

Questionnaire: Answers to polarity questions

This questionnaire has been drawn up for a pilot study on the strategies used cross-linguistically to answer polarity questions. The goal is to investigate the validity of the typology offered in Sadock & Zwicky (1985).

The design of this translation questionnaire is inspired by similar methods used in Dahl (1985, 2000), Floyd et al. (2016).

Language ISO-693 code/Glottocode¹:

Participant(s)² Name Surname:
Age:
Gender:
Profession:
Contact information:

Instruction: Please translate the questions into your language. You will find the space for this next to the symbol [?]. Then, answer the questions in your language. Do not translate “word-for-word”, but try instead to make it sound as “natural” as possible. When doable, please provide morpheme by morpheme glossing of the translated sentences or some other explanation of the different elements of the sentence. Write the possible positive answers next to the symbol [✓] and the possible negative answers next to the symbol [✗].

1. Is it hot today?

?	
✓	
✗	

2. Isn't it hot today?

?	
✓	

¹ For easier identification, please provide the ISO-693 code or Glottocode of the language documented.

² The information provided in this section will be employed for research purposes only (age, gender and profession). Name and contact details remain confidential and are not forwarded to third parties. By taking part in this study, the participants agree to these terms.

X	
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3. Isn't it raining?

?	
✓	
X	

4. Do you see them?

?	
✓	
X	

5. Wasn't she seen by other people?

?	
✓	
X	

6. Did John already arrive?

?	
✓	
X	

7. Is Anna your sister?

?	
✓	
X	

8. Do you know where the hospital is?

?	
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✓	
✗	

9. They don't speak English?

?	
✓	
✗	

10. Is the fruit ripe?

?	
✓	
✗	

11. Haven't the insects bitten you?

?	
✓	
✗	

Comments

Should you have further comments, you may add them in the field below.

Thank you for your help!

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me (elmo7609@student.su.se).

References

- Dahl, Östen. 1985. *Tense and aspect systems*. Oxford: Blackwell.
- Dahl, Östen. 2000. The tense-aspect systems of European languages in a typological perspective. In: Dahl, Östen (ed), *Tense and aspect in the languages of Europe*. Eurotyp, vol. 6. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter.
- Floyd, Simeon, Villermet, Marianne, & Birchall, Joshua. 2016. *Answers to polarity questions in South American languages*. Paper presented at the AMAZONICAS VI, Leticia, Colombia.
- Sadock, Jerold M., & Zwicky, Arnold. 1985. Speech Act Distinction in Syntax. Pages 155–196 of: Shopen, Timothy (ed), *Language Typology and Syntactic Description*. Cambridge University Press.