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*Conversational dynamics of Russian questions with 'razve'*

This talk is devoted to the conversational dynamics of Russian questions with 'razve', a left-periphery particle used in matrix polar interrogatives with an air of incredulity. 'Razve'-questions can be characterized as conveying negative bias in conflicting-evidence scenarios, thus bearing superficial resemblance to questions with English 'really', Italian 'mica' or German 'etwa'. I will argue that 'razve' in fact instantiates a special type of question bias associated with belief-revision potential. It signals that the speaker faces an epistemic conflict between prior belief and a current abductive inference. This novel type of bias is not discussed in, or captured by, previous approaches to biased questions. I develop an account such that 'razve'-clauses are interrogatives with a singleton constraint and two epistemic inferences. Taken together, these components (i) explain constraints on the limited syntactic distribution of 'razve' (it only occurs in matrix polar interrogatives, but not declaratives, wh-questions or embedded questions), (ii) easily allow for a biased or a rhetorical interpretation based on context, while (iii) keeping the overall semantics lean. In conclusion, I discuss how aspects of this account can be extended to some cross-linguistic puzzles about biased questions.