

Review by Martina Wiltschko

Does the paper make a novel contribution to the understanding of the topic under investigation? [max 250 words]*

Definitely yes. It discusses an interesting empirical phenomenon (the existence of a sentence final particle that cooccurs with wh-questions, and which is licensed only when the QUD is familiar) in an understudied language (Mauritian Creole).

Is the empirical content of the paper sound (i.e. the data are collected and presented properly, the experiments are well designed, the statistics is well done, the examples contain no spelling mistakes, etc)? [max 400 words]*

Most of the data appears to be based on native speaker judgements. Though this should be acknowledged. In the context of this paper, I consider this a valid methodology.

Is the argument coherent and sound, with no major flaws and/or shortcomings, within the context of the theoretical assumptions made by the author? [max 500 words]*

The paper is overall well argued and well situated within current and relevant literature. I do have some quibbles with some of the conclusions.

i) given that la (at least in Haitian creole) can also combine with other types/portions of clauses, it does not follow that the la under discussion has to select for a +wh CP. We are not shown that this is the case empirically (i.e., it should be shown that la cannot combine with a declarative).

And there does not seem to be a theoretical reason that this is necessarily so.

ii) I got lost in the argumentation that leads to saying that the QUD needs to be familiar. Why can it not be the presupposition (and hence a presupposed proposition). The author states that wh-questions denote set of propositions, and not propositions. But doesn't the same apply to QUD.

This should be clarified.

Are there any relevant scholarly works that have been overlooked by the author? If the answer is YES, please provide the full references.*

I would have expected a bit of an engagement with the rich literature on biased questions, at least in passing. I'm not providing anything in specific, as the literature is extensive, and I would leave it up to the author to decide.

Have you seen this paper, its content, the proposed analysis, or the conclusions published in other venues? [If your answer is YES, please add the relevant reference.]*

yes. but it is a proceedings paper, which I take to be legitimate for publication in Isogloss

Térosier, Stéphane. 2024. "A FIRST LOOK AT THE CLAUSAL DETERMINER IN MARTINICAN CREOLE "DIRECT" WH-QUESTIONS." In ACTES DU COLLOQUE ÉDITÉS PAR REINE PINSONNEAULT ET YOANN LÉVEILLÉ, p. 203. 2024.

<https://archipel.uqam.ca/17543/1/Actes%20Colloque%2050%20ans%20de%20linguistique%20UQAM%202024.pdf>

If you accept the paper with minor revisions, please list the revisions you would advise (you are not required to proofread the paper) [max 500 words]

- i) explicit statement how the data was collected
- ii) clarification regarding the conclusion that it must be QUD (see discussion above)
- iii) more discussion regarding why it has to select a +wh C (even if it has to be stipulated)
- iv) some engagement with the literature on biased questions, and perhaps a comparison to English cleft questions (Where is it that you went?)
- v) it might be useful to compare to sentence final particles in other languages (as discussed in Wiltschko), which simultaneously associate with Ground and Resp and hence cannot be embedded. In this context it is interesting that Ia in MC can be embedded.
- vi) Example (24) appears to be missing (but is crucial for the syntactic argumentation)