Types of Interrogatives

Definitions
(Belnap & Steel, 1976)

Hobson's Choice

An interrogative that allows for no alternative responses beyond one predetermined option.
These are often in the form of declarative or imperative statements.

Why Interrogative

Single-example questions with a pre-supposition.

Whether Interrogative

Interrogatives where the information being sought by the questioner is predefined among an explicit and finite list of alternatives. This includes questions that can be answered with yes/no.

Which Interrogative

Interrogatives where the information being sought is part of a category (e.g., religion or tennis players) for which the options are possibly infinite and not explicitly specified

What / How Interrogative

Interrogative with an undefined range of possible answers, requesting a descriptive answer.

Fine-tuned BERT Classifiers

1A. Does this interrogative request an answer?

1B. If NO to 1A. Is this a declarative / imperative interrogative?

2A. Is this an interrogative that expects a yes or no answer?

2B. Does it explicitly present a series of options?

2C. How many options does it present?

3A. Do answers to this interrogative require some fact / opinion already being true?

4A. Does this interrogative ask for a description (y/n/) or an opinion (o)?

Hobson's Choice

1B. If NO to 1A. Is this a declarative / imperative interrogative?

YES

AND / OR

3A. Do answers to this interrogative require some fact / opinion already being true?

YES

AND

2C = 0. This is equivalent to and operationalised as no assignment to another interrogative type, to ensure mutual exclusivity among interrogative types, because of the OR operator in this definition.

Why Interrogative

3A. Do answers to this interrogative require some fact / opinion already being true?

YES

AND

2C. How many options does it present?

1

Whether Interrogative

2A. Is this an interrogative that expects a yes or no answer?

YES

AND

2C. How many options does it present?

2

OR

2B. Does it explicitly present a series of options?

YES

AND

2C. How many options does it present?

ANY INTEGER ABOVE 1, but NOT UNDEFINED

Which Interrogative

2C. How many options does it present?

UNDEFINED

AND

4A. Does this interrogative ask for a description (y/n/) or an opinion (o)?

O OR NO

What / How Interrogative

4A. Does this interrogative ask for a description (y/n/) or an opinion (o)?

YES

AND

2C. How many options does it present?

UNDEFINED

Additional Data Filtering

If NO to 1A & NO to 1B the question is not an interrogative, and not a declarative / imperative. Opening statements such as hello, should be captured through this and are therefore removed from analyses.

1A. Does this interrogative request an answer?

1B. If NO to 1A. Is this a declarative / imperative interrogative?

Reference
Belnap, N. D., & Steel, T. B. (1976). The logic of questions and answers. Yale University Press. https://doi.org/10.2307/2272838

**Implementation of operationalisation
for propagation of uncertainty estimates**

This shows exactly the same operationalisation as above, but presents it to answer:
how do **I** implement the operationalisation based on the outputs of the classifiers?

1A. Does this interrogative request an answer?

1B. If NO to 1A. Is this a declarative / imperative interrogative?

2A. Is this an interrogative that expects a yes or no answer?

2C. How many options does it present?

3A. Do answers to this interrogative require some fact / opinion already being true?

4A. Does this interrogative ask for a description (y/n/) or an opinion (o)?

NO

AND / OR

1B. If NO to 1A. Is this a declarative / imperative interrogative?

YES

AND / OR

3A. Do answers to this interrogative require some fact / opinion already being true?

YES

AND

2C. How many options does it present?

UNDEFINED

AND

4A. Does this interrogative ask for a description (y/n/) or an opinion (o)?

YES

AND

2C. How many options does it present?

YES

AND

2C. How many options does it present?

NO

**Not an
Interrogative**

YES

Hobson's Choice

2

OR

2B. Does it explicitly present a series of options?

YES

AND

2C. How many options does it present?

ANY INTEGER
ABOVE 1

Whether Questions

O OR NO

Which Questions

1

Why Questions

UNDEFINED

What / How Questions