

**From Roever (2005): Idiosyncratic implicature (Pope Q)**

*Do different formulations of the Pope Q advantage test takers from a specific cultural / L1 background?*

Reference group: 145 test takers with L1 German, Polish

Focal group: 85 test takers with L1 Chinese, Japanese, Thai, Korean

**Original Pope Q:** Mike is trying to find an apartment in New York City. He just looked at a place and is telling his friend Jane about it.

Jane: "Is the rent high?"

Mike: "Is the Pope Catholic?"

*What does Mike probably mean?*

1. He doesn't want to talk about the rent.
2. *The rent is high.*
3. The apartment is owned by the church.
4. The rent isn't very high.

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|--|--------|
| Mantel-Haenszel Common Odds Ratio Estimate | .212   |
| ln(Estimate)                               | -1.553 |
| Std. Error of ln(Estimate)                 | .483   |
| Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)                      | .001   |

**ETS MH  $\Delta$  DIF: -3.65** (strong DIF in favor of reference group; type C item)

**Modified Pope Q:** Maria and Frank are working on a class project together but they won't be able to finish it by the deadline.

Maria: "Do you think Dr. Gibson is going to lower our grade if we hand it in late?"

Frank: "Do fish swim?"

*What does Frank probably mean?*

1. He thinks they should change the topic of their project.
2. He thinks their grade will not be affected.
3. He did not understand Maria's question.
4. *He thinks they will get a lower grade.*

|  |       |
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| Mantel-Haenszel Common Odds Ratio Estimate | 1.864 |
| ln(Estimate)                               | .623  |
| Std. Error of ln(Estimate)                 | .356  |
| Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)                      | .080  |

**ETS MH  $\Delta$  DIF: 1.46** (possible mild to intermediate DIF in favor of focal group; type B or A item)