German *es*-clefts in discourse – How clefts interact with the discourse question
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In this talk, I will present a new perspective on German *es*-clefts that analyzes the effect of clefts on discourse coherence. In the context in (1), the cleft in (1-a) is better than the uncleft sentence in (1-b), at least when *Peter* is supposed to refer back to *einem Typen* ('*a guy*').

(1) Lena hat gestern auf der Party mit einem Typen$_1$ gesprochen. Die beiden haben viel gelacht und sich direkt für den nächsten Abend verabredet. Dann ist Lena glücklich nach Hause gefahren.
'Lena talked to a guy$_1$ yesterday at the party. The two laughed a lot and they immediately agreed to meet the next evening. Then, Lena went home happily.'
      a.   Es war Peter$_1$, mit dem sie gesprochen hat.
           'It was Peter$_1$ she talked to.'
      b.   ?Sie hat mit Peter$_1$ gesprochen.
           'She talked to Peter$_1$.'

Previous literature extensively discussed exhaustivity of clefts, but also its relation to contrast and prosody marking. I show that none of the existing approaches can explain the difference between (1-a) and (1-b). Instead, I argue that the cleft is used to address a different question than the expected discourse question (as Simons et al. (2017) define it), but still needs an antecedent in the context. My analysis is based on corpus examples from novels, similar to (1), which nicely show the text coherence effect of German clefts.