

## On wh-exclamatives

Exclamatives have received limited attention in linguistic literature (cf. Abels & Vangsnes 2011, Schallert 2019). This talk reviews wh-exclamatives of the form in (1)-(3) in several Germanic languages:

(1) Was für Bücher du gelesen hast! (German)

What for books you read!

(2) Wat een jongens!

What a boys! (Dutch)

(3) For en tullen han er!

for a fool he is. (Norwegian)

The interrogative counterpart of this exclamative is formed involving the elements *what* and *for* (widely known as the „was für“-construction). The interrogative construction has a variety of peculiar syntactic and semantic properties that are shared cross-linguistically relatively robustly. The wh-exclamative however features greater variation, especially w.r.t. the items it involves (wh-pronoun and *for* as in (1), spurious article (2) or the absence of a wh-element as in (3)). In this talk, this variation is tied to different exclamative types that involve either the exclamation about an individual as in the examples above or the exclamation about an event (cf. Nouwen & Chernilovskaya 2015).