The Problem

Integrative marker: -e
Often claimed to be a Focus head (e.g. van Craenenbroeck & Lipták 2008)
But: independent from the notion of focus
• optional in main clause yes-no questions
• occurs even if there is no focus
Position: clause-initial, or on the vP-periphery, usually attached to the verb
Diachronically: -e appeared in a clause-final position
Non-standard dialects, or ellipses: -e does not always attach to the verb
Proposal: -e is a [+wh] marker head at the functional vP-periphery, faci located at the vP-periphery for different reasons

The Modern Hungarian Pattern
Embedded interrogatives: no distinctivion
(main clause interrogatives)
Subordinator: optional C head hogy 'that'
• yes-no interrogatives: -e obligatory
1. Nem tudom, not know-1SG (hogy) megérkezett-e Mari, that who arrived.3SG Q Mary 'I don't know if Mary has arrived.'
• wh-interrogatives: overt wh-element
2. Nem tudom, not know-1SG (hogy) ki érkezett meg, that who arrived.3SG PRE 'I don't know who has arrived.'
Main clause questions: distinctive intonation
• wh-interrogatives: wh-element present
• yes-no interrogatives: -e is optional

The Old and Middle Hungarian Patterns
Historical periods:
• Old Hungarian (ca. 896–1526)
• Middle Hungarian (ca. 1526–1772)
• Modern Hungarian (ca. 1772–)
• Old Hungarian embedded yes-no interrogatives: complementiser has 'hány'
(3) mőgadőln eknek tel-MP.ZSG-PRT we.DAT ha te vag x? isemen fel? if if you are Christ God's son 'tell us whether you be the Christ, the Son of God?' (Munich Codex, from 1466)
• Middle Hungarian embedded yes-no interrogatives: complementiser has 'hány':
(hogy) megalakult-e Krisztus, az Isten Fia if you are Christ God's son 'tell us whether you be the Christ, the Son of God?' (Kalidi's translation, from 1626)
• Old (and Middle) Hungarian embedded wh-interrogatives: optional complementiser hogy 'that' + wh-element:
(4) mondó meg nekünk, tel-MP.ZSG-PRT we.DAT ha te vag-e Krisztus, az Isten Fia if you are Christ God's son 'tell us whether you be the Christ, the Son of God?' (Kalidi's translation, from 1626)

More on the Evolution of the Integrative Marker
Integrative marker -e: appeared in Old Hungarian main clause yes-no interrogatives (optionally):
(6) néde t/ inc ab nagyobb wattok: axongal e Q you rather greater-n, are-3sg those-Q 'Are ye not much better than they?' (Munich Codex, from 1466)
Position: clause-finally, later clause-internally
Optional clause-initial particle (e.g. némé 'isn't it', minémé 'isn't it')
Opionicity of -e: distinctive intonation marks [+]wh
• if -e were a Focus head, then it should be obligatory in main clause interrogatives (exhaustivity)
• optional in Old/Middle Hungarian and in Modern Hungarian (cf. E. Kiss 2002) too
• clause-final position not linked to any designated focus position

More on Clause-speaking and Functional Left Peripheries
Clause-speaking: traditionally associated with the CP-periphery (cf. Rizzi 1997)
Marking of subordination: in embedded clauses – also associated with the CP-periphery (cf. Rizzi 1997)
• Single encoding: one element responsible for the overt marking the type of the clause and subordination
(7) Ich weiß nicht, ob er kommt. I know.1SG too not if he comes.'
• Double encoding: the element responsible for overtly marking subordination is different from the element overtly marking the type of the clause
subordination marker typically a general subordinator, e.g. that element overtly marking the type of the clause: may also be an operator (wh, relative operators)
• e.g. embedded wh-interrogatives in certain German dialects (cf. Weiß 2013: 777–778)
(8) Ich weiß auch nicht, wer dass da gewesen ist. I know.1SG too not who that there been is'
• Wh-movement: targets the CP in German, English ↔ Hungarian: it targets the vP-domain
• ➔ general subordinator + a wh-element: no Doubly Filled COMP-Filler violation in Hungarian
• ➔ several German dialects, Middle English
Hungarian embedded interrogatives:
• double encoding in wh-interrogatives in all periods (optional C head hogy 'that' + wh-element)
• double encoding in yes-no interrogatives in Modern Hungarian (optional C head hogy 'that' + -e)
• single encoding in yes-no interrogatives in Old Hungarian (C head ha 'if' – German ooh)
Middle Hungarian: intermediate stage in the transition from single encoding to double encoding

Functional Left peripheries in Hungarian embedded interrogatives:
subordination: CP-periphery
marking of [+]wh: vP-periphery – evolution of functional vP-periphery during Old/Middle Hungarian
Initially: [+]wh marked by ha 'if' at the CP-domain, clause-finally: -e head of a head-final CP

Ellipsis, Non-standard Varieties and the Integrative Marker
Position of -e: a functional v head – but also a clitic, usually attached to the verb
Elliptical constructions: verb absent ➔ -e attaches to a preceding element
(9) Valaki elem, de nem tudom, hogy Marie ment-e someone off-went.3SG but not know-1SG that Mary-Q went off 'Someone left it but I don't know who it was.'
Certain nonstandard dialects: no movement of the verb to the leftmost functional v head if there is a negative element or a particle in the specifier of that vP
(10) Nem tudom, (hogy) megeérezett Mari, not know-1SG that who arrived.3SG Mary 'I don't know if Mary has arrived.'

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Conclusions
Co-occurrence of -e and focus: result of more general diachronical processes
Diachronical evidence: the presence/absence of -e is indeed in correlation with certain typological settings – the changes thereof predict the changes in the status of -e
Typological change in word order: cf. E. Kiss (2013)

References