Worried about factivity

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Ascriptions of worry trigger a doxastic and a dispreference inference. With a declarative p, the doxastic inference alternates between the attitude holder considering p likely, in (1a), or certain, in (1b). When available, this second belief inference is not at issue and ordinarily accompanied by factivity.

(1)   a.   Alice worries [that she missed her train]$_p$
   $\Rightarrow$ Alice disprefers p and considers p likely.

   b.   It worries Alice [that she missed her train]$_p$
   $\Rightarrow$ Alice disprefers p, considers p certain. and p.

   c.   It doesn't worry Alice [that she missed her train]$_p$
   $\Rightarrow$ Alice is okay with p, considers p certain, and p.

The predicate *worry* has received little direct attention until now (Hartman 2012, though see von Fintel 1999, Uegaki & Sudo 2019, and White 2021). We describe and model its inferential properties with declarative and interrogative clausal arguments, from a cross-linguistic perspective, and, crucially, in how they are conditioned by morphosyntactic factors.

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