Encoding emotion in discourse: A cross-linguistic approach to *that*-exclamatives

Andreas Trotzke[1,2] & Xavier Villalba[2]
[1]*University of Konstanz,* [2]*Autonomous University of Barcelona*

andreas.trotzke@uni-konstanz.de, xavier.villalba@uab.cat

The cross-linguistic inventory of exclamatives is a (if not *the*) key phenomenon at the grammar-emotion interface. Some languages feature *that*-configurations that can be used as root clauses expressing an exclamatory speech act; German (1) is a prominent case. Crucially, Catalan features *that*-exclamatives as well (2), without strict parallels in other Romance varieties (Villalba 2003):

(1) *Dass   er   diese   Bücher lesen   kann!*
     that   he   those   books read   can
     'Wow, he can read those books!'

(2) *¡Que   n'és,   de   car!*
     that   of.it-is   of   expensive
     'How expensive it is!'

In this paper, we show that *that*-exclamatives in Germanic and Romance languages differ semantically in expressing either a non-degree (German) or a degree reading (Catalan). However, both languages pattern alike at the discourse level: when used as responses to polar questions, *that*-exclamatives (i) can in fact assert (and not only presuppose) *p* and (ii) the speaker typically expresses either a self-directed negative emotion towards *p* ('I regret that p' = [3a]) or an addressee-directed negative emotion (i.e., a reproach; see [3b]).

(3) A: Have you already done the shopping for tonight?
    B: a. *Dass   ich   das   vergessen   habe!*
        that   I   that   forgotten   have
        'How could I have forgotten that!?'
      b. *Dass   Du   mich   daran   nicht   erinnert   hast!*
        that   you   me   that   not   reminded have
        'You should have reminded me!'

We account for these observations within Farkas & Bruce's (2010) discourse model and will treat exclamatives as two-dimensional semantic objects, conveying an expressive content *and* asserting *p*. Support for this account will also be provided by recent experimental work showing that the 'descriptive' content of exclamatives is in fact 'at-issue' (Villalba 2017; Trotzke to appear).

References: • Farkas, D. F. & K. B. Bruce. 2010. On reacting to assertions and polar questions. *Journal of Semantics* 27. 81–118. • Trotzke, A. to appear. Approaching the pragmatics of exclamations experimentally. *Proceedings of the Chicago Linguistic Society 54*. University of Chicago <http://chicagolinguisticsociety.org/public/short/7.pdf>. • Villalba, X. 2003. An exceptional exclamative sentence type in Romance. *Lingua* 113. 713–745. • Villalba, X. 2017. Non-asserted material in Spanish degree exclamatives. In I. Bosque (ed.), *Advances in the analysis of Spanish exclamatives*, 139–158. Columbus, Ohio: Ohio State University Press.