Homonymous discourse particles

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Abstract

In this text, I consider the properties of the particle *že* in Czech reprise questions. First, I consider *že* in *wh*-questions. While authors agree that it links the given utterance to the immediately preceding discourse, some assume that *že* is located in SpecCP and others that it is located in C. I use novel data to demonstrate that the two assumptions about the particle's distribution are not mutually exclusive. I claim that there are two types of *že*: the phrase-internal *že* (which is restricted to occur within SpecCP) and the phrase-external *že* (which is restricted to occur in C). Combining this dual analysis of *že* with some further assumptions makes it possible to account for the distribution of the particle in a variety of constructions. Second, I consider *že* in non-*wh*-questions. It turns out that *že* in these questions has the properties of the phrase-external *že*. This further supports the validity of the distinction between the phrase-internal *že* and the phrase-external *že*.