Nothing to Share: Why and when (not) to Elide Multidominant Structures?

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We examine two ways in which a syntactic structure can be impoverished at PF (PF-reduced): multidominance (MD) and ellipsis. Focusing on two PF-reduced constructions: Coordinated Wh-Questions (CWHs) and Coordinated Sluices (CSs), we propose that PF-reduction (the choice between MD and ellipsis) is subject to economy, which favors "least effort" derivations and precludes vacuous operations. Since MD involves fewer operations, PF-reduction by MD is more economical than PF-reduction by ellipsis. We argue that CSs involve an MD structure with a shared TP (rather than multiple TPs), and that the single shared TP is elided. In order to argue for this, we reformulate the Multiple Wh-Fronting (MWF) parameter in such a way that it allows CS, but disallows CWHs: the two constructions necessarily have different syntactic structures, which explains why they have different properties.