On Delimiting the Space of Bias Profiles for Polar Interrogatives

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The talk assumes that the bias profiles of positive polar interrogatives and negative polar interrogatives with 'inside'/'outside' negation readings consist of a specification of what types of contextual evidence and what previous speaker beliefs regarding the answer the utterances of these sentence types are compatible with. Building on Sudo's (2013) claims, according to which the biases of different interrogative clause types within a language and across languages can differ significantly, the talk explores some theoretical options for delimiting the space of the possible bias profiles. The predictions will be checked against a small sample of cases from English, Japanese, and Hungarian.