This talk examines a number of syntactic differences between two subtypes of specificational pseudo-clefts in European Portuguese: pseudo-clefts featuring the order $wh > XP$ (Type A, in the terminology of Den Dikken, Meinunger & Wilder (2000)) and structures with the order $XP > wh$ (Type B). The evidence discussed favors a bi-clausal analysis of Type A pseudo-clefts, thus supporting the view defended in Den Dikken, Meinunger & Wilder (2000) according to which Type A pseudo-clefts are self-answered questions where the answer is an elided CP. This hypothesis, however, also faces problems: first, yes-no questions are incompatible with pseudo-clefts; secondly, there are pseudo-clefts that lack an interrogative counterpart. We argue that the noted problems do not arise once it is assumed that the $wh$-clause is an echo question. In particular, the impossibility for the $wh$-clause to be a yes-no question follows from the general lack of pure yes-no echo questions (Artstein, 2002). Finally, we propose that the pseudo-cleft counterpart to a non-$wh$ echo question in European Portuguese is the semi-pseudo-cleft.

References
