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**'Wh-fronting in adult Colloquial and child French: Triggers at the syntax-semantics interface'**

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This talk addresses the long-standing issue of the alternation between *wh-in-situ* and *wh-ex-situ* questions in Colloquial French from two points of view. First, we examine adult data, and suggest that Colloquial French is a *wh-in-situ* language that allows for *wh-ex-situ* under specific conditions, like other *wh-in-situ* languages. We therefore also suggest that *wh*-fronting is not triggered by a *wh*-feature but by another feature, namely [Exclusivity] (Faure & Palasis, 2021). A formalization of this process is provided within the Relativized Minimality framework. Second, we examine a three-year kindergarten dataset of spontaneous productions with 16 children between 2;5 and 5;11, and investigate the distribution of *wh-in-situ* and *wh-ex-situ* questions in relation to age, verb form, and grammatical category of the *wh*-word (Palasis, Faure & Meunier, accepted). Finally, we attempt to bridge the gap between research on adult and child data by connecting our child results with Exclusivity.

Faure, R. & Palasis, K. (2021). Exclusivity! *Wh*-fronting is not optional *wh*-movement in Colloquial French. *Natural Language & Linguistic Theory*, 39(1), 57-95. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11049-020-09476-w>

Palasis, K., Faure, R. & Meunier, F. (accepted). *Wh*-in-situ in child French: Deictic triggers at the syntax-semantics interface. *Journal of French Language Studies, Special issue L'interrogative in situ : aspects formels, pragmatiques et variationnels*, Dekhissi, Laurie, Caterina Bonan and Alexander Guryev (eds.)