

Can you confirm my exclamation? An insight into exclamatives from two Catalan tags

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After decades of research on the semantics-pragmatics of exclamatives (Elliott, 1974; Grimshaw, 1979; Rett, 2011; Zanuttini & Portner, 2003), there is no consensus on what they denote exactly: some put more weight on the extreme degree semantics, some other on the emotive attitude. While exclamatives had been initially distinguished from questions and assertions, recent experimental work has also challenged the idea that exclamatives make a differential speech act (Trotzke & Villalba, 2020 *et seq*). In this talk, I will frame the research on exclamatives in the broader research on how judge-dependent contents update the Common Ground (Umbach, 2016). In particular, I will invite the audience to consider the implications of a specific data point, namely that *wh*-exclamatives can be followed by a confirmation particle. If confirmational precedes by declaratives (anaphorically) target a proposition (Krifka, 2015), what do they target when they are preceded by an exclamation? If it is a proposition, what is its content: degree or emotion? If it is a subjective proposition, who is it anchored to?

I will also endorse the claim that Romance has much to contribute to this discussion, by presenting data about two tags in Central Catalan — *oi?* and *eh?* — which will be shown to impose different constraints on context. In a nutshell, with *oi?*, speaker 1 asks speaker 2 to share her responsibility in the commitment of the targeted proposition *p*. With *eh?*, speaker 1 asks speaker 2 to make public his (until then private) commitment to *p*. The basic contrast is illustrated in (1). This variety of confirmation types delivers interesting effects with subjective propositions, namely that, with *oi?*, a common judge is assumed, while with *eh?*, the judge is anchored to speaker 2.

- (1) El terra és fred, 'The floor is cold,'
the floor is cold
- a. *oi?* (≈ right?) → S1 is interested in resolving the issue of whether the floor is cold, and she asks S2, who is equally capable of resolving the issue, to support her tentative commitment.
 - b. *eh?* (≈ huh?) → It is obvious to S1 that S2 is privately committed to the floor being cold (acquaintance inference, Ninan, 2014), and she wants him to go public about it.

Given that exclamatives express a subjective meaning, I will delve into how this difference in anchoring is displayed when they are followed by either tag, illustrated in (2). In other words, I will consider the contexts that make each of them felicitous and will discuss how the division of labor observed in declaratives between the two confirmational extends to exclamatives.

- (2) Quina alegria, *oi?* / *eh?*
what joy oi eh
'What a joy, right? / huh?'

Summing up, I expect these Catalan tags to help us view exclamatives from a novel perspective, and exclamatives to help us better understand Catalan tags.

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