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TITLE: The semantics and pragmatics of some-exclamatives

ABSTRACT: Exclamative constructions, such as those in (1), have been of special interest to linguists due to the intensified meaning they express, and how this meaning is marked by the syntactic form of the exclamative. However, research on exclamatives in English and other European languages has focused largely on the properties of *wh*-exclamatives (1a), with additional interest in negative-inversion exclamatives (1b) and nominal exclamatives (1c).

- (1) a. What a (delicious) meal!
- b. Isn't this a delicious meal!
- c. The cakes he bakes!

I broaden the view of exclamatives in English by examining the semantics and pragmatics of a sentential exclamative construction that makes use of the determiner *some*. The construction is exemplified in (2), where the speaker is exclaiming about some noteworthy property held by the sentential subject.

- (2) a. Charlotte's Web is some book!
- b. John is some lawyer!
- c. Boy, was she (ever) some dancer!

Although these *some*-exclamatives have been noted previously (Israel 1999, 2003), their logical form has not been formally studied. I propose that *some*-exclamatives rely on special properties of the determiner *some*. Then, I argue that *some*-exclamatives express noteworthiness by making reference to subkinds of the kind denoted by the noun phrase complement of *some*.

This investigation adds to observations in the literature that some varieties of exclamatives make reference to kinds. The use of kinds in this study shows how an intensified meaning can be built up via kind membership rather than by making reference to degrees. Finally, the analysis I propose lends additional support to the thesis that exclamatives are underlyingly sets of propositions, as in approaches such as that of Zanuttini & Portner (2003).