

58<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Societas Linguistica Europaea  
Université Bordeaux Montaigne (26-29/8/2025)

Workshop proposal

**‘Turn out verbs, turn out constructions’:  
characterization, delimitation and internal variation**

**Convenors:**

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**Keywords:**

truth, epistemic certainty, strong evidence, non-evidential, classification of verbs, telic verbs, mirativity, lexicalization and metaphor, cross-linguistic properties

**Call for preliminary abstracts:**

We seek contributions for 20-minute talks during the workshop to be held as part of the *58th Annual Meeting of the Societas Linguistica Europaea*, University of Bordeaux Montaigne, 26-29 August 2025.

We invite scholars to submit their preliminary short abstract (max. 300 words, excluding references) to Patrick Dendale ([Patrick.dendale@uantwerpen.be](mailto:Patrick.dendale@uantwerpen.be)) and Ana Stulic ([Ana.Stulic@u-bordeaux-montaigne.fr](mailto:Ana.Stulic@u-bordeaux-montaigne.fr)) **before November 15<sup>th</sup>** to be included in the workshop proposal that will be submitted a week later. If the workshop proposal is accepted, presenters will be asked to submit a more elaborate abstract (500-words) by January 15, 2025.

**Background**

The idea for this workshop came from reactions to a talk held at the 2024 SLE conference: “‘Turn out’ verbs in European languages: Are they evidentials or something else?” (Dendale, Izquierdo Alégria & Stulic 2024). What is called here ‘turn out verbs’ are verbs such as *turn out*, *prove to* in English, *s’avérer*, *se révéler* in French; *blijken* in Dutch; *resultar* in Spanish and Catalan; *averdadar* in Judeo-Spanish; *rivelarsi*, *emergersi*, *venire fuori*, *saltare fuori* in Italian; *ispostaviti se*, *ispasti* in Serbian, as used in examples (1)–(5), where they can all be translated by English *it turned out that*:

- (1) Après plusieurs essais, **il s’est avéré que** ce choix n’était pas judicieux. (frTenTen23)  
*‘After several attempts, it turned out that this choice was not wise’*
- (2) Al snel **bleek dat** er geen camping was. (nlTenTen20)  
*‘It quickly turned out that there was no campground.’*
- (3) Y **resultó que** la semilla no era tan buena como dijeron. (spTenTen18)  
*‘And it turned out that the seed was not as good as they said’*
- (4) **Si è rivelato che** non era né un aereo né un velivolo conosciuto. (itTenTen20)  
*‘It turned out that is was neither a plane nor a known aircraft.’*
- (5) Kada smo dosli tamo na lice mesta, **ispostavilo se da** ski pass za 6 dana košta [...] 145€ (MacocuSerb)  
*‘When we arrived there on the spot, it turned out that the ski pass costed 145 euros.’*

Since the mid 90s, *turn out* verbs in different languages have been categorized or labeled as ‘evidential markers’ (e.g. Nuyts 1994:178, Cornillie 2007, Vliegen 2010, 2011, Tobback & Lauwers 2012, Mortelmans 2022, Miecznikowski 2018), viz. markers indicating how the speaker acquired the information in the sentence, either by inference, by hearsay or even by direct perception, thus expressing “source of knowledge” or “source of information”.

*Turn out* verbs are often paired with *seem* verbs (e.g. Cornillie 2007, Aijmer 2009, Vliegen 2011, Mortelmans 2017), which are considered, rather uncontroversially, inferential evidentials (see, however, Lampert 2020 for criticism). Some scholars prefer to qualify them as *appear* verbs (Nuyts 1994, Sanders & Spooren 1996, Mortelmans 2002a) or “dynamic appear verbs” (Miecznikowski 2018), rather than as *seem* verbs.

The categorization of *turn out* verbs as evidentials was challenged by Dendale (2019a, 2019b) and Dendale, Izquierdo & Stulic (2024), in particular for their use in the impersonal construction with *that* clause, as illustrated by (1)-(5). The main argument was that these verbs do not express the type of source of knowledge *by themselves* and are compatible with *all* types of sources of knowledge. It is the context in which they appear, it is argued, that indicates or suggests the type of source of knowledge (e.g., report in (6) as suggested by the underlined element) or even the type of information (the proposition *p*) they qualify, when this content suggests the possible sources of information and/or excludes certain types of sources of information (e.g. for (7), the type of information suggests that the state of affairs must have been perceived directly (7)):

(6) Alors on a parlé du voyage et il s'avère que Koji part lui aussi en Italie ! Lui à Rome et nous à Florence. (frTenTen23)

‘So we talked about the trip and **it turns out that** Koji is also going to Italy! Him in Rome and us in Florence’

(7) Hier j’ai rendu visite à quelqu’un à l’hôpital et il **s’est avéré qu’il** se trouvait au 8e étage, là où on a une superbe vue sur Dunkerque. (frTenTen12; cited in Dendale 2019)

‘Yesterday I visited someone in the hospital, and **it turned out that** he was on the 8th floor, where you have a superb view of Dunkirk.’

As *turn out* verbs do not specify a particular type of source of knowledge themselves, they cannot be evidentials. But, if they do not qualify as evidentials and do not indicate by their meaning proper how the speaker got the information in her sentence, what do these verbs express and what kind of verbs, semantically, are they?

This is one of the central research questions of the workshop.

### Main question and aim of the workshop

We expect the contributions to the workshop to bring forward elements of answer to this question for *turn out* verbs in whatever language and challenge or elaborate the provisional semantic characterizations of these verbs given e.g. in Vliegen 2011, Miecznikowski 2018, Mortelmans 2022 or Dendale, Izquierdo & Stulic (2024). According to the latter study, the main element of meaning of *turn out* verbs is that they express new information that emerges and that is presented as true knowledge, retrospectively correcting or completing a previous state of knowledge. The new information often appears as surprising, a feature that earned them the qualification of “markers of mirativity” or “miratives” (e.g. Serrano-Losada 2017, 2020 for *resultar*; Mortelmans 2022 for *blijken*).

Semantically, most *turn out* verbs seem to be telic, ‘achievement’-like events in Vendler’s terms (1957). Unlike verbs of discovery (Clark 2010), they are non-agentive and ‘content centered’, which means that they focus in the first place on the (true) proposition

put forward rather than on the discovery event itself: although they are about the speaker's state of knowledge, the speaker is not encoded as one of its arguments and is not foregrounded. Therefore, they are frequently (but not exclusively) used in impersonal constructions (with or without an impersonal pronoun) that introduce a *that*-clause, as in (1)-(5), in parenthetical constructions (*x, turns out, has been y*) or as particles (cf. *bleek, Mortelmans 2022*). The event they refer to can be paraphrased as 'appearing, emerging' or 'coming to light'. This summary characterization asks to be further examined and substantiated for various languages.

### **Aims of the workshop and possible issues to be addressed**

Contributions to this workshop can be empirical studies (e.g. corpus studies), theoretical or conceptual (e.g. further arguments or counter-arguments concerning their categorization as evidentials).

Contributions can focus on the meaning, function, use and syntactic features of a *turn out* verb in one specific language, compare *turn out* verbs in different languages, cross-linguistically or typologically, going from the concept to the existing forms.

Focus can be on semantic aspects, syntactic aspects (e.g. the types of constructions in which *turn out* verbs are found in different languages), pragmatic aspects, historical aspects, sociolinguistic aspects, etc.

Different frameworks or language models can be used: construction grammar, grammaticalization theory, semantic primes description, cognitive grammar, formal semantics, etc.

Possible issues and questions that can be addressed are:

- Inventories of possible *turn out* verbs in diverse languages (European or non-European)
- The semantic, pragmatic, syntactic properties of *turn out verbs* in different languages
- The different syntactic constructions *turn out* verbs enter in (*that*-clause, *to* + Infinitive, attributive complement; active, passive) and their meaning and use and the variants of the *turn out* construction illustrated by (1)-(5)
- Meaning differences between different *turn out* verbs in a particular language
- Difference in meaning and use between *turn out* verbs and semantically near but nevertheless semantically different verbs (e.g. French *Il s'avère que* vs *Il se trouve que, il se présente que*; Italian *rivelarsi* vs *scoprirsi*)
- Polysemic relations within *turn out* verbs, linking their '*turn out* meaning' to '*non-turn out*' meanings (e.g. the meanings of *rivelare/emergere* in Miecznikowski 2018)
- The categorical nature of *turn out* verbs: are they 'discovery verbs' (Clark 2010, Dendale 2019), 'dynamic appear verbs' (Miecznikowski 2018), 'come to light verbs' (Dendale *et al.* 2024) or something else?
- Tense, aspect, Aktionsart of *turn out* verbs
- *Turn out* verbs and mirativity, evidentiality, epistemic modality
- Delimitation criteria for the class of *turn out* verbs
- Lexicalization strategies of *turn out* verbs in different languages and the possible metaphorical origin of *turn out* lexemes
- The search for more appropriate names for *turn out* verbs

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