Locating Hindi particle –to at the syntax-semantics interface

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The Puzzle:

(i)  adʒ=(to)   do=(to)   ləmbe=(to)   ləɾke=(to)   per=ke=(to)   nɪɾfe=(to)   kʰəɾe=(to)   tʰe=(*)to
today=TO   two=TO   tall=TO   boys=TO   tree=GEN=TO   under=TO   stand.PFV.MPL=TO   be.PST.3PL
‘Today two tall boys stood under the tree.

-to can mark a range of expressions but can occur only once per clause

(ii) rahʊl=ne   gana=to   ga-ja
    Rahul=ERG   song=TO   sing-PFV.MS
    ‘Rahul sang the song.’ ↓
    ‘Rahul sang the song, right?’ ↑ (available)
    ‘Did Rahul sing a song?’ ↑ (unavailable)

What is the meaning encoded by this particle and the syntax that can account for this data?
Key Take-away Points:

• Particle –to affects the felicitous use of a sentence; encodes a use-conditional meaning of ‘conveying speaker salience’ - \([UC_{spkr-sal}]\) semantic feature

• Adopting Wiltschko (2021), particle –to functionally associates with \(\text{Ground}_{spkr}\) head; Result: speaker asserts that in their mental ground, speaker holds a propositional attitude of belief (for declaratives or biased interrogatives) or desire (for imperatives) for the proposition specifically relative to the salient marked entity.