

Information packaging in questions

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People who study information structure often use questions as a way of setting the context and eliciting a particular theme–theme partitioning in the answer. But few researchers have looked into the way the questions themselves are structured. In this talk I will discuss some common ways that questions may be expressed in spoken interaction in English, French, German and Swedish. It turns out that the realization of questions reflects the information states of the speaker and hearer with respect to the conversation at hand in rather subtle ways.

