On Cantonese yes-no question particle *aa4*: evidential bias and confirmation

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Main problems

• Inconsistent generalizations of the Cantonese yes-no question particle \textit{aa4: neutral, negative or positive}
  • Particularly peculiar as compared to other Cantonese yes-no question particles that are \textit{always specified for bias (neutral/negative/positive)}

• \textit{Aa4} also has a \textit{rhetorical} use that presumes a \textit{negative} answer, which is at odds with the apparent flexibility of bias.
Take-aways

• The Cantonese question particle *aa4* requires positive *evidential bias* and is underspecified for *epistemic bias*, providing further support for Sudo (2013)'s distinction between the two types of bias.

• The *rhetorical* reading of *aa4* is a result of seeking confirmation of addressee’s belief towards a proposition, as opposed to confirmation of the proposition itself. This ‘higher-level’ use might be another instance of operators on speech acts (Law, Li & Bhadra 2018, this workshop).