

## Abstract Germanic Sandwich

### On the development of *blijken* and 'turn out': how did these verbs become linguistic markers of surprise?

By: Cas Bomans, MA student Dutch language & culture at the University of Amsterdam.

In my research I will argue that the Dutch verb *blijken* (contra Vliegen, 2011), is a marker of mirativity, i.e. a linguistic expression of surprise or the fact that the conveyed information is new either to the speaker or the addressee (Hengeveld & Olbertz, 2012), just as its English counterpart 'turn out' (Serrano-Losada, 2017). If we compare the following two sentences, we see that both 'turn out' and *blijken* show a certain degree of unexpectedness when it comes to the proposition.

1. It **turns out** that elephants have an advanced sense of self (Serrano-Losada, 2017)
2. *Het **blijkt** dat die toch opmerkelijk veilig zijn.*

'It **turns out** that these are remarkably safe' (context.reverso.net)

Especially in the Dutch example we see that the proposition 'These are safe' is not expected by the speaker; the speaker uses *opmerkelijk* (remarkably) and *toch* (a particle that expresses counter expectation in Dutch) to emphasize that this piece of information is somehow unexpected.

I will give a historical account on the emergence of the mirative use of *blijken* and 'turn out'. Although they started out as two seemingly different main verbs (the verb *blijken* used to mean 'to light up, to glitter', where 'turn out' used to mean 'to go away, to depart'), the historical development of the two verbs seems to be similar: both verbs got their mirative meaning through the process of subjectification, i.e. the diachronical process whereby verbs increasingly start to express the speaker's attitude toward a claim (cf. De Haan, 2007).

I will also argue why it was that the focus of these two verbs has shifted toward the marking of surprise: because they both were resultative (change-of-state) verbs without any other similarities, I will maintain that this resultativity is the deciding factor for becoming a marker of surprise. This is a phenomenon that is also observed in other unrelated languages, where resultative constructions develop mirative overtones over time (Hengeveld & Olbertz, 2012).

## References

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## Site used for example

Vertaling van "het blijkt dat" in Engels. (n.d.). Retrieved May 20, 2019, from <https://context.reverso.net/vertaling/nederlands-engels/het+blijkt+dat>