We aim at providing a unified account of the prosodic, syntactic and semantic properties of pseudo-echo questions (1) in comparison to their wh-question counterparts (2).

We propose that a PEQ moves as a whole to the TopCI in a higher ForceP.

HQ: 

\[ \text{RESULTS: The mean sentence duration of PEQ is significantly longer than the mean sentence duration of WHO.} \]

1) SPEECH ACT: adverb: semplicemente ‘simply’ (Cinque 1999) can be followed by a little pause in a WHQ, but not in PEQs: 

Semplicemente, cosa gli hai detto? [WHQ]
Semplicemente, cosa gli hai detto? [PEQ] 
Semplicemente cosa gli hai detto? [no pause] [PEQ] 

2) Right dislocation: WHQs can be separated from the right dislocation by a little pause, while PEQs cannot:

A chi l’ha mandato, la lettera? [WHQ]
To whom did he send the letter, the letter? [PEQ]

We assume that PEQs are not associated with the canonical existential presupposition of WHQs.

We analyze PEQs as metalinguistic speech-acts, the reasons are the following:

1) Adverbs are licensed only when repeated from the sentence that is interrogated, as shown in the following example:

A: Sforfamitamente, Gianni ha mangiato cacciavite.
B: Sforfamitamente cosa ha mangiato Gianni?

2) Speech-act adverbs, such as francamente ‘Frankly’ take scope below the speech-act. Compare the WHQ with the PEQ:

Francamente cosa ha mangiato Gianni? [WHQ]
Francamente cosa ha mangiato Gianni? [PEQ]