**Introduction**

(2) Dayal’s (2021) left periphery

**SAP**

**SA**

**PersP**

**Pers**

**PQP**

**C**

**TP**

**Q-morpheme**

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**Question morpheme**

Japanese *ka* is an example of a Q-morpheme (Cheng 1991). It can be embedded by responsive predicates like ‘know’ or by rogative predicates like ‘want to know’.

(3) a. Tanjirō-*wa* [Zen'itsu-*ga* ocha-*o* non-da *ka*]-o

Tanjirō-top Zenitsu-NOM tea-ACC drink-PST Q-ACC

shirī-tai des-u.

know-want be-PRT

‘Tanjirō knows whether Zenitsu drank tea.’

b. John

John

Is *ma* a Q-morpheme? No.

Is *ma* an SA-intensifier? No.

Is *ma* a PQP? Maybe!

**Polar question particle**

Hindi *kyaa* is an example of PQP (Bhatt & Dayal 2020). It cannot be embedded by responsives, but can be “quasi-subordinated” (Dayal & Grimshaw 2009) by rogatives.

(6) a. *ravi jaanīta hai [ki *kyaa* anu jaāegii].

Ravi know-INF want.HAB be.PRS that PQP Anu go.FUT

Int. ‘Ravi knows whether Anu will go.’

b. *ravi jaanīta caahtā hai [ki *kyaa* anu

Ravi know-INF want.HAB be.PRS that PQP Anu

jaāegii].

go.FUT

‘Ravi wants to know whether Anu will go.’

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**Speech act intensifier**

- Observation: The yes-no question marker *ma*, and the evidentiality marker *ma*, are in complementary distribution in Mandarin.

- Proposal (Li 2006, Kim 2018): The two markers are the same morpheme, which expresses a high degree of the speaker’s commitment to the speech act.

However, it is unclear if they are equally embeddable.

(5) a. *Mulan ren* [xiayu-le *ma* zuotian].

Mulan say-PFV MA yesterday

Int.: ‘Mulan wants to know whether I was treated yesterday.’

b. *Mulan ren* [xiayu-le *ma* zuotian].

Mulan say-PFV MA yesterday

Int.: ‘Mulan wants to know whether I was treated yesterday.’

**(Bhatt & Dayal 2020: 1122)**

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**Open questions**

#1: Can we have more than one *ma* in a sentence?

(9) ‘John xiangyao zhidao [xiayu-le *ma*] zuotian, . . .

John want know rain-PFV MA yesterday

Int.: ‘Does John want to know whether it rained?’

#2: Does prosody play a role? Should we look at the intonational contour of the full question or of *ma* and its prejacent separately?

(10) a. *Mulan shuo-le shenme* [ma*].

Mulan say-PFV what MA

‘Did Mulan say something?’

b. *Mulan shuo-le shenme* [ma*].

Mulan say-PFV what MA

‘Just tell me, what did Mulan say?’

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**Mandarin Chinese ma:**

**Q-morpheme, SA-intensifier or PQP?**

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