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Expressive insubordination
A cross-linguistic study on that-exclamatives

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6.1 Introduction

Many languages of the world feature wh-exclamatives, and some of them also exhibit that-configurations that can be used as root clauses expressing an exclamatory speech act; the Germanic languages Dutch (1a), German (1b), and Swedish (1c) are prominent examples (e.g., Bennis 1998; Delsing 2010; d’Avis 2016):

(1) a. Dat hij die boeken kan lezen! (Dutch)
   that he those books can read
   ‘Wow, he can read those books!’

   b. Dass er diese Bücher lesen kann! (German)
   that he those books read can
   ‘Wow, he can read those books!’

   c. Att du hann till mötet! (Swedish)
   that you reached to meeting.DEF
   ‘What a surprise that you reached the meeting’

However, Romance languages feature that-exclamatives as well; we will detail this observation in section 6.2, but for now observe the following examples from Catalan (2a) and French (2b); see Gérard-Naef (1980); Villalba (2003); Trotzke and Villalba (2020):

(2) a. Que n’és, de car! (Catalan)
   that of.it-is of expensive
   ‘How expensive it is!’
In this chapter, we will compare *wh*- and *that*-exclamatives in Germanic and Romance languages, and we will show that at least in the two languages Catalan (Romance) and German (Germanic), the two exclamative types differ in many respects. The chapter is structured as follows. In section 6.2, we will first introduce exclamatives in Germanic and Romance languages at a general level. Section 6.3 then points out semantic parallels and differences between the two language groups. We will mainly draw on Catalan and German, but we indicate that the generalizations hold across other languages of the respective language families. Section 6.4 provides a detailed account of the different systems of complementation in the expression of *that*-exclamatives in Catalan and German, and on this basis sketches the syntax-semantics properties that distinguish exclamatives in the two languages more generally. Section 6.5 summarizes and concludes the chapter, and points out broader implications that go beyond the empirical domain of exclamatives.

6.2 Two different syntactic forms of Catalan and German exclamatives

Exclamations are expressive speech acts that convey that a particular state-of-affairs has violated the speaker’s expectations. As is well known from the literature, exclamations can be conveyed by different syntactic forms. Consider the following English examples, which are taken from Rett (2011: 412):

(3)  
\begin{align*}
&\text{a. (Wow,) John bakes delicious desserts!} \\
&\text{b. (My,) What delicious desserts John bakes!} \\
&\text{c. (Boy,) Does John bake delicious desserts!} \\
&\text{d. (My,) The delicious desserts John bakes!}
\end{align*}

One could thus claim that exclamation is a speech act that does not correspond to a particular sentence type, but rather to specific uses of several sentence types, as exemplified in (3). In other words, potentially any sentence type can receive an exclamatory interpretation, but this is due to non-syntactic features such as intonation and lexical means.

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1 Catalan also features ‘French-style’ *that*-exclamatives, namely, exclamatives without the partitive clitic or the preposition *de* ‘of,’ but with obligatory subject-verb inversion:

(i) Que és fosca aquesta història!
\begin{align*}
&\text{that is dark this story} \\
&\text{‘How dark this story is!’}
\end{align*}
On the other hand, there are many accounts that postulate the category of an exclamative sentence type. In what follows, we will assume (in accordance with, e.g., Siemund 2015 and many others) that at least forms like English (3b) can be categorized as a separate sentence type because they do not work as regular \textit{wh}-questions due to their word order. The same holds for the two languages we would like to compare in what follows: Catalan (4a) and German (4b). The following syntactic forms can only be interpreted as exclamations, and we can thus safely conclude that both languages feature the sentence type ‘\textit{wh}-exclamative’."\footnote{In Catalan, the complementizer and the degree modifier of the adjective in exclamatives are homophonous: they are unstressed and, hence, they are pronounced with a schwa (/[kæ]/) in Eastern dialects and as [ke] in Western dialects.}

(4) a. Que car que és!
   how expensive that is
   ‘How expensive it is!’

b. Wie teuer das ist!
   how expensive that is
   ‘How expensive it is!’

Crucially, in both languages we find another syntactic configuration that unambiguously expresses an exclamation speech act: so-called \textit{that}-exclamatives. Look at the following examples and note that the translations are slightly different due to a semantic difference we will explain in more detail in section 6.3:

(5) a. Que n’es, de car!
   that of.it-is of expensive
   ‘How expensive it is!’

b. Dass das so teuer ist!
   that this so expensive is
   ‘How surprising that it is so expensive!’

Let us for the moment leave aside the semantic differences between (5a) and (5b) and focus on the syntactic structures. In this domain too, there is a crucial difference between Catalan and German. In German, configurations like (5b) exemplify a phenomenon that has been termed ‘insubordination’ by Evans (2007) in a cross-linguistic perspective: the use of embedded clause structures as root clauses (see also D’Hertefelt 2018 for recent typological work).\footnote{Obviously, insubordination is also attested in Romance languages, including Catalan (see Demonte and Fernández-Soriano 2009; Gras 2016; Etxepare 2018). The crucial point is that \textit{that}-exclamatives in Catalan are not insubordinated structures.} For German,
these constructions have already received some attention in the literature, which has discussed them in terms of ‘independently used verb-final clauses,’ so-called ‘solitaires’ (Schwabe 2006, 2007), and ‘V-final root clauses’ (Truckenbrodt 2006). The point is that (5b) instantiates exactly the same word order as a subordinated (declarative) that-clause (5’b); this is why these clauses—when used as exclamatives—are called ‘insubordinated’ structures.

(5’)

b. ([VP ‘I know’] [CP ∅ [C dass [IP das so teuer ist]]])
   that this so expensive is

In Catalan, the situation is different. Sentences like (5a) above are not possible as a complement of a declarative (5’a) and not even possible when the embedding predicate is a surprise predicate (5’’a).

(5’)
a. (*[VP ‘I know’] [CP ∅ [C que [IP n’és, de car]]])
   that of.it-is of expensive

(5’’) a. (*[VP ‘I’m amazed’] [CP ∅ [C que [IP n’és, de car]]])
   that of.it-is of expensive

Note that que in Catalan (and its cognates in further Romance languages) is also the form of a relative pronoun, which would have phrasal status. However, the element que in the exclamative in (5a) clearly is the complementizer que (and thus the head of the CP projection). To see this, look at data like the following. When que is used in an exclamative, it can co-occur with phrasal elements like the adverb si (‘so’) in its specifier:

(6) [CP si ‘so’ [C que [IP n’és, de car!]]]

From data like this, we would like to conclude that que in Catalan that-exclamatives such as (5a) above is a complementizer rather than a pronoun. This is further corroborated by the possibility of que following the wh-phrase in wh-exclamatives; cf. example (4a). Data like this additionally suggest that there is

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4 Complementizer and relative pronoun que are homophonous in Catalan, hence they are pronounced with a schwa ([kə]) in Eastern dialects and as [ke] in Western dialects (see fn. 2). Catalan also has a stressed relative pronoun què (pronounced [’ke]) used in prepositional phrases. There is a debate on the pronominal vs. complementizer nature of relative que in Romance: see, e.g., Rinke and Aßmann (2017) or Poletto and Sanfelici (2018) for recent discussion.

5 The unstressed intensifier particle si (not to be misinterpreted by the affirmative particle sí ‘yes’) comes from the Latin modal adverb sic ‘so,’ which in Old Catalan also developed into the standard modal adverb així ‘this way.’
indeed a complementizer position in exclamation speech acts that can be filled by *que* (underlined in the example).

(7) ([VP ‘I’m amazed’] [CP *que* *car* [C *que* [IP *és* el *vi*]]])

how expensive that it-is the wine

(7) also shows that in contrast to Catalan *that*-exclamatives (where the complementizer *que* is the clause-initial element and no phrasal item precedes *que*), Catalan *wh*-exclamatives can be embedded under predicates of surprise (with restrictions; see Gutiérrez-Rexach and Andueza 2017). The same holds for German, where, however, the *C* position must remain empty:

(8) ([VP ‘I’m amazed’] [CP *wie* teuer [C ∅ [IP *das* *ist*]]])

how expensive this one is

Up to this point, let us summarize that in both Germanic and Romance languages there are at least two syntactic configurations that can clearly be categorized as exclamative sentence types: *wh*- and *that*-exclamatives. In particular, we have demonstrated for German that the sentence type ‘exclamative’ can not only be realized by *wh*-verb-final configurations, but also by insubordinated *that*-constructions; and for Catalan, we have shown that in addition to *wh*-exclamatives, this language features a root-only exclamative headed by the complementizer *que* (‘that’), which can be preceded by phrasal material (e.g., *si* ‘so’). In sum, we have seen some similarities and differences in the syntactic inventory of expressing exclamation speech acts in both languages. Let us now look at the semantics of these syntactic means across the two languages.

### 6.3 Two different interpretations of Catalan and German exclamatives

In this section, we would like to introduce a distinction that refers to the semantics of the propositional object (‘the descriptive content’) of the different types of exclamatives introduced in section 6.2. In particular, the propositional object can feature a degree component, based on a scalar predicate, or it can lack such a component. We hasten to add that we are not talking here about the degree interpretation that is a signature property of all exclamation speech acts

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6 The complementizer *que* and its cognates are found in *wh*-exclamatives all across Romance languages, with the exception of French and Romanian. Yet, its distribution is very complex not only from language to language, but also from one type of exclamative to another; see Villalba (2017: 1.1.3) for a summary.
(Castroviejo Miró 2006, 2008, 2019; Rett 2008, 2011), namely the expression of surprise based on expectation and/or noteworthiness scales (i.e., ‘the expressive content’). Rather, we are concerned with ‘the subject’ of the expressive component: the propositional content of the exclamative.

To introduce our observations in this domain, let us consider a German example again. As already illustrated above, as soon as a dass-clause is used as a root clause, it takes on emotive force and is interpreted as an exclamative:

(9) Dass der schön singen kann!
that this.one beautiful sing can
‘How surprising that he can sing beautifully!’

What is now important in our context is that the speaker in (9) is surprised that the referent of der can sing beautifully at all and not about the degree of the beauty of his singing (Truckenbrodt 2013b: 580–1). Truckenbrodt calls this difference Emotion zu Proposition ‘emotion towards proposition’ vs. Emotion zu implizitem Grad ‘emotion towards implicit degree’; see also d’Avis (2002) for seminal work.

As already mentioned in section 6.1, other Germanic languages feature ‘insubordinated’ exclamative configurations such as (9) as well. Crucially, the possibility of a non-degree reading of that-exclamatives has also been observed for those languages. Delsing (2010), for instance, argues on the basis of his Swedish examples that Swedish that-exclamatives (formed with the complementizer att) can be characterized as so-called ‘polar’ exclamatives. That is, the likelihood/expectation scale that serves as the semantic basis for the surprise reading of exclamatives is polar in these cases, according to Delsing’s terminology. That is, the speaker presupposes that the likelihood of the proposition (e.g., ‘X can sing beautifully’ in our case) is low and the exclamative conveys that the proposition is in fact true. Crucially, the surprise effect is only based on a binary situation: that p is true or not true. In the case of wh-exclamatives (How beautiful he can sing!), by contrast, the surprise interpretation is based on a graded scale; that is, these configurations express to what extent/degree some property expressed by p is the case (variable scales, in Delsing’s 2010 terms).

In sum, Germanic exclamatives can express surprise towards both graded and binary alternatives. While the binary interpretation of that-exclamatives can hence be demonstrated for Germanic languages, this restriction to binary readings does not hold for Romance languages. Consider again our Catalan example of a that-exclamative, repeated here for convenience:

(10) Que n’és, de car!
that of.it.is of expensive
‘How expensive it is!’
We can show that Catalan that-exclamatives obligatorily feature graded alternatives as part of their propositional content by using non-gradable predicates like intransitive die in an exclamative. Predicates like die are infelicitous in Catalan that-exclamatives (11a); on the other hand, the binary set that those predicates introduce is perfect in German that-exclamatives (11b):

(11) a. Que ha mort!
    that has died
    ‘It is surprising that (s)he died.’

b. Dass er gestorben ist!
    that he died has
    ‘It is surprising that (s)he died.’

Note that the problem with (11a) has to do with degree, not with the lack of the partitive clitic and the preposition, as the possibility of ‘French style’ that-exclamatives in Catalan with degree meaning proves (see fn. 1). We can thus conclude that Catalan that-exclamatives like (10) have essentially the same semantic requirement of containing a gradable predicate (in our case: \(\lambda x.\lambda d\text{expensive}(x)(d)\)) as the corresponding wh-exclamatives (12):

(12) Que car que és!
    how expensive that is
    ‘How expensive it is!’

Crucially, in Catalan this gradable predicate must have an open variable in both that- and wh-exclamatives. As a consequence, as soon as the degree of the respective predicate is already fixed—like in superlative (13a) or other quantifier constructions (13b)—exclamative syntax is ungrammatical:

(13) a. *Que n’és, de caríssim!
    that of.it-is of expensive.SUPL
    ‘How most expensive it is!’

b. *Que massa car que és!
    how too.much expensive that is
    ‘How too much expensive it is!’

Note that these patterns cannot be due to semantic incompatibilities between the illocutionary force of exclamations and the expression of implicit (and already fixed) degrees like superlatives. Both the declarative exclamation counterpart in Catalan (14a)—featuring the same illocutionary force—and the German exclamation expressed by a that-exclamative (14b) are totally fine with corresponding superlative forms:
We would like to mention at this point that the same semantic requirement of containing a gradable predicate holds across Romance exclamatives, and not only for Catalan. Observe, for instance, French that-exclamatives, which also always involve a gradable predicate according to the literature; examples from Obenauer (1976: 105):

(15) a. Que ta soeur m’agace!
    that your sister me-annoys
    only possible reading: ‘How much your sister annoys me!’

b. Que la vie est amère quand on la boit sans sucre!
    that the.F life is bitter when one her drinks without sugar
    only possible reading: ‘How bitter life is when you drink it without sugar.’

As a consequence, the literature claims that that-exclamatives in French (just as in Catalan) are synonymous with their corresponding wh-alternatives, as Gérard-Naef (1980: 16–21) points out by means of the following sentence pairs:

(16) a. Que la vie est courte!
    that the.F life is short

b. Oh! que courte est la vie!
    alas how short is the.F life
    both exclamative types: ‘Alas, how short life is!’

To sum up, we have seen on the semantics side that all Romance that-exclamatives express surprise towards graded alternatives, in contrast to what we observe for Germanic languages, where they can also express surprise towards binary alternatives. A hypothesis that now suggests itself is that this is due to the different lexical origins of the complementizer systems in Germanic and Romance. In particular, while ‘that’ in Romance languages like Catalan lexically corresponds to wh-elements, ‘that’ in Germanic is homophonous with and historically derived from a demonstrative pronoun. In the following section, we will elaborate on this distinction in more detail and connect it to our observations in the domain of exclamatives.
6.4 Exclamatives and the cross-linguistic syntax of complementation

In the last section, we saw that Germanic and Romance *that*-exclamatives differ in either featuring a non-degree (German) or a degree reading (Catalan). We hypothesize that this difference can be explained based on the different nature of the complementizer ‘that’ in both language families. Let us first have a look at the Germanic complementizer.

For many Germanic languages, the standard assumption is that the demonstrative ‘that’ has developed into a complementizer by a shift of the clause boundary from a paratactic structure such as *He knows that: it is very expensive* to a subordination like *He knows that it is very expensive* (see, e.g., Hopper and Traugott 1993: 185–9 for a grammaticalization approach; and Baunaz and Lander 2018 for a synchronic perspective). This is also the most influential approach for German *dass*—and even accounts that argue against this traditional account by proposing that *dass* has actually been a relativizer still acknowledge that this relativizer too is of demonstrative origin (Axel 2009; Axel-Tober 2017). Note that in present-day German, the complementizer *dass* is homophonous with both the relative and the demonstrative pronoun *das*. In Romance languages, however, the situation is different.

According to Ledgeway (2012: chs 4 and 5), Romance complementizers like Catalan *que* and its Spanish, Portuguese, French, or Italian equivalents derive from the Latin complementizer *quod*, which was originally a causal complementizer (finite declaratives were typically introduced by *ut* ‘that’). In late Latin, *quod* replaced *ut* in many contexts, and the variants of *quod* became predominant in early Romance.

Turning now to the difference between German and Catalan exclamatives, it is relevant that Romance ‘that’ overlaps with the *wh*-systems in all Romance varieties, and there is a lot of morphosyntactic evidence that this is not just a case of homophony, but that Romance elements like Catalan *que*, when used as a ‘that’ complementizer, actually do the same job as their interrogative *wh*-counterparts, namely acting as a quantifier that introduces a variable. This claim has most notably been put forward by Manzini and Savoia (2003) for Italian and its varieties, and it has recently been summarized in Manzini (2014); see also Baunaz and Lander (2018) for a wider perspective.

In particular, the only difference in the Logical Form of the Italian *wh*-pronoun *che* and the homophonous complementizer is that in *wh*-interrogatives (17a) *che* binds the internal argument of a verbal predicate, while *che* in declaratives (17b) ranges over sentential content (i.e., propositions); see Manzini and Savoia (2003: 95):
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Based on this approach, let us now account for the difference between Catalan and German that-exclamatives discussed above. As we have already illustrated in section 6.3, dass ‘that’ in German that-exclamatives can range over the whole proposition (18a). In other words, that-exclamatives inherit the quantifying properties of the declarative complementizer from embedded constructions (18b).

(18) a. [dass x [er stirbt]]
    that he dies
b. ([VP ‘I know’] [CP ∅ [C dass [IP [er stirbt]]]]
    that he dies

This is why Germanic that-exclamatives have commonly been termed ‘insubordinated’ configurations: in German these root exclamatives display exactly the same word order as a subordinated declarative that-clause (see section 6.2), and, what is more, we hypothesize here that that-exclamatives also feature the same quantifying properties as the declarative-complementizer configuration.

Regarding the scoping properties sketched above, it is interesting to see that in its use as a pronoun as well, das ‘that’ in German can range over propositional entities (19a) and not only over nominal constituents (19b):

(19) a. [Ingo kam spät]i und dasi verärgerte mich.
    Ingo came late and that annoyed me
b. [Das Ereignis], dasi mich verärgerte, war (...)
    the event that me annoyed was

Now let’s have a closer look at Catalan and the specific properties of que. As we have already indicated above, Catalan que—in contrast to German dass—cannot range over sentential content in that-exclamatives, but can only range over a gradable predicate internal to the proposition (20a):

(20) a. [que [+degree] [n’es de car [+degree]]]
    that of it is of expensive
b. (*[VP ‘I know’] [CP ∅ [C que [IP n’es, de car]]]]
    that of it is of expensive

As already exemplified in section 6.2, we thus see that Catalan that-exclamatives cannot be analyzed as insubordinated structures derived from a subordinate
clause (20b). Moreover, the root use of that in an exclamative also does not feature the semantic mechanism of the embedded use of que of ranging over a proposition. As a consequence, the domain of quantification in that-exclamatives has to be like in all forms of wh-quantification (i.e., quantification over a degree) and crucially not like in the declarative-complementizer configuration (i.e., quantification over a proposition). This is in line with the lexical situation that distinguishes Catalan and German. In Catalan, ‘that’ is homophonous with the relative wh-pronoun que ‘that,’ while in German it is homophonous (and possibly derived from) a demonstrative. To add further empirical support to these distinctions, have a look at the following data.

The following examples show that Catalan que in relative clauses is used for quantification over nominal elements (21a), but it cannot quantify over a proposition-level entity (21b), in contrast to German ‘that’ (19a). In the Catalan cases, either an additional nominal (cosa ‘thing’ in (21b)) or a neuter demonstrative (això ‘that’ in (21c)) must be used:7

\[(21)\]
\begin{enumerate}
\item a. La situació que em molesta…
   ‘The situation that annoys me…’
\item b. En Pere va arribar tard, *(cosa) que em va molestar.
   ‘Peter arrived late, which annoyed me.’
\item c. En Pere va arribar tard i això em va molestar.
   ‘Peter arrived late and this annoyed me.’
\end{enumerate}

Accordingly, when used as a relative pronoun, que (like in its use as a complementizer) can never quantify over the whole proposition.

In sum, we thus arrive at a picture that makes perfect sense in the light of what we have already suggested for the semantic side of exclamatives in section 6.3: German that-exclamatives can express a non-degree reading, while Catalan that-exclamatives (like wh-exclamatives) must convey a degree reading. We now account for this difference by claiming that Catalan that-exclamatives are not insubordinated versions of the corresponding declarative-complementizer configuration, and therefore the domain of quantification has to be like in all forms of wh-quantification. Accordingly, we submit that Catalan que in that-exclamatives semantically corresponds to the Catalan que following the wh-phrase in wh-exclamatives. In German, on the other hand, that-exclamatives instantiate

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7 Note that Spanish relatives with a propositional antecedent like Catalan (21b) must be construed with the neuter article lo ‘it’:

\[(i)\]
\begin{enumerate}
\item a. Pedro llegó tarde, *(lo) que me molestó.
   ‘Peter arrived late, which annoyed me.’
\item b. Pedro llegó tarde y eso me molestó.
   ‘Peter arrived late and this annoyed me.’
\end{enumerate}
the same syntactic configuration as their embedded counterparts and therefore can also feature quantification over the whole proposition. We thus postulate that German *dass* in *that*-exclamatives indeed corresponds to the declarative complementizer, and we thus claim that, according to our analysis, only German *that*-exclamatives are true instances of ‘insubordination.’

What this also means, vice versa, is that only Catalan *that*-exclamatives are syntactically distinguished from declarative *that*-complements, while there is no syntactic distinction in German. Based on our comparative discussion about complementation above, we would like to summarize the cross-linguistic patterns as follows:

(22) German
\[
[CP \{\emptyset, *so\} \{C \{dass \{IP \text{er} \text{ stirbt}\}\}\}\{\text{declarative complement + so that he dies}\}\text{root exclamative}]
\]

(23) Catalan
a. \[
[CP \{\text{[+degree]} \text{si \{C \{[+degree] que \{IP \text{n’ès de car!}\}\}\}\{\text{root so that of.it-is of expensive exclamative}\}}\]
\]

b. \[
[CP \{\emptyset, *si\}\{-degree\} \{C \{\text{[+degree]} \{IP \text{és car}\}\}\}\{\text{declarative so that it-is expensive complement}\}}\]
\]

(22) illustrates that in German, there is no way that the phrasal position SpecCP can be filled by degree elements in both root exclamatives and declarative complements; that is, SpecCP must remain empty. In Catalan, on the other hand, declarative complements and root exclamatives are syntactically distinguished by the fact that only declarative complements do not allow an element in SpecCP (23b). Root exclamatives have this position available for different kinds of elements: adverbial *si* ‘so’ as in the *that*-exclamative in (23a), but also *[que + Adj]* (as in *wh*-exclamatives), or a DEGREE operator as in bare *that*-exclamatives, resulting in the obligatory degree reading of Catalan *that*-exclamatives (see Villalba 2003 for a detailed approach and the articulation of such a DEGREE operator in connection with the partitive clitic).

Once again, according to our claim and the illustrations in (22) and (23), only German *that*-exclamatives can thus be classified as ‘insubordination’ proper, and their interpretation in terms of the expressive speech act of an exclamation is probably due to pragmatic processes of inferencing and not part of grammar at all, along the lines of what has already been proposed in the literature (Truckenbrodt 2006). By contrast, Catalan makes a syntactic distinction between subordinated structures (declarative complements featuring ‘that’ in our case) and root exclamatives involving the same complementizer. The sentence type ‘*that*-exclamative’ is thus a distinct syntactic configuration in that Romance language.
6.5 Conclusion

In this chapter, we have for the first time systematically compared so-called ‘that’-exclamatives in Germanic and Romance languages. We have first discussed basic syntactic similarities and differences and then focused on a semantic distinction. In Germanic languages like German, ‘that’-exclamatives encode the speaker’s attitude towards a fact (i.e., a proposition being either true or not true), whereas they must encode the speaker’s attitude towards a degree in Romance. We have then demonstrated that this semantic difference is a direct consequence of the syntactic differences and the different complementation systems between these two language families. In particular, we have shown that only in German ‘that’-exclamatives are a case of ‘insubordination,’ namely an exact transferal of the structure and scoping properties of a subordinate declarative headed by the complementizer ‘that.’ As a consequence, the ‘insubordinated’ ‘that’-exclamative in German retains the possibility of quantifying over propositions. In contrast, we have seen for Catalan ‘that’-exclamatives that they cannot be characterized as instances of insubordination, but rather feature a parallel structure to ‘wh’-exclamatives; ‘that’ in ‘that’-exclamatives in Catalan cannot quantify over propositions like the declarative complementizer of subordinated structures. Accordingly, only Catalan ‘that’-exclamatives are syntactically distinguished from both ‘wh’-exclamatives and declarative subordinations, and ‘that’ in Catalan (and potentially further Romance languages) functions as a dedicated exclamative marker involving obligatory degree quantification.

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