



Oh shoot here we go again*

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Data and Puzzle

Key data.

(1) *Jo and Al are introduced to each other at a party and spontaneously share their names. As the conversation goes by, Jo realizes they forgot Al's name. Jo asks Al:*

- a. What's your name **again**? English
- b. C'est quoi ton nom **déjà**? French

Both (1a) & (1b) suggest Al's age was Common Ground (CG) before (Sauerland and Yatsushiro 2017, now SY17¹). SY17 dubbed it "Remind-me" presupposition (RMP) and showed the repetitive presupposition of *again* can produce it via interactions with Speech Act operators.²

- (2) $\llbracket(1a)\rrbracket = \text{IMP}_2(\text{again}(\text{CG}(Q)))$
= Make CG again the answer to 'what's your age?'.
 \leadsto Age was CG **before**.

Puzzle. Déjà does not mean again! It means *ever, before, already* (Lecavelier & Wimmer, 2025a, 2025c), or *first off*.

- (3) a. Jo a **déjà** mangé des escargots (?)
Jo has **before/ever** eaten some snails (?)
- b. Tu as **déjà** fini de manger (?)
You have **already** finished to eat (?)
- c. Je vais **déjà/d'abord** retirer mes chaussures.
I will **first** take-off my shoes.

None of these uses carry the desired presupposition; though (3a) (*before/ever* reading) asserts something close.

Upshot. The *ever*-reading of *déjà* interacts with 2 CG operators to effectively **background the assertion that déjà's prejacent occurred before**—thereby producing the RMP.

Key assumptions

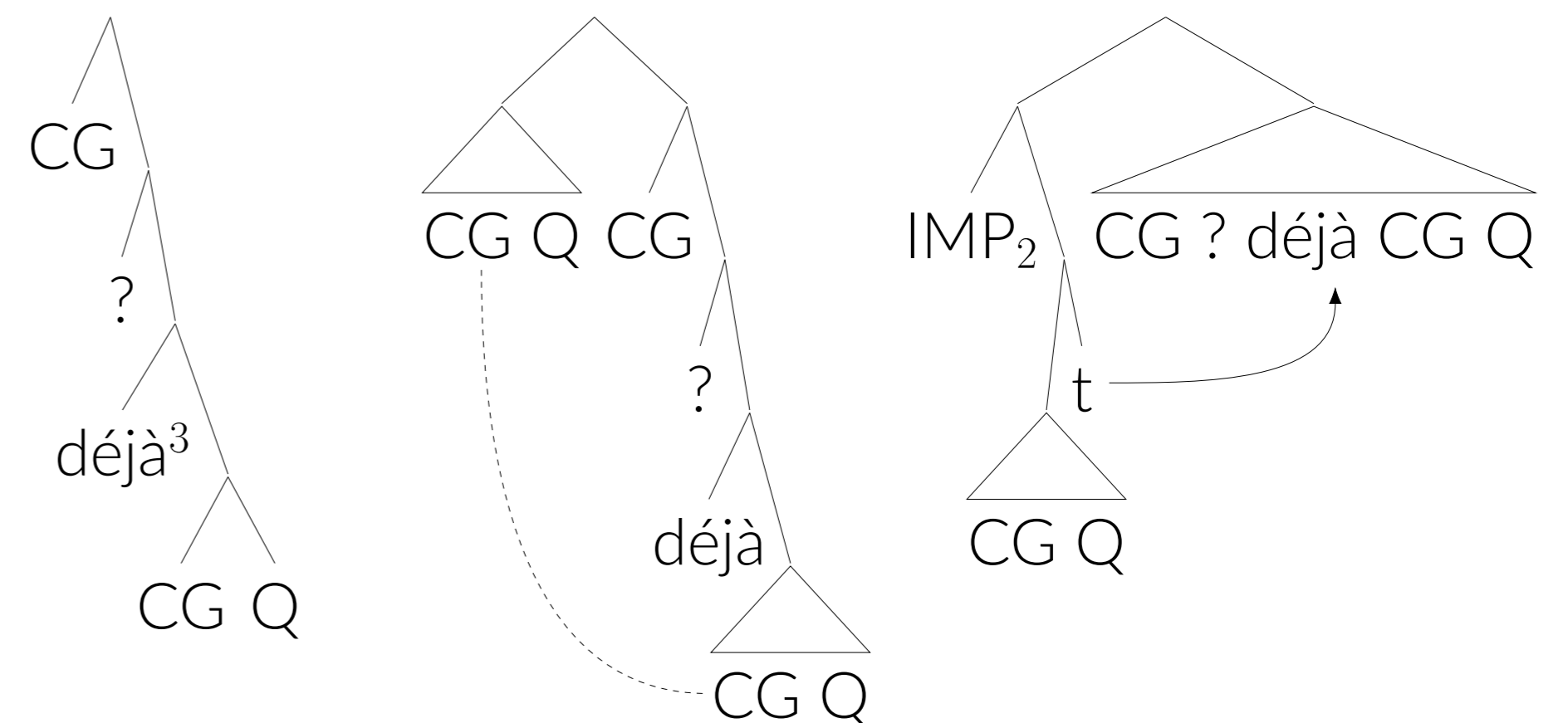
- (4) $\llbracket\text{CG}\rrbracket^{\text{spk}} = \lambda\langle Q, e \rangle. 1$ iff spk partakes in e ,
and Q 's full answer is CG in e
- (5) $\llbracket\text{IMP}_2\rrbracket^{\text{spk, addr}} = \lambda p. \Box \exists e. \text{addr causes } e \text{ and } p(e)$
- (6) $\llbracket\text{déjà}\rrbracket = \lambda\langle p, e \rangle. \exists e' < e. p(e') = 1$

¹See also Sauerland (2006), Pittner (2009), Sauerland (2009), Dayal (2025), and Lecavelier and Wimmer (2025a, 2025b, 2025c).

²This extends to specialized particles like Japanese *-kke* (SY17).

The account at a glance

- (7) (8) Copy (9) Extraposition



$\llbracket(7)\rrbracket =$ It's CG that Q's answer was CG before (=RMP)

$\llbracket(9)\rrbracket =$ Make CG the answer to Q (=core question), and it's CG that Q's answer was CG before (=RMP).

The placement of *déjà* (pre/post-sentential) is decided by which copy of Q gets realized at PF.

Extensions and further questions

Polar questions. Unlike German *noch mal*, RMP-*déjà* moves past CG overtly, so there's no apriori reason to not get RMPs in polar questions. Yet, RMPs only arise in alternative polar questions...I'm not sure why!

- (10) Tu viens ??(ou pas) déjà?

"First off" déjà. The "first off" reading of *déjà*, which presupposes that the prejacent is the first element of a longer to-do list, may also be recycled at the Speech Act level.

- (11) *Al and Jo meet for the first time at a party, and Al quickly starts raving about GLOW48. Al interrupts them:*
Déjà c'est quoi ton nom? ('What's your name first?')
 \leadsto I will ask you other questions (*déjà* > IMP_2)
 \leadsto Other facts will be made CG (IMP_2 > *déjà* > CG)

Why not use again in French? Maybe the fact that *déjà* is so polyvalent outweighs the difficulty of the derivation.

Other triggers. Beyond *again* and *already/ever*, Lecavelier and Wimmer (2025b) observe that *now* and the past tense can trigger the RMP. Why is that?

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³In practice RMP-*déjà* originates in VP and moves up here overtly.