



# snippets

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## 7.

### Christos Vlachos – University of Patras *Sluicing and relatives*

cvlachos@upatras.gr

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Sluicing, originally discussed by Ross (1969), is exemplified by elliptical representations of the form in (1) that give rise to full-fledged interpretations of the kind in (2). We see in (1) that the interpretation of *who* (the SLUICE) is anaphorically dependent on that of the preceding clause *someone left*. We can speak of this clause as containing an “antecedent” (here: *someone*) with which the SLUICE is associated. (See Chung, Ladusaw & McCloskey 1995; Merchant 2001 for more discussion).

- (1) Someone left and I wonder who.
- (2) “Someone left and I wonder who left.”

AnderBois (2010) proposes the generalization in (3), on the basis of evidence such as the example in (4). Specifically, the observation is that the SLUICE *which* fails to be associated with the inner antecedent *a word* that surfaces within the (appositive) relative clause *who misspelled a word last night*.

- (3) Sluicing is ungrammatical if the prospective inner antecedent is in an appositive.
- (4) \*?Amy, who misspelled a word last night, forgot which.

In this snippet, I point out that AnderBois’ generalization (3): a) extends to relative clauses in general; and b) is too strong.

Note first that (5) is also ungrammatical, and to the same degree that (4) is. Here, the antecedent *one of the most famous songs of the decade* surfacing in the (restrictive) relative clause *who wrote one of the most famous songs of the decade* may not serve as the associate of the SLUICE. This might suggest the reformulation of (3) that I give in (6).

- (5) \*? The composer who wrote one of the most famous songs of the decade didn’t want to reveal which.
- (6) Sluicing is ungrammatical if the prospective inner antecedent is in a relative clause.

However, as it stands, (6) predicts that (7) and (8), which are comparable to (4) and (5) respectively, are ungrammatical, contrary to judgments.

- (7) (?) Amy, who misspelled a word last night and (she) forgot which, feels very embarrassed.
  - (8) (?)The composer who wrote one of the most famous songs of the decade, but (he) didn’t want to reveal which, is one of my closest friends.
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In (7) and (8), the clause that hosts the inner antecedent (*a word, one of the most famous songs of the decade*) is coordinated with the clause hosting the SLUICE (*which*). Taking into account all of these data, I suggest recasting (6) as in (9). (An alternative formulation -- with different implications -- might be as in (10).)

- (9) Sluicing is ungrammatical if the prospective inner antecedent is in a relative clause, unless the clause hosting the SLUICE is coordinated with the clause that hosts the inner antecedent.
- (10) Sluicing is ungrammatical if the prospective inner antecedent is in a relative clause, unless the SLUICE projects in the same level of embedding with and linearly follows the clause that hosts the inner antecedent.

### References

- AnderBois, S. (2010) "Sluicing as anaphora to issues." Paper presented at SALT 20, UBC / SFU (to appear in *Proceedings of SALT 20*).
- Chung, S., W. Ladusaw and J. McCloskey. (1995) "Sluicing and Logical Form." *Natural Language Semantics* 3, 239–282.
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- Ross, J. (1969) "Guess who?" in *Proceedings of CLS*, ed. R. Binnick, A. Davison, G. Green and J. Morgan, 252–286.