in North America are significantly and contextually in contact with English which intensively uses preposition stranding.

Dimitriadis (2007) compares the frequency of the preposition stranding and pied-piping in the three main UK newspaper namely *The Times*, *The Sun* and *Today*. Accordingly, she asserts that stranding is mostly used in informal English style and pied-piping in formal one. She says that prepositions such as *on*, *with*, *for* and *into* tend to influence preposition stranding, whereas *in*, mostly appears in pied-piped situations. In addition, she opines that preposition stranding is preferred to pied-piping in case of phrasal verbs. Indeed, being part of informal style of English, verbs in phrasal verbs are usually unattached from their neighboring so-called postpositions in oral English. She goes on arguing that subject domains are of a great deal when it comes to choosing between preposition stranding and pied-piping. Indeed, informal domains such as sports and miscellaneous favor the use of preposition stranding. Unlike, formal domains like science, business, politics and culture tends to favor to the use of pied-piping. As such, *The Times* which mostly uses pied-piping more than preposition stranding in comparison with *The Sun* and *Today* is considered more formal than the other two (Dimitriadis Op.cit., 26). As a matter of fact, pied-piping is counted as formal because preposition stranding appeared on the scene of English preposition movement just in the Middle English period i.e., in the 13th century (Dimitriadis Op.cit., 2). In this connection, Dimitriadis (Op.cit.: 1) asserts that “*the prescriptive approach to prepositions is that stranding should be avoided, however, descriptive approach shows that stranding does not indeed exist*”. Indeed, traditional grammarians viewed preposition stranding as part of ungrammaticality and unacceptability as it was not used or found in formal texts of famous writers. This matches Radford’s opinion (2009:430) which states that in some varieties of English, preposition stranding crashes the resulted derivation due to the fact that P does not have an edge feature i.e., the preposition cannot be specified by its moved complement in formal English.

However, Capó (2015), affirms that although preposition stranding is part of colloquial English, it is gaining a great emergence in present-day English. As such he advances what follows:

This traditional view has been challenged and disregarded by a great sum of academics who claim that this construction has always been used by English speakers [...]. In a particular register, it has been proved that preposition stranding has gained ground over pied-piping in the last decade. [...] preposition stranding shows a significant rise while pied-piping presents a contrasting tendency (Capó Op.cit., 2).

This amounts to asserting that though informal it is, preposition stranding is challenging the formal pied-piping in nowadays English. In fact, preposition stranding now tends to be used in formal English contexts; what was not the case previously. The decline of pied-piping in favor of preposition stranding is accounted for by Capó in terms of the colloquialization of the English language. In fact, British English is viewed as traditional or formal English and American English as colloquial or informal one. Due to the spreading of the American English which tolerates the use of new styles including preposition stranding, this aspect is gradually inserting into the new literary and linguistic styles and formal contexts. So, for Capó (Op.cit.,14), one main aspect which differs British from American English is that the former scarcely uses preposition stranding in formal contexts whereas the latter does. In the same regard, Sadighi (2021:10) affirms the following:

There is such a growing tendency in English towards using preposition stranding instead of preposition pied-piping that many linguists have considered stranding as the norm and the cases in which stranding is impossible as exceptions.

It comes out from this assertion that present day English shows a great interest in using preposition stranding than preposition pied-piping. The upcoming section looks at preposition stranding and pied-piping.

2. Preposition Stranding

This section is concerned with the analysis preposition stranding in the languages under discussion. It first analyses the issue in English then in Laali prior to ending with a contrastive analysis of the two languages.

2.1. Preposition Stranding in English

This subsection is about how the preposition stranding process operates in English. Indeed, the available literature on the issue avers that preposition stranding in English is possible thanks to four main possibilities including *Wh-movement*, *Relativization*, *Pseudo-passivization* and *Sluicing*. The following part is concerned with English preposition stranding with *Wh-movement*.

2.1.1. Preposition Stranding with Wh-movement

The examples below illustrate English preposition stranding thanks to *Wh-movement*.

- (3) a- *Who* do you agree ~~*with*~~ **DP**?—
 b- *What* does it depend ~~*on*~~ **DP**?—
 c- *Which* country is he ~~*from*~~ **DP**?—
 d- *Where* is he going ~~*to*~~ **DP**?—
 e- *Why* are you doing sport ~~*for*~~ **DP**?—

In Minimalist jargon, all (3) sentences are convergent derivations in today's English as they are legible at both semantic and PF interfaces. However, it is evident that these derivations are not part of underlying structures. They have undergone a number of syntactic operations that can be expressed in terms of steps. In fact, based on Chomsky Minimalist Program, their derivations can be interpreted into four steps labelled as follows:

Step1: The DP substitution by a WH-word:

The preposition complement which is usually a Determiner Phrase (henceforth DP) is substituted by a respective wh-word before moving to the front position of the derived sentence. As one can notice from (3) examples above, the DPs have been substituted by their wh-word counterparts which occur in the initial position of the uncanonical sentence. That is the reason why those DPs have the strikethrough i.e. crossed out.

Step2: Do-support rule application or T-to-C Movement:

The movement of the preposition complement entails the insertion of the auxiliary “do” in the derived structure in case the underlying structure does not contain the main auxiliaries *be* and *have* or *modal verbs*. Furthermore, the auxiliary (either inserted or not) moves from its basic T position to the C landing site at the spell-out, implying the movement operation known as **T to C movement**.

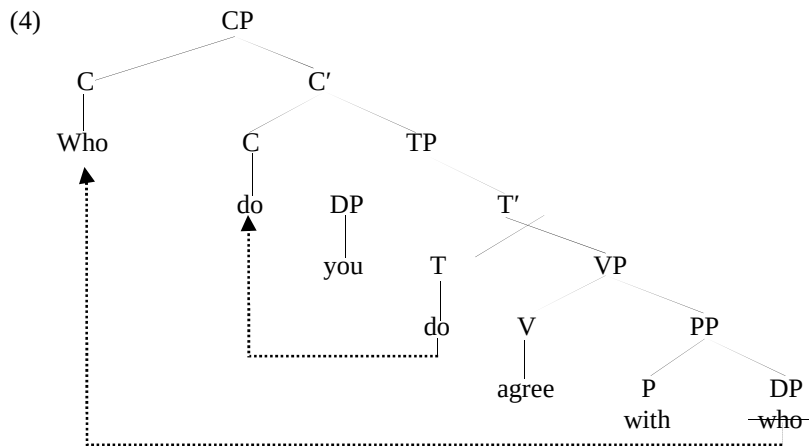
Step3: Wh-word movement to Spec-CP position:

Indeed, complements which are supposed to be under the domain of prepositions (in bold italicized) in underlying form have been moved to a position higher than their neighboring prepositions. The process is such that the preposition complements which are basically DP arguments have been substituted by wh-words before moving into the front C position of the CP. In fact, the DP seems not to be the essential goal for the probe C. So, to avoid crash in the resulted derivation, the DP is replaced by a respective wh-word which is the goal matching the higher probe C. To make things more clear, let us basically rephrase (3a) as *You agree with **Ndongo*** and (3d) as *He is going to **school*** where **Ndongo** and **school** appear as full DP arguments. As a matter of fact, since, the probe C cannot attract the DP arguments **Ndongo** and **school** to the Spec-CP position because of the non-convergence of the resulted derivations, the latters are then replaced by the wh-words **who** and **where** respectively; what facilitates their attraction to **Spec-CP**. Accordingly, English preposition stranding implies the replacement of the DP argument into a wh-word which in turn moves from its in-situ position to the spell-out to apply the **Wh-to-C movement**. The preposition is then stranded or left behind to govern a null or empty DP.

As a consequence, the English preposition stranding entails two types of movement including **T to C movement** and **Wh-to-C movement**. The first implies the movement of **T** to **C** and the second that of the Wh-word from the c-command domain of the preposition to the higher C position. The former is called head movement as it involves the movement of the minimal projection T to another minimal projection C. However, Latter is known as Wh-movement as it entails the movement of the maximal projection expressed by the wh-word in situ to the highest maximal projection C. This leads us to the last step which summarizes the first three ones namely the P-marker

Step4: Tree diagram:

It supplies us information regarding the full derivation process of preposition stranding with Wh-movement. Data driven from (3a).



It is worth noting that the English preposition stranding operation violates two of Chomsky's UG principles namely the Functional Head Condition (FHC) and the Phase Impenetrability Condition (PIC). According to the Functional Head Condition, "*the complement of a certain type of functional head cannot be proposed on its own without moving the functional head along with it*" (Radford 2004: 454). Indeed, given that P is a functional head, its complement DP could not move to another position without its functional head. However, we realized that English preposition stranding violates the FHC. However, the Phase Impenetrability Condition (PIC) asserts the following:

The c-command domain of a phase is impenetrable to an external probe (i.e. a goal which is c-commanded by the head of a phase is impenetrable to any probe c-commanding a phase). (...) A constituent in the domain of a complementizer or preposition is impenetrable to (and so cannot be attracted by) a higher head c-commanding the relevant complementizer/preposition (Radford 2009: 204; Radford 2004: 382)"

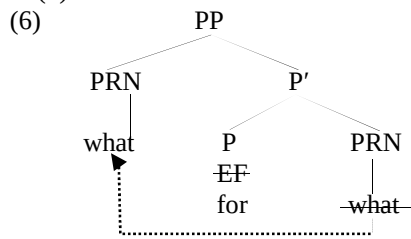
According to Chomsky's Minimalism, syntactic derivations operate in terms of probe-goal relationship; the probe being the higher head in search for a goal which is in its c-command domain. The probe then looks for an appropriate goal and gets into contact with for agreement reasons. The former can be viewed as the c-commander and the latter the c-commandee. Impenetrability Condition prevents elements from the domain/complement of the phase (which can either be a CP or a vP (Radford Op.cit., 381) to move to given landing site. Put otherwise, let us say that TP is (4) is the domain/complement of its sister C. Consequently, no other constituent from TP can undergo any syntactic operation as the PIC bars/blocks the process. In other words, no constituent from the TP can serve as a goal for an eventual head C probe. Accordingly, the movement of the Wh-word from the domain of the preposition is the violation of the Phase Impenetrability Condition because an element from within the TP (which stands for the complement of the head phase C) has been moved to the Spec-C position.

Another possibility where the Wh-word moves leaving the preposition in a stranded situation is the case of question fragments from given interventions as illustrated below:

- (5) a- I am travelling to Ghana next year.
 b- *Who with?*
 c- He is moving tomorrow.
 d- *Where to?*
 e- I will travel to Pointe Noire.
 f- *What by?*
 g- This is his umbrella.
 i- *What for?*

It is remarkable from these examples that prepositions (in bold italicized) appear in final position of sentence fragments. As such, they are stranded as they are not followed by their respective complements. If traditional grammarians view these derivations as uncovergent, present day English however accept them as converged (although it classifies them as part of informal/colloquial style). The minimalist explanation to sentence fragments like those in (5b, d, f & i) is that the preposition bears an edge feature (henceforth EF). Put differently, the

preposition can be preceded by an element which serves as a specifier. Being strong by essence, that edge feature/specifier attracts the wh-word whose underlying form is in the domain of the preposition. So, from the complement position of the preposition, it moves to its specifier position, so driving the P-marker such as the one in (6) below:



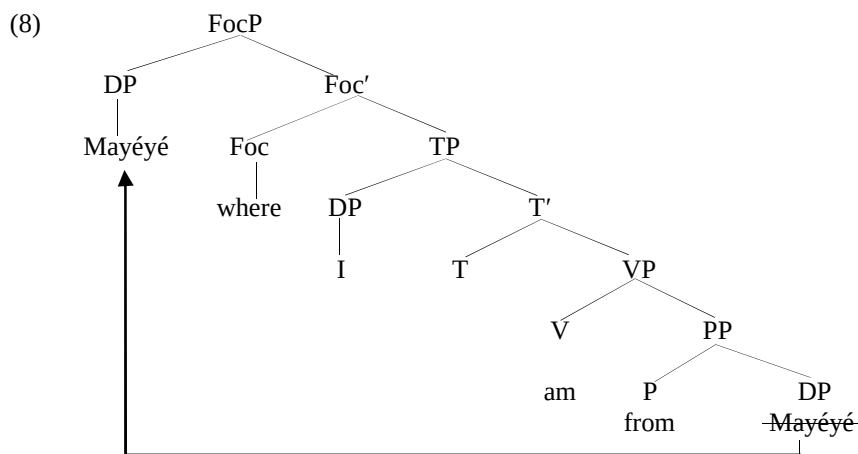
Preposition stranding with relativization is the concern of the following subsection.

2.1.2. Preposition Stranding with Relativization

This subsection aims at scrutinizing how the preposition stranding operates with the complex containing relative clauses. Consider the following:

- (7) a- *The man* [that you saw pictures ***of***]
 b- *God* [that I mainly rely ***on***]
 c- *My wife Ngouanga* [that I talked you ***about***]
 d- *These things* [that you should get rid ***of***]
 e- *The boy* [that we have to be familiar ***with***]
 f- *Jobs* [which Bossine must be interested ***in***]
 g- *Mayéyé* [where I am ***from***]

It emerges from these examples that prepositions (in bold italicized) are stranded i.e., left behind without their respective complements. As a matter of fact, the complements of these prepositions have left their basic post prepositional position to a position higher than PP. As one can notice, this movement is triggered off the relativization³ process. Indeed, the domain of the preposition is moved to the front of the overall resulted derivation via the insertion of the relative pronoun. (7a) and (7b) for instance have the following respective underlying structures: *You saw pictures ***of the man***, I mainly rely ***on God****. Similar to wh-movement, preposition stranding with relativization violates both the Functional Head Condition and the Impenetrability Condition since the complement has been moved without its functional head P and the NP constituent has been extracted from TP which is the impenetrable zone to syntactic operations as it is the complement of C which stands for the head of the CP phase. Due to the fact that the P complement has been preposed to the periphery of the clause i.e., above the TP projection of the derived structure for emphasis or focus reasons, I will use Rizzi (2021, 2003) Split CP hypothesis which help cope with discourse constituents beyond syntax and represents CP by means of a number of different projections. As such, all (7) sentences will be said to have Focus Phrase (FocP) as the root node because the moved element has highlighted the information as new. Consequently, the (7g) example *Mayéyé where I am ***from****, can be diagrammed as follows:



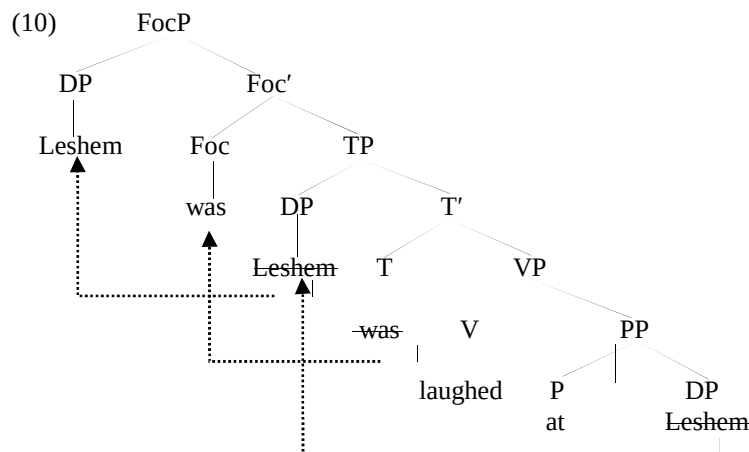
³ Relativization is a syntactic process responsible for relative clause constructions (Crystal, 2008 :411)

2.1.3. Preposition Stranding with Pseudopassivization

This subsection focuses on another way of stranding a preposition namely pseudopassivization and prepositional passive. Let us look at the following examples:

- (9) a- **Leshem** was laughed **at** [by-phrase].
 b- **Mandela** used to be listened **to** [by-phrase].
 c- **That idea** was referred **to** [by-phrase].
 d- **It** has been smiled **at** [by-phrase].
 e- **This bed** has been slept **in** [by-phrase].
 f- **The whole wall** is written **on** [by-phrase].
 g- **This cloth** was sat **upon** [by-phrase].
 h- **Mary's honesty** was taken advantage **of**. (Kim, Kwang-sup, 2014 : 49)

These pseudo passive constructions are generated thanks to formula namely *DP (subject) + be/get + V (PP) + Preposition + an optional by-phrase*. Based on Chomsky's Minimalist Program, these structures are part of internal merge since they are not arranged in their underlying form. In (9a) for instance, it follows that the DP **Leshem** which is the canonical complement of the preposition **at** has been promoted to the landing subject site of the passivized derivation. This being so, its head preposition **at** is stranded (i.e., has no c-commanded complement), and so are all prepositions in (9) where complement have been moved to the front position. Since prepositional complements are fronted for pragmatic or discursive reasons, (9a) will derive the following tree diagram with the DP complement *Leshem* undergoing a cyclic movement as shown below:



Preposition stranding is also apparently possible under sluicing. This is the main concern of the following part.

2.1.4. Preposition Stranding under sluicing

This part looks at preposition stranding under sluicing. According to Crystal (Op. cit. 440),

Sluicing is a term used in syntax for a type of ellipsis, in which an interrogative item is interpreted as a complete question, the omitted material being retrieved from the previous discourse. The deletion leaves a WH-phrase, as in **Somebody just left. Guess who.**

Usually, sluicing occurs in complex utterances such as compound sentences. Indeed, when sluicing operates, a part of a sentential structure is deleted rightward and reduced to a single wh-word which stands for the question. Nahrkhalaji and Ashjerdi (2012: 801) view sluicing as part of the syntax of silence. However, Myuang-Kwan and Jung-Min (2007: 394) refers to it as part of the Economy Condition in language system. The following examples illustrate preposition stranding under sluicing:

- (11) a- Ngakala relies **on** somebody, but I do not know [~~who he relies on.~~]

- b- Ndzama smiled **at** some person, but we did know [~~who she smiled at.~~]
 c- This dog comes **from** a nearby village, but we ignore [~~where it comes from.~~]
 d- The interpretation depends **on** the approach, but they ignore [~~which one it depends on.~~]
 e- He is afraid **of** a person, but we cannot imagine [~~who he is afraid of~~]
 f- I have been thinking **of** something, but I do no more remember [~~what I have been thinking of.~~]

What is remarkable is that all of the above examples are compound sentences as they are coordinated by the conjunction **but**. However, we notice from the strikethrough that the complements of the wh-words are elided with stranded prepositions. The elision of the wh-domains with their prepositions is what is referred to as preposition stranding under sluicing. In other words, the preposition stranding under sluicing means that the Tense Phrase (TP) which is the complement of the complementizer (wh-word) containing P is deleted along with that P.

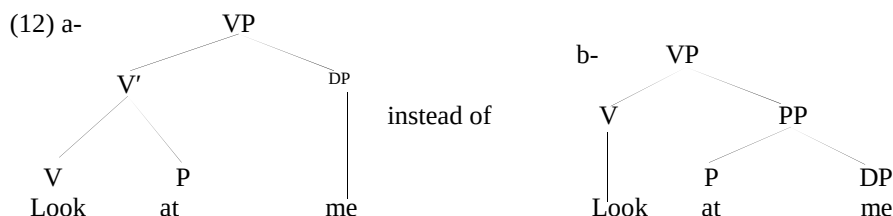
What is central to preposition stranding under sluicing is that the CP (in bracket above) is co-indexed to the first clause of the discourse i.e. the clause preceding the coordinator **but**. That is the reason why sluicing is viewed as the combination of both the wh-word technically known as the remnant and the elided TP.

Also, the literature on sluicing argues that a preposition can be stranded under sluicing in English if only if the remnant/wh-word in CP is overtly anaphoric to the complement of the prepositional verb of the preceding clause. Put differently, if the prepositional verb of the first clause has no overt complement, the preposition stranding under sluicing is impossible. In this respect, Chung (2005:82) argues that “a preposition can be stranded in (the elided IP of) sluicing as long as the remnant has an overt correlate in the antecedent IP. Otherwise preposition stranding in sluicing is forbidden”. In effect, without an overt antecedent for the remnant wh-word in the preceding clause, preposition stranding in the sluiced units is hardly realizable. This antecedent plays an essential part as it is the constituent upon which the preposition stranding under sluicing depends. Not on does it basically project the wh-word in the embedded clause, it also triggers off the preposition stranding by favoring the wh-word movement from its canonical place after the preposition to the Spec-CP. Indeed, (11) are basically rewritten as follows:

- (12)a- Ngakala relies on **somebody**, but I do not know [*he relies on whom.*]
 b- Ndzama smiled at **some person**, but we did know [*she smiled at whom.*]
 c- This dog comes from **a nearby village**, but we ignore [*it comes from where.*]
 d- The interpretation depends on **the approach**, but they ignore [*it depends on which one.*]
 e- He is afraid of **a person**, but we cannot imagine [*he is afraid of whom*]
 f- I have been thinking of **something**, but I do no more remember [*I have been thinking of what.*]

Accordingly, without the correlate/antecedent (in bold printed), we could not have the projection of the wh-words in embedded clauses. Likewise, we could not eventually have their movement from the preposition complement to the specifier position of complementizer phrases as illustrated in (11). This shows how relevant the correlate is for the preposition stranding under sluicing.

The debate about preposition stranding has been summarized by Hornstein and Weinberg (1981) in their Reanalysis Theory. Also known as restructuring reanalysis aims at considering a complex syntactic structure as one unit due to its relation with other elements in the same structure. In this regard, Hornstein and Weinberg suggest a theory of P-stranding which take V and any amount of contiguous rightward VP-internal and reanalyzes that material as a single verb V*” (Hornstein and Weinberg Op. cit., Truswell, Op.cit.7). Consequently, according to reanalysis hypothesis, a preposition is considered as an integral part of the verb. In other words, the post prepositional phrase is no more viewed as its complement. As such, the preposition is not the head of its following constituent but rather the complement of its preceding verb. In this regard, the VP *look at me* will be represented as:



The same viewpoint is sustained by Chomsky (2015 : 307) who asserts that *a phenomenon has been to support the idea that V-P constructions sometimes ‘reanalyzes’ as a new verb V’*. So, the preposition is separated from its former c-commanded complement. That is why the complement can be easily separated from its so-called head in English and leave the preposition in a stranded situation. This fact is apparently highlighted with English phrasal verbs. In fact, with phrasal verbs, the preposition is highly tied to the verb inasmuch as it is part of the verb and not of its following item. The section below looks at the preposition stranding in Laali.

2.2. Preposition Stranding in Laali

This section looks at whether preposition stranding operation is attested in Laali. To start with, a great deal of authors affirm that preposition stranding is very rare in world's languages. Truswell (Op.cit.1) for instance argues that "*P-stranding [...] is attested in only a vanishingly small portion of world's languages. Abels (2003) found only nine or ten languages in which P-stranding was attested*". Based on Grees (2002), Enzinna, and Thompson (Op.cit. 142) add that "*P-stranding constructions are less common cross-linguistically*". In general, these assertions show that preposition stranding in natural languages is not frequent. This infrequency may be accounted for by the fact natural languages are strongly attached to the prescriptive approach of grammar which view the detachment of complements from their head prepositions as being part of ungrammaticality. This being so, preposition stranding can be considered as a parameter of variation rather than a principle. Indeed, languages including Italian (Alaowffi and Alharbi, 2021), Spanish (Koronkiewicz, 2022), Greek (Carnie, 2013), Korean and German (Kim, 2014), Igbo (Ifeanyi, 2016) to name but these, do not attest preposition stranding. Equally, Laali does not attest preposition stranding. In fact, in Laali, the preposition bars the movement of its complement to another landing site. In other words, the preposition can only govern a full complement but not an empty category in that language. Consider the following examples:

(13) a- Mè nêwà mbòòngò kwà mààmà.

Me I-give money to mother

I give money to mother.

b- *Ná mè nêwà mbòòngò kwà?

Who me I-give money to ?

Who do I give money to.

c- *Ndè wàyéné kú ékòlò, kèsè mè kà yààbà pè nkí ékòlò—ndè wàyéné kú.—

He him-go(past) to school but me neg know neg which school he him-go to.

He went to school, but I do not know which school he went to.

These examples show that preposition stranding is unattested in Laali. In (13b) and (13c), we have attempted to illustrate P-stranding through wh-movement and under sluicing respectively. However, it is noticeable (thanks to asterisks) that the resulted derivations are ungrammatical. The gap of non-preposition stranding languages like Laali is usually filled by preposition pied-piping which will be talked about latter.

2.3. Contrastive analysis

In this this section, we show similar and dissimilar points as regards preposition stranding in English and Laali. The analysis reveals that English attests preposition stranding whereas Laali does not. In English, preposition stranding is fulfilled by syntactic processes namely wh-movement, relativization, pseudopassivization and sluicing. However, all these processes do not allow the implementation of preposition stranding in Laali. Maling and Zaenen (1985:153) and Enzinna and Thompson (Op. cit.141) aver that apart from English and Scandinavian languages, preposition stranding is seldom attested in world languages. According to Hornstein and Weinberg's Reanalysis Theory, languages that attest preposition stranding are those that can reanalyze the preposition as part of the verb (V-P=V') and not as part of the PP. In other words, the preposition in preposition stranding languages loses its headness function to become complement of the verb that it goes along with for preposition stranding to be possible. However, in Laali the preposition is maintained as head in a PP and cannot be untied from its following complement. So, Laali resembles those thousands of languages that do not strand prepositions. Finally, English allows the Focus Phrase projection thanks to the preposition stranding operation as the Spec-FocP position is filled by a moved DP, what is possible in Laali as it does not attest preposition stranding. Pied-piping in English and Laali is the main concern of the following section.

3. Preposition pied-piping

This section deals with preposition pied-piping in the two targets languages. To quote, Harvath (2017: 2) :

The notion of "pied-piping" has been an integral part of all versions of the theory of generative grammar that assume transformational movements since it was

first introduced by Ross (1986, from his 1967 dissertation). The term itself–attributed by Ross to Robin Lakoff.

As a matter of fact, from Chomsky's *Extended Standard Theory* (1970^s) onwards, TGG started to get interested in the transformations that operate in language syntactic structures. In this connection, pied-piping which is a movement operation created by Ross (1967) some years earlier appeared as one of the term to explain sentence transformations in Transformational Generative Grammar (henceforth TGG). Initially introduced to cope with A-bar movement i.e., the movement of wh-expressions headed by wh-words such as *which*, *what*, *whose* in complement position of the verb has been latter on expanded to the movement of phrases with head words bearing complement in post verbal position.

However, regarding this paper, French (Ibid) asserts that “*a pied-piping construction is one in which a prepositional phrase (PP) has been fronted*”. According to Enzina (Op. cit.:33), “*pied-piping will move the entire PP, thus, the P will remain in front of the P-complement in its new position*. Accordingly, the movement of the overall prepositional phrase from its basic head predicate domain to the position higher than the predicate implies the preposition pied-piping. Still, Alaowffi and Alharbi (Op. cit.: 2) opine that preposition pied-piping is common to all languages. To use Chomsky's Universal Grammar (UG) terminology, preposition pied-piping a principle as it supposed to be universally attested in all world languages. The subsection below approaches preposition pied-piping in English.

3.1. Preposition pied-piping in English

Preposition pied-piping in English is the main concern of this subsection. Consider the example hereafter:

- (14) a- I gave the book [**to Akimi**].
 b- [**To Akimi**], I gave the book.
 c- The book was given [**to Akimi**] by me.
 d- It is [**to Akimi**] that I gave the book.
 e- [**To whom**] did I give the book?
 f- Bénicia is the one [**to whom**] I gave the book.
 g- Bénicia [**to Whom**] I gave the book is my sister.

In (14a), the preposition phrase occurs in situ. However, in the remaining examples, it appears in the non-canonical position thanks to preposition pied-piping operation. In (14b), preposition pied-piping implies the *fronting* process and allows the projection of the Focus Phrase. In (14c), it triggers off *passivization* process. The *it-cleft* process is the consequence of the PP movement in (14d). In (14e), (14f) and (14g), preposition pied-piping entails the replacement of the DP *Bénicia* by the adequate wh-word **whom** after the head preposition. What is particular to (14e) is that it entails the **Do-insertion/T-to-C Movement** and the **Wh-to-C movement**. In (14f) and (14g), the PP is pied-piped thanks to the *relativization and Wh-movement* process. In these structures, the PP **to whom** acts as the relativizer as it introduces the embedded clause *I gave the book* and is preceded by a main clause *Akimi is the one* in (14f) and *Akimi is my sister* in (14g). In a nutshell, preposition pied-piping in English is triggered off by syntactic processes like *fronting*, *passivization*, *it-cleft*, *relativization* and *Wh-movement*.

3.2. Preposition pied-piping in Laali

This subsection deals with the preposition pied-piping in Laali. Consider the following examples:

- (15) a- Mè néwà mbòòngò.
 Me I-give money to mother
 I give money to mother.
- b- **Kwà nà** mè néwà mbòòngò **kwà mààmà**?
 To whom me I-give money
 To whom will I give money?
- c- **Kwà mààmà** bawa mbòòngò **kwa mè**.
~~To~~ mother Pass-give money by me
 Money is given to mother by me.
- d- **Kwà mààmà**, mè néwà mbòòngò **kwà mààmà**.
 To mother me I-give money to mother.

To mother, I give money to mother.

e- Ndè wàyéné **kú ékàlò**.

He him-go(past) to school.

He went to school.

f- **Kú ékàlò**, ndè wàyéné ~~kú ékàlò~~.

He him-go(past) to school.

To school, he went.

g- Mè nàpèlè **ḡà ndè**.

Me I-go out (past) with him/her.

I went out with him/her.

h- **ḡà ndè** mè nàpèlè ~~ḡà—ndè~~.

with him me I-go out (past) with him/her

With him/her, I went out.

i- Mè ndì **mùntsà ndzò**.

Me I-be inside house.

I am inside house the house.

j- **Mùntsà ndzò** mè ndì ~~mùntsà ndzò~~.

Inside house, me I-be inside house

Inside the house, I am.

In (15a, e, g, & i) examples, prepositional phrases appear in situ. However, in (15b, c, d, f, h & j) they are pied-piped in the initial position of sentential structures. What is remarkable is that the preposition is moved along with its complement. Of interest is that in (15b) the head preposition **kwa** (to) is followed by the interrogative pronoun **nà** (whom) which substitutes for the DP **mààmà** (mother). Consequently, Laali entails the substitution of the DP by a question word prior to pied-piping (moving) the whole PP to the Foci position of the derived sentence. In other words, Laali attests **Wh-to-C movement** with pied-piped prepositional phrases. The inference that can be made from the above derived sentences is that thanks to pied-piping process, Laali disallows the violation of the Functional Head Constraint and Impenetrable Condition. Indeed, in Laali, a complement is prohibited to move alone out of the prepositional phrase without its c-commander P. This is due to the fact that in that language, prepositions are inextricably tied to their c-commanded complements. As such, they appear as barriers for the movement of their complements. However, the case observed in (15c) is somewhat particular as the pied-piped preposition **kwa** (to) (indicated by the strikethrough) is deleted before its following complement **mààmà** (mother). This might be due to the fact that Laali does not attest the co-occurrence two *kwa-phrases* in its passive structures. To put it otherwise, the occurrence of an additional *kwa-phrase* acting as a *by-phrase* in the final position of passive sentence blocks the preposition pied-piping to be handled in Laali. However, if the *kwa-phrase* (*by-phrase*) is sluiced or elided, pied-piped preposition is realizable in Laali passivized structures as shown in the following example:

(16) **Kwa mààmà** bawa mbòòngò ~~kwa mè~~.

To mother Pass-give money by me

To mother, money is given.

Another issue worthy of mention is that the initial position of the uncanonical structure is not the only site that fits the landing of pied-piped PPs in Laali. They can also appear in the middle position of derived sentences as illustrated hereafter:

(17) a- mè **KWÀ NÀ** néwà mbòòngò ~~kwa mààmà~~?

me to whom I-give money to mother

To whom will I give money?

b- Mè **KWÀ MÀÀMÀ** néwà mbòòngò ~~kwa mààmà~~.

me to mother I-give money to mother.

It is to mother that I will give money.

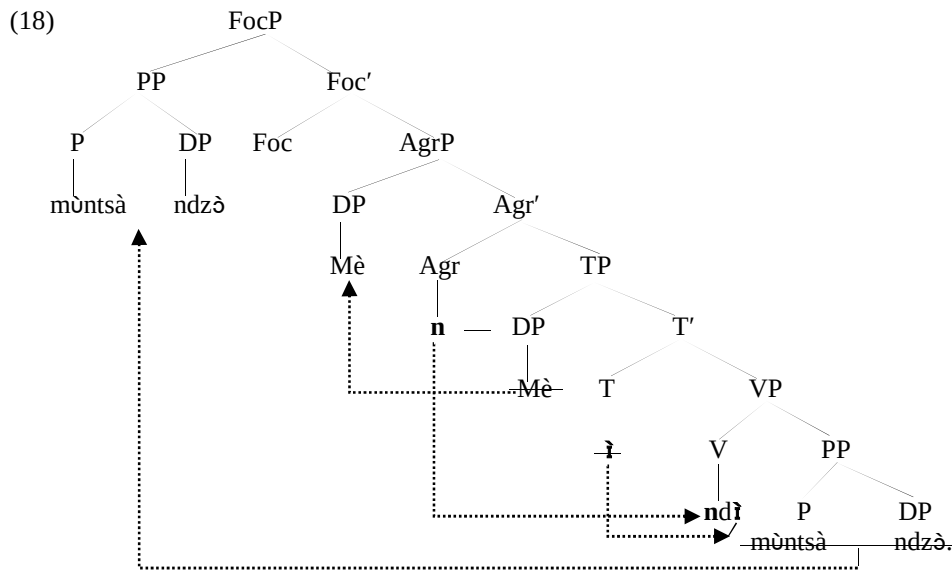
c- Ndè **KÚ ÉKÀLÒ** àyéné ~~—kú ékàlò~~.

Him to school he-go (past) to school.

It is to school that he went.

- d- Mè NA NDE nàpèlè ~~—nà—ndè—~~
 me with I-go out (past) with him/her
 It is with him/her that I went out.
- e- Mè MUNTSA NDZÒ ndì ~~mùntsà—ndzò—~~
 me inside house, I-be inside house
 It is inside the house that I am.

These derived sentences show how the moved PPs occur in the middle. In fact, they appear as such in order to be focused. Consequently, they are clefted constituents. According to Ndongo Ibara and Mberi nagakala (2018:27) “*Laali does not attest it-cleft constructions syntactically, but it resorts to prosodic feature to prove focus*”. As a consequence, the pied-piped PPs will be pronounced with a particular high intonation for emphasis sake. That is the reason why they are written with upper case letters. The (15j) P-marker will look like the one in (18) below with the prepositional phrase occupying Spec-FocP position for emphatic reasons.



The following section provides similarities and dissimilarities between English and Laali as regards pied-piping.

3.3. Contrastive analysis

This section is devoted to showing similarities and dissimilarities concerning the preposition pied-piping between English and Laali. As a matter of fact, it emerges that both English and Laali attest pied-piping. Moreover, the two languages allow the substitution of preposition complement DP by an equivalent question or wh-word before pied-piping the entire PP. As such, the two languages attest **Wh-to-C movement** when it comes to moving a PP heading a question word as exemplified in (14e) and (15b) in English and Laali respectively. Also, the pied-piped prepositional phrase in the two languages triggers off a Foci feature which leads to the projection the Focus Phrase in the derived sentences for pragmatic reasons.

However, in addition to substitution, Wh-to-C movement and Foci feature triggering, English also entails **T-to-C Movement** when moving a prepositional phrase whose domain is a wh-word; a fact which is not attested in Laali. Furthermore, in English, preposition pied-piping is realized thanks to the syntactic processes namely *fronting*, *passivization*, *it-cleft*, *relativization* and *Wh-movement*.

In Laali, preposition pied-piping is possible with *fronting*, *cleft* and *Wh-movement* processes. Laali allows preposition pied-piping only in case there no recursion of two *kwa-phrases* in the same passivized structure. Besides, Laali allows pied-piped PPs to stand in derived sentence middle position for emphasis reasons, a fact which is hardly attested in English.

Conclusion

This paper has compared preposition stranding and pied piping in English and Laali in the light of Chomsky's Minimalist Program. It has been proved that English attests both preposition stranding and pied piping. In other words, it allows the complement of a preposition to dissociate from its head P and move to another site of the

resulted derivation (preposition stranding). Also, English allows the whole prepositional phrase to move out the verb domain to another position (preposition pied-piping). Unlike, Laali does not license preposition stranding. It only attests preposition pied-piping. According to Ifeanyi (Op.cit. 7), “*pied-piping is the conserve of preposition stranding*”. This means that whenever a language disallows preposition stranding, it resorts to preposition pied-piping. So, like many numerable languages, Laali compensates preposition stranding by preposition pied-piping. Indeed, in Laali a preposition cannot be unattached from its c-commanded domain. Laali is then part of those countless world languages that disallow preposition stranding. This matches Haegeman’s view (Op.cit. 376) which states that preposition stranding is subject to cross-linguistic variation. However, it is worth stressing that in the two languages, when an element moves either thanks to stranding (English) or pied-piping (English & Laali), it entails the Focalization process for contextual or pragmatic reasons and projects the Focus Phrase in the derived structure.

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