

WH-movement in the history of Brazilian Portuguese*

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1. Introduction

Like Old English (cf. Lightfoot, 1991) and Old French (Adams, 1987, Roberts 1993), Old Portuguese (OP) has been claimed to have been a V2 language (Ribeiro, 1995) and Modern European Portuguese (EP) and Brazilian Portuguese (BP) have been proposed to have residual V-to-Comp in Wh-questions (Lobato, 1988, Ambar, 1992). Example (1a) is the typical residual V2 type. However, Brazilian Portuguese has lost even the residual V2 type¹ but has acquired two other orders, the WhSV order (1b) and the *wh-in-situ* pattern (1c) (Duarte 1992, Lopes-Rossi 1996).

In the 17th century there appeared, in EP, the first signs of the reverse cleft question (2a), with *é que*², with the other types in (2) appearing only in the 20th century **spoken language**, and only in BP.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|
| (1) a. O que viu a Ana? | Wh-VS |
| what saw the Ana | |
| b. O que a Ana viu? | WH SV |
| what the Ana saw | |
| c. A Ana viu o que ? | WH-in-situ |
| the Ana saw what | |
| ‘What did Ana see?’ | |
| | |
| (2) a. O que é que a Ana viu? | Reverse cleft |
| what is that the Ana saw | |
| b. O que que a Ana viu? | Reduced cleft |
| what that the Ana saw | |
| c. É o que que a Ana viu? | Canonic cleft |
| is what that the Ana saw | |
| ‘What is it that Ana saw?’ | |

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¹ BP can have WHVS with unaccusatives and with other types of verbs when the subject is in right dislocation.

(i) Onde pro está o menino?
 where pro is the boy

² Cf. Kato and Ribeiro (2009).

2. The aims, and hypotheses of the paper

2.1. The aims of the paper

The aims of the paper are

- a) to provide a brief history of *wh*-questions from Old and Middle Portuguese ³ to 19th and 20th century EP⁴ and BP^{5 6}.
- b) to provide a comprehensive analysis of the patterns found;
- c) to provide a different view on the *wh-in-situ* pattern in natural languages, with the claim that there is no covert, or (LF) *wh*-movement in BP *wh-in-situ*;
- d) to interpret the difference between the grammar of BP and the grammars of OP and EP.

2.2. The assumptions and hypotheses of the paper

My analyses will be based on the following assumptions and hypotheses:

- a) I assume that every interrogative sentence has a clause-typing *Q*, which corresponds to the *-ka/no* in Japanese (cf. Miyagawa 2001), be it a *yes/no* question or a *wh*-question.⁷ I assume that *Q* is in the head of *ForceP* (cf. Rizzi's 1997 cartographic approach);
- b) within the cartographic approach I assume both a *FocP* in the sentential periphery (cf. Rizzi 1997), and a *FocP* left-adjacent to *vP* (cf. Belletti 2004, 2005)⁸, with additional *TopP* when needed;

- (3) a+b: [Force P *Q*... [FocP... [TP[FocP... [vP [VP]]]]]

- c) the Focus head is assumed to be syncretic for the purposes of Focus and *wh*-checking;
- d) grammaticalization can involve erasure processes at PF;

3. The evolution of Focus structures and *wh*-questions in Portuguese

3.1. The oldest forms: the V2 and the reverse pseudo-cleft

Confirming previous studies (Torres Morais 1995: Ribeiro 1995a, 1995b, Kato & Raposo 2009), Old and Classic Portuguese are found to exhibit verb second patterns in both declaratives and *wh*-questions:

³ I will be using Kato and Ribeiro (2009) for V2 constructions in both declarative and *wh*-questions, covering the periods between the 14th and the 18th century. The examples of Old and Middle Portuguese are marked according to the source:

Argote, Dom Jeronymo Contador de. 1725. *Regras da Lingua Portuguesa, espelho da lingua latina*. 2a. Imp. Lisbon Occidental: Off. da Musica **DSG**. In: Mattos e Silva, R.V. 1971. A mais antiga versão portuguesa dos "Quatro livros dos diálogos de São Gregório". PhD dissertation, University of São Paulo.; **FLOS**. In: Machado Filho, A.V.L. 2003. *Um Flos Sanctorum do Século XIV*. Edições, Glossário e Estudo Lingüístico. PhD dissertation, UFBA.

⁴ I will be using Lopes-Rossi (1996) for this period.

⁵ I will be using Duarte (1992), Lopes-Rossi (1996), and Kato and Duarte (2002) for this period.

⁶ Other examples have been taken from my own work.

⁷ I do not assume, like in Cheng and Rooryck (2000), that *Q* is present only in *yes/no* questions in the specific cases of French *wh-in-situ* questions.

⁸ I also assume the other projections: two *TopP* and a *FiniteP*, though I will not be representing these in this paper.

- (4) [COM TANTA PACEENÇA] sofria ela esta enfermidade.
(DSG, 14th c.)
with so.much patience suffered she this illness
'She suffered this illness with such patience.'
- (5) COMO veestes vós a aqueste ermo?
(FLOS, 14th c.)
how came you to this place
'How did you get to this deserted place?'

Reverse *pseudo*-clefts were the only constructions found in the oldest period as alternatives for the V2 patterns. The cleft *wh*-questions in this period are of the inverse *pseudo*-cleft type, but the only *wh*-pronoun that appears in this type of question is *o que*. This pseudo-cleft pattern is the first to disappear, not going beyond the 18th century.

- (6) ELE he o que tempera a sanha.
(DSG, 14th c.)
he is what seasons the rage
'He is what seasons the rage.'
- (7) QUE he o que dizes, irmã?
(DSG, 14th c.)
what is what say (you) sister
'What is it that you say, sister?'

3.2. The first innovation: the reverse that-clefts

Declarative reverse that-clefts (8) are the next type to appear in the seventeenth century. The interrogative that-clefts start to appear also in the same period.

- (8) E ISSO é que se chama postura, ou posição reta.
(Argote 17th c.)
and this is that calls posture or position straight
'And this is what one calls posture, or straight position.'
- (9) a. COM QUE SUBSTANTIVO é que concordam?
(Argote, 17th c.)
with which noun is that agree-3PL
'Which noun is it that it agrees with'
- b. E QUANDO é que são Relativos?
(Argote, 17th c.)
and when is that are Relatives
'And when is it that they are Relatives?'

3.3. A new innovation: the canonic clefts

In the eighteenth century EP and 19th century BP we have another innovation: the appearance of canonic *pseudo*-clefts ((10) and also canonic *that*-clefts (11):

- (10) **Foi VOSSA EMINÊNCIA** quem julgou que eu era digna de expor.
 (Alorna, 18th c.)
 was Your Eminence who considered that I was worth of expose
 'It was Your eminence who considered that I was worth exposing
- (11) **É O REI LEGÍTIMO** que devemos opor ao usurpador.
 (Alorna, 18th c.)
 is the king legitimate that (we) should oppose to the usurper
 'It is the legitimate king that we have to oppose to the usurper.'

No corresponding *wh*-questions have been found in the written corpora. We assume, however, that the canonic clefts also existed in the form of *wh*-questions, as it can be observed today in recordings of children's production and of their mothers' (see Lessa de Oliveira (2003), though very little is found in adults' corpora. It is also relevant to compare what happens in Québec French with structures similar to those in (12), but in adult language (13).

- (12) a. **É O QUE** que cê qué, filha? (mother's input)
 is what that you want baby
 'What is it that you want, baby?
- b. **É QUEM** que tá tomano banho? (mother's input)
 is who that is having bath
 'Who is it that is having bath?
- c. **É QUEM** que tá tocano o violão? (Luana, child: 02; 03. 22)
 is who that is playing the guitar
 'Who is playing guitar?
- d. **É QUE** que tá gravano? (Luana, child: 02; 03. 22)
 is what that is recording
 'What is being recorded?'
- (13) **C'est OÙ** que t'ás mis les oranges? (apud Noonan 1989)
 it is where that you have put the oranges
 'Where did you put the oranges?'

3.4. The reduced *that*-cleft

In the 20th century, there appears the pattern that Kato & Ribeiro (2009) call the reduced cleft question, the most vernacular of the BP *wh*-questions. It appears only in the spoken corpus of NURC (Educated Brazilians), and in TV dialogues. What is interesting is that Québec French can also have this sort of *wh*-question.

- (14) a. **O QUE** que você faz? (NURC Spoken corpus)
 what that you do
 'What is it that you do?'
- b. **DE QUEM** que é esse peixe? (TV)

of whom that is this fish
‘Whose is this fish?’

- (15) OÙ que t’á mis les oranges? (apud Noonan 1989)
where that you have put the oranges
‘Where have you put the oranges?’

Fronted focalized examples can also be heard in colloquial BP in the same pattern.

- (16) a. ESSA MENTIRA que ela me contou.
this lie that she me told
‘THIS LIE she told me.
b. O PAI DELE que está na cadeia.
the father of-his that is in-the jail
‘HIS FATHER is in jail.

Wh-questions of this kind are still strongly stigmatized in written language, according to Kato and Miotto (2005).

3.5. The non-V2 Wh SV type

In the second half of the 19th century there appears the non-V2 type of wh-questions, the WhSV pattern. This type appears also in spoken 20th century corpus.

- (17) a. ONDE ele foi? (Dias Gomes, 2nd half of the 19th c.)
where he went
‘Where did he go?’
b. QUANTO você ganha? (TV)
how much you earn
‘How much do you earn?’

Declarative SV sentences with the Focus in initial position are also possible today:

- (18) a. PRO AEROPORTO ele foi, não pro escritório.
to-the airport he went not to-the office
‘TO THE AIRPORT he went, not to the office’.
b. UMA FORTUNA eu paguei meu carro.
a fortune I paid my car
‘A FORTUNE I paid my car.

3.6 The wh-in-situ

According to Lopes-Rossi (1996), the so called *wh-in-situ* questions start to appear in the second half of the 20th century, but is barely noticeable in EP written documents (2.9%), against a more expressive presence in BP (8.1). In spoken language EP exhibits only 8.1%, while BP shows 28.1%.

Lessa (2003) discusses differences in the production of mothers' *wh-in-situ*, depending on whether the family is from São Paulo or from the northeast. In the northeast of Brazil the child starts producing *wh-in-situ* earlier than the other patterns, which she believes to be a function of the frequency on *wh-in-situ* in the input.

In this study, I will only include considerations about the *wh-in-situ* in Brazil and will leave what happens in EP for future work.

3.7. Summary

The following figure summarizes the findings in previous works.

Fig 1

OP & CIP 14 th -18 th	WhVS	Wh é o que				
EP 18 th -20 th	WhVS	-----	Wh é que VS/SV	wh-in-situ		
BP 19 th -20	-----	-----	Wh é que SV	wh-in-situ	Wh que SV	Wh SV

(adapted from Lopes-Rossi 1996)

4. Reviewing some analyses

4.1. Reviewing the V2 analysis

The previous studies (Ribeiro 1995, Torres-Morais 1995 a.o.) have been assuming that the oldest pattern is technically a V2 structure, with the V+I moving to Focus, or to C in the non-cartographic frame.

The fact that OP was also a Null Subject (NS) language makes us rethink this analysis. It contains many V1 structures with either a NS or a postposed subject, and in embedded contexts it has an ordinary non-V2 syntax. We will propose, after Kato (1993) and Kato and Raposo (1996) that OP was like EP, where a null head F had strong *wh* and focus features, but had weak Tense features. The V+I stays in T and the subject stays in the postposed subject position, where it gets nominative by AGREE.⁹ An adverb or adjunct can, moreover, occupy the second position, instead of the verb, such that the order can be Wh X VS, as in (20):

(19) [_{FocP} Wh/Focus [Ø [_{TP} (X) V+T [_{VP} Subject]]]]

(20) – Como **em tanto tempo** fizeste tu tão pouco como esto? [Flos 14th]
 how in such long time did you so little like this
 ‘How come you did so little in such a long time, like this?’

⁹ In Kato (1993) I used the notion of Nominative by government in Koopman and Sportiche (1990), before the introduction of the notion AGREE in (Chomsky 2001). Recent studies with apparent V2 structures have been analyzed in Romance along similar lines (see a.o. Ordoñez for Spanish, and Barbosa (2001) for EP).

4.2. Maintaining the analysis of the reverse cleft and the canonic cleft

The analysis of reverse clefts is maintained from Kato and Ribeiro's (2009):

- (i) its input sentence is similar to the *presentative* sentence (21a)¹⁰, with some constituent marked +*wh*;
- (ii) the result merges with a complementizer,
- (iii) subsequently the copula merges;
- iv) the copula makes the derivation project the matrix sentence and its periphery with a null Focus head;
- (v) the *wh*-element is then moved to check the Focus features in the matrix Focus.

- (21) a. É que [o Pedro ama a Maria] Presentative cleft
 is that the Peter loves the Maria'
 It happens that Peter loves Mary.
 b. **Quem** é que o Pedro ama? Reverse cleft
 who is that the Peter loves
 'Who is it that Peter loves?'

- (22) a. [TP O Pedro ama **quem** _{+F}]
 b. [CP que [TP O Pedro ama **quem** _{+F}]]
 c. é [CP que [TP O Pedro ama **quem** _{+F}]]]
 d. [_{FocP} Ø [TP é [CP que [TP O Pedro ama **quem** _{+F}]]]]]
 e. [_{FocP} **quem** Ø [TP é [CP que [TP O Pedro ama **quem** _{+F}]]]]]

The derivation of canonic *that*-cleft is also maintained from Kato and Ribeiro (2009), and goes as follows:

- (i) it is derived from the same input, to which a complementizer is merged;
- (ii) a copula merges subsequently;
- (iii) a FocP merges to the vP periphery of the copula;
- (iv) the element with *wh*-features moves to this low FocP,
- (v) the copula moves over it to T.

- (23) a. É **quem** que o Pedro ama.
 is who that the Peter loves
 'Who is it that Peter loves?'

- (24) a. [TP O Pedro ama **quem** _{+wh}]
 b. [CP que [o Pedro ama **quem** _{+wh}]]
 c. [_{vP} é [CP que [o Pedro ama **quem** _{+wh}]]]
 d. [_{FpcP} **quem** Ø [_{vP} é [CP que [o Pedro ama **quem** _{+wh}]]]]]
 e. [TP é [_{FpcP} **quem** Ø [_{vP} é [CP que [o Pedro ama **quem** _{+wh}]]]]]]]

4.3. The spoken variant *Wh que* in BP

The analysis of the pattern in (25) is maintained from Lopes-Rossi (1996), who follows suggestion by Noonan (1989) for Québec French. The source of this

¹⁰ First used in Casteleiros (1979).

pattern is, thus, assumed to be the canonic cleft (25a), which undergoes copula erasure at PF just as it is suggested for Québec French:

- (25) a. É **quem** que tá tocando violao?
 b. PF: ~~É~~ **quem** que tá tocando violao?
 (26) a. (C'est) **où** que t'ás mis les oranges?
 b. **OÙ** que t'ás mis les oranges?

(apud Noonan 1987)

Kato and Ribeiro (2009), who adopts the phonological solution, explains, however, that this phonological erasure is triggered by a grammaticalization process in the copula. The copula becomes invariable in BP, losing the *consecutio temporum* with the embedded verb, a phenomenon that did not happen with EP.

- (27) a. É quem que chegou? BP *EP
 is who that arrived
 b. **Foi** quem que chegou? EP
 was who that arrived
 'Who arrived?'

4.4. The late variant WHSV in BP

With the disappearance of the WhVS structure, what takes over are the cleft constructions, with the apparent counterpart WHSV appearing only at the end of the 19th century.

- (28) **Onde** ela pôs o violão?
 where she put the guitar
 'Where did she put the guitar'

However, the first analysis for this structure was proposed in Kato and Duarte (2002), who attributed it to the loss of referential NSs and the loss of free inversion in BP¹¹. The delay of such structure from appearing would be explained, as the loss of the referential NS started only in the 19th century. With the loss of pronominal agreement, BP acquired weak pronouns which would have to be moved to Spec of T to obey the EPP (cf. Kato 1999), launching also the loss of free inversion.

- (29) [_{FocP} Wh/Focus [Ø [_{TP} Subject V+T [_{VP} ~~Subject~~ [∀ O .]]]]

But, the analysis which we are endorsing, would have the reduced cleft as its source, through the stylistic **erasure of the complementizer**, a solution also suggested by Noonan (1989) for Québec French. The delay of its appearance is also

¹¹ This thesis is reinforced by Ordoñez and Olarrea's (2006) study of Caribbean Spanish, which underwent a similar change.

understandable as the reduced cleft appeared only in spoken language, and the WHSV would be a stylistic variant more acceptable in written form.

- (30) a. **OÙ** (que) t'ás mis les oranges?
 where that you have put the oranges
 b. **OÙ** t'ás mis les oranges?'
 'Where have you put the oranges?
 (apud Noonan 1989)

- (31) a. (É) **quem** que tá tocando violao?
 Is who that is playing guitar
 b. **Quem** ~~que~~ tá tocando violão?

What is revealing in the empirical work with data is not so much the presence of something in the corpora, but its absence, or small frequency. When the reduced clefts start to appear, the WhSV pattern also starts to appear, but while in spoken language the reduced type have around 20% of the wh-questions, and the WHSV cases have around 15.0 %, in the written corpora the reduced type barely appears (7.9%) contrary to the WHSV, which has around 12.3 % in one corpus (cf. Lopes-Rossi 1996) and 45% in newspaper corpus (cf. Kato & Miotto 2005). The canonic type, on the other hand, seems to be the most stigmatized, appearing only in “motherese” and in child language. Adults tend to erase the copula. Our assumption is, therefore, that the three types are structurally the same, and variation depends on stylistic factors.

4.5. Summary of section 4.

Ignoring the second column, with the pseudo-cleft¹², and adding the canonic cleft in the fourth column, with the copula and the complementizer erasure at PF, we have:

Fig 2

WhVS	Wh é que VS/SV	wh-in-situ	
-----	Wh é que SV	wh-in-situ	(É) Wh (que) SV
OP/EP	OP/EP/BP	EP/BP	BP

5. The so-called wh-in-situ in Brazilian Portuguese¹³

5.1. Two types of wh-in-situ in BP

Besides the types of wh-questions studied in the previous sections, BP has a

¹² Recall that in Fig. 1, this pattern did not last until Modern EP and BP.

¹³ This section is based on Kato (2004, 2011).

Mary loves the book that who has written

However, Bošković's analysis does not account for the facts of BP, as all such structures are possible with its *wh-in-situ* ordinary questions, though (34b and c) are impossible with echo-questions¹⁶.

- (34) a. Maria pensa que o João comprou o quê ?↓
 Mary thinks that the John bought what
 b. Eu me perguntei se o João comprou o que ? ↓
 I myself asked whether the John bought what
 c. Maria ama o livro que quem escreveu? ↓
 Mary loves the book that who wrote

5.2. BP echo questions

A solution for BP echo questions comes from what happens in Japanese.

In Japanese the echo-question has always an overt complementizer *-tte*, as in (35a), which also occurs with complements that are indirect declarative sentences as in (35b):

- (35) a. John –wa dare-o mitta-tte?
 J-topic wh-acc saw tte
 'John saw who?'
 b. [(Kimi-wa) [John-ga dare-o mitta tte] itta ka/no]?
 you-topic John-nom who-acc saw tte said ka/no
 'You said that John saw who?'

In BP, there is no specific complementizer for either the echo-question or the indirect speech complement, but the intonation is the same:

- (36) a. O João viu quem ? ↑
 the John saw who
 b. [Você disse [(que João viu quem) ? ↑
 You said that João saw who] ?

I analyze the form in (36a) as an elliptical form of (36b), where we have an explicit indirect speech form. Japanese has the complementizer explicit in the echo-question, while BP and English retain only the prosody assigned by the *Q* complementizer of the performative main clause.

Moreover, I also support Kayne's view that in both yes/no questions and echo-questions, the IP with the in-situ *wh-* moves to spec of *Q* to produce the rising intonation.

¹⁶ Moreover, in most dialects. *wh-in-situ* in BP does not necessarily require a "common ground", as described in Pires and Taylor (2007).

- (37) a. [_{ForceP} Q [_{IP} Você disse [que João viu **quem**] ↑
 b. [[_{IP} Você disse [(que) João viu **quem**] Q [~~_{IP} Você disse [que João viu **quem**]~~
 c. [[~~_{IP} Você disse [que João viu **quem**]~~ Q [~~_{IP} Você.....~~

Possibly, the movement of the remnant IP in (37b) is restricted by weight, which explains why echo-questions are, in general, short.

5.3 BP ordinary “*wh-in-situ*” questions¹⁷

5.3.1. Short movement and not LF movement

Natural languages can exhibit the *wh* question word in two positions for ordinary questions: dislocated to the front of the sentence, as in English, or *in-situ*, as in Japanese, the well-known *wh*-parameter (Huang 1982). In Huang’s terms English undergoes movement overtly, while in Chinese and Japanese the movement is covert¹⁸.

A completely different view is explored in Miyagawa’s (2001), who claims that, in English the *wh*-phrase is associated with both *Q*-features and *wh*-features. As a consequence the *wh*-phrase has to move to Spec of CP to satisfy the EPP feature on C. In Japanese the two features are distributed between two morphologically independent items : *-ka* in C and the *wh*-word in T.

The difference in the *wh*-parameter between Huang and Miyagawa would be movement in LF for the former and short overt movement for the latter.

I will assume Miyagawa’s proposal of a short movement in “*wh-in-situ*” constructions, but instead of movement to T, I will propose that the *wh*-element will move to a designated FocP position, in Belletti’s (1998) model, at the edge of vP, where other discursive projections, like TopP, can appear.

- (38) [_{ForceP} Q.. [TP.....[_{TopP} ...[FocP ...[_{TopP} ... [vP [VP]]]]]]

(apud Belletti 1998)

- (39) a. *Você viu quem?* ↓
 you saw who
 b. [Q [_{TP} você viu [_{FP} **quem** [_{VP} t_{você} t_{viu} [_{VP} t_{viu} t_{quem}]]]]

¹⁷ Two previous alternative analyses for *wh-in-situ* in Portuguese are worthy of mention. One is proposed by Lopes Rossi (1996) for BP, who follows Kim’s (1991) analysis for Korean /Japanese that the *wh* has the nature of a quantifier. The other is Ambar’s (2003), for whom *in-situ* questions are actually derived from the dislocated one by remnant movement of the IP to AssertiveP (AssP), after the *wh* has moved to Spec of WhP. Despite their interest, neither analysis distinguishes two types of “*wh-in-situ*” constructions as in my study.

¹⁸ But see problems regarding covert operations since Chomsky (2000).

The motivation of this lower Focus position is in the Italian postposed subjects, which are focalized.

- (40) a. Ha parlato Gianni.
has spoken John
'JOHN has spoken.'
b. [CP [TP pro ha parlato [FocP Gianni [vP t_{Gianni} [VP]]]]]

Indirect objects can also be focalized, and moved to this position, with the direct object moved to TopP, the place of the presupposition.


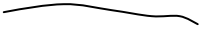
- (41) a. Você deu pra quem esse CD?
You gave to whom this CD
'To whom did you give this CD?'
b. [CP Q[TP Você deu [FP PRA QUEM [TopP este CD [~~vP~~ ~~você deu~~ [~~vP~~ ~~este CD~~ [~~pra quem~~]]]]]]

The element in FocP requires nuclear stress (cf. Zubizarreta 1997), and a falling prosody, eliminating the effect of the *Q*-morpheme in the sentence intonation.

5.3.2. Arguments for the mid-sentence FocP for the landing site of wh-phrases

I. There are no problems in BP *wh-in-situ* ordinary questions, regarding the occurrence of the *wh*-element in embedded or in island contexts as shown in section 5.1. The short nature of the movement explains the lack of such restrictions.

II. The intonation of *wh-in-situ* ordinary questions is similar to the falling intonation of a simple declarative sentences with postposed focalized subjects¹⁹:

- (42) a.  Você viu **quem?**↓
you saw who
b.  Chegou a Maria↓.
arrived the Maria

III. In European Portuguese, the possibility of *wh-in-situ* is subject to Focus-sets according to word order (cf. Cheng and Rooryck 2002, apud Costa 1997).

Word order	Focus set
SVO	O, VO, or SVO
VSO	S, or O
VOS	S

- (43) a. *O João pensa que[quem viu a Maria?] (SVO)
the John thinks that who saw the Maria
b. O João pensa que [viu a Maria quem?] (VOS)
the John thinks that saw the Maria who

¹⁹ I thank Raquel Santos who drew the intonation contour of these sentences.

Conclusions

We started our study assuming that not only OP and EP had *wh*-movement, but that Modern BP had a sort of optional *wh*-movement. But no explanation was provided for the increase of the so-called *wh-in-situ* questions.

Our analysis changed our assumptions in radical ways.

First, the so-called fronted *wh*-questions were considered syntactically canonic cleft questions, with the copula in V1. The *wh*-element had structurally moved to the low FocusP position, and was sitting to the right of the copula before its erasure.

Second, the so-called *wh-in-situ* questions were proposed to have the *wh*-element undergoing a short movement to the same FocP position, at the edge of vP.

This means that, after the 19th century, short *wh*-movement marks the typical BP *wh*-questions, with a conservative long one still shared with EP. Though licensed in EP, *wh-in-situ* is still stigmatized in EP, especially in written language, while the only cleft that is possible is the type without PF erasure.

Fig 3

WhVS	Wh é que VS/SV	wh-in-situ	
-----	Wh é que SV	wh-in-situ	(É) Wh (que) SV
OP/EP	OP/EP/BP	EP/BP	BP
Long wh- movement	Long wh-movement	Short Wh-movement	Short Wh-movement

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