

# Ling D: Puzzles in Semantics and Pragmatics

## Puzzle A, ‘To ask and to exclaim’: Syllabus

V-NYI, Summer 2023

Up to date as of June 27, 2023

### **Time**

Block 6, part 1: Sat/Tue/Thu (July 1/4/6), 11:50am–1:10pm NYC / 5:50–7:10pm Konstanz / 6:50–8:10pm SPb

### **Instructor**

Masha Esipova ([ˈmɑʃə ˈjesipəvə])

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### **Course description**

In this mini-seminar/puzzle, we will look at several case studies of non-canonical questions and exclamatives in Russian and/or English at the interfaces. We will ask the following questions: why do exclamatives seemingly have to have degree-related interpretations? What are some of the ways in which prosodic expression of affect can regularize in questions and beyond? Why do some rhetorical yes/no questions assume that the answer is ‘yes’ while others assume that the answer is ‘no’?

### **Background**

The course presupposes some basic background in semantics and pragmatics, but the technical part will be kept down to a minimum.

### **Course materials**

All course materials will be added to the NYI website. Please do not share these materials with anyone outside NYI without the instructor’s permission.

### **Readings**

There are no obligatory readings for this class. Some of the papers mentioned in class will be uploaded to the course materials folder as “background readings”.

## Pass/fail criteria

The main criteria for passing or failing this class are (i) attendance, and (ii) participation in discussion (more on this in class).

## Schedule (subject to change)

Date	Topics	Background readings (optional)
7/1	Puzzle 1: Exclamatives and degrees	Rett 2011; Esipova 2021
7/4	Puzzle 2: Affect and architecture	Same
7/6	Puzzle 3: Polarity in rhetorical questions	Caponigro & Sprouse 2007; Biezma & Rawlins 2017

## Bibliography

- Biezma, María & Kyle Rawlins. 2017. Rhetorical questions: Severing questioning from asking. In Dan Burgdorf, Jacob Collard, Sireemas Maspong & Brynhildur Stefánsdóttir (eds.), *Proceedings of Semantics and Linguistic Theory (SALT) 27*, 302–322. doi:10.3765/salt.v27i0.4155.
- Caponigro, Ivano & Jon Sprouse. 2007. Rhetorical questions as questions. In Louise McNally & Estela Puig-Waldmüller (eds.), *Proceedings of Sinn und Bedeutung 11*, 121–133. doi:10.18148/sub/2007.v11i0.635.
- Esipova, Maria. 2021. What I will tell you about “matrix” wh-“exclamatives”! In *Proceedings of West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics (WCCFL) 39*, <https://ling.auf.net/lingbuzz/006029>. To appear.
- Rett, Jessica. 2011. Exclamatives, degrees and speech acts. *Linguistics and Philosophy* 34(5). 411–442. doi:10.1007/s10988-011-9103-8.