WH & WH Coordination

Coordinated Wh-Questions (CWHs) can be bi-clausal or mono-clausal, depending on the availability of multiple wh-fronting (Grančanin-Yuksek 2007, Cić and Gračanin-Yuksek 2010).

1. What and where did John sing?
2. What and where did John sing?

In Polish and Croatian, there is no obligatory coordination.

That & WH Coordination in Polish and Croatian

Croatian and Polish, but not English, also allow that & wh coordination:

18. "I know that and when John left.
19. Znam da i kada je Jan izlazio. know that and when aux Jan went. Lith. "I know that and when Jan left.

Restrictions on that & wh are the same as those on if & wh (illustrated with Polish below)

- STRANDING:
- TRANSITIVITY RESTRICTIONS:

Our proposal:

Neither T nor wh is harmonic in the second conjunct.

IF & WH Coordination

All three languages allow if & wh coordination:

9. I wonder if and when John left.
10. Pitam se da li i kada je Jan izlazio. Croatian wonder(REF, wh-out that) that Jan left
12. Our proposal

If & wh coordination is NOT reverse ellipsis (contra Merchant and Giannakidou 1998)

13. I wonder if John left and when John left.

Reverse Ellipsis

- STRANDING:
- INTERPRETATION: The wh-phrase is absent from the first conjunct → only interpreted in the second.
- TRANSITIVITY RESTRICTIONS: If & what coordination is only possible with optionally transitive verbs:

THAT & WH Coordination in English

In Polish and Croatian, the complementizer is obligatory. In English, it is optional:

26. Znam (that) da je lwa završila banak.
27. I know (that) Mary finished the article.

In Polish and Croatian, there is no that-trace effect; in English, there is:

28. Who do you think that the article finished?
29. "Who do you think that the article finished?"

Lack of THAT & WH Coordination in English

That & wh coordination is not possible in English because the structure required to derive it is not linearizable.

THAT & WH Coordination in English

30. a. Polish: external Merge of że in C and English: T-to-C → that
b. English: T-to-C → that

Derivation of that & wh coordination:

- Since T is shared, that is necessarily part of both conjuncts.
- The subject John is also shared between both conjuncts.
- The object John is also shared between both conjuncts.
- The subject John is also shared between both conjuncts.
- The subject John is also shared between both conjuncts.
- Thus, the sharing of T makes that & wh structure non-linearizable.

References: