

The following sharp, simple and surprising contrast raises a challenging question: *who left and why is obvious* vs. *\*who left and why is tall*. Why should the addition of a *wh*-phrase on the right side of a clause by a conjunction affect the labelling of its left periphery? A sluicing analysis cannot offer an answer: *who left and why (s/he left) is obvious* vs. *\*who left and why (s/he left) is tall*. I will prove that the answer is based on three purely syntactic factors: (i) the recognition of an unstable structure in the left periphery, (ii) the symmetry-breaking nature of movement, (iii) the parametrized number of  $\text{Foc}^\circ$  allowed in the left periphery of a given language. Eventually, this contrast leads to a more parsimonious architecture of Universal Grammar reducing *wh*-in situ in languages like English and Italian to an artifact.