

A syntactic-based analysis of universal quantifier subtypes and variation

Languages have various lexical and syntactic ways to express distinct senses of universal quantification. They differ not only in the number of vocabulary items available to them, but also in terms of features and categories which build the various quantifier types. Thus, the most productive Arabic universal *kull* can be shown to convey, through its distinct uses, the three universal quantifier senses or subtypes roughly equivalent to those of the English *all*, *every*, and *each*. A similar variation in the universal vocabulary and quantifier range can be observed in various languages, including in particular Greek (see also Bantu, French, etc.). These *universal* quantifiers contrast with *baʕd* ‘some’, *qaliil* ‘few’, *ʔakṭar* ‘most’, etc. which express *existential* or *proportional* quantification. English *all* is ‘collective’, and *every* and *each* ‘distributive’. *Each* is distinct from *every* in expressing a form of strong *or rigid* distributivity, whereas *every* is soft or *flexible* (Tunstall 1998, Beghelli and Stowell 1997). I will provide a differential *syntactic-based analysis* of these universal subtypes in Arabic in particular, (a) making use of distinct features and categories, and (b) assuming in particular the existence of separate DP and QP projections.

Some references

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