Preface

The investigations reported here are the result of three lucky events. The first occurred in 1986. I had recently done the work reported in Pesetsky 1987, and I received in the mail a copy of É. Kiss 1986. Since I had argued at length that D-linked wh-phrases do not display Superiority effects, I was astonished by a paradigm reported by É. Kiss, which appears here as example (98). These facts remained stubbornly in my mind for the next decade as an unsolved puzzle. É. Kiss did not publish her paper in the form that I received—and, in fact, did not even recall discovering the crucial facts when she heard this work presented as a talk in 1998. But the facts are hers nonetheless.

The second lucky event occurred in the spring of 1994. I had just taught Pesetsky 1987 in a graduate syntax class, but had not assigned a problem set on it. The next topic on the syllabus was antecedent-contained deletion, which I was teaching for the first time. I needed a problem set that covered both topics, and it occurred to me that perhaps Pesetsky 1987 might make a prediction about antecedent-contained deletion in wh-phrases that should have moved overtly but didn’t—a prediction that might serve as the topic of a single, unified problem set on the two topics. The result was the observation in (60) and (61). A conversation with Chris Kennedy (who had been thinking about this issue independently) reinforced my interest in this contrast.

Finally, in 1996 I was lucky enough to hear a presentation of Beck 1996 and Beck and Kim 1996 by Sigrid Beck at an informal meeting of MIT’s student-organized LF Reading Group. Her observations immediately reminded me of É. Kiss’s observations. This book grew out of my attempt to understand the connection between these two sets of observations—an effort that led me right back to the data from my problem set on antecedent-contained deletion.
My proposals have undergone several transformations, with the result that some whose comments are acknowledged in this work may not recognize it as the descendent of the one that they heard. I am grateful to those with whom I discussed the work during its various stages, and to those who commented on public presentations. The earliest versions were presented in the spring of 1997 in a seminar at MIT and in a colloquium at the University of Pittsburgh. A version more similar to this book, but couched in an Optimality Theory setting (see note 57), was presented in a course at the 1997 LSA Summer Institute at Cornell University. For helpful questions and discussion, I am especially grateful to Jonathan Bobaljik, Barbara Citko, Peter Cole, Molly Diesing, Gabriella Hermon, Satoshi Tomioka, Colin Wilson, and Susanne Wurmbrand. This version was also presented at the conference “Colloque de Syntaxe et Sémantique” held at Université de Paris VII in October 1997.

Especially important was the opportunity to present the work once more at MIT during the fall of 1997, at which time the role of feature movement fell into place. For crucial discussion during this period, I am grateful to Elena Anagnostopoulou, Sigrid Beck, Michael Brody, Noam Chomsky, Michel DeGraff, Kai von Fintel, Danny Fox, Paul Hagstrom, Irene Heim, Sabine Iatridou, Roumyana Izvorski, Shigeru Miyagawa, Jonathan Nissenbaum, Norvin Richards (whose work also inspired the research reported here), and Uli Sauerland. This version was presented as a talk during the 1997–1998 academic year at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, the University of Maryland, the University of São Paulo, and Sophia University, and at the conferences “Formal Approaches to Slavic Linguistics” (University of Washington), “Perfection in Syntax” (Collegium Budapest), and “Eastern States Conference on Linguistics (ESCOL)” (Yale University). More extended presentations at the University of Brasília and at Kanda University (Makuhari Kaihin, Japan) during the summer of 1998 played an important role in clarifying the ideas and teaching me the best ways to present them. For their challenging questions and helpful comments, I thank both the audience in Brasília (among others, Lucia Lobato, Rozana Naves, Cilene Rodrigues, Heloísa Salles, and Clovis Santos) and the audience at Kanda University, among many others Nobuko Hasegawa, Kazuko Inoue, Yasu Ishii, Noriko Kawasaki, Hisatsugu Kitahara, Mari Takahashi, and Keiko Yoshida). A final presentation at the University of Vienna in June 1999 helped with the discussion of German. Thanks as well to Roumyana Izvorski for information about Bulgarian, and to the German-speaking
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