Scientific Method in Linguistics

One particular kind of question in English is called a "Yes/ No question". These questions can typically be answered with either Yes, No, or Maybe. The standard strategy for forming Yes/ No change the order of the words at the beginning of the sentence from the equivalent statement:

a) Betty hasn't eaten anything. *Statement*

b) Hasn't Betty eaten anything? *Yes/ No question*

With this background about yes/ no and declarative sentences in mind, consider the following hypothesis:

Hypothesis 1: Yes/ No questions are formed by moving the second word in the equivalent statement to the front.

Now look at the follow sentences:

c) Wanda will eat a spinach salad. *Statement*

d) Will Wanda eat a spinach salad? *Yes/ No question*

Question 1: Are sentences (c) and (d) consistent with hypothesis 1? (Pay careful attention to the wording of the hypothesis!)

Now consider the next two sentences

e) The young girl will eat the spinach salad. Statement

f) Will the young girl eat the spinach salad? Yes/ No question

Question 2: Are sentences (e) and (f) consistent with hypothesis 1?

Question 3: Instead of (f), what sentence does hypothesis 1 actually predict to be the grammatical Yes/ No question equivalent to (e)?

Question 4: Try to come up with a hypothesis that accounts for the grammaticality of (e). (Hint #1: words such as will are called auxiliaries. Hint #2: use as much of the language in hypothesis 1 as you can, making only minimal changes.)