

# **The role of prosody and pragmatics on wh-scope assignment in Korean and Japanese**

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This paper investigates how prosodic cues and pragmatics influence wh-scope assignment in potentially ambiguous wh-interrogatives. Varying judgments have been reported regarding the island effect of the embedded complementizers corresponding to whether in Korean and Japanese. I argue that the unacceptability of the matrix-scope interpretation is due to pragmatic factors and the difficulty of assigning a felicitous prosodic pattern for the reading based on experimental results with special attention to the pragmatic and prosodic factors separately. The critical role of pragmatics and prosody highlights the need for an expanded scope of analysis, one which can incorporate this interactivity observed here.