
Asking for confirmation: an experimental study on the licensing contexts of two tags

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Abstract

We explore the pragmatic contribution of two confirmational tags in Catalan: ‘eh’ and ‘oi’. We test two hypotheses regarding their difference using two forced-choice experiments. Hypothesis (1) is that ‘oi’ is preferred when p described an objective truth, which is borne out. Hypothesis (2) is that ‘eh’ is preferred in a context when Speaker 1 is committed to the falsity of p and wants Speaker 2 to make his commitment public. Although this was not borne out, the two experiments provide indirect evidence supporting this hypothesis.

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