



## Question particle (*anaa*)

- ❑ Polar questions are marked by question particles such as *anaa*, *a*, and *aso*
  1. a. *Yaw a- da anaa?*                      b. *Yaw a-da*  
Yaw PRF-sleep QPrT                      Yaw PERF-sleep  
'Has Yaw slept?'                      'Yaw is asleep'                      (Marfo 2005:32)
- ❑ The complementizer *se* in Akan is neutral. The interrogative complements are marked by *anaa*
  2. *Kofi nim se Ama a-da anaa*  
Kofi know COMPL Ama PERF-sleep QPrT  
'Kofi knows whether Ama is asleep.'                      [interrogative complement]
  3. *Kofi nim se Ama a-da*  
Kofi know COMPL Ama PER-sleep  
'Kofi knows that Ama is asleep.'                      [declarative complement]
- ❑ The verb *dwene* translates as both *think* and *wonder*. The difference is marked by *anaa*.
  4. *Kofi dwene-e se Ama a-da anaa*  
Kofi think-PST COMPL Ama PERF-sleep QPrT  
'Kofi wondered if Ama is asleep.'                      [rogative predicate]
  5. *Kofi dwene-e se Ama a-da*  
Kofi think-PST COMPL Ama PER-sleep  
'Kofi thought that Ama was asleep.'                      [anti-rogative predicate]
- ❑ The properties of *anaa* indicate that it is a clause-typing particle, in keeping with the analysis in Marfo (2005) and Kügler (2016), and not a polar question particle, unlike *kyaa* (Bhatt & Dayal,2020)

## Disjunctive marker (*anaa*)

- ❑ *Anaa* as a disjunctive marker combines NPs and TPs
  10. *Kofi anaa Ama tɔ-ɔ mpa*  
Kofi or Ama buy-PST bed  
'Kofi or Ama bought a bed.'
  11. *Wo pe sika anaa wo pe edan*  
2SG want money or 2SG want house  
'Either you want money, or you want a house.'
- ❑ *Anaa* with the question particle *anaa* derives alternative questions with exhaustive alternatives
  12. *Kofi tɔ-ɔ mpa anaa mpa dua anaa*  
Kofi buy-PST bed or bed wood QP  
'Did Kofi buy a bed or a bed frame?'
- ❑ In selecting for choice vs. cancellation reading, Dayal(2021) observed that cancellation reading is only available for SAP disjunction.
- ❑ *anaa* only selects for the choice reading implying that it is not an SAP disjunct

## HOW MANY ANAAs ?

*Anaa, Kofi anaa Ama na ε kɔ-ɔ sukuu mu hɔ no anaa*  
**PRT** Kofi **PRT** Ama FOC 3SG go-PST school LOC LOC DET **PRT**  
Was it presumably Kofi or Ama who went to the school?

- ❑ There are four distinct *anaa* particles
  - a. *Anaa* PRT = Discourse Particle
  - b. *Anaa* Disjunct = disjunctive marker
  - c. *Anaa* QPrT = Question particle
  - d. *Anaa* TPrt = Tag particle
- ❑ These distinct particles occupy different syntactic slots

[SAP[*anaa*][PersP[*anaa*][CP[*anaa*][TP *anaa* TP...]]]]

NB: *anaa* is in PersP because it allows for some form of embedding but it needs further investigation

- ❑ Previous studies have generally classified *anaa* as a question particle (Marfo, 2005; Kügler, 2016)

## Tag particle (*anaa*)

- ❑ *Anaa* is added to a declarative to request for confirmation
  13. *Kofi kɔ-ɔ sukuu enora, anaa?*  
Kofi go-PST school yesterday TPrt  
'Kofi went to school yesterday, didn't he?'
- ❑ The *anaa* tag particle is used only when the speaker has tentative commitment to *P*
- ❑ The tag particle, therefore, only selects CP [-Q]
  - a. [XP[*anaa*][CP<sub>Q</sub>[TP...]]]                      [✓]
  14. *Ama a-da, anaa*  
Ama PERF-sleep, TPrt  
'Ama slept, didn't she?'
  - b. [XP[*anaa*][CP<sub>+Q</sub>[TP...]]]                      [×]
  15. ?? *anaa Ama a-da, anaa*  
QPrT Ama PERF-sleep, TPrt  
'\*Is Ama asleep? Is n't she?'
- ❑ The *anaa* tag behaves like the Canadian *eh* in terms of requesting confirmation (cf. Avis, 1972; Wiltschko & Heim, 2016)
- ❑ However, it differs from *eh* in that it cannot occur in polar questions

## Discourse particle (*anaa*)

- ❑ *Anaa* expresses possibility (maybe *P*)- indicating speaker's uncertainty
  6. A: *Kofi wɔ hen?*                      B: *Kofi wɔ fie, anaa*  
Kofi LOC.be where                      Kofi LOC.be house PRT  
'Where is Kofi?'                      'Kofi may be at home.'                      [Guessing]
- ❑ *anaa* is not a modal
  - Modals form part of the response to a question but *anaa* does not
  - 7. *ebia, Kofi kɔ epɔ anaa?* = {♦ Kofi at sea, ♦ ¬Kofi at sea}  
presumably, Kofi go sea QPrT  
'Is Kofi presumably at sea?'
  - 8. *anaa Kofi kɔ epɔ anaa?* = {Kofi at sea, ¬ Kofi at sea}  
PRT Kofi go sea QPrT  
'Is Kofi presumably at sea?'
- ❑ In a question, *anaa* introduces tentative commitment to *P*
  - In a windowless basement,
  - 9. a. *anaa nsuo ε-tɔ anaa*                      [If speaker has some evidence ]  
PRT water 3SG -fall QPrT  
'It is raining?'
  - b. *Nsuo ε-tɔ anaa*                      [If no such evidence exists ]  
water 3SG-fall QPrT  
'Is it raining?'
- ❑ *Anaa* behaves like the German discourse particle *wohl* (cf. Zimmerman, 2010)

	<i>anaa</i>	<i>wohl</i>
Expresses speaker's uncertainty	✓	✓
Can be embedded	✓	✓
Invisible to interrogative operator	✓	✓

## References

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