

Intro to polar questions?

Maria 'Masha' Onoeva

mariaonoeva.github.io



**Charles
University**

HUMBOLDT-
UNIVERSITÄT
ZU BERLIN



OVA 2026 in Debrecen

General on questions and question bias

- Maribel Romero. 2024. Biased polar questions.
Annual Review of Linguistics, 10(1):279–302
- Floris Roelofsen. 2019. Semantic theories of questions
- Ivano Ciardelli. 2021. Why we need a question semantics.
In Moritz Cordes, editor, *Asking and Answering: Rivaling Approaches to Interrogative Methods*, pages 15–47. Narr Francke Attempto
- Manfred Krifka and Tue Trinh. 2025. Introduction

Languages

- Hungarian: Beáta Gyuris. 2017. New perspectives on bias in polar questions. *International Review of Pragmatics*, 9(1):1–50
- Estonian: Tom Roberts!
- Turkish: Beste Kamali and Manfred Krifka. 2020. Focus and contrastive topic in questions and answers, with particular reference to Turkish. *Theoretical Linguistics*, 46(1-2):1–71
- German: Regine Eckardt. 2020. Conjectural questions: The case of German verb-final *wohl* questions. *Semantics and Pragmatics*, 13(9):1–54
- Greek: Evripidis Tsiakmakis, Joan Borràs-Comes, and M. Teresa Espinal. 2022. Greek non-negative min, epistemic modality, and positive bias. *Natural Language & Linguistic Theory*, 41(3):1257–1285

Languages

- Italian: Ilaria Frana and Kyle Rawlins. 2019. Attitudes in discourse: Italian polar questions and the particle mica.
Semantics and Pragmatics, 12(16):1–48
- Romanian: Donka F Farkas. 2022. Non-Intrusive Questions as a Special Type of Non-Canonical Questions.
Journal of Semantics, 39(2):295–337
- French: Anne Abeillé, Benoît Crabbe, Danièle Godard, and Jean-Marie Marandin. 2012. French questioning declaratives : a corpus study.
In *SemDial 2012 - 16th annual workshop on the Semantics and Pragmatics of Dialogue*, pages 1–10, Paris, France
- Vietnamese: Tue Trinh. 2025. An argument for a biclausal analysis of yes/no questions in Vietnamese.
Proceedings of CLS, 60:403–414

Languages

- Japanese: David Y. Oshima. 2023. *The forms and meanings of negative polar interrogatives in English and Japanese: Epistemic bias, information structure, prosody, and further issues*, pages 261–296. De Gruyter
- Bulgarian: Vesela Simeonova!
- Czech: Radek Šimík. to appear. *Polar question semantics and bias: Lessons from Slavic/Czech*
- Serbian: Neda Todorović. 2024. What are we asking with a polar question in Serbian? *Journal of Slavic Linguistics*, 32(3):1–26
- NGT: Marloes Oomen and Floris Roelofsen. 2023. Biased polar question forms in Sign Language of the Netherlands (NGT): Two functions of headshake. *FEAST. Formal and Experimental Advances in Sign language Theory*, 5:156–168

Experimental studies

- Ye Tian, Bob van Tiel, Élise Clin, and Richard Breheny. 2021. Representing polar questions.
Journal of Psycholinguistic Research, 50(6):1535–1555
- Floris Roelofsen, Noortje Venhuizen, and Galit W. Sassoon. 2012. Positive and negative polar questions in discourse.
In *Proceedings of Sinn und Bedeutung 17*, pages 455–472
- Filippo Domaneschi, Maribel Romero, and Bettina Braun. 2017. Bias in polar questions: Evidence from English and German production experiments.
Glossa: a journal of general linguistics, 2(1)
- Anna Staňková and Radek Šimík. 2025. Negation in Czech polar questions.
Journal of Slavic Linguistics, 33(FASL issue):1–16

Natural Language Processing and Understanding

- John Prager. 2014. Question answering
- LLMs: Polina Tsvilodub, Michael Franke, Robert D. Hawkins, and Noah D. Goodman. 2023. Overinformative Question Answering by Humans and Machines
- Speech-to-text: Maria Onoeva. 2026. Not all polar questions are the same: ASR, Humans, and Russian.
In *Speech Language Models in Low-Resource Settings: Performance, Evaluation, and Bias Analysis (SPEAKABLE) @ LREC 2026*. ELRA Language Resources Association
- Text-to-speech: ???

Something else?

- PQs in the Bible or other less important books
- Translation of biased PQs, parallel corpora
- Diachronic investigations
- Heritage, local, and regional languages

Something else?

- PQs in the Bible or other less important books
- Translation of biased PQs, parallel corpora
- Diachronic investigations
- Heritage, local, and regional languages
- Biased PQs in creoles?
- Biased PQs in constructed languages?

References I

- Anne Abeillé, Benoît Crabbe, Danièle Godard, and Jean-Marie Marandin. 2012. French questioning declaratives : a corpus study. In *SemDial 2012 - 16th annual workshop on the Semantics and Pragmatics of Dialogue*, pages 1–10, Paris, France.
- Ivano Ciardelli. 2021. Why we need a question semantics. In Moritz Cordes, editor, *Asking and Answering: Rivalling Approaches to Interrogative Methods*, pages 15–47. Narr Francke Attempto.
- Filippo Domaneschi, Maribel Romero, and Bettina Braun. 2017. Bias in polar questions: Evidence from English and German production experiments. *Glossa: a journal of general linguistics*, 2(1).
- Regine Eckardt. 2020. Conjectural questions: The case of German verb-final wohl questions. *Semantics and Pragmatics*, 13(9):1–54.
- Donka F Farkas. 2022. Non-Intrusive Questions as a Special Type of Non-Canonical Questions. *Journal of Semantics*, 39(2):295–337.

References II

- Ilaria Frana and Kyle Rawlins. 2019. Attitudes in discourse: Italian polar questions and the particle mica. *Semantics and Pragmatics*, 12(16):1–48.
- Beáta Gyuris. 2017. New perspectives on bias in polar questions. *International Review of Pragmatics*, 9(1):1–50.
- Beste Kamali and Manfred Krifka. 2020. Focus and contrastive topic in questions and answers, with particular reference to Turkish. *Theoretical Linguistics*, 46(1-2):1–71.
- Manfred Krifka and Tue Trinh. 2025. Introduction.
- Maria Onoeva. 2026. Not all polar questions are the same: ASR, Humans, and Russian. In *Speech Language Models in Low-Resource Settings: Performance, Evaluation, and Bias Analysis (SPEAKABLE) @ LREC 2026*. ELRA Language Resources Association.
- Marloes Oomen and Floris Roelofsen. 2023. Biased polar question forms in Sign Language of the Netherlands (NGT): Two functions of headshake. *FEAST. Formal and Experimental Advances in Sign language Theory*, 5:156–168.

References III

- David Y. Oshima. 2023. *The forms and meanings of negative polar interrogatives in English and Japanese: Epistemic bias, information structure, prosody, and further issues*, pages 261–296. De Gruyter.
- John Prager. 2014. Question answering.
- Floris Roelofsen. 2019. Semantic theories of questions.
- Floris Roelofsen, Noortje Venhuizen, and Galit W. Sassoon. 2012. Positive and negative polar questions in discourse. In *Proceedings of Sinn und Bedeutung 17*, pages 455–472.
- Maribel Romero. 2024. Biased polar questions. *Annual Review of Linguistics*, 10(1):279–302.
- Radek Šimík. to appear. *Polar question semantics and bias: Lessons from Slavic/Czech*.
- Anna Staňková and Radek Šimík. 2025. Negation in Czech polar questions. *Journal of Slavic Linguistics*, 33(FASL issue):1–16.

References IV

- Ye Tian, Bob van Tiel, Élise Clin, and Richard Breheny. 2021. Representing polar questions. *Journal of Psycholinguistic Research*, 50(6):1535–1555.
- Neda Todorović. 2024. What are we asking with a polar question in Serbian? *Journal of Slavic Linguistics*, 32(3):1–26.
- Tue Trinh. 2025. An argument for a biclausal analysis of yes/no questions in Vietnamese. *Proceedings of CLS*, 60:403–414.
- Evripidis Tsiakmakis, Joan Borràs-Comes, and M. Teresa Espinal. 2022. Greek non-negative min, epistemic modality, and positive bias. *Natural Language amp; Linguistic Theory*, 41(3):1257–1285.
- Polina Tsvilodub, Michael Franke, Robert D. Hawkins, and Noah D. Goodman. 2023. Overinformative Question Answering by Humans and Machines.