

Deceptive Overt wh-movement in Bùlì

Abdul-Razak Sulemana

In this talk, I examine the distribution of wh-questions in Bùlì. Despite the occurrence of wh-phrases in the left periphery of the clause, I argue that this is not overt wh-movement but base generation. I show that Bùlì is a wh-in-situ language with covert phrasal movement. Wh-phrases can appear in-situ (1a) or in clause initial position (1b). In-situ phrases are licensed by the presence of *ká* a morpheme that appears once per clause and is attached to the highest ‘wh’-phrase. *Ká* is optional in clause initial position (1b). Non-subject wh-phrases in initial position are to the left of *ā́tí* (1b).

- (1) a. Asouk òìg *(ká) b^wā̀:
Asouk cook.PST FOC what
‘what did Asouk cook?’
b. (ká) b^wā̀ ā́tí Asouk òìgì:
FOC what C who cook.PST
‘what is it that Asouk cooked?’