

Alternative questions addendum

☞ Alternative questions do not allow high negation in C (Han & Romero).

- (1) a. Did John **not** drink coffee *or* tea? ✓PolarQ, ✓AltQ
b. **Didn't** John drink coffee *or* tea? ✓PolarQ, *AltQ

Recall that apparent disjunctions of polar questions also behave like alternative questions:¹

- (2) Did John drink coffee *or* did he drink tea?
(3) **An interesting asymmetry?**
a. ? **Didn't** John drink coffee or did he drink tea? *but what does this mean?*
b. * Did John drink coffee or **didn't** he drink tea?
c. * **Didn't** John drink coffee or **didn't** he drink tea?

I forgot whether John_i drank coffee or whether John/he_i drank tea.

- (4) **A subject contrast?**
a. ?? I forgot whether John_i drank coffee or he_i drank tea.
b. ? I forgot whether John_i drank coffee or John drank tea.
(5) **More negation data:**
a. * **Didn't** Penelope embarrass or insult Peter?
b. Did Penelope **not** embarrass or insult Peter?
c. <> Did Penelope not embarrass Peter or insult him?
d. <> Did Penelope not embarrass Peter or not insult him?
(6) **More intervention data:**
a. * Did only Penelope give John a RAISE or a PRESENT?
b. Penelope only gave John one (nice) thing...
Did Penelope only give John a RAISE or a PRESENT?
c. ? Penelope only gave JOHN something nice...
Did Penelope only give JOHN a raise or a present?
d. Did Penelope give only JOHN a raise or a present?

¹As noted by Henrison in class last time, characteristic AltQ prosody may still be required.